

## **For Use April 3-4, Easter (B)**

### **Stewardship by the Book**

Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of our faith if, like St. Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.

### **Vocation View**

Fads, organics and supersonics are just fine, but in the long run, settle only for something that rises from the dead. Your ultimate purpose, to live and to breathe, is the message of Jesus. Come, tell His story.

### **Stewardship Reflections**

*"Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." - COLOSSIANS 3:2*

On this day we thank God for His Son, Jesus, who died, rose and opened the gates of heaven for us. We celebrate and sing *"Alleluia."* Let's try to keep the joy of this Easter season in our hearts throughout the year! Pray daily and listen for how God is calling each of us to joyfully use our gifts to fulfill His salvation plan.

### **Family Perspective- by Bud Ozar**

That first Easter morning was confusing. Jesus was missing and Mary Magdalene, Peter and John "did not know" what to do. In family life there are confusing moments when "we don't know" what to do. Like the apostles we are Easter people when we believe and trust in each other even when all seems lost.

### **Saint of the Week- Saint Magdalen of Canossa- Feast Day April 10**

This foundress, born to a noble family in Verona, Italy, lost her father at age 5 and was abandoned by her mother when she remarried. Choosing religious life over an advantageous marriage, Magdalen first joined the Carmelites, but left when she saw that their strict rules of enclosure would prohibit her charitable works. She began a new community, the Canossian Daughters of Charity, in 1799 by bringing two poor girls into her own home. The institute spread throughout Italy, and Magdalen helped found an order of priests and a third order for laypeople. Canossians minister today in Italy, Latin America and the Philippines. Magdalen, who was canonized in 1988, famously said, "Those who love are never tired, since love knows no burden."

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### **Prayers for Priests and Clergy**

## **For Use April 10--11, Second Sunday of Easter-Divine Mercy Sunday (B)**

## **Stewardship by the Book**

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced *total* stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own, but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

## **Vocation View**

Easter: resurrection and new life; a new life, shared from a conquered tomb. This has been the meaning for life for Christian people for thousands of years. There is nothing more secure, nothing more lasting. Come, tell the story.

## **Stewardship Reflections**

*“The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own...” - Acts 4:32*

All that we are and all that we have is a gift from God! Think of your family, your friends, your life, your talents and your money – these are all gifts from God! We aren't really owners of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has blessed us with. We are called to be grateful and generous with all of our gifts for the benefit of others.

## **Family Perspective- by Bud Ozar**

In today's gospel Jesus teaches, “Blessed are those who have not seen and believe.” Accepting someone as they are, without demanding they prove themselves or meet our expectations, creates a rich relationship. Without acceptance a home is only a house and a family is just a group of house mates.

## **Abuse of Minors or Vulnerable Adults by Priests, Deacons or Others**

To report allegations of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults within the Diocese of Gaylord by priests, deacons or other employees or volunteers, regardless of when it occurred, individuals should:

Contact local law enforcement and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (855-444-3911). The Michigan Attorney General's Office has also set up a special phone line for people to share information that may be of help in their ongoing investigation of sexual misconduct by Catholic clergy. That number is 844-324-3374.

You may also contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Larry LaCross, at 989-705-9010.

In the State of Michigan many professionals, including clergy, teachers, doctors, counselors and named others are mandated reporters. This means such individuals are REQUIRED to make an oral or online report IMMEDIATELY to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services if they suspect a child is being neglected or abused in any way. Individuals may call the state report line at the number above, which is answered 24 hours a day, or submit a report online at [https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971\\_7119---00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119---00.html).

The Diocese of Gaylord encourages ANYONE who has reason to suspect a child is being abused or neglected in any way to report the matter to local authorities and the Michigan Attorney General Hotline at 844-324-3374.

### **Saint of the Week-Saint Bernadette Soubirous-Feast Day April 16**

As a child in a poor French family in the Hautes-Pyrenees town of Lourdes, Bernadette suffered both asthma and cholera. Uneducated, she had not made her first Communion by 1858, the year she experienced 18 visions of a beautiful lady calling herself the Immaculate Conception and calling for penance and pilgrimage. Bernadette was unchanged by this extraordinary experience, and in 1866 became a member of the Sisters of Charity, taking the name Maria-Bernarda. Chronically ill after 1875 with worsening asthma and tuberculosis of the bones, she died at age 35. When she was canonized in 1933, it was not for being the Lourdes visionary, but for her simple life of prayer, devotion and obedience.

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**UPCOMING ICON WORKSHOP:** Have you ever considered the art of iconography? Would you like the opportunity to learn how to be an iconographer?

A workshop is scheduled for June 6-12, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. each day, in Mackinaw City at St. Anthony of Padua Church. We are now accepting applications. If you are interested in learning more please call Sister Chris at 231-436-5561 or Jackie Wells at 989-305-5117. Consider joining us for a week of meeting God in the contemplative prayer of icon writing.

### **For Use April 17-18, third Sunday of Easter (B)**

#### **Stewardship by the Book**

The disciples in today's Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we, too, will discover Jesus in our midst.

#### **Vocation View**

What would convince someone to turn to God? The story that God became human? The story that Jesus cured the sick? The story that Jesus forgave sins? Or, perhaps, the story of the witness of your own life? How could you convince someone to turn to God?

#### **Stewardship Reflections**

*"Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' But they were startled and frightened..." - LUKE 24:36-37*

Throughout the day we have many opportunities to “see the face of Jesus” in others and to “be the face of Jesus” to others. Do we take that opportunity to provide “peace” to those we encounter or are we afraid of what others will think of us and do nothing? Pray for the strength and courage to live a “God-centered” life and not a “self-centered” life.

### **Family Perspective- by Bud Ozar**

The apostles were afraid of Jesus until he ate with them and they touched him. In your family the ordinary acts of eating together, touching, embracing not only confirm our love for each other, but also celebrate God’s presence in your family. These “ordinary” moments contain the “Extraordinary.”

### **Saint of the Week-Saint Fidelis of Sigmaringen-Feast Day April 24**

Born in Sigmaringen (Germany), Mark Roy studied philosophy and law at the University of Freiburg in Breisgau. After tutoring young aristocrats and traveling Europe with them, he began practicing law in Alsace, where he quickly became “the poor person’s lawyer.” But, disillusioned over other lawyers’ behavior, he gave up the law to follow a vocation in religious life. As an ordained Capuchin named Fidelis, he was renowned for his holiness, preaching and leadership. He was superior at several houses before being invited to eastern Switzerland to call Protestants back to Catholicism. This mission, complicated by the politics of the time and hatred of the Catholic Habsburgs, became increasingly dangerous and led to his murder by opponents. He was canonized in 1746.

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### **For Use April 24-25, fourth Sunday of Easter (B)**

#### **Stewardship by the Book**

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, “leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf.”

#### **Vocation View**

This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs leaders with courage and integrity. The Church needs good leaders as well. Leaders that will unselfishly care for the needs of God’s people. Please, pray for Vocations.

#### **Stewardship Reflections**

*“I am the good shepherd...and I lay down my life for the sheep...and they will heed my voice.”*

- JOHN 10:14-16

When you pray, do you only ask Jesus for the things that you want? Do you ever ask Him what He wants from you? How do you listen for His response? Many times Jesus responds in “quiet

whispers” that are not so obvious. So, take time every day, in silence, to actively listen for His voice.

### **Family Perspective- by Bud Ozar**

Today’s gospel is a job description for Christian parents. For most people the most influential shepherds in their lives are their PARENTS. Every parent is called to be a “good shepherd” to “freely lay down their life” for their children, to “love” and “know” their children and to “lead” them so “they know your voice.”

### **Abuse of Minors or Vulnerable Adults by Priests, Deacons or Others**

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### **Saint of the Week-Saint Catherine of Siena- Feast Day April 29**

Catherine was the 24th of 25 children of a Sienese dyer; her mystical experiences and raptures began at age 6. She refused to marry, and about 1367 joined the Third Order of St. Dominic. She attracted a like-minded group in Siena for prayer and good works and devoted her last five years to church unity and ending the scandal of rival papacies. Though she experienced the pain of the stigmata, it became visible only after her death at 33. And, in an odd division of relics, her body is in a Roman church, while her head is in a Sienese church. Named a doctor of the church in 1970, Catherine is a patron saint of Europe and Italy, and the patron of fire prevention, nurses and nursing.

“Take as your example your heavenly patroness, St Catherine, a humble and fearless Dominican tertiary who gave herself unsparingly for the Church. For everyone may this great saint be not only a special protectress but a model to follow on the path of holiness.” —St. John Paul II, October 10, 1999

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### **Catholic Services Appeal Begins**

The 2021 annual Diocesan Catholic Services Appeal will be conducted next weekend. This year’s theme is “**50 Years of Faithful Generosity.**” Each year, we are asked to make a commitment to support the work of our Diocesan programs and ministries which provide valuable services that no single parish could provide on its own. This effort is a means by which we work together to care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has given to us. Our parish goal this year is 100 % participation. Please join us to continue God’s work of spirituality, charity and education throughout the Diocese of Gaylord.

### **Prayers for Priests and Clergy**