32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME • NOV 8, 2026

ST. MARY PARISH

PHONE: (920) 739-5119 • EMAIL: STMARY@STMARYPARISH.ORG
312 SOUTH STATE STREET • APPLETON, WI 54911



"While the foolish virgins went off to buy oil, the bridegroom arrived and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." Matthew 25:10, 13

Regular Mass Times

Saturday 4:30pm
Sunday 7:45am, 9:45am
Monday 12:05pm
Tuesday No Mass
Wednesday No Mass
Thursday 12:05pm
Friday No Mass

Pastor - Fr. Bill Swichtenberg
wdswitz@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-422-4316

Deacon - Gerry Schraufnagel
dcngerry@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-540-9594

Cemetery Info - Chip Acker
cacker@stmaryparish.org
cell 920-882-4158

Eucharistic Adoration
Every 3rd Wednesday, 4:30-8pm
We must have one person with the Eucharist at all times.
Register online
https://bit.ly/49Wm3k5
or scan with your phone.

Parish Office Hours:
920-739-5119
Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9am-4pm
Wed, 9am-6:30pm
Friday-Office Closed

Sacrament of Matrimony
Getting Married?
Congratulations! Call Fr. Bill at least six months before your planned wedding date.

Interested in joining the Parish?
Contact Lori Lavalle
llavalle@stmaryparish.org

Confession times:
Saturday 9-10am or by appointment

Remembering Our Loved Ones

Please remember in your prayers the following
loved ones who have passed away this year.

November 1, 2025 – November 1, 2026

Pamela Acker
Janet Ahrens
Donald Bishop
Jeanette Bishop
Norbert Boldt
James Boyle
Judith Christjohn
Cecilia Coenen
Jean Consie
Mark Courtney
Julian Derringer
Richard Dungar
Richard Earl
Francis Ebben
Jennifer Elson
Fara Fane
LeRoy Gorges
David Griesbach
Victoria Hoffman
Alan Hopfensperger
Margaret Hopfensperger
Janet Jahnke
Charles Jansen
Guy Johnson
Jean Kaehler
Kyle Kaufman
Carol Kieffer
Kenneth Kopiske
Albert Kudrle
Anne Larsen
Darrell Lemmers
Rita Long
Artur Lopez Galvan
William Maas
Monika Mangione
Audrey McHugh
Angus McIntyre
Barbara McIntyre
Tom McIntyre
Kathleen McKinnon
Lorene Murphy
Louis Neuville
John Niles
Curtis Peters
Richard Pontzloff
Richard Rathsack
David Rehfeldt
Gregory Rentmeester
Edward Sabish
Sheila Schuler
Joseph Sirovatka
Thomas Smith
Elsie Stoegbauer
Miroslav Urbanowicz
Gary Van Evenhoven
Jason Van Evenhoven
Mary Van Evenhoven
Erik Vilches Nieto
Barbara Werner
Norman Wilson
Thomas Witczak

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

ST MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Our new online giving service is as easy as 1,2,3!

*Forget your checkbook or offertory envelope today? Don't worry. Just visit **stmaryparish support/egiving** on any device for these easy steps:*

1. Select your preferred frequency for giving from weekly to annually and enter your giving amount.
2. Select a preferred method of payment (electronic check or debit/credit).
3. Enter your information and submit!

Your gift will immediately process, and you'll receive an email confirmation receipt.

After You Submit Your Form:

Follow the instructions in your confirmation email to easily set up your own online donor account and determine the frequency and amount that you'd like to automatically give. And then stop having to remember those weekly envelopes!

CONTRIBUTION BREAKDOWN

STEWARDSHIP

$885,202

954
Total Contributors

485
ContributorsGivingOver $100

Contribution ranges at a glance

Range • contribution amount • share of total • number of contributors

Contribution Range	Amount	% of Total	Contributors	% of Contributors
Non Registered Contributions	$18,430.50	2.1%	43	4.5%
Registered Zero Contributors	$0.00	0.0%	369	38.7%
1-99.99	$2,257.52	0.3%	57	6.0%
100-200	$6,679.75	0.8%	48	5.0%
201-300	$11,972.13	1.4%	46	4.8%
301-400	$10,285.71	1.2%	28	2.9%
401-500	$13,285.25	1.5%	28	2.9%
501-750	$30,517.22	3.4%	50	5.2%
751-1000	$36,602.96	4.1%	41	4.3%
1001-1500	$96,126.55	10.9%	77	8.1%
1501-2500	$139,225.67	15.7%	71	7.4%
2501-5000	$225,072.09	25.4%	63	6.6%
5001-9999.99	$149,563.54	16.9%	21	2.2%
10000 & Above	$145,182.68	16.4%	12	1.3%
TOTAL	$885,201.57	100.0%	954	100.0%

Stop In

APPLETON CHRISTMAS PARADE OPEN HOUSE

6TH ANNUAL

ST. MARY
COMMUNITY ROOM
TUESDAY, NOV. 24
6:00 – 8:30 PM

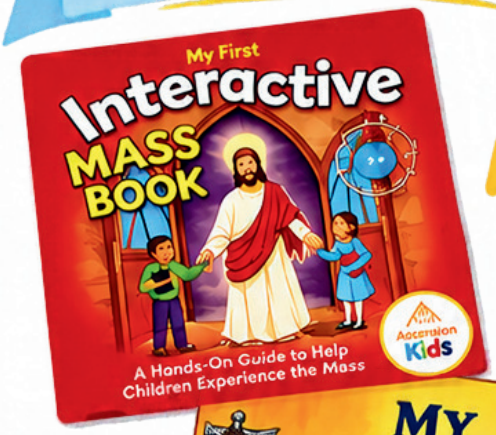
ALL ARE WELCOME!

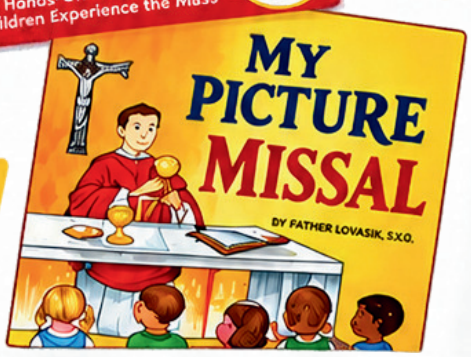
ENJOY COOKIES AND COCOA WITH FELLOW PARISHIONERS AS YOU WATCH THE PARADE ON THE BIG SCREEN!



Families with Young Children!

We have something new to help your children engage in the Mass!





New Interactive Mass Books and Picture Missals are now available for families with toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary-aged children to borrow during Mass.



You can find these books on the small bookshelf near the children's Mass bags.

Please remember to return the books after Mass so other families can enjoy them, too!

Thank you!

FLEECE TIE
Blanket Time



Tie fleece blankets for the Foster Care Program of Outagamie County and for the Veteran Village here in Appleton.

Thursday, Nov. 19

1:00 to 3:00 PM in the Community Room

Contact Barb Rowland at **rbsafari@sbcglobal.net.**

WE NEED
COOKIES and Snacks!

For the Appleton Christmas Parade Open House on Tuesday, November 24

Use this QR code to sign up or visit
https://bit.ly/4B5JYKA

If you'd like to volunteer at the event, contact Lori Lavalle at llavalle@stmaryparish.org.

This is a great service hour opportunity!

THANK YOU!

2026 TRUNK OR TREAT











Thank you to everyone who joined us for St. Joseph Parish 2026 Trunk or Treat!

Your creativity, generosity, and joyful spirit made the day a wonderful celebration for our families and community.

A special thank-you to everyone who decorated a trunk, handed out treats, volunteered, and helped make the event possible.

Hosted by St. **Joseph Parish** with our friends at **St. Mary Parish** and **Bridges Child Enrichment Center.**

Save the Date!

Prayers of Gratitude

FAMILY ACTIVITY



WHEN:
After 9:45 Mass on Sunday, November 22

WHERE:
Community Room during Coffee and Donuts

WHAT:
A small craft and game to teach about prayers of gratitude

WHO:
Anyone can participate!
The craft is primarily for families with children

WHY GRATITUDE MATTERS

Thanking God for our blessings, and for the ways He is working in our lives, is incredibly important for our spiritual wellness and wholeness!

Join us for a simple, meaningful activity for the whole family!



COFFEE & DONUTS

Stay after Mass to enjoy coffee, donuts, and great fellowship!

JOIN US!
SIGN UP FOR
FALL
COFFEE & DONUTS
SUNDAYS
SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER

SCAN OR CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!

Faith, Friends, Fellowship!

PRESENTED BY THE ST. MARY QUILTERS

QUILT Sale & Raffle

NOV 14 & 15

Win one of these beautiful Kingsize handmade quilts!





- Tickets are $5 each or 5 for $20
- Buy raffle tickets after all Masses beginning Oct. 17
- Winner will be drawn Sunday, Nov. 15 @ noon *(need not be present to win)*

SHOP HANDMADE TABLE RUNNERS, BOWL COZIES, QUILTS, AND MORE!

All raffle and sale proceeds go to ST. MARY CEMETERY RESTORATION!



THE NEEDS TREE: SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
— Matthew 25:40

This Advent, the Human Concerns Group invites you to bring Christmas warmth to those in our community who need it most. Our annual Needs Tree supports local individuals experiencing homelessness, as well as residents in group homes and nursing homes who do not have nearby family.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Tags Available: Saturday, November 21**
- **Gifts Due Back: Sunday, December 6**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. **PICK A TAG:** Visit the Christmas trees located in the Church and the Marian Way starting November 21. Each tag lists specific, practical needs.
2. **SHOP FOR ITEMS:** Purchase the items listed on your tag.
3. **RETURN YOUR GIFT:** Bring your gifts **with the tag** back to the church by December 6.



A SPECIAL REQUEST: USE REUSABLE BAGS

If possible, please return your gifts inside a reusable shopping bag. These bags provide an extra, highly practical gift that recipients can continue to use throughout the year.

Contact Annie Van Stralen if you have any questions 920-739-5119

Thank you for your incredible generosity and for ensuring that no one in our community feels forgotten this Christmas season!

Sponsored by the Human Concerns Group

Anointing of the Sick



NOVEMBER 14 & 15, DURING ALL MASSES

We are in need of pyxes!



If you have a pyx that you no longer use, we kindly ask that you bring it to the Parish Office or place it in the box in the back of the church.

Thank you for helping us care for these vessels and continue this important ministry!

ST MARY
Appleton, WI

Fr. Bill's Vatican II presentations now available on our website!



Home

Tornado 2026 Assistance

Hallow Help

Seasonal Small Groups

From our home page, go to "Seasonal Small Groups," then select the episode to watch.

November
Providence Promise Ministries at St. Joseph Church

Current Needs List

Please drop off/or send in your items (from Amazon or Walmart) to St. Joseph Parish (404 W Lawrence St., Appleton, WI 54911) marked Grab & Go! They are in desperate need of men's shoes (size 9-12) and old backpacks. Thank you!

Click here to view list and sign up

Morning Coffee

As colder days approach, volunteers are invited to help create a warm, welcoming space for our neighbors each morning. We serve 35-40 individuals. Over coffee and a bite to eat, neighbors find comfort, connection, and community.

Just a little time serving coffee can make a big difference, offering kindness, dignity, and a sense of belonging. Please consider signing up for a shift—new faces are always welcome!

Click here to view list and sign up

Sunday Sandwiches

Each Sunday, volunteers share bagged lunches and a little love with neighbors in our community. Volunteers are invited to meet inside the library near the security station with 10 bag lunches.

New to the ministry? Simply write "new" in the signup comments to be paired with an experienced volunteer. Everyone is welcome!

Click here to view list and sign up

HOLY TRIVIA question

What is the name of the Pope's weekly public address?

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER Catholic School System

nickelodeon SpongeBob Musical

NOVEMBER 6 - 14, 2026

Plunge into this stunning all-singing, all-dancing, dynamic stage show! When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rises up. The power of optimism really can save the world!

7:00 PM
November 6, 7, 13, 14

2:00 PM
November 14

TICKET PRICES:

Adults	**$13**
Senior Citizen (60 and older)	**$12**
Student (College age and under)	**$11**
XHS Student with ID (RUSH if needed)	**$6**

Family night 7:00 Saturday Nov7 – All tickets are $8 apiece

NEW THIS YEAR!
Family 4-pack $40
(2 adult & 2 student tickets – $8 savings)



Purchase concessions online and pick them up at the show.
In person concession purchases with cash will still be offered at the performances.

Ticket & concession prices do not include service fees or credit card purchases. These fees are established by LUDUS, our box office vendor, and are nonrefundable.

PUBLIC TICKET SALES BEGIN
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026 AT 9:00 AM
ONLINE OR NOON AT THE XAVIER BOX OFFICE

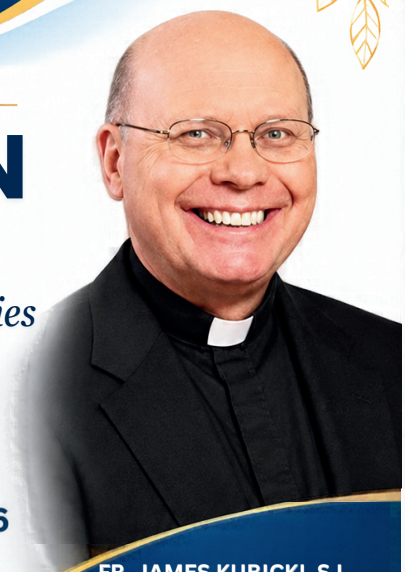
JANSSEN FORUM
LUNCHEON SPEAKER SERIES

Join us for the

JANSSEN FORUM

Luncheon Speaker Series

Inspiring conversations.
Building a stronger community.



NOVEMBER 19, 2026
MOUNT TABOR CENTER

REGISTER NOW

call 920-722-8918 x0

FR. JAMES KUBICKI, SJ

JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE
RELEVANT RADIO
AUTHOR AND SPEAKER

11:15 AM MASS | 11:45 AM LUNCH | 12:10 PM SPEAKER

All are welcome!

DISCOVER CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK NOV. 15-21

Diocese of Green Bay

Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

Is Catholic school right for your child?

See what we're about.

gbcschools.org

Interested in a teaching career?

Call to find a position that's right for you.

920-272-8163

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives *presents*



Accepting God's Invitation When Times Get Tough

Jesus warned us that in this life we will suffer ... but how do we live our suffering? Jesus invites us to unite our pain with His and transform it into something that has meaning and purpose, and leads to healing.

Through the art of storytelling, **Dr. John Dinegan**, recently retired president of Lourdes Academy, Oshkosh, connects his own life-changing trauma and that of others to the redemptive suffering of Christ and the Stations of the Cross.

MONDAY | NOV 16 | 6:30 PM

Xavier Fine Arts Theatre
1600 Prospect Ave, Appleton, WI

No tickets needed / Free will offering encouraged
> Seats available on a first come basis <

For details, google CIAFMO, email ciafmo@gmail.com, or call 920-450-3025

CIA-Faith Mission Operatives
encourages YOU to *Investigate Your faith!*

EVENTS CALENDAR

Week of Nov 8 - NOV 15

Sunday, Nov 8
Coffee & Donuts
7:45 am Mass
9:45 am Mass/LS/Children's Liturgy
11:00 am First Reconciliation Retreat
11:00 am OCIA Catechumens/LCR

Monday, Nov 9
12:05 pm Mass
4:30 pm First Reconciliation-Gr 2/Ch & Chapel
5:00 pm Reach More/LL7
6:00 pm SMP Grief Support Group Cemetery Chapel
6:30 pm New Horizons Band Practice/MR
6:30 pm Handbell Choir Practice
7:00 pm AA Meeting/LL1

Tuesday, Nov 10
9:00 am Connect/LL7
4:30 pm Safety Meeting/LL1
6:00 pm Facilities Committee/LCR
6:30 pm Men's Ministry/LL7

Wednesday, Nov 11
9:30 am Connect Group/LL7
4:30 pm - 8:00 pm Beacon Faith Formation

Thursday, Nov 12
10:00 am Little Lambs Playgroup - Babysitting Rm
12:05 pm Mass
6:00 pm Adult Choir/MR

Friday, Nov 13
Parish Office Closed
9:00 am Bible Study/LL7

Saturday, Nov 14-Annointing of the sick
Quilt Sale in the Marion Way/Community Room
9:00 am Confessions
10:00 am Neuro Endocrine CSG/St.Anne Rm
4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Nov 15-Annointing of the sick
Quilt Sale in the Marion Way/Community Room
Coffee & Donuts
7:45 am Mass
9:30 am Flock of Sparrows/LL4
9:45 am Mass/LS/Children's Liturgy
11:00 am OCIA Catechumens/LCR
12:30 pm OCIA Candidates



Angelus

Mass Intentions

Sun., Nov 8	7:45 am	Helen & Gordon Pippert
	9:45 am	Ivy Peters
Mon., Nov 9	12:05 pm	Living & Deceased Members of SMP
Thur., Nov 12	12:05 pm	Paula Hebeler
Sat., Nov 14	4:30 pm	Fran Ebben
Sun., Nov 15	7:45 am	Larry & Anne Konz
	9:45 am	Ed Sabish



Prayer Requests Contact **Laurie Richter** (lauriejrichter@gmail.com), **Mary Jo Zilisch** (920-734-1182) or **Ann Walkowski** (920-428-0969) if you have a prayer need. Please remember these requests in our prayer baskets.

Generosity CORNER

It is Gratitude & Giving Month and I want to thank you for your continued support of the parish and its activities and operations. Without your generosity, we could not create the programs or maintain the spaces that are used by our community.

MONTH	INCOME	BUDGET	VARIANCE
November	$6,731.51	$84,900.00	-$78,168.49

Your giving at work in the parish:

- Fr. Bill with Andrew Reimer did a 5-week series on the documents of Vatican II. If you didn't have the opportunity to attend but wanted to learn more about Vatican II, the sessions were recorded and are available on the Small Groups Page on the parish website: https://www.stmaryparish.org/home/seasonal-small-groups

- In an effort to reduce our costs, the Finance Council has approved a change in our eGiving vendor. Right now you can move your eGiving account from ParishSoft to eCatholic. We hope to have everyone moved on to the eCatholic Giving platform by the end of December. Register for eCatholic Giving at https://stmaryparish.support/egiving . If you need help changing over from ParishSoft to eCatholic, call the office and ask for Izabella or Chris. They will be able to help you to close your ParishSoft account and begin your eCatholic account.

in Joy & SORROW

ST MARY PARISH - APPLETON // 11.8.2026
WITH FR. BILL SWICHTENBERG

ST MARY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



Finishing up our sessions on Vatican Council for this fall, I would like to recap our fifth session in which our small group concluded our discussion on the Council's Constitution *Lumen Gentium (Light of the Word),* which so innovatively described the Church as the People of God. Note that I will continue in the spring with five new sessions on some of the remaining documents of Vatican Council II.

Recall that *Lumen Gentium* presented the hierarchy alongside the laity of the Church under the overall title of the Church as the People of God.

Reviewing, the priest is an extension of the ministry of the Bishop in the local Church. He is the Bishop's eyes and ears and heart in the parish.

Here are some notable paragraphs from our study. Below, in italics, is my commentary.

29) "At a lower level of the hierarchy are deacons upon whom hands are imposed, *not unto the priesthood, but unto a ministry of service*. For strengthened by sacramental grace, in communion with the bishop and his group of priests, they serve in the diaconate of the liturgy of the word and of charity to the people of God... Since these duties, so very necessary to the life of the Church, can be fulfilled only with difficulty in many regions in accordance with the discipline of the Latin church as exists today, the diaconate can in the future be restored as a proper and permanent rank of the hierarchy."

The ministry of the deacon, present in the early Church, was restored by the Council Fathers. "Deacon" translates the Greek word "diakonia", which means "a ministry of waiting on tables." In the early church, the presbyters relied on the deacons to do the ministry of the charity, which lessened the ministerial burden for the priests. Actually, the deacon's ministry is empowered by the bishop. The deacon is to be at the bishop's side. The deacon's ministry places him at the celebration of the Mass as the proclaimer of the Gospel and preacher of the homily. The deacon confers the Sacrament of Baptism at Mass or not and conducts marriages and funerals outside of Mass. He is to have a special love for the corporal works of mercy, notably outreach to our marginalized sisters and brothers. If I was Pope for a day, I would quickly grant deacons the faculty to celebrate the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Deacon Gerry and so many others deacons have such a beautiful commitment to ministering to the sick and elderly.

(31) "These faithful (the laity) are by baptism, made one body with Christ and are constituted among the People of God; they are in their own way, made sharers in the priestly, prophetical and kingly functions of Christ; and they carry out for their own part the mission of the whole Christian people in the church and in the world.
But the laity, by their very vocation, seek the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and by ordering them according to the plan of God. They live in the world, that is, in each and in all of the secular professions and occupations. They live in the ordinary circumstances of family and social life, from which the very web of their existence is woven. They are called there by God that by exercising their proper function and led by the spirit of the Gospel, they may work for the sanctification of the world from within as a leaven."

By the grace of Baptism, the laity are consecrated to share in the ministry of Jesus as priest, prophet, and king (or royal leader). They find themselves in the world but not of the world. They are to be a leaven for the spread of the Gospel in their homes, work places, and in the community and government.

(32) "Saint Augustine: What I am for you terrifies me; what I am with you consoles me. For you I am a bishop; but with you, I am a Christian. The former is a duty; the latter a grace. The former is a danger; the latter, salvation."

I like this realization from Saint Augustine that the bishop is one among equals in the sense that he shares with the laity the same graces poured out upon us all in the waters of Baptism. "With you, I am a Christian."

(33) "Every layman (laywoman), in virtue of the very gifts bestowed upon him (her), is at the same time, a witness, and a living instrument of the mission of the church itself, according to the measure of Christ's bestowal."

It was Saint Pope Paul VI who said that the world appreciates our teachers. Our teachers should also be witnesses. There is a universal call to be a witness that includes you and me. How do I witness to Jesus and His Gospel of Love everywhere I am?

((38) “Christians must be to the world what the soul is to the body.”

(39) “Therefore in the church, everyone whether belonging to the hierarchy, or being cared for by it, is called to holiness, according to the saying of the Apostle: *For this is the will of God, your sanctification.”*

(40) The followers of Christ… are justified in the Lord Jesus, because in the baptism of faith, they truly become sons and daughters of God and sharers in the divine nature. In this way they are really made holy. Then to, by God‘s gift, they must hold onto and complete in their lives this holiness they have received. They are warned by the Apostle to live *to become saints*, and to put on *as God‘s chosen ones, holy and beloved, a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience,* and to possess the fruit of the Spirit in holiness.”

(41) “The classes and duties of life are many, but holiness is one – that sanctity which is cultivated by all who are moved by the Spirit of God, and who obey the voice of the Father and worship God the Father in spirit and in truth. Married couples and Christian parents should follow their own proper path to holiness by faithful love. They should sustain one another in grace throughout the entire length of their lives. They should imbue their offspring, lovingly welcomed as God‘s gift, with Christian doctrine and the evangelical virtues. In this manner, they offer all men the example of unwearying and generous love; in this way they build up the brotherhood of charity; in so doing, they stand as the witnesses and cooperators in the fruitfulness of Holy Mother Church; by such lives, they are a sign and a participation in that very love, with which Christ loved his Bride and for which He delivered himself up for her.”

The universal call to holiness is a hallmark of Vatican Council II. No more is it just the priest or the nun who is called to holiness. In Baptism, we are sealed with Christ. The chrism is perfumed to remind us that our lives are to be perfumed with the aroma of holiness. Holiness is not perfectionism. Holiness is being superalive and always attentive to the presence of the Lord in every moment of my life. Holiness is a heart filled with mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

(42) “Likewise, the holiness of the church is fostered in a special way by the observance of the counsels proposed in the Gospel by Our Lord to his disciples. An eminent position among these is held by virginity or the celibate state. This is a precious gift of divine grace given by the Father to certain souls, whereby they may devote themselves to God alone the more easily, due to an undivided heart. This perfect continency, out of desire for the kingdom of heaven, has always been held in particular honor in the church… there are some men and women who in their freedom as sons and daughters of God, renounce their own wills and take upon themselves the state of poverty. Still further, some become subject of their own accord to another [person], in the matter of perfection for love of God. This is beyond that of the measure of the Commandments, but is done in order to become more fully like the obedient Christ.”

(44) “…the religious state, whose purpose is to free its members from earthly cares, more fully manifests to all believers the presence of heavenly goods already possessed here below…The religious state clearly manifests that the Kingdom of God and its needs, in a very special way, are raised above all earthly considerations. Finally, it clearly shows all [people] both the unsurpassed breath of the strength of Christ the King and the infinite power of the Holy Spirit marvelously working in the church.”

Shining like stars among the laity are the women and men who consecrate their lives to the Lord as members of a religious community. Among us, we name them sisters or nuns and brothers. Saint Francis of Assisi desired that his community would not become top-heavy with ordained priests. He treasured the place of the holy brothers in the order. Consecrated men and women take vows of chastity (celibacy), poverty, and obedience.

(50) “Our union with the Church in heaven is put into effect in its noblest manner, especially in the sacred Liturgy, wherein the power of the Holy Spirit acts upon us through sacramental signs. Then, with combined rejoicing we celebrate together the praise of the divine majesty; then all those from every tribe and tongue and people and nation who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ and gathered together into one Church, with one song of praise magnify the one and triune God. Celebrating the Eucharistic sacrifice therefore, we are most closely united to the Church in heaven in communion with and venerating the memory first of all of the glorious ever-Virgin Mary, Blessed Joseph and the blessed apostles and martyrs and of all the saints.”

The Communion of Saints in Paradise are one with us whenever we gather around the Lord’s Table on earth for the celebration of the Mass!

(62) “The Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix, and Mediatrix. This, however, is to be so understood that neither takes away from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficaciousness of Christ the one Mediator. For no creature could ever be counted as equal with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer. Just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by the ministers and by the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is really communicated in different ways to His creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source. The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary. It knows it through unfailing experience of it and commends it to the hearts of the faithful, so that encouraged by this mature maternal health, they may the more intimately adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer.”

“Lumen gentium”concludes with Chapter 8 which is centered on the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church. The Council Fathers were very clear that titles like Co-Mediatrix or Co-Redemptrix were not to be given to Mary, implying that her presence somehow was necessary to complete her Son’s work of redemption. The Council Fathers suggested that she cooperated with her Redeeming Lord. Hopefully, we all cooperate with the Lord in His work of redeeming.

Thanks for hanging in there through this first half of our delving into the documents of Vatican Council II. Stay turned for Part II this coming Lent!

Fr. Bill +