

Dear Visitation Family, **Shalom (Peace)**!

Today is **World Mission Sunday**, the day for which the Church was founded. In his message for this *2017 World Mission Sunday*, Pope Francis reminds us that **MISSION is at the heart of the Christian Faith**. "*This day is a good opportunity for enabling the missionary heart of Christian communities to join in prayer, testimony of life, and communion of goods, in responding to the vast pressing needs of evangelization*" said the Pontiff. **At the core of the missionary heart is the LOVE of God and neighbor which compels us to GIVE**. "God so loved the world that He GAVE His only Son, that anyone who believes in Him might have eternal life"(Jn 3:16).

All the Scripture passages for this Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time refer to GIVING. In the first reading, **God tells the pagan King Cyrus that even if he did not know Him, that it was God who called him and gave him his throne and title for the sake of the house of Israel** (*Is 45:1,4-6*). In the Responsorial Psalm, **the psalmist asks the people to give the Lord glory and honor by bringing gifts to His altar** (*Pss 96*). In the second reading, **St. Paul gives thanks to God for his community in Thessalonica for their work of faith, labor of love and endurance in hope of the Lord Jesus** (*1Thes 1:1-5b*). In the gospel, Jesus responds to the hypocritical Pharisees and the Herodians who are trying to trap Him into a controversial situation by asking if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus obtains a coin from them and asks "Whose image and inscription are on it?" And when they reply, "Caesar's", then He wisely declares "**Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's**" (*Mt 22:15-21*).

"Give to God what is God's!" What is NOT God's? The book of Genesis says that we are made in God's own image and likeness (*Gen 1:26*) and therefore we, and all that we are, and all that we have rightly belong to God. Our time, our talents, our treasure, our family, our mind, our heart, our will, our intellect, our body, our soul, all of ourselves must be given to God! Of course, as long as we are in this world, for the common good of all, we must pay taxes, contribute our time and service, use our talents and skills to better this world that God made good and beautiful for all of us, but man made it defiled and deficient because of his pride and greed. But we should never forget that **while God made this wonderful world for man, man himself is made for God**. The purpose of our lives is not just to be content with the products and the pleasures of this world, but to have eternal life and happiness with God. We are made for heaven! We are called to be saints! **And to reach that end everything in this world is only a means**. To attain at end, health and wealth will not suffice, years and peers will not do; what we need are Faith, Hope and Love. These three! And the greatest gift of all is Love. For in heaven, faith will end, hope will cease, but only Love will endure, because God is Love.

In our 10 week series on *Catholicism* by Bishop Robert Barron, this week we learnt that Saints Peter and Paul were the indispensable men for Jesus because, Jesus wanted the Church to be built on the rock of Peter's confession of faith in Him as the Christ, the Son of the Living God; Jesus also wanted the world to hear the kerygma of St. Paul on the Crucified and the Risen Christ and on the necessity of our participation in His Life in the Church through the Sacraments, for man to share in God's glory. This is the reason why there is the Church and why there is a World Mission Sunday today, namely, to remind ourselves of our MISSION: to be **GROWING DISCIPLES** of and for Jesus in Faith and Service. So, **we must GIVE not some, not most, but all of ourselves to God and others to make known our faith in the Risen Christ through works of love**. So, I thank God for you today, using the words of St. Paul, the greatest missionary apostle: "**We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your works of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of Our Lord Jesus Christ.**"(*1Thes 1:2*)

God bless and Mary protect you and yours! I am blessed to be your father in Christ,

Fr. Edwin Kagoo

THY WILL, LORD!

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

DID YOU KNOW? Catholic Q&A on DEATH PENALTY Compiled by USCCB

For people committed to upholding the sanctity of human life, the need to respect and protect innocent human life is clear. For some, however, issues like the death penalty may seem less clear. Although nothing can substitute for thorough catechesis, the following may be helpful as a starting point for considering the death penalty within the context of respect for God's gift of life: WHO ARE WE? The essence of our identity and our worth as human beings, the source of dignity, is that we are loved by God and made in His image and likeness. God's love doesn't change; even sin cannot diminish God's love for each person. As we are reminded in the Scriptures, "Can a mother forget her infant? Even should she forget, I will never forget you." (*Is 49:15*). WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PUNISHMENT? Although "legitimate public authority has the right to and duty to inflict the punishment proportionate to the gravity of the offense," it is not for the sake of vengeance. The Catechism goes on to say, "In addition to defending public order and protecting people's safety, punishment has a medicinal purpose; as far as possible, it must contribute to the correction of the guilty party."(*CCC#2266*).AREN'T SOME CRIMES SO EVIL THE OFFENDER DESERVES TO DIE? Consider how God responded when Cain took the life of his brother, Abel. God punished Cain greatly, but also mercifully spared and protected his life by marking him "so that no one would kill him at sight" (*Gen 4:15*). No sin is a barrier to God's immense and merciful love, and nothing diminishes how much God cherishes each person and his or her life. As God's people, we are called to follow his example, drawing from the grace of Christ's Redemption. DIDN'T THE OLD TESTAMENT LAW ALLOW THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH? For Israelites in the Old Testament, legal punishment of personal injury did allow "life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth" (*Ex 21: 23-24*). However, when Jesus came, he fulfilled the Old Testament Law and deepened our understanding of both justice and mercy: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (*Jn 13:34*). We see the fulfilled law every time we participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In Justice, after confessing our sins, we receive a penance to complete. Yet any penance we could do never fully "makes up" for the ways we turn away from God. That is precisely why Jesus came to redeem us, and took our rightful punishment upon Himself. Although justice requires some action of reparation on our part, at the same time, because of God's mercy, our penance is medicinal, helping to restore us to union with God. SO, IS DEATH PENALTY ALWAYS WRONG? As the Catechism states, "the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against unjust aggressor". However, it also recognizes that today, "cases in which the execution of the offender is an absolute necessity are very rare, if not practically nonexistent."(*CCC#2267*). Therefore, while capital punishment is not forbidden, it can rarely be justified in this modern age- if at all. Non-lethal means are in better keeping with the sanctity of every human life and the common good, and must be used unless public safety cannot be achieved otherwise. "The antidote to violence is love, not more violence." WHAT IS THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES BISHOPS ON DEATH PENALTY? The USCCB has long opposed the use of death penalty in our country. They say that there are other, non-lethal means of defense against unjust aggressor that should be used in our country. No matter how heinous the crime, if society can protect itself without ending a human life, it should do so. Today, we have the capability. "We cannot teach killing is wrong by killing. Institutionalized practices of violence against any person erode the sanctity of every human life."

World Mission Sunday Special Collection for the Propagation of Faith this weekend which will be sent to the Pontifical Office through the diocese to assist the work of the propagation of Faith in different parts of the world. If you missed the opportunity to contribute at Mass, please send it to the office at your earliest. Thanks!
Quilt Show raffle tickets will be given out after mass today. Every lady is asked to take four books to sell.
Baby Banks: October is Respect Life Month! Keep filling those Baby Banks and show your children how important it is to be involved in efforts to help unborn babies, women and families in need by sparing their extra change. Each time you add to your bank, your contribution helps the Gabriel Project, Sidewalk Ministry, Pro-Life Help Line and much more.
St. Joseph's in Cyclone will host a blood drive on Sunday, 10/22 from 8 to 11am. Free breakfast!

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-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary time
WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
October 22, 2017**

Our Mission is:

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

<i>Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>		<i>October 22, 2017</i>		
	October 21st <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	October 22nd <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>	October 28th <i>Saturday, 6:00pm</i>	October 29th <i>Sunday, 8:00am</i>
Intentions	+John Lingnau +Helen Lingnau +Ronnie Ranly +Harold Ranly	Parishioners	+John E. Tobola +Carrie Tobola	Parishioners
Altar Servers	Brenden Daskocil Kasen Ordner Bryce Fikes Logan Kleypas	Nolan Kahlig Preston Hering Nate Hoelscher Maddie Dach	Nolan Kahlig Preston Hering Nate Hoelscher Maddie Dach	Mike Lewis Adam Herwald James Lorenz Helen Gausemeier
Lector	Shawna Ranly	Jerry Loden	Laurie Hoelscher	Tammie Frenzel
Gift Bearers	Charles Wright Family	Ronnie Kleypas Family	Edwin Green Family	Dennis Stojanik Family
Ushers	Paul Daskocil Randy Lorenz	Jerry Loden Daniel Meyer	Calvin Wilde Craig Ordner	Mark Hoelscher Matthew 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 an Clifford & Susan Neumann
Rosary Leaders	Georgia Ketterman & Lou Buckholt	Raymond & Margaret Moeller	Georgia Ketterman & Lou Buckholt	Raymond & Margaret Moeller
Vocations Cross Family		Deacon Bill & Carol Smetana		Randy & Linda Lorenz
Church Cleaners	10/21 & 10/28	Marilyn Rudloff, Frances Frei, Bernadette Ketterman, Shirley Polach, Melissa Frei, Joyce Frei, Storey Frei, Kristi Frei, Jane Boone		
Weekday Mass Intentions	October 24th <i>Tuesday, 8:00am</i>	October 25th <i>Wednesday, 7:20am</i>	October 26th <i>Thursday, 8:00am</i>	October 27th <i>Friday, 8:00am</i>
	+Doug Landry +Robert Hoelscher	+Ronnie Ranly +George Ranly	+Larry R. Hoelscher	+Charlotte Ann Thornton

Sanctuary Candle – *In memory of Ashley Hoelscher, Gilbert Wilde, Pauline Wilde & Cecil Wilde.*

Please pray for the sick & suffering:

Terry Frenzel, Georgia Ketterman, Louise (Standard) Ingram, Warren Martin, JoeAnn Kalmbach, Jeff Bernsen, Carla Welch, Josie Kleypas, Dennis Fuchs, Beatrice Arnold, 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, Charles Ordner, Edwin Green, Craig Thornton, and Grace Hoelscher.

Meetings:

High School and Outreach Classes 10/22 after Mass

RCIA Class 10/22 after Mass

Liturgy Commission 10/24 @ 7:00pm

Finance Council: 10/25 @ 7.00 pm

Choir Practice 10/25 @ 7:00pm

CYO 10/25 @ 7:00pm

Catholicism Study 10/26 @ 6:30pm

Offerings:

10/15 \$2,106.00

Children's \$18.00