SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth.” - John 17:17

Psalm 47: God Mounts His Throne

Ostinato Refrain

1. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, O sing your praises to the Lord!

2. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy, O sing your praises to the Lord!

Text & Music: Marty Haugen @ 1983, GIA Publications, Inc.
From Fr. Doug’s Desk...

Parish Structures Life

At our last AWE Core team meeting, we had a discussion about what might be the best parish structure for our parish. AWE (Affirming, Welcoming, and Engaging) seems to have run its course as a structure, yet the foundational rationale remains an active part of what we do. We will always affirm, welcome and engage people in our parish.

When the idea of a parish council surfaced, there was a collective groan from the participants. Every one of the members of the AWE Team had served on a parish council at one point in time in previous parishes. Their experience was not positive. The reasons for this varied from lack of understanding of what a parish council is supposed to “do”, to pastors unwilling to share information and authority necessary for a parish council to function well.

My experience of parish councils has been a mixed bag, but I think “groan” would be the overall assessment. What doomed most parish councils was people coming with their own agenda with little or no knowledge about the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

We formed a parish council here eight years ago. Despite calls for leaders to surface, we could not even get enough candidates to have a process for discernment. We just took whoever signed up. It lasted about a year.

The idea of a parish council is not at all bad. It did provide a forum for parishioners to speak. While the parish council was meant to be visionary and prophetic, parish commissions were the nuts and bolts of everyday parish life. Every good parish has five commissions that make it a thriving, vibrant parish.

The Spiritual Life Commission works to assess and fulfill the spiritual needs of the parish. This includes parish retreats, missions, prayer groups, and liturgy. In today’s day and age it also means being culturally inclusive and appealing to all of God’s people.

The Education Commission in days past was a liaison between the church and school. This left a lot of the parish uneducated! A good education commission calls all members to ongoing faith education and provides resources and opportunities to learn about our faith.

Social Concerns involves meeting the material needs of people within the parish boundaries. People’s immediate needs are usually met by a group such as St. Vincent de Paul. Long term needs are explored through a social justice commission which looks, not at the needs of the poor, but why do we have poor or disenfranchised people in the first place?

The church at large and the local church are called and sent. This is the constant Easter message of Jesus. “Go forth”. An Evangelization Commission reaches out to unchurched and disengaged Catholics. It also goes out to help others discover the beauty of Catholicism in the hopes that they may join our faith.

A Parish Life Commission promotes participation in parish life in any area not covered under the other areas. It seeks to connect our parishioners’ gifts with our parishioners’ needs. It is a way of developing engagement in parish life. In our parish this may be anything from the prayer shawl ministry to cook outs to the Holy Name Society and anything in between.

A parish structure is a means to an end. The end is being able to express your views and listening to the views of others. This is done informally in conversations before and after Mass and other times when we, the body of Christ, gather. Still it seems that there should be some form of structure in our parish that explores needs, conversations and vision. Any thoughts? Let us know.
Please pray for:

Please pray for all who are serving in the military, especially the men and women connected to our parish:
* Robert A. Fago (Army), son of Tony & Shirley
* Gunny Raymond Gustavo Hazelton (US Marine Corps), brother of Cristina Snodgrass
* Brook Robinson (Navy), son of David & Michelle and grandson of Dolores Coleman
* Kyle A. Riley (Air Force), nephew of Robert Hollowell
* Greg Koch (Air Force), nephew of Nancy Koch
* James Ashenhurst (Navy), stepson of Stephen Flynn and son of Jenny Simons
* Nicholas Parente (Army), grandson of Linda Parente

Into the Woods: A Forest Walk Mini-Retreat. Join us for a time of wonder, presence and quiet in the beautiful forest of Bradley Woods Metropark in Westlake. The time is Saturday, May 26 from 9am–2 pm. Information is on the back table in church. This day of short, reflective walks is facilitated by Mike Reiling.

The warmer weather means we can once again start our two-by-two program where pairs of parishioners walk the neighborhood for the purpose of claiming it as our own as well as evangelizing. There will be an organizational meeting on Tuesday, May 15 at 7pm in the newly cleaned rectory library to decide on streets to be walked, parishioners who live on that street, times for walking and so on.

Advertiser of the week:
Patrick J. Cooney, Attorney at Law
This Week at Blessed Trinity

Sunday, May 13
11:00am—12:00pm  Mother’s Day  
Children Liturgy of the Word

Monday, May 14
9:30am—10:30am  Legion of Mary (Church)
8:30pm—9:30pm  AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)

Tuesday, May 15
9:30am—12:00pm  Bountiful Basement (BB)
10:30am—12:00pm  AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)
7:00pm—8:30pm  FSPG (Rectory Living Room)
7:30pm—10:00pm  Holy Name/Men’s Ministry (Joseph C)

Wednesday, May 16
5:00pm—6:45pm  Bountiful Basement (BB)
7:00pm—8:30pm  Choir rehearsal (Church)
8:00pm—9:00pm  AA Meeting (Joseph Center)

Thursday, May 17
9:30am—12:00pm  Bountiful Basement (BB)
11:00am—12:00pm  AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)
6:00pm—7:30pm  Bell Choir (Church)

Friday, May 18
8:00pm—10:00pm  AA Meeting (Rectory Basement)

Saturday, May 19
8:30am—10:30am  Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Fogarty Hall)

Our next guest speakers for our Holy Name meeting on May 15th at 8pm will be Freddie Barnes and Ed Horton. They will be sharing with us about the Prison Ministries. Come join us for this exciting night! All women and men are welcome.

Womankind Annual Baby Bottle Collection. Take an empty baby bottle today (located at the church doors) to collect change and return it on Father’s Day, June 17. Your check, cash or coins collected in each bottle represent hope and help to the pregnant mothers in need who come to Womankind. Since 1975, Womankind has provided prenatal care, counseling and other support services, all at no cost. (womankindcleveland.org)

BLESSSED TRINITY PARISH T-SHIRT/SWEATSHIRT SALE  Full front logo design short-sleeve t-shirt (crew OR V-neck) and crew neck sweat shirts; TALL sizes crew neck only. Prices range from $9 to $15 (add $3 for larger sizes). Orders will be taken after Mass. All orders must be placed by Sunday, May 13th and must be accompanied by payment (cash or check payable to Blessed Trinity). Orders will be available for pick up after Mass the weekend of June 9 & 10.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: If you have not yet sent in your contribution to Catholic Charities, there are envelopes on the back table for you to use. Thank you for supporting this vital ministry.
WORSHIP

4:00pm  Frank Kravec (Family)

Sunday, May 13 (Acts 1: 15-17, 20a, 20c-26; 1 Jn 4: 11-16; Jn 17: 11v-19)
9:00am  Blessed Trinity
11:00am  Mary, Arline & Gert Schill (Dukles Family)

Monday, May 14
11:00am  Rita Warmuth (Pat Mullins)
           @ WestPark Neuro & Rehab Center
           4401 W. 150th St.

Tuesday, May 15
8:30am  Joann M. Speidel (Family)

Wednesday, May 16
8:30am  Eileen Dooley (Mary Lou Murray)

Thursday, May 17
No Mass

Friday, May 18
8:30am  Jim Dugan (Family)

4:00pm  Arthur Hanrahan (Karen Hanrahan & Family)

Sunday, May 20 (Acts 2: 1-11; 1 Cor 12: 3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20: 19-23)
9:00am  Biagiotti Family (Parente Family)
11:00am  Blessed Trinity

All Blessed Trinity Church organizations need to submit their meeting dates, times and places for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019) to the office by May 23rd. Noting especially the use of Fogarty Hall, since we have to coordinate those times with Birchwood School. You can email your dates/times/places to office@blessedtrinitycleveland.org. Or, call 216-671-5890. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION - MONTHLY GRIEF SUPPORT – 3rd SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH Please join us for an hour of learning and healing along your grief journey. Our Grief Support leaders are certified as Ministers of Consolation by the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved, Inc. Our Catholic-based support can be supplemental to your existing support groups. We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month at 3:00 p.m., except on holidays, then we meet the 4th Sunday. The next Support Group is Sunday, May 20th at St. Joseph Cemetery, Avon (temporary trailer office); Holy Cross Cemetery, Akron (office); and Holy Cross Cemetery, Brook Park (office). The topics for May will be: “Holidays, Anniversaries, and Special Occasions in Grieving” “Complicated or Unresolved Grief and Mental Health Awareness”. No registration is required, just come and join us. For more information, visit our website https://www.clecem.org/Information/Bereavement.aspx or contact Rhonda at 216.930.4866 rabrams@clecem.org.

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