

Church of St. Sebastian
August 12, 2018 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Father Jordan

My Dear Ones,

May the Grace of our Lord remain always with us!

Last week I wrote to you about the New Evangelization and what it means to *hear and live the Gospel in a new way and without compromise*. Today, I would like to discuss with you one of the many facets of this new and uncompromised life.

At the heart of the New Evangelization is a profound respect for the human person and every aspect of human life. Pope Francis' modification of the Catechism concerning capital punishment, and the impact this change will have upon our Catholic lives, reflects this deep and foundational principle of our Catholic Faith. However, before we study the Holy Father's addition to the Catechism *per se*, let us consider the Church's teaching about the dignity of Human Life in a broader context.

The Gospel of Life (*Evangelium Vitae*, 1995) by Saint John Paul II did not come out of a vacuum. This great encyclical is alive in the teaching of Second Vatican Council through the **Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World** (*Gaudium et Spes*, 1965); and **Concerning Human Life** (*Humanae Vitae* 1968), the magisterial and pastoral teaching of Blessed Pope Paul VI concerning the expression of married love, and how that expression affects all of society.

While often maligned as inhibiting a married couple's freedom, *Humanae Vitae* (HV), is an encyclical about how we regulate human birth, and so much more. HV stands as a key teaching of the Church not just about married sexual expression, but also about the respect, dignity, and concern we afford all of human life. The complete openness to life by a married couple not only reflects the particular purpose of their vocation, it also teaches all of society how precious is the gift of human life; how this life deserves to be cherished and nurtured; and, how the family is the source of respect for all of God's children, His chosen people! If the message of HV was to be overlooked, or considered too difficult for people, Pope Paul prophetically expressed four effects that would take place in our lives: that a general lowering of moral standards would take place throughout society; there would be an increased occurrence of infidelity; there would be a lessening respect for women by men; and, the government would coerce couples to use reproductive technologies. HV calls us to respect ourselves as co-creators with God, and to consider all life as holy and deserving of love, respect, and nurturance.

Until we meet at the altar, *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us, who have recourse to Thee!*

In the Lord,
Fr. Jordan, OP

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT. AUGUST 11, Vigil: 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 pm PRO POPULO

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 am PATRICIA WILSON, 1st anniversary, req. by husband and family

11:00 am MARY DYER BOGAN, 3rd anniversary, req. by Mary Flair Bogan

Monday, AUGUST 13, Victory Day, Mass at reg. time

7:00 am Mass

Tuesday, AUGUST 14, St Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

7:00 am Mass

7.25 am Novena Prayers - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday, AUGUST 15, The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary ~ Holy Day ~

7:00 am Mass

5:30 pm INTENTIONS OF RYAN IFKOVITS, on the occasion of his birthday

Thursday, AUGUST 16

7:00 am MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, 20th anniversary, requested by his daughter

Friday, AUGUST 17

7:00 am Mass

SAT. AUGUST 18, Vigil: 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 pm Mass

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 am PRO POPULO

11:00 am NINA & MARIO MARCONE, requested. by Belle Calenda

PARISH FINANCES: AUGUST 5, 2018

WEEKLY PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend Mass Donations	\$ 2,919.00
Online Parish Giving	<u>\$ 2,717.00</u>
Total Offertory	<u>\$ 5,636.00</u>

<u>Diocesan Collection</u>	<u>\$ 744.00</u>
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A sincere thank you for your continued support!

Please consider enrolling in Parish Giving, our online stewardship program for parish contributions. You can register online at www.Parishgiving.org or on our parish website at www.stsebastianri.org.

Church of St. Sebastian

Founded October 15, 1915

Help Wanted

Are you handy with wood? Are you a good carpenter? We need a new manger for the Nativity Scene in Church. If you could help build a new one, please contact Father Jordan.

Help add Beauty to Our Sunday Liturgy

Please consider adding some beauty to our Sunday Masses by giving the altar flowers in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of blessings from God. Your intention will be listed in the Sunday Bulletin. The required contribution is \$50.

Diocesan Youth Day, the first of its kind will be held on Saturday, September 8 from 10:00 am - 9:00 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Cumberland. This event will be held rain or shine (much of it will be outdoors) and is for high school and college aged. It includes, MUSIC, GAMES, WORKSHOPS, MASS, ADORATION, FOOD, FUN, AND SO MUCH MORE. Please visit catholicyouthri.org or the Facebook page: Diocesan Youth Day 2018 for more info. If you are interested please contact Father Jordan.

St. Sebastian **Religious Education** is in need of 2 teachers, one each for Grades 4 and 7. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Ms. Marie Brito as soon as possible at msmarie06.stseb@gmail.com Thank you and God bless you.

Religious Education is accepting registrations for the upcoming school year. Registration forms are on our website www.stsebastianri.org Please print and complete the appropriate form and send it, along with the \$60.00 registration fee, to the rectory, Attn: Religious Education. If your child is a new student, please include a copy of his or her Baptismal Certificate only if they were not baptized at St. Sebastian's. Registrations will be accepted until classes begin next month.

Classes will start on Sunday, September 9th for grades 6, 7, 8, and 9 and on Monday, September 10th for grades 1-5. Thank you.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Prayers are asked for our friends, family, and fellow parishioners. If you would like someone included in the Prayers for the Sick, please call the rectory.

NEW CHOIR MEMBERS WELCOME! Our small but dedicated choir would appreciate singers joining us this coming year. We will be rehearsing on Sundays at 10 o'clock for the 11 o'clock Mass. Our first rehearsal will be Sunday, September 16th. If you can help, please see Bill Cooper after any Mass on weekends or talk to any of our Choir Members. Thank you.

Morning of Recollection for Women

Women from any parish are invited to the monthly Morning of Recollection, this Thursday, August 16th, here at St. Sebastian's from 9:30 am to 12 noon. These recollections are opportunities to spend quiet time with Christ in prayer. They include two meditations by a priest of Opus Dei, and a talk by a lay woman about a practical aspect of living our faith. Confessions are available and Mass is offered at 11:30 am. If you need onsite child care, contact Mary at 646-453-9345.



Vocation Retreat · October 19-21, 2018

For single Catholic young women, high school juniors through age 27, who are interested in the Dominican contemplative life. Is Our Lord drawing you to give yourself to Him through a common life of liturgical and personal prayer, study and daily work, pondering the Word in your heart in union with Our Lady so that it may bear fruit for the salvation of souls?

Learn more or contact our Vocation Directress at MarburyDominicanNuns.org.

DOMINICAN NUNS · MARBURY, ALABAMA



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR MEETINGS

Our next committee meetings are Tuesday August 21st, and Tuesday September 4th at 6:00 pm in the Church Hall. If you are interested in sharing your ideas and talent, please join us. If you are not able to attend but have some ideas, questions, or would like to help, please contact Karin Schrott at 465-7444 or karinschrott@gmail.com