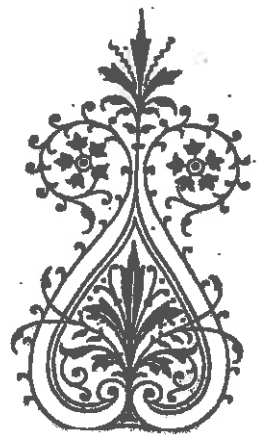


Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

June 17th, 2018

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time & Fathers' Day

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

Month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

FmarkB@aol.com

Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

***Happy Fathers' Day to all our Fathers, Grand Fathers,
Great Grand Fathers, God-fathers & Step-fathers!***

Happy Fathers' Day to all readers! In a certain way I feel as if priests too might participate in this national observance though we have not brought new life into the world in the natural way. I would like to think that I am still a little too young to be a grandfather. I am not a step-father, or a father-in-law. I am not even a god-father! And yet in the English language Catholic priests are called father. It is interesting to note that this is not so in all other languages. In Polish for example a priest is always referred to as *ksiądz* which is translated priest. Even monsignors, bishops and cardinals are still referred to as priests in their titles; *ksiądz prałat* – monsignor, *ksiądz biskup* – bishop, *ksiądz kardynał* – cardinal.

In order to be a father there must be children. For a parish priest, the parishioners of the church where he serves are his “children.” A good father always tries to do what is best for his children even if this is not what is easiest or most convenient for himself. Sacrifices must be made for the family and fathers and mothers are the ones who make the greater part of them. This is part of the vocation to be a parent, to be a father!

When babies are baptized parents and god parents are asked “are you ready to do everything necessary to make certain this child grows up knowing and practicing the faith?” In my opinion this is THE most intense part of the ceremony of baptism. Of course the pouring of water is the most dramatic, but what an awesome thing it is to ask a man and a woman to promise before God and all present that they will literally exhaust themselves to the end of their human strength to insure this religious education and formation in the faith takes place. This is the noble vocation of being a father or a mother. It is not a job. There is no pay. In fact there is not enough money in the world to buy what is freely given in parenthood. God calls one to be a father or a mother. It is a vocation. For most of society this is the most important task that you will undertake in this life. Being a parent continues until one dies. And because this is a vocation, something God calls a person to, as their mission in life, this is the most important work of one's life to be concerned about. We will all one day be judged by how well we lived out the vocation God has given us.

And so... being a father for you, in a spiritual way, is what my life is all about. I am trying hard to do what's best for you not only because I care deeply about each one of you but because the salvation of my immortal soul depends on it! Happy Fathers' Day to all of us Fathers. May we NEVER stop trying to do the absolute best for our children!

Thursday, June 21st – Feast of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga – Jesuit Novice Patron saint of youth and those dying from AIDS

As the oldest son of the Marquis of Castiglione in Lombardy, Italy, Aloysius Gonzaga stood to inherit great wealth. So from earliest childhood he was trained in the manners of a Renaissance prince. He was sent to be a page in the Medici court in Florence when he was only eight years old.

But there was something else about Aloysius that was special. From about the age of seven he had an unusual sense of closeness to God. Sometimes these two currents in Aloysius's life fought each other. He became aware of this conflict in his early teen years when he was sent to the royal court of Spain. It was a materialistic and immoral place. He needed self-discipline and courage to live as a Christian in these surroundings.

In 1584, Aloysius returned to Italy. He sensed that his society could not be reformed from within. The only way to survive was to get out completely. He decided to release all his property rights to his younger brother and to become a Jesuit. He knew the Jesuits would treat him like everyone else, not like royalty. Also, he would be expected to take a vow of poverty.

In 1591, an epidemic hit Rome. Victims died in agony in the streets of the city. The priests of Aloysius's order opened a hospital. Aloysius, who was 23, volunteered to serve the sick. On his back he carried the dying into the hospital. He washed them, made their beds, and cheered them. Then he caught the disease himself. Three months later he died.

His integrity and toughness have made him the patron saint of young people. He is also the patron of people dying from AIDS.

Our Lady of the Highways

Many people around the world honor Mary as Our Lady of the Highways in memory of the dangerous travels that she undertook. The Gospel of Luke relates that Mary, newly pregnant, rushed out to the hill country to help her cousin Elizabeth during the older woman's pregnancy. Luke also recounts the hazardous journey Mary undertook with her husband, Joseph, when they went to Bethlehem to register for the census. Not only did they travel alone, easy prey for potential thieves or worse, Mary was almost ready to deliver—and could very easily have had her baby on the way. Luke tells of Mary and Joseph's bringing the baby to the Temple and of the Holy Family's later trip to Jerusalem for Passover. The Gospel of Matthew does not mention these journeys but does report the precipitous flight of the Holy Family across the desert wastes into Egypt to escape Herod's wrath. And it also mentions the family's return from Egypt to Nazareth. When Mary's son entered his active ministry, she would follow him all over the countryside, accompanying even his final trek up the hill of Calvary. And tradition relates that she then went with Saint John to Ephesus. For her time, she was one well-traveled woman.

Given the journeys she undertook, it is natural that Christians appeal to her experience and invoke her aid during their own traveling. And indeed, devotion to Our Lady of the Highways dates from the earliest days of Christianity and may have originated in Rome with the Shrine of *Santa Maria della Strada*, or Saint Mary of the Wayside. Saint Ignatius of Loyola honored Mary under this title.

Because of today's increasingly hazardous driving conditions, more and more travelers have begun to invoke the aid of Our Lady of the Highways, particularly in the United States. When a terrible traffic accident occurred on I-95 in 1968, just a few yards away from the residence of the Oblate Helpers' Guild in Childs, Maryland, the community's founder, Father John Fuqua, was moved to invoke Mary's protection upon travelers. His inspiration prompted the dedication of a new shrine to

Our Lady of the Highways. The tall statue of Mary, visible to all traffic on the interstate, reminds all travelers to drive responsibly and to pray to Our Lady for safe arrival. Another shrine to Our Lady of the Highways has been established in Little Falls, New Jersey, as an invocation of Mary's protection upon local drivers.

Even if not passing by one shrine or another, the people of God are always under Our Lady of the Highway's protection and guidance, for she watches over all her children on their life journeys.

Silent company is often more healing than words of advice.

The Creation of Poland

When God was creating nations, He said: "Ah yes, now I shall create Poland. I think I will give them a land flowing with milk and honey, with majestic mountains, a beautiful seacoast, forests gleaming with wild game, fields of golden grain, lakes and rivers full of fish and strong handsome lads to till the fertile soil and beautiful flaxen-haired maidens for them to set up families with." "Is that fair?" asked an angel. "Don't You think You are giving Poland too much of a good thing?" "Not at all," God replied. "Just wait until you see who I give them for neighbors!"

If you want to cheer yourself up, try cheering someone else up.

*We'll know our humble parish is getting close to being perfect
when we hear these sentiments expressed by its members:*

1. "Hey! It's my turn to sit in the front pew."
2. "I was so enthralled by the pastor's sermon, I never noticed it went on for 25 minutes!"
3. "Personally, I find attending Mass and parish devotions so much more enjoyable than golf."
4. "I would dearly love to teach eighth grade catechism"
5. "I just love it when we sing hymns we've never heard before"
6. "Since we're all here, let's start Mass early this morning"
7. "Nothing inspires me and strengthens my commitment like our annual CSA collection."
8. "Father, the parish would like to send you to this continuing education seminar in the Bahamas."
9. "I've decide to give our church the \$500 a month I normally spend at the casino."
10. "When it's warm in church I'm always reminded of the warmth of God's love for me."

This is My Parish

It is composed of people like me. We make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am friendly. Its pews will be filled, if I help to fill them. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people to its worship and fellowship if I bring them. It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a Church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my Church to be.

Making a living is not the same thing as making a life.

Some Very Interesting Advice!

An old man, a boy and a donkey were going to town. The boy rode on the donkey and the old man walked. As they went along they passed some people who remarked it was a shame the old man was walking and the boy was riding. The man and the boy thought maybe the critics were right, so they changed positions.

Later they passed some people that remarked, "What a shame, he makes that little boy walk." They then decided they both would walk! Soon they passed some more people who thought they were stupid to walk when they had a decent donkey to ride. So, they both rode the donkey.

Now they passed some people that shamed them by saying how awful to put such a load on a poor donkey. The boy and man said they were probably right, so they decided to carry the donkey.

As they crossed the bridge, they lost their grip on the animal and he fell into the river and drowned.

The moral of the story?

If you try to please everyone, you might as well.....kiss your ass goodbye!

Of course this is just a cute story friends, but the fact of the matter is for all of us there comes those moments in life that may not be particularly comfortable, when we simply must do what our intelligence and our conscience tells us is right, regardless of what anyone else says. This requires a certain kind of courage. It is courage that Christians must become familiar with in these days! What does it really matter if we please everyone around us but do not feel satisfied with ourselves or worse yet fail to please God Almighty! The end result is that we do end up kissing so much good bye! In fact if we let other's and their opinion or approval control our entire life we might just end up kissing eternal life with God in heaven good bye forever. Something to think about during these busy days of early summertime!

*Despite the rising cost of living,
have you noticed how it remains so popular?*

Please remember, we are now collecting food to stock the pantry shopper booth at the festival. Donations can be made in the basket in the main vestibule of the church. Thank You!