

PASTOR’S NOTES

Labor Day — *the meaning of work*

As is often the case, we enter into holidays and many times give little heed to the meaning/ purpose of the days ‘we get off from work’. The late Pope John Paul II {*now St. John Paul II*} issued an encyclical letter titled *Laborem Exercens* [**On Human Work**] on September 14, 1981 and its purpose was to offer a reflection on the real meaning of human work.

We often think of work as the means of making a living or what we do ‘to pay the bills’. All of that is certainly true, but St. John Paul II’s letter goes deeper than that. The overall theme of *Laborem Exercens* was the transcendent dignity of work. Work always must be evaluated through the meaning it has in the eyes of God and how it collaborates in the redemption of the human race and the development of the Kingdom of heaven.

- To that end he offers these reflections:
- > “*Work is one the characteristics that distinguishes man from the rest of creatures.*”
 - > “*... in the first place work is ‘for man’ and not man ‘for work.’*”
 - > “*God’s fundamental and original intention with regard to man ...was not withdrawn or canceled out [because of the Fall] ... work is the means whereby man achieves that ‘dominion’ which is proper to him over the visible world.*” ...
 - > “*The work of the individual human being [must] be given the meaning which it has in the eyes of God.*” ...

- From this theology/spirituality of work St. John Paul II speaks to a number of work-related issues:
- (1) labor has priority over capital;
 - (2) property should be at the service of the person;
 - (3) the right to private property is subordinate to the right of common good, to the fact that the goods of the earth are meant for everyone;
 - (4) the rights of workers;
 - (5) the conflict that often arises between labor and capital.

As we take a “day off work”, we are really called to celebrate the dignity of work by which we earn our daily bread, but more importantly the ways by which we bring about greater justice, a wider brotherhood/ sisterhood, and the more human ordering of social relationships. Every now and then it is important to take a break and meditate upon the fundamental dimensions/activities of our lives so as to gain a renewed perspective on things. I believe *Laborem Exercens* offers such a reflection and encourage you to read this encyclical.

Being Catholic, thinking of Catholicism, becoming Catholic ...

Over my years as a priest, many people have asked a lot of questions about Catholic Church teachings and practices (*purgatory, Mary, the Pope, going to Confession, marriage rules and annulments, celibacy for priests, heaven and hell, Catholic and Protestant differences, moral teachings on sexuality and life issues, rosaries, medals, etc.*).

In larger parishes yearly RCIA classes/Inquiry classes are held to address these kinds of questions and give a systematic overview of Catholic teachings and practices, especially for persons interested in joining the Catholic Church. Over the years I have taught a few RCIA/Inquiry classes here at St. Leo’s and have developed a series of tapes and accompanying handouts that attempts to explain these beliefs and practices. These tapes would be a good step in both learning about the Church and/or answering the typical questions involved in joining the Catholic Church.

If this would be of interest to you or you know someone who might be interested, please contact Fr. Ermer.



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633-5150



TWENTY– SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
September 3, 2023

Weekend Mass Schedule for St. Leo’s and St. Thomas

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays: 8:30 am St. Thomas, 10:30 am St. Leo’s
2nd & 4th Sundays: 8:30 am St. Leo’s, 10:30 am St. Thomas
Every Saturday: 5:00 pm at St. Leo’s

Mass Intentions for the week of Sept 3:

Mon - Sept 4 – 9:00 am – St. Leo’s – **NO MASS**
Tues - Sept 5 – St. Thomas– 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**
NO MASS at St. Leo’s
Wed – Sept 6 – 9:00 am – **+Jerry Vavra** by Margaret Kensok
Thurs – Sept 7 – 9:00 am – **+Elmer Thomason** by Cathy Braxton
Fri – Sept 8 – 9:00 am – **+Souls in purgatory**
Sat - Sept 9 – 5:00 pm - Hartung Family by Bill & Mona Franck
Sun - Sept 10 – St. Leo’s - 8:30 am - For the people of our parishes
St. Thomas - 10:30 am - +Doug Larson by Keith & Joni Biggers

Parish Staff:

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Prayer Chain:
Kelsey Lako: 701-793-7088
Maintenance: Paul & Sherry Radermacher
Phone: 701-793-7740; 701-793-7798

St. Leo’s Directors: Dave Glennon & Micah Bartholomay
St. Thomas Directors: Gary Milbrandt & Flint Kasowski

Sacrament of Reconciliation
at St. Leo’s
4:00 - 4:45 pm Saturday

at St. Thomas
8:00 - 8:15 am
before all 8:30 am Masses

~ Anytime by appointment
~ Communal Services during
Advent and Lent


New Members: If you are new to the area, we would love to have you as a registered member. To register as a new member of the parish, please visit with Fr. Ermer after Mass.

Please join in praying the Rosary
25 minutes before the Saturday evening
and Sunday morning Mass times.

PARISH EVENTS/MEETINGS

Tues. Sept 5 - 7:00 pm - Liturgy Committee meeting at the rectory
Tues. Sept 12 - 7:00 pm - Cemetery meeting at the rectory
Wed. Sept 13 - 6:30 pm - RE Opening Mass
Mon. Sept 18 - 7:00 pm - Finance Committee meeting at the rectory
Tues. Sept 19 - 7:00 pm - Pastoral Council meeting at the rectory
Wed. Sept 27 - 7:45 pm - KC meeting at the rectory

This week’s Eucharistic Reflection Question: *Why do we use the word “Mass” to describe the Eucharist? ~ CCC 1332*

Upcoming Ministry Schedule			
	Saturday Sept 9 5:00 pm <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Sept 10 8:30 am <i>St. Leo’s</i>	Sunday Sept 10 10:30 am <i>St. Thomas</i>
<i>Lector</i>	Lee Ann Monilaws	Shari Kensok	Gary Milbrandt
<i>Eucharistic Ministers</i>	Bill Franck Nicole Scherweit	Denise Bartholomay Ann Faught Mary Jendro Susan Kempel Paul Olsen	Kristi Hovelson Joe Killoran
<i>Altar Servers</i>	Addison Hushka Noah Hushka Sophie Scherweit	Melody Kempel Quinn Gunkel	Hallie Besette Emercyn Killoran
<i>Offertory Collectors</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Betty Lou Stallman Mike & Lisa Zahnow
<i>Gift Bearers</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	
<i>Lead Rosary</i>	Richard Muscha	Deb Werner	

NEWS AND NOTES

Special prayers and blessings to the faithful couples that help us see the presence and faithfulness of God in our lives:
Frank & Laura Biggers - 60 years on Sept 7
Fred & Rose Mary Eldridge -60 years on Sept 7

Catholic Man Night: Thursday, September 14th at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church (710 10th St S, Fargo). 6:00 pm—7:00 pm Adoration & Confession. 7:00 pm—8:00 pm Meal with talk and short discussion with featured speaker Blake Ritteman from Real Presence Radio. Free will offering. All men are invited, bring a friend!

Real Presence Radio is holding our annual Fall fundraising event on **September 13-15th**. Join us as we broadcast from throughout our five-state listening area and bring you inspiring stories of faith and hope. RPR is 100% listener supported and our mission continues only because of you!! Live Drive phone lines will be open daily from 7:00 AM - 7:00 pm CT! Donate and you will be entered into a drawing for one of the many great prizes awarded throughout the drive. Call in with your support to **877-795-0122** or donate online at RealPresenceRadio.com/donate.

Women’s Care Center (103 N University Dr, Fargo) is looking for special people committed to our mission, who are personable with excellent communication skills. A part-time or full-time counselor position is available. Degreed and non-degreed candidates are encouraged to apply. Will train. Degreed in counseling, social work, nursing, or other service-related background is preferred. Please forward your resume to angela@wccnd.com or call 701-532-1928 for further details or questions.


This week’s Stewardship moment:

“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? ~ Matthew 16:26
St. Francis of Assisi said, *“Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else.”* We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world’s riches. We need to set our priorities based on God’s values and not the values of the material world.

Join us to sing from the choir loft! “Choir Sunday” will be will be **Sunday, Sept. 17th** at the 10:30 am Mass. Anyone (adult/middle school/high school) is welcome to join us. We will meet in the choir loft from 9:30-10am to run through these songs for that day’s Mass: #544, #534, #665, #355, #447. (YouTube is a great way to practice at home beforehand).

Theology on Tap: The Diocese of Fargo Young Adult Ministry is hosing Theology on Tap. These events will take place on Monday nights starting at 7:00 pm at the Crooked Pint Alehouse (3340 13th Ave S, Fargo). Theology on Tap is a free event and open to anyone ages 21-39. During the night we will hear from a keynote speaker, spend time socializing, and grow in community. Below are the fall dates:

- September 18th
 - October 16th
 - November 20th
 - December 18th
- For more information, visit fargodiocese.org/youngadults or email Drew Luhning at CorChristi@fargodiocese.org

 **Help Support our Cameroon Card Mission:** Cards are available for purchase in the magazine rack in church entry. There is a wonderful selection for all occasions available for purchase. Cost of cards is 50¢, please place money in envelope provided and return to parish office.