

Isn't It Grand!



Easter 2017



Fr. Walsh's Article.... **Pope Francis – four years on the job.**

Pope Francis has caught the attention and the imagination of the world since his election to the papacy four years ago. I thought the following article in the British newspaper, *The Guardian*, by Joanna Moorhead had some perceptive thoughts on him and his papacy – not that I agree with all of them.

We can be proud of Pope Francis. He is exactly what the Church we love needs at this time.

“Pope Francis is pushing for change. Now the church must catch up...”

There aren't many jobs that can pluck a man in his late 70s out of obscurity and make him a global figure. That's what happened four years ago, when a smiley Argentinian man appeared on a balcony in Rome and bade the world good evening. I was there in the crowd in St Peter's Square, sandwiched between an Australian nun and a Canadian prelate. The nun and I had no idea who the man on the balcony was (there is very little in the way of explanation on blockbuster Vatican occasions – the thrill is in the show, and mystery is part of the sell) but after a few minutes, the Canadian tumbled it. “That's Bergoglio from Buenos Aires,” he said. “What will he be like?” the nun and I asked him. “No idea,” said the bishop. Well, the whole world knows now. Pope Francis set out first to be a living and credible witness to the values that are at the heart of Christianity, and second, to reform an institution that the whole world knows is in dire need of change (he took the name Francis as pope in honour of the saint whose opus magnum was to do the same).

Four years on, how is he doing? On the first ambition, he's been a runaway success: even hardened atheists have become fond of him. Unlike his bookish predecessor, Francis oozes charisma. He doesn't seem to be hiding behind anything. One of my favourite moments of his pontificate is when he completely lost his rag with a crowd of Mexicans who pulled him on to a child in a wheelchair and shouted angrily at them. I also loved his recommendation that we ought to give our money to beggars in the street, and who cares if they're buying alcohol, because that glass of wine might be the only good thing that happens in their day? Francis gets to the heart of things – and isn't afraid of saying that he's a sinner himself.

All this, it seems to me, speaks to the world about the values of Christianity, and makes you think that at its heart, it's not about a belief in dogma or tradition or priests or church services, thank God – it's about a story that unites humankind with something outside of ourselves, a story that gives us the chance of being healed and renewed, and a story that puts kindness and care for others at the centre of everything we do.

More than 2,000 years ago, the machine that became the Catholic church offered itself as the protector of those values; with every week that passes its credentials seem to be getting thinner. Francis is trying to rebuild his church, but to say this is a mammoth task is an understatement, and all the indications are that, to use his own analogy, he seems to be rowing his boat in one direction while others on board are pulling the oars the other way.

That's certainly how it seems on issues such as the treatment of paedophile priests – Marie Collins, who resigned recently from the Vatican's child protection commission, said Vatican bureaucrats were stalling reforms, a view echoed by a senior Australian Catholic official.

Then there are the reforms he seems to be pushing for, such as the ordination of married men (this in a church where there is no requirement for celibacy, but where celibacy has long been the norm, and which is now faced with a growing shortage of recruits to the priesthood), and the ordination of women to the diaconate (this is a rung below the priesthood, and it seems fairly clear that in the distant past, women fulfilled this role – so why not again?).

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On married priests, Francis has opened the door for further debate; on women deacons he has established a commission. So far precisely nothing has come of either– but there is a lot of noise inside the church against these sorts of changes, and it seems pretty clear that plenty of those same bureaucrats who are busily trying to undermine the child protection commission would roll up their sleeves to prevent the ordination of either married men to the priesthood, or women to the diaconate.

So four years on, what is the Argentinian pope going to do next? What about his ambition to reform the church? The last person a pope is going to listen to is a British laywoman, but if I were him I'd ratchet up that women commission, and start the ball rolling on ordaining married men. Many of us out here are rooting for him on these changes – and even the most diehard conservatives know that if there aren't enough priests, new measures must be taken. It is more important to have people who can celebrate the eucharist that is at the centre of the Catholic faith, than it is who those people are. This is the moment for change, however rocky Francis's boat is going to get in the process. “

Reflections from Deacon Peter:

Faberge Easter Eggs

In the second century, Christians began using eggs as a symbol of Christ's resurrection. Just as Christ was encased in a tomb and rose to new life, so the egg (which has new life within it) is encased in a shell. The custom of giving decorated eggs to family and friends at Easter became widespread. The most expensive Easter eggs ever given were the ones that Czar Alexander III presented to his wife in 1885. He had commissioned his goldsmith, Peter Faberge, to fashion a special egg as a celebration of the Czar and Czarina's 20th wedding anniversary. Faberge created what appeared to be a simple enameled egg. But when the Czarina opened it, she found a diamond miniature of the royal crown, and a tiny ruby egg. She was so pleased with the gift that the Czar asked Faberge to fashion a special egg for his wife each Easter. Following Czar Alexander's death in 1894 and the accession of his son Nicholas II to the throne, Faberge was told to create two Easter eggs each year, one for the current Czarina, and one for the Czar's mother. Following the Russian Revolution, Faberge was forced to flee Russia. He died in Exile in Switzerland in 1920. A total of 56 imperial eggs were made by Faberge.

By a tradition handed down from the apostles, which took its origin from the very day of Christ's resurrection the church celebrates the paschal mystery every eighth day, which day is called the Lord's Day or Sunday.

There was a time when our “culture” seemed Christian, because most everyone had the same basic religious values. As a result, the social rhythm of life seemed Christian. Our schedules were in tune with one another and the tune was a Christian one. Holy Days and holy seasons were special religious times. Sundays (especially the mornings) were church time. At least so it seemed.

Times have changed. Sunday mornings are filled with entertaining TV shows, swim meets, league games and travel demands. Holy Days have given way to commercialized holidays.

It is not that people have become irreligious. No. The rhythm of life has. The social rhythm of life is no longer automatically tuned in to the practice of Christianity. The daily schedule of our society has certain normal expectations built in – lunch hour, ‘happy hour’, exercise time, commuter time, bed time and a few others. But it does not have “prayer time” built in. Which means if I'm going to practice the Christian tradition of daily prayer, I'm going to have to be counter-cultural – a bit out of step. Which means it just won't happen naturally. I have to do something, I have to develop a habit. Prayer is a luxury, a gift given to us. To be a Christian is not only to be out of step with society on some moral issues. It is also to be out of step schedule-wise.

Thoughts of Bishop Ken Untener – Diocese of Saginaw



May



June



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| May 1 | Bob Hahn |
| May 2 | Dan Mac Cudden |
| May 3 | Kole Anderson |
| May 6 | Nick Austin |
| May 7 | Jane Gellner |
| May 8 | Marietta Berneking Marie Spry |
| May 10 | Greg Gresczyk |
| May 11 | Leland James |
| May 12 | Adam Dorr Clarissa Stockman |
| May 14 | Aaron Carlson Cathy Terry |
| May 15 | Kallie Anderson Corrine Sierakowski |
| May 18 | Charlie Lawler Abigail Crawford |
| May 22 | Marie Mueller Jennifer Spry |
| May 23 | Marion McKeever |
| May 24 | Judy Sommerness |
| May 25 | Corra LaBoda Grace Sliwinska-Floe |
| May 26 | Mary Heim |
| May 27 | Thomas Stockman |
| May 28 | Monica Schnobrich |
| May 29 | Julie Carlson |
| May 30 | Hannah VanderHeiden |
| May 31 | Mike Taylor Zack Taylor Milly Gestel |

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|---------|--|
| June 1 | Jonathan Baumann |
| June 3 | Thomas Kelly Kris Phillips |
| June 5 | Katie Kobelinski |
| June 6 | Lori Gastecki Mike Ryden |
| June 7 | Greg Gastecki |
| June 8 | Jennie Hennessy Sam O'Phelan |
| June 10 | Peter Summers Brooke Sherer |
| June 11 | Hans Stockstead |
| June 12 | Charles Havener Audrey Summers |
| June 14 | Don Phillips |
| June 15 | Joe Zallar Audrey Stattelmann |
| June 16 | Kyle Anderson Waylon Sjoberg |
| June 17 | Caleb Phillips Maggie Waldrop |
| June 19 | Tate Crawford Joyce Petek Pete Ryden |
| June 24 | Avery Sjoberg Kathy LaVigne |
| June 25 | Kit Robertson Rose Ann Tersteeg |
| June 27 | Judy MacCudden |
| June 29 | Sebastian Schnobrich |
| June 30 | Peter Mueller |



Please contact the parish office if a birth date is missing or incorrect. We will correct the information in our office computer. We can only correct those we know about!



PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Sunday, April 9th, Palm Sunday

✠ 9:00 a.m. Procession & Mass: *Meet in the church parking lot (weather permitting) for the blessing of palms and procession*

10:00 a.m. Coffee social

✠ 12:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Rosary, Grand Portage and Confessions

Monday, April 10th

✠ 8:15 a.m. Mass at St. John's

✠ 5:30 p.m. Chrism Mass at the Cathedral in Duluth

Tuesday, April 11th

✠ 8:15 a.m. Mass at St. John's

8:45-10:00 a.m. Confessions

Wednesday, April 12th

✠ 8:15 a.m. Mass at St. John's

11:00 a.m. Stations of the Cross at Holy Rosary, Grand Portage

Holy Thursday, April 13th

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Confessions

✠ 6:30 p.m. *Mass of the Lord's Supper*
Bring your *Rice Bowls* and food for the *Food Shelf*. Tonight the holy oils will be presented, the *Gloria* will be sung with bells ringing, 12 "disciples" will have their feet washed, and at the closing, the Blessed Sacrament will be carried to the Reconciliation Room for Eucharistic Adoration till 10:00 p.m.. The altar will be stripped bare and the church will be emptied in preparation for Good Friday.

8:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m., Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Reconciliation Room

Sign up sheets for both foot washing and Adoration will be in the back of church.

Good Friday, April 14th

11:00—2:30 p.m. Confessions

✠ 3:00 p.m. *Celebration of the Lord's Passion*: Today we do not celebrate Mass. Our service begins with the Liturgy of the Word, which includes the reading of the Passion of Our Lord. This is followed by prayers of intercessions for all people. The cross is then carried forward for veneration by all. The service concludes with Holy Communion.

6:00 p.m. Community Cross

Procession starting at United Congregational Church

7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Service at United Congregational Church

Holy Saturday, April 15th

3:00—4:30 p.m. Confessions

✠ 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil

The Easter Vigil has four parts. *The Service of Light* begins in the dark outside the church door. It starts with the blessing of the fire followed by the preparation and lighting of the Easter Candle. Then the celebrant and the servers process into the church with the Easter Candle lighting the people's candles as they come forward. This part concludes with the singing of the *Easter Proclamation or Exsultet*.

Next the Liturgy of the Word begins and we listen to five Old Testament stories of our salvation followed by sung psalm responses. The *Gloria* is then sung with bells ringing as the lights are turned on in the sanctuary. Again we listen as the Epistle and the Gospel are proclaimed and the sound of *Alleluia* fills the church.

The third part of the service is the *Liturgy of Baptism*. *The Litany of Saints* is sung, the baptismal water is blessed. The two candidates for baptism are baptized. We renew our baptismal vows and are sprinkled with the Easter water.

The Vigil service then proceeds with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Easter Sunday, April 16th

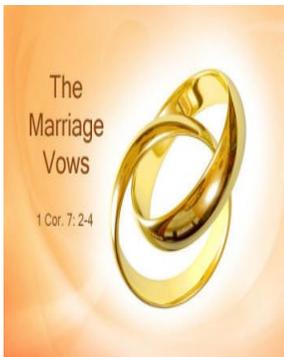
✠ 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. John's -

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Coffee Social in *Father Mark Hollenhorst Hall*

✠ 12:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Rosary, Grand Portage, MN



RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS ...



Every Second weekend of the month, we invite couples, married that month, to stay after Mass to Renew their wedding vows.



Annual Community Crosswalk and Good Friday Service

The annual Community Crosswalk procession will begin at 6:00 PM on Friday April 14th.

We gather at the United Congregational Church to begin the annual **Cross Walk** as we carry the large cross through town stopping at each church to pray God's blessings on the ministries there and ending back at the UCC. Pastor Beth Benson will lead the **7:00 p.m. Community Good Friday Service** liturgy, and Rev. Mary Ellen Ashcroft will deliver the sermon. The community is encouraged to attend both events. Walkers may join the Crosswalk at any location along the route.

RICE BOWLS

THANK YOU

Our community changed lives this Lent, and CRS Rice Bowl wants to say Thank you! Your family's prayers and gifts provided lifesaving aid around the world. Don't forget to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl at the Holy Thursday Mass or put in the Rice Bowl Basket at the back of church.



HOLY THURSDAY - WASHING OF THE FEET - TWELVE PEOPLE ARE NEEDED

Why is this such an important ritual during Holy Week?

We are following

Jesus' Example of Service

Here is Pope Francis' take on what it means:

"I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do" (John 13:15)

PETER DID NOT UNDERSTAND why Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, so Jesus explained it: "If I, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet." (John 13:14). It is the Lord's example: he is the most important yet he washes feet, because with us what is highest must be at the service of others. Washing feet means "I am at your service." And, with us too,

don't we have to wash each other's feet day after day?

But what does this mean? That all of us must help one another. This is what Jesus teaches us and this is what we must be doing with all our heart. This is what the Lord has taught us to do. You too, help one another always. In this way, by helping one another, we will do some good. Let each of us think: Am I really willing,

willing to serve, to help others?

Jesus, help me find more and better ways to serve those

Who most need the help I can give.

~~Pope Francis

This Holy Thursday, are you willing to be one of the 12 to have your feet washed?

If so, sign up in the back of church.

Religious Education News & Notes:

Palm Sunday Youth Mass: Youth are needed to hand out palm branches and act as altar servers, ushers, lectors, choir members and gift bearers on Sunday, April 9th. More information will be emailed to the parents of our Religious Education students.

Camp Survive Registration: Camp Survive registration opens on April 18th. Camp Survive is a five day camp open to students who have completed grades 6-8. Activities at camp include talks, music, daily Mass, Reconciliation, Adoration, games, swimming, archery, laser tag, survival training and more! Camp Survive runs August 7th-11th at Big Sandy Camp, McGregor, MN. More information may be found at www.dioceseduluth.org under the Youth Ministry tab.

First Communion: On Sunday, April 23rd Graham Oberholtzer and Avery Sjoberg will come to the Lord's table for the first time to receive the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Please remember them in your prayers as they prepare to receive this sacrament.

Last Day of Religious Education: Our last Religious Education class for the 2016-2017 school year is Wednesday, April 26th. We have had a great year! Thank you to our teachers: Bill Heitzman, Kay Sivets, Kathleen Oberholtzer, Michaela Peterson, Marie Mueller, Rita & Bill Wehler and Mitch Dorr.

Religious Education Teachers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to teach Religious Education classes for the 2017-2018 school year. If you are passionate about your Catholic faith and love working with kids, please consider helping us out. Contact Sharon Dorr at DRE@stjohns-holyrosary.org.

Religious Education Meal Coordinator: We are looking for someone to plan and organize meals for the evening Religious Education classes for the 2017-2018 school year. Contact Sharon Dorr at DRE@stjohns-holyrosary.org if interested.

Isn't It Grand

is published by

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and Holy Rosary Church
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