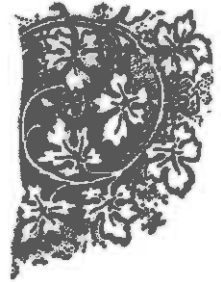




# Stronica Proboszcza



## The Pastor's Page

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

### *June is a Month Dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus!*

When the beautiful month of June rolls around on the calendar the secular world begins to think of weddings. Many a young lady throughout the years has desired to be a lovely "June bride!" Although in one of my previous parish assignments, which averaged approximately fifty weddings a year, a clear shift could be seen from June to September being the most popular month to get married. Regardless, from a church perspective, June is a month to think of love, not romantic nor matrimonial love, but rather divine love! Just as in secular society, the church recognizes the heart as the premier symbol of love. And so a reminder of God's love is God's Heart, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

For centuries we humans have spoken about the heart as something much more than the important muscle that it is, pumping blood throughout the entirety of our bodies and keeping us alive. We talk about our hearts as that place deep inside us, the very core of our person, where we experience the most intimate human emotions, like happiness, and sorrow and most of all love. We say that our hearts are filled with joy when we give and receive love. And we say that our hearts are broken when love goes out of our lives.

When we think about or speak of the Sacred Heart we are thinking about that core place of the person of Jesus, from which comes forth His divine love for us and the place where He feels either the joy of His love received and returned by us, or the sorrow of having His love for humanity rejected and refused. The beautiful thing about the Heart of our God is that it is always open to us and always "burning" with love for us in spite of everything.

The month of June is a fine time to think about this loving relationship that should exist between us and our God, most especially between us and the person of Jesus Christ. We should love Him because he is our teacher and our Lord. His life and words draw men and women of every age and nation to His Sacred Heart. No other great figure of history approaches what Jesus said and did.

Born poor, His childhood spent in an obscure Galilean village, He suddenly emerged for a few dazzling years to teach and work wonders in the Jewish world of His time. He was opposed by those in power who brought Him to trial and crucified Him. After three days He rose from the dead. Those who were witnesses to His Resurrection told the good news to others. They were convinced He was the Son of God who came to bring new life and hope to a world lost in darkness. He would bring a new kingdom, a new order, based on justice and love. Jesus promised to remain always with His Church. Receiving the Holy Spirit, His Church would proclaim His life and words. Above all, they would offer the world His love. This marvelous and enduring love comes to us through the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

## **Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> – the Feast of St. Barnabas**

One of the earliest disciples of the new Christian faith was a Jew from the island of Cyprus named Joseph. As the book of Acts of the Apostles explains, Joseph was so generous that he sold his farm and gave the proceeds to the apostles. He was so filled with faith that the apostles gave him a new name. They called him Barnabas, which means “the son of encouragement.”

In those days, most Christians were Jewish. They thought it was a mistake to talk about Jesus to people who were not Jewish. The Jewish Christians in Jerusalem decided to send someone to find out what was happening in Antioch, where many people who weren't Jewish were interested in the faith. For this important task they chose Barnabas.

Barnabas reported back that he thought the Christians in Antioch were filled with the Holy Spirit. He realized that many more people would be open to hearing Christ's message, if someone with a powerful faith were there to help him preach. So he convinced St. Paul to come with him to Antioch. They stayed for a year and drew so many new Christians that Antioch became the second capital of the Christian faith.

Paul and Barnabas then traveled to other towns. Some leaders were afraid to trust Paul because earlier in his life he had persecuted Christians. But Barnabas lived up to his name and encouraged Paul to preach. Barnabas also encouraged St. Peter and other Christian leaders to accept Paul into the community. He reminded them of Jesus' call to bring salvation “to the ends of the earth.” Barnabas himself obeyed that call so faithfully that, even though he was not one of the Twelve, the Book of Acts honors him with the title of apostle. St. Barnabas was stoned to death in Salamis at Cyprus.

## **Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> - the Feast of St. Anthony of Padua**

St. Anthony made such an impression on Padua in Italy that he is still admired there 700 years later. He is a much loved saint throughout the Church. St. Anthony was actually of Portugal, not Italy. He was born Ferdinand and took the name Anthony when he entered religious life. His parents were nobles, and he could have chosen to live in luxury. But St. Anthony decided to devote his life to prayer and study. He became an Augustinian priest. He was a brilliant student who came to know the Bible inside out.

Ten years later St. Anthony learned about a new order, the Franciscans, who did missionary work. He wanted with all his heart to join them, and soon he was able to arrange it. He became a Franciscan Friar in 1219. St. Francis of Assisi, who had founded the order of Franciscans, was still alive. His spirit of poverty and love fired St. Anthony's heart. St. Anthony traveled to Morocco to preach the gospel. But severe illness sent him sailing for home. His ship blew off course and he landed in Italy instead. By chance, St. Francis had called the friars together there at this very time, so St. Anthony attended their meeting. Soon afterward the other friars heard St. Anthony preach. They realized he had a great gift. The wayward ship had steered him to what would become his life's work – preaching throughout Italy and France.

When St. Anthony preached, no church could hold the crowds that came to hear him. He spoke in the marketplaces and town squares. Because of what he said, parents and children made peace with each other. People gave back things they had stolen. People who had told lies admitted them publicly and corrected them. Maybe that is why St. Anthony is known as the patron saint of lost items. He worked to find lost people. His words were especially powerful because everyone knew that St. Anthony practiced what he preached. He was a humble person who chose to live in poverty. So many people experienced the love of God through his work that he became known as a “wonder worker.” St. Anthony spent the last three years of his life in Padua. He died when he was only 36 years old.

In our church St. Anthony's image is found in the second stained glass window from the vestibule on the parking lot side of the church and in the mural painted on the side wall by Our Lady's altar. In both depictions he is shown together with the Child Jesus and holding the white lily of purity. The window was offered long ago by Mr. Antoni Kortas. In that depiction the Child Jesus appears on a cloud standing before a crucifix on an altar where St. Anthony seems to have been praying. At the saint's knees are a holy book and a flagellum which strict religious used on themselves to do penance. Near the saint is another large potted white lily.

## Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> - the Feast of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus

The Feast of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus was actually removed from the liturgical calendar after the Mass was “reformed” in the 1970’s. This feast day fell on the Thursday after the octave of Corpus Christi. Of course there is also no octave of Corpus Christi any longer either, however the idea of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus is still extremely relevant to our Catholic faith even without a feast day.

This feast day commemorated the supreme love of the Sacred Heart which instituted the great sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in order to dwell here below with us and to give to our souls His flesh as food and His blood as drink. In the tabernacle dwells the most loving Heart, a human Heart, but one that never wearies of us, that longs for our love, with an infinite love: “Come to Me, all you that labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you.”

From the time of Jesus’ first revelation of His Most Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary, there has always been a connection between it and the Most Holy Eucharist. Jesus asked for frequent Holy Communion of those faithful who love Him and are devoted His Heart, especially on the First Friday of every month. To those faithful devotees Jesus has promised a multitude of graces and blessings!

### *The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, symbol of Divine Love!*

In June of 1675 Jesus asked Sister Margaret Mary, a nun of the Order of the Visitation, that the first Friday after the feast of Corpus Christi be dedicated to His Sacred Heart, together with reception of Holy Communion and acts of reparation. When her superiors were unwilling to cooperate, Sister Margaret Mary received support and guidance from Jesuit father, Claude de la Colombiere, her confessor. Nevertheless she still had to suffer more when the Lord instructed her to go contrary to her own Visitation community. Finally, however, a friend of hers became superior of the community in 1640 and selected Sister Margaret Mary as an assistant and as mistress of novices. Thus, on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1686, the feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated in the convent for the first time. In 1690 she died at the age of 43. The image of the Sacred Heart was later painted on the standard of King Louis XIV of France and eventually adopted in France, Spain and the Tyrol.

In 1873 France was consecrated to the Sacred Heart and the famous basilica of Sacre Coeur was built in the Montmartre district of Paris. Later, Spain and Brazil also erected statues in honor of the Sacred Heart. In 1856 Pope Pius IX extended the feast of the Sacred Heart to the universal Church and in 1929 Pope Pius XI raised the feast to a solemnity. Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque was canonized in 1920.

A depiction of St. Margaret Mary can be seen in the great window of the north transept in our church. She has been kneeling in prayer before the altar of her convent chapel, when the Lord Jesus appears to her as the door of the tabernacle opens, she drops her rosary and prayer book. Jesus reveals His Most Sacred Heart to her as an angel is seen hovering over the entire scene. The inscription in Polish underneath tells us that this window was offered by the *Heart of Jesus*, Sacred Heart Society of the parish.

Of course the main “shrine” to the Sacred Heart in our church is the north side altar. It is a rather rare thing to have a side altar dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a church although they can be found. What is even more rare, in fact I have never encountered this, is to have that altar on the left side of the main altar. This altar is almost always reserved for the Blessed Virgin Mary. The idea being, if the tabernacle is Christ’s “throne” and He “sits on it” looking out over the congregation, His Holy Mother would be to His right. The psalm from the Assumption Day Mass confirms this idea: “The Queen stands at your right hand arrayed in gold.”

This unique arrangement has caused many “discussions” during weddings about which side the bride should be seated on. The standard tradition is that the bride is on the left and the groom is on the right. However it has also been a custom that the bride sits on the side of the church where the Virgin’s altar is in “solidarity” with the Blessed Mother. At this point we leave it up to the couple. It is enough to point out that it is rare to have an altar to the Sacred Heart and equally as rare to have the Lady altar on the right. But thanks be to God we have them, as many churches today do not have side altars or even statues of the holy ones, within them!

On the wall above our Sacred Heart altar can be seen the words in Polish: *Przyjdź Królestwo Twoje*. This is translated: Thy Kingdom Come, which is of course a citation from the Lord's Prayer. The painting just below it is a combination of images of Christ the King and the Sacred Heart. The enthroned Savior wears a crown and holds a scepter. His loving Heart is exposed as His right hand is raised in benediction. He is surrounded by adoring angels. The Kingdom which is to come, the kingdom for which we must pray and work, is a Kingdom of Love and Mercy. It is the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart of Jesus! May it come!

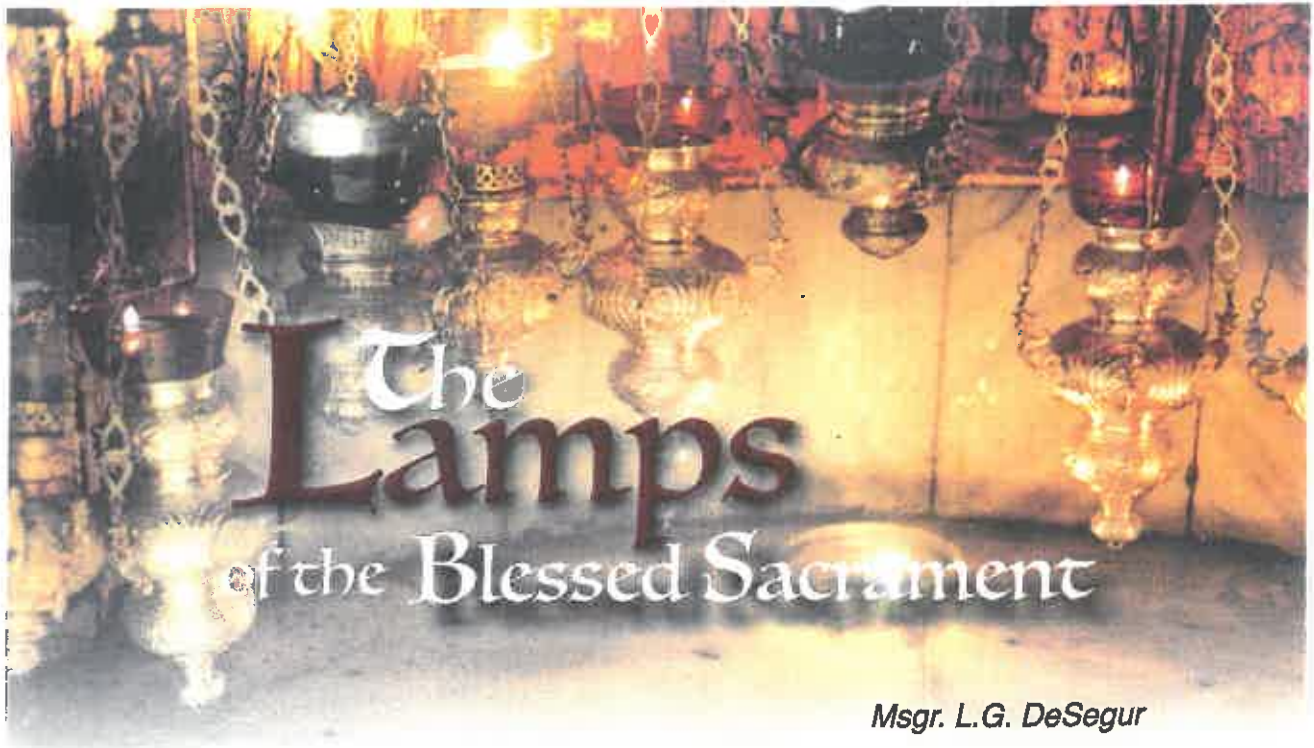
## **The Twelve Promises of Jesus to All Who Honor His Sacred Heart**

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death.
5. I will pour abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall grow fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall speedily rise to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place where a picture of My Sacred Heart shall be set up and honored.
10. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their name written in My Heart, and it shall never be removed.
12. I promise you in the excessive Mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful Love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence, they shall not die in my displeasure nor without receiving the Sacraments. My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

## **Joining a Parish**

A pastor of a church was approached by someone asking about becoming a member of the parish. As the conversation about expectations concerning membership in the congregation was explained by the pastor, it became apparent that this person did not have the kind of commitment that the pastor was looking for in a new parishioner. "Yes, I would like to join your church," the potential new member stated. "However, don't expect to see me every Sunday at Mass because I have a lot of other things on my busy agenda for Sunday mornings. Usually I am pretty tired from the hectic work week, so I like to sleep in on those days. Also, don't expect too much of a donation to the church because I have a lot of club memberships and financial commitments. And my time is certainly very limited, so don't look for me to serve on any committees or to teach catechism."

The pastor indicated that perhaps there was another church in the vicinity better suited to the person's needs. He gave the inquirer directions to this church located only a few blocks away. The pastor was thanked for his time and his honesty. When the person looking for membership arrived at the address the pastor had given, all that was found was a dilapidated and vacant church building with all the windows boarded up. There is a BIG difference between merely being registered and on the books of a church and being a real member of a parish and a follower of Christ. Hopefully and prayerfully, each of us will take very seriously Christ's personal call to discipleship.



# The Lamps of the Blessed Sacrament

*Msgr. L.G. DeSegur*

**L**ight has always occupied a prominent place in the worship of God. The reason of this fact is a very deep one; but as we do not wish to enter fully into the subject here, it is sufficient to say that light is the most perfect of created substances, that it is the symbol of truth which enlightens the intelligence and that our Lord Jesus Christ declared with His own Divine lips that He was “the true Light,” and the “Light of the world.”

For these reasons and many others, light has always been among Christians an integral part of their outward worship and particularly of all that relates to the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. From the time of the Apostles, when the early Christians were forced to take refuge in the Catacombs and other secret asylums to hide their sacred gatherings from all eyes, lights were never omitted; and from that distant time the Church has always shown a special regard for the custom of burning candles during the celebration of

the Mass and the divine offices and also in the veneration which is paid to holy images and the relics of the martyrs.

In the Catacombs of Rome there have been found, among others, magnificent lamps in gold, silver and brass in the form of wreaths of flowers, in each of which were burned, before the bodies of the martyrs, a certain number of wicks, replenished day and night by the devotion of the faithful. These luminous crowns were suspended from the

**...It is at least necessary  
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Blessed Sacrament...**

vaults of the chapels of the Catacombs and honored by their brilliancy the sacred relics of those pontiffs, virgins and martyrs who remained faithful unto death to Jesus the Light of the World.

When, after centuries of persecution, the Church could openly display

the pomp and grandeur of their ritual, light once more formed an important part of the religious ceremonial. Popes, Christians and numbers of the faithful, following their example, brilliantly illuminated the new churches with costly lamps, accompanied with endowments for supplying them perpetually with pure oil and light. So it is that, centuries after, we may still see a hundred and forty lamps surrounding, as with a brilliant aureole, the venerable tomb of the Prince of the Apostles, in the basilica of Saint Peter at Rome. Forty lamps,

**Thus the poor woman, the poor workman who can do no more, may gain the precious grace of indulgences by giving in honor to the most Holy Sacrament.**

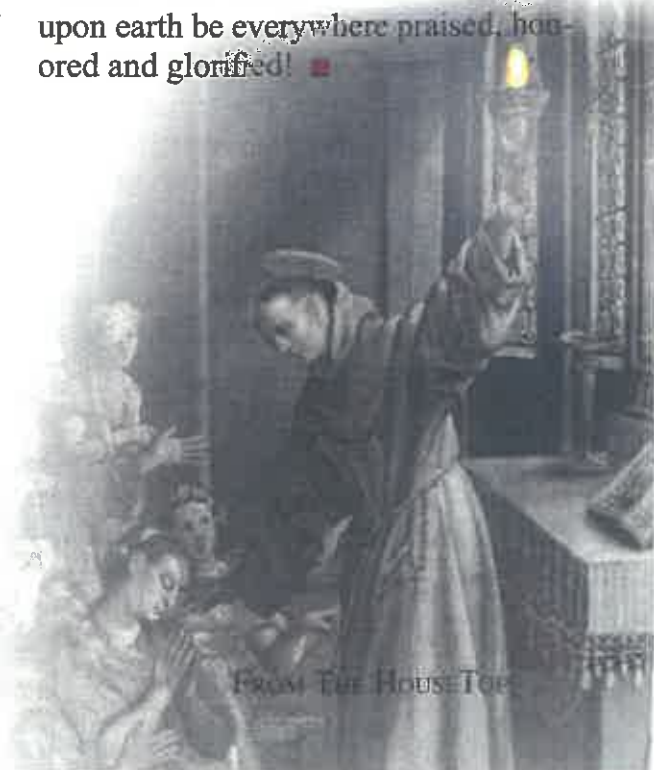
always lighted, burn before the relics of Saint Cecilia, virgin and martyr; and indeed relics are never exposed at Rome for the veneration of the faithful without being honored by lights.

If this is the case with the relics of the saints, we may easily conceive the solicitude with which the Church has always watched to supply at least one burning lamp before the Sacred Body of Our Lord, truly present in the Holy Eucharist; here, again, Rome roves herself the mistress of Catholic devotion, and nothing can be more striking than the effect of the seven lamps which burn in the great churches of Rome before the altar of the Blessed Sacrament.

It is indeed to be desired that everywhere, in the smallest chapel where the Adorable Body of Jesus Christ reposes, the priest and the faithful should

have the means constantly to supply a lamp as a mark of their Faith in the Mystery of mysteries. Coldness of heart, religious indifference, and want of a lively faith must prevent any manifestation as rich and as costly as in the Holy City, but it is at least necessary that one lamp should burn night and day before the Blessed Sacrament, and thus recall to those who enter the Church the Sacred Presence of Our Lord, and bear witness to the faith and devotion of His children.

The Sovereign Pontiff Blessed Pius IX, animated by a deep and tender devotion to the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, attached a particular importance to keeping lamps always lighted before the tabernacles. He even enriched with an indulgence of seven years every act of piety, whatever it might be, by which the faithful should cooperate in this good work. Thus the poor woman, the poor workman who can do no more, may gain the precious grace of indulgences by giving in honor to the most Holy Sacrament. May the faith and zeal of all be reanimated, and may the Blessed Sacrament of the love of God upon earth be everywhere praised, honored and glorified! ■



FROM THE HOUSE-TOPE

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING May 31, 2018

### ATTENDEES:

Fr. Mark Borkowski  
Dale Zamecki  
Sharon Zerafa  
Fred Snyder  
Stan Kulaszewski

Judy Kuncaitis  
Tom Kleinow  
Cheryl Jurczyk  
Trevor Cole  
Veronica Berryman

- Father Mark Borkowski opened the meeting with prayer. Minutes from previous meeting were accepted without change.
- Christian Service: Judy Kuncaitis reported that there would be changes to the giving tree this year. Details will be in future bulletins.
- Education Commission: Trevor Cole reported that the Faith studies program will break until September.  
**JPII school news:** Fr. Mark will be the 2018-2019 school year Clergy Delegate. There are ongoing concerns regarding the longevity of the school. Meetings with the AOD representative are ongoing.
- Worship Commission: Fred Snyder discussed the Corpus Christi procession that will take place after the 12:00 mass. Novena to St. Anne will begin July 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be week night masses at 7:00 p.m. in various languages concluding with procession on July 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a need for altar servers of all ages.
- Stewardship Commission: Tom Kleinow reported that 2 new statues were installed on the back wall of the church. Two small pamphlet racks will be installed at each of the side doors. On June 4<sup>th</sup>, more pews will be removed for floor repair. Tuckpointing work has been completed and should solve the leak problems we were experiencing by the large stained glass window. The painter will begin work on five pillars in the church. The cost of each pillar is \$1300.00. Fr. Mark received the money to complete this work from five individual sponsors.
- Vicariate: 100 parishioners have signed up for the Formed website.

**New Business discussed:**

- **New Parish Council members John Kruso and Meredith Fortener will begin their terms in September. Fr. Mark thanked Dale Zamecki for serving as president and completing his term. Donna Milton was unable to attend the meeting. The council wishes to thank her as well for her service and completing her term.**
  
- **The parish picnic will be on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, after the 4:30 p.m. mass. All details will be in future bulletins.**

**The next Parish Council meeting will be in September. The date TBD closer to September.**

**Father Mark closed the meeting with prayer.**

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Cheryl Jurczyk**