

Dear Visitation Family, Shalom (Peace)!

"Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death." I love this opening line of today's second reading (*Philippians 1:20c-24,27a*). In our effort to be Growing Disciples, one of the great challenges is to follow God's ways. The difficulty comes, first of all, in **KNOWING God's ways**. As God Himself says in today's first reading (*Isaiah 55:6-9*), *"My Thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My Ways. As the heavens are above the earth, so high are My Ways above your ways and My Thoughts above your thoughts."* I am excited that we have begun the new study in our ongoing-formation as Growing Disciples, with the 10 week series on **"Catholicism"** by the well renowned scholar and theologian *Bishop Robert Barron*. The first session was on the *'Mystery of God'*. As St. Augustine put it, *"Si comprehendis, non es Deus", If you understand, that isn't God'*. So, if God is a mystery, then how can I know His Ways? It is only possible through Divine Revelation and Faith. Jesus is the fullness of the Revelation. So, if I want to follow God's Ways, it is so vital for me to know Jesus and His teachings as passed on to me by His Holy Church, the visible mystical body of Christ.

Secondly, even if I personally encounter Jesus (**SEE Jesus** in Liturgy and Life), and know His Ways as revealed and passed on to us through the Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium of the Church, the other difficulty in following comes in **EMBRACING God's ways**, because they are so contrary to our human thinking and calculations. Sometimes, they are even an insult to human justice, or so they may seem. In the first reading, as the people of Israel were suffering in exile under the weight of their own sins and saw no way in which God could be merciful to a nation that has broken the covenantal love repeatedly, God spoke those words of mercy through Isaiah, those words of comfort and hope to the amazement of Israel: *"Seek the Lord while He may be found, call Him when He is near, Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to our God, who is generous and forgiving."* While human justice demanded nothing but death and destruction for a rebellious nation, God's mercy was willing to extend forgiveness. In the Gospel (*Mt 20: 1-16*) while the self-righteous Pharisees and even pious Jewish followers like St. Peter rightfully thought that they deserved more from God for being in the vineyard longer and worked harder than the Gentiles and sinners who received the invitation later in the day, Jesus shows that God is not only a God of Justice who gives them what He promised but He is also a God of Mercy, who gives His Love and Life lavishly and generously to one and all who call on His name. As the Psalmist says, *"The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The Lord is good to all and compassionate towards all his works. The Lord is just in all His ways and holy in all His works. The Lord is near to all who call upon Him in truth."* (*Ps 145*)

The parable in today's gospel may appear to be too confounding to our human justice and sensibilities, more so in our current political climate. Yet, the truth of the gospel is enduring and compelling. We humans look at our life in terms of hours spent and money made, but God looks at it in terms of being part of His family sharing His Love. For God, the joy of Growing Disciples for His Kingdom is more valuable and precious than the reward of money. Winning a soul is priceless, and it is the sheer joy of the good shepherd. **So, following God's Ways makes us not to be envious of what God gives to others but to be grateful for the unmerited mercies and blessings in our own lives and to be generous and compassionate with others who are also called to the same mercy and joy of God's Kingdom, no matter when.**

It is that generous, loving and merciful God that Mary praised and magnified in her life, with her Magnificat: *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior, for He has looked down on me, His lowly handmaid."* (*Lk 1:46-55*). It is the same compassionate and gracious God that St. Paul wants to be magnified in his body, alive or dead. **I pray that you and I, the earthen vessels that contain the great treasure, may make it our desire too, to magnify the Life and Love of Jesus for our family and community to be Growing Disciples for Jesus.**

Fr. Edwin Kagoo

THY WILL, LORD!

Announcements

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Due to the devastation caused recently by Hurricane Irma along parts of the Caribbean and southeastern United states, the U.S Conference of Catholic bishops and our own bishop are asking us to take up a special collection "Hurricane Irma Emergency Collection" for those who have been affected by the damage and floods caused by the storm. "The Church is a channel for grace and solidarity in the wake of natural disasters as it offers solace and support in their aftermath. However, as is so often the case, the Church itself in these regions is both the longstanding provider of aid and now is in need of tremendous assistance itself. So many of the Church's structures have been damaged and their resources depleted which makes it even more challenging to provide assistance and pastoral outreach to those in need." says **Daniel Cardinal DiNardo**, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, and president of the USCCB. **"Please support those who have lost so much, if not for the humanitarian need, but in thanksgiving for your own escape from the devastation that the storms and floods have caused in so many areas"** writes **Bishop Joe S. Vasquez**, Bishop of Austin diocese. **So, we will take up a special collection the weekend after our picnic for those people in need. Until then, let us keep them all, and those affected by the earth quake in Mexico in our prayer!**

Building Fund Collection next weekend. Please be generous.

Parish Grounds and highway cleanup has been set for Saturday, September 30th in order to get the roads and the Church campus cleaned up before our annual picnic which brings thousands of people to our beautiful parish. We need men, women and children to come help. We will meet at the hall at 8am. Please come on time!

Baby Banks: Don't forget to pick up your Baby Bank after Mass today! Remember those families that need help during or after an unplanned pregnancy. Your donation will help pro-life efforts in our parish and throughout the diocese. The Gabriel Project, Project Rachel, Sidewalk Ministry, Pro-Life Help Line and much more will receive funds from this campaign. Remember October is Respect Life month and also the month of the Holy Rosary.

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.
- **Special Pilgrim Mass at 10 am** – Please let your family and guests know.
- **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.

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-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		<i>September 24, 2017</i>		
	September 23rd	September 24th	September 30th	October 1st
	<i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	<i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	<i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+Robert Brenek, Sr. +Herbert Hoelscher +Helen Hoelscher	Parishioners	+Erwin Kahlig +Gladys Kahlig	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Mike Lewis Adam Herwald James Lorenz Helen Gausemeier	Brenden Dorskocil Kasen Ordner Bryce Fikes Logan Kleypas	Brenden Dorskocil Kasen Ordner Bryce Fikes Logan Kleypas	Nolan Kahlig Preston Hering Nate Hoelscher Maddie Dach
Lector	Tammy Ryan	Tammie Frenzel	Shawna Ranly	Susan Neumann
Gift Bearers	Paul Dorskocil Family	Gary Frei Family	Walton Hering, Jr. Family	Gary Ketterman Family
Ushers	Mike Heise & Michael Heise	Louis Vrana & Hagen Hoelscher	Bill Reid & Edward Ranly	Marvin Meyer & Edward Meyer
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Janet Loden	Cindy Moeller	Greneta Ordner	Geraldine Kahlig
Money Counters		Ronnie & Rita Kleypas and Clifford & Susan Neumann		Lonnie Ranly and Bill & Kitty Reid
Rosary Leaders	Melvin & Helen Ranly	Perry & Connie Petru	Melvin & Helen Ranly	Raymond & Margaret Moeller
Vocations Cross Family		Georgia Ketterman		Gary & Bernadette Ketterman
Church Cleaners	10/7 & 10/14	Nancy Dorskocil, Tanya Hoelscher, Lacy Hoelscher, Tatum Giniewicz, Margaret Arney		
	September 26th	September 27th	September 28th	September 29th
	<i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	<i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	<i>Thursday 8:00am</i>	<i>Friday 8:00am</i>
Weekday Mass Intentions	+Larry R. Hoelscher	+Ronnie Ranly	+Charlotte Ann Thornton	Special Intentions for Poor Souls +Wilbert Bruggman +Mildred Bruggman

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 9/24 after Mass

Outreach Class 9/24 after Mass

\$26.00Choir 9/20 @ 7:00pm

Choir 9/27 @ 7:00pm

CYO 9/27 @ 7:00pm

Altar Society 10/1 after Mass

Offerings:

9/17

Children's

\$1,621.00

26.00

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

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 24, 2017

Our Mission is:

TO SEE JESUS

&

TO BE JESUS

In life and liturgy

In family and community