

Dear Visitation Family,

Shalom (Peace)!

September 17th is the feast day of St. Robert Bellarmine, the patron saint of catechists. Every year, the Sunday closest to his feast is observed as **Catechetical Sunday** here in the United States. Thus, this Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time in cycle "A" is the day when *we honor and thank all of our catechists*, and *reflect on the importance of Catechesis for ourselves and for our mission to be GROWING DISCIPLES of and for Jesus.*

By our baptism we are all called to be catechists. Jesus has entrusted to us as a Church the great commission to be GROWING DISCIPLES for Him by being His witnesses and teaching all the world all that He has taught us, and by baptizing them in the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Mt 28: 16-20). But we cannot be effective witnesses without knowing Jesus in Liturgy and Life. And we can only teach others what we ourselves know through our study and understanding of the Catechism. We can invite others to the Sacrament only when we appreciate and live by the grace of the Sacrament.

It takes more to be a catechist than to be a good teacher in the ordinary sense of the word. *What a catechist teaches is not merely what one knows through study and certification, but WHAT AND WHO ONE BELIEVES IN.* While Catechesis is a systematic way of teaching the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a catechist transmits the faith and not just the doctrine. That is why, we often hear it said: "*Faith is not so much taught as it is CAUGHT*". Most of us go to church, celebrate the Sacraments, and participate in the life and the mission of the Church because that is what we saw our parents and family do. Conversely, one of the most common reasons why many of the children of our generation have missed out on faith is because of the absence of a vivacious witness of faith among their parents or families. The Catechism of the Catholic Church clearly and plainly states that the parents are the primary catechists of their children and the family, called "*the domestic church*" is their first school of faith. The pastor and his parish collaborators in the ministry of Catechesis complement the home.

Catechesis is a lifelong process of growing in faith since Christianity is about discipleship. What it means is that all of us, children, youth, young adults, grown-ups, and elder generation, must be engaged in an ongoing faith formation, because we are all GROWING DISCIPLES of Jesus. We must be grateful for every opportunity that is provided in the parish, on the media, through various pious organizations of the Church, and must participate in them. I would love for everyone in the parish to come to the **10 week series on Catholicism** beginning this Thursday. Like our 8 week "*A Quick Journey through the Bible*" Study, this too will be a blessing for you. And, what is even a greater blessing is that it is free, and you don't need to travel far.

The theme for this year's Catechetical Sunday is "*Living as Missionary Disciples*". As the Lord Jesus taught St. Peter, the necessity of forgiving, not only through the powerful parable of the unforgiving servant (*Mt 18:21-35*), but more by His own personal example later on, I pray that we will be given the grace to be living as missionary disciples by our words and actions, and to make others, especially the ones charged to our care, to be living as missionary disciples.

My special thanks and appreciation to Linda Lorenz, our Faith Formation Coordinator and to all of her dedicated catechists and associates for their valuable and loving ministry! God bless and Mary protect you and yours! St. Robert Bellarmine pray for us!

I am blessed to be your father in Christ,

Rev. Edwin Kagoo

THY WILL, LORD!

Announcements

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

DID YOU KNOW?

The small Caribbean island of Barbuda has been left completely devastated by Hurricane Irma. An estimated 95% of Barbuda's structures are damaged, and the entire island of around 1,800 people has been evacuated. "The damage is complete," says Ambassador Ronald Sanders, who has served as Antigua and Barbuda's ambassador to the U.S. since 2015. "For the first time in 300 years, there's not a single living person on the island of Barbuda — a civilization that has existed on that island for over 300 years has now been extinguished." According to Sanders, Irma was "the most ferocious, cruel and merciless storm" in the island's history. The hurricane was 378 miles wide when it descended on Barbuda, which is just 62 square miles. "This was a huge monster," he says. "The island and the people on the island had absolutely no chance. The world must step up and help!"

This is one of the many sad stories of the impact of the recent hurricanes that we saw.

Our hearts and thoughts, prayers and support go out to our brothers and sisters and children in distress. Thank you for your generosity with the massive relief and restoration work in their lives and their places. God bless you and God help us to help them!

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE EXCITING 10 WEEK SERIES ON CATHOLICISM BY INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED AUTHOR AND TEACHER AND PREACHER BISHOP ROBERT BARRON, STARTING THIS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST @ 6.30 PM IN THE CENTENNIAL ROOM AT THE WESTPHALIA PARISH HALL.

Picnic Update

- **Chicken Donations** – Please use the "Chicken Donation" envelope provided in your box of envelopes for weekly offerings. Suggested donation is \$20. Drop them in the collection basket any Sunday before the picnic to receive credit.
- **T-Shirts** – The Altar Society has ordered t-shirts for everyone to wear at the picnic. They will be available for purchase (\$10 each) after weekend Masses.
- **Worklist** – If you have any changes for the worklist, please email Cindy Moeller at westphaliaparish@gmail.com.
- **Other** – If you need supplies or have suggestions for process improvement, email renae.willberg@gmail.com or call 254.760.7831.
- **Each family is asked to contribute:**
 - \$20 for purchase of chickens
 - Two or more craft items, home-baked or -canned goods for the Altar Society Booth.
 - Two or three homemade cakes to serve.
 - Item(s) for the auction.

ALTAR SERVER MONTHLY MEETING with Fun, Food and Formation will begin from October. The meetings are scheduled for the Second Saturday every month. We invite the parents not only to bring your children but also to participate in volunteering to help us provide the quality time for our children with your assistance. Please contact Linda Lorenz for more information.

K.C. Food Drive September 23rd – October 1st.

Life Chain Rally October 1st at 2:00pm. We will meet at Falls Farm & Auto In Lott.

Holy Trinity in Corn Hill will host its annual Bazaar Sunday, September 17th.

St. Joseph's Cyclone and St. Martin's in Tours will host their annual Picnics September 24th.

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

LISTEN TO CATHOLIC RADIO LOCALLY @ 98.3 FM

<i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		<i>September 17, 2017</i>		
	September 16th	September 17th	September 23rd	September 24th
	<i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	<i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Robert Hoelscher +Christopher Kahlig +Gerald Hoelscher	Parishioners	+Robert Brenek, Sr. +Herbert Hoelscher +Helen Hoelscher	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Nolan Kahlig Preston Hering Nate Hoelscher Maddie Dach	Mike Lewis Adam Herwald James Lorenz Helen Gausemeier	Mike Lewis Adam Herwald James Lorenz Helen Gausemeier	Brenden Doscocil Kasen Ordner Bryce Fikes Logan Kleypas
Lector	Laurie Hoelscher	Jerry Loden	Tammy Ryan	Tammie Frenzel
Gift Bearers	Don Culp Family	Perry Petru Family	Paul Doscocil Family	Gary Frei Family
Ushers	Calvin Wilde & Craig Ordner	Allen Frei & Randy Frei	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Louis Vrana & Hagen Hoelscher
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Kerri Meier	Walton Hering, Jr.	Janet Loden	Cindy Moeller
Money Counters		Calvin & Cheryl Wilde and Craig & Debbie Ordner		Ronnie & Rita Kleypas and Clifford & Susan Neumann
Rosary Leaders	Melvin & Helen Ranly	Perry & Connie Petru	Melvin & Helen Ranly	Perry & Connie Petru
Vocations Cross Family	Chris & Peggy Hrabal		Georgia Ketterman	
Church Cleaners	9/23 & 9/30	Fran Greger, Melinda Stojanik, JoAnn Kalmbach, Pattie Pletzke, Candice Eixman, Elaina Ramos		
Weekday Mass Intentions	September 19th <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	September 20th <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	September 21st <i>Thursday 8:00am</i>	September 22nd <i>Friday 8:00am</i>
	Respect Life	+Charlotte Ann Thornton +Fronie Roessler	+Doug Landry	+Helen W. Hoelscher

Sanctuary Candle – *In memory of Christopher Kahlig and Lt. Col. Raymond Roessler*

Please pray for the sick & suffering:

JoeAnn Kalmbach, 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.

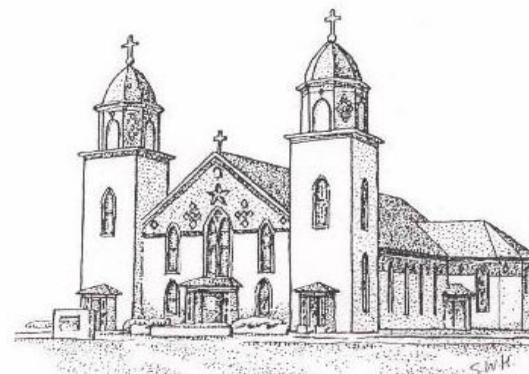
Meetings:

H.S. Religious Education 9/17 after Mass
Outreach Class 9/17 after Mass
Girl Scouts 9/19 12 6:30pm
Liturgy Commission 09/19 @ 7:00pm
Choir 9/20 @ 7:00pm
WVFD 9/20 @ 7:00pm

Offerings:

9/10 \$1,708.00
Children's \$11.00
Hurricane Harvey \$2,670.00

Parish of the Visitation Westphalia, Texas



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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

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time CATECHETICAL SUNDAY September 17, 2017

Our Mission is:

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