November 12, 2017

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

This morning’s Mass is offered in praise and thanksgiving for the beauty of the day.

Announcements

- Adult Faith Formation will meet this morning after Mass, from approximately 9:15-10:15.
- There will be no Mass this Thursday since Father will be out of town.
- A second collection this morning is for food cards for families for Thanksgiving.
- Please check out our new cluster website at holytrinitycluster.org. Your input about what information we want on the site is needed and appreciated. Please see Linda if you have ideas or suggestions.
Did you know... that the federal ‘poverty threshold’ in 2014 for a family of 4 with 2 children 18 or younger is $24,000. However, poverty experts estimate that it takes an income of about twice the official poverty level to cover the cost of family day-to-day needs and achieve basic economic security.

Layman's Terms

November 21st Topic | "Telling the truth about Humanae Vitae"

Layman's Terms is a monthly webinar series hosted for all clergy, lay pastoral leaders, and volunteers to explore a variety of ministry related topics relevant to parish life. This month we pick up again with our "Telling the Truth About..." series. With the 50 year anniversary of the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" coming up next summer, and after celebrating Respect Life Month, we thought it would be a good time to examine the impact this seminal work has had on the Church. We'll also explore the predictions that Pope Paul VI made about the future of our culture as we reflect back over the last 50 years.

Join us for this webinar on Tuesday, November 21st at the usual time of 2:30pm (as a reminder, they are always the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the same time). It is free to attend but you need to register.

DIVINE BREATH
Melanie B. Coddington, Regional Minister

Our 1st Reading on this 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time comes from the Book of Wisdom. Written in Greek during the last century before the birth of Christ, this masterpiece reminds our ancestors in faith of the Divine Wisdom available to them through their practice of Judaism. A small people in a big world, they struggle to hang on to their identity and history in the midst of the glamour and sophistication of the Hellenistic (Greek-influenced) culture. The inspired author of the Book of Wisdom exhorts them to look more closely and deeply at their own tradition and find the presence of God waiting to enrich their lives.

In today’s reading, as in Proverbs 8, the feminine figure of Divine Wisdom actively seeks out followers—sitting by their gates at dawn, making rounds, appearing to them in the ways and meeting them with a warm embrace. This gives the foolish ones who ignore her invitation little excuse. Yet we all know how distracting the world can be.

Keeping vigil for Divine Wisdom means paying attention—listening, watching, waiting for the breath of the Spirit to stir the air around us. This degree of vigilance is difficult to maintain amidst the chaos of our culture. Twenty centuries later, we face the same challenge as our ancestors in faith.

I sense that such vigilance, like any other virtue, requires practice. When we unwittingly allow our senses to be bombarded by unfiltered input, the visual and aural overload of spin and din, we cannot perceive Wisdom or hear her still small voice. Perhaps we need to turn off the chatter, the pundits and politicians, stars and celebrities, and pay attention to our own reality—persons, places, experiences—with an open heart and mind. According to today’s reading, Wisdom will meet us there.

Our present translation of the Nicene Creed references the Holy Spirit as “who.” This broader pronoun makes room for the variety of images traditionally associated with the Spirit, including the figure of Divine Wisdom. Like the Hebrew word for wind, breath and spirit (the feminine Ruah), “who” has a certain onomatopoetic quality. Pronounced with a whoosh, it brings to mind the divine breath it signifies.
Statement by the Virginia Catholic Conference
After the election, the work for life and justice continues

For many months Virginians have watched the political campaigns taking place here and wondered how the outcome would affect the direction of our commonwealth. Yesterday, they made their decisions. Today, we at the Virginia Catholic Conference and in the Catholic Dioceses of Arlington and Richmond assure Governor-elect Ralph Northam and all those elected yesterday of our prayers for them and our appreciation for their answering the call for public service. As they strive to serve the more than eight million men, women and children who live in Virginia, we will work with them whenever possible to ensure Virginia laws and policies reflect the common good and the inherent dignity of every human being – from the very beginning of life, through and until natural death. We pledge to reach out to them and continue to advocate for policies that protect the most vulnerable in Virginia, especially people who are unborn, elderly, sick, poor, immigrants or refugees. We will work for legislation that protects the family, and that assures Virginia continues to respect religious liberty, especially for faith-based entities that serve so many of our sisters and brothers in need. In this great state, foundational to American democracy, we call on Catholics, people of all faiths and good will and all Virginians to work together to address the needs of our commonwealth through respectful dialogue and civility.

If you are not a member of the Conference’s advocacy network, click here to receive regular Conference email alerts and updates. Please like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and sign up for our blog.

In prayer and in public, your voices are urgently needed to bring Gospel values to bear on vital decisions being made by those who represent you.

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The Virginia Catholic Conference is the public policy agency representing Virginia’s Catholic bishops and their two dioceses.

First World Day of the Poor
November 19, 2017

Pope Francis set the ‘First World Day of the Poor’ for November 19, 2017. OSM encourages parishes to participate by bringing attention to local poverty, national and international. Here are four resources you can use.

1. Sample prayers of the faithful
2. An interactive game show with questions about poverty. Download the game show here.

We also encourage parishes to print a list of all ministries that serve the poor in your local parish in your bulletin and invite parishioners to participate by volunteering in these ministries. Learn more about this initiative from Pope Francis.