

6th Sunday of Easter
May 10th, 2026



***“Recognition is the sweetest grace of the
New Testament.” — Bishop Daniel Flores***

***Let us spend this Easter Season recognizing
Christ in one another!***

From the Gusset

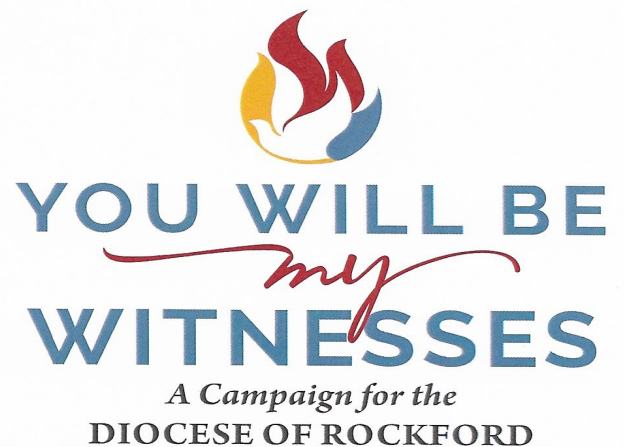
I have celebrated well over **12,000 Masses** in my twenty-one years as **a priest**, but **the Sunday Masses** I have concelebrated with our beloved **Fr. Kramer** over the past two months have been some of **the most memorable** I may have ever celebrated. When **Fr. Kramer** was released from **St. Katherine's Hospital** back on March 10th, one Doctor said, that **Father** had only two to four days left. **Fr. Kramer surprised** us all with nearly two more months of service in God's **vineyard**. Though **Father** got to go back to his house in Harmon – where his spirit soared (he **loved** living right across the street from **St. Flannen's Church** in what **the priests** of the Rockford Diocese affectionately called **the Museum** (**Fr. Kramer** saved everything Church related)) – he was very weak – as he could only be on a liquid diet. Since, he didn't have the strength to stand at the altar and **consecrate the Eucharist** in his chapel – it became a regular part of my **Saturday evenings** or **Sunday afternoons** to help **Father** celebrate **the Mass**. Because the altar was a good foot above the chair that he sat in to celebrate **the Eucharist** – I had to hold the paten (and alternately the chalice) in one hand and **the Roman Missal** in the other hand as **Fr. Kramer** consecrated **the Eucharist**. Immediately, the Holy Spirit reminded me of that fantastically **Mystical Easter Preface** that says that Jesus **showed Himself to be the Priest, the Altar, and the Lamb of Sacrifice!** You see, Jesus does it all for us! Jesus is the only **Priest** that can offer a **Sacrifice** acceptable to God the Father. Jesus is the Altar – that is why **the priest** kisses the altar at the start and at the end of every **Mass**. Jesus is the Lamb that was **Sacrificed** – caught in the bushes by His horns (the crown of thorns placed on His head by **the Roman soldiers**) – that Lamb that Abraham told Isaac the LORD would provide. To hold the paten with **the Host** on it – to hold the chalice with **the precious Blood** of Christ in it, while **Fr. Kramer** prayed the **Eucharistic Prayer** – **Fr. Randy** truly became the Altar that **Fr. Kramer** consecrated the **Eucharist** on! I was beside myself. To be a part of **Fr. Kramer's** prayer of **love** to the God of



the Universe...! To be a part of God the Father's **blessing** upon **Fr. Kramer** for **Faithfully** imitating His Son...! I was brought to tears as I celebrated these meaningful **Masses** with Father. **Fr. Kramer** seeing the tears running down my cheeks – asked me what was wrong – saying, *'I'm the one that is dying. Why are you crying?'* I will never get over how much God **loves** us, but to think how much God loved **Fr. Richard Kramer** – that God the Father allowed **Fr. Kramer** to be one of the best friends of His Son, Jesus Christ for **sixty years!** – I had to cry. God is so great! **Yours on the Path Fr. Randy**

You Will Be My Witnesses Capital Campaign

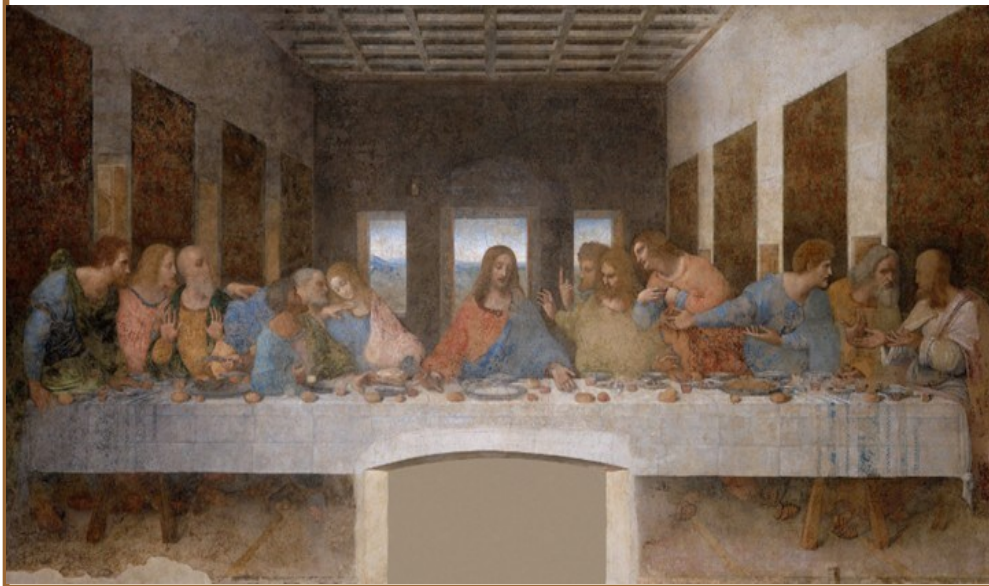
Only God realized the extent of **the Sacrifice** that Jesus was making as the Lord gave up His life on **Calvary** for our **sinful** humanity. This is the way it is with **every Sacrifice**—only God knows the extent of **the Sacrifice**. Think of it! Does a **new born baby** realize the extent of **suffering** his Mother has just gone through to give him **life**? No way. Does a **man** standing at the foot of the altar with his **bride**—does the young couple know of the **sufferings** that they have vowed to God that they will accept **lovingly** for the other? No way. Does a sick person lying in a coma know how much his **family members**, at his bedside, are **suffering**? No way! **Bishop Malloy** is asking us to make a **Sacrifice** in **pledging** to the **You Will Be My Witnesses Capital Campaign**. **The Diocese of Rockford** will never realize the extent of the **Sacrifice** that you make when you make your **pledge** to **the Campaign**. The vacations you gave up, the monthly taking your family out to eat at a **restaurant** on a Sunday, driving the same car for an extra year or two, when you had planned to get a **new one**. Only God will realize the extent of **the Sacrifice** that you will make to the future growth in **holiness** of your **Parish** and **the Rockford Diocese**. As you receive your **Capital Campaign** packet in the mail—know this: that the amount that your **family** has been asked to **pledge** is **not** known by **the Campaign volunteer** that will contact you. Someone will call you to make sure you got your packet and understand your **pledge amount**. **The Volunteer** will ask you, if you have any questions about **the Campaign**; but they do not know how much your **family** is being asked to **Sacrifice**. Please take your **Sacrifice** to prayer—allow God to remind you of how much His Son **Sacrificed** for you and your **family**, and then make your **pledge** to the **Campaign**. God is the only one, who knows what your **Sacrifice** cost you, and God will **reward** you for imitating His Son so well.



I couldn't get a seat at **Fr. Kramer's** table for the celebration of **the Jubilee Mass** in **Rockford** last Tuesday (so many wanted to speak with **Father!**). So, I sat at a table with **Fr. Max Striedl** from **St. Gall's Church** in Elburn. **Father** was speaking to myself and some other **priests**—that his **Parish** only came up with 5 names for **the CALLED BY NAME program**. I thought, if a **Parish** that is six times bigger than **Our Lady of Perpetual Help** only has **five Faithful young men**—we did not do too bad! I will leave **the postcards** in the back of our **Churches**, if the Holy Spirit **inspires** you to write a **man's name** on the card—just know that we will forward the information on to **the Diocese**.

The Last Supper by Leonardo da Vinci

The Last Supper by **Leonardo da Vinci** was commissioned as part of a plan of renovations to the Church and the monastery of the **Dominican monks** in Milan. The Duke of Milan, **Ludovico Sforza**, was **Leonardo's** patron, but **Ludovico** originally opened the competition to paint (what later became) the monk's **Refectory** to many artists in the surrounding area. An artist would provide sketches of his work and what he intended to paint for the patron, who would pay for the work. There are quite a few sketches housed in **the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle in England**. Because **Leonardo** used his own fresco painting technique, and as a result of trying to improve on something that could not be improved – **da Vinci's** work deteriorated quite quickly – **molding** and the paint **flaking off** the wall, so that in as little as 20 years, **Giorgio Vasari** described **the Last Supper** as already *'ruined.'* The preliminary sketches for the work became of great value, especially to later restoration projects. I have included a few sketches (from top to bottom) they are: **the head of St. Philip**, **the arm of St. Peter** (holding the knife, which he would later cut off the high priest's servant's (Malchus) ear, **the hands of St. John**, and **the head of Judas**. I think it is fascinating that **Leonardo** won the commission for **the Last Supper** (mostly because he painted all twelve faces visible to the viewer), but the image of **the Crucifixion** (on the opposite wall in the **Refectory**) – that commission was awarded to **Giovanni Donato da Montorfano**. Next week, we begin our discussion on the reaction of the Twelve to our Lord's statement: **one of you will betray Me.** (John 13:21)



Mass Intentions



Saturday, May 9th

(+) Msgr. Willhite & (+) Fr. Kramer/ Fr. Randy
4:00 pm, **OLPH** (+) Richard Wertz/ Shawn Leffelman

Sunday, May 10th 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy
10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Rita Haefner/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wujek
Noon **OLPH** (+) Patricia Painter/ Mr. & Mrs. Mark Atherton

Monday, May 11th

(+) Thomas Berry/ Neal Vaessen

Tuesday, May 12th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Gerald & (+) Janet Hornung/ Fr. Randy

Wednesday, May 13th Lady of Fatima

8:00 am, **OLPH** (+) Delbert Bonnell/ Mr. & Mrs. Dan Jones

Thursday, May 14th

7:30 am, **SMA** (+) Julie Malch/ Mr. & Mrs. Mike Pratt
8:30 am, **OLPH** (+) Larry Leffelman/ Shawn Leffelman

Friday, May 15th St. Dymphna

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Thomas Sharkey/ Nancy Brandau
10:45 am, **Stonecroft** (+) John Ramond & (+) Msgr. McDonnell/ Fr. Randy
5:30 pm, **St. Peter's Cathedral, Rockford** Those Suffering from Anxiety/ Fr. Randy

Saturday, May 16th

Roger & Kimberly Fronek/ Richard Fronek & Fr. Randy
4:00 pm, **OLPH** Pro Populo/ Fr. Randy

Sunday, May 17th Ascension Sunday

8:00 am, **St. Patrick** (+) Joseph Quest/ Velma Quest
10:00 am, **SMA** (+) Quin & (+) Josephine Torri/ Torri Family
Noon **OLPH** (+) Clement Henkel/ Family & (+) Rose Theiss/ Judy Marschang



Mother's Day Celebration

**The Knights of
Columbus
Council 8277**

**will cook
breakfast for us
to help celebrate
Mother's Day.**

**Sunday,
May 10th**

**from 7:45am to
10:30am**

in

**St. Joseph's Hall
at St. Patrick
Church in
Amboy**

32 N. Jones Ave

