

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Questioning the children before Confirmation, the Bishop asked one nervous little girl, "What is matrimony?" She answered, "A place where souls suffer for a time for their sins!" "No, no," said the parish priest, "that is purgatory." "Let her alone," said the Bishop, "she might be right, what do you and I know about it?" Yes. What do I, an unmarried person, know about marriage?

This much I know: marriage is not an outdated institution for it is a gift from God. Does not the Genesis story portray the first couple being introduced by God in person and joined with his blessing? God knew only too well that, "it is not good for man to be alone". The fact is that God calls the majority of men and women to become holy and find their fulfillment in marriage through a loving and loyal living together to the end. But it is sad that the rising divorce rate has become a bewildering religious and social problem. We only sympathize with all the divorcees, for marriages though "made in heaven" are lived on earth where, too often, selfishness can overpower love to the extent that marital fidelity indeed becomes difficult .

However, any promise to be true has to fulfill certain conditions as in the case of a seed which is a promise but it has to be first buried in the soil and exposed to rain and wind and sunshine before it sprouts. Likewise, God's promise of fulfillment through marriage has some conditions, namely totality in love and fidelity to the end. As Jesus pointed out: "They are no longer two but one flesh, and therefore let no one separate what God has joined". When Jesus said, "two become one" the issue is not how two bodies can occupy one space but rather how married people are destined to live together so closely and give of themselves to each other so entirely that they can be said to form one body. In fact regardless of divorce or death of the spouses they will always be "two in one" in their children. And, of course, such a total giving is to be kept up to the end, because the children need the continued presence of their parents as they grow and the spouses themselves need this continuity to understand one another more and more deeply, to feel secure, to expose one's wounds and to receive healing.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

At Mass today we remember Candelaria Murray, our Kindergarten Catechist from last year. She loved the children and she was loving and helpful to everyone she met. May she rest in peace.

+ **Registration Forms** for the **Youth Rally in Medford** to be held on **Wednesday, October 24th**, need to be turned in by **October 10th**. **Thank you Ladies Guild** for making it possible for the youth of Grades 6-12 to attend.

+ On **October 26th**, Bishop Ricken from the Green Bay Diocese will be the main speaker at the **Diocesan Fall Conference** to be held at **St. Joseph Parish, Rice Lake**. The conference begins with Mass with Bishop Powers and the con-celebrating priests of our diocese. Register with Sr. Marianna.

+ Thank you to all who participated in today's Mass. You kept your commitment!

+ Thank you to all who brought animals for blessing. May St. Francis keep them well and happy.

Peace and All Good,

~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul			
Adult Envelopes	\$		1,120.00
Loose			152.00
Total			1,272.00
Total from October 1, 2017			1,518.50
Building Fund			40.00
St. Stanislaus			
Adult Envelopes	\$		455.00
Loose			53.00
Total			508.00
Total from October 1, 2017			509.00
St. John			
Adult Envelopes	\$		1,337.00
Loose			84.00
Total			1,421.00
Total from October 1, 2017			1,127.68
Votives			2.00
St. Michael			
Adult Envelopes	\$		270.00
Loose			27.00
Total			297.00
Total from October 1, 2017			285.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)

Called to Become Saints
Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

Our annual Catholic Services Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility for the coming year is listed below:

2018/2019 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$1,500.00	\$9,893.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$1,150.00	\$8,008.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$1,695.00	\$3,539.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$ 325.00	\$2,464.00

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

GILMAN MARKET

Complete Deli & Meat Department
Bakery - Liquor Dept. - Lottery Tickets
Open 7 Days - Sunday til Noon
(715) 447 - 8291
235 E. Main St Gilman WI 54433

Food for More Challenge: every dollar donated to the Sheldon Food Pantry September 9 - October 14 will be matched with a pound of food by Feed My People (up to 5,000 pounds per program). Make checks out to: Sheldon Food Pantry W5505 Davlin St. Sheldon, WI 54766. Note on memo line: "Match Challenge" **Thank you!**