

Pastor's Letter

August 30, 2026 – 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

When I was a teenager there was a strong emphasis on “doing your own thing” and being “countercultural.” The funny thing is that while we were all trying to be individuals and stand out from the crowd we were all following the same fads in clothes, listening to the same music, and watching the same shows on TV. Even as we said we were being our unique selves we were trying to be part of the crowd. Things seem to be pretty much the same today. People watch social media “influencers” to stay on top of the latest trends and FOMO, Fear Of Missing Out, is one of the great concerns of the day.

In our second reading for today, St. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, “I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” St. Paul is calling on us to be truly countercultural. He is reminding us that we should pattern our lives according to God’s plan for getting the most out of life, not on what society says is cool or acceptable.

God’s vision for us and how we can be truly happy is very different from what the world is trying to sell us. The world says that buying stuff will make us happy. Buy the right clothes, buy the right moisturizer, buy the right food. And you have to think the right way too. Don’t go against the ideology of the group, whatever the group might be, whether it’s on the right or on the left.

Christians are called to a different path. Jesus tells us that we can’t buy our way to happiness and it doesn’t matter how we look or what we wear. And every ideology, every political, moral, and social opinion needs to be judged according to God’s revelation of his plan for us. When we give ourselves to Christ, he calls us to go all the way, to let him call the shots. If we do, then we will often find ourselves swimming against the current of the culture we live in. Our purpose and goal is not to do our own thing, but to let God do his thing in us. That’s when we become our best and truest selves.

There is only one influencer worth listening to and that’s Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott