

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

In my daily encounters with people, one thing in common I can associate with others is the experience of failure. When someone says, “I worked so hard and brought up my children, and now I see their lives and I feel like I am an utter failure” or another, “I try so hard to please my spouse, and I am seldom appreciated”, or yet another, “I have served the community to my very best, but it never seems to be enough” I can fully understand where they come from.

The politicians are quick to point out each other’s failure. Even in the Church we hear things like, “Did you know that there are nearly as many ex-Catholics in this country as Catholics? Did you know that by some estimates, about 80% of the members of the mega protestant churches are former Catholics? Did you know that the fastest growing category in the polls of “religious affiliation” is “none”?

All of us have to deal with failure. The farmer in today’s gospel parable sounds a lot like many of us. In fact, some biblical commentators suggest that this parable of the sower told by Jesus (Mt 13:1-23) is autobiographical. That may after all be true, because Jesus certainly had to deal with a lot of apparent failure, such as rejection by His own village people of Nazareth, opposition from His own Jewish community in Israel; betrayal, denial and abandonment by His chosen twelve, etc. And so the fact of the matter is this: **From the time of the prophets to Jesus Himself, and from Jesus Christ to ourselves, failure has become a part of everyone’s life.**

But today’s message is not a dirge, but a joyful song; it is a story of hope and not of despair. It is about demonstrating God’s power and not our failures. “*Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful... so shall My Word be*” says the Lord (Is 55:10-11). “*You have visited the land and watered it; greatly have you enriched it*” (Ps 65). “*I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us*” (Rom 8:18-23). “*Some seed fell on good soil, and yielded good fruit, thirty, sixty and a hundredfold*” (Mt 13:13-23).

The message for us today therefore, is this: **God and His Word are always powerful and productive. The effectiveness of His Word in my life will depend on whether I am a prejudiced hearer or a shallow hearer, or a preoccupied hearer or an openhearted hearer.** The good news is, with God’s grace, even those of us who are far from being good yielders can become the people with a receptive heart and God’s Word will produce a rich harvest in our lives. While God, the sower, is never tired of sowing the seed of His transformative and salvific Word into human hearts, we, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, are entrusted with the work of furrowing and forming, tilling and turning our hearts and the hearts of the people that God has entrusted to our care, that we will become the good ground on which the seed of God’s Word will yield a fruitful harvest. “*Life is messy, and it is not enough just to talk about the mess. We are each called to do something about it*”, says Matthew Kelly in *Resisting Happiness* (pg. 14).

God bless and Mary, Mother of Mount Carmel, protect you and yours!

Blessed to be your Father in Christ!

Fr. Edwin Kagoo

THY WILL, LORD!

Announcements

(Please submit bulletin announcements 2 weeks in advance of the expected publication date.)

DID YOU KNOW?

8 Modern Errors Every Catholic Should Know and Avoid (cont’d.)

By Monsignor Charles Pope

2. Staurophobia – The term staurophobia comes from Greek roots and refers to a fear of the Cross (*stauros* = cross + *phobia* = fear). Within the Church this error emerges from reticence by Catholics to frankly discuss the demands of discipleship. It reveals a strong hesitation to insist that even hard things are often the best or the proper thing to do.

Many Catholics, including priests and bishops, are downright fearful when pointing to the demands of the cross. When the world protests and says, “Are you saying that those with same-sex attraction cannot get married or be sexually intimate but must live a kind of celibacy?!” The honest answer is, “Yes, that is what we are saying.” But since that answer is hard and rooted in the Cross, many Catholics are dreadfully afraid of a straight-forward, honest answer. The same is true for other difficult moral situations such as Euthanasia (in spite of suffering, we are still not free to take our life or that of another), abortion (despite difficulties and even in cases of rape and incest we are still not free to kill a child in the womb), and divorce and remarriage (in spite of unfortunate developments in a marriage, this does not mean that one is free to leave one marriage to enter another).

Staurophobia also makes many hesitant to issue correction within the Church and in families. There is almost a cringing fear of insisting on any demands or requirements or of even issuing the mildest of punishments or corrective measures. Things like this might upset people and that is one of the worst outcomes for a staurophobic who fears any sort of suffering, for themselves or others. They fail to see a redemptive quality in insisting on the demands of the cross.

St. Paul says, *But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* (Gal 6:14). But for too many Catholics today, the cross and its demands makes them cringe and even feel embarrassment. Instead of boasting in the power of the Cross, the thinking seems more to be “How dare we, or the Church point to it, and actually insist that it is better than the comfort of false compassion.”

St. Paul understood that *Christ crucified is a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.* But he goes on to say, *but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God* (see 1 Cor 1:23-24). But try to tell this to a staurophobic, and sadly they are legion in the Church. **(To be continued.)**

Calendar for Summer Vacation: Please include daily Mass, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, regular confessions, Family Rosary, Scripture readings, and Works of Mercy as part of daily activities during this summer. Remember, we need God at all times!

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time		<i>July 16, 2017</i>		
	July 15th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	July 16th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	July 22nd <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	July 23rd <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Connie Smiser +Geraldine Frenzel +Anton Hoelscher Special Intentions for the Albert & Augusta Arnold Family	Parishioners	+Ronnie Ranly Respect Life	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Emma Hering Preston Hering Nate Hoelscher Elizabeth Ordner	Adam Herwald Mile Lewis Helen Gausemeier James Lorenz	Kolby Kosel Kelby Kosel Brenden Dorskocil Kasen Ordner	Nolan Kahlig Logan Kleypas Bryce Fikes Maddie Dach
Lector	Laurie Hoelscher	Renae Willberg	Tammy Ryan	Jerry Loden
Gift Bearers	Charles Moeller Family	Gary Frei Family	Charles Wright Family	Gary Ketterman Family
Ushers	Bill Reid Edward Ranly	Allen Frei Randy Frei	Red Carson Joey Hoelscher	Louis Vrana Hagen Hoelscher
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Kerri Meier	Janet Loden	Greneta Ordner	Geraldine Kahlig
Money Counters		Ronnie & Rita Kleypas Clifford & Susan Neumann		Lonnie Ranly Bill & Kitty Reid
Rosary Leaders	Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher	James & Jane Kahlig	Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher	James & Jane Kahlig
Vocations Cross Family		Walton, Jr. & Belinda Hering		James & Jane Kahlig
Church Cleaners	7/15 & 7/22	Frances Hering, Janet Loden, Joyce Wimberley, Belinda Hering, Kim Hughling, Grace Frei		
Weekday Mass Intentions	July 18th <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	July 19th <i>Wednesday, 8:00am</i>	July 20th <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	July 21st <i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
	+ Ben Kahlig	+Vince Tana	+Doug Landry +Charlotte Ann Thornton	Special Intentions for Holy Souls

Parish of the Visitation Westphalia, Texas



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Rev. Edwin Kagoo, Pastor
Deacon Bill Smetana
Deacon Charlie Wright
Deacon Julian Tyboroski

Saturday Mass – 6:00pm
Sunday Mass – 8:00am
Reconciliation: Sat. 5:20pm - 5:50pm and Sun. 7:20am – 7:50am

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 16, 2017

Our Mission is:

TO SEE JESUS & **TO BE JESUS**
In life and liturgy & *In family and community*

Sanctuary Candle – in Memory of Charlotte Ann Thornton, Ervin & Lucy Willberg and Special Intentions for the Albert S. and Augusta Arnold Family.

Please pray for the sick & suffering:

Jeff Bernsen, Carla Welch, Josie Kleypas, Dennis Fuchs, Beatrice Arnold, Steven Pletzke, Sr. Clemence Ribitzki, Pattie Pletzke, Mike Meyer, Kyla Frei, Bobby Bulls, Cathy Didner, Sr. Benedict Zimmerer, Don Drake, Al Buckholt, Gene Kreger, Hudson John Halfmann, George Wright, Charles Ordner, Edwin Green, Craig Thornton, and Grace Hoelscher.

Free Book – Best known author, Matthew Kelly's recent publication – *Resisting Happiness*. If you want a copy, please contact the parish office.

Meetings:

Liturgy Commission 7/18 @ 7:00pm
WVFD 7/19 @ 7:00pm

Offerings:

July 9th \$1,731.00
Children's collection \$10.00
Building Fund \$1,339.00