

The Concept

Newsletter of Immaculate Conception Parish

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*The Liturgy of the Word
and Profession of Faith*

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Bringing Others to Christ

The Transportation Ministry

In the Gospel of Mark, chapter 2, four men carry a paralytic on a stretcher to Jesus. The crowd that Jesus is preaching to is so large that they have to lower the paralytic through the roof to reach Jesus. Jesus heals the man by commanding that he pick up his mat and go home.

When this Gospel is read at Mass, we often think of the amazing miracle of healing a man who was paralyzed – and how the transforming power of Christ is truly amazing. Less often, however, do we generally think of those four men who carried the paralytic. Without these men, the paralytic would not have been healed.

The Transportation Ministry at Immaculate Conception is based on this very premise: bringing others to Jesus.

“It’s such a blessing to be able to come to church for Mass and receive the Eucharist,” says Renee Kovalak, a Transportation Ministry volunteer. “We bring those people who cannot drive themselves to Mass.”

The Transportation Ministry began two years ago with an advertisement in the bulletin for ideas and volunteers. The parish then purchased a mini-bus



with a wheelchair lift. Each weekend, parishioners are picked up and dropped off for the 5 p.m. Saturday Mass and the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass. Each Mass has two volunteers: a driver and a helper. And while we have plenty of drivers, we do need more helpers.

Bob Liddy drives on the fourth Sunday of each month with Renee Kovalak as his helper. (Renee also volunteers on the second Sunday of each month.)

“I saw a notice in the bulletin that they were looking for ideas and people to start the ministry,” Bob says. “I wanted to help out, and it was something easy for me to get involved in and a way to help the parish help people.”

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FAMILY DAY **SUNDAY, JULY 17TH, 1-4 PM** **AT THE OKTOBERFEST**



- **Win a four-pack of tickets to a Lake County Captains game**
Drawings at 1:45, 2:30, 3:15 and 4 p.m.
- **Win four tickets to Regal Cinemas in Willoughby**
Drawings at 3:30 p.m.
- **Win a pair of Cleveland Indians tickets**
Two Drawings, one at 3:30 and one at 3:45 p.m.
- **GRAND PRIZE Win two \$50 Home Depot Gift Cards, total of \$100**
- **Plus unannounced drawings throughout the Family Day activities**
- **Tickets are 50 cents each or 3/\$1.00 and can be purchased at the PA tent at the crossroads. Winner must be present to win.**

SUNDAY, DURING FAMILY DAY, 1-4 PM ONLY!

Kiddie Rides

Wristbands during Family Day

(from 1-4 ONLY)

only \$10

\$1.00 hotdogs!

\$1.00 Slice of pizza!

In the Parish Food Booth

A Letter From Our Pastor

Summer on the Mount

Dear Parishioners,

The story is told of a university student who came home for the summer. During that time, he met with his pastor and announced, “I’ve decided that I don’t need the Church anymore. All I need to live a good life is to follow the Sermon on the Mount.”

In case you don’t remember, the Sermon on the Mount can be found in chapters 5-7 of St. Matthew’s Gospel, and it contains some pretty startling utterances by Jesus:

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me...But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil... But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you...So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect... If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions... You cannot serve God and mammon...Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself... Stop judging, that you may not be judged...Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.

You get the idea. These statements are so familiar to us they may have lost some of their punch, but when we really pay attention to them, we can’t help but realize this is strong stuff.

That student’s goal was probably to shock the priest and at the same time justify why he didn’t bother coming to Mass Sunday mornings. Certainly he expected some sort of sad rejoinder on why he shouldn’t give up on the Church, because it’s a useful institution in society, and so on.

Instead, he himself received a surprise when his priest exclaimed, “Great! I’m thrilled you’re living by the Sermon on the Mount.” A momentary pause. “How are you doing with that?”

After he left the appointment, that question “How are you doing with the Sermon on the Mount?” kept reverberating in the student’s mind, no matter how hard

he tried to escape it. Eventually, it pulled him back to the Church.

He discovered, when he was honest with himself, he couldn’t live a good life on his own. The weight of human weakness and sin pulled him down, so he needed the Sacrament of Reconciliation

to provide God’s forgiveness. And he needed the grace he received from Holy Communion to give him strength to live a Christian life. He found that hearing the Scriptures read at Mass and discussed in a small group helped him understand what God wants from us. And the encouragement of others in that group supported him when he was tempted to give up.

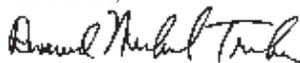
You know, God created humans to be social creatures. Although the Church is much, much more, one aspect of it is a social support network. Simply put, we need other Christians to help us stay close to God.

But it’s also true that we can’t be part of the Church only to receive graces and support. To have a healthy spiritual life we also have to give. Jesus Himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

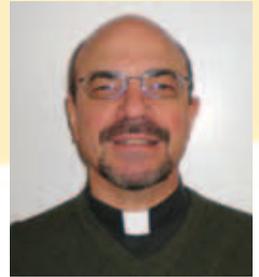
And that’s why we stress stewardship of time, talent, and treasure. From a human standpoint, if everyone just took from the Church without giving anything back, the Church would soon disappear. But when we make commitments to give our time in worship and prayer, our talent (whatever it may be) in service, and our treasure to extend God’s kingdom, we find that we are actually enriched.

This summer, take a little time to check how well you’re doing with the Sermon on the Mount. Then, check out the Church to see how participating in her life strengthens your life. You’ll be amazed at the spiritual life flowing through her.

In Christ,



Fr. Troha





The Concept

Stewardship

Keeping Our Stewardship Commitments in the Summertime

The pools are open and the smells of chlorine and sunscreen fill the air. Cars headed to the beach are packed with towels, chairs, coolers, buckets and shovels. Hammocks are hung in shady backyards for lazy afternoons filled with reading and relaxing.

Yes, summer has arrived with its slower pace and time to relax and take vacations.

But even though we take vacations and enjoy the leisurely pace of the season, we need to remember that summer is not a time to take a vacation from God. In fact, summer can serve as the perfect opportunity to grow our relationship with God, especially since most of us have considerably more free time.

So, instead of neglecting our Faith due to busy days and late nights, why not try these simple steps to embrace God during the lazier summer months, and during your vacation?

Get More Active in a Parish Ministry or Activity

The summer is actually a perfect time to get more involved in a parish ministry. Because we no longer have to get the kids to and from school, or get them to sporting events or other activities that go on during the school year, our schedules are a bit less cluttered. Summer is indeed a perfect time to fill some down time with service to God through ministry and giving of your talents. Take a look through the parish ministries to find something that suits your particular interest or talent.

Pray Behind the Wheel

As you begin your journey this summer, why not say a prayer as a family for safe travels? It's the perfect chance to include God in your vacation, and it teaches your children that you put your trust in His loving

hands. A decade of the Rosary or a simple personal prayer for safety are both great options.

Don't Take a Vacation from Mass

Often while on a vacation away from our parish family, we are not familiar with where to attend Mass. Don't let that be an obstacle for you. Check out www.masstimes.org in order to find out where and when to go to Mass. In addition, if you are lodging at a hotel, the concierge will assist you with directions to the nearest Catholic Church.

Summertime Stewardship of Treasure

"I'm going on vacation and I won't be at Mass at home those Sundays. Can't I skip those envelopes when I'm away? After all, I'll put a dollar or two, or maybe even five, in the collection at the church where we visit. Isn't that enough?"

Even as we form the question in our mind, we know the answer. The prime reason for keeping up our pledge all summer is that God doesn't go on vacation. He continues to sustain us throughout the summer months. He persists in pouring out blessings on us, even during the hottest weather. He keeps on meeting us in His sacramental presence when we go to Mass wherever we travel. As God remains faithful to us during the summer, we are called to be faithful in our commitments to Him and our parish family, even during our vacation time.

So, enjoy the warmer temperatures and the relaxed atmosphere. Just don't forget who provides the sun and the sand! And most importantly, remember to take God on vacation wherever you go!

Adult Servers Offer Support to Mourning Families

The death of a loved one can be extremely difficult to face. It is during these times of mourning that we most need the support of those around us. At Immaculate Conception Parish, one group of parishioners is dedicated to being there for families during funerals by assisting the priest in his liturgical duties.

Richard Gurnick volunteers as an Adult Server at Immaculate Conception. He and the other men in this group serve at parish funerals much in the same way that altar servers do at weekend Masses. Richard sees this service as a unique opportunity to lend his support to fellow members of his parish family.

"I've been told, and I have experienced the fact, that this is the very last time that the body is brought into our church," Richard says. "It is very moving to know that this is the last time that you will be able to pray for this person and send them on their way. It's very enlightening, very prayerful."

Richard has been an Adult Server since the group was established seven years ago. The primary function of this ministry is to provide the services necessary to assist in the Mass and other funeral ceremonies. These services include helping the priest on the altar during the Mass, greeting the casket when it arrives in the church, and processing in and out of the



church with the casket. However, this is not the group's only function.

The other, and perhaps more significant, role of the Adult Servers is to offer their support to those who are mourning the loss of someone close to them. Richard says that in certain circumstances, this duty is especially needed.

"I've run into different situations where the family is extremely small, and there may be only a handful of people who attend the funeral," Richard says. "So I think it's important for the Adult Servers to lend our support to the grieving family."

Richard says that the families and loved ones of those who have passed away are very grateful that these men are able to present this service to them, and that the Adult Servers themselves are extremely committed to their service.

"The 10 men that we have currently, they are the most dedicated men I have ever worked with in the

parish," Richard says. "They are very aware of the situation in which they are serving. They are terrific, and I can't say enough about them."

Those in mourning are not alone in benefitting from the group's service, however; the Adult Servers themselves are also positively affected by the ministry. Richard says that his participation in parish funerals is very rewarding, particularly his involvement in funeral Masses. He sees this final Mass as one of the most important parts of the funeral, since it is the very last time the family is able to celebrate the Mass and pray with their loved one. Richard's participation has also had a positive impact on his own personal spiritual growth.

"It's made me feel closer to our Lord," he says.

For more information on Adult Servers at Immaculate Conception or to become involved, please call the parish office at 440-942-4500.

The Concept

Understanding the New Roman Missal *The Liturgy of the Word and Profession of Faith*



In previous parish newsletters, we discussed the implementation of the new English translation of the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum* (Roman Missal) that will take place later this year, along with some of the changes Catholics can expect at Mass during the Introductory Rites. This month, we will focus on updates to the English text during the Liturgy of the Word and Profession of Faith.

The updated translation of the Liturgy of the Word is virtually identical to the previous translation that many of us are used to. Most of the changes to the new texts affect the priests and deacons who are celebrating Mass, and will barely be audible to the congregation. The two small exceptions will come during the exchange between the priest and the congregation prior to the Gospel reading.

When the priest or deacon addresses the congregation, he will still say, “The Lord be with you,” but those assembled will now respond, “And with your spirit,” as opposed to “And also with you,” to maintain the practice that was established during the Introductory Rites. Additionally, when the Gospel is announced, the congregation will now respond, “Glory to you, O Lord,” in place of “Glory to you, Lord.” As Fr. Paul Turner points out in *Understanding the Revised Mass Texts*, “The word

‘O’ has been added throughout the Missal before words such as ‘Lord’ and ‘God’ in sentences that are prayers. It slightly lengthens the one-syllable form of address to God, and intends to show respect” (Turner 17).

While the Liturgy of the Word will remain largely unchanged, the Profession of Faith is a different story. The Nicene Creed, which is the Creed that Americans usually proclaim at Sunday Mass (it’s not used at most weekday Masses), will contain the most noticeable shift in text of any part of the Mass said by the congregation. As with the rest of the Roman Missal, the goal behind these changes is to more closely adhere to the original Latin text, and to help Catholics throughout the world achieve a universal liturgical experience. As Fr. Turner says, “Catholics profess the Creed each Sunday in various languages all around the world. Especially for this part of the Mass, it is important that we all say the same words; there is one faith (see Ephesians 4:5)” (Turner 19).

Please note the sidebar on page 7 for the new translation of the Nicene Creed. For more information on this and other changes in the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum*, please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Web site at www.usccb.org/romanmissal.

The Nicene Creed

New Translation

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all **things visible and invisible.**

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only **Begotten** Son of God,
born of the Father **before all ages.**

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in **accordance with** the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy,
catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection
of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Transportation Ministry

continued from cover

Most of the riders are regulars, and on average, Bob says he drives around eight to 10 people.

“They are very, very thankful to have the opportunity to go and be a part of the church community and to participate in Mass,” Bob says. “All of the riders cannot drive and need the kindness of others for their transportation. I’m so happy to help in this way.”

While Bob drives the bus, Renee rides along to help the passengers on and off the bus, make sure their seatbelts are buckled, and help with some back-and-forth from their homes.

“I just thought it was a great ministry to get people to church,” Renee says. “I always go to the 10 a.m. Mass, so why not help people before and afterwards?”

Volunteers are trained on how to safely drive the mini-bus and how to work the wheel chairlift. Other than this training, requirements include a willingness to give of your time and talent and a desire to bring others to Christ.

“The Transportation Ministry has been a great addition to the parish,” Bob says. “As the age of the parish grows, this will be helpful for many years into the future.”

If you are interested in volunteering for the Transportation Ministry as a driver or a helper, or if you need assistance getting to and from Mass, please contact the rectory office at 440-942-4500.



Immaculate Conception

Catholic Church

37935 Wright Street
Willoughby, OH 44094-5899

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Mass Schedule

Saturday

5 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday

8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon

Monday through Thursday

7:45 a.m. in the rectory chapel

Friday

Tridentine Mass in the church, 7:30 p.m.