

February 5, 2017 The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 4

5:00 p.m. +**William and Jessie Reynolds**
By Susan Reynolds

Sunday, February 5

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of St. Theodore Church**

10:30 a.m. +**Mary Madison**
By The Riedinger Family

Monday, February 6 **Saint Paul Minki**

8:45 a.m. + **Theresa Rebinski**
By Angela Gross

Tuesday, February 7

8:45 a.m. **Birthday Blessings for Susan Reynolds**

By Bernadette and Andy Ryan

Wednesday, February 8 **Saint Jerome Emiliani**

8:45 a.m. +**Doris Barkus**
By Richard and Bernadette Oeser

Thursday, February 9 **NO MASS**

Friday, February 10 **Saint Scholastica**

8:45 a.m. +**Valerie Kaminski**
By Carol Navarra

Saturday, February 11 **Our Lady of Lourdes**

5:00 p.m. +**Joseph, Nettie and Joseph Roche, Jr.**
By The Wyker Family

Sunday, February 12

8:00 a.m. +**Al Moss**
By Brian and Gerry Moss

10:30 a.m. +**Thomas, Elizabeth and Louis DeBari**
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

Vatican City, Jan 28, 2017 / 07:23 am
(CNA/EWTN News).- On Saturday, Pope Francis stressed the importance of having a solid guide in the spiritual life since no one – neither laity nor consecrated persons themselves – can stay faithful for long without help.

“All of us consecrated, the young and those not so young, need adequate help for the human, spiritual and vocational moment we are living,” the Pope said Jan. 28. “We will never emphasize this need too much.”

He honed in on the need for adequate preparation of spiritual guides, since it’s “hard to stay faithful walking alone, or walking with the guidance of brothers or sisters who aren’t capable of attentive and patient listening, or who don’t have adequate experience of consecrated life.”

Using the image of Jesus and the disciples of Emmaus as an example, the Pope said there is a need for spiritual guides who are “experts in the ways of God” and are capable of accompanying people through life, pointing them to the Eucharist and Confession in times of hardship or confusion.

“This is the delicate and demanding task of a spiritual guide,” he said, and warned against ways of accompanying that create dependencies, false protections or that are too “childish.”

Instead, “we cannot resign ourselves to walking alone,” and need “a close, frequent and fully adult accompaniment,” he said, adding that having this will help in knowing how to constantly discern the will of God.

Discernment, for both the guide and the person accompanied, requires “a fine spiritual sensitivity” and complete detachment from “prejudice and from personal or group interest,” Francis said, adding that true discernment isn’t choosing “between the good and the bad.”

Above all, it means choosing “between the good and the better, between what is good and that which leads to identification with Christ.”

Pope Francis spoke to participants in the annual plenary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, which this year reflected on the theme of fidelity and those who have abandoned consecrated life.

In his speech, the Pope noted that fidelity is often “put to the test” in today’s social and cultural context, saying we are currently facing “a hemorrhage” that weakens both the Church and consecrated life itself.

The number of people who leave consecrated life is concerning, he said, noting that while some leave after a serious discernment showed that they never had a vocation, others become less faithful as time passes by, “many times only a few years after their perpetual profession.”

The reasons for this, he said, have to do with the fact that we live in a time “which is a change of era and not only an era of change, in which it becomes difficult to assume serious and definitive commitments.”

“We live immersed in the so-called ‘culture of the fragment,’ of the provisional, which can lead to living ‘a la carte’ and to being a slave of fashions,” he said, noting that this mentality feeds unhealthy trends such as a heightened sense of consumerism that ends up “provoking a great existential emptiness.” In this context, the Pope stressed that it’s important for a person to let himself be evangelized before committing to evangelize others.

Francis pointed to the many youth who offer solidarity and commit at both a social and religious level, saying “there are marvelous youth and they are not few,” but also cautioned that young people are particularly susceptible to “the logic of worldliness.”

Summarizing the mentality as “the search for success at whatever price, of easy money and easy pleasure,” he noted that the temptation seduces many of today’s youth, and because of this, they need someone to stand beside them and “contaminate them with the joy of the Gospel.”

The Pope then pointed to a third factor he said affects vocational fidelity and which comes from within consecrated life itself: the “counter-witness” of some members of the community.

While there is a lot of holiness inside many communities, there is also sin, he said, noting that particularly challenging situations for consecrated persons are when things become routine, when members get tired and the weight that comes with managing different structures.

Difficulties also arise from internal divisions, the search for power, a worldly mentality in governing institutes and “a service of authority which at times becomes authoritarianism and at other times a ‘laissez-faire.’”

“If consecrated life wants to maintain its prophetic mission in the world,” he said, “it must maintain the freshness and the novelty of the centrality of Jesus, the attractiveness of the spirituality and the strength of the mission, showing the beauty of following Christ and radiating joy and hope.”

Pope Francis also pointed, as he often does, to the importance of fraternal life in the community, which he said is fueled by daily prayer, Mass, the reading of Scripture, fraternal correction, dialogue and mercy toward those who sin.

“All of this accompanies an eloquent and joyful witness of life beside the poor and by a mission that the privileges the existential peripheries,” he said, explaining that to maintain this depends on the quality of vocational pastoral ministry.

“Because when a brother or sister is not supported in their consecrated life inside of the community, they seek it outside, with everything that this brings.”



Stephen, Anthony Vitale, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Michael Dante, Keira Hedges, Maryann Vaughan, Robert Dicheck, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine, Maryann

Vaughan, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Mary D., Kerry Kraft, Patty Mahoney, Cheyann Miller, Cathy Moncello, Louise C., Peter S., Helen Dicheck, Mary Supple

SCAM ALERT: *Please read!* This also happened at our church on January 29:

From the Diocese of Metuchen (posted in our bulletin

in December 2016): “Small bands of visitors” (police description) have been stationing themselves in church parking lots and other public places asking for money. At St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish it was a man in his mid 30’s along with a teenage boy. After being asked to leave parish property, the two took their time walking through the parking lot looking into cars before getting in a car and leaving. The police reported that these groups look for cars that are unlocked and steal whatever valuables they find inside. Please parishioners of St. Theodore Church, do not give these people (even children) any money. They are scam artists, according to the police. And please report these happenings to Fr. Damian or email the Parish Office: sttheodorenj@gmail.com

Church & Religious Education Schedule

Jan. 30: All grades at school

Feb. 6, 13, 27: All Grades at school

Feb. 12: Hospitality Sunday

Feb. 20: No Rel Ed. Parish & Rel Ed Offices Closed



At the suggestion of Father Damian, our Music Ministry will be presenting the *Passion of the Lord* on Good Friday, April 14 at 5 p.m. The Word of the Lord will be proclaimed by members of the choir who will sing the Word, accompanied by musicians. We are confident this will enhance our devotion to the Lord, like never before. The other parts (**Narrator, Pontius Pilate & Voice**) will be read by persons selected after auditions. The congregation, as in the past, will be the **Crowd**.

Initial concerns that Good Friday Proclamation of the Word is performed only a cappella have been assuaged. The Bishops’ Conference 2005 commentary on GIRM states that playing of the organ and the use of musical instruments is allowed to support the singing.

Therefore, I invite musicians and singers to join the choir for this truly moving proclamation of the *Passion*. Auditions for the non-choir parts will be held on Sunday, February 26 after the 10:30 Mass.

--Chris Lance, Musical Director

Bible Study: Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.

The Bible Timeline: *The Story of Salvation* (begins

1/31/17) This is the foundational study in the *Great Adventure Bible Study Series* that has helped hundreds of thousands of Catholics learn to read the Bible.

The Bible Timeline is a fascinating study that takes participants on a journey through the entire Bible. They will go deep into each period of salvation history and discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. Using a unique color-coded system, they will learn the major people, places, and events of the Bible and see how they all come together to reveal the remarkable story of our faith.