



St. Lambert

THE SENTINEL

1000 Bahnsen Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Phone: 605-336-8808

Web Site: www.stlambertparish.org | Fall 2011

The Beauty of Knowing What 'It' Is

The more we come to recognize the saving work of Christ in the Mass, the greater is our ability to participate with Him in His sacrificial "yes" to the Father, to grow in holiness after His image, and to glorify God in body and mind.¹

November 27th, 2011 is a milestone of sorts for Catholics in the United States. It is the day that we will begin to use a new translation of the Roman Missal, the official text of the Mass. It seems as if you couldn't avoid the topic of this new translation if you wanted to. Catholics, getting excited about being able to say new words as a group... it's funny if you look at it from a worldly point of view.

But aha! We are in the world but not of it! It seems clear that the words, gestures and actions we say and do mean something substantial, both to God and for our benefit. We already know this – our standing, sitting, standing, sitting, standing, kneeling, standing, kneeling, standing (in that order) must mean something, right?

But we must be honest with ourselves here. The new words won't be a source of grace for us unless we know what the Mass is. Why do I go to Mass? What should my attitude be when I'm there? Furthermore, what do the gestures, postures and words we're using mean? To simply "say new things" really doesn't make a difference unless saying them is rooted in a desire to know the eternal mind and heart of God and His plans for us.

So what is the Mass? "The Mass...is the greatest prayer that can be prayed, because it is the prayer of Jesus Christ to God the Father."² "The Eucharist is thus a sacrifice because it re-presents the sacrifice of the cross, because it is its memorial and because it applies its fruit. The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are one single sacrifice."³

Regarding its importance, St. Alphonsus de' Liguori said, "God Himself cannot bring about an action holier and greater than the celebration of a Holy Mass." St. Thomas Aquinas similarly said, "The celebration of Holy Mass has the same value as the death of Jesus on the cross." Besides these wonderful truths, the Mass also has great power in our lives: "Wonderful are the saving effects which every Sacrifice of the Mass produces in the souls of those who participate. It obtains sorrow and pardon for sins. It lessens the temporal punishment due to sins. It weakens the influence of Satan and the untamed impulses of our flesh. It strengthens the bonds of our union in the Body of Christ. It protects us from danger and disaster. It shortens the punishment of Purgatory; and it obtains for us a higher degree of glory in Heaven."⁴

The Mass is a cosmic event, bringing Heaven and earth together. In the new translation, right before the 'Sanctus' (*Holy, Holy*), the priest will say, "And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of Your glory, as without end we acclaim..." There's something here for everybody, beauty and power! Is it any wonder the Church has taught for centuries the importance of clothing the Liturgy with beauty, in both art and music, for such beauty goes together with such wonderful heights as this!

Imagine a man interested in marrying a woman with whom he has a great love. He recites a tender Shakespeare 'love sonnet' to her; her imagination is on fire now – might this be the moment of his marriage proposal? He then asks her...if she'd like to go to Chucky Cheese with him. Those two things don't go together. Neither are bad; I like pizza as much as the next guy, but they clearly don't fit. The music and art should illustrate the truths we are professing while at Mass both by being faithful to Church teachings and in how they depict those teachings. Not only do art and music help us enter into the divine mysteries, but they also catechize us and teach us what and how to believe and, subsequently, how to live. Our spiritual imaginations are set "on the things above, not on the things below."⁵

JOURNEY OF FAITH AND EDUCATION

A STORY OF THE BURMESE FAMILIES

In the land of the Free and the Home of the Brave, we take so many things for granted. We don't even take the time to think about all of the gifts we have been given. The opportunity to practice whatever religion we choose is very insignificant for too many people, with some even proclaiming they are spiritual but not religious. For one particular group of people though, it has been a life threatening situation, one in which most of us are unaware.

The journey of Christian faith for the people of Burma has been a long and difficult struggle as far back as the year 1287. Archeologists have discovered frescos containing crosses with Latin and Greek words in the city of Pagan which was once a flourishing kingdom in Central Myanmar in western Asia. Over the years, missionaries have traveled to Myanmar and outlying regions attempting to bring the Faith the local peoples, but they suffered at the hands of the Kings and many were martyred.

Since 1497, Portuguese missionaries, the Paris Foreign Mission Society, Columbian Missionaries, and in particular the Italian missionaries from the Pontificum Institutum pro Missionibus Exteris have all been involved in spreading the Catholic Faith. As a result of their efforts the Catholic Church has grown in Burma. Unfortunately, Burmese Christians face discrimination. Many work as slaves while others work as porters. They may never be paid, and if they make a mistake their homes are set on fire. Because of this many families have sought safety in refugee camps in Thailand. Although a small minority in Burma, Catholics make up 60% of the Burmese refugee population. They have come here through the work of the International Organization for Migration and the sponsorship of Lutheran Social Services. They are obligated, however, to repay the funds used to bring them here.

While the city of Sioux Falls, SD has become a new physical home, the parish of St. Lambert has become a spiritual home to fifteen families from Burma. They have traveled thousands of miles to a country where they can practice their Catholic Faith with the promise of freedom and safety. The remainder of this article has been written to introduce you to them and the struggles they are facing learning to live with entirely different life styles and customs.

During a two hour interview with five different families I learned so much about these families and what they have faced that I came home feeling embarrassed about some of the things I may complain about from day to day. These families are so overwhelmed themselves and yet they are exuberantly happy and grateful to be in the United States. Though they smiled when they told me that they have no winter clothes for this upcoming year, with the forecast of a colder than normal winter I cringed at the naivety towards South Dakota winters. Of the fifteen families in our parish, there are 30 children. All the children speak Kayah, their native language, and Burmese while the older adults only speak Kayah. They have two interpreters who speak both languages but none of the children have an interpreter available to them in the public school system, except during quarterly conferences, so they are challenged to learn English by listening and repeating words spoken by English speakers. Despite the challenges, some of the children and teenagers have begun read books in English.

They say that their greatest joy in coming the United States is the freedom to practice the Catholic faith and receive education for their children. Their practice of the faith is traditional, including their preference for having the Mass said in Latin. They were happy to hear that there is a traditional Latin Mass celebrated Sunday at the Cathedral. If but for only a little bit perhaps the Latin Mass will provide them a connection to their home so many miles away. The women desire to obtain veils through which the Eucharist is received only on the tongue.

Not surprisingly the struggles they face are daunting. With the major barrier to work being the language, some found work at John Morrell while others ride from Sioux Falls to Worthington to work at JBS, another meatpacking plant. Most families have only one member working, but need both parents to work to support their children. Another barrier to work is that they lack training or skills necessary for today's technology or industrial work. This lack of experience inhibits their ability to find more diverse work. Lutheran Social Services does provide each family with a car for a period of two years; they struggle to pay for the gas. Even with these struggles, the families enjoy group dinners, going to the zoo and the swimming pool during the summer. Their cuisine is very different from ours, however their favorite food is a hamburger. To save money they share jobs such as cutting each other's hair.

Currently our newest parish members could use help with many items for their homes. All live in apartments and are in need of beds, bedding, furniture and clothing. They also desire to have Christmas CDs and home visits from members of the parish. What I found most interesting, is that they hope to obtain musical instruments, specifically a guitar, drum set and a microphone so they can sing and dance as their favorite form of entertainment and worship.

It seems the Gospel readings over the past few weekends are particularly appropriate for what we can do to live out our Catholic faith with our newest family members. These passages have dealt with loving God with all our hearts, souls and minds and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Fr. Mason spoke in a homily about asking; "Lord take my heart and replace it with yours, so that I can love others as much as you love me." In love for Jesus Christ and for loving others as he loved others, if your heart moves you to help our Burmese family members feel a bit more at home in their new St. Lambert community, contact Fr. King at the Parish Office (605-336-8808).

by Sue Ruiter/with Fr Paul King

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While what we believe shapes the Mass, the Mass also shapes our beliefs, as the famous Latin maxim indicates: "*lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi*" ("The law of prayer is the law of belief is the law of living.") "There is a reciprocity between worship and life. Liturgical worship is not an add-on for a Catholic Christian. It is the foundation of Catholic identity; expressing our highest purpose. Worship reveals what we truly believe and how we view ourselves in relationship to God, one another and the world into which we are sent to carry forward the redemptive mission of Jesus Christ. How the Church worships is a prophetic witness to the truth of what she professes. Good worship becomes a dynamic means of drawing the entire human community into the fullness of life in Jesus Christ. It attracts - through beauty to Beauty."¹

I urge you to take advantage of some wonderful resources that will help you grow in your love and knowledge of the Mass and in the understanding of what changes are happening and why. Father Mason and Father King are working hard to include some catechesis in their homilies and in the parish bulletins. The books and articles included in the footnotes are also wonderful resources for digging up spiritual treasures.

God love you! Jacob Flaherty

¹ -Christopher Carstens, Douglas Martis, *Mystical Body, Mystical Voice* (Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 2011), 1

² Jeffrey Pinyan, *Praying the Mass – The Prayers of the People*, p.1

³ *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 1366, 1367

⁴ Fr. Stefano M. Manelli, F.F.I., *Jesus Our Eucharistic Love* (Academy of the Immaculate, 1996) 12,13

⁵ St. Paul's Epistle to the Colossians 3:2

ST. LAMBERT'S

Future Events

November 27 th	First Sunday of Advent/New Translation of the Mass begins
November 27 th	Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast after all Masses
December 7th	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Vigil Mass at 6:30pm
December 8th	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – Masses at 8:30am and 7:00pm
December 10 th	Knights of Columbus Bingo/gym – 5:30pm
December 15 th	Forty Hour Devotion begins at 4:00am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with Reconciliation, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Rosary and talks by Fr Mason
December 16 th	Forty Hour Devotion ends at 8:00pm with Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
December 18 th	Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast after all Masses
December 18 th	Communal Penance at St Lambert – 7:00pm
December 22 nd	Happy Birthday Fr Paul King!
December 24th	Christmas Eve Masses – 4:30pm and 10:00pm
December 25th	Christmas Day Masses – 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
December 31 st	Mary, Mother of God – 4:30pm
January 1 st	Mary, Mother of God – 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am
January 22 nd	Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast after all Masses
January 22 nd	Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest at 1:00pm
January 28 th	Confirmation Mass - 4:30pm
February 4 th	Collection for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament



Christmas Sharing Tree

We invite you to participate in our “**Christmas Sharing Tree**” program this year at St Lambert. The weekend of December 3rd and 4th, the “Sharing Tree” in the East Foyer, will be decorated with tags describing someone and a suggested gift. Share your joy at Christmas by taking a tag and purchasing the gift (a suggestion is given to help you), wrap the gift, put the tag on the outside of the gift (include a gift receipt for clothing) and place it under the tree no later than December 18th. Your act of love will bring joy to another on Christmas Day. If you have questions, please contact Clare Becker at 332-3793. Thank you!

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Lambert

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Wedding Date	Anniversary	Name
Oct 01, 1976	35	Dennis and Karen Ackerman
Oct 18, 1986	25	Todd and Julie Ernster
Nov 27, 1976	35	Larry and Mary Brende
Nov 07, 1981	30	Brian and Linda Feit
Nov 07, 1981	30	Dick and Mary Hublou
Nov 14, 1986	25	Troy and Mary Jones
Nov 15, 1961	50	Bill and Elsie Kading
Nov 25, 1966	45	Jon and Karen Smith
Dec 27, 1971	40	Greg and Kathy Morrissey
Dec 29, 1951	60	Matt and Fern Zastrow



SHOWER CHRIST'S LITTLE ONES

We invite you to participate in the **Annual Advent Baby Shower** beginning Nov. 27 and continuing through Christmas. Please bring **NEW** gifts, including clothing sizes newborn to 12 months and place them in the cradle in the East Foyer. *Sponsored by the Respect Life Office.*



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If you would like to make a contribution for **Christmas Flowers and Greenery**, please place your donations in the collection basket or drop off at the Parish Office in an envelope marked “**Christmas Flowers**” no later than December 19th. Be sure to include your name and the name of the person in whose honor or memory you are donating.

If you have ideas for future story consideration, we welcome your suggestions. Please contact one of the following with your recommendations.

Samantha Heap - 371-2999
Coleta Koch - 271-1538
Susan Ruiter - 334-6733
James Varns - 371-0065

Jodi Reel - 332-7057
Gary Schlenker - 357-0625
Denise Varns - 371-0065
Rod Simon - 336-8272