

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

**~ A Prayer for Balance ~**

**Lord,  
help me to create a balanced life.  
Help me to take time to enjoy life,  
to be a person full of gratitude.  
Help me take time to love,  
to extend my hand  
in service to those around me.**

**Lord,  
remind me to take time to learn,  
to be disciplined and accountable.  
Help me to make a difference  
in the small and big moments of my life.  
Lord, help me to keep smiling,  
to be happy and true to myself.**

**Lord,  
infuse me with your spirit  
so I can create a life of balance,  
moderation, and simplicity.  
And whatever my challenge,  
let it be an occasion  
to deepen my life's purpose.  
Amen.**

# Our Lady Chapel



*Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.*

**CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE:**

The Campus Ministry Office is located in **Our Lady Chapel**.  
phone: [440] 473-3560. e-mail: [jbcsc@ix.netcom.com](mailto:jbcsc@ix.netcom.com)

**WELCOME:**

Pancho Paz, Carolina Aquero and Alejandra Lorenzana from **Sociedad Amigos de los Niños** — our mission in Honduras — will be joining us at our Masses this weekend. They will be talking about the work of Sociedad in **Nuevo Paraíso**. Following their presentation, we will be taking up a collection to support their work among the Children in Honduras. Welcome Pancho, Carolina and Alejandra; we are blessed to have you with us.

**BLANKET SUNDAY IS NEXT WEEKEND:**

Next weekend, October 10-11, marks the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Blanket Sunday Collection to aid the needy. The collection is sponsored by the Diocesan St. Vincent de Paul Society. This year, due to lack of storage space, we are sponsoring a **cash only** collection. We will gratefully accept your cash donations and do the shopping for you, making your money go even further with bulk purchases of blankets and other items needed by low income families. So give someone a blanket for the winter — and give yourself a warm feeling! Mark your envelope **Blanket Sunday Collection** and we will take it from there. Thank you.

**WOMEN'S DAY OF RETREAT — SAVE THE DATE:**

**Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM** in the **Lennon Board Room** for our very popular **Fall Women's Retreat**. All Women of Our Lady Chapel and Gilmour Academy — and their guests and friends — are invited to join us for this retreat. **Father John** will facilitate our evening of reflection. The evening will begin with Mass at 5:30 PM, followed by a refreshing dinner that you won't have to cook. **Cost for the evening is \$20.** [Please know that ability to pay for the retreat is not a condition for attendance]. The evening of reflection will begin around 7:00 or so. If you can't make it for Mass or even for dinner, come anyway when you can. It will be a wonderful evening of spiritual renewal. So **mark the date on your calendars** and give yourself a treat in the Lord. **Sign up on the retreat sheet — located on the easel which in the narthex of the Chapel — or call Patty in the Chapel Office [440-473-3560].**

**XLT IS COMING — SAVE THE DATE:**

Join internationally known speaker Bob Rice at **Sacred Heart Chapel on the campus of the Center for Pastoral Leadership** in Wickliffe on **Tuesday, October 22nd, beginning at 7:** A teacher at Franciscan University, Bob will be speaking about Halloween, All Saints Day, and All Souls Day. We will have Eucharistic Adoration with our Lord, live praise and worship music, and a social time with youth and young adults around the diocese. A time for reconciliation will also be available. Visit [www.clepriesthood.com](http://www.clepriesthood.com) or call the chapel office [440-473-3560] for more information.

**FAITH EDUCATION — OCTOBER 4-18-25:**

Faith Education for this year has begun. If you are still planning on joining our program, it is not too late, **but it must be done quickly.** Our Sessions go from **8:45—9:45 AM**, with the hope that our children would then **participate in our 10:00 AM Family Mass. Register your family for classes by contacting Patty in the Chapel Office [[440-473-3560].** If you have any questions, please call Patty in the chapel office. Thank you for taking care of this important responsibility. **Dates for October and November: October 4-18-25 and November 1-8-15-22.**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**

- For Brother Bernard Klim, C.S.C., who is critically ill with an infection.
- For Daniel Cunningham, brother of Brother Thomas Cunningham, C.S.C., who is under the care of hospice.
- For Joseph Frantz ['75], brother of Mark ['65], David ['66], Roger ['69], and Peter ['78] Frantz, who is recovering from serious surgery.
- For Chris Watkins who is recovering from open heart surgery.
- For Cindy Bernet who is recovering from cancer surgery.
- For Jim Spicer who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.
- For Amy Wargo who is critically ill.
- For John O'Brian who has been diagnosed with a serious form of cancer.
- For Andy Sims who is recovering from spinal surgery.
- For Michael Hughes ['82], son of Michael ['55], brother of Kevin ['88] who is recovering from surgery.
- For Bill Slattery ['77] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For John Burkey, uncle of Rachel Burkey, member of music ministry, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Jack Sutter, who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- For Annie Trivassos who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Nicholas Zanella.
- For Jan Botek, wife of Fred, mother of Fred ['85], grandmother of Matthew ['14], Jonathan ['17] and Daniel ['21] Botek, who is undergoing treatment for dementia.
- For Teddy Prusock, nephew of Lower School associate, Nina Prusock, who is undergoing neurological testing.
- For Jimmy Vickers, father of Lower School teacher, Caroline Holtz, who is seriously ill.
- For Phillip McNulty, nephew of Janet and Mike Heryak, cousin of Lillian ['09], Rosa ['12], and Edwin ['17] Heryak, who is recovering from surgery for Crohn's Disease.
- For Susan Cangelosi, mother of Lou ['09] and Marissa ['12], who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- For Brother James Gulnac, C.S.C., who is under hospice care for cancer.
- For Kay Yunker, aunt of Mary Schmidt, great-aunt of Maggie ['12] Schmidt who is under the care of hospice.

**ALTAR SERVERS and LECTORS:**

We continue to be in need of servers and lectors. **Any student who is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> [and up] grade is invited to become an altar server; any student who is in the 5<sup>th</sup> [and up] grade is invited to become a lector.** These are both wonderful ministries — a great way to serve God and the faith community. If you would like to take advantage of these opportunities, **please give your name to Father John.** You do not have to attend Gilmour to be an altar server, lector, or to be involved in any other ministry at Our Lady Chapel. **Please call the chapel office [440-473-3560].**

**HARMONY:**

Most of our conflicts and difficulties come from trying to deal with the spiritual and practical aspects of our life separately instead of realizing them as parts of one whole. If our practical life is centered on our own interests, cluttered up by possessions, distracted by ambitions, passions, wants and worries, beset by a sense of our own rights and importance, or anxieties for our own future, or longings for our own success, we need not expect that our spiritual life will be a contrast to all this. The soul's house is not built on such a convenient plan; there are few sound-proof partitions in it.

—Evelyn Underhill 19

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**

- For Jose Fernandez who is recovering from a leg injury
- For Theresa Mudry who is undergoing treatment for a heart condition.
- For Jesse McNeal who is undergoing treatment for serious infection.
- For Mary Lou Lawlor, grandmother of Resident associate, Alec Lawlor who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.
- For Judy Everett, sister of Brother James Everett, who is under the care of hospice.
- For Paul Stano, who is critically ill.
- For Jacqueline McNulty, aunt of Lillian [\*09], Rosa [\*12], and Edwin [\*17] Heryak who is recovering from surgery.
- For Ryan Berger [\*15], brother of Cameron [\*17] who is recovering from injuries sustained in an accident.
- For Drew Franco, son of Brian [\*90], nephew of Jeff [\*88] and Kristin [\*94] Kirkpatrick, who is struggling with a seizure disorder.
- For Michael Palumbo, father of Michael [\*14], Marisa [\*15], and former Gilmour student, Christian, who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Todd Deranek, relative of Hayden [\*28] and Hadley [\*29] Bashein, who was seriously injured in an accident.
- For Elaine Willey, sister of Father John, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Maureen Kenner, aunt of Katherine [\*09] and David Hasler [\*13], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Brother Donald Fleischhacker, C.S.C., who is seriously ill.
- For Hadley Bashein [\*29], sister of Hayden [\*28] who is undergoing medical treatment.
- For Monica Starks, mother of former Gilmour students, Faith and Monica Joy, who is undergoing treatment for kidney disease.
- For Colleen Lowman, grandmother of Rachel Burkey, member of music ministry, who is seriously ill.
- For Dennis Kavran, father of Dennis [\*86] and Jennifer [\*95], grandfather of Adam [\*14] and Madeleine [\*16] Miller, who is undergoing further treatment for cancer.
- For Donna Farkas who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Lexi Pappadakes, who is undergoing treatment for complications from surgery..
- For Rosemarie Lemieux who is ill.
- For Robert Heltzel [\*65], father of Jennifer [\*91] and Kathleen [\*93] Heltzel, who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Matt Barry [\*13], brother of Tim [\*12], who continues treatment for cancer.
- For Maria Ricci, friend of Linda McGraw, who is ill.
- For Jeff Warner, brother of Denise Calabrese, who is undergoing treatment resulting from a stroke and seizure.
- For Janice Feenstra, sister of Lisa Habe, aunt of Jack [\*19] and Will [\*20] Habe who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Phylis McGinley, grandmother of Middle school Head of School, Elizabeth Edmondson, great-grandmother of Mollie [\*21] and Abigail [\*23] Edmondson, who is seriously ill.
- For Mary Kampman, mother of Mark [\*81], Matthew [\*85], Dean [\*86], and Douglas [\*88] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Karen Wanders, mother of upper school Head of School, Jonathan Wanders, who continues in treatment and rehabilitation
- For Betty Herten, aunt of Hope [\*13] and James [\*15] Herten, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.



**R.C.I.A [Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults]:**

**Our RCIA program will begin soon.** If you have been thinking about investigating the Catholic faith, or if you know someone who has been thinking about it; if you have been away from the Catholic Church for a while, or are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith; if you know someone who is not fully initiated [Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation] in their Catholic faith — then consider joining or having them join our RCIA program. **Please contact Father John [440-473-3560] for more information.**



**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday, October 4: 27 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 AM
Monday, October 5:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Tuesday, October 6:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Wednesday, October 7: Holy Rosary	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Thursday, October 8:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Friday, October 9:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Saturday, October 10: 28 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	5:00 PM
Sunday, October 11: 28 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 AM

**UPCOMING CHAPEL ACTIVITIES:**

October 3 -----	Honduran Mission Appeal	5:00 PM Mass
October 4 -----	Faith Education Session #3 Honduran Mission Appeal EDGE Blessing of Animals	8:45 AM - 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Mass 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM 11:45 SM
October 13 -----	Lower School Mass [followed by Parent Social]	9:15 AM
October 18 -----	Faith Education Session #4 LifeTeen	8:45 AM - 9:45 AM 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
October 20 -----	Women’s Fall Retreat	5:30 PM—9:00 PM
October 25 -----	Faith Education Session #5 EDGE	8:45 AM - 9:45 AM 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

**REFLECTION ON THE THEME FOR THE WEEK:**

All of creation is a gift. It calls us to ponder the mystery of life. We have many “whys” and “what’s this for” questions. We are stumped often by the “unanswerables” about our own persons — and certainly the persons and personalities who surround us. We live our lives surrounded by the mysterious creatures that other human beings seem to be. Some are married, others intending to; others are religious priests, brothers or sisters; some are in the single state. But each of us live in relationship to those whose lives we touch. Each of us experience our own mystery; each of us is called to receive love, life, mystery all which are somehow wonderful. We pray for the fidelity to continue God’s creative love in whatever relationships we find ourselves. Those relationships are also part of God’s creating love.

The Scripture Readings for this 27<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time opens with the Book of Genesis — the creation of woman [Genesis 2:18-24]. There are many jokes and one-liners which can come from this story — “The two become one and the rest of their lives they work out which one they will be.” “God put man asleep and gave the woman to fruitlessly and eternally try to wake him up.” But this story is too serious for jokes however.

The Book of Genesis is filled with many stories attempting to explain God, creation, human beings, and community order. It is somewhat like the authors are painting a huge picture of how things were, and why they are not that way now, and how the picture got cut up into puzzle-parts, and what is God going to do about all that.

Genesis seems to satisfy the human desire to have basic “Big Questions” answered — the question of how everything came to be, and why this and how come that? And the big question about the creation is woman is not “why was man created first?” God created all living things, but the highest creation is the human person. This person was presented with all the other forms of creation unlike his own, and it led to dissatisfaction. God saw this dissatisfaction — as God saw everything — and saw that it as “good”. God saw that human beings would search for completion and satisfaction — and this searching is “very good”.

In fashioning “woman”, God gave the man a closeness to himself — but just not quite — and this form of separation or distinctiveness would form the framework for the real meaning of human love. This human love is a revelation of God’s love. It is not a substitute or replacement for that love. They will “cling” to each other, embracing their physically-different bodies, while their search for true union continues toward God. Longing is a blessing and God’s love desires us to experience finite love as so many ways to put the puzzle back into its original union. In short, Genesis is the story of the necessity for order in relationships and how God is working things out.

And all this leads to the Pharisees “big question” for Jesus in Mark’s Gospel [10:2-18] — divorce. What happens when human relationships don’t always lead to the discovering of God’s love? Jesus begins to answer the question by quoting what God had intended for every man and woman. Jesus finishes His teaching in the presence of His disciples — divorce, that is the arbitrary dissolving of a true union in marriage, is against the order of things. The puzzle continues being broken by divorce; marriage is the commitment to bringing that union closer.

This wonderful and interesting discussion is broken up when mothers and fathers are bringing their children to Jesus. The disciples desire to continue this interesting conversation, but Jesus becomes upset and invites the children to come to Him to be touched, blessed, and welcomed. These teachings on such hot topics as the importance of union in community, are difficult. The children represent the simplicity of

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

**FOR THE DECEASED:**

- For Sister Anita Reeves, C.S.C.
- For Dale Baker, grandmother of Michael Cox, member of music ministry at Our Lady Chapel.
- For William Sanders
- For Father Bart Salter, C.S.C.
- For Elaine Shagrin, grandmother of upper school teacher, Matt Greenfield.
- For Bernice Loerzel, sister of Brother Fred Raeshler, C.S.C.
- For Kevin Sroub, father of Brian [‘77], father-in-law of Jennifer [‘75], grandfather of Katharine [‘06] and Jackson [‘09] Sroub
- For Charles Tremont [‘70], brother of Timothy [‘71], father of Christopher [‘01] and Andrew [‘04]
- For Nancy Kreczko
- For Mary Gretac, aunt of Gilmour teacher, Richard Grejtak.
- For Bob Healey, husband of Queenie, father of Sharon [‘75] and Mary [‘81], grandfather of Chris [‘05] and Edith [‘07] Lesinski.

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:**

- For the victims and families of the mass shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, and for those who were injured.
- In thanksgiving for the many blessings that we have received because of Pope Francis’ visit to the USA.
- For the Syrian refugees and the nations of the world being overwhelmed by the vast numbers of immigrants.
- For an end to violence in our society.
- For the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- For an end to human trafficking..
- For the unemployed.
- For those who struggle with family relationships.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For a special intention.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.

**DRESSES FOR HONDURAS:**

One of the nurses in our Gilmour Clinic is involved in a **dressmaking project** for the children of Honduras. They have devised a method of making sundresses out of common pillowcases, and then adorning them with other items for decoration. And that is where you come in. **If you have any old buttons, ribbon, ric-rac, lace or other sewing trim,** please bring them in. The group would like to collect these items to help decorate the dresses they are working on. This is an on-going project; the dresses will be sent to Honduras every time there is a mission trip. The next trip is scheduled for March of 2016. There is a **basket in the narthex of the Chapel** to collect any donations you may have. Thank you for your help!

**A PROVERB:**

Whoever dies with the most toys still dies



**REALTIONSHPIS — BLESSINGS, NOT AGGRAVATIONS:**

Biblical morality revolves around relationships. That's why the Scripture Readings for this 27<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time are so significant. As Christians, we stand in awe of the relationship that Jesus of Nazareth has with us. The author of the letter to the Hebrews couldn't have described it any better: "He for a little while was made lower than the angels, that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Therefore, he is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters" [Hebrews 2:9-13]. We're important enough to die for.

Even before Jesus appears in history, our sacred authors were deeply concerned with how we relate to one another. The Yahwistic writer of Genesis, for instance — active almost 3,000 years ago — wasn't afraid to take on the culture of his or her own day and age, as he/she took on the well-known myth of the creation of woman. In the author's day and age, women were not only regarded as unequal to men, they were often looked upon as being sub-human. One need only check ancient Middle Eastern creation myths to see the belief that men were often formed from a different material than women.

But before the author gets to women, he/she must take care of animals. We know from pre-historic European cave art that bestiality was certainly practiced in the ancient world. That seems to be why the sacred author begins this particular myth by stating: "None of the wild animals proved to be the suitable partner for the man." That suitable partner had to be someone who is "bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh" — in other words, made from the same stuff that the man was made from.

That radical belief also becomes the author's "etiological" reason behind intercourse. Because man and woman were originally one, they'll engage in acts of intimacy which will again make them one. This is quite a different relationship between men and women than the Yahwistic writer's 1,000 BCE culture envisioned.

Mark's Jesus takes that relationship one giant step further [Mark 10:2-16]. Though contemporary Jewish law permitted divorce under certain circumstances, Jesus outlaws it completely. Falling back on the Yahwist's concept of oneness during intercourse, Jesus contends such a oneness is a permanent condition — it can't be broken. Once one, always one.

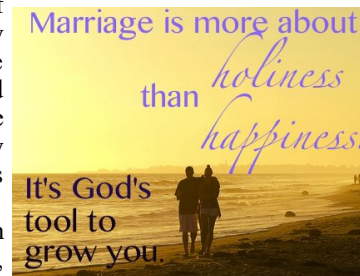
Though modern psychologists often bring up situations when a personal decision to become one with another wasn't made with full understanding of what such a decision entails — and even church law provides dispensations from some unions — Jesus isn't talking about exceptions. He's simply stating a general principle: when two of his followers give their word to one another in such a serious, life-changing moment, that word is to be kept. Our imitation of Jesus' dying and rising in our everyday life changes how we relate to others in that everyday life — especially with those with whom we've vowed to be one.

It also changes how we relate to "insignificant" people in our lives — as Jesus' disciples discover at the end of Mark's Gospel. Though they see the children as an avoidable aggravation, Jesus regards them as a sign of how his followers are to accept God's kingdom around them — with the openness with which a child accepts the daily happenings in his or her life. He then reinforces his belief by embracing and blessing them.

Normally when biblical people bless someone or something, they're not asking God to add something to the individual or object — they're simply thanking God for the blessing which that person or thing already brings to their lives — something his disciples hadn't noticed.

Perhaps we'd live more fulfilling lives if we, like Jesus, also looked upon our relationships as blessings, and not aggravations.

—taken from the writings of Father Roger Karban, which appear on the internet



heart and mind which is needed on the part of those who would be a part of the "kingdom" or new order which Jesus was initiating.

I pause to insert a quotation meant to stimulate, confuse, and accept: "There is not a woman in the world, the reception of whom, is as precious as that of the truths which she reveals to us by causing us to suffer." "Truths" and "Causing" and "Suffering" are heavy concepts. Henry Higgins, in *My Fair Lady* sings plaintively: "Why can't a woman be more like a man?" He does not like the suffering that his love for Liza Dolittle is causing him. The "suffering" is change, growth, manhoodness, sensitivity, and basically his humanness. He — and we — would rather grow laterally and pretend the growth is profoundly.

Marriage and any true loving relationship between a woman and a man is a gift from God which keeps on giving. A loving relationship — and especially that blessed in Marriage — is a covenant of continuing God's creation. In marriage, the man and woman commit themselves to bringing forth life within the other. They say "Yes!" I will assist God in creating and helping to complete you. I will accept your assisting God's creating me. I will accept the process of suffering you will cause me in the process of God's creating me through you.

This is how God intends to put the puzzle together with all these strange-appearing pieces with various angles and dents. Jesus, by blessing the little ones, invites all of us to lives of "growing up" and "growing-within". Little children love what is new, different, and puzzling. These readings are not directly a denouncement of divorce — nor a statement about the necessity for everyone to marry. The readings are about God's ways of creating us and the necessity of our being available to all these ways.

—taken from the writings of Father Larry Gillick, S.J., which appear on the internet

**CAN YOU HELP?**

Maggie's Place/The Zechariah House — a home of hospitality for pregnant women — is seeking new volunteers to provide House coverage — both hospitality and clerical tasks — on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9 AM and 5 PM — 4 hour shifts. They are also seeking a Monday night kitchen volunteer [6-9 PM], and a Monday night babysitter [7-8:30 PM]. Background checks are required for all in house positions; training and orientation is also provided. Short-term volunteers are needed for the annual Christmas party, to help with shopping, wrapping, decorating, and party & meal planning in December. Contact Stasia at 440-886-2620 or [cleveland.volunteer@maggiesplace.org](mailto:cleveland.volunteer@maggiesplace.org) to learn more.

**CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS AND SERVE OTHERS:**

Fall is quickly approaching — another time to once again clean out the closets. Clothing that no longer fits, or has been replaced by new items, can become great items for others. Always remember the words of Jesus: "The poor you shall always have with you" [Matthew 26:11]. Please continue to bring your *gently used* men's, women's and children's clothing to the Lennon Board Room, or place it in the cedar chest which is located in the Chapel narthex [just press the key button to open the chest]. We partner with Fatima Center to help provide clothing for general use. Also, **business work clothing for this season is especially needed. The Fatima Center helps men and women prepare for job interviews.** If you have some of these items, this would be a good time to send them along. Clothing for all seasons is accepted, but please try to keep in mind that storage facilities are limited at Fatima — so it would help if you could focus on fall items at this time. You may pick up a tax form when you drop off the clothing here at Our Lady Chapel — there are forms in the cedar chest. Clothing may be brought on the weekend, or during the week. Thank you. **If you have any questions, please contact Patty in the chapel office [440-473-3560].**



**DISCOVERING THE CHRIST WITHIN US:**

A man was observing the golden jubilee of his wedding. He was asked his secret. He responded: “On my wedding day, Joan’s father gave me a watch. Across the face of it, he had printed: ‘Say something nice to Joan.’ ” Did Jesus know of the teachings of the Greek philosopher Plato who lived 400 years before Him? There is speculation Christ spoke Greek. If He did, He surely would have applauded Plato’s writing on marriage. Plato taught that man and woman are but half of their original size. Genuine happiness only arrives when the two halves in question find each other and marry.

Thus they help each other reach full growth. Marriage then should not shrink one’s personality. On the contrary, marriage should double one’s own person and spirit in its fullest sense. Courtship, said a sage, is dreaming happy dreams together and a good marriage is bringing them down to earth and watching them come true.

First the bad news. Everyone here is aware of the alarming statistics on divorce. One third of all marriages are ending before the divorce judge. Some feel that percentage is too conservative. But, in any case, these are no longer academic numbers, for most of us have family members who are divorced. The dreadful plague has hit our own homes. In Joseph Donder’s words, we have all witnessed too often in marriage: “hopes not fulfilled, prayers not heard, efforts in vain, promises unrealized, frustration, disaster, a curse instead of a blessing, death instead of life.”

Now the good news. Arthur Tonne reports that a study reveals that but one out of fifty seven marriages ended in divorce among husbands and wives that worshipped at church consistently. Even more amazing was the finding that only one marriage in five hundred concluded in divorce in couples where there is organized Scripture reading and prayer. To paraphrase Patrick Peyton, the husband and wife who pray together have an above-average chance of staying together. Mark’s Gospel [10:2-16] reveals that God made the law prohibiting divorce. But Tonne’s figures reveal that He also appears determined to do His part to assist couples who give Him the serious attention He deserves. Public worship and private study and prayer over the Scriptures strike me as good marriage insurance. The most hard-nosed insurance broker would advise bride and groom to invest in same from day one. When this Gospel begins, the Teacher is in the territory which is today’s Jordan. The Nazarene was preaching out in the open fields. The synagogues were too small to hold the crowds who wanted to hear Him. This tells you of His popularity and effectiveness as a preacher.

Jesus’ prohibition on divorce is found not merely in Mark’s Gospel; it is also very clear in Luke, and also at two different times in the Gospel of Matthew. St Paul clearly understood that point, for he underlines the prohibition in his own letters [see 1 Corinthians 7]. Divorce disturbed the Christ. In His day, it was more common than the common cold. No attorneys nor judges were required. Marriage for the Christ means undivided loyalty. One commentator has observed that our culture teaches husband and wife to ask: “What’s in it for me?”

But Jesus wants them to ask each other: “What’s in it for us?” Married people rush to ask: “How can I complete myself in this union?” But the Teacher according to Mark wishes them to ask: “How can we complete ourselves?” Some self-anointed experts advise couples to inquire: “How can I serve my wife?” and “How can I serve my husband?” But the real question is: “How can we serve each other?” Albert Schweitzer sums up the point this way: “The only ones who will be really happy are those who have sought and found out how to serve.” Or, as Neil Diamond puts it in a ballad: “Selfishness is the reason for the decline in the number of husbands and wives.”

If couples learn to treat the other the way they treat their own selves, their marriage will become more attractive. Each must say: “I will do more than belong — I will participate. I will do more than



conscripted adulthood — we mature, almost against our will. But there is a deeper dynamic operative too — children have the power to fire within us the deepest and most powerful surges of love that we can ever experience in this life. More so than does romantic love or the love that we have when we get involved in causes, love for our children is a love that can take us beyond ourselves, break our narcissism, and let us genuinely imitate — weak though it may be — the life-giving love of God.

There is something in children — some combination of helplessness, dependence, innocence, trust, vulnerability, simplicity, playfulness, and simple physical beauty that opens the heart to selflessness in a way that our other loves do not. That’s why celibacy can be dangerous. Perhaps there is nothing in this world as powerful to break selfishness as is the simple act of looking at our own children. In our love for our children we are given a privileged avenue to feel as God feels — to burst in unselfishness, in fire, in joy, in delight, and in the desire to let another’s life be more real and important than my own.

—taken from the writings of Father Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., which appear on the internet

**ATTENDANCE:**

If you attend Mass regularly here at Our Lady Chapel, it would be helpful if you filled out a form [name, address, phone number, children, etc.] indicating this fact, if you have not already done so. Such information not only helps us to know who is attending Our Lady Chapel; it also is of great assistance to us in record keeping [for our friend, the IRS] of any contributions which you may make.

**ENVELOPES:**

- When you need a **new supply** of envelopes, please feel free to take a supply of them from the table in the vestibule, or call Father John at the Campus Ministry Office [473-3560].
- When you **use** your envelope, please make sure that **your number** is on it. If you need to know your number, please call the Campus Ministry Office. Thanks.

**WEEKLY OFFERING:**

Baskets will be passed during the “Preparation Rite” and will be brought to the altar as part of the Offerings to help offset chapel daily operating expenses. When you choose to use the envelopes, your donations to Our Lady Chapel will be acknowledged so that you have a record for the IRS.

**Total Offerings: Saturday 9/26/15] ----- \$ 256.00**

**Total Offerings: Sunday [9/27/15] ----- \$ 1,105.00**

**PRAY THE ROSARY:**

Please join us as we **pray the Rosary every Saturday at 4:25 PM** in the Eucharistic Chapel. In the words of Pope John Paul II: “The Rosary of the Virgin Mary is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of the third millennium, a prayer of great significance. It has the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety. Through the Rosary, the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.” Please join us.

**CHILDREN’S BULLETINS:**

Each week, we are making available a **Children’s Worship Bulletin**. There are **two editions: [3-6] and [7-12]**. They are available on the table as you leave.

The Bulletin focuses on the readings for the week. These are wonderful tools for your children to learn more about the scripture readings for the week. We hope you will take them for your families or your grandchildren. Thanks.





**OUR CHILDREN AND GOD'S LOVE:**

There is a story floating around, that merits retelling: There was a father of a family who was confronted one day by his wife who challenged him to spend more time with his 14 year-old son. "He needs you," she said, "and you are neglecting him!"

"He doesn't need me!" the man protested. "He's at an age where he should be cutting the family strings somewhat more."

His wife, however, insisted, and the man, more out of guilt than conviction, went into the living room where his son was watching television and asked him to accompany him on a trip to the market to buy groceries. The son, more out of boredom than interest, agreed, and so the two set out. In the car on the way to the store, the father tried to get a conversation going: "How's school?"

"Okay," came the reply.

"How's basketball?"

"It's okay."

"What were you watching on TV?"

"Nothing!"

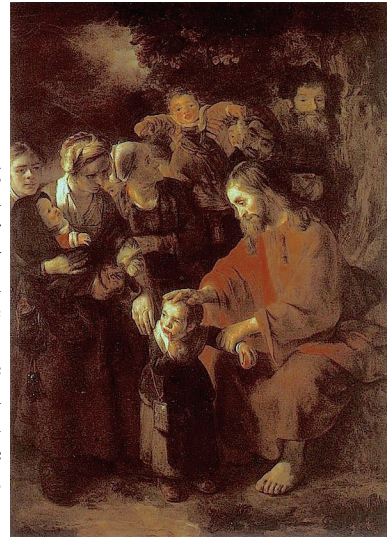
After that exchange, things went silent. At the grocery mart, still in silence, they loaded the items they wanted into the shopping cart and waited in line while a very slow, inept, and disinterested cashier dealt with the customers ahead of them. Finally, when their turn came, the father, quite out of sorts because of the unnecessary wait, deliberately tricked the cashier. He placed a fifty dollar bill on the counter, and then, thanks to the inattention of the cashier, was able to substitute a twenty dollar bill for it before the cashier picked it up. The price for their groceries was nineteen dollars and the cashier gave the father thirty dollars change — on a twenty dollar bill. But, instead of walking out of the store thirty dollars richer, the father instead calmly — though obviously making his point — pointed out to the cashier his mistake and returned to him the \$30 that he had, in his inattention, incorrectly given.

As they walked out the door, several other customers who had experienced a similar irritation with the cashier said to the father: "You should have kept the \$30. It would have taught the slob a lesson!"

When they were in the car, his son said: "Dad, that was neat!" Then, without any prodding from his father, the son began to talk and to share with him a lot of things about his life — including how school was going, how basketball was going, and what he had been watching on television. The father, for his part, said little and, in fact, heard little for he was thinking: "If my son had not been with me, I would have kept the thirty dollars! Moreover, my wife is wrong, my son doesn't need me — I need him!"

We need our children — and for more reasons than this story, good though it is, makes obvious. Our children raise us, not vice versa. It is they who put a rope around us and take us where we would rather not go — namely, into an adulthood and into a selflessness that, without them, we would never attain. We become adult by having and raising children. This, perhaps more than anything else, moves us beyond being children ourselves.

Why is this so? Some of the reasons are more obvious than others. When we are raising children it is more natural for us to stop thinking of ourselves as children; when we are forced to respond to other's needs we tend to be less focused on our own. Raising children forces us to live a certain virtue. It is



care; I will help. I will do more than believe; I will practice. I will do more than be fair; I will be kind. I will do more than be friendly; I will be a friend. I will do more than forgive; I will love."

—taken from the writings of Father James Gilhooley, which appear on the internet.

**THE CALL TO THE GOSPEL IDEAL:**

In Mark's Gospel, the Pharisees test Jesus by asking him if a husband can lawfully divorce his wife [Mark 10:2-16]. Explaining that Moses permitted divorce because of "the hardness of your hearts," Jesus insists that husbands and wives "become one flesh" and "therefore what God has joined together no human being must separate."

The scripture scholars tell us that Mark recorded this absolute prohibition of divorce around the year 70, and that Matthew writing less than 20 years later included an exception — permitting divorce for immorality. This suggests that we interpret the teaching of Jesus on marriage not as an absolute law, but as representative of the high idealism found in the Gospels — for example go the extra mile and turn the other cheek. Husband and wife becoming one flesh suggests an ideal never totally achieved but worthy of continued effort. Couples can never say we have a perfect marriage; we have totally achieved God's will for our union; we have done everything possible to help each other come closer to Christ. There is no place for self-righteousness or complacency in married life.

Christ does call couples to an ongoing effort to come closer to the Gospel ideal as exemplified in healthy marriages — a husband and wife work out separately a couple times a week to stay in better physical shape for each other; spouses arrange a date night once a week to have time to be attentive to one another; married partners read a book separately and find times to discuss it; newlyweds do a marriage encounter to improve their communication skills; a wife and husband have a difficult conversation on how they could do a better job of meeting each other's emotional needs; an elderly couple maintain their longstanding custom of discussing the Liturgy of the Word over brunch after Sunday Mass.

Reflection on the Gospel ideal of marriage reminds us that some couples cannot make it work despite good intentions and prudent efforts. Surely some marriages could be saved by good counseling, creative efforts, generous forgiveness, and deep prayer. Sometimes, however, divorce is necessary or the best of poor options. The church officially recognizes this and should offer pastoral care — welcoming divorced persons to liturgy and communion; sponsoring support groups for them; offering counseling to wounded spouses; creating a climate of understanding aware of the difficulties of making marriage work in the contemporary world; and providing good marriage preparation programs.

What does it mean to you personally to think of the teaching of Jesus on marriage as a high kingdom ideal?

—taken from the writings of Father Jim Bacik which appear on the internet

**BRINGING UP THE OFFERTORY GIFTS:**

Would you and your family or group like to bring up the gifts at the offertory at Mass? In the past, our Council people have invited people to bring up the gifts, and we have found that many — if not most — of you like to be asked. But in using this method, we may be leaving people out, especially if it is done as a "last minute item". So, we are posting a sign-up sheet on the Easel in the narthex of the chapel. **If you or your family or group would like to bring up the gifts on a certain Saturday or Sunday — or if you are open to doing this at any time — please call the chapel office [440-473-3560].** We look forward to opening this beautiful experience to all in our community.



**LIVING IN CHRIST — IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD:**

In Mark's Gospel we are presented with the essential elements of Christ's teaching on marriage [Mark 10:2-16]. Jesus stresses that this unique union is a sign of the Kingdom of God and therefore is an eternal sacrament which cannot be broken by divorce. This is one of the most difficult of the teachings of Christ and is a question that all the Christian Churches have had to wrestle with over the centuries. The Protestant Churches have in recent years accommodated themselves to the reality of divorce and they have mostly accepted the possibility of divorced members remarrying in Church.

The Orthodox Churches have approached this question in a slightly different way. If there is an irretrievable breakdown in marriage, the Orthodox will permit a second marriage in Church but this has a penitential character and is not generally regarded as a full sacramental marriage; however the parties are permitted to receive Holy Communion. The only problem with this is that some people come back even for a third marriage — the second one also having broken down.

In the Catholic Church, however, we take quite a different approach and try to remain as faithful as we can to the teaching of Jesus. In the case of a permanent breakdown of marriage what we do is examine that marriage to see if all the essential elements of the Sacrament of Matrimony were present. If one of these essential conditions is found to be lacking then that marriage is declared null — meaning that it was never a true marriage in the eyes of God because it was not a sacramental marriage; the parties are then free to contract a sacramental marriage.

Some of the conditions that need to be met to ensure that a marriage is truly sacramental are the following: it must be the completely free choice of the couple — which means that neither can be coerced into the marriage under pressure from a parent or anyone else; there must also be true consent; and both parties must be sufficiently mature and able to freely give that consent. There must be no deception — hiding something; and the marriage must take place in a Church before a priest with all the necessary permissions having been obtained beforehand. There are other requirements such as consummation, openness to children and several more.

You will have heard through the media that Pope Francis has recently relaxed the rules for the granting of annulments. It is true that he has made some changes, but these are more procedural in nature and do not affect any of the reasons why an annulment might be granted. The first change is that there is no automatic appeal. In the past once an annulment was granted it had to be automatically appealed to the Tribunal of a neighboring Diocese for confirmation of the judgement and this necessarily lengthened the process. This is no longer the case and once an annulment is granted it takes effect immediately without any appeal. Another change is that of the appropriate Tribunal to hear the case. This was formerly the one in the Diocese where the marriage took place but now it is the Diocese where the petitioner lives. This is a very important change as people today are very mobile. Annulments are our way of remaining faithful to the demands of Christ while coping with the reality of marriage breakdown in the modern world.

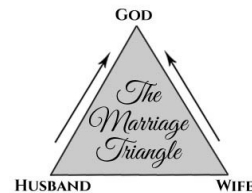
What is important here is to remember that God loves us very deeply whatever our situation. When we have made mistakes in life, God does not love us any less — actually he loves and treasures us all the more. If we have this deep realization in our hearts we will, despite all our difficulties, understand that we are deeply cherished children of God, and members of the church.

—taken from the writings of Father Alex McAllister, S.D.S., which appear on the internet

**LOOK NO FURTHER THAN YOUR HEART:**

“You need not seek Him here or there. He is no further than the door of your heart. There He stands patiently awaiting whoever is ready to open up and let Him in. No need to call to Him from afar — He can hardly wait for you to open up. He longs for you a thousand times more than you long for Him. The opening and entering are a single act.”

—Meister Eckhart



world needs the Sacrament of Matrimony. It needs you to be married in the Church and it needs you to live this sacrament.

How important you are to us all! We the single, we the celibate, we the separated, we the divorced, we the widowed, need you the married to embrace and to live the ideal of marriage. We ask God's blessing upon all who celebrate the sacrament of matrimony. May you have the courage and strength to give witness to the presence of God in the union of husband and wife.

—taken from the writings of Father Joseph Pellegrino which appear on the internet

**SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR:**

For the past year, our teens have been volunteering at **Our Savior Lutheran Church Food Pantry** [located right across the street from the chapel]. The Pantry is open on the **third Saturday of every month from 11:00 AM – 1:30 or 2:00 PM**. Our Savior Lutheran's Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. All those in the area with need will be served equally, as supplies allow. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. During the course of the past year, the food pantry at Our Savior Lutheran Church served an average of 141 households each time. Our teens have loved this ministry and have been very faithful to it. **We would now like to open this ministry up to our entire Chapel Community. If you would like to help on any given third Saturday, please call Patty at the chapel office [440-473-3560] to let us know that you are going to volunteer, or email Elina Gurney at [gurney.oh@gmail.com](mailto:gurney.oh@gmail.com).** Come as a family or by yourself.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday:</b>	Jonah 1:1-2:2, Luke 10:25-37
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Jonah 3:1-10, Luke 10:38-42
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jonah 4:1-11, Luke 11:1-4
<b>Thursday:</b>	Malachi 3:13-20, Luke 11:5-13
<b>Friday:</b>	Joel 1:13-2:2, Luke 11:15-26
<b>Saturday:</b>	Joe 4:12-21, Luke 11:27-28

**28<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time:** Wisdom 7:7-11, Hebrews 4:12-13, Mark 10:17-30

**AMAZON.COM:**

Please remember that when you want to buy something from Amazon.com, you need to first go to [www.ourladychapel.org](http://www.ourladychapel.org) and click on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the home page! Because of this simple step — and at no cost to the purchaser — Our Lady Chapel receives a percentage of all purchases that are made from Amazon.com. Ever since we have begun this program, we have consistently been receiving significant checks from Amazon that are being credited to help pay for chapel expenses. This affinity program remains in effect throughout the year, so we ask everyone to continue to remember to start your purchases at Amazon on the Our Lady Chapel home page! Thank you.





**THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:**

Recently, I attended a meeting about Catholic marriage that began by noting that over the last seven years there has been a significant decline in Catholic marriages — almost by 25%. Since the Catholic population keeps growing, it is obvious that either many people are not aware of the obligation to get married in the Catholic Church, or the concept of a Catholic marriage does not carry significant meaning in their lives. With the continual attack on marriage and the family by our society, and in light what Scripture says, I would like to reflect with you on this beautiful sacrament. Why should people get married in the Catholic Church? This is certainly not just a nice thing to do. And if people only want to get married to use the Church as a backdrop for pictures, then they really don't understand marriage as a sacrament any more than the people who bring their children to First Holy Communion but then don't return with them until Christmas understand what the Eucharist is all about. Why should people get married in the Church? Why did so many of you make this decision?

Most people turn to the Church because they realize that marriage was the most important decision of your lives; You wanted Jesus [God] to be present in the way of a sacrament as you celebrated your marriage — not just at your wedding. The sacrament of marriage is not just a prayer during the wedding; it is not just a blessing of a union. It is far more than this. The sacrament of matrimony is the union of God with people establishing a new unit of his Church. The sacrament of matrimony establishes the Christian home with Christ at the center. That is why people get married in the Church. And that is the ideal.

However, we live in a world that has often given up on ideals. We live in a world where people — good people — suffer the result of sin. “But there is disorder,” the Pharisees say to Jesus —the Law of Moses, after all, permitted a bill of divorce. “This was not the Father’s intention,” Jesus replies. Disharmony in homes, among people, results from all — good people and bad people — suffering the results of sin. We have so many wonderful people whose marriages have suffered. It may not be their fault; it may not even be their former spouse’s fault. Just as children suffer sickness and death due to the effects of sin in the world; so many good people suffer the destruction of their marriage or the inability to form a sacred lasting union due to the effects of sin in the world, not necessarily in either of the individuals. Therefore, we need to have a special place in our hearts and in our charity for those who have suffered the loss of their marriages. They have been pulled away from the intention of the Creator by the forces of the world. They need our support and our love.

It was never in God’s plan for evil to enter the world. Evil resulted from humankind’s decision to push God — the Lord of Life — aside, and to, therefore, choose death. God never meant for people to be widowed, divorced or single. In God’s original plan, there was no need for celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom because all would enjoy the Kingdom to its fullest in marriage. In God’s original plan there would be no need for people to work so hard to establish and preserve their marriages. It is sadly amazing how evil is able to distort something that is so good. The divinely created attraction of men and women to image God has been deformed into a drive to selfish gratification. Sex is portrayed by the media as having little to do with love and mostly concerned with debauchery. But people know better. People have an innate knowledge that tells them that a person cannot love and take at the same time. People know that the ideal of marriage exists. But people need more than the ideal. People need witness, your witness.

They need the witness of your marriages as a union with God, imaging the Creator's Love for the Word, making real the mystery of the singular in the plural and the plural in the singular. They need the witness of your marriage — your sacrament. Your marriages are infinitely more than natural unions. You are not animals who mate for life. You are human beings, made in the image and likeness of God, who are called to make God real to the world by reflecting His Love in your love for each other. The

**LIFE TEEN:**

**Our next meeting of LifeTeen is on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>**, when we gather to discuss what it means to be fully alive — **responding to the call to holiness in our lives.** Come and try us out. Life Teen meets right after Sunday Mass — from **11:30 AM—1:00 PM** in the **Lennon Board Room.** Life Teen is open to **all high school aged young people.** **Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming.** We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. We have a great deal of fun together and we grow in our faith at the same time. **Respond to your texts and/or emails, or call the chapel office [440-473-3560] to be notified.** Please continue to remember all our teens and young people in your prayers. **Life Teen will also meet on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>** when we will **bleed animals and go apple picking.** Please join us.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP — THE EDGE:**

**Our next meeting of the EDGE is on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**, when we will **bleed animals and go apple picking.** Come and try us out. Life Teen meets right after Sunday Mass. Come and find out what **the EDGE** is all about. If you have not joined us before, that’s OK. **Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming.** We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. Our EDGE Youth Group has a Faith-Service-Social component, and we look forward to your participation. Join in on an exciting happening. **Call the Chapel Office at 440-473-3560.** Join us for a fun filled faith experience. All are welcome. **EDGE will also meet on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.** Please join us.

**CHAPEL 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY NOTE CARDS:**

Note Cards of the Vatican Treasure — Our Lady Of Gilmour — are also available for purchase. The card has a beautiful photo of Our Lady of Gilmour — taken by John Reid — on the front. The inside is blank for your message, and the back of the card has a description of the Vatican Treasure and it was brought to the Chapel, along with appropriate credits. **The Cards sell in packets of 5 for \$10.** The Cards are located in the chapel office and are available by contacting **Patty Szaniszlo at (440) 473-3560 or at [szaniszlop@gilmour.org](mailto:szaniszlop@gilmour.org).** The Cards will also be available for sale after Masses over the next few weeks.

**CHAPEL 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY VIDEO:**

As an element of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of Our Lady Chapel, an Oral History Video was commissioned and prepared. This very special memorial — produced by Gilmour’s own award-winning student-run business, *Eternally Yours* — documents how the Chapel came to be, how we came to receive the Vatican Treasure from the Holy Father, Saint John Paul II, and what it means/has meant to several Gilmour students from both the Lower and Upper Schools. A copy of this truly historic video has been sent to the Holy Cross Archives at Notre Dame for permanent historical documentation. You can obtain your own copy of this 19 minute-long video on a USB flash drive (or on a DVD upon special request). **The price of the video is \$25 each. Please contact Patty Szaniszlo at (440) 473-3560 or at [szaniszlop@gilmour.org](mailto:szaniszlop@gilmour.org) today for your own copy.** All proceeds from the sale of this commemorative video go toward the Chapel restricted fund, which is used for Chapel improvements and special needs — e.g. the new chapel audio system and the recent restoration of the Vatican treasure.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Father John will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you on **every Saturday** between **3:30 – 4:00 PM.** Confessions are also available “by appointment.” The Reconciliation Room is located in the small chapel directly across from Father John’s Office



**30 QUOTES FROM POPE FRANCIS' VISIT TO US:**

“Jesus’ love goes before us, his look anticipates our needs. He can see beyond appearances, beyond sin, beyond failures and unworthiness. He sees beyond our rank in society. He sees beyond this, to our dignity as sons and daughters, a dignity at times sullied by sin, but one which endures in the depth of our soul. He came precisely to seek out all those who feel unworthy of God, unworthy of others.”

“When God comes, he always calls us out of our house. We are visited so that we can visit others; we are encountered so as to encounter others; we receive love in order to give love.”

“Families are not a problem; they are first and foremost an opportunity — an opportunity which we have to care for, protect, and support. That is a way of saying that they are a blessing.”

“What can we do to keep our heart from going numb? Go Forth and proclaim the Joy of the Gospel.”

“Mission is never the fruit of a perfectly planned program or a well-organized manual. Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what it is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven. Mission is born of a constant experience of God’s merciful anointing.”

“In the face of unjust and painful situations, faith brings us the light which scatters the darkness.”

“Faith makes us open to the quiet presence of God at every moment of our lives, in every person and in every situation.”

“There are many unjust situations, but we know that God is suffering with us, experiencing them at our side. He does not abandon us.”

“Jesus keeps knocking on our doors, the doors of our lives. He doesn’t do this by magic, with special effects, with flashing lights and fireworks. Jesus keeps knocking on our door in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the faces of our neighbors, in the faces of those at our side.”

“The joy of men and women who love God attracts others to him.”

“Once we come to realize how much God has given us, a life of self-sacrifice, of working for him and for others, becomes a privileged way of responding to his great love.”

“Love is shown by little things — by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families and our homes are true domestic churches.”

“For all the obstacles we see before us, gratitude and appreciation should prevail over concerns and complaints.”

“Life is a journey, along different roads, different paths, which leave their mark on us. We know in faith that Jesus seeks us out. He wants to heal our wounds, to soothe our feet which hurt from traveling alone, to wash each of us clean of the dust from our journey.”

“A Christianity which ‘does’ little in practice, while incessantly ‘explaining’ its teachings, is dangerously unbalanced.”



“All that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful brings us to God. Because God is good, God is beautiful, God is the truth.”

“But the most beautiful thing that God made, the Bible says, was the family.”

“All of the love that God has in Himself, all of the beauty that God has in Himself, all of the truth that God has in Himself, He gives to the family. And a family is truly a family when it is able to open its arms and receive all of this love.”

“In families, there is always, always, the cross — always — because the love of God, of the Son of God, also opened for us this path. But, in families as well, after the cross, there is the resurrection. Because the Son of God opened for us this path. Because of this, the family is — forgive the term I’ll use — it is a factory of hope, of hope of life and of resurrection. God was the one who opened this path.”

“Division of hearts doesn’t overcome any difficulty. Only love is capable of overcoming difficulties. Love is a festival. Love is joy. Love is to keep moving forward.”

“We cannot understand Christ without his Church, just as we cannot understand the Church without her spouse, Christ Jesus, who gave his life out of love, and who makes us see that it is worth the price.”

“We cannot call any society healthy when it does not leave real room for family life.”

“Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is ‘forged’ by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows.”

“Big cities bring together all the different ways which we human beings have discovered to express the meaning of life, wherever we may be.”

“In Jesus, God himself became Emmanuel, God-with-us, the God who walks alongside us, who gets involved in our lives, in our homes, in the midst of our ‘pots and pans’, as Saint Teresa of Jesus liked to say.”

“Go out to others and share the good news that God, our Father, walks at our side. He frees us from anonymity, from a life of emptiness and selfishness, and brings us to the school of encounter. He removes us from the fray of competition and self-absorption, and he opens before us the path of peace. That peace which is born of accepting others, that peace which fills our hearts whenever we look upon those in need as our brothers and sisters.”

“God is living in our cities.”

“Wherever there are dreams, there is joy, Jesus is always present.”

“Acts of destruction are never impersonal, abstract or merely material. They always have a face, a concrete story, and a name.”

“To enable these real men and women to escape from extreme poverty, we must allow them to be dignified agents of their own destiny.”