

ST MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

207 N Main Street, Coupeville, WA 98239 - (360) 678-6536 Mailing Address: P O Box 1443, Coupeville, WA 98239

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 am - 12 noon, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Parish E-mail: Information@StAugustineOH.org; Visit us on the web at www.StAugustineOH.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm	St Augustine
Spanish 1st Saturday	7:00 pm	St Augustine
Sunday	8:00 am	St Augustine
	9:30 am	St Augustine
	11:15 am	St Mary
Latin 2nd & 4th Sunday	11:00 am	St Augustine
Mon, Thu, Fri & 1st Sat	9:00 am	St Augustine
Thursday	12:10 pm	St Mary

CONFESSION

Friday	8:30 am	St Augustine
Saturday	4:00 pm	St Augustine
3rd Sunday	12:15 pm	St Mary

PARISH MINISTERS

Pastor	Rev. Paul Pluth, JCL
Administration	Mary A. Waters
Religious Education	Mary Rose Anderson
Music Director	Kathleen Dodge-DeHaven
Receptionist	Peggy McCormick

ANOINTING OF THE SICK & HOLY COMMUNION

Please call the Parish Office

"The prognosis is not good," the veterinarian said. She handed me the paper with the figures of what it would cost - payable in advance - to do emergency surgery to remove my Shih Tzu Frank's spleen and stop his internal bleeding from a ruptured tumor on his spleen. The choice was between surgery or putting him down. Surgery would save Frank's life - that day. But, likely the tumor was cancerous, and he might have as little as a month left to live. And yet - I'd happened to be home that Sunday morning (August 29), when normally I'd have been celebrating Mass at St Augustine and St Mary and would have come home to find Frank dead. Did God have a plan?



I am fortunate not to have had to face a life-and-death decision when my mom and dad died. Having just been through this with a pet, God has given me a deeper empathy with our families who have to face these decisions that are much more serious and heartbreaking when it concerns a spouse, a parent, a child. In a moment, we have to make those decisions. Our Catholic belief is that God works through our reason and our hearts to make his will known, and all we can do is listen and do our part. Frank had the surgery. He does have cancer. As I write this, I don't know (yet) how far it has spread or what I can do for treatment. But we have this day - the only day we can ever be sure of - and for this day, we can be grateful. *Father Paul*

Announcements & Events

◆ READERS AT MASS

Our heartfelt thanks to Marianne Dorman for her years of service as a Lector. Marianne is relocating to her childhood home in Australia.

If you would like to assist at Mass by reading the epistles and prayers of the faithful, contact Roger Foley at 360 720 9696.

◆ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer positions where we need your assistance are as Sacristans, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Rosary Leaders, Outreach Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers. If you hear our Lord calling you to one of these ministries and you would like to find out more please call the office and we will direct you to a coordinator.

Thank you

◆ PREGNANCY CARE CLINIC

We have an ongoing collection of baby items for PCC. Your new items are greatly appreciated, please keep them coming! Formula, diapers, clothing etc. You may place them in the cradle



located in the SE corner of Harrington Hall. Monetary donations are gratefully appreciated and accepted.



THANK YOU!

◆ CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Mark December 3rd on your calendar NOW for St Mary 4th Annual Christmas Bazaar!

Please start collecting new or like new gift items. Glassware, jewelry, beautiful Christmas decorations, etc. Remember NO Garage Sale items, only gifts for giving at Christmas.

Do you knit or crochet? Need yarn for those hand made treasures? Come by the office to take a look at what was donated for this very purpose.

Please store items at your home until we are ready to receive them. If storing them at home is difficult please contact Janet at 360-969-1609 or email her at mjrojas@whidbey.net

◆ KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

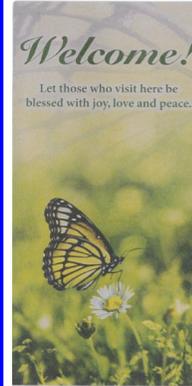
Knights of Columbus Right to Life breakfast today after Mass. Plan to join us.

For information on:

RCIA Journey of Faith for Adults and RCIA-C for children 7-18yrs.

Please view the St. Augustine bulletin on the website www.StAugustineOH.org

New look for our weekly Stewardship Envelopes



Please note that the envelope pictured to the left **replaces** the blue bordered collection envelope. Located in the vestibules and in Harrington Hall.

Please pray for all, especially for those who are ill, going to have or are recovering from surgery.

Diana Schmidt, Josh Poole,
Bryan Russell, Bennett Boyles,
Charlie Toth, Aimee Macdonald,
Michael Hay, Colleen Patmore,
Julie Helleksen

For our family members who are in college or in the military at home and deployed

PFC Zachary McCormick - ANG
Capt. Thomas Allan Bender - USAF

Please call the office at 678-6536 to add a name.

Thankyou so much for all the prayers.



Fall Baptisms are scheduled for November 19th.

Classes will be held in the St. Augustine parish office on October 19th, 6:30 – 8:30 pm and on October 22nd, from 10 am – noon
Call 675-2303 to register

Though our Lord Jesus Christ was rich, he became poor. So that by his poverty you might become rich.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
September 18, 2016

Religious Education REGISTRATION TODAY!

Registration forms are available!

~ Save \$10 per child by registering
TODAY

~ All registrations and payments after
September 18th will be **\$50 per child**

~ Scholarships are available, call the
Religious Education Coordinator
Mary Rose at 206-771-2764

~ Please help us to order the right
number of texts by registering TODAY

~ RE grades Pre K - 6th's **watch the
bulletin for start date (tentative
start date is October 9th)**

~ The Young People's RE program's
start date for teenagers is yet to be
announced.

Peace of Christ,

Mary Rose Anderson

This Week at St. Mary

Sun 9/18	10:45 am Rosary 11:15 am Mass RIP - +Joan Blakely 12:15 PM Confessions will be heard 12:15 pm RE registration in Harrington Hall 12:15 pm Right to Life Breakfast 6:30 pm Lutheran Service
Tues 9/20	Office closed
Wed 9/21	9:00 am Bible Study 9:30 am Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm Bible Study
Thu 9/22	11:30 am Rosary 12:10 pm Mass 12:45 - 2:00 pm Adoration
Sun 9/25	10:45 am Rosary 11:15 am Mass 12:15 pm Coffee & Donuts 6:30 pm Lutheran Service

Connect with Father Paul

ppluth@staugustineoh.org
Facebook www.facebook.com/FatherPaulPluth
Twitter www.twitter.com/@FatherPaulPluth

Rachel's Corner

Hope and Healing After Abortion

The retreat was of great benefit, filled with anointing, pardon, faith, conversion. Also, much giving, sacrifice and dedication of the team. -
Testimonial after Retreat

God yearns to help you see who you really are in Him and walk the path of healing with you to a joy you have never known before.

Come on a Rachel's Vineyard™ Retreat.
He will be there!

November 11-13, 2016

Call Valerie: 1-800-822-HOPE (4673)

You are loved with an everlasting Love!

Project Rachel is a program of Catholic Community Services.

Parish Stewardship

Weekly Parish Expense:
\$3,055

September 4th: \$4,045

Please remember St Mary in your will

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



Part I of II: Our Call as Catholic Citizens

This brief document is Part I of a summary of the US bishops' reflection, *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, which complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states.



"If indeed 'the just ordering of society and of the state is a central responsibility of politics,' the Church 'cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice.'"¹ So writes Pope Francis, quoting Pope Benedict XVI.

Our nation faces many political challenges that demand well-informed moral choices:

- The ongoing destruction of a million innocent human lives each year by abortion
- Physician-assisted suicide
- The redefinition of marriage
- The excessive consumption of material goods and the destruction of natural resources, harming the environment as well as the poor
- Deadly attacks on Christians and other religious minorities throughout the world
- Efforts to narrow the definition and exercise of religious freedom
- Economic policies that fail to prioritize the needs of poor people, at home and abroad
- A broken immigration system and a worldwide refugee crisis
- Wars, terror, and violence that threaten every aspect of human life and dignity.²

As Catholics, we are part of a community with profound teachings that help us consider challenges in public life, contribute to greater justice and peace for all people, and evaluate policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises and actions in light of the Gospel in order to help build a better world.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34).

The US Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to proclaim and live out their faith without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning its moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to any political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to

human life and dignity. This should not discourage us. On the contrary, it makes our obligation to act all the more urgent. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good. Faithful citizenship is an ongoing responsibility, not just an election year duty.

How Can Catholic Social Teaching Help Guide Our Participation?

In the words of Pope Francis, "progress in building a people in peace, justice and fraternity depends on four principles related to constant tensions present in every social reality. These derive from the pillars of the Church's social doctrine, which serve as 'primary and fundamental parameters of reference for interpreting and evaluating social phenomena.'"³ The four principles include the dignity of the human person, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity. Taken together, these principles provide a moral framework for Catholic engagement in advancing what we have called a "consistent ethic of life" (*Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 22).

Rightly understood, this ethic does not treat all issues as morally equivalent; nor does it reduce Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following summary of the four principles highlights several themes of Catholic social teaching for special consideration: these include **human rights and responsibilities, respect for work and the rights of workers, care for God's creation, and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.**⁴

The Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred because every person is created in the image and likeness of God. There is a rich and multifaceted Catholic teaching on human dignity summarized in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. Every human being "must always be understood in his unrepeatable and inviolable uniqueness . . . This entails above all the requirement not only of simple respect on the part of others, especially political and social institutions and their leaders with regard to every man and woman on the earth, but even more, this means that the primary commitment of each person towards others, and particularly of these same institutions, must be for the promotion and integral development of the person" (no. 131). The *Compendium* continues, "It is necessary to 'consider every neighbor without exception

as another self, taking into account first of all his life and the means necessary for living it with dignity' (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 27). Every political, economic, social, scientific and cultural program must be inspired by the awareness of the primacy of each human being over society."⁵

Subsidiarity

It is impossible to promote the dignity of the person without showing concern for the family, groups, associations, and local realities—in short, for those economic, social, cultural, recreational, professional, and political communities to which people spontaneously give life and which make it possible for them to achieve effective social growth.⁶ The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

The principle of subsidiarity reminds us that larger institutions in society should not overwhelm or interfere with smaller or local institutions; yet larger institutions have essential responsibilities when the more local institutions cannot adequately protect human dignity, meet human needs, and advance the common good.⁷

The Common Good

The common good is comprised of “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily.”⁸

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if **human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met**. Every human being has a right to life, a right to religious freedom, and a right to have access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to ourselves, to our families, and to the larger society.

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. An economic system must serve the dignity of the human person and the common good by **respecting the dignity of work and protecting the rights of workers**. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, a broad and fair legalization program with a path to citizenship for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity. Workers also have responsibilities—to provide a fair day's work for a fair day's pay, to treat employers and coworkers with respect, and to carry out their work in ways that contribute to the common good. Workers, employers, and unions should not only advance their own interests but also work together to advance economic justice and the well-being of all.

We have a duty to **care for God's creation**, which Pope Francis refers to in *Laudato Si'* as “our common home.”⁹ We all are called to be careful stewards of God's creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future. Pope Francis, consistent with St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI (World Day of Peace Message, 1990 and 2010), has lifted up pollution, climate change, lack of access to clean water, and the loss of biodiversity as particular challenges. Pope Francis speaks of an “ecological debt” (no. 51) owed by wealthier nations to developing nations. And he calls all of us to an “ecological conversion” (no. 219), by which “the effects of [our] encounter with Jesus Christ become evident in [our] relationship with the world around [us]”.¹⁰ Indeed, this concern with “natural ecology” is an indispensable part of

the broader “human ecology,” which encompasses not only material but moral and social dimensions as well.

Solidarity

Solidarity is “a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to . . . the good of all and of each individual, because we are *all* really responsible for *all*.” It is found in “a commitment to the good of one's neighbor with the readiness, in the Gospel sense, to ‘lose oneself’ for the sake of the other instead of exploiting him, and to ‘serve him’ instead of oppressing him for one's own advantage.”¹¹

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

In a special way, our solidarity must find expression in the **preferential option for the poor and vulnerable**. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor, and the marginalized.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, the bishops vigorously repeat their call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the promotion of human life and dignity, and the pursuit of the common good. Political participation in this spirit reflects not only the social teaching of our Church but the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

- 1 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 183.
- 2 This specific list of issues is taken from the Introductory Note to *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2015. For a fuller consideration, see the second document in this series, “The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship; Part II: Making Moral Choices and Applying Our Principles” (2016), and the full statement of the bishops' *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2015.
- 3 *Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 221.
- 4 These principles are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005), no. 160. For more information on these principles, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 2016, nos. 40ff.
- 5 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 132. This summary represents only a few highlights from the fuller treatment of the human person in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*. For the fuller treatment, see especially nos. 124-159 where many other important aspects of human dignity are treated.
- 6 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 185.
- 7 *Centesimus Annus*, no. 48; *Dignitatis Humanae*, nos. 4-6.
- 8 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 164
- 9 *Laudato Si'*, no. 77.
- 10 *Laudato Si'*, nos. 219 and 217.
- 11 *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, no. 193. (See Mt 10:40-42, 20:25; Mk 10:42-45; Lk 22:25-27)

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ISBN: 978-1-60137-545-2
Publication No. 7-545