

Pastor's Letter

August 3, 2025—18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

Many of you have probably seen the videos of studies done with very young children concerning delayed gratification. A piece of candy is put in front of the child and they are told that if they wait until the adult comes back in the room they will be given two pieces of candy, but if they eat the piece in front of them before the adult comes back they will not get the second piece. Up to a certain age, the children almost always go for what is right in front of them instead of the greater prize that they cannot see.

Most adults have a little more self-control than that, but there is still a strong tendency to go for the shiny object right in front of us and to neglect the greater good that we cannot see. In our readings for today, we are warned against putting too much store in the present goods of this world that come and go and will one day pass away, and not doing enough to work toward the eternal goods that could be ours forever in the life to come.

The material goods of this world are a blessing, but they are not an end in themselves. They are gifts from God to sustain us and give us the means to do good for others. When we use them gratefully and share them generously, they can help us grow in holiness. Using the things of this world correctly can turn them into an investment for eternity.

It can be easy for us to fall into the trap of thinking that this life is all there is. We can be tricked into thinking that our security lies in gathering up as much wealth and power as we can in this world, forgetting that before we know it, this life is going to be over and all of our stuff is going to be useless to us. The only thing that we will take with us is love. Let's not allow ourselves to be distracted by things that are temporary. Let's use all of God's gifts in this life in a way that will help us achieve the highest goal that any person could hope for, happiness forever with God.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

Mission Speaker Weekend of Aug 2/3

The **Missionary Servants of the Needy** is a male Religious Association founded in the Catholic Diocese of Tombura-Yambio, South Sudan, exclusively to help the poor and serve their needs. Our mission is primarily centered on our profound concern for the poor and the needy, especially those who are given little or zero attention in their communities. Our mission is to help this class of people reinstate their sense of value and help them become more aware of their relevance to human society, to themselves, their families, and to God. Our intention is to offer counseling to them, understand their needs, provide education to them, and discern the best ways of helping them become better persons, for the sake of God's Kingdom. Making visible and practical the Mercy and the Love of God through Works of Charity and Corporal Works of Mercy is the major ingredient of our mission. Our utmost desire is to be the mouthpiece of God and "another Christ" to the poor and the needy. To learn more about us, please visit www.msnmission.org.

National Catholic Youth Conference 2025

The National Catholic Youth Conference is a powerfully unique three-day experience of prayer, community, evangelization, catechesis, service, and empowerment for Catholic high school teens and their adult chaperones. NCYC is the premier Catholic youth event on a national scale that gathers people from across America for a life-changing encounter with Christ. The theme for this year's event is "I Am | Yo Soy" and will be held November 20-22, 2025, at the Indiana Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, IN. The 2025 theme, I Am | Yo Soy, will reflect on the time God appeared to Moses through the burning bush and explore how the Sacraments are the living story of God's love, uniting us with Him through Jesus and the Church. Through the Sacraments, we encounter the fullness of salvation and the tangible presence of Immanuel—God with us. Registration is being coordinated through the Office for Catechesis. Contact Kyle Holtgrave at (217) 698-8500, ext. 154, or email kholtgrave@dio.org for details.

****There is money available to help youth of our parishes attend.**

