	MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY September 6, 2020 Twenty-third Sunday In Ordinary Time
4:00 PM 8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Found in Bulletin insert
Gathering:	All Are Welcome
Responsorial Ps	salm (Psalm 100) All the earth proclaim the Lord, Sing your praise to God.
Preparation	Christ, Be Our Light
Mass Parts	Mass Of Creation
o .	Take And Eat
Communion	

The Sanctuary Candle at Newton will burn this week in loving memory of John Marciano by his family

MEMORIAL CANDLES

The Sanctuary Candles in both Newton and Plaistow may be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. The Vigil Light in front of the

Blessed Mother Icon in Newton may be also be offered in memory or honor of a loved one. The suggested offering for each is \$10.00. Please call the Parish Office at 382-8324.



Out of respect for the Lord and in consideration of fellow parishioners, please remember to silence or turn off your cell phones during Mass. Thank you!

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income			
Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly	
\$100,000	\$5,000/ \$100	\$3,000/ \$60	
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45	
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36	
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30	
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24	
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18	
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15	
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9	

✤ PARISH TITHING ★

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. Especially in these trying times, your Parish depends on your responsible stewardship and support!

Thank you for your generosity!

August 23, 2020	
Offertory	4853.61
Property/Fuel	347.00
Mission Co-op	156.00
Assumption	45.00
August 30, 2020	
Offertory	6967.96
Missionary Co-op	60.00



simple, secure, convenient,

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish uses **Parish Giving** to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <u>http://stlukenh.org</u>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

September 6 September 13 September 20 Property Management Catholic University & US Bishops Office Fuel

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase					
Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase		
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00		
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00		
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00		
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00		
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00		
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00		
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00		
\$15.00	\$18.70	\$19.50	\$21.00		
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00		
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00		

✤ PARISH NEWS ♣

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our planned projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton, interior painting of the Church in Newton, electrical upgrades for both Plaistow and Newton churches and remediation of the Plaistow and Newton parking lots.

The COVID shutdown put all projects on hold, so we are *s l o w l y* getting things back on track.

A proposal for parking lot remediation on both campuses is currently in the works, we are hoping to be able to complete this project before the snow flies!

Can you help? Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.



ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for your generosity towards the hungry of our area!

Non-perishable food or personal care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular

business hours.

Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities. **Call the Pantry at 819-4949 for more information.**



Saint Luke will sponsor a VIRTUAL Christmas Fair with on-line auction, on-line raffles, and virtual opportunities for all to help our Parish. We will use the website <u>BiddingOwl</u> which will enable us to host our Silent Auction and Theme Basket raffles, and our famous Ca\$h raffle, Wine Raffle and a raffle for a homemade quilt donated by Barbara Lawrence.

Your donations and creativity are needed to make our virtual Fair a reality! Donations will be accepted beginning Sunday, September 5.

See the insert in the Bulletin today for more information!

ST. LUKE WEBSITE! <u>http://stlukenh.org</u>

COVID-19 IS STILL AROUND!

The obligation to attend Sunday Liturgy remains suspended in the Diocese of Manchester for all who are health compromised. No person who has been ill or exposed to someone who is ill should be attending Liturgy.

Anyone who has had recent symptoms of fever, any respiratory symptoms (runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath), chills, severe fatigue or changes in sense of smell or taste may have been exposed to COVID-19. Testing is encouraged. Please refrain from attending any liturgical service.

Liturgy online or on TV...

Boston Catholic Television catholictv.org Sunday Mass from Notre Dame catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass Salt & Light TV saltandlighttv.org Eternal Word Television ewtn.com

WHILE AWAY THIS SUMMER...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Summer even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Summer months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

✤ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✤

Monday, September 7 Parish Offices closed – Labor Day

Wednesday, September 9 Holy Angels Church Plaistow open for private prayer all day

Thursday, September 108:30 AM - 8:30 PM Eucharistic AdorationNewton

<u>Saturday, September 12</u> 3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation Plaistow

Because of COVID restrictions, many Parish events and groups are currently cancelled. We will begin more Parish programs with all precautions as restrictions ease.



We're looking for new members! Have you ever wondered what the St. Vincent de Paul Society is all about? Our meetings are held on the <u>3rd Wednesday at 7 PM</u> of each month. New members are always welcome. We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions. (Please contact our Secretary, Jim Edwards, at (603) 642-5236 or jimmy69180@hotmail.com to find out if our meeting is live at the church hall or virtual on ZOOM.) If you seek assistance or need information about the Society, call (603) 382-8324, ext.315.

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324, ext. 315.

"Hear, OH LORD, and answer me for I am poor and needy."

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile customers can now support Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones. Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

- 1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device.
- 2. Go into the main menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into Settings.
- 3. Tap AmazonSmile and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process.

AmazonSmile.com is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at <u>www.amazonsmile.com</u>. Be sure to choose:

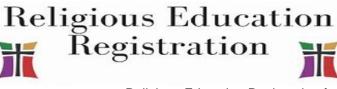
St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow

Founder / V 1 Cor 4:6b- Ez 33:7-9; F 4:00 PM <u>Sunday, Se</u> <u>Time</u>	Newton	Time atson Family
Monday, Se	eptember 7 ~ 23 rd Weekday	Labor Day
1 Cor 5:1-8 8:00 AM		Parish Offices closed
<u>Tuesday, S</u> <i>Mi 5:1-4a; N</i> 8:00 AM		
	 7, September 9 ~ Pedro Claver, Prie 31; Lk 6:20-26 Marc Hammond by Joe & Marie Fa Plaistow 	
	September 10 ~ 23 rd Weekday 7, 11-13; Lk 6:27-38 Joseph & Marion Brooks by their da Newton	aughter
<u>Friday, Sep</u> 1 Cor 9:16- No Mass	<u>tember 11 ~ 23rd Weekday</u> 19, 22b-27; Lk 6:39-42	
	September 12 ~ 23 rd Weekday / Vig Ordinary Time	il of the 24 th
1 Cor 10:14	I-22; Lk 6:43-49 (Day) - 28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35 (Vig Louise Waters by Pat Zakiewicz Plaistow	gil)
	ptember 13 ~ Twenty-fourth Sunda	ay in
Ordinary Ti Sir 27:30 —	<u>me</u> - 28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35	
8:00 AM	Richard Lachance by Jack & Barba Newton	ira Brotz
10:00 AM		



TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

☞ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ▲



Religious Education Registration for the 2020-2021 Academic Year for Grades Pre-K through 8 has begun. The entire Fall semester of Religious Education will be done ON-LINE using materials provided by the Parish and access from our publisher,

Pflaum. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** for all students. Print materials will be distributed from the Parish Hall, and on-line access will be provided to registered families.

REGISTER

TODAY!

If your child is currently enrolled, a registration form has been sent home. If your child is new to the Religious Education program, please call the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 and speak to Cathy Smith or Father Albert for more information. The Parish offers Religious Education for children in school grades K - 8.

FIRST EUCHARIST – CONFIRMATION

Our Bishop has given us permission to celebrate Eucharist and Confirmation with the Candidates deferred from the spring shut down. We will celebrate with our Candidates in small groups at the 10 am Liturgy on Sundays throughout October and into the first two weeks of November. A Parent meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 13 at NOON in the church at Plaistow** for all who are prepared to celebrate the Sacraments. Dates will be available for sign up at that meeting. Contact Cathy Smith or Father Albert in the Parish Office at (603) 382-8324 with any questions. A letter has been sent home to all Candidates with more information.

FOR THE RECORD...

We need your help to keep our Parish records current. If there are any births, deaths, marriages, moves, or address changes in your family, please notify the Parish Office at 603-382-8324 or by email at jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net. If you are new to our Parish, registration forms are available at the entrances of both churches. You can also find a registration form on our website at http://stlukenh.org.



The **<u>Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults</u>** is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. Be a good agent of welcome and evangelization! If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, contact Cathy Smith in the Parish Office.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at

csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

Newton – Thursday 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✤ PARISH DIRECTORY ✤

- Parish Office Parish Prayer Line St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Luke's Food Pantry Preschool Presentation of Mary Convent
- 382-8324 382-8324 x 314 382-8324 x 315 819-4949 382-9783 382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay Cathy Smith Joyce Szczapa Jackie Tremblay Thomas Kondel Val Barczak Parish Council fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net <u>csmith@stluketheevangelist.net</u> jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net <u>tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net</u> mvmbarczak@comcast.net parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ST JUDE COUNCIL # 6617 GIVE YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY 1 HOUR A MONTH

The Knights of Columbus are a vital and vibrant part of the St Luke the Evangelist Parish. We welcome any practicing Catholic man 18 or older to join the Knights, whose main purpose is charitable works in support of our parish and community. Joining is simple - talk to a brother Knight or you can now join on-line. Go to www.kofc.org/joinus. Your Council is involved in many activities from collecting money for people with intellectual disabilities through the Tootsie Roll Drive to the annual St Jude Golf Open which raises money for parish families in need. The list is as long as you want it to be. Do you have a certain passion you would like to get involved in? Come join us and make it a reality! We are Catholic men. We live by principles informed by faith. We are sons, fathers, husbands, and grandfathers. Join us on life's greatest adventure to. Feel free to call Dan Sullivan at 603-770-4803, email him at dans49@comcast.net, or catch him at the 8:00 AM Sunday Mass in Newton. For more information about the Knights, visit:

www.kofc.org/un/en/todays-knights/what-we-do.html

"New Beginnings Divorce Recovery" Virtual Retreat Friday, September 11, (5:30 pm - 8:00 pm) through Saturday, September 12 (9:00 am - 3:00 pm)

Organized by St. Hilary Catholic Church (Archdiocese of San Francisco) and supported by the Archdiocese of San Francisco, this online retreat seeks to offer "healing and hope for people who have suffered the pain and isolation of divorce." This online event is free with a suggested donation of \$20. Presentations are in English with simultaneous Spanish translation. Interested persons may register at <u>newbeginningsevents.org</u>.

VOTE 2020

The obligation to participate in political life is rooted in our baptismal commitment to follow Jesus Christ and to bear Christian witness in all we do." -- Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, No. 13. Check out our new Voting page for information on how to register and how to vote. www.catholicnh.org/community/public-issues/voting

HELP FOR LEBANON

Relief and assistance for the people of Beirut can be donated through the Catholic Near East Association **cnewa.org** or through the American Catholic Church charitable organization Catholic Relief Services **www.crs.org**.



St. Vincent de Paul was unable to hold their annual Easter Lily fundraiser, so we've replaced it with Flower Power! Who doesn't like flowers? **Please support St. Vincent de Paul's Flower Power fundraiser and help those in need in our community.** Our community is struggling

even more due to Covid 19. St. Vincent de Paul will receive 50% of the proceeds from this fundraiser and 100% will be used to assist those struggling to make ends meet. Please click on the following link or copy and paste in your browser. Please feel free to share it with friends, family, and social media.

http://SVDP.fpfundraising.com

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has gone "Virtual"!

To support married couples during this time of social distancing, Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a virtual marriage experience called **Restore – Rekindle – Renew.** This Enrichment Experience will meet via Zoom for seven sessions on Monday evenings September 14 to October 26 from 7-9:30 PM.

Couples will explore their individual personality styles, improve listening and communication skills, understand God's plan for their marriage, and learn how to keep their relationship a priority. Registration is limited and a \$100 application fee is required. For more information or to apply, call Stephen & Michelle O'Leary at 800-710-9963 or visit them at https://wwmema.org/.



St. Luke the Evangelist is on Facebook! Go to <u>www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org/</u> or St. Luke the Evangelist Parish – Newton/Plaistow and give us a Like! Please invite fellow parishioners & friends to do the same.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar Flowers are a special opportunity for remembering a departed loved one or offering thanksgiving for a blessing or family event. A floral arrangement placed in front of the altar for the Sunday Liturgy can be purchased for an offering of \$85, with an accompanying announcement in the weekly bulletin. Availability is limited according to the Liturgical Calendar. Offerings can be reserved on a first-come basis by contacting the Parish Office at 382-8324.

PROJECT RACHEL

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential non-judgmental help is available. Call Project Rachel's national toll-free number at 1-888-456-HOPE (4673) or visit www.hopeafterabortion.org.

In case you missed it in last week's bulletin... we're holding a VIRTUAL Christmas Fair this year from Saturday, October 10 until Saturday, November 7, 2020!!

How?? We'll be using a website called <u>BiddingOwl</u> which will allow us to offer items to be auctioned, as well as items to be raffled, on-line.

You will be able to access the Fair from your smart phone or computer using a link that will be shared in upcoming bulletins, as well as emailed to as many people for whom we have email addresses. You'll be able to bid on auction items and purchase raffle tickets once you create an account. Please look for instructions on how to create an account, place bids, and purchase raffle tickets in future bulletins.

But, before any of this can happen, <u>we need lots of donations</u> so we can set up the online fair. Please see reverse side of this bulletin for a list of donation needs and basket ideas.

Please note the following KEY DATES

00 00

We are accepting donations now, in Plaistow, every Saturday and Sunday of September.

Donations are being accepted down in the Parish Hall, in Plaistow, every Saturday in September from 3:00PM-5:00PM and every Sunday in September from 9:00AM-12:00PM. The last day and time for donation drop-off will be Sunday, September 27, from 9:00AM-12:00PM. All donations need to be received by Sunday, September 27.

Can you help with accepting donations, even for an hour, on any of the following days, downstairs in the Parish Hall in Plaistow?? ... **Masks will be required** ...

Saturday, <u>Sept. 12</u> from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, <u>Sept. 13</u> from 9:00AM-12:00PM Saturday, <u>Sept. 19</u> from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, <u>Sept. 20</u> from 9:00AM-12:00PM Saturday, <u>Sept. 26</u> from 3:00PM-5:00PM or Sunday, <u>Sept. 27</u> from 9:00AM-12:00PM

All Donations Must Be Received By Sunday, September 27

If you can help, please email Julie Lamere: stlukenhfair@gmail.com

Our Online Fair goes "LIVE" and bidding will begin on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>October 10</u>. Our Online Fair and auction will remain open for four (4) weeks.

The Auction and Raffles will close on Saturday, November 7, at 9:00AM.

We will begin notifying winners on Saturday, November 7 between 12:00PM and 5:00PM.

Pick up days and times will be Saturday, November 7 and 14, from 3:00PM-5:00PM and Sunday, November 8 and 15, from 9:00AM-12:00PM. All winnings must be picked up by 12:00PM NOON on Sunday, November 15.

00 00

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish's VIRTUAL Christmas Fair

Can you donate...

Gift Certificates ? New items and/or Like-New items ? Lottery Tickets ? Lots & Lots & Lots of Lottery Tickets ? Original Artwork, New Toys, Fun Gadgets, or Power Tools ? Newly Knitted and/or Crocheted Coordinated Sets or Afghans ? Items for men, Items for women, Items for boys, or Items for girls ? Wine: White wine, Red wine, Pink wine, Sparkling wine, wine, wine, wine !!! Jewelry: new/like-new Rings, Watches, Chains, Necklaces, Earrings, or Bracelets ??

Themed Baskets are great online Raffle items.

Here are some ideas:

"As Seen On TV", Baby Bundle, Baking, Birthday-In-A-Box, Breakfast-In-A-Basket, Book Club, Caffeine Fix, Christmas, Chocolate Madness, Cooking, COVID Safety!, Crazy for Cats, Family Fun, Fishing, Fabulous Foodie, Football Fans, Game Night, Gardening, Golf, Grill Master, Ice Cream Extravaganza, Kid's Crafts, Kitchen Essentials, Ladies Night Out, Loco for Legos, Man-scaping, Mexican Fiesta, Movie Night, New Years' Celebration, Outdoorsy, Pamper-the-Chef, Pasta Night, Picnic Basket, Puppy Lovers, Quilt Quarters, Relaxation Time, Road Trip, Scrapbooking, Spa Day, Sports Lover, Super Scientist, Survival Supplies 2020, Thanksgiving, Vehicle Safety Kit, Weekend Getaway, Winter Fun, Yoga Time, Zen Master

Here's a sneak peek at our Big Raffles!

Watch for Full-color Posters of the Raffles listed below, as well as bundles of Ca\$h Raffle tickets in the back of both churches, and Raffle Order Forms in next week's Bulletin.



CA\$H RAFFLE with a 2020 Theme

<u>1st Prize</u>: \$1,020.20 — <u>2nd Prize</u>: \$220.20 — and four <u>3rd Prizes</u>: \$50 each \$1.00 each, or **SIX (6) chances to WIN for \$5.00**

 VICTORIAN DOLL HOUSE RAFFLE

 Enter to win this one-of-a-kind Doll House with furniture for six (6) charming rooms!

 Purchase one (1) ticket for \$5.00, or FIVE (5) chances to WIN for \$20.00





QUILT RAFFLE

Enter to win this cheery, hand-made Quilt (62"x87") complete with two (2) matching Pillows! Purchase one (1) ticket for \$5.00 or **FIVE (5) chances to WIN for \$20.00**

<u>Ist Prize</u>: 50+ bottles of WINE!! — <u>2nd Prize</u>: 12 bottles of wine of various types. One (1) for \$10.00, THREE (3) for \$25.00, or **FIVE (5) chances to WIN for \$40.00**

WINE RAFFLE 2020





Ever wonder how you can make a difference for those in your community?

Saint Vincent de Paul's Annual Fundraiser, the Walk for the Poor, is our largest fundraiser. This year, the need is greater than it has ever been. We all know more people are struggling financially than ever before. They are looking for a hand up to get them through this rough patch. This is where the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul can help. We give that hand up - to help pay rent, put food on their table, get their car repaired to be able to go to work, keep their home heated, get medicine they require, etc. We want to have the funds to be able to help anyone who asks, but we need your help in doing that! Please consider joining our walk this year. We would love to see families walking to help other families. We encourage people to walk in memory of a loved one - what a beautiful way to be remembered. Every dollar raised goes directly to helping people in our community.

This year, there are two options for our walk:

Option 1 - Walk with us on September 26, 2020

We will leave from Mary, Mother of the Church by proceeding left onto Amesbury Road, right onto Bear Hill Road and back, which is a little over a mile. Registration will be at 9 a.m. with the walk beginning at 10 a.m. Water, Gatorade and tee-shirts will be available. We will be socially distancing as we are walking.

OR

Option 2 - Walk "Virtually" ANYTIME from September 26 through October 10, 2020 virtually. Walk your dog, do a family walk or hike, walk on your treadmill at the gym, walk around your neighborhood – just please WALK! Send us a picture of you walking, (if you want) and we will post it on our Facebook page.

Both options require you to fill out a simple registration form at https://www.fopwalk.org/event/2503

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Madeiros <u>madeiros7@msn.com</u> or Susan Mokray <u>suziqmo@aol.com</u> visit our visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/SVDP/?ti=as

The Friends of the Poor[®] Walk/Run is a national event coordinated by the Development Team at the National Council of the United States Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Will you walk a mile with us to support our mission to help the poor in our community?



FRIENDS OF THE POOR® WALK/RUN SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



Walker/Runner Pledge Sheet

Walker's Full Name:

SVdP Conference/Council Name:

Donor's Name	Donor's Address	Pledge \$ Amount	Paid
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Correcting Lovingly

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

T oday's readings are about fraternal correction. We are responsible for our brother's good, and God expects us to help him. This means being a good example and holding him or her to a gospel standard. If that means a hard dose of the truth, so be it, as long as that truth is given in love.

Ezekiel was a prophet who knew how to preach fire and brimstone, but he could also be tender and compassionate. He prophesied both about the destruction of Israel and how Yahweh would turn their hearts of stone into flesh. In Michelangelo's fresco *The Prophet Ezekiel* on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, the strength of this

Sunday Readings

Ezekiel 33:7–9

I have appointed you as a sentinel for the house of Israel.

Romans 13:8-10

The commandments...are summed up in this saying, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 18:15-20

[Jesus said,] "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." rugged prophet is evident. That Ezekiel is turned to listen to a cherub says a lot about his humility as well.

God told Ezekiel that if he didn't preach to the wicked, God would hold him responsible for their deaths. However, if he did preach and the wicked still didn't heed him, Ezekiel would be safe. The moral is, when God asks us to preach, take it seriously!

Jesus tells us if our brother sins against us, we should confront him in the presence of two witnesses. He even encourages us to bring the Church in as judge if a dispute between believers isn't resolved. However, this should always be done with love.

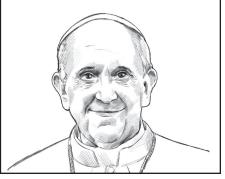
As humble Christians, we should accept corrections when they are done correctly. No one likes to be told he or she is wrong, but if we are we should rejoice in the truth, even if it hurts. And we should thank those who love us enough to correct us. +

As humble Christians, we should accept corrections when they are done correctly.

A Word from Pope Francis

It is vital that the Church today go out to proclaim the Gospel to all, in all places, on all occasions, without delay, reluctance, or fear. We do so in obedience to the Lord's missionary mandate, certain of his presence among us until the end of the world.

> Address to United Bible Societies, October 5, 2017





- Do I find the idea of charitable correction uncomfortable? Why or why not?
- How willing am I to receive correction from my peers? My spouse? My child? My boss?

Seeing the Faces of God

By Kathleen M. Basi

E very so often when I read a Gospel story, I stop and say, "Huh?" It seems like some crucial piece of information is missing.

I get one of those inklings when I read the story of the disciples walking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. It's difficult to believe they didn't recognize him. I mean, come on. These guys knew him; they hung out with him; they got the bonus explanations that the regular crowds didn't. How could they not recognize him? The only thing I can figure is that maybe, just maybe, Jesus wasn't wearing the face they knew.

A few years ago, there was a TV show about a teenage girl who kept meeting random strangers who turned out to be God in disguise. There was no rhyme or reason to God's appearance. He might be a janitor, a rich woman, a pizza-delivery guy, or a mime. Once or twice the main character assumed she was talking to God when she wasn't. The unpredictability of these appearances taught her to approach every person and situation as if God were present because he was.

This principle may seem so obvious that it appears ridiculous. However, it's hard to keep in mind in real life. Most of us want to do God's will, if we could just figure out what it is. The world's problems



seem so big—far bigger than we can handle. Most often, we focus on issues, ideas, and philosophies. But issues, ideas, and philosophies are only important because of how they impact people.

All too often, I find myself wandering through life on autopilot, completely unaware of God's presence in those around me. Middle-class life seems far removed from the "least ones" (Matthew 25:45). We think we don't cross paths with them, but maybe we do. Recently I learned that the hotel near my house shelters people in crisis. And in the shadow of a viaduct near my old house, there used to be a tent community.

Every person we encounter has a story to tell and a broken place within that needs healing. Consider the man smoking at the next gas pump, the woman driving like a maniac in a school zone, the rude cashier at the big-box store, the girl showing too much skin at the pool. The people we often regard as irritants and obstacles are actually facets of God's face.

If we took time to simply be aware to look these people in the eye and recognize God's presence in them—we will likely find that the "least ones" are a lot nearer and easier to reach than we ever expected. +



Lord, I am grateful for your gifts of love, mercy, and forgiveness. Help me to share these gifts with those who have hurt me.

From Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeny

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 7–12

Monday, Weekday: 1 Cor 5:1–8 / Lk 6:6–11 Tuesday, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mi 5:1–4a or Rom 8:28–30 / Mt 1:1–16, 18–23 or 1:18–23

Wednesday, St. Peter Claver: 1 Cor 7:25–31 / Lk 6:20–26 **Thursday,** Weekday: 1 Cor 8:1b–7, 11–13 / Lk 6:27–38

Friday, Weekday: 1 Cor 9:16–19, 22b–27 / Lk 6:39–42

Saturday, Weekday: 1 Cor 10:14–22 / Lk 6:43–49



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