

BULLETIN – JUNE 28

Monday, June 29: the Solemnity of SS. Peter & Paul. Happy Feast Day to all! We're going to mark our parish feast day with a solemn Eucharist at 8 a.m. We shall have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from the end of Mass until Evening Prayer (Vespers) at 6 p.m., and that ceremony will conclude with Benediction. After that, we shall adjourn to the parish center for our customary Feast Day Ice Cream Social, featuring Twelve Apostolic Flavors in honor of our patrons. Oh yes, hot dogs will also be served with all the trimmings, so don't eat supper first. NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO TUESDAY ADORATION THIS WEEK. All regularly scheduled adorers are asked to shift to Monday, and all others are most welcome at any time. Come and pray for your family, your parish, your neighbors, and all your special intentions.

Congratulations, scholars! The following parishioners' names appear on the 4th Quarter Honor Roll at West Catholic High School. Their 2014-15 school year grade levels are in (parentheses): Joshua Augdahl (9), Michael Edozie (9), Margaret Hassinger (12), Holly Holtzclaw (9), Samantha Knight (10), Christopher Kohane (12), Maria Kohane (11), and John Worm (11). And to all of our students, an encouraging word to do your very best and keep up the good work!

Creeping abortion. As the federal government continues its seemingly endless campaign to not only provide but encourage contraception and abortion services free for all, we note that already two years ago they have barred the fine work being done under the auspices of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Committee for Migration and Refugee Services in assisting the women victims of the worldwide sex trafficking trade. Since 2006, the Department of Health and Human Services had allowed the Catholic Church to limit the services it offered to women, and for which it received grant money through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Typically, the ACLU sued in 2011, saying that the federal government should not provide grant money to any organization which would not supply abortions for the women they were attempting to assist. In doing this, they have overlooked all the comprehensive treatment actually being provided by the Church's agencies, and all the compassion and mercy being generously extended to women victims through their fine work. The only focus is abortion. If it's not included, the rest doesn't even count. The ACLU and its minions would apparently rather have those who were being cared for go completely without than to be deprived of abortion services.

Why the obsession with providing access to abortion and contraception? We know that the evil one desires nothing more than the annihilation of the human race. The two things that prevent and terminate human life at its beginnings are the two things that the "pro-choice" crowd treats as if they were sacraments. Of course, depending on whom you worship, maybe they are.

Well, duh, man . . . Our fair city's formerly daily newspaper last week carried this not-so-surprising local story: "Barely half of the people ticketed for marijuana possession are paying their fines. More than \$100,000 in civil infraction fines has gone uncollected since voters decriminalized the drug, according to Grand Rapids District Court data. Several hundred offenders haven't paid up. . ." You mean someone actually

expected they would? Did you ever listen to the people who advocated for liberalizing marijuana laws? The many whom I heard being interviewed on the radio defending and promoting the use of the magic weed sounded like they were so high they wouldn't have been able to pound sand, let alone balance a checkbook. Oh, they might have been up to swiping a credit card--probably yours or mine! The popularity of the drug has enabled its users to acquire a groundswell of support, enough to win "victory" at the polls at both the state and local levels.

I continue to be amazed at how our society has now waged war on tobacco users while growing increasingly friendly with an "industry" which produces another toxic inhalant as though it were as beneficial as fresh mountain air. Opportunists have seized on the moment to find out what the unscrupulous knew all along: there is lots of money to be made by selling toxic substances to people who are gullible enough to convince themselves that "there's no harm in it." It wouldn't be so tragic if they destroyed only their own lives and ambitions. That destruction, however, costs all of us big time, from lost productive activity to the extra billions that it takes to care for the users (who often lose all incentive to care for themselves) and for unraveling the endless legal complications which the whole decriminalization process has involved. And we've barely scratched the surface.

Reporting sexual abuse of minors. [The following notice is required to be published four times a year in both English and Spanish in compliance with the USCCB *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.*] To inform the Diocese of Grand Rapids of the sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, or other Church personnel and/or to speak with the Victim Assistance Coordinator, please call **243-0491**. A caller will be requested to provide his or her name and telephone number. All calls regarding complaints of sexual abuse will be returned in a timely manner. The Diocese is committed to protect children, young people, and other vulnerable people in our schools, parishes, and ministries. As an alternative, a report may be made to the Family Independence Agency for the applicable county.

Denunciando abuso sexual de menores. Para informar a la Diócesis de Grand Rapids sobre el abuso sexual cometido contra un menor por parte de un sacerdote, diácono, o personal de la Iglesia o para contactar al coordinador de la asistencia para víctimas (Victim Assistance Coordinator), por favor llame al **243-0491**. A quien llame se le solicitará que provea su nombre y número telefónico. Todas las llamadas en referencia a una queja sobre abuso sexual serán atendidas con prontitud. La diócesis está comprometida a proteger a la niñez y a la juventud así como a otras personas vulnerables en nuestras escuelas, parroquias, y ministerios. Como una alternativa la denuncia puede ser hecha a la Department of Human Services del condado correspondiente.

Follow your conscience! Just make sure it's an *informed* conscience before you let it lead you anywhere. Pray the Scriptures, read the Catechism of the Catholic Church, and listen to 1140-AM WVHF Holy Family Radio. Turn it on in the car and you'll have a tried and true GPS to help you find your way through life. God bless you!

Fr. Den

Thought for the week: Success and failure, sadness and happiness are states that are part of every life. The faithful Christian knows that the important thing is not to be in a certain state, but to be a certain kind of person in whichever state you find yourself.