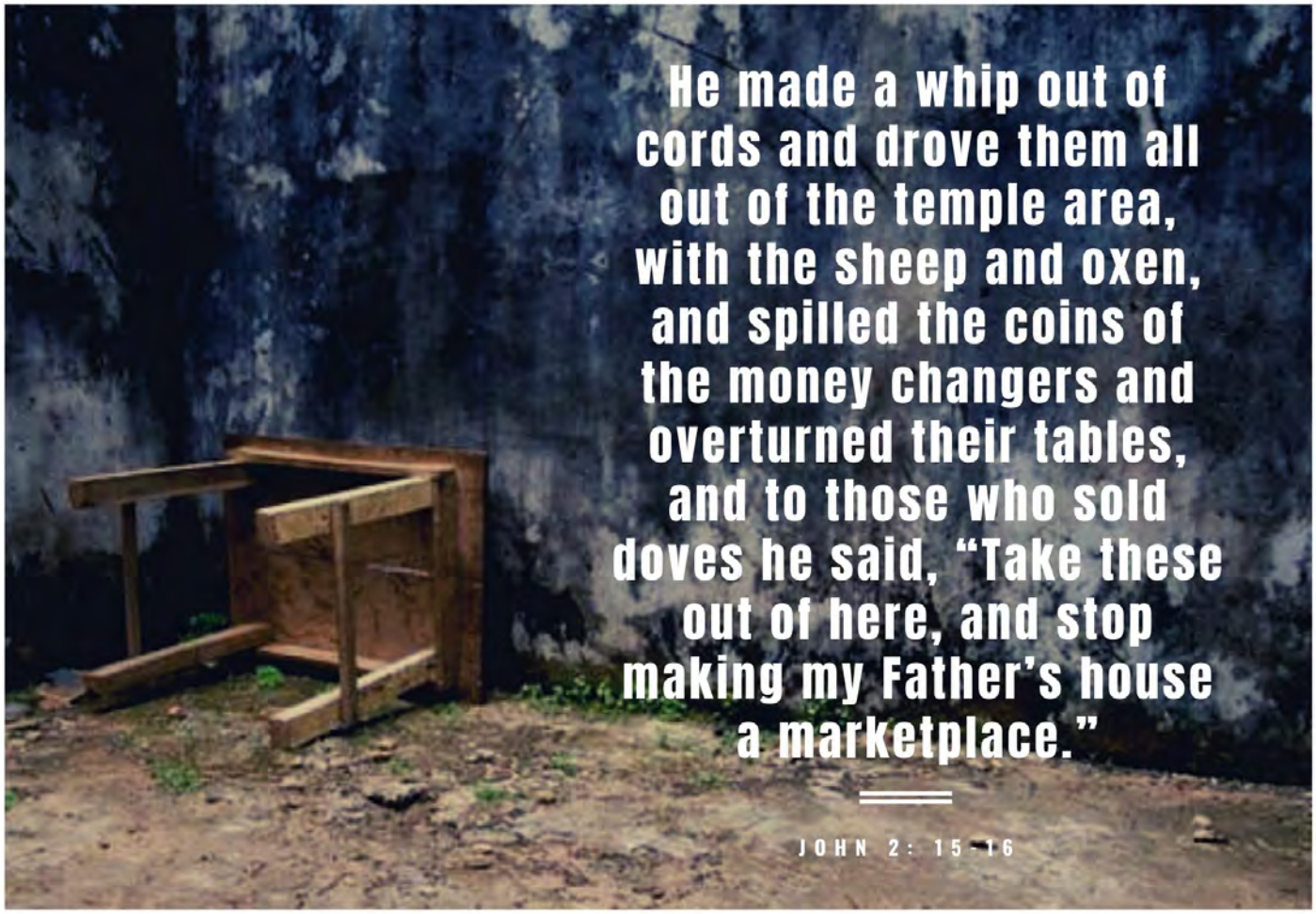
ST THOMAS MORE

TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

March 7, 2021 | VOLUME 50 NUMBER 10 | **Third Sunday of Lent**



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Many prefer a "create as you go" approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a "you can't tell me what to do" attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other's space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of "anything goes" and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on "relativism island" where only a possible suggestion to "love and do not harm" may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus' display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life's preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.

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Debra Mayeux will be working on filling some spaces we have available on the bulletin the week of March 15,2021, please consider advertising in our bulletin. Advertisements can be purchased for a business, family, or a sponsor ad can be purchased supporting community service organizations like emergency pregnancy counseling or the battered women's shelter, etc. **We need and appreciate your help.**

If you are interested or would like more information, please call **Debra directly at (800)477-4574 Ext.6524 or (225) 400-4106. Also, she can be reached by email dmayeux@4lpi.com.**

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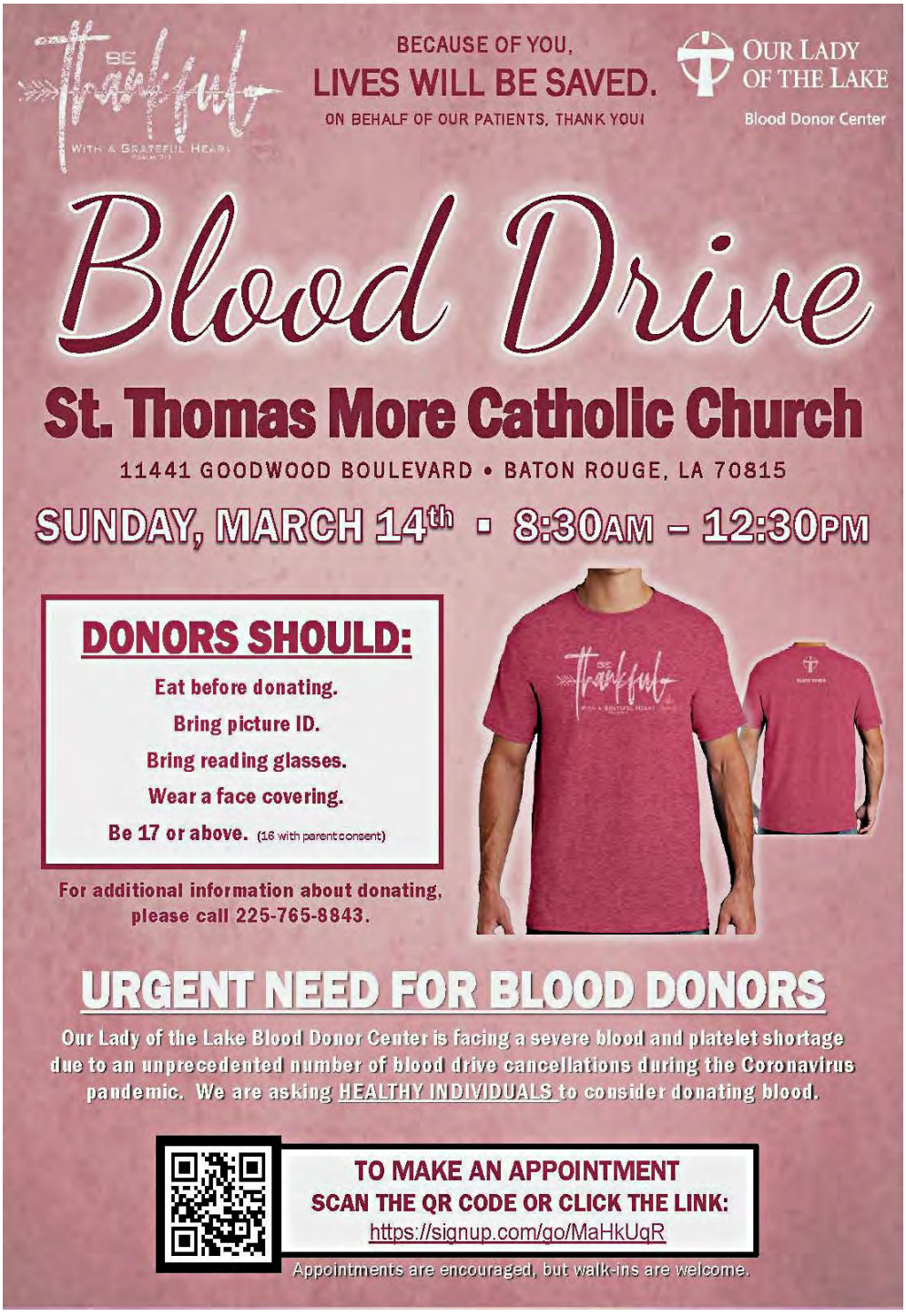

Pope Francis @Pontifex

All of us are specialists in crucifying others to save ourselves. Jesus, instead, allowed himself to be crucified, to teach us not to shift evil onto others.

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Larry Cronan the week of Mar. 7 as requested by Suzie Cronan.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Ernest Bonaccorso Jr. the week of Mar. 7 as requested by the Bonaccorso family.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Mar. 9 - 6 p.m.: Carlos A. Fandino, Mau Thi Pham, Ronald Gauthier, Joyce Schilling, Patricia Mullins, Zoom Nguyen, Richard Pastorek, James Prevot

Thursday, Mar. 11 - 8:45 a.m.: Douglas Gonzales Sr.

Saturday, Mar. 13 - 4:30 p.m.: Leo Flynn, Ernest Bonaccorso Jr., Ronald Gauthier, Patricia Mullins, Gene Barnhart, Celwyn Johnson, Richard Pastorek

Sunday, Mar. 14 - 8 a.m.: Katie and Joe Bossom; **10 a.m.:** STM Families, Friends, and Neighbors; **5 p.m.:** Steve Melton

PRAYER LINE

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call **Sharon Hebert at 225-978-1246** (leave your name and phone number if there is no answer), or send a request by email to **prayerline@stmbr.org**.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers the following seriously ill persons: **Bill Bailey, Pat Bailey, Liz Ferguson, David Longwell, D.J. Webre.**

To add your name, or the name of a loved one if you have their permission, contact Elise Moran at morane@stmbr.org, or call 225.275.3940.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS | FRIDAYS IN LENT

STM CHURCH @ 6:00 PM

March 12th: The Way of the Cross According to Matthew

Facilitated by STM Knights of Columbus

The pope's recommended Lenten fast

"A fast that will not make you hungry."

Article: Kathleen Hattrup; Photo: Antoine Mekary | Aleteia.org

After praying the midday Angelus on February 28, Pope Francis expressed his hopes that everyone is having a "good journey" in Lent. The pope went on to make a recommendation for a Lenten fast:

> … a fast that will not make you hungry: a fast from gossip and slander. It is a special way [of fasting]. ***In this Lent I will not speak ill of others; I will not gossip***.… And we can all do this, everyone. This is a good fast.

The Holy Father also offered another reminder: "it will also be helpful **to read a passage of the Gospel, to carry a small Gospel** in your pocket, in your purse, and pick it up when you can – any passage."

"This," he said, "will **make the heart open** to the Lord."

Both of these recommendations are among the pope's favorites. The Holy Father has often warned against gossip and slander.

Back in 2016, speaking on that occasion to religious, he spoke of gossip as "terrorism," a metaphor he's repeated on other occasions.

> Because whoever gossips is a terrorist. He or she is a terrorist in the community, because a word against this one, against that one, is as ugly as a bomb … it destroys! The one who does this destroys, like a bomb, and [then] he distances himself.
>
> The apostle James said having dominion over one's tongue was perhaps the most difficult virtue, the most difficult human and spiritual virtue to acquire. If you think of saying something against a brother or sister, to lob a gossip bomb, **mortify your tongue! Be strong!** No terrorism in community!

As well, the pope likes to recommend keeping the Gospel at hand, and has on more than one occasion given out pocket Gospels to pilgrims. Even just a couple minutes with the Gospel can change your life, he says.

PRAY WITH US

Divine Mercy Weekly Novena

Nine Week Novena of Chaplets
Tuesdays thru April 6
6:30 p.m. in the church
following 6 p.m. Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 11, 2021
Divine Mercy Chaplet
4:30 p.m. in the church

The chaplet novena can be viewed each week on our YouTube channel:
youtube.com/stthomasmorebatonrouge

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OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the families of: **Lillian Johnson, Savannah Willey, Mervyn Simoneaux, and Lila Carbo.**

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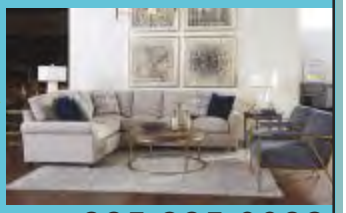
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