

Church of St. Sebastian

August 19, 2018 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Father Jordan

My Dear Ones,

May the Grace of our Lord remain always with us!

Today, I offer you the following as a continuation of last week's column about the dignity of human life, and Pope Francis' teaching about Capital Punishment.

Because the Word of God "always alive," a rigid reading of doctrine would "undervalue the action of the Holy Spirit." Thus, he says, in the light of the awareness of the people of God today, capital punishment can be seen as "intrinsically contrary to the Gospel."

The Catechism currently states (2267): *the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.* The Holy Father spoke against the death penalty in the strongest terms: *"an inhumane measure that humiliates ... human dignity"; "an extreme and inhumane solution"; "intrinsically contrary to the Gospel"; "inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability of the human person..."*

The Bishop of Rome said the death penalty must be rejected because it suppresses *"a human life, which is still sacred in the eyes of the Creator."* In addition, it prevents the possibility of *"moral and existential redemption,"* he noted. In this way, capital punishment *"forgets the primacy of mercy over justice."*

Demanding that it be prohibited is not a contradiction with the past teaching of the Church, the pope emphasized, because the dignity of the human person from conception until natural death has always been taught by the Magisterium. On December 12, 1999, John Paul II made an appeal to all those in authority, *"that they reach a consensus on the abolition of capital punishment."* It is a "cruel and unnecessary" punishment, he had explained earlier, on January 27, 1999. In 2011, Benedict XVI also called for consultation among all authorities to *"arrive at the elimination of the death penalty."*

Before today's speech, Francis had already taken a firm position against the death penalty on several occasions. For example, in a video message on June 21, 2016, he stated that capital punishment is "unacceptable," adding that it *"doesn't provide justice for the victims, but rather encourages revenge."* "The commandment *'You shall not kill'* has absolute value, and includes both the innocent and the guilty," he explained. May our hearts be opened to the protection of life from conception until natural death!

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

¹Today, "From Father Jordan" is taken from a number of different sources I have been reading.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

5:00 pm Mass

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19, 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 am PRO POPULO

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

Mon., AUGUST 20, St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

7:00 am Mass

Tuesday, AUGUST 21, St. Pius X Pope

7:00 am INTENTIONS OF PATRICK CUNNINGHAM, on the occasion of his 18th birthday, requested by his family

7.25 am Novena Prayers - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Wednesday, AUGUST 22, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 am Mass

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

Thursday, AUGUST 23

7:00 am Mass

Friday, AUGUST 24, Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

7:00 am Mass

SAT. AUGUST 25, Vigil: 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 pm Mass

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 am PATRICIA WILSON, birthday remembrance, requested by her family

11:00 am PRO POPULO

PARISH FINANCES: AUGUST 12, 2018

WEEKLY PARISH COLLECTIONS

Weekend Mass Donations	\$ 3,567.00
Online Parish Giving	\$ 620.00
Monthly Maintenance	<u>\$ 1,172.00</u>
Total Parish Collection	<u>\$ 5,359.00</u>

PARISH EXPENSES

\$19,728.00

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.

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.

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.

PARISH PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Randall Room to make prayer shawls and small Baptism Blankets. Our next scheduled get-together is **Tuesday August 21st**. Call Pat Capece 274-8632 with ideas or questions. New members are always welcome. **WE EVEN SUPPLY THE YARN AND NEEDLES!**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

TWO TEACHERS: 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 at msmarie06.stseb@gmail.com Thank you and God bless you.

REGISTRATION FOR ALL STUDENTS: 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 only 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.



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

MEETING: Our next committee meeting is this Tuesday August 21st 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

CRAFTERS NEEDED

Would you be willing to make a handmade item for our Christmas Bazaar on December 1st? The proceeds from the bazaar will benefit the "Keep the Heat On" program providing heating assistance for individuals and families who have exhausted all other public and private means of assistance. For further information, contact Karin Schrott at 401-465-7444 or karinschrott@gmail.com.