

*I give you a new
commandment:
love one another.*

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) The commandment “love one another” is our invitation to discover the power of love to lift up our souls. We may focus on the difficulty of giving love. We must allow ourselves to receive love first; then we will find the way to give it.

QUINTO DOMINGO DE PASCUA (C) El mandamiento “Amarse unos a otros” es nuestra invitación a descubrir el poder del amor para levantar nuestras almas. Podemos centrarnos en la dificultad de dar amor. Debemos permitirnos recibir amor primero; entonces encontraremos la manera de darlo.



Question Corner

Father Ken Doyle
Catholic News Service

Question: *Where do single people “rank” within the Catholic Church? Many times we are asked to pray for those who are married or who have followed a calling to the religious life — but how many times has anyone in any parish been asked to pray for those who are single? Are we singles shut out, are we to be ignored until we follow one of the other life paths? What if the single person truly believes that his or her calling is to be single? Who is asked to pray for the single person who steps up whenever someone else’s children need care, for the single person who*

is expected to care for ailing or aging family members because he or she “has no other obligations?”

Answer: I couldn’t agree more with your eloquent plea. I feel strongly that some are called to the single state as a true vocation — a deliberate choice made to give them more time to serve both God and other people. Traditionally the church has identified three vocations: holy orders, marriage and consecrated life; but lately I find increasing references to the notion of the “single vocation.” The website of the Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin, for example, says this: “Life as a single person can be a vocation from God. ... Single women and men usually have more freedom than those in other vocations. ... The vocation to the single life is a gift to the church!” And the Archdiocese of Melbourne in Australia explains that “they may be a carpenter, office worker, scientist, dentist, train driver, who has a fulfilling personal relationship with Jesus which they feel able to live out more fully if they are not tied to other relationships.” Like you, I believe that those who have responded to this noble calling deserve regular mention in the public prayers of the church.

Question: *In a few weeks I will turn 65 years old. I have arthritis in most of my joints; in the early spring, when it’s rainy and damp, the arthritic pain can be unbearable. Is it a sin to miss Sunday Mass, given the extreme pain? When is it acceptable to stop going to church and watch Mass on television? (Also, since my total knee replacement, I can no longer kneel down; so how does one go to Confession without kneeling?)*

Answer: First, about the posture for Confession – because that part is easy. I have heard the confessions of people lying in a hospital bed, sitting in a quiet corner of a restaurant, even standing on a beach. Clearly there is no requirement that the penitent be kneeling. In the parish where I served as pastor for 24 years, we had a confessional “room,” which is typical in Catholic churches today. There, the penitent could opt for anonymity by sitting or kneeling behind a screen or – if he or she preferred – could come around and sit and talk face-to-face with the priest. As for the part about how sick you have to be to skip Mass, the answer is “use your head.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, “The faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants)” (No. 2181). The nature and degree of the sickness is not defined, so we have to figure it out for ourselves. The God we serve and believe in is a person of reason. How could a loving God want you to suffer excruciating pain as the price for going to Mass? And how could you even pray effectively when you’re feeling that bad? A handy rule of thumb might be this: Would I go to work if I felt this way?

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PRAYER

by Karen Barber

Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to you with thankful hearts for all those near and dear to us who are graduating from high school.

We thank you for giving each graduate the talents, abilities and self discipline required for this wonderful accomplishment.

We are grateful to You for providing the teachers, mentors, coaches and youth counselors who have taught them, nurtured them and challenged them along the way.

Now that their minds have been well equipped with the basic knowledge of many different subjects, we pray that their hearts and spirits will also be well equipped for successful living.

Add heavenly wisdom and discernment to their knowledge.

Infuse their ambitions and dreams with Your love. Help them to desire Your good way for their future.

Remind them that you are only a prayer away when they meet obstacles, heartbreaks and challenges.

May they always be courageous enough to ask for help, advice and support when they need it.

May they never needlessly suffer alone without reaching out to You and to others who care.

As they become independent adults, help them learn the secret of dependence on You.

Give them a desire to know more about You.

May they find you in the Scriptures, in the joy of new love, in the gathering of Your people, in the beauty of Your creation and in the strength of their youth.

And now may Your blessings be theirs as they begin a new life full of joy and promise. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS

STEWARDSHIP FOR MAY 12, 2019 \$ 1,189.00

Blessings to you for your generosity.

"Remember, what you possess in the world will be found at the day of your death to belong to someone else, but what you are will be yours forever." Henry Van Dyke



PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN) A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.06 DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (EL INGRESO SIN AUTORIZACIÓN DE TITULAR DE LICENCIA CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTA), UNA PERSONA CON LICENCIA BAJO EL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, CÓDIGO GUBERNAMENTAL (LEY DE LICENCIAS PARA PORTAR ARMA DE FUEGO), NO DEBE ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO OCULTA.



Mass Intention

FOR MAY 26, 2019

†Dot Myers by St. Francis of Assisi Parish

LITURGICAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR MAY 26, 2019

Lector	Rebekah Urban	Servers	Heath Merlyn Taylor Gonzales
Eucharistic Ministers	Suzanne Cunningham Sharon Kirkpatrick Margaret Pack	Ushers	Bobby Jolls Rick Laney
Gift Bearers	Puente Family	Ministers to Homebound	Jean & Ken

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Christy Raines	May 19 th	✓
Allan Ramos	May 20 th	✓
Alex Martinez	May 23 rd	✓
Allison McDonald	May 25 th	✓

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Leonel & Laura Aguirre	May 20 th	✓
Cleo & Loretta Dreyer	May 20 th	✓
Christopher & Lori Eckert	May 23 rd	✓
Jeff & Katy Smith	May 23 rd	✓

St. Mary's Catholic School in Sherman is accepting Pre-K through 8th grade registrations for the 2019-20 school year. For more information, visit www.stmarys-sch.org, email Principal Phillip Scheibmeir at pscheibmeir@stmarys-sch.org, or call 903-893-2127.



PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.

CONFORME A LA SECCIÓN 30.07 DEL CÓDIGO PENAL (EL INGRESO SIN AUTORIZACIÓN DE TITULAR DE LICENCIA CON UN ARMA DE FUEGO A LA VISTA), UNA PERSONA CON LICENCIA BAJO EL SUBCAPÍTULO H, CAPÍTULO 411, CÓDIGO GUBERNAMENTAL (LEY DE LICENCIAS PARA PORTAR ARMAS DE FUEGO), NO DEBE ENTRAR A ESTA PROPIEDAD PORTANDO UN ARMA DE FUEGO A LA VISTA.