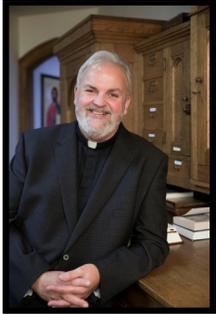


15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



A sower went out to sow.
And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up.
Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil.
It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, for lack of roots.
Some seed fell among thorns and the thorns grew up and choked it.
But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirty-fold.
Whoever has ears out to hear.”
Matthew 13

From The Pastor's Desk



Finding Rich Soil

I've always loved gardening. I often refer to it as my mental health salvation, meaning, gardening provides me with a quiet, meditative action that feeds my mind and soul. But also because of its physicality it helps me – there's something about getting your hands dirty and doing something simple that ends up producing fruit or an abundance of beauty, as well preserves your mental health. You see the results of your labor – the little seeds become enormous plants and flowers and it feeds your soul as well. It's amazing to me.

I've had big gardens and small gardens. I've planted all kinds of vegetables and flowers. The farmer in Jesus' parable this Sunday uses the broadcast method. Lots of seed cast everywhere. And predictably, many of these seeds do not produce. Some get eaten by birds. Some sprout but then wither. Some seedlings get choked out by weeds. Finally a few yield varying amounts of grain. At the end of the passage, Jesus says "they who have ears, let them hear." In other words, he wants us to learn something and take some action steps. We are meant to view this image from two different angles.

The First way to Look at this Passage

The first is to look at the story as if we are the seed. Many who hear the Gospel never seem to "get it." The message is stolen before it ever takes root. The statistics tell us that about 50% of Catholic kids who receive the sacraments disappear somewhere between age 18 and 25. I think there's a lot of reasons this happens. Sometimes, it's parents who do not take their responsibility to be the first teachers of their children in the faith.

Sometimes I've witnessed families disintegrate for a lot of reasons, and kids get left in the lurch, lost and sometimes divided by one parent who doesn't practice the faith and another who does or the family simply slips away and stops practicing for one reason or another.

Sometimes, like the George Gallup Polls tell us, 89% of lifelong, regular churchgoers have values and lifestyles identical to those of their pagan neighbors. Their faith has been neutralized by poor formation or worldliness, so though they look like have every opportunity to produce good fruit, their lifestyle chokes the seed.

And then there are those who surprise us; they have not been raised in a faith-filled family, they appear, at first to be very secular, and yet something happens, a tragedy or crisis, or they hear the Good News – and with the power of the Holy Spirit, God breaks in, and they respond.

And there are a thousand other scenarios. It's hard being a Catholic parent, it's hard being a Catholic family these days. It's hard being a Christian in today's society. The world is aggressively indoctrinating our young people with all kinds of messages. There are all kinds of challenges. Being a Catholic today is not for wimps.

This parable could be saying to us on one level: "Be careful. If you don't make the effort to get thoroughly rooted in your

Catholic faith, you just might not make it. But I have created you so that you bear much fruit (John 15), to be a saint. Don't settle for anything less!" it's interesting that Thomas Merton, the great Trappist monk and writer of the 20th century said: "In the future, we will either be mystics or atheists..."

The Second way to Look at this Passage

On the other hand, we could look at the parable from the perspective of the sower. There is a certain abandon to the image of the parable this weekend.

The sower throws the seed with abandon, almost recklessly. It's a risky way of doing it. He knows that some of that seed won't succeed, but He is willing to risk it. That should remind us that that's our God; He is generous. Grace is given generously by God to us. We have free will. We are free to do with it what we really want. God will not treat us like little puppets – controlling us, making us do what He wants. **We** must cooperate. **We** must choose the narrow way (remember the Gospel a few weeks ago?) But God continues to act generously and mysteriously, beyond our total comprehension.

When Jesus sowed the Word to His disciples, much of it still ended up as bird food. Consider the thousands He fed with loaves and fishes, the multitude that heard his sermon on the mount, the throngs that welcomed him on Palm Sunday. Yet on the day of Pentecost, there were only 120 left in Jerusalem, awaiting the Holy Spirit. Notice, though, that the fruit borne by these 120 plants eventually filled the whole world!

We can get depressed as we look around the world, around the Church, around our parishes. But we must never forget God's perspective, what He can do with one person, or a small group of people. He is the sower, not us. He is free to do as He wills. He is generous, are we?

God bless,
Fr. Dennis



"Returns" for Vocations" Update Sorting and Counting July 11th

The Fowler Knights of Columbus annual fundraiser "Returns for Vocations" will commence this year on Saturday July 11th.

If you haven't already done so and would like to support with a monetary donation please utilize the envelopes in this weekends bulletin.

To make a monetary donation there are two options available:

1. Place donation in envelope provided in the bulletin or an enveloped marked "Returns for Vocations" and place it in the church collection basket or drop it off at the rectory.
2. Mail the donation to the Knights of Columbus:

**Fowler Knights of Columbus
P.O. Box 64, Fowler, MI 48835**

(Please make checks payable to "Fowler Knights of Columbus" with a memo "Returns for Vocations" in lower left corner of check.)

Thank you,
Fowler Knights of Columbus

MHT PARISH FESTIVAL

PANDEMIC-STYLE

JULY 25 & 26, 2020

FOOD TRUCKS, 5K, VOLLEYBALL,
MONEY & QUILT RAFFLE

MHT Parish Booths

The booths listed below are sponsored by the parish and will be located on the east side of the Activity Center.

- **Country Store**—The Country Store returns this year! Please consider bringing one of the following items but also feel free to make your favorite dessert instead! Items should be placed in non-returnable containers, zip-lock bags, or other unused bags and marked with the type of baked good they contain. Please consider bringing the following items:
 - 3 Dozen Cinnamon Rolls
 - 4 Dozen Cookies, Bars, or Brownies
 - 2 Double Crusted Pies
 - 3 Loaves of Homemade Bread
- **Pop/Drink Stand** - We will have Pop, Water, and Gatorade for sale as usual.
 - Our Food Court Committee is also making BBQ Pork to sell in bulk for anyone who interested in taking some home at \$10/lb
- **Raffle Ticket Return Booth** - Since we won't have the big tent this year we will have a booth to collect Quilt and Raffle tickets near the Activity Center.

Food Truck Lineup!

- Papa B's BBQ**
- George's Elephant Ears & Fries**
- Kona Ice Truck**
- Les Shephard's Homemade Ice Cream**
- Rosie's Kettle Corn**
- Takos El Viejon (Authentic Mexican Food)**

Quilt and Raffle Tickets

Tickets are available in main entrance of the church! Any tickets turned in by Monday, July 13th will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 script gift card. Those turned in before Monday, July 20th will be eligible for a \$25 script gift card drawing. Thanks for supporting our parish with this important fundraiser!

MHT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



JULY 25, 2020

Waldron School
11214 W Kent St





Game time: 8 AM

Please arrive by 7:30 to warm up.

The 2020 MHT Parish 4-on-4 co-ed tournament with a competitive and recreational division will be Saturday, July 25th behind the Waldron Middle School in Fowler. The cost is \$80 per team with the first game starting at 8:00 AM, but teams should arrive at least 15 minutes early for registration. The entry deadline is Wednesday, July 22nd. To enter your team, visit our Parish website: www.mhtparish.com or contact Mike and Rebecca at feldpauschmr@hotmail.com

MOST HOLY TRINITY

FOWLER FESTIVAL



5k

Run, Walk, or Stroller

Use RunSignUp.com link to register!

Come and enjoy running or walking through scenic Fowler, Michigan neighborhoods and on the rail trail as part of the Most Holy Trinity church festival weekend! The first wave of the 5K will start on Saturday, July 25th at 6:30 PM. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic several changes will be made to the race in an effort to ensure participant safety. Changes include staggering race start times by age group and omitting the kid's dash. We are still looking forward to an exciting and enjoyable race! Sign up on the parish website!



06
Community Rosary

Our parish Knights of Columbus will be leading the rosary on the Wednesdays of July by the Grotto, after the evening Mass. We will observe social distancing. This is a good way to fulfill the pope's request to pray the rosary for an end to the pandemic.



Congratulations to **Clara Thelen & Sawyer Thelen** as they receive their First Holy Communion at the 8:30am Mass Sunday, July 12th; and to **Andrew Epkey** as he receives at the 7:00pm Mass on Monday, July 13th, and **Madilynn Schneider** on Wednesday, July 15th.

May God fill you with the Spirit & make you one with Christ in peace & love. Blessings on your First Communion!



Daily Rosary at 10am

All are welcome to join us every morning at 10am (from your homes) for a rosary and divine mercy chaplet. Our intention this week is for the light of Christ to replace racism with peace & unity among all of mankind. Amen.



50/50 Support the Faith Raffle

Thank you to all who took part in the Knights of Columbus Support the Faith 50/50 Raffle.

This weeks winners of the \$100 raffle are: **Brent Simon, Rosie VanElls & Regina Feldpausch**

Sponsor of the Week

Our thanks to the many businesses that make it possible for the bulletin to be cost-free to our parish.

Pat Feldpausch Farms



Can a Catholic support Black Lives Matter (BLM)?

We all saw the grave injustice done to George Floyd when police officers in Minneapolis held him down by the neck and killed him. Our country has been struggling with the sin and

injustice of racism for a long time. I remember as a child watching TV when Fr. King was murdered and I remember my mother telling me about the race riots in Detroit, Michigan. Our country has been scarred by racism.

As a result of this the tragic death of George Floyd, an

enormous outpouring of protest and outrage has been enveloping our nation. These things are clearly a call to examine and eradicate the roots of racism and bigotry. One of the responses has been the movement, "Black Lives Matter."

What does a Catholic do?

What is our response to be regarding racism?

Recently our bishop was asked by a freelance journalist asking if we endorsed the organization, Black Lives Matter. His response was based upon what the Church teaches on racism and other matters and also what BLM declares as their stated aims on their website and elsewhere. For example:

Black Lives Matter's platform states:

"We make space for transgender brothers and sisters to participate and lead. We are self-reflexive and do the work required to dismantle cisgender privilege and uplift Black trans folk, especially Black trans women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by trans-antagonistic violence. We disrupt the Western-prescribed nuclear family structure requirement by supporting each other as extended families and "villages" that collectively care for one another, especially our children, to the degree that mothers, parents, and children are comfortable.

We foster a queer-affirming network. When we gather, we do so with the intention of freeing ourselves from the tight grip of heteronormative thinking, or rather, the belief that all in the world are heterosexual (unless s/he or they disclose otherwise)."

The full text of that statement is here:

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-we-believe/>

Based upon that, the bishop's response was set out as below:

As mandated by the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Holy Church, the diocese of Lansing categorically opposes the wickedness that is racism wherever it is to be found. Indeed, the foundation of Catholic social teaching is the infinite worth and intrinsic dignity of each and every human person, from conception to natural death; hence, black lives matter. Thus, the Catholic community across the United States has always stood in solidarity with anybody who peacefully pursues this just and noble cause.

That said, the diocese cannot give its endorsement to the organization Black Lives Matter. As set out in its "What We Believe" statement, many of its policy declarations are inimical to a Catholic understanding of human dignity, personal happiness and the common good. Most notably, the organization's stance on matters relating to marriage, the family and human sexuality, including its promotion of a transgender ideology.

Many of the parishes, including Most Holy Trinity, the clergy and lay faithful across the diocese of Lansing are currently undertaking six weeks of prayer and fasting in order to seek peace, justice and reconciliation for all the peoples of the United States, in the lead-up to the anniversary of the death of Venerable Augustus Tolton (1854–1897). He was a former slave who became the first black priest in the United States, in recognition that the solution to all the ills of our dear, yet divided, nation lie in earnestly bringing our fears, our hopes, our anger, our tears, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Please pray for our friends and relatives who are sick or recovering, especially: Ardith Graham, Regina Martin, Sean Dush, Charlene Thelen, Davison Curtin, Luke Martin, Sara Sanchez, Melissa Schulte, Marie Hengesbach, Edward Wohlscheid, Linda Rogala, Sarah Weber, Julie Wieber Schafer, Bill Barns, Bob Marshall, Dennis Smith, Sandy Herta, Dick Rehmann, Janet Simmon, Scott Kus, Steve Thelen, Tracy Schmitt, Frank Hufnagel, Jenine Kloeckner, Jennifer Ledger, Josiah Ledger, Jordy Wohlscheid, Jennifer Grace Schrauben, Janet Simon, Dale Young, Richard Bushamp, Therese Kramer, Christopher Martin, Theresa Heeg, Jeff Wadell, Charles Wadell, Chuck Welch, Jeanne Alaga, Milo Platte, Timothy D. Thelen, Marilyn Dixon, Carolee Smith, Charles Miller, Father Den Morrow, Gary Schueller, Ray Hamilton, Ralph Feldpausch, Dane VanElls, Elaine Kramer, Brian Ritter, David & Judy Maniez, Tricia Beauchamp, Nancy Theis and Neil Hafner.

Please contact the office to add or remove a name from the list. Thank you.

Let us also keep in our prayers all those from the Parish Community who are in the Armed Services.



Happy 90th Birthday
Alfred Halfmann!
(on July 14th)



Please help us honor Sr. Rita Martin with a card shower as she celebrates her 100th Birthday on July 25th!

Please mail cards to:
5635 Erie St.
Racine, WI 53402

God Bless this wonderful lady!

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

- Monday - July 13**
7:00pm + Steven & Brian Bierstetel & Living & Deceased Members of the Family
- Tuesday - July 14**
9:00am + Dan Fedewa & Living & Deceased Members of the Family
- Wednesday - July 15**
6:00pm **Eucharistic Adoration**
7:00pm + Richard Schmitz
- Thursday - July 16**
9:00am + Roy Smith
- Friday - July 17**
9:00am + Joseph Schueller, Including Riley
- Saturday - July 18**
3:30pm **Confession**
- Sunday - July 19**
8:30am Robert & Donna Halfmann on their 40th Wedding Anniversary
10:30am + Louise Feldpausch

Our Parish Stewardship
God's Treasure at Most Holy Trinity

July 5th Collection	\$11,180.00
Special Collections	
Newspapers.....	\$ 80.00
Capital Improvement.....	\$ 210.00

Monthly Finance Report For June

Sunday Collection-All Sources.....	\$60,681.00
Sunday Collections-Year to Date.....	\$696,368.05
Sunday Collections- FY 19 Budget.....	\$675,000.00
Percentage Collected Through June.....	103.16%

Scripture Readings for the Week of July 12, 2020

Monday	Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mt 10:34—11:1
Tuesday	Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8; Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday	Is 10:5-7, 13b-16; Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15; Mt 11:25-27
Thursday	Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19; Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21; Mt 11:28-30
Friday	Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8; Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16; Mt 12:1-8

Pastor - Fr. Dennis Howard
fr.dennis@hotmail.com

Office Hours - 8am-noon, 1-3pm
Parish Office - 593-2162
Email: office@mhtparish.com

MHT School - 593-2616
Email: school@mhtparish.com

Thank You

The Family of Charlie Halfmann would like to sincerely thank everyone for their prayers, donations, cards, flowers and food brought to the house. Your kind words and thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated during our difficult time. A special thank you to the Fowler VFW Post 3733 for participating in the graveside service and visiting the funeral home.

In lieu of thank you cards, the family will be making a donation to the MHT Educational Trust Fund.

God Bless and thank you again,
Marilyn Halfmann
Dave & Donna Halfmann
Deb & Todd Wines
Cheri & Jim Theis
Pam & Chris Ervin