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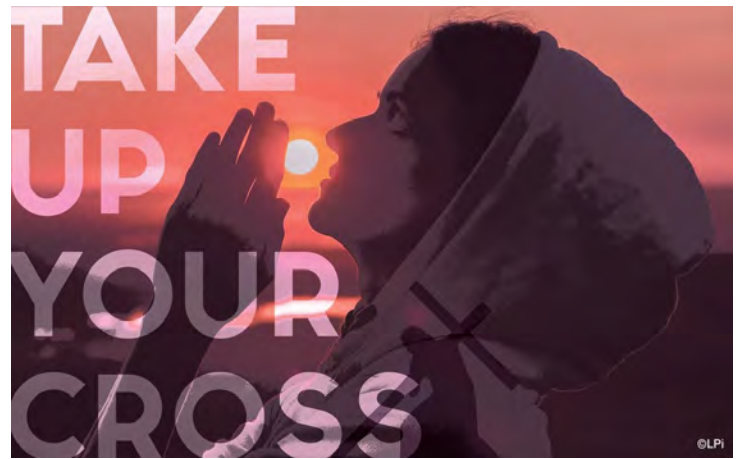
May 15, 2022 | VOLUME 51 NUMBER 20 | Fifth Sunday of Easter





It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God.” Many folks really work very hard to circumvent difficult situations. We prefer the easier way around something, rather than risk inconvenience, hurt or prolonged suffering. It’s no wonder euthanasia is rapidly becoming acceptable around the world. Through purely human eyes, there is no issue bypassing the inevitable, taking control and bringing things more swiftly to a place of peace. If this is the way God sees things, then why does Jesus make such a big deal helping us understand the experience of suffering and embrace it? God’s wisdom clearly takes us in another direction.

Imagine if we were able to eradicate ALL hardship and suffering. Where would we be? As we look at our own journeys, many of our solid more growth producing life lessons have been born of suffering, disappointment, inconvenience, darkness, and despair. There is something sacred about all of these experiences as God uses them to create something new. Envisioning a life without hardship and suffering brings us to a vision where everything is flat-lined and dull. As much as hardship and suffering are difficult crosses to bear, not taking them up runs the risk of us



becoming shallow, empty, and lifeless. Helen Keller remarks that, “a happy life consists not in the absence but in the mastery of hardships.” What an incredibly wise insight! Many really successful people and saints were brought to their station in life because they suffered. Suffering teaches us about what’s important and propels us to search the depths of our souls for resources and strength we never would have known before.

This is especially true when we love as Jesus asks us to love. Love, perhaps above any other experience, can cause us great hardship, pain, and suffering especially when it’s authentic and unconditional. While it can thrust us into an incredible experience of God and life on one hand, it can bruise and wound us deeply on the other. Mastering the art of love is the secret to living life well, walking in the presence of God and investing in the joy of the Gospel. Love and suffering walk hand in hand. Compromising one will compromise the other. Maybe that’s why Jesus spent so much time convincing us to accept both. @LPi



Join us next Sunday for a
Welcome Fellowship

on **Sunday, May 15**, following the 8 am and the 10 am Masses.

Newly registered parishioners are especially invited to attend - and all parishioners are encouraged to join us in giving all the newly registered a very warm STM welcome!

Please note

Parishioners who are currently receiving monthly offering envelopes - there was an error in the May and July packets. You will see a yellow envelope labeled "Master Plan Implementation/Building Fund". This envelope was mistakenly placed in the packets. You can disregard if your packet has one of these yellow envelopes. However, you are always welcomed to make a "Special Donation" to our current construction projects. You can log on to Faith Direct and make a "one time gift" or feel free to either use that yellow envelope or mail a check to the church office.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the St. Thomas More Parish community.

Everyday Stewardship | Loving as New Creations

"There's something different about you."

Think about the times in your life when this has been said to you. Maybe it was after someone complimented you on a job well done, and you realized that you were walking through life with a little more confidence. Maybe it was after meeting someone special, as you carried the glow of that relationship wherever you went. Chances are, if someone has noticed something different about you, it's because, inwardly, you've been changed by the loving or respectful actions of another person.

Love, you see, can make us into new creations. From the love of God flows the grace to tackle any challenge, including the biggest challenge of all: loving each other well. Christ knows what a big request this is. He was human, too. He came and lived among us. He knew intimately what it was to love people in the chaos of their own flaws. He knew what he was asking of us when he said, "As I have loved you, so you should also love one another."

In essence, this is the call to stewardship: loving as Christ loves, amidst the messiness of everyday reality. Loving with accountability, challenging ourselves and our brothers and sisters to be faithful even when it is hard. Loving with an unflinching sense of hospitality that welcomes even those we do not agree with or understand. Loving with gratitude, giving thanks for the great variety of ways that Christ can make himself known to us through others.

It isn't easy — we all know that. But if we ask God for the grace to remain steadfast in this greatest commandment, we will be given what we need to live as new creations.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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Canonizations May 15

On Sunday May 15, St. Peter's Square will be dressed up to host one of the most eagerly awaited ceremonies held in the square: canonizations.

The last time a canonization ceremony was held here was in 2019, when the Pope declared Cardinal John Henry Newman and Sr. Dulce of Brazil, saints, among others.

This time around Pope Francis will canonize 10 people. Among them is **Charles de Foucauld**, the French priest who became a missionary in the Algerian desert.

The other Blesseds Pope Francis will canonize are the layperson Lazarus, a martyr from India, as well as Tito Bradsma, the Carmelite priest who was killed in a Nazi concentration camp.

@RomeReports

The **Prayer of Abandonment**, written by Charles de Foucauld, is one of the most beautiful prayers of faith, trust and surrender in the Christian spiritual heritage. Memorize it, pray it often, and share it with others!

*Father,
I abandon myself into your hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you may do, I thank you:
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
and in all your creatures.
I wish no more than this, O Lord.
Into your hands I commend my soul;
I offer it to you
with all the love of my heart,
for I love you, Lord,
and so need to give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve,
and with boundless confidence,
for you are my Father.*



Pope Francis

@Pontifex



We should not fear the crises of life and faith. Crises help us recognize that we need God and thus allow us to return to the Lord, to experience his love anew.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, May 17 - 6 p.m.: Marie Schittone, Ronald Gauthier Sr., Karen Macus, Norris Decoteau, Betty Falcon, Eddy Family, Louis Vutera, Buddy Vutera

Thursday, May 19 - 8:45 a.m.: Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, May 21 - 4:30 p.m.: Richard Wilson

Sunday, May 22 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:** Paul Lovell, Addie Brown, John K. Cooper, Ann Brandt, Patrick Dufrene, Sebastian Cordova, Rosa Lee Eidt, Earl and Maryanne Halfmann; **5 p.m.:** Vutera and Polozola Families

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Richard Wilson the week of May 15 as requested by the Wilson family.

The sanctuary light in the chapel will burn in memory of Alphonsus Pham, Mary Hoang and Joseph Pham the week of May 15 as requested by Tuyen Pham.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers the following seriously ill persons:

Ivy Alford, Calvin Bajon, Rita Doran, Deanna Ducote, Liz Ferguson, Annagrace Fremin, Bill & Pat Bailey, Ruth Fleming, Joyce Maynor, Londyn Morse, Mary Morse, Kathi Pramik, Mike Ross

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.

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.



Post-Roe Louisiana Summit

Preparing to be Abortion-Free

The U.S. Supreme Court may overturn Roe v. Wade this Summer, protecting all unborn babies from abortion in Louisiana

We invite Pro-Life leaders, ministers, organizers, and everyday activists to join for education, discussion, planning, and unity ahead of a Post-Roe Louisiana

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June 3rd Prayer Vigil for Life
at Abortion Facility

June 4th Prayer Breakfast for Life

June 4th Conference Sessions

Bethany Church
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**Visit the Website Below For
More Information & To Register
for Individual or All Events,
Or Call: 866.463.5433**

PostRoeLASummit.com

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PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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to celebrating the Catholic faith and modeling

the life of Jesus Christ,

St. Thomas More Church provides

worship, education, ministerial

and social opportunities for the

spiritual growth of the parish family.



- Student-teacher ratio 20:1
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