

Pastor's Letter

September 6, 2026 – 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

The Ten Commandments spell out for us our responsibilities to God and to our fellow human beings. In our second reading for today, St. Paul focuses on the latter. We are not to harm our neighbor or take what is theirs. We are not to allow envy or lust to break our relationship with them. Paul sums it up this way, "The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet' and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law." And love not only doesn't do harm to the neighbor, it seeks to do him good.

Doing good to our neighbor takes many forms. As Jesus points out in our Gospel reading, sometimes love takes the form of telling them the truth when they go wrong. Jesus lays out a plan for his disciples to work things out when relationships are broken in the church. He says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.'"

If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector."

One thing to notice is that these situations should be handled privately if possible, but if not the whole community should get involved in working reconciliation. Why? Is Jesus telling us that we should gang up on sinners? No, but he is reminding us that broken relationships are the concern of the whole community. When there is disharmony anywhere in the body of Christ, it affects the whole body and we all need to work together to bring healing. We are responsible and accountable to each other and we need to be working together to create the unity that is the surest sign of the presence of the Spirit of Christ among us.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott



Catholic Heart Work Camp Fundraiser at Liberty Fall Festival

Our CHWC kids will have a game booth at the Liberty Fall Festival on Friday, September 11 & Saturday, September 12 to help raise money for their mission trip. Come out and support them!

Journey of Faith begins September 28

Have you ever had questions about the teachings, history, and structure of the Catholic Church? Maybe you are thinking about becoming Catholic, have family or friends who are Catholic, or maybe you are Catholic and want to go deeper in the practice of your faith. Our parishes will once again be offering a class called, "Journey of Faith" starting in September. This is our program for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Our OCIA class is for anyone interested in learning about Catholic faith and life. Classes will begin on Monday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Brigid's in the parish hall. The class will be led by Fr. Scott. This is a great opportunity to go deep into the teachings and practices of the Catholic faith. Bring your questions and join us! For more info contact Fr. Scott.