

## For Inspiration

**World Day of the Sick**

**February 11, 2018**

### Message of Pope Francis

[https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/papa-francesco\\_20171126\\_giornata-malato.html](https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/papa-francesco_20171126_giornata-malato.html)

#### A Prayer for Sick Persons to Use

I reach out to you, my God, in this time of need. Carry me on the difficult days when I have no strength. Wrap me in your love when I am discouraged. May your grace wash over me and refresh me. And as you hold me tenderly in the palm of your hand, I ask for healing of all my afflictions. Amen

Recurro a ti, Dios mío, en este momento de necesidad. Llévame en los días difíciles, cuando no me queden fuerzas. Envuélveme en tu amor, cuando me desaliente. Que tu gracia me cubra y me refresque. Y mientras me sostienes con ternura en la palma de tu mano, te pido que cures todas mis aflicciones. Amén

#### A Prayer for Caregivers to Use

Lord, Be present to us today as we do the work of your hands. Embolden us as we care for those entrusted to us. Grant us the skill and the patience needed to serve all we meet. May we always be a compassionate presence, a listening ear, and a voice of reason in the chaos that sometimes envelops those we serve. Help us to be beacons of light, hope, and promise along the way. And when the dawn of a new day arrives, renew and refresh us as we begin anew. Amen

Señor, preséntate hoy ante nosotros mientras hacemos el trabajo de tus manos. Danos valentía mientras cuidamos a los pacientes que nos han confiado. Danos la destreza y la paciencia necesarias para ayudar a todos aquellos que conocemos. Que siempre seamos una presencia compasiva, un oído atento, y la voz de la razón en el caos que a veces agobia a quienes cuidamos. Ayúdanos a ser faros de luz, esperanza y promesa a lo largo del camino. Y cuando llegue un nuevo amanecer, renuévanos y refréscanos al comenzar de nuevo. Amén.

#### A Prayer We All Can Use

O God, Everlasting Love, enfleshed in Christ Jesus, poured upon us through the Holy Spirit, we come to You to offer our prayer for those who are ill.

Tender, compassionate God, fill us with compassion to receive all who are ill with your love.

Life-giving God, fill us with faith to assure those who are suffering, that their pain will blossom into life.

Strength-giving God, pour into all who care for the sick, the embracing, enduring love of Jesus.

God, Source of Love, fill researchers with vision and courage that will bear fruit in healing.

Welcoming God, receive the loved ones who have died and whom we commend into your hands.

Righteous God, empower us to work for justice in our health care system.

Strengthen our trust that you hear every prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, you are the refuge of sinners, the health of the sick, and the comfort of the afflicted. By your appearances at the Grotto of Lourdes you made it a privileged sanctuary where your favors are given to people streaming to it from the whole world. Over the years countless sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, whether of soul, mind, or body. Therefore I come with limitless confidence to implore your motherly intercession for \_\_\_\_\_. O Loving Mother, let me strive to imitate your virtues on earth so that I may one day share your glory in heaven.

AS A DISCIPLE, IT WASN'T EASY TO SNEAK AWAY FROM JESUS FOR A DAY OF GOLF.

Can't join you today, Lord.  
Got a cold.

You're healed.

rats.



## Let us pray for Vocations!

### Time with our Vocation Prayer Chalice

by Peg Nagem

I get the chalice home on Sunday, open the case, and place the chalice and paten on the stand beside my prayer chair. I want it to be the first thing I see in the morning and the last thing I see at night. The case always contains a few prayers I can use, but I have one I like inside my prayer book. Somehow, there is more light in the room with the chalice there.

The rest of Sunday afternoon and evening is no different than any other Sunday, but at night, before I sleep, before night prayer, I thank God for the priests, living and dead, who have given me Eucharist, who have been Eucharist for me. I pray the prayer for vocations I keep in my prayer book. Night prayer, then sleep. The last thing I see before I close my eyes is the chalice.

In the morning, as I wake, I say, "Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praises." The first thing I see is the chalice. Just seeing the chalice prompts me to talk with God. "How can I answer Your call today? Keep me mindful in my interactions with others, so I can support those who are starting to hear Your voice calling them to a life of holy service.

Some days, I pray with the chalice at my side in the morning and in the night, but there are days when time gets away from me. For those times, I trust God to know what is in my heart. And my gaze rests for a moment on the chalice as I rise, and again at night before I sleep.

*Every household is encouraged to take the chalice home for a week. Please sign the list in the Gathering Space to reserve your week!*

**We will have a Holy Hour for Vocations to Holy Orders and Consecrated Life Thursday, March 22  
12:30pm-1:30pm in our Chapel**

### Vocation Message from Saint Paul

**Whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved.**

*May we all cultivate this desire to do everything for the glory of God and for the salvation of all people! May many men and women allow the Holy Spirit to lead them to Holy Orders and Consecrated Life for generous ministry so that all may know God's love!*

**31 Club Tip:** Participants can set up a monthly repeating reminder on their smart phone calendar to pray for vocations on the day they selected.

All parishioners are welcome to join our **Vocations Committee** which will meet again Sunday, March 11 at 10:15am in the Parish Office

## Pope Emeritus Benedict told the new Pope Francis, “I promise my total obedience”

Fifth anniversary of the renunciation: former Secretary Xuereb recounts those “strong moments” to Vatican news: that phone call from the new Pope with the cordless phone after dinner



The embrace between Francis and Benedict XVI on the day of the opening of the Jubilee of Mercy, 8 December 2015

by ANDREA TORNIELLI in VATICAN CITY

*Monsignor Alfred Xuereb, from Malta, today secretary general of the Vatican Secretariat for the Economy, formerly special secretary of Benedict XVI (2007-2013), was interviewed by Alessandro Gisotti for Vatican news, the Holy See’s unified media portal.*

I heard Pope Emeritus Benedict say to Pope Francis on the phone, “Holiness, I promise from now on my total obedience and my prayer”. These are moments I cannot forget...”. These were Pope emeritus’ first words to his successor on the evening of his election. Ratzinger was able to repeat to the newly elected Bishop of Rome, the words he had spoken at his last meeting with the cardinals before leaving the Apostolic See, when, without knowing who would his successor be, he had told them, “Among you there is also the future Pope to whom I promise my unconditional reverence and obedience”.

“What are the strongest moments?” “Obviously - Xuereb says - “those tied to his renunciation. I remember very well on 5 February 2013 when Pope Benedict invites me to sit in his studio and announces the great decision of his renunciation. At first, it almost came naturally to ask him, “But why don’t you think about it a little bit? But then I refrained [from asking] because I was convinced that he had been praying for a long time. I was reminded of a detail. For a fairly long period, when he, in the sacristy, before he began to celebrate mass in the private chapel, remained in prayer for a long time; and despite the clock striking the hour of the beginning of mass, he ignored it and remained gathered in front of the crucifix in the sacristy. I believed, then, that he was praying for something very important. That 5 February, when I was listening to Pope Benedict’s great decision, I thought, “So, most probably, he was praying for this very reason! Then, of course, another strong moment was the public announcement during the consistory of February 11th. I cried the entire time, and even during lunch he understood that I was very emotional and I told him, “Holy Father, but were you calm, were you serene? And he answered me with a firm “yes”, because he had already gone through his labor. He was serene precisely because he was sure that he had examined the thing well and that he was in peace, in God’s will!”.

About the gesture of renunciation, Xuereb defined it as “grandiose” and “heroic”: “He understood especially during the flight in Mexico that he was no longer able to make long journeys. And soon was due the World Youth Day in Brazil, and so he realized that he was no longer able to travel, to make all these efforts... He made a heroic act, in my opinion, because he thought rather of the Church, of the love for the Church which was much greater than the love for himself, for his ego. He did not mind what people might say on his account, that perhaps he did not have the courage to go forward... He always remained calm, once he understood that God asked him to do this act of government, loving the Church more than himself”.

Speaking of the cordial relationship between Benedict and his successor, Xuereb said, “Before Pope Francis comes out before the world, from the Loggia of St. Peter’s Basilica, he tries to call Pope Benedict to greet him. We were in the television room, where the telephone is always silent, so we did not hear it, and this explains Pope Francis’ delay to the Loggia. Then, they called us again during dinner and asked us, “But, where were you?” We were in front of the TV! “Pope Francis will call you after dinner”. I took my cordless phone with me, this phone call arrives and I pass the phone to Pope Benedict and I hear him say, “Holiness, I promise from now on my total obedience and my prayer”. These are moments that I cannot forget.

Finally, Pope Ratzinger’s former special secretary stressed that the choice “to live a retreated life” was taken “precisely in order to be able to prepare for the final encounter with the Lord”, but “living this with profound spirituality, offering prayers and also offering the fragility of his health condition in favor of the Church, for the Pope and for the Church”

## Blessed Sacrament Parish 2018 Parish Goals and Objectives

Updated 2/6/18

### **Goal #1: Increase participation of young adults and young families in parish life.**

(Team Members: John Gianola, Tom McLane, Katie Kobyra)

Objective #1: Put together a "Young Family Support Group" which can meet either formally or informally to go over anything, kids, life, church, etc. Perhaps meet for coffee between masses or something similar. Create a Facebook group for young families. Put together a "Young Family Resource Packet"

Facebook group up and running. A daytime "day out" for Christmas shopping is scheduled for November 19 1-4pm [Nov/2017] Event was held. A Saturday date night is planned for the near future.

Objective #2: Organize a "New Parents Group" specifically to help people who are pregnant for the first time. [NEW Jan/17] Develop a baby sitting list of recommendations for parents who need baby sitters.

Nothing to Report [Nov/2017] This is still pending. The team is reluctant to put a list of babysitters online. We are looking at the possibility of coordinating a place for people to call in to find a babysitter in their area.

### **Goal #2: Increase participation of youth faith formation and youth ministry.**

(Team Members: Travis Green, Molly Linehan, Vince Stricker, Peg Nagem, CYO)

Objective #1: Gather stakeholders and identify areas of concern with the poor teen attendance of Sunday faith formation outside of sacramental preparation.

While implementation plans have been made, there has been no progress to date. Per Vince, the plans include setting up a meeting with the stakeholders (parents, youth, FF teachers etc.) to discuss alternatives. It was also suggested that Sunday evening faith formation classes for our middle school and high school students might be a good alternative to the Sunday Morning classes.

We are currently having monthly faith formation meetings for our middle school and high school students. The first one was held 10/1/17. The second one was held in conjunction with Labor 4 Neighbors on 11/5/17. They include Mass, Prayer, study, and fellowship.

This is being addressed with what Mark is doing with the monthly Youth Meetings. There were 11 youth at latest meeting. CYO is planning meeting this coming Sunday to work on future directions.

### **Goal #3: Minister to those in need in our community through new social services and social service partnerships.**

(Team Members: Matt Crabtree, Kay Margocee, Jo Stone, Mary Pat Peck)

Objective 1: Continue to work with liaisons and all partners in community service and assist them with needs in the coming year.

A partners meeting was held last on January, 30. They want us to continue to let Mary Pat know and liaison with them.

#### **Goal #4: Enhance the experience of new parishioners.**

(Team Members: Susan Churchill, David Elliott, Joe Gresham, Bob Lucas)

Objective #1: We will contact parishioners who have registered in the last year to determine what we could do better to improve their experiences.

Survey was posted on Facebook and the website. Due to the nature of SurveyMonkey we cannot use email for direct access to the survey for multiple responses. We must use the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Z76ZNJ7>.

The survey will run for two months, and then the data will be compiled and released to Father John, the Church Staff, and the council within two months after that.

Additional objectives for Goal Four will be gleaned from those results and added then.

The survey has not yet been released. Father John will send his suggestions to the team for the survey. We will review them, update the survey, and reply to Father John so that he can publicize and release it.

“Come Home” message: There have been two “Come Home” videos created. One is on the home page of the website. The other is a short message by Father Harry Dunn, noting that people drive by our church every day. We need to welcome these and all people in.

Room numbers are not on inside of the doors. The team feels these are necessary so that the room numbers will be displayed when the doors are open. Also, there are still a few doors that have not been labeled. Dave will follow up with Natalie.

Objective #2: Every 3-6 months put a page of pictures and contact info for new members.

We could take a picture or they could bring a picture and make it like a page in the directory. This as a matter of welcoming as well as informing the community. It would be optional, of course.

#### **Goal #5: Enhance and Support the Parish Faith Formation Program**

(No updates [Nov 2017] No members present at February meeting.)

Objective #1: Design program themes for Parish Faith Formation that will be attractive to various interests.

As an aid, consider that the range of Parish Faith Formation consists of four (4) primary components, consisting of Youth Education (CCD), Sacramental Preparation, RCIA, and Adult Faith Formation. Each of these components will have subsets (such as CCD at various age levels), and there will be some overlap with other components (i.e., Sacramental Preparation). Under a central Parish Coordination (i.e., Jeanne Haas), a relative support team should be established, if currently nonexistent, for each of the four primary components of Faith Formation, to meet, plan, schedule, and assist with the offerings of each of the four Faith Formation components.

NOTE: The primary need is in the Adult Faith Formation, as the others appear to be operating smoothly, and within required frameworks. We also recognize the scope of the Faith Formation is massive, and commendations are due to Jeanne Haas for her ongoing efforts.

Under this recommended structure, the Parish Pastoral Council should request a presentation and discussion from the Pastoral Associate, at least annually, on the status, development, and needs of the Faith Formation Programs. Such presentation(s) should address the status, needs, scheduling, and attendance at such offerings, and developing trends.

NOTE: We would seek to identify all Adult Faith Formation offerings and the number of registrants per offering, in order to assist in this effort.

The Pastoral Council should facilitate the coordination of needs and requirements for Faith Formation by coordinating the flow of information from such gatherings as the MAC, certain faith formation conferences, the educational and experiential background and areas of parish members, etc.

A member or members of the Pastoral Council will attend 2017 Mid- Atlantic Conference at Baltimore, Maryland, February 16-18, and focus on offerings about Faith Formation.

Adult Faith Formation, to the greatest extent possible, should focus on the establishment of Small Faith Communities.

We seek to ensure that at least two Adult Faith Formation programs are offered each term (Spring and Fall), and readdress the possibility of a Summer program, geared toward the more sporadic attendance to be expected in those months.

To the extent possible, we should examine ways, through program offerings and Parish interaction, to encourage more representation of Youth and Young Adults in Faith Formation offerings.

Rick talked to Jeanne about adult faith formation. The team is considering benchmarks to determine current interests of parishioners. Rick will work on this. The team would like to see more CCHS students participating in classes.

Objective #2: Reintroduce Formation Sessions on Catholic Social Teachings and/or Social justice PENDING [NEW]  
This could be as ongoing session, or as a series of offerings. Appropriate time(s) for this Faith Formation offering (i.e., Sunday vs weeknight) should be determined by our Parish Leadership to best meet our Parish needs, and result in the largest attendance possible.

Program should focus on current Catholic Social Teachings and their development over time, as well as whether any "change" or adaptation could be "changing the Church".

Special emphasis and focus should be placed on the American Catholic Church since 1820, and the development and accomplishments of the USCCB, and its predecessors.

Offerings should be "nonpolitical", to the greatest extent possible.

Offerings should demonstrate how Catholic activism has helped bring change and progress in many areas. Explain the Church's fears in the face of many movements, and the pace of change over time.

Objective #3: Reestablish the Blessed Sacrament Social Justice Committee  
PENDING [NEW]

Discuss the many social justice concerns that are current and/or potential.

Prioritize the issues that can be addressed, and the resources that are available to be used to address them.

Seek out and partner with other groups addressing similar actions and responses on any issue, and share those connections and actions to the overall Committee.

Ensure that all information is gathered to fully understand all factors, legal or social, involved in any issue, or actions that could be taken in response.

Communicate frequently with Parish leadership, especially our Pastor, to exchange information on designated or pending issues, to ensure forms of activism are appropriately reflective of our Church and community.

Regularly provide reports to our PPC, and develop messages for our Weekly Bulletin.

**Objective #4:** Establish a Monthly Movie Night for one Saturday night each month, following the Saturday evening Mass. If possible, we would like to create this as a regular Dinner Theater for the entire parish. The primary focus on the movies would be Social Justice issues. These should, as much as possible, be for all ages, encompassing a “Night Out” for young parents, a “Family Night” for parents with older children, and a Community event for the whole Parish, with the desired effect being an integration of all ages and backgrounds.

To successfully establish this, we will need:

A small Committee to review the movies to select the appropriate and relevant offerings, including analysis of the social justice issue(s) portrayed.

Assistance from our communications expert to assist in setting up the movies for viewing, once selected by the movie review Committee.

Consider the issues involved in planning on food items to make available.

Clean up and set up.

Advertising through Bulletin and Parish communications sources.

Discussions with our Youth Minister about the provision of babysitting services on the monthly Movie Night. NOTE: We would like to ensure that this be done on some rotating basis, so that older youth can attend some of the films.

Begin each movie/dinner session with a relevant prayer.

Editor’s Note: The first Movie Night was held at 2:00pm on January 28, 2018. The movie “Selma” was shown. There was much discussion among the 40 people that attended. The Dismas Club supplied fresh popcorn, candy bars, and drinks. Although the movie started late because of technical difficulties, many stayed after to continue their discussions. The consensus of the crowd was that another event would be welcome in the future.



### Out of the Mouths of Babes

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story.

From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek.

She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again.

Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago"

"Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"