

The Price of Goodness

We all know genuinely good people. Somehow they are able to live the virtues of their religious tradition. It might even appear that it is easy for them to do so. One would think that such good people would be valued. Well, yes and no. While we might truly value the goodness of others, that goodness can also shame us. And there is the rub. People are uncomfortable with the realization that they are not as good as they think—or not as good as others might view them. Today’s readings underscore the price we might have to pay for such goodness.

The first reading describes a plot being devised to get rid of a righteous person whose goodness has become “annoying” (Wisdom 2:12). This is not someone who flaunts goodness; it is a genuinely good person, one who is referred to as “the righteous one” (2:18). (Here “son of God” simply means someone belonging to the people of God.) The plotters insist

that God will come to the rescue if the righteous one is truly good. The petitions in the psalm response are placed on the lips of that righteous one. Like many good Bible stories, this story is open-ended. We do not know what happens. The price paid for righteousness is found in the Gospel passage as well. Here the righteous one is Jesus. Though we know how his story ends, here the disciples did not.

Today we are faced with the starkness of these stories. Are we willing to pay the price of goodness?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

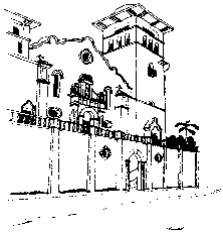
FOR Reflection

- ★ Where in your life do your religious values conflict with social norms?
- ★ Do you ever resent the goodness of others? If so, what might you do about it?

*[Jesus said,] “If anyone wishes to be first,
he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”*

MARK 9:35





St. Theresa's Cathedral

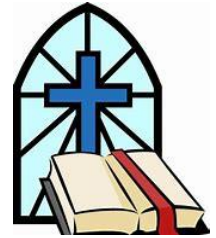
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Bishop Wes Śpiewak, CR, Diocese of Hamilton in Bermuda

Chancery Office & Holy Calvary Cemetery Office: 232-4414 – orcc@northrock.bm

IN RESIDENCE: Rev. Julio Blazejewski, C.R., Portuguese Episcopal Vicar

Visiting: Permanent Deacon David Swain

St. Vincent de Paul Society Parish Rep: Joanne Judd & Tom Sinclair

Parish Catechetical Coordinator: (CCD) Beverly-Dawn Knights - ccdbermuda@gmail.com

St. Theresa's Gift Shop: 292-0416 – Shop Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Tuesdays, & Saturdays)

Confessions: By appointment only – Social distancing of 3' if a mask is worn or 6' if no mask is worn.

Baptisms: By appointment – 5 weeks in advance

Weddings: By appointment – 1 year in advance. Lenten Pre-Marriage Course is required for all weddings here or elsewhere

Facebook: Our Catholic Diocese is on Facebook. Visit our page & "LIKE" us and join our on-line community.

| DATES | | TIMES | | INTENTIONS FOR |
|--------|-----------------------|----------|---|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat. | Sept. 18 | 6:30 pm | + | Jeffrey Mark Medeiros |
| Sun. | Sept. 19 | 8:30 am | | St. Theresa's Parish Family |
| | | 10:00 am | + | Isaul Cordeiro, Alzira da Costa, Joao da |
| | | 11:30 am | + | Costa, Edmunda Faria (seu aniversario) |
| | | 6:00 pm | + | Lorna De La Cruz |
| Mon. | Sept. 20 | 7:30 am | | Intentions of Rev. Julio Blazejewski, C.R. (Birthday) |
| Tues. | Sept. 21 | 7:30 am | | Intentions of Rev. Julio Blazejewski, C.R. |
| Wed. | Sept. 22 | 7:30 am | + | Tim Hasselbring |
| | | 12:10 pm | | |
| Thurs. | Sept. 23 | 7:30 am | | Intentions of Don Johann |
| | | 12:10 pm | | |
| Fri. | Sept. 24 | 7:30 am | + | Birthday Thanksgiving for Amelia Pedrera |
| | | 12:10 pm | | |
| Sat. | Sept. 25 | 6:30 pm | + | Giampaolo |
| Sun. | Sept. 26 (Portuguese) | 8:30 am | + | In Memory of Inez Knights |
| | | 10:00 am | | |
| | | 11:30 am | + | Matilde David |
| | | 6:00 pm | | St. Theresa's Parish Family |

NEXT WEEK'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE: 25th/26th September, 2021

| | 6:30 p.m. | 8:30 a.m. | 11:30 a.m. | 6:00 p.m. |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Proclaimers: | Analia Machado | B.D. Knights | I. Aleria | Volunteer |
| | | | | Needed |
| Communion | | Volunteer | | |
| Ministers: | C. Carreiro | Needed | N/A | N/A |
| | | | | |
| Song Leaders: | K. Judd | F. Wolhmuth | M. Gravito | |

SUNDAY & SPECIAL OFFERINGS WITH ONLINE BANKING & PARISH ENVELOPES

Please make direct payments to the Bank of Butterfield Acct #20-006-060-482732-100 and include "Sunday Offering" in the memo field. Also, the parish encourages the use of Sunday Offering Envelopes to promote the concept of stewardship of treasure. Thank you for your continued support in remembering the needs of the Cathedral.

Saturday Adoration in the Chapel of St. Theresa's Cathedral: 9am – Holy Mass in Portuguese followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoration - 10:00 am - Benediction

Afghanistan's Christians 'Completely Ignored' in European Parliament Resolution

A member of the European Parliament said on Thursday that the EU's law-making body "completely ignored" the plight of Afghanistan's Christian minority in a recent resolution.

Carlo Fidanza, the co-chair of the parliament's Intergroup on Freedom of Religion and Belief, said that the resolution adopted on Sept. 16th showed Europe's general indifference to Christians. He said: "This resolution demonstrates once again the guilty lack of attention by Europe, not only to Afghan Christians -- who are completely ignored by the text -- but to Christians in general."

The resolution, passed in Strasbourg, France, said that the European Parliament was "appalled" by reports of the Taliban's actions against "women and girls, human rights defenders, religious and ethnic minorities, journalists, writers, academics and artists." ADF International estimates that 10,000 Christians are living in danger following the Taliban takeover of the country of 38 million people that lies at the crossroads of Central and South Asia. Most have converted from Islam to Christianity, an act punishable by death under Sharia Law.

CAN - 17-Sept-2021



WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Christian stewardship trains us to become aware that God is the ultimate giver of the gifts we have. To give to God should be "from the top" not what may be left over.

Steward's Sharing of Treasure

| | Date | Actual |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Collection: | 11 th /12 th September: | \$ 2,231.00 |
| | To Date: Week 37 | \$120,576.00 |
| Thank you for your continued financial support! | | |

ST. THERESA'S CHAPEL



19th – 25th September, 2021

Donation Given for 2 Votive Candles & 2 Roses
"In Memory of Oskar Lewnowski"

INTRODUCTION:

A common thread in today's readings is that the marks of faithfulness are humility, peacemaking, and service to the lowliest among us. In the midst of cynicism, which is so often the reality of our modern world, how can we better witness to the world the peace of Christ?



BAPTISMS: This weekend we welcome **Aubrielle Paisley Smith, Gabriel Sebastian Salvador and Lorenzo Alexander DeCouto**, who will all receive the Sacrament of Baptism. May God bless and protect them and may their parents, and godparents support and guide them always in their faith.

THE CCD PROGRAM:

If you wish to register your child for the CCD program commencing next year or have any questions, please contact Essie Hans at the Diocesan Religious Education Office at: ccdbermuda@gmail.com or by phone at 292-1981.

NOON MASS AT CATHEDRAL:

The 12:10pm Mass has resumed at the Cathedral and is celebrated by Bishop Wes on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Perhaps you can use part of your lunch break by joining him in this celebration.

SUPPORT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

The SVDP is a recipient charity with The Bermuda Championship at the Port Royal Golf Course from 25th to 31st October. To support SVDP:

- Sign-Up to be a Volunteer at the Event
- Make a Donation through The Bermuda Championship Birdies for Charity Program

For more information, contact Karen Leseur at 232-4175 or e-mail: svdp@northrock.bm.

ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:

The Gift Shop located on Elliott Street in Hamilton is open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00am – 2:00pm. We thank you for your anticipated patronage!

POPE FRANCIS @ PONTIFEX (Twitter Page):

What is the secret of a blessed life, a happy life? Recognizing Jesus as the living God. For it is not important to know that Jesus was great in history. What matters is the place I give him in my life.

BISHOP'S CORNER



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

An order was issued to students of the University of Turin in Italy who were preparing for examinations, that crosses and other religious symbols should not be visible on the background of their computer screen. Due to the pandemic, classes at the university have been held remotely and semester exams have also been conducted this way. This is why the university has prepared a list of applicable rules for use during the internet examination sessions.

Introduced, among other things, was special control software to prevent cheating and to ban the viewing of any political or religious symbols during the exam. While the students considered it right not to manifest their political views, the second part of the rule met with a strong wave of criticism. It was emphasized that this is a clear attack on religious freedom, which in the future may lead to the fact that it will no longer be possible to wear a chain with a cross or a rosary on the wrist, popular among young people, and to show symbols of other religions. One of the students stated that he would not remove the statue of Saint Padre Pio from his desk at home, even if it meant that he would not be able to take the exam.

The decision also caused unrest at other Italian universities, whose students feared that they will also introduce similar rules. From this, they emphasize, there is only one step left to removing religious symbols from public spaces. At the same time, they indicate that the examiner, entering their homes thanks to the Internet, cannot decide what is allowed in their private space. By opposing the decision of the authorities, they recalled that the crosses on the walls of Italian houses and the religious pictures hanging on them are part of the Christian culture of Italy, which cannot be ignored, much less erased. Welcome to the world of new freedom and tolerance...

Enjoy your weekend and have a blessed week!

Bishop Wes

Never let the sadness of your past and the fear of your future, ruin the happiness of your present!

Dear Padre,

In Bible times why did people sacrifice animals, children, and other living beings for their own sins?

The practice of human and animal sacrifice is at least as old as written history, including in our own Scripture. Few stories are more chilling than when God asks Abraham to sacrifice his son, or when Jephthah sacrifices his daughter (Genesis 22; Judges 11). In scriptural theology, one's sins merited punishment and even death, but an animal or other person could be chosen to take one's place. God, in his mercy, instituted this animal sacrificial system as a symbol, foreshadowing Jesus' sacrifice for our sins (Genesis 8:20; Hebrews 10:1–18). In the New Testament, Jesus understood his mission as sacrificing his own life as a ransom for many (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was at the cost of death. However, to say that Jesus' death was payment for



our sins is not to say that a vengeful God was appeased by the sacrifice of his own innocent Son. Rather, Christ was willing to liberate us when he “bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that... by his wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

Thus, “it is love ‘to the end (John 13:1)’ that confers on

Christ’s sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus’ death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice that “completes and surpasses all other sacrifices” (CCC 614).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The Catechism firmly states that human power has limits and that “it is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly.” All such use and experimentation “requires a religious respect for the integrity of creation.”

ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME (LAUDATO SI’), MAY 24, 2015

Calendar

Monday

SEPTEMBER 20

Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs

Ezr 1:1–6

Lk 8:16–18

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 21

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13

Mt 9:9–13

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 22

Weekday

Ezr 9:5–9

Lk 9:1–6

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 23

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Hg 1:1–8

Lk 9:7–9

Friday

SEPTEMBER 24

Weekday

Hg 2:1–9

Lk 9:18–22

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 25

Weekday

Zec 2:5–9, 14–15a

Lk 9:43b–45

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 26

Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Nm 11:25–29

Jas 5:1–6

Mk 9:38–43,
45, 47–48