

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

In the second reading for this Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, cycle “A”, St. Paul who himself is going through ordeals and suffering writes so emphatically to the small Church in Rome, which is going through persecution and challenges of different kinds, the following awesome words: “*We know that all things work for good for those who love God*” (Rom 8:28). Note that he doesn’t say, “some things” or “most things”, but “ALL” things work for good, for those who love God. **Can you and I concur with St. Paul? If we have not had such a positive experience, what might be the reason for it?**

The parables of Jesus in the gospel today (Mt 13:44-46) may help us understand why we lack such a powerful experience of God’s peace and the joy of His kingdom. **The parable of “the hidden treasure in the field” and the parable of “the precious pearl that the merchant searched for so long and found”, speak both of the preciousness of the life with God, and also of the single minded desire of the finder to forego everything in order to possess that one single most precious treasure.** Is God your most precious treasure and valuable pearl? If we love God more than all else in this world, and are willing to sacrifice anything in order to be with Him, most certainly then, we too will be able to have the experience of numerous saints and say most assertively with St. Paul : “ALL things work for good, for those who love God!”

Notice that the farmer and the merchant find treasures in different ways. The former, who finds it between bushes and stones on a field not his own, is struck by surprise. The latter finds the pearl because he is a passionate connoisseur and knows what he is looking for. Some of us might have stumbled upon God and others through a diligent and passionate search. In any case, **it is possible for all to encounter God or to be met by Him and to experience His Joy, Peace and Goodness. But it requires of us to do what the farmer and the merchant in the parables do: “out of joy to go and sell everything to possess this precious treasure”. Are we willing to do it?**

When I was young, one of my favorite songs went like this: “*Lord, you are most precious than silver; Lord you are most costly than gold; Lord, you are more beautiful than diamond; and nothing I desire can compare with you!*” If these words, which are similar to today’s Responsorial psalm (Ps 119) truly mean anything to us, how can we be compromising, and selling short our faith? How can we get our priorities mixed up and God does not occupy the top place on our list. Is wealth, health, sports, rest, work, career, family, friends, power, position, name and fame more important than God?

To know the right priorities of life and to seek the best in all we do with a total dedication and devotion is true wisdom. In the first reading today (I Kg 3:5, 7-12) the Lord was pleased with Solomon because he asked God not for a long life, nor for riches, nor for the life of his enemies, but for an understanding and wise heart.

In our efforts to be **GROWING DISCIPLES in Faith and Service**, let us pray for the wisdom and understanding that we may with all our love and life, strive to **SEE Jesus in Life and Liturgy, and BE Jesus in Family and Community.**

May God bless and Mary protect you and yours!

I am blessed to be your father in Christ,

Rev. Edwin Kagoo

THY WILL, LORD!

(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 (contd.)

By Monsignor Charles Pope

4. Deformed Dialogue – The term “dialogue” has come to mean an almost endless conversation. As such it lacks a clear goal to convince the other. It usually just means “talk.” In our culture merely talking is given a lot of credit.

While talking is not bad per se, it can substitute mere action for a true goal. Originally “dialogue” had a more vigorous meaning. It comes from the Greek and is used in Scripture. Διαλέγομαι (*dialégomai*) where we get the word “dialogue” comes from the Greek roots *diá*, (through, from one side across to the other) + *légō*, (“speaking to a conclusion”). *Dia* intensifies *lego* so it is properly, “getting a *conclusion across*” by exchanging thoughts, words or reasons.

And thus we see “dialogue” was originally a far more vigorous word than it would seem most people mean by the word today. In the New Testament it is used more often in the context of giving testimony and of trying to convince others the Gospel (e.g. Acts 17:2, 17 and 18:4).

But, as noted, in our times dialogue can actually stall conversion and given the impression that all sides have valid stances and that merely “understanding” the position of the other is praise-worthy. Understanding may have value, but mostly is of value to lay a foundation for conversion to the truth of the Gospel.

It is unclear today that conversion is actually a goal when many Catholics speak of dialogue with the world or with unbelievers. Dialogue is a tool, not a goal; it is a method, not a destination. And as a method, dialogue (in its original meaning) is a vigorous, dynamic and joyful setting forth of the Gospel, not a chatty and (seemingly) endless conversation.

It is true, we seek to win souls, not arguments. But winning the soul is a true goal that many modern references to “dialogue” and “understanding” seem to lack. Hence “deformed dialogue” makes our compendium of modern problems and errors. **(to be continued)**

Building Fund Collection will be next weekend. Please be generous.

Baptism Class will be August 5. Contact Eileen Lewis for more information.

Religion Education News: Parent’s Meeting and Registration will be held on the first two weekends of August after Mass, August 5th and 6th, and 12th and 13th. If these times are not possible for you, please call Linda Lorenz, [254-715-0573](tel:254-715-0573) to schedule a time to come in to register. All Kindergartners need to bring their Baptismal Certificates (a copy will be made). All non-registered parishioners need to bring a letter of approval to attend Church of the Visitation Religious Education Program from the pastor of the parish you belong. Fees: Church of the Visitation Parishioners \$25.00 per child and non-parishioners \$35.00 per child. If you would like to print and fill out a registration form, they are online at:

http://www.churchofthevisitation.org/religious_education.shtm but all parents need to attend one of the meetings. The Program is in need of Catechists, classroom aides, helpers and substitutes for both intermediate and high school classes. There are only two requirements needed, love for God and the little souls He put in our care, and to be EIM compliant.

Fr Edwin’s Birthday Social will be Sunday, August 6th. The Altar Society will host it. We need all ladies to donate pastries, cookies, etc. to celebrate Father’s birthday.

10 WEEK SERIES ON CATHOLICISM: Look forward in September to an awesome series on different aspects of our Catholic Faith taught by the well-known author and evangelist Bishop Robert Barron in our parish as part of our spiritual growth as disciples.

Rural Life Mass will be August 3rd at 6:00pm in Fayetteville. A reception and meal will follow.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU INVITED SOMEONE TO BE A PRIEST OR A RELIGIOUS? DO IT TODAY!

<i>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>				<i>July 30, 2017</i>
	July 29th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	July 30th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	August 5th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	August 5th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Alois Ketterman +Leona Brenek +Erwin Kahlig +Gladys Kahlig	Parishioners	+Gilbert Wilde +Pauline Wilde +Gerald Hoelscher	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Emma Hering Preston Hering Nate Hoelscher Elizabeth Ordner	Adam Herwald Mike Lewis Helen Gausemeier James Lorenz	Kolby Kosel Kelby Kosel Brenden Dorskocil Kasen Ordner	Nolan Kahlig Logan Kleypas Bryce Fikes Maddie Dach
Lector	Shawna Ranly	Tammie Frenzel	Laurie Hoelscher	Susan Neumann
Gift Bearers	Edwin Green Family	Bradley Rudloff Family	Lynwood Kleypas Family	David Williams Family
Ushers	Walton Hering, Jr & Carl Hubik	Marvin Meyer & Edward Meyer	Paul Dorskocil & Randy Lorenz	Gary Frei & Gary Ketterman
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Amanda Moeller	Gary Ketterman	Connie Petru	Walton Hering, Jr.
Money Counters		Chris & Peggy Hrabal and Georgia Ketterman		Louis & Jerlene Vrana and Horest & Bernice Weaver
Rosary Leaders	Elmer & Geraldine Hoelscher	James & Jane Kahlig	Charles & Greneta Ordner	Johnnie Thornton & Gary Ketterman
Vocations Cross Family		Al & Lou Buckholt		Curtis & Catherine Kahlig
Church Cleaners	7/29 & 8/6	Doris Wilde, Jerlene Vrana, Stacy Lorenz, Callie Wilde, Melody Vrana		
Weekday Mass Intentions	August 1st <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i> +Gilbert Wilde +Pauline Wilde	August 2nd <i>Wednesday, 8:00am</i> Intentions for the Boeselt Family +Martin Zeig	August 3rd <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i> +Larry R. Hoelscher +Charlotte Ann Thornton	August 4th <i>Friday,</i> NO MASS

Parish of the Visitation Westphalia, Texas



144 County Road 3000, Lott, Texas 76656
254-584-4983

www.churchofthevisitation.org
westphaliaparish@gmail.com

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 30, 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:

Quilt Group 8/2 @ 8:00am

Choir 8/2 @ 7:00pm

Offerings:

July 23rd \$2,052.00

Children's Collection \$10.00