

BULLETIN -- MAY 14

Happy Mother's Day! We extend a genuine and heartfelt promise of prayer for all of our moms today, both the living and the deceased. The generosity they have shown to us in the simple act of bringing us into this world qualifies them to receive honor from us, according to the Fourth Commandment of God. Regardless of what they've done or haven't done; no matter their personal qualities or failings; never mind the state of their physical, mental or spiritual health: "Honor your father and your mother" is independent of THEM but incumbent upon US. God assures us in that commandment that giving our parents such honor is virtuous in itself, and that it will be richly rewarded. God employed them, sometimes willy-nilly, to give us his own gift of physical life. In most of our cases, our moms and dads saw to it that we were also given the gift of eternal life in baptism. In most cases, they saw to it that our tummies were full, our bottoms were diapered, our tears were dried, our toes were tickled, and we were provided an education both at home and at school. At their knees we learned how to pray, in their laps we heard stories read to us that last a lifetime. "The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world," wrote poet William Ross Wallace (1819-1881). That simple line reminds all of us of the lasting influence our mothers have on us, on society, and on all of civilization. Our formative years, including our months in the womb, are for all of us the foundation for what are and what we shall become. Thanks, Moms, and God bless you!

CSA 2017 news. We are counting on your participation in the 2017-18 campaign to put us over the top in meeting our target and assisting with various areas of parish need. Many have already generously responded to the Bishop's challenge to help build up the Church locally as well as in the many special needs which oblige each diocese working in consort with others. An easy rule of thumb, if you are able, is to give or pledge a gift of 1% of your net income for the CSA. That leaves you 4-5% to provide to your parish, and 4-5% to care for your various mission and charitable causes. That's a total of 10% of your income devoted to charitable contributions, which is a just and worthy tithe. You will be amazed at how easy this is once you make it your way of life. You set the priorities like that, and everything else will fall right into place.

Confirmation at last! Our students who were confirmed last Wednesday evening at the Cathedral by Bishop Walkowiak included: Bryena Brown, Kent Burns, Signa Bylsma, Catherine Lindgren, Cheyenne Lyon, Emily Saladino, and Connor Vachon. I can testify how eager they were for the gifts of the Spirit. I am confident that that enthusiasm will be richly rewarded as they face the challenges of high school and life beyond as faithful Catholic disciples of the Lord Jesus and active members of his Church. We've all seen gangster movies where some unlucky schmuck is told by Da Boss, "You're a marked man, Louie!" Well, our confirmed men and women are marked, all right; but by the Good Shepherd and the Holy Spirit, who "have come that they might have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Congratulations!

Organ donation. We have available a Hammond Model 142115 Organ, residential size, looking for a good home. Please call Dennis Vainavicz at 454-5611.

“There’s a kind of hush . . .” Maybe all over the world, but often enough not in church. The acoustics in our church are exceptional. In fact, nearly every word spoken in the sacristy can be heard throughout the church; and sound travels from every corner of the space quite clearly to every other corner. Many people come to church with the expectation that they would like some quiet time to pray before or after Mass. It becomes quite impossible when even whispered conversations are going on here and there and drowning out one’s private prayerful thoughts. If folks even a few pews away can tell you the exact topic and direction of your dialogue, you are intruding into their space. Please be considerate. There is “a time for every purpose under heaven,” a time to visit and a time to pray. Let’s be thoughtful of others.

The end of civility? I recently saw a photo of a political rally with a woman holding up a large poster, an obvious parody of the current President’s favorite campaign slogan. It read, “MAKE ABORTION GREAT AGAIN!!” Just when you think there’s no lower people can go, we exceed all expectations in our race to the bottom. The photo in question might have been at the infamous Women’s March on Washington, which took place the day after the Inauguration in January. I say “infamous,” because there has perhaps been no public occasion when as much verbal filth and vulgarity was poured out in the presence of children as at that March. Oh, I got the point: that women and children have been subjected to unimaginable filth and vulgarity throughout history, and they’re not going to take it anymore. Civility has already come to an end when spouse and child abuse are rampant, when harassment and disrespect are “good ol’ boys” sports, when there is disparity in pay for equal work (including, we might add, in situations where a woman is the boss). But taking off in an obscene rant to draw attention to lack of civility is a little like going to a patient who needs morphine for pain and breaking his legs to take his mind off the *other* pain. Really, nothing is accomplished; and you’ve only made the situation worse.

I’ve wondered how many well-meaning moms brought their adolescent (or younger) daughters to that Women’s March and went home horrified that their children had been exposed to such a vile display. One thing for sure, we’ll probably never hear from them. Those who scream the loudest get the most media attention. Some might say that it was nothing more shocking than what one can hear on some segments of the evening news. Nonetheless, every time I come across some fragmentary reminder of the March on the Internet or other media, I thank God that I work for the Church. I honestly don’t know any women who talk like the “actresses” and “artists” who that day let all the world know what corrodes their minds and hearts.

The constant, underlying theme of that whole January event was, of course, abortion. There is as sick an angry fixation on abortion among many radical feminists as there is a lustful fixation on pornography among many not-so-radical men. Some Catholic writers have pointedly taken to referring to abortion as the radical feminist “sacrament,” so vitally important does it seem to be for them. It *is* ironic, isn’t it? They’ve given up on *marriage* as a sacrament, with all its potential for giving life in Christ; and plunged headlong after the death-dealing bondage of an action that can only be inspired by the never-ending rage of the evil one against the human race, the children of God. And the more they do, the more they imitate that satanic fury. Could it be that one of the major causes of the unhappiness which seems rampant in our country is that in

the last 40 years, we have had tens of millions of women who are now perpetually angry or perpetually grieving or both because they have been forever deprived of the joy of having that child wish them a Happy Mother's Day? God bless you.

Fr. Den

Thought for the week: Gone are the days when girls learned how to cook from the women in the family. Now many of them seem to learn how to drink from the men in the family.