

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Recently, the American writer Richard Egan shared this very personal reflection with his readers:

This past Christmas, Jesus did not come to me as a baby in a manger but as a man on a cross. It was Lent in Advent. On December 7, I checked into a hospital for what turned out to be a 22-day stay to undergo an extremely rough process called a BEAM stem cell transplant. The first six days involved infusions of massive amounts of three different kinds of chemotherapy—substantially more than is given in any other kind of procedure. Its purpose is to kill cancer cells.

A brief explanation of the chemotherapy problem: my body was at war with itself, so I brought in some outside mercenaries. They were not exercising good fire discipline. Yes, they were killing cancer cells, but they were killing many healthy cells as well. It was a slaughterhouse. I learned how a cow must feel after being minced into hamburger.

Physical duress, I was warned, would be accompanied by spiritual duress. On my second evening, the night nurse, whom I'd never seen before, stood at the foot of my bed and said, "There is no time to beat around the bush, so I'm going to say it straight out. You're going to suffer. With what you're about to go through, you'll need to know why. What does it mean? There are two basic attitudes. The first is, 'Poor me. The fickle finger of fate has come down to crush me. There's no rhyme or reason to it. It's random suffering. It's cruel. Why me?' This perspective produces bitterness and anger. The second attitude sees suffering as serving a higher purpose. It has meaning. It's meant to change you in a way that you wouldn't be changed without undergoing it. The higher purpose is to draw you higher—to make something more out of what you are now. So, accept the suffering. Don't try to walk away from it; walk into it. When things get really rough, remember the higher purpose. And this higher purpose is a Person. The Person is on the Way of the Cross. So accept the Cross, because **suffering is an essential part of purification and sanctification in this life. It is the furnace of Divine Love where we learn how to love.**"

In a sense other than St. Paul intended, the Cancer Ward taught me that "you are not your own." (1 Cor 6:19). It was a painful moment of truth I had to face, perhaps for the first time in my life. But now I know why God allowed me to get this illness, because, without it, I would never have gotten as close to Him as I am right now.

P.S. I just realized that his reflection perfectly complements my homily last Sunday.



Fr. Slawek

FEBRUARY 11, 2024



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
Turning concern into action

"The reward for Christian charity is the joy that one feels
after having performed a good deed." - Don Bosco

In all the ordinary and the extraordinary things that we do to bring comfort, the hope and joy to the less fortunate in our community, we give witness and thanks to God's love and compassion.

Thank you for your contributions to the Poor Box.

ANOTHER WAY TO DONATE TO OUR PARISH

Pre-Authorized Giving Plan—Pre-Authorized Giving is a very simple procedure. When you participate in Pre-Authorized Giving, your offering will be withdrawn from your account on or about the 20th of the month. This amount will then be deposited to the Parish's account.

This amount will be receipted at the end of the year for tax purposes.

Application forms are on the table at the back of the church.

2023 Tax Receipt

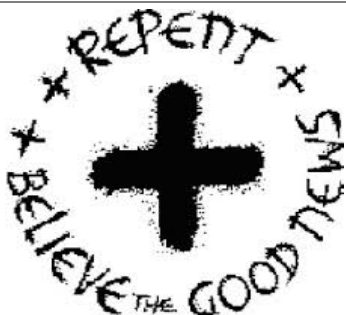
Attention all Parishioners: 2023 Tax receipts will be **mailed out the first week of March**. If you would like to pick up your receipt from the parish office before it is mailed out, the tax receipt will be **available for pick up February 26—29, 2024**.

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS—Reception of Holy Communion

It has come to my attention that some people, receiving on the hand, carry the Sacred Host back to their seats. This is forbidden. Please be sure to consume Jesus, truly present in the Sacred Host, right after you receive Him. You must consume the Host in the front of the church, right after receiving. There are people who wish to steal consecrated Hosts for the sake of rituals. If you see anyone walking away without having consumed the Sacred Host please alert one of the Ushers, the Sacristan—Anthony or Fr. Slawek.

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS 2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

To the parishioner who has not picked up their 2024 envelopes you have until the end of February. As of March 1 the number assigned to you will be removed from the system and assigned to someone else.



**ARE YOU MOVING?
OR
HAVE YOU MOVED
ALREADY**

Please contact the parish office so
your records can be updated.
Thank you.



MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 13

9 a.m. The Deceased members of the
Navaratham family.

Wednesday, February 14

9 a.m. Ash Wednesday.
7 p.m. Ash Wednesday.

Thursday, February 15

9 a.m. Private Intentions.

Friday, February 16

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Noel Valerio req. by
Maria Valerio.

Saturday, February 17

4:30 p.m. Repose of the soul of Suor Bernardina
Manza req. by the Lanni Pirillo & Deni
families.

Sunday, February 18

9 a.m. Intentions of thanksgiving for the Porcal
family req. by Joriza Porcal.
11 a.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

COFFEE & TEA & SNACKS SOCIAL



The Social will resume
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
After the 9 a.m. Mass
in the Parish Basement

All parishioners welcome

SUNDAY MISSAL

Are available for purchase from the parish office.
Cost \$ 6.00

Monday -Thursday
8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

YOUR HEALTH

As cold and flu season approaches, to ensure the health of the entire community, parishioners are encouraged to stay home from Mass and parish functions if they are experiencing symptoms of the flu virus, colds, etc. Respect and concern for the common good takes precedence. Thank you for your cooperation! To minimize risks please use the hand sanitizers that are located at each entrance!