

*Fifth Sunday of
Ordinary Time
February 9th, 2025*



JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE

From the Gusset

Last week in this column, we explored how **the Paschal Mystery** (**the Passion**, **death**, **Resurrection**, and **Ascension** in glory of Jesus Christ) occurs at every **Mass** and this **Mystery** is not just repeated, but happens as if for the very first time, each time, we celebrate **the Mass**. Ultimately this happens, so as to allow you and I to **participate** as members of **the Body of Christ** in **the Paschal Mystery**. **St. Albert the Great** (who taught **St. Thomas Aquinas** everything he knew – and then **St. Thomas**, in taking his instruction from **St. Albert** – **St. Thomas** took our understanding of **the Mystery** of God's plan of **Salvation** to an epic height, which we are still coming to a greater and greater understanding of what God is doing to bring us back into **paradise**) said that the greatest of **the Secret Prayers** (see **The Mass and Saints** column in this bulletin for more information on **the Secret Prayers**) is the Prayer the priest **whispers** at **the Offering of the Gifts**. The priest bows to: the gifts of **bread** and **wine** and **the altar**, and prays that the people, who have come to **the Mass**, may be incorporated into **the Body of Christ**; so that, you and I both (and all who have come to **the Mass**) may be an acceptable sacrifice to God the Father. So acceptable, that when God the Father **welcomes** His Son back into **Heaven** – that God also **welcomes** each one of us as we come back home to the Father's **House** (**Heaven**). This **Secret Prayer** comes from the Prayer over the Offerings of the first **Mass** of the Liturgical Year, **the 1st Sunday of Advent**. The priest prays: *may these sacred things, O Lord, cleanse us by their mighty power, and make us come in purity to their origin.* This 9th century **Prayer** is translated today as: *accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among Your gifts to us, and may what You grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.* You see, the priest is asking for **the holiest** of things to happen: that each one of us would become so **intimate** with Jesus –so close to our Lord– that God the Father (poor eyesight and all) would **not** be able to distinguish **the sacrifice** of Jesus, His Son, from **our sacrifice** –**the sacrifice** of God the Father's **adopted sons** and **daughters**. In a certain sense, it is not **bread** and **wine** that are placed on **the altar**, but your life, and my life, and the life of all **the Mass goers** is placed on **the altar** WITH the life of Jesus! We are to unite all our prayers, works, **joys**, and **sufferings** with all the Prayers of Jesus, with all the Works of Jesus, with all **the Joys** of Jesus, and with all **the Sufferings** of Jesus. We are so **intimate** with Jesus – so close to God's Son– that what happened to Jesus (His **offering** of His life as **a sacrifice** to the Father for **the forgiveness of our sins** and for Jesus giving us **new Life**), happens to us; and the Father who is always *well pleased* with His Son, may also be *well pleased* with us! If we think **the Mass** is boring – it is because we don't understand that we are **attempting** to give ourselves away **as a gift** to God the Father, who gave us all that we have and all that we are, in the first place.



Watercolor By
Sidonie Coryn



The Art of the Last Supper

On **wet, rainy** day in **Venice**, I spent the morning, after praying **the Mass**, at **the Scuola San Rocco**. This is a two-story museum, which contains 50+ paintings by **Jacopo Tintoretto**. **The San Rocco** is **Tintoretto's** personal vision of **Catholic History**—**the Scuola** has been called: **Tintoretto's Sistine Chapel!** Painted in 1579, a beggar, **a dog**, and a serving woman dominate the foreground of **the Last Supper** as **Tintoretto** emphasizes the every day gathering of a meal that gives us **life**. **The table** poses a **dramatic angle**, where **the disciples** get proportionally smaller and **mysteriously** lower as they get closer to Jesus, who is at the far end of the table. **The disciple** at the foot of the table is twice as big as our

Lord! **Jacopo** uses a tiled floor to create a **3D-effect** and the distant tiles are exaggeratedly smaller, which makes for an incredibly long **table** surrounded by (what seems to be) more than **twelve disciples**. Isn't this **the Last Supper** of this **Sunday's Mass**. Jesus has so many more **disciples** to gather around Him and feed **the Bread of Life** to! And just think, you are one of them! When God the Father asks you, at your **particular Judgment**: “Did My Son feed you His **Flesh and His Blood?**” **Imagine**, if Jesus spoke up and said, “I remember feeding this **one**, Dad. I **poured** all of My **love** into **their** heart. This **one** was **one** of My **servant priest's**. This **one** was **one** of **Fr. Randy's parishioners!**”

Jubilee Pilgrimage

We feel helpless when **death** to comes to a dear family member. We **regret** not only **the sins** we committed against them, but perhaps more so, we **regret** the missed opportunities to express our **love** for them. Yet, because **death** is only as **sleep** to our Lord Jesus Christ, we **hope** only that our Lord will **awaken** our **beloved dead** to **eternal life!** I believe the greatest aspect of a **Jubilee Year** is that our **Holy**

Father throws open **the Treasury of the Church** and allows us to work **Plenary Indulgences** for our **deceased loved ones**. By making a **pilgrimage** to a specific Church in each of our Deaneries in **the Rockford Diocese**, we may obtain an **Indulgence** with the usual four conditions of going to **Confession**, receiving **the Eucharist**, praying **the Creed**, and praying prayers in **gratitude** for **the Holy Father**. **Passports** are at the back of **the Church**—let us set out as **Pilgrims of Hope** to make **the cloud of witnesses** that surrounds us, ever greater.



THE MASS AND THE SAINTS

What is **the priest** doing up there? What **prayer** is he **whispering** – I cannot hear him? Why is **the priest** hiding behind **the altar** and genuflecting more than his **parishioners**? My **Seminary Formators** warned me not to allow **the Mass** to become just another activity or task to be done. You see, with all jobs (not just the job of **the Priesthood of Jesus Christ**), our **excitement** tends to diminishes asymptotically from the high point of our **first**



day on the job to our going into the work place after **40 years of being on the job**. The danger for **the priest** is that **the Mass** becomes a **work** to be **worked**; rather than, a **prayer** to be **prayed**! The “**Secret prayers**” of **the Mass** are meant to be **an antidote**. The **Secret prayers** are said **quietly** by **the priest** at eight different points during **the Mass** (as far as I can count). **St. Thomas Aquinas** says, “some things in the Mass, **the priest** says publicly, namely the common prayers that pertain both to himself and to the people. Other things pertain only to the priest such as, the offering, and so these are said in secret. Yet in each, **the priest** stirs up the attention of the people.” **St. Thomas’** teacher, **St. Albert the Great**, gave the example that in the Book of Numbers, **Aaron** and **his priest sons** alone would enter **the temple Tabernacle** and sort and carry the things when the camp was to advance. The people were not allowed to see the things of **the sanctuary**; and so, **Aaron** and **his sons** wrapped them up – for if the people looked out of **curiosity**, they would be struck **dead**. You see, if **holy things** are made a public spectacle, they become familiar and are reckoned of **little value or worth**; but if **holy things** are concealed – they are **reverenced all the more**! **Fr. Randy** bows to **the altar** and **whispers Secret prayers** to Jesus to remind himself that whether it is the first time or now over the 10,000th time I have offered **the Mass** – that something **extraordinary** – something **fantastically Mystical** and **Holy** is happening in **the celebration** of **the Mass**: God is coming to visit His people and feed them the **Flesh** and **Blood** of His Son! **Fr. Randy**, also, hides behind **the altar** and **whispers Secret prayers** to Jesus to **pry your attention**, so that your **prayer** life – once on **fire** with an awareness of **the presence of God** – would never get stale and routine with time. Come to our next **RCIA meeting** and learn the Theology behind the eight **Secret prayers** of **the Mass**!

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Saturday, February 8th

(+) Joseph Schauer & (+) Joseph & (+) Catherine Schauer/ Roger & Rick Fronck
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Mr. & Mrs. Gary Ely & (+) Dorothy Tobiaski/ Choir
5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) John Gehant/ Mr. & Mrs. John Corcoran

Sunday, February 9th 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time/ World Marriage Day

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mildred Schneider/ Judy Sharkey

10:30 am, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Monday, February 10th

(+) Larry Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Ken Willey

Tuesday, February 11th Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

(+) Rita Fischbach/ Fr. Randy

Wednesday, February 12th

(+) Dennis McCoy/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Streit

Thursday, February 13th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Carol Widolff/ Gerard Widolff

8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Rosetta Schuhler/ Carlene Schuhler

Friday, February 14th Feast of St. Cyril & St. Methodius & St. Valentine

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Mary Helen Leffelman/ Mr. & Mrs. Ed Klein

10:45 am, **Stoncroft** (+) Floyd Wilson/ Elaine Henkel &
(+) Charles Joseph Hollenbach/ Irene Hollenbach

Saturday, February 15th

(+) Feliks & (+) Anastasia Depa/ Irene Hollenbach

4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Gene & (+) Faye Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman &
(+) Donald Marschang/ Family

5:30 pm, **SMA** (+) June Jones/ Peggy Jones

Sunday, February 16th 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Richard Cardot/ Mr. & Mrs. Ed Klein

10:30 am, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Living Mass Intentions:

St. Patrick: Scott & Lisa Bickett, Marilyn Weeks

OLPH: Don & Kristi Althaus, Tim & Danielle Buettner,

Greg & Mary Malach, Jeanne Shanyfelt

SMA: Terry & Patty Moyer, Craig & Darlene Ayers, James & Carol Gehant



DAUGHTERS OF DIVINE LOVE



The good Sisters will be selling **Raffle Tickets** after all **Masses** at our Church for the next two weekends.

This is the Daughters of Divine Love big **Fund Raiser** for the Year. Please be as **generous** as possible.

