

# Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

July 24, 2016/17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## **PASTOR'S CORNER**

By next weekend, Fr. Athanasius Murphy should be here, fresh from a trip to Brazil (ministry not vacation). He's a graduate of Providence College (run by the Dominicans, as you probably remember), and I believe was a philosophy major and had Fr. Nicholas for a class or two. I don't know but I've been told that he can connect with the young 'uns by doing some serious beatboxing (if that's the phrase I'm looking for—it's a rap thing. You'll have to look it up. That's what I did). Anyway, don't forget the lecture series he'll be giving the first four Tuesdays of August—the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Rosary Hall, 7 p.m. He'll be leaving the 25th, unfortunately, because the academic year at the Dominican House of Studies resumes in late August, and he and most of his classmates have to finish their Licentiate in Sacred Theology. But we'll squeeze some good things out of him while he's here.

Speaking of lecture series, don't forget the Catechism classes coming up—they'll also be Tuesdays at 7:00 in Rosary Hall, but I'm not sure of a starting date yet. I'll give a few weeks notice. It won't be starting before Labor Day.

Several people have already responded and saying they're willing to help out with the parish picnic September 18th: thanks to all of them, and please do let me know, you others out there who can't wait to get on board. I hope it's a wonderful day for it. By the way, it will be taking place at St. Joseph's in Somerset. It's a beautiful location and especially appropriate for the Dominican anniversary this year, as it is the first Catholic Church in all of Ohio (the second Dominican foundation in the U. S., after St. Rose of Lima in Springfield, Kentucky).

Incidentally, there is a social committee now active in the parish, planning events for later this year and into next. If you have any ideas for social events (or fundraisers for the parish and school), or if you'd like to be part of the social committee, get in touch with me.

Two bits of news: first, we received a substantial bequest from a recently deceased parishioner. It will be nearly enough money to pay for the St. Thomas Cemetery restoration, and so I'll be putting all of the bequest toward that need. Second, after Ross' departure it was necessary to hire a new organist/choir director. Gabrielle (Cano) Adams has graciously agreed to take the position. She hopes to be able to start next weekend. Good news! —Fr. Peter

**PARISH MEMBERSHIP** All parishioners should participate fully in parish life (*this especially means worshipping at Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation*), be registered here, and support the parish. We often get requests for recommendations and permissions for parishioners to serve as godparents and sponsors. If we don't know you, we can't give that testimony on your behalf. You may have been baptized here (or gone to Catholic schools) but you need to be currently practicing and registered in your local parish (children are obviously registered with their parents; adults need to make their own arrangements). The Church requires that baptisms and marriages be celebrated in one's own parish. If one is not an active parishioner, problems could arise at those important times.

**Baptisms** Usually 1st and 3rd Sundays. Contact the pastor to schedule. First-time parents please also schedule a "pre-Jordan" preparation class.

**Weddings** Active parishioners contact the parish office no later than six months prior to the desired wedding date.

**Eucharistic exposition** Every Wednesday following the noon Mass until 7:00 p.m. Benediction. For information, and to volunteer to take hours of adoration, contact Regina Cano at (614) 582-8588.

**Knights of Columbus** Contact Trinidad Cano at (740) 819-8002. The K of C offer a hot breakfast every 4th Sunday following morning Masses, and lead the Rosary after the 11:00 Mass on 5th Sundays.

**Choir** We're always in need of more voices in the choir. Contact the parish office or the choir director. Weekly rehearsals are Wednesdays, after Benediction.

**Funeral luncheons** Contact Mary Margaret Murphy at (740) 452-4454.

**Rental information** To reserve Rosary Hall or Activity Center (i.e. the school gym) contact Mary Ann Ewart at [maewart@gmail.com](mailto:maewart@gmail.com) or (740) 319-2449.

**Pregnancy counseling** Heartbeat Family Center/ Pregnancy Distress: (740) 450-5437, [www.heartbeats.org](http://www.heartbeats.org).

**Rosary Altar Society** Contact Lori Gnau at (740) 453-8501

**Prayer requests** (740) 454-2700, (740) 297-7164, (740) 588-0314, or (740) 704-3136

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## Mass Intentions

*It is a holy and pious thought to pray for the dead.*  
cf. 2 Maccabees, 12.

### Sunday, July 24

#### 17th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

5:00pm (Sat.) Patrick & Dolores Finan (+)  
7:00am Roy & Mary Miller (+)  
9:00am Merrill & Cecelia Morrison (+)  
11:00am Michael E. Nestor (+)  
6:00pm People of the parish

### Monday, July 25

#### SAINT JAMES, APOSTLE (F)

8:00am John Mattingly (+)  
12Noon Eulalia Bleichner (+)

### Tuesday, July 26

#### SS. Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am Farida Mach (+)  
12Noon Gabrielle Hinkle (+)

### Wednesday, July 27

Feria  
8:00am Helen Mercer and Palmer Osbourne (+)  
12Noon Ryan & Andrea Fitzpatrick

### Thursday, July 28

Feria  
8:00am Gerry Kuhn (+)  
12Noon George & Dorothy Davis (+)

### Friday, July 29

St. Martha (M)  
8:00am Martha Newsom  
12Noon Jim Steil (+)

### Saturday, July 30

Feria  
9:00am Mary Louise Crawford (+)

### Sunday, July 31

#### 18th SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

5:00pm (Sat.) Schaumleffel Family  
7:00am Roy & Eleanor Teeters (+)  
9:00am Josie Basalla (+)  
11:00am Jacob Iczkowski  
6:00pm People of the parish

*Nota bene: Incense may be used at any Sunday Mass except the 7:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. Masses*

## Weekly Calendar

### Sun, July 24

K of C breakfast after all morning Masses

### Mon, July 25

7:00 p.m. Scouts (parish center)  
7:00 p.m. Prayer Group (parish center)

### Tue, July 26

2:00 p.m. Bible Study (Acts of the Apostles)  
6:00 p.m. Rosary for Life (church)

### Wed, July 27

Eucharistic exposition following noon Mass  
7:00 p.m. Benediction  
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

### Sun, July 31

K of C Rosary following 11:00 a.m. Mass

## Parish Finances

### July 17, 2016

Envelopes .....	\$6,584.38
Loose .....	923.91
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>7,508.29</b>
[Total other.....	267.15]
Weekly Budget .....	11,538.00
This week's deficit.....	-4,029.71

### Thank you!

*(Note: collection total does not reflect electronic donations. The parish receives \$3,230.00 monthly through automatic electronic deposits.)*

### Upcoming second collections

August 7 ..... Church in Latin America  
August 21 ..... St. Vincent de Paul Society  
September 11 ..... St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Please remember  
Saint Thomas Aquinas Church  
in your will**



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## Christian Marriage: A Union Made by Christ (Part 2)

Last week I wrote in these pages about the indissolubility of marriage. Once a marriage is entered into, it cannot be undone. Divorce may be a civil remedy for some problem cases, but it doesn't dissolve the marriage bond.

That will obviously raise the question in the minds of many: *what about annulments? Isn't that just Catholic divorce? Isn't it just the same thing by another name?* Not at all.

Someone once reminded me of something G. K. Chesterton once said: that when people say that various religions look different on the surface but really are the same thing deep down, they've got it all backwards. Christianity in fact looks similar to other world religions on the surface; it's deep down, at the heart of it all, that they're shown to be completely different. And the same can be said of divorce and annulment: they may look alike superficially, but in essence they are completely different things.

A divorce pretends to end a marriage. But as Jesus says, if a man divorces his wife and marries another woman, he commits adultery. Why is it adultery? Because he's still married to his first wife, divorce decree notwithstanding. Death alone dissolves a marriage. The state can't make marriage, and the state can't unmake marriage.

An annulment—the proper term is *decree of nullity*—is a judgment by a bishop (or his delegates) that a true marriage never existed in a certain case—that it was missing something from the outset, some key ingredient in what is required to make a marriage. The Church teaches that all marriages are presumed valid until proven otherwise, or, in the words of Canon Law, “marriage enjoys the favor of the law.” But sometimes even when all seems fine, some putative marriages are indeed compromised from the beginning. We're not talking here about Catholics getting married outside the Church: those are invalid, too, but they're automatically disqualified for “lack of form.” Marriage Tribunals (the office every diocese has for dealing with petitions for annulment) deal with those cases where proper form is observed and everything seems valid. There can be lurking problems underneath. The problems can be reduced to two kinds: impediments and defective consent. The impediments dealt with by tribunals are normally ones that are not known at the time of the marriage to both spouses but discovered later. Some impediments can be dispensed by proper Church authority (e.g., a Catholic's marrying a non-Catholic), others cannot be dispensed because by their nature they preclude marriage. Examples are: the sacrament of Holy Orders, religious profession, being already married, being too closely related by blood, and impotence (not the same as sterility—sterility is not an impediment), to name some.

Tribunals spend most of their time, however, poring

over cases in which there may be no impediment but a claim of defective consent. Impediments are more easily discoverable and verifiable: defective consent is trickier. And defective consent is a truly invalidating cause, since after all it is the mutual consent of the spouses (each giving oneself and receiving the other) that makes a marriage. Thus if consent is lacking altogether or defective, *no*



*marriage happens.* There may appear to be a marriage. The priest or deacon will be unaware of the invalidity; the people in the church will be unaware of it. In fact, it's quite possible that *both* spouses themselves be unaware of defective consent, because not all defective consent is a matter of intentional deception (that happens, but rarely). Some of the ways that marital consent can be defective are: lack of reason; lack of discretion; lack of competence; error; fraud; simulation; placing a condition on the marriage (e.g., “if this person doesn't make me happy I'm going to get a divorce”); exclusion of permanence, exclusivity, or offspring; force and fear. It's evident how important not only external freedom but *interior* freedom is to the essence of marriage. Consent is an act of the will (enabled by intellect)—so if one is lacking in

knowledge, then one is lacking freedom; and if one lacks freedom, one can't truly make a choice, i.e., give consent. To enter a marriage, it is necessary not only to express the vows verbally on one's wedding day—anyone can do that. It's also necessary for both bride and groom to embrace freely and in totality the life those words signify—in *its totality*, not merely the dimensions that seem more romantic or appealing. Marriage is literally an all or nothing sort of thing: you can't be partially married. Marriages certainly vary in many ways, including the virtues it is meant to exemplify: tenderness, thoughtfulness, tolerance, self-sacrifice, and longevity. No two marriages are the same in every way; for no two persons are the same. But all true (valid) marriages are alike in this: two become one flesh. The bond of marriage, made by God himself, binding two people to each other until death, for sexual fidelity and the procreation of children.

To say a marriage is valid doesn't guarantee it will be happy; life isn't like that. Bad people can marry validly, just as they can enter valid business contracts and cause all kind of trouble. Even valid marriages can sour and spouses can become demons toward each other, and of course they can be unfaithful, as everyone knows. But what is guaranteed in a sacramental marriage, at least, is God's grace helping couples who strive with all their energy to be faithful to what they promised, and meant, at the beginning.

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## Q & A about Marriage *and Annulments* in the Catholic Church

### **Q. What in tarnation did Pope Francis mean recently when he said that most marriages are invalid?**

Good question. You'd have to ask him to be sure, but realize this Holy Father has been known to say things in a very forceful, attention-getting way. When he said "most" he probably meant "a lot." But even assuming he meant what he said literally, I think this is probably the kind of thing he meant: that most Catholics today lack adequate instruction in the fundamentals of their faith, and so many lack due discretion; all of us are also deeply affected by the culture we live in, which militates against life-long commitments, so most people marrying will also be prone to lack of competence. Add to this the prevalence of contraception and the "contraceptive mentality" which wants to defer having children until the couple is "ready" (whatever that means), and then "ready" never comes, and you have a case of simulation by the exclusion of offspring.

The remedy to the cultural quagmire we're in is no easy matter, but our hope is in God. There will be no remedy except by the sanctification of family life and the home. A distinction is frequently made between two kinds of marriage preparation: proximate and remote. Proximate preparation happens at the time of the engagement when plans for the wedding itself are put in train, and the couple (one hopes) meet with their parish priest. Remote preparation begins in childhood, with life in the home. The living witness of a faithful marriage between a child's mother and father is the best and strongest kind of marriage prep, better than any monthly meetings with Father can provide—and it's indispensable, really. By the same token, a wretched example of marriage is by far the worst kind of remote marriage preparation. Some people are (thankfully) able to overcome the sad example given by the miserable marriages they witness during their upbringing, but the odds are greatly in favor of those from happy (and prayerful) homes. No marriage except one in Nazareth is perfect: every marriage is a union of two wounded people, and without God's help those wounds can only become more painful by the constant friction of life. With God's help, and with commitment to each other, two people can be brought out of their insular worlds and teach their children what self-sacrifice, forgiveness, and humility can achieve in marriage.

### **Q. What should couples do if they suspect their marriage is invalid?**

They should talk to their priest. Some people are by nature prone to be scrupulous and worried when they read stuff like this: they shouldn't be. If there's an impediment lurking somewhere, it should be easy enough to ferret out with very little research. Remember, impediments are objective and easily verified—lack of consent requires more discernment. Most people only raise these questions if the marriage fails and they wish to be free to marry again in the Church. But some people are happy in the marriage and want to make sure everything "beneath the surface" is secure and in place. That's understandable. But unless there's already a good reason to think there's a problem with the validity of one's marriage, there's no need to wonder or worry.

### **Q. Is it okay to start dating someone else once you've submitted an annulment petition?**

That would be highly imprudent, for the simple reason that a marriage is deemed valid by the Church unless and until proven

otherwise—*marriage enjoys the favor of law*. That means that if one started dating before a decree of nullity was issued, one would be dating someone else while still married. A divorced couple may never want to see each other again, but that doesn't matter: if their marriage was actually valid, they'll be married to each other until one of them dies, no matter what the State of Ohio (or any other state) says. There's no guarantee of receiving a decree of nullity just because you petition for one: it's not like a magazine subscription, where they have to send you what you pay for. It is subjected to the judgment of Church officials, and the Church tries as best as she can to defend the institution of marriage from cultural and moral erosion. If the decree of nullity is granted later, they will be free to marry, but not until then. The safest thing for everyone involved is wait until there's solid ground to walk on. Many a Catholic has begun dating presuming that his petition would be granted, only to be disappointed—such people sometimes fall in love in the meantime and then refuse to give up their new partners, and separate themselves from the Church and the sacraments rather than separate from a bad relationship.

### **Q. Isn't the annulment process open to fraud? I mean, people just saying what they have to in order to get the outcome they want?**

No doubt. And there have been cases that were reversed based on the discovery of perjury in the petition process. The ultimate judge is no diocesan official but God, and if one is willing to lie to the Church, they're not fooling God. Most people who don't care about God and the Church don't go this route; and those who do, are assisted by priest-procurators for their case. And it's not their own testimony alone that is presented: it's the other spouse, as well as people who knew the couple from the beginning. There are several layers of protection against fraud, but of course it's possible for all the witnesses to conspire to lie to get a couple "off the hook" and free to marry again. There's no pretense to infallibility in these matters, although some cases (say, where there's a clear impediment) are obviously invalid. What is really amazing is how the quantity of annulment cases has mushroomed just in the last half-century, to say nothing of over the course of the last several centuries. One possible explanation is that there's a racket going on. Another, better, explanation, is that we really do have increasingly more invalid marriages—because of the spiritual poverty of the world we live in, and the incapacity of many people to make a true commitment in their mind and heart—this goes back to what Pope Francis said.

### **Q. Aren't there occasions when the Church can dissolve a marriage?**

Yes, but they're very rare, and quite different than anything that has been discussed here. One of these is called the Pauline Privilege (based on the 7th chapter of St. Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians). This involves two unbaptized persons being married; if one of them later is baptized and the unbaptized spouse leaves the marriage, St. Paul says in such a case "the believing" party is no longer bound. The other is called the Petrine Privilege (so called because it is reserved to the Pope), and it has to do with validly contracted but unconsummated unions. In some such cases a dissolution by the Pope is granted. As mentioned, both of these are very rare. This much is clear: a consummated, sacramental marriage is indissoluble by any human authority.

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## Please pray for the home-bound of the parish:

Margaret Gladys Abbott, Pat Barrett, William & Jan Barry, Mary Batteiger, Gertrude Bell, Madelyn Bronkar, Mathilda Clark, Bart & Josephine Cooper, Mary Cowden, Mary Lou Crawford, Michael Curtis, Ernestine Dailey, Jeanne Dittmar, Ralph Dosch, Marcy DuBeck, Betty Fedor, Jenni Finnen, Beverly Foley, Isabel Gilchrist, Mary Ellen Grafton, Florence Herbert, Carol Hoffman, Patricia Huck, Eileen Johnston, Henry Long, David Macenko, Dolores Mahon, Josephine Marshall, Betty Mercer, Patricia Perone, Alice Pitcock, Mary Polascak, Mary Postlewaite, Mary Rosta, George and Barb Ridenour, Mary Lou Scott, Barbara Schumacher, Loretta Silfko, Theresa Tracey, Theresa Woods, Terri Woods

## **SAINTS ALIVE! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**BE A PART OF GOD'S  
ALL-STAR TEAM  
THIS WEEK!**

**JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> – JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>  
9 A.M. TO 11 A.M.**

**IN ROSARY HALL (THE CHURCH BASEMENT)  
FOR PRE-SCHOOL (AGES 4 & UP) THROUGH  
6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**TO PRE-REGISTER, CALL MELANIE VON GUNTEN  
AT (740) 453-3301, EX. 15**

## **Hiring at Bishop Fenwick School**

Bishop Fenwick School is currently accepting applications for the positions of 3rd grade teacher and Intervention Specialist. Requirements for this position:

- an appropriate state of Ohio teaching license (or be eligible to obtain it by August 2016);
- Current BCI&I and FBI background checks;
- Attend a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children Safe Environment seminar;

Complete the online teaching application for the Diocese of Columbus. Please contact Principal Mrs. Kelly Sagan by e-mailing resume and letter of interest to: [ksagan@cducation.org](mailto:ksagan@cducation.org).

## **Zanesville Supermoms!**

Moms of any age are invited to check out a new Facebook Group called "Zanesville Supermoms!" This page was started by a group of Catholic moms who are seeking to build community with other local families. The Facebook page is a place where we can post events we'd like to share with the group (play dates, trips to the zoo, family picnics, etc.). We can also post prayer requests, interesting articles, and so forth. We know motherhood is not always easy and we often need each other to make it through the day. Our hope is that the more mommas who connect through this group, the more opportunities we'll have to get together! If you have any questions about the group, or do not have access to Facebook but would still like to be "in the loop," you can call or text Jess Stanish at (765) 543-8771. **UPCOMING EVENT:** Join us for a pizza play date at Dillon Park Playground (by the beach) on Friday, July 29, at 11:30am. Please bring \$5/family for pizza and RSVP on the Facebook page or by contacting Jess so we know how much pizza to get. Hope to see you there!

## **Faith On Tap Card Party!**

Come and join St. Thomas young adults with a card party hosted at the home of Paul and Luciana Thompson 2pm on Sunday, July 24. Bring a friend! Bring a small snack or drinks to share, if you'd like, but not necessary. We'll have a few decks going and 3-4 tables ready. For directions, or with any questions, feel free to call Luciana at (505) 980-8567. Hope to see you then!

## **Help for Chris Joseph**

Trudy Cultice and Brad Wolfe will be dancing for the benefit of Chris Joseph in the sixth annual Dancing with the Divas event to be held on July 23, 2016 at Eaglesticks. Chris is a member of St. Nicholas Parish who is currently dealing with serious cardiac health issues. Visit <http://dancingforchris.com> to learn more and see how you can help. Thank you!

**"Can you not watch one hour with me, and pray?"**



**We have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Wednesday afternoon, following noon Mass until 7:00 p.m., with Benediction.  
Venite, adoremus. Come, let us adore.**