

## **For Use May 1-2, Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)**

### **Stewardship by the Book**

The good steward lives the advice of St. John, loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.

### **Vocation View**

There are more than 400 different Christian denominations in the United States. Who can explain the one love the one God has for all people? We need faith-filled, creative, spirited people to call the world to unity. How about you?

### **Stewardship Reflections**

*“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” - 1 JOHN 3:18*

Regarding our Catholic faith, do you “walk the talk?” Do your actions reflect what it means to be a good disciple? Are you an active participant at Sunday Mass? Are you joyful when participating in parish ministry? Do you give gratefully and generously with your financial support to your parish and other Church needs? If not, it’s not too late to start!

### **Family Perspective- By Bud Ozar**

Like the vine grower in today’s gospel, parents must “prune and cleanse” the branches in their family if their children are going to be rooted. Discipline, limits and setting goals are a necessary part of parenting so our children will grow and “bear fruit.”

### **Saint of the Week-Saint Rose Venerini- Feast Day May 7**

Born in Viterbo, Italy, Rose entered a convent after her fiance died, but soon returned home to care for her widowed mother. She chose to be a teacher rather than a contemplative, and opened a free school for girls in 1685. In 1692, the bishop of an Italian diocese asked her to train teachers and administer the schools there. She and St. Lucy Filippini became friends, and Rose began setting up schools around Italy. Despite opposition, including arson and assaults on some of her teachers, the order she founded was officially recognized as a congregation, the Venerini Sisters, after her death.

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### **Catholic Services Appeal Begins**

Today **(name of parish)** begins our campaign for the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal. This is an opportunity for us to unite with all Catholics in the diocese and in the universal Church to share our blessings and to show our care for one another. The CSA provides the opportunity to act together as a family and support programs and services no single individual or parish could offer by itself. Your gift is very important. Every gift, regardless of the size, is vital to the success of the Appeal, so please be as generous as possible with your pledge.

## **Prayers for Priests**

### **For Use May 8-9, Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)**

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

Jesus' commandment is that His disciples love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives, if necessary. What gifts of myself – my skills and talents, my time and resources – will best demonstrate my love for God's people?

#### **Vocation View**

The greatest love story that ever happened: God's continuing love for His people. All God asks is: Love one another as I have loved you. The world really needs to see people who are trying to love others with all their hearts. We can be an example of this love. Are you willing?

#### **Stewardship Reflections**

*"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" - JOHN 15:12-13*

Do you love Jesus? Do you consider Him your friend? Jesus says that if we love Him we would be willing to offer whatever we have to Him, not because we want praise and glory, but simply because we love Him. Does your giving seem mechanical out of obligation or do you share freely out of love?

#### **Family Perspective- By Bud Ozar**

The words of Jesus in today's gospel, "Abide in me," are appropriate on a day we honor mothers because there is a special bond connecting mothers and their children, extending beyond birth and death. They will always "abide" in each other. It's a lasting presence.

#### **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).

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### **Saint of the Week-Our Lady of Fatima-Feast Day May 13**

Mary appeared to three peasant children near Fatima, Portugal, six times between May 13 and October 13, 1917, and asked for prayers for world peace and an end to World War I, for sinners, and for the conversion of Russia. She entrusted the children with three secrets, regarding devotion to her Immaculate Heart, a vision of hell, and a “bishop in white” shot by soldiers firing bullets and arrows. Many connect the third secret to the attempted assassination of Blessed Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981, and the pope thanked Mary for guiding the bullet and saving him. At the Vatican last October 13, Pope Francis stood before the statue of Our Lady from the Fatima shrine and formally entrusted the world to Mary.

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### **For Use May 15-16, Ascension of the Lord (B)**

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

Jesus is the perfect steward – watching carefully over all who had been entrusted to Him by the Father and then sending them all out into the world in service. May I similarly protect and wisely use the gifts entrusted to me!

#### **Vocation View**

The First Reading today tells of the Apostles filling the vacancy made by the absence of Judas. Each generation must find it’s own successors to spread the Word of God. To the next generation. Jesus prays: “Father, as you have sent me into the world so I have sent them into the world.” Perhaps it is you who will fill a vacancy.

#### **Stewardship Reflections**

*“Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”*

– 1 JOHN 4:15

How strong is your faith? When you have an opportunity to either defend or clarify a question about our Catholic faith, do you do it? Or, do you remain silent so that others don’t think you

are weird? Pray for the courage to be strong in all circumstances and to joyfully share your witness with others.

### **Family Perspective-By Bud Ozar**

As Jesus appointed apostles, he also appoints parents to represent Him in the family; “make disciples of your children, baptizing and teaching them all I have taught you. Don’t worry, I am with you always.”

### **Saint of the Week-Saint Paschal Baylon-Feast Day May 17**

Born to a Spanish shepherd family, Paschal was said to have taught himself to read while tending sheep. At age 21 he joined an austere group of Franciscans, devoting himself to prayer and charity. He was sent on a dangerous mission to French Franciscans, and a shoulder wound he received caused him pain for the rest of his life. Long hours of prayer on his knees before the Eucharist earned this lay brother the honor of being patron of Catholic Eucharistic congresses. His emblem in art is a monstrance.

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### **For Use May 22-23, Pentecost (B)**

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

St. Paul reminds us today that all of our gifts have their source in the Holy Spirit and that those gifts are given “for the common good.” What gifts are mine to share?

#### **Vocation View**

From womb and to the tomb we are aware that we are dependant on others. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us during all the days of our lives. This is another great story that needs to be told to those that are searching for meaning in their lives. You can do it, with the help of the Spirit!

#### **Stewardship Reflections**

*“There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.” - 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6*

All of us are blessed, regardless of our own individual circumstances. God has given each of us many gifts. How we use those gifts is our gift back to God. For God’s plan to work, each must do what we are called to do. Guess what? We are not all called to do the same thing! For God’s plan to work you have to do what God is calling you to do and I have to do what God is calling me to do.

### **Family Perspective-By Bud Ozar**

Today, on Pentecost, we remember Christ has given us the Holy Spirit to assist us in raising our family and he expects us to use this personal gift. Let’s turn-off the noise, apps and distractions in our lives and let the Holy Spirit “guide us to the truth.”

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### **Saint of the Week-Saint Madeline Sophie Barat-Feast Day May 25**

Born to a cooper and winemaker in Burgundy, France, Madeleine was educated by her older brother, Louis, who was studying for the priesthood. He strove to repress her emotions and instruct her as if she were a seminarian. Her extensive formation, unusual for the time, paid off, as Madeleine was prepared for the rebirth of French Catholicism after its persecution during the French Revolution. In 1800, she and three companions began the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Madeleine was appointed superior at 23, and over the next 63 years, she oversaw the establishment of more than 100 houses and schools in 12 countries. Her order was approved by Rome in 1826, and she was canonized in 1925.

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### **For Use May 29-30, Trinity Sunday (B)**

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

Today's second reading reminds us that we are the adopted sons and daughters – the heirs – of God. We are good stewards of our inheritance when we share our faith and fulfill our Lord's command to "go...and make disciples of all the nations."

#### **Vocation View**

God the Father, Creator. God the Son, Redeemer. God the Holy Spirit, Sanctifier. When we go out to make disciples of all nations we have a lot to tell. God is present everywhere. Tell the story.

### **Stewardship Reflections**

*“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...” - ROMANS 8:16-17*

If we are heirs to the kingdom of God, shouldn't we work to build up His kingdom? Shouldn't we be good stewards of our inheritance, using our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to care for the Church that God has left to us? Our Church is a treasured heirloom from God. Do we treat it that way?

### **Family Perspective- By Bud Ozar**

In today's gospel Jesus commands, “Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you.” This command is meant for every Christian. In light of this command, parenting is not only the most difficult task a person can take on, it is also one of the most apostolic and missionary tasks. Jesus commands all parents to teach their children “all that I have commanded you.”

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### **A Memorial Day Prayer**

God of power and mercy,  
you destroy war and put down earthly pride.

Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears,  
that we may all deserve to be called your sons  
and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women  
who have died in the cause of freedom  
and bring them safely  
into your kingdom of justice and peace.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.