

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1812 Lynn Avenue • Altoona, Wisconsin 54720 Vol. 44 • No. 28

FROM THE SEMINARIAN'S DESK

What is the role of faith in our human experience according to St. John Paul II?

According to John Paul II's analysis of the role of faith in human experience, it is faith that shapes the everyday lives and actions of men and women whether they profess a faith in the Christian God or not and this faith is inherently professed in the innate human need to search for truth. All men and women, regardless of their religious orientation, believe in something. It is inherent in human nature to profess a belief whether it is professed by words or by actions, by the way we carry ourselves.

According to *Fides et Ratio*, human beings have a "moral obligation to seek the truth and to adhere to it once it is known" (FR 25) And the search for truth involves believing. According to St. John Paul II, all human beings are on a path of searching for the truth. Human beings seek to find out the answers to the big questions, mainly, "We want to know if death will be the definitive end of our life or if there is something beyond- if it is possible to hope for an after-life or not." (FR 26). It is the search for answers to big questions such as this that motivates the human search for truth. To arrive at this truth, we must be willing to believe in answers that it would not be possible for us to prove; answers provided by others. One problem is who will we believe. According to William C. Mattison "belief enables us to cling to some answers as true, often with great certitude based upon the person whom we believe." (Mattison 2008, 220). Mattison also sheds some light on how belief and reason merge seamlessly under the banner of the Christian faith, for "Christian faith satisfies what human persons long for by nature: to know the truthful answers to big-picture questions based on trust in some reliable person." (Mattison 2008, 223) By this statement, the implication is clear that the one true and reliable person in whom we can entrust ourselves to believe answers which we ourselves cannot prove in order to arrive at the truth is Jesus Christ.

According to St. John Paul II, we all believe in something, whether it be misguided or not. Our beliefs stem from the family and social systems into which we have been born. Our beliefs are based on truths which we have not personally verified. According to St. John Paul II, "there are in the life of a human being many more truths which are simply believed than truths which are acquired by way of personal verification." (FR 31). Believing without personal verification establishes and develops a much more intimate relationship between persons than personal empirical knowledge because it involves, according to St. John Paul II, "not only a person's capacity to know but also the deeper capacity to entrust oneself to others, to enter into a relationship with them which is intimate and enduring." (FR 32) It is this capacity to entrust oneself to others that comes into play in the relationship of faith in our experience of the divine. To entrust oneself to an idea, to a verb, to a being whose existence one has not personally experienced in terms of special extension is a much deeper relationship than to believe in someone whose existence is conditional on our having witnessed its physicality.

It is not of importance whether we refrain to profess our beliefs by words because we all profess what we believe in through our actions and the way we carry ourselves. According to Mattison, "even if you were to try to avoid consciously thinking about these big-questions, how you live your life would still reveal your answers." (Mattison 2008, 216). St. John Paul II hints at this way of revealing your answers by (Cont. on pg. 2)

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Prayer Chain ... generalbook@charter.net
St Mary's School Office 715-830-2278
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Parish Staff

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Director of Religious Education,

Mary Kneer 715-835-1692

Director of Sacred Music,

Josh Gallagher 262-203-3552

Maintenance, M Marcon ... 715-855-1294

Schedule of Masses

Weekend:

Saturday (vigil)	4:00 pm
Sunday	11:00 am
	1:00 pm (Spanish)
<i>Mass at St. Raymond's Sat. 6:00 pm</i>	
	<i>Sun. 8:30 am</i>

Sacramental Celebrations

Confession: St. Mary's: Saturday from 10:00 am -12:00 pm or by appointment.
St. Raymond's: Thursday at 7:00-9:00 pm
Baptism: Call parish office for appointment.
Marriage: At least six months advance notice. Call parish office for appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS

July 11/19

Sat. 4:00 pm † Leonard Bauer
Sun. 11:00 am Priest's Intention
1:00 pm Spanish Mass: Priest's Intention
Mon. No Mass
Tue. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond's
Wed. 8:00 am † Fran Wilger
Thu. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond's
11:00 am Mass at Oakwood Villa
Fri. 9:00 am † Paul Weir
Sat. 4:00 pm † Dorothy Schmit
Sun. 11:00 am Priest's Intention
1:00 pm Spanish Mass: Priest's Intention

FROM THE SEMINARIAN'S DESK (CONT. FROM PG. 1)

the way you live your life when he speaks of the big questions commonly "found in the sacred writings of Israel, as also in the Veda and the Avesta; we find them in the writings of Lao-Tze, and in the preaching of Tirthankara and Buddha. A person could refrain from professing our beliefs verbally, but the way we live our lives always reveals the content of what we believe.

Because all human beings seek their own perfection and no perfection can be reached until one achieves a satisfactory level of understanding about the truth to the big questions of our eternal destiny, all human beings are on an inherent and moral obligation to seek the truth to satisfy our own desire for this truth. In the search for truth, it is necessary for us to entrust ourselves to others who provide to us answers which would be impossible for us to personally verify. In the Christian faith, we find that one being in whom we can trust and who provides to us the answers to our search. In the Christian faith we find the answers of a faith professed not necessarily by words, as much as by actions; the actions of one who embodies a Triune entity. The model, the object of our beliefs whose actions we seek to emulate and who discloses a truth that is also the way and the life is the one supreme object of our trust and belief in whose self, God discloses all the supreme truths which culminate in a total and complete act of unquestioning surrender and total act of love.

~Alvaro Diaz

Works Cited:

John Paul II. 1998. Encyclical Letter, *Fides et Ratio*. Vatican City.: To the Bishops of The Catholic Church.

Mattison, William C. 2008. *Introducing Moral Theology: True Happiness and the Virtues*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press.

PARISH & DIOCESAN EVENTS

Fr. Eloy Romero-Roja of Cross Catholic Outreach is visiting our parish this weekend to speak at all the Masses on behalf of the poor in developing countries. Cross Catholic Outreach was founded to create a meaningful link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns working in the Church overseas in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Central and South America.

Witnesses for Christ Conference, August 7-8, 2015, at the La Crosse Center, 300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse. Keynote speaker is Dr. Edward Sri, presenting "Walking with Mary-A Biblical Journey from Nazareth to the Cross." Call Ann at 608-791-2658 or email alankford@diolc.org

Retrouaille: A Lifeline for Struggling Marriages A marriage saving weekend will be on Aug. 21-23 at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon. Register before Aug. 14 by calling 1-877-922-4673 or email cwr.community@gmail.com

SCHOOL NEWS

How much does it cost to provide your child with a quality, faith-based education at Regis Catholic Schools? It might be less than you think!

2015/16 Tuition Rates

Elementary (K-5) \$2,935, **Middle School** (6-8) \$3,060, **High School** (9-12) \$4,770
Monthly Payments, Elementary \$244.58, Middle School \$255, High School \$397.50
Call 715-830-2273, ext. 3 or go to www.RegisCatholicSchools.com for more information.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS

Bingo is every Tuesday evening. Begin selling at 6:00 pm. Early bird bingo starts at 7:00 pm. Regular bingo starts at approximately 7:30 pm. Bring the family and enjoy a fun evening together.

Thank you to our bingo workers for their dedication: **6/30/15** CJ Thurner (supervisor); Rich Kneer (caller); Ralph & Mary Weible, Lori Auth, Sherrie Coenen, Todd Semerad, David Rosener, Phil Rechek, Geoff Wolterstorff (workers); Carol Mastej (pull tab); Hess family (concession). **7/7/15** Bingo workers for their dedication: Carol Mastej, Laurie King (supervisor); Carol Mastej (caller); John & Alice Bauer, Virginia Obias, Barb Chilson, Tim Raap, Sarah Strahm, (workers); Rachel Brogelman (pull tab); Janet Marcon, friends and family (concession). Thank you.



UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

July 8-23, Peru Mission Trip. Please pray for the safety of those traveling. May the lives of our youth and the orphans at Casa Hogar, be enriched with the love and compassion through the witness of Christ in each other

July 12, Social Sunday after 11 a.m. Mass in the Community Center. Come celebrated Harry Boehm's 100th Birthday!

July 16, Young Adult Meeting 6:30-8:30 p.m.

July 27, ABCD's of Medicare 1-3 p.m.

July 26-31, Totus Tuus is a Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness, and Eucharistic worship. And, it's a LOT OF FUN!!! Totus Tuus has two programs: a day program for 1st through 5th graders & a night program for 6th through 12th graders. **Registration forms are in the narthex and on our website.**

July 31, Bike with Fr. Sakowski, leaving St. Mary's parking lot at 6:30 p.m. and returning for a pot luck meal at 7:30 p.m. Call Janet & Bob at 715-878-4900 to RSVP. They will provide the hot dogs.

Aug. 12, Adoration 8:30 a.m.—8:30 p.m. Please sign-up for an our with our Eucharistic Lord. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Adoration is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Please check out the bulletin board for detailed information.

Please submit information for the bulletin by Monday and inserts by Wednesday before that weekend.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Week of July 12, 2015

Sun: Am 7:12-15/Eph 1:3-14
or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13
Mon: Ex 1:8-14, 22/Mt 10:34--11:1
Tue: Ex 2:1-15a/Mt 11:20-24
Wed: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Mt 11:25-27
Thu: Ex 3:13-20/Mt 11:28-30
Fri: Ex 11:10--12:14/Mt 12:1-8
Sat: Ex 12:37-42/Mt 12:14-21
Sun: Jer 23:1-6/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34



LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Weekend of July 18/19

Lectors

4:00 pm M Doney
11:00 am A Diaz

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm R Hanson
11:00 am R Wanke

Servers

4:00 pm T Doney, D Wogernese
11:00 am J & N Mullenberg

Attendant Servers

4:00 pm C Thurner
11:00 am J Fox

Organists

4:00 pm S Alexander
11:00 am J Gallagher

Cantors

4:00 pm R Alexander
11:00 am L Gallagher

Ushers

4:00 pm R Verdegan, M Rohn, C Lynam, P Connell
11:00 am J Kovacevich, M Chilson, T Sykora, R Smeltzer

Counters J Thom, C Mastej, R Olson, I Lewis

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Expecting a child? Begin the baptismal preparation now. The next baptismal prep class at St. Mary's is **Mon., Aug. 10**, 6-7 p.m. and the next brunch is **Sun., Sep. 13**, 12:15-2 p.m. The next luncheon at St. Raymond's is on **Sun., Aug. 16** at 9:45-11:30 a.m., and the baptismal prep class on **Thu., Sep. 10**, at 6-7 p.m. Baptism information, forms, and documents are available online at www.stmarys-altoona.com. At least two (2) months advance notice needed. See website for details, or contact parish office now to start the process.

KNIGHTS NEWS

Regular Monthly Meeting, Mon., May 4, 6 p.m. Officers meeting in the Knights room, followed by regular meeting at 7 p.m.



STEWARDSHIP

6/28/15 Last Week

Adults	\$4,907.00	\$4,912.00
Endowment Fund	\$400.00	\$100.00
Young People.....	\$1.00	\$1.00
Children	\$9.00	\$2.75
Offertory.....	\$499.47	\$530.09
Total	\$5,816.47	\$5,545.84
Capital Campaign (Rec'd to Date)	\$205,381.46	

ELIZABETH MINISTRY



- To add a name, due date/birth date, request a meal, or to volunteer, please call Emily Thurner at 715-864-3048.
- Please pray for those who are expecting.

*Thank you for giving of your time to this ministry.
It is appreciated by those who are blessed.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray For...

Please keep Cliff Abrahamson, Pat Gerseth, Richard Lasiuk, Jim Ramsay, Betty Nelson, JoAnn Deters, N Webb, Sr. Theodore Nelson, Karen Solberg, Shelly Allen, Sheila Lehnen, Foresten Family, Lucille Welter, Mary Beth Pierce, Pat & Don Kamrowski, Lee & Darlene Henrichs, Josh Powers, Linda Gesche, Eileen Niehoff, Megan Olszewski, Roger Forcier, Jeanne Reali, Clarence Nowobielski, Julie Rohn, Arla McFadden, Duane Fanetti, Walt Nguyen, Danell Leland, Karen Wurzer, Linda Gabriel, Rose and Kevin Sigmund, Dick Sires, Sarah Marble, Bob & Betty Haas, Plets family, Erica Nerbonne, Ron Sisko, Steve & Ella May Kassa, Greg Manney, Judy Ciske, Kelly Hawker, Maureen Kollar, Ed Hofacker, Sam P, Eleanor Wildrick, Dave Rosener, Mike Moses, Carol Bridges Rothfusz, Abby Williamson, infant Elizabeth and her parents, Laurie, Lucille Plautz, Kip Schultz, Doreen Bauer, Kristin Soley, Charles P. Steuding, Dylan Snyder, Sue Arrell, Pabich intention, Arline Smeltzer, Melgard intention and their families in your prayers.



REMINDERS & TIDBITS

The Diocesan School of Biblical Studies Series V (2015-2019) begins Aug. 18. Annual tuition is \$250. This is for regular bible readers looking for something "beyond the basics." Call or contact Fr. Mark Pierce at 715-723-7108 frmarkpierce@gmail.com

Men of the Cross Catholic Men's Conference "The Call to Fatherhood", Sat., Oct. 24, at Viterbo University Fine Arts Center, La Crosse. Cost, \$35 /person, \$40 after Oct. 10. To register go to www.menofthecross.org/

NEW Class for Diocesan Lay Formation Institute Begins in Fall of 2015. Draw closer to Christ and deepen your knowledge of the Faith in a joyful community of learners! Register now for the next two-year cycle. Brochures and application forms can be downloaded at www.dioc.org/layformation, where you can also watch a 3-minute slideshow shot at St. Anthony's Retreat Center. If you are interested, discuss this with your pastor and contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at ministries@dioc.org or call (608) 791-2667.

Community Consignment is a strong supporter of Catholic Charities and the Sojourner House, is accepting donations of household items to sell with proceeds going in support of helping the homeless in our community. Contact Community Consignment at 715.829.2384 or Catholic Charities at 715.832.6644. Thank you.

Catholic Charities Annual Utility Appeal has received \$51,309 in requests for utility relief in April. Requests were from families who are facing disconnection and would not be able to turn on their stoves or take a hot showers. Please consider assisting in helping families and individuals in need. All funds raised during our Appeal go directly to help pay unpaid energy bills. You can help by visiting our website at www.cclse.org. Thank you!

\$CRIP NEWS

\$crip Volunteers for next weekend,
4:00 pm (Mary Kneer and volunteer),
11:00 am (Loann Sumner and volunteer)

6/28/15 Last Week

Number of Orders.....	12	10
Amount Sold	\$2,335.00	\$2,075.00
Profit (approximately)	\$116.75	\$103.75
Monthly Profit	\$667.50	\$103.75

Thank You!

For additional \$crip news log onto St. Mary's website:
www.stmarys-altoona.com.

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