Amazing Grace, Part II

Last week I began by referencing the first stanza of Amazing Grace. *I once was blind, but now I see.* Last week, Joshua (1st reading) and the disciples (Gospel) were not seeing through God’s eyes, so Moses, and Jesus, tried to lead them beyond their near-sightedness. God’s abiding love, God’s grace leads to a much wider vision! But the song Amazing Grace goes on. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.’ What is that all about? What is fear of the Lord? Well, for one, it is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

Watching Pope Francis during his visit this week, one might think – how does ‘fear of the Lord’ fit in with the love, mercy, compassion so evident in the Holy Father? Well, fear of the Lord has nothing to do with watching a horror movie, being threatened by evil, or facing down a phobia. Think instead of watching lightning during a powerful thunderstorm, watching the pounding surf during an offshore storm, taking the White Water Walk along the rapids of the mighty Niagara River. (I love that walk!) We can feel small, filled with awe, overwhelmed by the might, the wonder, the power of God’s creation. Fear of the Lord takes the next step, to wonder, awe of the creator. That reverence can include a fear of misstep, not wanting to offend God. In the presence of someone we respect most highly, we wouldn’t want to make a gaff – how much more so with God! We begin the journey, anxious to put our best foot forward.

But grace my fears relieved – grace teaches us that this awesome, almighty God choose to come down, enter the human story, take flesh, and allow Himself to be rocked to sleep by the Blessed Mother. Enter that scene, or watch Jesus welcome the children, today’s Gospel, and grace can relieve our fears! Don’t think for a minute that Pope Francis would write ‘fear of the Lord’ out of the catechism. The depth of compassion we saw, the natural impulse to reach out to all of those he touched: It isn’t simply that the ‘fear of the Lord’ out of the catechism. The power of God’s creation. Fear of the Lord takes the next step, to wonder, awe of the creator. That reverence can include a fear of misstep, not wanting to offend God. In the presence of someone we respect most highly, we wouldn’t want to make a gaff – how much more so with God! We begin the journey, anxious to put our best foot forward.

Mass Intentions for This Week

MONDAY - OCTOBER 5
Jon 1:1-2; 11/Lk 10:25-37
11:00 am Ken Wensel - Deacon Dave & Barbara Snyder
5:15 pm Linda Bell - Heather & Frank Affronti

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 6
Jon 3:1-10/Lk 10:38-42
6:45 am Jack Connolly - Wife, Loyola
11:00 am Al Mahar, Sr. - Son, Dick

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 7
Jon 4:1-11/Lk 11:1-4
11:00 am Alfrieda Davis - Dorothea Lada
2:45 pm Mass at the Highlands Living Center for the People of the Parish
5:15 pm Donald Corletta - Frank & Kay Roscia

THURSDAY - OCTOBER 8
Mal 3:13-20b/Lk 11:5-13
6:45 am Maria Echaniz - Trudy & Alexis Zaldivar
11:00 am Gerard Joyce - Rose Marie Joyce

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 9
11:00 am Irene DeSantis - Ellie Booth
5:15 pm William Thaney - Jack O’Leary

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 10
Jl 4:12-21/Lk 11:27-28
9:00 am Martha Serio - Husband
4:30 pm Harold Barnes - Babette

SUNDAY - OCTOBER 11
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wis 7:7-11/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27
7:30 am Sarah Barbero - Sunday Morning Group
9:00 am David E. Mollenkopf - Susan Whelan & Family
11:00 am Fred Giovagnoli, Sr. - St. Louis Choir
5:00 pm Matthew John Hester - Family

We invite you to have a Sanctuary Lamp lit at the Blessed Sacrament to have your very special intentions remembered for a week. To arrange this, please call or visit the Ministry Center. The Thursday Holy Hour Ministry will offer special prayers for your intention.

One lamp will burn
In Memory of
Maria Hoang Thi Phach
By Ho Dinh Tran & Family.

One lamp will burn
In Memory of
Nguyen Thi Tinh
By Ho Dinh Tran & Family.

One lamp will burn
In Memory of
Hoang Phu Binh
By Ho Dinh Tran & Family.

We Pray for all Victims of Anti-Christian Violence

Saturday & Sunday, October 10 & 11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</th>
<th>Liturgical Assistants</th>
<th>Cantor</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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Sunday Communion Service - October 11

The Highlands: Jim Haefner
Heather Heights: Richard Caruso
How Does That Work?
Children aren’t the only ones who ask questions and want answers. It is part of human nature. Reflecting and positing answers is part of being human too. A key concept in Bible study is etiology: a story that “renders an account” — that is, offers some explanation — of present conditions and circumstances based on past causes. How did the animals get their names? Our first reading posits an answer. Often in the Old Testament, a story will provide an answer to how a place got its name, or where a geological formation came from, like a pillar of salt. Why is it that when a man finds the woman who will be his partner for life, it feels like finding a missing part of himself? Our first reading provides an explanation. For some people, the explanation must be literally, historically true, so they expect men to be missing a rib (we aren’t). For others, the inspired truth is the important truth: we are part of one another, and for a married couple, that unity is even deeper, a sacrament. We are also part of the earth, formed from its very clay. Harm the earth, and we are harming the source of our existence. Adam may not have been the first zoologist, but this account gives an additional, powerful, inspired message about our relationship with nature. Think of parents naming their child. That is the kind of relationship we are called to have with all of God’s creatures.

Perfect Through Suffering
At first glance, the idea of Jesus being ‘made perfect through suffering’ can seem very troubling. Wasn’t Jesus divine? Without sin? What needed to be perfected? Understanding the second sentence in our second reading requires a bit of Greek. The Greek word ‘teleios’ doesn’t really mean ‘perfect’ in the way we typically use that word. ‘Be complete’, comes closer, or ‘be mature.’ Now it makes sense! Jesus completed, fulfilled his mission through his suffering and death on the cross, conquering the power of death once and for all. We reach our maturity in Christ when through suffering we enter the paschal mystery. Not necessarily what we want to hear, but it is so much better than suffering having no meaning! Talk with Jesus about how suffering can ‘perfect’ us.

Testing
It’s a common theme. Some of the Pharisees just loved to test Jesus to trip him up. What will he say about divorce? At the time, there were two major schools of thought, the House of Shammati and that of Hillel. One said a man could only divorce his wife for a serious transgression, such as infidelity. The other said burning dinner was excuse enough. Which side will Jesus take? First, what does scripture say? In God’s plan, two become one. Divorce isn’t part of how God designed things before sin entered the world, it was Moses’ concession to hardness of heart. Well, who got tested in the end!

Preparing for next weekend:
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11
Praying for Wisdom
2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13
Discerning the thoughts of the heart
Gospel: Mark 10:17-30
Entering the kingdom of God

MARY: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER
A POWERFUL STUDY ON THE BLESSED MOTHER BEGINS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1:15 PM IN THE PARISH MEETING HALL

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary’s earthly life, taking you through her joys and her sorrows. You will learn how she works in our lives today, drawing us ever closer to her Divine Son. She will become a part of your daily life and help you to become more like Christ.

Join us for Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother in the Parish Meeting Hall beginning Tuesday, October 6 at 1:15 pm. You do not need to attend every session to participate. The cost of materials is $25 per person. For more information contact Cris Wensel at cwensel@dor.org.

The Bible Timeline Study
It’s not too late to join the Great Adventure Bible Study presented by Jeff Cavins! Learn how the Scripture narrative ties many different books of the Bible together in the single story of God’s plan. Knowing the overall framework helps connect the readings we hear at Mass and our understanding of our faith. We will be covering the last eight sessions of the 24 - session study which includes the Maccabean Revolt, The Gospel of Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles. If you are joining us for the first time, you can view the videos you missed online. Bring a friend!

Where? St. Louis Church, Parish Meeting Hall
When? 9:30-11:15am, Saturdays, through Nov. 7
Cost? $35
For registration and more information, call or email Kathryn McAlarney before the first meeting at 585-490-2745, mcalarney1@gmail.com.
**THIS WEEK’S TITHING WILL SUPPORT HOLY CHILDHOOD**

**NEXT WEEK’S TITHING WILL SUPPORT PROJECT RACHEL**

Project Rachel is a 501(c)3 program that provides Catholic outreach of healing and reconciliation to women and men who are experiencing the emotional and spiritual pain after an abortion. It involves a sensitive, confidential process for post abortion healing that enables the person to find forgiveness and a sense of hope again. Project Rachel ministers desire to be the instruments to enable these hurting and wounded people to experience the mercy and peace of Christ.

People are trained throughout the diocese to minister to those who have undergone an abortion. It is estimated that there are over 5,000 abortions each year in our diocese. Nationally about 1/3 of women that undergo an abortion list themselves as Catholic. Abortion has been legal in New York State for over 40 years. This means that there are thousands of women (and men) in our area that wounded and hurting because of their act abortion. Yet this tremendous grace-filled healing process of Project Rachel is still not known to many people even after 17 years of their existence. It is the hope of this program that the funds be used to publicize the program and its services, continue to train individuals in our diocese to share this process of healing. Most dioceses in the country have 5 or 6 people trained; Project Rachel has over 200 people who have taken the 6 hour training day. The program consists of volunteers some of whom put in many hours of service on behalf of Project Rachel. The program depends on the generosity of parishes and individuals within the diocese.

**Seven Days of Creation**

**First Day of Creation: “And God said, let there be light, and there was light.” Genesis 1:3**

Giving light as the first act of creation, God drives away chaos and darkness and all that would harm, establishing order and the possibility of life. From the firefly to the phosphorescent fish, to the stars, sun and moon, to the light of the flashlight or a lamp, our world is illumined by the very presence of God in these forms of light, God’s first gift.

How can we best show gratitude and reverence from the wondrous gift of light, which makes it possible for us to live, which sustains the universe?

**WE HAVE AN URGENT NEED FOR TUTORS,**

because of the increase in legal refugees coming to the Rochester area. Tutoring classes are from 4:45 - 6PM on Tuesdays or Thursdays. For more information, please contact Geri Dolan at gdola45@rochester.rr.com or at 278-8244. Please consider participating in our tutoring program. This experience will enrich your life as well as your students’ lives!
“FAITH UNDER FIRE” 
Notre Dame Retreat House 
Theme for 2015

Come spend some time away on retreat and deepen your faith and your relationship with God. This year’s theme will focus on keeping the Faith in a secular world. Our Catholic faith is constantly being challenged . . . Come and learn how you can be a light in the world today!

OUR MEN’S WEEKEND IS OCTOBER 16 - 18

SUGGESTED DONATION:
$130 FOR A SINGLE ROOM; $100 FOR A SHARED DOUBLE; $195 FOR DOUBLE ALONE
(Retreat, meals, room with linens and towels all included in pricing.)

To register for this retreat or to receive more information, feel free to contact Rick Whelehan at 797-4638

Weddings Bells...

We pray for these couples as they prepare for their wedding celebration:
♦ Gloria Coan & William Mallia, October 10
♦ Sarah Mcclements & Drew Michael Hodgson, November 7
♦ Valerie Woodring & Greg Gotie, November 14

KNOW HOW TO PRAY?
OREMUS, A Guide to Catholic Prayer

Do you find it easy to pray? In our busy lives, prayer is seen as a luxury, when in reality it is at the foundation of a healthy spiritual life. The good news is that you can overcome your difficulties with prayer, and it is easier than you might think. Over the course of eight weeks the Oremus study program teaches you the essentials of an effective and fruitful prayer life. Come join us! Come even if you can’t make each session, and bring a friend!

If you can’t join us at church, this study can be done online, too! Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 p.m. September 14 - November 2 in the Manse, Cost: $15
Facilitator: Kathryn McAlarney, call 585-490-2745 or email mcalarney1@gmail.com to register.

I’ve Always Wondered!

Every wonder what the inside of a Hindu Temple is like? A Mosque? A Jewish Temple/Synagogue? To celebrate to 50th anniversary of Nostra Aetate, the Vatican II document on our Catholic Church relationship with non-Christian religions, the diocese has this first of two great opportunities lined up.

● On Wednesday, October 7, 7:00 pm at St. Bernard’s on French Road, a Catholic scholar, Muslim imam, and Jewish rabbi share thoughts on the progress and future impact of interfaith relations.

Beginning Experience is a peer support group for separated, divorced and widowed adults. The weekend program helps deal with the natural grief process and offers an opportunity, through God, for dealing with the pain and loss and moving into the future with renewed hope. Our next weekend will be at Camp Stella Maris on Conesus Lake October 16-18. For more information contact Beginning Experience at (585) 987-1750 or visit www.beginningexperiencerochesterny.org.
Refugees are Still Seeking a Safe Haven

The year started slow in January, but the pace increased with a record number of arrivals in June through September and many more to come.

Our largest fund raiser of the year, the Annual Super Sale in July, raised $78,000. That’s a record amount for us; and, it is much needed! Since July, Saint’s Place has assisted more than 325 newly arrived Refugees to the Rochester area. Since July, we have also set up over 80 homes with basic household items and furniture. Over 180 new beds along with new pillows and clean bedding, and ten new cribs have been delivered to homes. We provided clothing to over 300 people. After years of waiting and days of traveling to reach the USA, Refugees are able to rest their weary heads on a “real” bed, not a cot or the floor of a hut.

Refugees have arrived from Bhutan, Burma, Cuba, Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Congo, Syria, Ukraine, and Ethiopia. Every corner of the earth! In July, the first refugee family from Syria arrived and is now living in Greece.

Our back to school supply drive was a real success. In addition to supplies we received locally, St. Bonaventure University had their freshmen class bring school supplies for Saint’s Place. Over 150 backpacks filled with supplies were ready for school-aged students. About 300 backpacks are distributed each year at the Clothing Closet. Thank you to all who help make this drive so successful every year. Education is one of the key components to escape poverty.

Saint’s Place has an ongoing program with the Rochester International Academy, a Rochester City School for Grades 1 - 12 where newly arrived refugee children start their United States education. Over 245 students attend the school. Again this year, Saint’s Place purchased school uniform shirts, hooded sweatshirts and khaki pants for the students. High school students, from the Rochester International Academy (RIA) volunteer at Saint’s Place on a monthly basis, as part of the school’s program of giving back to the community. A program is now underway wherein the children from the RIA will be coming to our Clothing Closet for needed winter coats and clothing.

Our tutoring programs are off to an impressive start. Our newest location at Good Shepherd School on East Henrietta Road opened with enthusiastic students happy to have a tutoring program in their area. Our two programs tutor over one hundred refugees on a weekly basis.

We are expanding the use of our Clothing Closet at St. John of Rochester. Twice a month we send our excess clothing inventory to Mary’s Place on Lexington Avenue in Rochester for the refugees in that locale. We have met with the community leaders from Bhutan and Burma asking them to bring the families in need of winter clothing to us. Saint’s Place will be open the first Saturday of each month to accommodate the growing needs of the refugee community.

On October 17, students from St. Bonaventure will come to help Saint’s Place. Watch for more details about volunteer opportunities for Saturday mornings.

MINI SALE 2015

(Furniture, Jewelry, Christmas decorations, House decorations, New toys and other fun items)

Saturday, October 24 and Sunday, October 25
9AM — 2PM

St. John of Rochester, Parish Center
8 Wickford Way, Fairport

Great deals, our warehouse is full. We need to move some items! ($25 delivery fee in local area.)
“When you name your pain (or hunger or struggle), it begins to lose some of its power. It’s a mystery why we don’t do this more often. What are we waiting for?”

**Blessed Are The Merciful**
An Evening With
Father Jacek Mazur & Rick Paolini
From Catholic Radio 1460

**How do we live out the virtue of Mercy?**

Monday, October 26th at 7:00pm
St. Louis Church, Pittsford
Reddington Hall

**2015 Fruit of the Vine Conversation Series**

The Anxious Life: Attending to Our Spiritual Hungers

Father Bob Werth

Tuesday, October 20
St. Louis Church, Pittsford
Parish Meeting Meeting Hall

7:00pm: Wine and Cheese Reception
7:30pm: Presentation

Father Werth has been a priest for 36 years and currently serves as one of the pastors at St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Parish in Rochester. He is also a licensed master social worker.

**Friday & Saturday, November 20 and 21**
**7:00 PM**

A Two-Night Mission With
Frank Runyeon


**Bless the Children**

Our next session for parents preparing to have their son or daughter baptized will be on Sunday, October 18, beginning with the 11:00 am Mass, and following, in Church. Call the parish office at (585) 586-5675 to register.
Thinking About Preschool Next Year?

You’ll love St. Louis School! But don’t take our word for it—come see for yourself. You’ll discover that our preschool programs are based on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community through hands-on exploration and discovery. We offer the following:

- Safe and Nurturing Environment
- Enriching Curriculum
- Small Teacher-to-Student Ratio
- Flexible Scheduling

JOIN US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE

October 14, 2015
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

To learn more, call us at 585-586-5200 or visit SLSpittsford.org.
Proven Long-term Approaches to Lifting Children and Families out of Poverty Grounded in Catholic Social Teaching

“It remains true, however, that every form of externally imposed poverty has at its root a lack of respect for the transcendent dignity of the human person.”

Pope Benedict XVI, 2009 Message for the World Day of Peace

Life and Dignity of the Human Person: Poverty is a pro-life issue

- Cash assistance provided directly to families is one of the most effective and efficient ways to reduce stress and improve long-term health outcomes for low-income families.

Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: Who speaks up for children?

- Investments in programs and services targeted to very young children have the greatest impact, and can change the trajectory of a child’s life.
- Evidence-based home visiting programs have been proven to result in dramatically improved life outcomes for both the mother and the baby, in terms of physical and mental health, criminal involvement, time on welfare, and other measures.
- Similarly, children who have access to high quality early childhood educational experiences are more likely to complete high school and college and are less likely to depend on welfare, need special education, and become pregnant as a teenager.

Call to Family and Community Participation: Employment should not prevent a person from caring for a new or ill family member

- Paid family leave is a proven support for young families and children; it is associated with longer periods of breastfeeding and lower infant and child mortality rates. Employers in states with paid family leave insurance report higher retention rates and reduced costs associated with job turnover.
- When parents are able to care for a sick child, research shows that children have quicker recoveries, stronger vital signs and shorter hospital stays.

Subsidiarity: Parents are in the best position to decide what their families need

- The Earned Income Tax Credit—a subsidy provided to working families with no strings attached—was key to the successful reduction in child poverty rates in Great Britain from 2000-2010, during a time when child poverty rates rose in the U.S. and other developed nations.
- Research indicates that children in families receiving the credits do better in school, are likelier to attend college, and can be expected to earn more as adults.
- Working-family tax credits encourage parents to work and avoid public assistance.

Dignity of Work: A job with just wages and working conditions is the best path out of poverty

- Paying a living wage to all staff in parishes and Catholic-run institutions shows the Church practices its own teaching on justice.
- Two parents working full-time at the minimum wage do not earn enough to pay for child care ($8000-$12,000 per year), housing, food, transportation, clothing and other necessities.
- Parents who must work 2 or 3 jobs or whose work schedules are unpredictable are less able to provide a consistent, nurturing environment for their young children.

Solidarity: What harms my brother and sister anywhere harms us all

- Our communities are stronger when families can support themselves with adequate wages.
- Paying a living wage helps low-wage workers to be less dependent on government subsidies such as Food Stamps (now called SNAP) and Earned Income Tax Credits.

Care for Creation: The poor often suffer the greatest impact of pollution and climate change effects

- Poor air quality and lead poisoning have long-term negative impacts on children’s health, education, and behavior. We can give children a better, healthier start with greater likelihood of success in school by cleaning up their environment.
- Climate change effects such as flooding and drought often have the greatest negative impact on the poor.
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http://www.facebook.com/stlouischurchpittsford

St. Louis Church, Pittsford, NY
October 4, 2015