

SAINT PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

August 19-20, 2017

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass times: Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 10:45am

Confession: Saturday: 4:30 pm or
by appointment.

Rosary: Sunday at 10:10am

Nursery: Available at 10:45 mass

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR:

In light of recent events, I would like to ask: what does God think of 'free speech?'

Obviously free speech is in the constitution. It is a law. And the founders thought that it was an inalienable right given by God.

It seems this topic is always being debated, in the courts, in the public sphere, etc. It is always being asked 'do people have the right to burn flags, do people have the right to desecrate crosses in protest, do people have the right to gather as white supremacists.' Each of these things are considered personally horrific to any rational person, but the question is 'is this included in free speech?'

I remember a few years back there was an 'artist' (more like an idiot) who turned a crucifix upside-down and put it in a urinal and said it was art. What's worse is that there was an art gallery that actually displayed it.

This is obviously disgusting and they will be judged when they meet God, as we all will.

But as a society, is it a good thing that we have free speech? And how 'free' should free speech be?

In Germany it is illegal to make or pretend to make a Nazis salute. Obviously, they have a very horrible past in these regards so they have setup very strict laws to attempt to ensure there is never an uprising of those horrible ideas again.

Here in the US, our 'free speech' is more 'free.' As disgusting as it is, people are free to express themselves in all those horrible ways noted above.

Rational people are horrified by these things and would love to never hear of them again. But there

are only two ways for us to stop it. One of the ways is hard, and one easy...but the easy one has a negative side-effect.

The easy way is for us to make it illegal. All we have to do is make it illegal for people to burn flags, make it illegal to put crucifixes in urinals, and make it illegal to spout off white supremacist rhetoric. Then when people do it, we just call the cops and they get locked up. Quick and easy.

Unfortunately, this method, although easy, has a negative consequence, one involving a slippery slope. Did you know in Canada that a priest can be fined and have even been jailed for preaching about what marriage is? They have been fined for saying marriage is between one man and one woman. Or did you know in France that there is a law being considered that will make it illegal even to say that abortion is immoral. Even to say that abortion is evil or sinful or immoral, could get someone sent to prison.

The problem is that when the laws started to be written to restrict free speech, they could and will likely be written to restrict our speech (Catholics and Christians).

Then there's the hard way. The hard way to limit and stop free speech that we don't like is the way of the Gospel. It is the way of conversion. It is the way of trying to convince, convert and change the crazy people who burn flags, put crucifixes in urinals and become white supremacists.

We know no one is beyond conversion and no one is beyond the possibility to be changed and become one of God's fiercest apostles. After all, before his conversion, the person responsible for writing the largest section of the New Testament could be likened to a white supremacist who was trying to 'purify' Judaism (remember that Paul stood and watched as Stephen was stoned to death).

It's not easy. And the quick and easy solution is usually not the answer. Aiding conversions, teaching morality, good parenting, disciplining children, good communities, and a decent society cannot be replaced by a quick answer.

I will say one thing for sure, I do not believe any true interior change occurs without a very generous outpouring of God's grace into a soul. The healing often needs to go very deep before people will change, and nothing gets down that deep but God. And ultimately that is what we want, we don't just want speech to stop or be changed, we want their hearts to be converted. Once the heart is changed, the speech will follow.

-Fr. Rossi

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Religious Education Registration: It's time to register your children for Religious Education 2017/2018. Classes will be held on Sunday mornings at St. Patrick's from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM beginning in the fall. Please see Donna Baird after mass for the registration forms or send her an email at donnahbaird@gmail.com. Fees for this year are: First Reconciliation/First Communion classes - \$50 per child; general enrollment - \$30 per child. Deadline for registration is September 2nd/3rd. If your child is preparing for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist, full participation in St. Patrick's Religious Education is required including attendance at all scheduled classes and as well as weekly mass. Looking forward to another great year!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: There is a need for volunteers to help with religious education for this upcoming year. No experience is necessary but VIRTUS training is required & will be provided. Please contact Donna Baird for more information at donnahbaird@yahoo.com.

Sharing Sunday: Mark your calendars for **the next Sharing Sunday which will be September 3rd.** Please bring non-perishable food items. We donate those to our local food bank.

THANK YOU: Thanks so much to everyone who came out to our first "Women, Wine and the Word" gathering. Our next gathering will be Friday 8/25/17 from 6.30 - 8.30 pm in the social hall. This month's topic will be "The Women in the History of the Catholic Church" All ladies are invited, please and bring a light snack or wine to share for an evening of meaningful discussion and fellowship. Please feel free to invite friends! Please let Donna Baird know if you plan to attend donnahbaird@yahoo.com

K of C Annual School Supply Drive: The Knights of Columbus will be conducting a school Supply drive for the month of August benefitting the Boys and Girls Club here in Church Hill. Please consider donating paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, crayons and other school supplies to help these neighborhood kids get a good start to the school year! There will be a box in the Social Hall for Donations.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): The RCIA is the process where the Catholic Church welcomes new adult members into the Church. Adults wishing to learn more should please contact Fred Powell or Ryland Paxton.

Baptisms: Baptisms are held at mass the first Sunday of the month. Baptism class is required prior to Baptizing your first child. **The next class will be held on 9/3/17 at 1pm in the parish hall.** If you are interested in attending a class & scheduling your child's Baptism, contact Kathy Buttner.

CONTACT & FOLLOW US AT:

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Office Phone number: 804-737-8028

SPC Emergency #: 804-402-1221 - If someone is dying or has died and you would like to talk with a priest, please call the emergency number at any time.

Visitation to the sick and homebound – If you or someone you know would like a visit and Holy Communion at their home. Please call the office at 737-8028. Office staff will ensure the information will be relayed to Visitation Ministry individuals.

Bulletin: All bulletin submissions must be emailed to Michelle Dawson the Tuesday prior by noon.

Follow the Richmond Diocese: Because our Faith keeps us strong and filled with JOY, we want to share it with you every day. Like us on **Facebook** and **Follow** us on **Twitter** for inspirational daily messages and the latest happenings with our Pope, Bishop, priests, seminarians, lay ministers, youth, events and general news about the Diocese. Join us in prayer and service. **Facebook** @RichmondDiocese and **Twitter** @RichmondDiocese

CHURCH SUPPORT AS OF 8/6/17

Weekly

<i>Actual</i>	\$3,789.00
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$4,221.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	(\$432.00)

Year to Date

<i>Actual</i>	\$16,859.03
<i>Budgeted</i>	<u>\$25,326.00</u>
<i>Difference</i>	(\$8,466.97)

Attendance for August 5/6 = 36/190