

Pastor's Letter

July 5, 2026 – 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

In our second reading for today St. Paul tells us, "Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him." How do we know that we have the Spirit of Christ? When our lives follow the pattern of his life. And what does that pattern look like? Gentleness and humility.

Many of us are fighting battles that are wearing us out. We're fighting to do all the things the world tells us we need to do to be worthy of approval; to be good spouses, good parents, good citizens. Everywhere we look there is another special interest group with a long list of do's and don'ts. Someone is always barking about some new thing that we should be outraged about and fighting against. It's exhausting!

Into all this clatter and shouting comes Jesus inviting us to leave all that behind. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." Jesus offers to help us first, to step away from the noise and fury of all those people with bees in their bonnet who want to set us buzzing with anger and fear. He wants to soothe our worries with his gentle compassion and quiet our troubled hearts and minds with his peace. We can come away to this place of peace any time we want to, just by turning to him in prayer. And when we have to go back into the craziness of the world, that peace will stay with us.

Secondly, Jesus invites us to become islands of peace in the middle of a frazzled world. We can be sources of calm and healing when we allow the Spirit of Christ to go with us into all the spaces that we inhabit. Sometimes even our practice of the faith can make us anxious. Are we doing it right? What if I don't say or do the right thing? Ok, sure, we want to live good lives and avoid sin, but what Jesus really wants is for us to let him love us and let him use us to love others. If we follow his Spirit of gentleness and humility we will be fulfilling our call as Christians. Be gentle with others. Be gentle with yourself. Be humble before God.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott



Adoration for Priests

There will be an hour of Adoration followed by Benediction at St. Bridgid Church, 706 N. Main, Liberty Il., July 19, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. All are invited to come and pray for your Priests.

Cursillo Weekends Are Powerful!

Women's Cursillo #386 will be held July 16 - 19 at the Quincy University Retreat Center. On a Cursillo you will be guided by a priest, deacon and trained laity, in a prayerful and sacramental environment, to evaluate yourself, your relationship with God, to discern how God is calling you to influence your family, your work environment, your neighborhood and the world. There are registration forms in the back of church, for more information please contact Connie Bealor 217-440-6886.