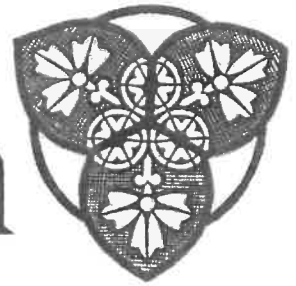




Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

June 16th, MMXIX

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity and Fathers' Day

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Month of the Sacred Heart

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

Praise the Holy Trinity, Undivided Unity; Holy God, Mighty God, God Immortal, be adored! Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, Three we name Thee; While in essence only One, Undivided God we acclaim Thee! God in Three Persons, Blessed Trinity!

These familiar verses and refrains from our hymnody express the Church's humble attempt to explain in song one of the great truths and at the same time great mysteries of our faith – *The Most Holy Trinity*.

Throughout the Easter Season we have been celebrating the work of the Holy Trinity. Perhaps that is why the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity today on this first Lord's Day (*Sunday*) after Eastertide. It helps to remind us of what we celebrate every Lord's Day: The Risen Christ sends the Holy Spirit to be God's presence in us and in all God's creation.

As Christians we are called to begin and end whatever we say or do, *in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen*. Most people's understanding of this mysterious dogma of the Church is usually not much more developed than the First Communion Catechism they learned. That lesson, #3 in my copy, went something like this: *Is there only one God? Yes, there is only one God. There cannot be more than one God. There never will be more than one God.*

*How many Persons are there in God? In God there are three Persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. * NOTE: (I have a very old copy of the text.)* The lesson continues: **The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Ghost/Spirit is God. But they are all ONE God. The Father is the First Person. The Son is the Second Person. The Holy Ghost/Spirit is the Third Person. There are THREE Persons in ONE God.**

What do we call the three Persons in one God? We call the three Persons in one God the Blessed Trinity. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Ghost/Spirit is God. All THREE Persons are One God. We call them the Blessed Trinity. We PICTURE God the Father as a kind Father. But He is really a Spirit. We cannot see a spirit. It is easy to PICTURE God the Son because He really became man. We PICTURE God the Holy Ghost/Spirit as a dove. But He too is really a Spirit. We call Him the Holy Spirit. All three Persons are equal. How do we know that there are three persons in one God? We know that there are three Persons in one God because we have God's word for it. The Father sent His Son to us on earth. The Son told us what the Blessed Trinity is like. The Blessed Trinity is God's family. But it is a family which is all one God. In this family all is love. They never fight. They always agree. They are always happy. The lesson concludes with this advice: *Say this prayer often: O God, make my family holy.*

Perhaps when we read or re-read this catechism lesson now it brings a smile to our face and even a chuckle, but what more really can be said about the Holy Trinity? It certainly is a mystery like other mysteries in

our faith, the Holy Eucharist, the virgin birth and the resurrection. When we say something is a mystery this does not mean we can not know anything at all about it. Rather this means we can never understand it fully in this life. We can however grow in our understanding of the mysteries of our faith. This is done by meditating on the mystery. Our simple catechism lesson is a help to this meditation. It tells us that the Holy Trinity is a family. God lives in a community of persons. So do you and I, because God created more than just one human being! God's plan is for us to live in communities also. Our communities should be like God's. In this family all is love. They (the Holy Trinity) never fight. They always agree. They are always happy. O would that our Human communities could imitate more perfectly the community of the Most Holy Trinity. Then we like God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit could always be happy too!

CONGRATULATIONS! To our new parish pastoral council members and alternates: Mr. Michael Genaw and Mrs. Suzanne Figurski have been chosen for a three year term from 2019 to 2022. They are members at large for the moment but in the future they might be elected to the office of chairperson, vice-

I want to express my sincere thanks to our outgoing members who have served faithfully, Ms. Beverly Nowicki and Mr. John Kruso. Also my sincere thanks to those who were nominated but who were not selected for service at this time, namely: Michelle Kooney, Dennis Lemanski, Ted Dziengelewski, Thomas Talaska, and Rob Toboy, Installation of the parish council members for this session will take place at a Sunday Mass in September.

The Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body to the Pastor. It is the coordinating and unifying structure of the Parish communion. The Parish Pastoral Council is the means of achieving the full participation of the whole Parish in its mission by giving all a voice in supporting, guiding and directing the various aspects of Parish life. It gathers together the visions, hopes and needs of the communion, reflects upon them until a consensus is reached, and translates this consensus into Parish planning through the establishment of goals and objectives. The Council sees that these goals and objectives are implemented by the Parish Commissions and committees and are evaluated annually. – From the Archdiocesan Handbook for Parish councils

Next Sunday Corpus Christi/Boże Ciało!

The Solemn Feast of Corpus Christi is a very important one in the liturgical and faith life of the Catholic Church. When it was instituted way back in the Middle Ages, times were MUCH different! The Church took advantage of the beauty and warm weather of springtime to have outdoor devotions to the Blessed Sacrament. In those days people looked forward to and built their whole lives around Church high feasts and festivals. Most people never traveled too far from home and it was an agricultural society for the most part. After the spring planting folks just sat back and waited for the harvest. Well, times are different! Who would have ever thought that one day Corpus Christi would have to compete with weddings, baptisms, first communions, graduations and summer vacations!

In many churches the priests have just given up and no longer try to celebrate Corpus Christi the way it was meant to be celebrated. The result can often be a diminished Eucharistic faith and piety among the congregation. We are working as hard as we can to make sure this DOES NOT happen at Our Lady of the Scapular! And so next Sunday a special Mass has been planned at 12:00 noon that will include the solemn outdoor Eucharistic procession (weather permitting) to an outdoor altar where benediction will take place.

I'm sure everyone can come up with a multitude of reasons to avoid going to that Mass. Some will say it will be too long. Others will say it is not completely in my language so I won't understand every word. Some will say I have something else planned or that's not MY Mass to go to. The time doesn't suit my plans for the weekend. The list of excuses can go on and on. Friends, if you don't have time once a year to honor our Lord Jesus Christ, who makes Himself available to us at all times in the Blessed Sacrament, well.....I just don't know what to say. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be".....The Holy Eucharist is our greatest treasure. It is our Savior! If He is not your greatest treasure where will your heart be next Sunday at 12:00 noon?

Happy Fathers' Day to all our Fathers, Grand Fathers, Great Grand Fathers, God-fathers & Step-fathers!

Happy Fathers' Day to all readers! In a certain way I feel as if priests too might participate in this national observance though we have not brought new life into the world in the natural way. I would like to think that I am still a little too young to be a grandfather. I am not a step-father, or a father-in-law. I am not even a god-father! And yet in the English language Catholic priests are called father. It is interesting to note that this is not so in all other languages. In Polish for example a priest is always referred to as *ksiądz* which is translated priest. Even monsignors, bishops and cardinals are still referred to as priests in their titles; *ksiądz prałat* – monsignor, *ksiądz biskup* – bishop, *ksiądz kardynał* – cardinal.

In order to be a father there must be children. For a parish priest, the parishioners of the church where he serves are his “children.” A good father always tries to do what is best for his children even if this is not what is easiest or most convenient for himself. Sacrifices must be made for the family and fathers and mothers are the ones who make the greater part of them. This is part of the vocation to be a parent, to be a father!

When babies are baptized parents and god parents are asked “are you ready to do everything necessary to make certain this child grows up knowing and practicing the faith?” In my opinion this is THE most intense part of the ceremony of baptism. Of course the pouring of water is the most dramatic, but what an awesome thing it is to ask a man and a woman to promise before God and all present that they will literally exhaust themselves to the end of their human strength to insure this religious education and formation in the faith takes place. This is the noble vocation of being a father or a mother. It is not a job. There is no pay. In fact there is not enough money in the world to buy what is freely given in parenthood. God calls one to be a father or a mother. It is a vocation. For most of society this is the most important task that you will undertake in this life. Being a parent continues until one dies. And because this is a vocation, something God calls a person to, as their mission in life, this is the most important work of one's life to be concerned about. We will all one day be judged by how well we lived out the vocation God has given us.

And so... being a father for you, in a spiritual way, is what my life is all about. I am trying hard to do what's best for you not only because I care deeply about each one of you but because the salvation of my immortal soul depends on it! Happy Fathers' Day to all of us Fathers. May we NEVER stop trying to do the absolute best for our children!

June is a Month Dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus!

When the beautiful month of June rolls around on the calendar the secular world begins to think of weddings. Many a young lady throughout the years has desired to be a lovely “June bride!” Although in one of my previous parish assignments, which averaged approximately fifty weddings a year, a clear shift could be seen from June to September being the most popular month to get married. Regardless, from a church perspective, June is a month to think of love, not romantic nor matrimonial love, but rather divine love! Just as in secular society, the church recognizes the heart as the premier symbol of love. And so a reminder of God's love is God's Heart, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

For centuries we humans have spoken about the heart as something much more than the important muscle that it is, pumping blood throughout the entirety of our bodies and keeping us alive. We talk about our hearts as that place deep inside us, the very core of our person, where we experience the most intimate human emotions, like happiness, and sorrow and most of all love. We say that our hearts are filled with joy when we give and receive love. And we say that our hearts are broken when love goes out of our lives.

When we think about or speak of the Sacred Heart we are thinking about that core place of the person of Jesus, from which comes forth His divine love for us and the place where He feels either the joy of His love received and returned by us, or the sorrow of having His love for humanity rejected and refused. The beautiful

thing about the Heart of our God is that it is always open to us and always “burning” with love for us in spite of everything.

The month of June is a fine time to think about this loving relationship that should exist between us and our God, most especially between us and the person of Jesus Christ. We should love Him because he is our teacher and our Lord. His life and words draw men and women of every age and nation to His Sacred Heart. No other great figure of history approaches what Jesus said and did.

Born poor, His childhood spent in an obscure Galilaeian village, He suddenly emerged for a few dazzling years to teach and work wonders in the Jewish world of His time. He was opposed by those in power who brought Him to trial and crucified Him. After three days He rose from the dead. Those who were witnesses to His Resurrection told the good news to others. They were convinced He was the Son of God who came to bring new life and hope to a world lost in darkness. He would bring a new kingdom, a new order, based on justice and love. Jesus promised to remain always with His Church. Receiving the Holy Spirit, His Church would proclaim His life and words. Above all, they would offer the world His love. This marvelous and enduring love comes to us through the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Friday, June 21st – Feast of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga – Jesuit Novice Patron saint of youth and those dying from AIDS

As the oldest son of the Marquis of Castiglione in Lombardy, Italy, Aloysius Gonzaga stood to inherit great wealth. So from earliest childhood he was trained in the manners of a Renaissance prince. He was sent to be a page in the Medici court in Florence when he was only eight years old.

But there was something else about Aloysius that was special. From about the age of seven he had an unusual sense of closeness to God. Sometimes these two currents in Aloysius’s life fought each other. He became aware of this conflict in his early teen years when he was sent to the royal court of Spain. It was a materialistic and immoral place. He needed self-discipline and courage to live as a Christian in these surroundings.

In 1584, Aloysius returned to Italy. He sensed that his society could not be reformed from within. The only way to survive was to get out completely. He decided to release all his property rights to his younger brother and to become a Jesuit. He knew the Jesuits would treat him like everyone else, not like royalty. Also, he would be expected to take a vow of poverty.

In 1591, an epidemic hit Rome. Victims died in agony in the streets of the city. The priests of Aloysius’s order opened a hospital. Aloysius, who was 23, volunteered to serve the sick. On his back he carried the dying into the hospital. He washed them, made their beds, and cheered them. Then he caught the disease himself. Three months later he died.

His integrity and toughness have made him the patron saint of young people. He is also the patron of people dying from AIDS.

An Update on Parish Debt

In August of 2013 our parish was in debt to the Archdiocese of Detroit to the amount of **\$1,268,783.11**. Over the last six years we have tried to make as many payments on this debt as possible and at the same time pay all our bills so as not to incur further debt. As of today the total amount of our debt is **\$1,011,358.45**. That is a reduction of \$257,424.66. The breakdown of that debt is as follows: unpaid insurance premiums for employees - \$33,497.88, unpaid assessments on our collections - \$202,057.24, unpaid clergy pensions - \$26,479.81, unpaid clergy medical insurance - \$14,096.00, unpaid CSA shortfalls - \$237,754.89, loans from the Archdioce - \$497,472.63.