



St Anthony's Parish

67-75 EXFORD ROAD, MELTON SOUTH, 3338.
P.O BOX 2152 MELTON SOUTH 3338
TEL: 9747 9692



St Bernard's Parish

61 LERDERBERG STREET, BACCHUS MARSH 3340
TEL: 5367 2069
OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, KOROBEIT
309 MYRNIONG-KOROBEIT ROAD 3341

THE 17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME-YEAR A

30th July 2023

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Alex Clemente
ASSISTANT PRIESTS: Fr Wilford Urmaza and Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint

ST ANTHONY'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Lesley Morffew
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson

Parish Office Hours:

Mon 9am-12noon Tue 9am-4pm
Wed 9am-5.30pm & Thu-Fri 9am-4pm
Email: parishsecretary83@gmail.com
Website: www.stanthonyofpadua.com.au

St Anthony's School **Principal:** Damien Schuster
Wilson Road, Melton South 3338
Phone: 8099 7800

Email: principal@sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.sameltonsth.catholic.edu.au

St Lawrence of Brindisi School **Principal:** Bill Hill
31 Waterway Boulevard, Weir Views, 3338
Phone: 8099 6699

Email: principal@slweirviews.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.slweirviews.catholic.edu.au

ST BERNARD'S PARISH

Parish Secretary: Dolores Turcsan
Admin Assistant: Judy Johnson
Sacramental Coordinator/ Bookkeeper: Naim Chdid

Parish Office Hours:

Tue 9.00am-11.30am Wed & Thu 9.00am-1.00pm
Email: bacchusmarsh@cam.org.au
Website: www.stbernardsbacchusmarsh.com.au
Facebook link:
<https://www.facebook.com/stbernardsbacchusmarsh>

St Bernard's School **Principal:** Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith
19a Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh VIC 3340
Phone: (03) 5366 5800
Email: principal@sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au
Website: www.sbbacchusmarsh.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Catholic College- Melton (Years 7-12)

Principal: Marlene Jorgensen **Phone:** 8099 6000

109-141 Bulmans Rd, West Melton, 3337 / Bridge Rd, Cobblebank 3338 **Website:** www.crcmelton.com.au

In the case of urgent situations-sickness etc. please call 0422 869 646

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Naim Chdid	0437 004 790
Lillian Christian - Vice Chair	0400 441 257
Amy Honrade	0457 042 695
Natalie Howard - Chair	0492 947 201
Rose Ma'ae	0460 672 571

EX-OFFICIO: Fr Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza,
Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint, Damien Schuster and Bill Hill
Council Secretary: Judy Johnson

ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL COUNCIL

Rob Brennan OLHC	0430 312 684
Shane Cook -School Advisory Board	0419 999 052
Peter Kennedy - Secretary	0407 778 119
Annette Marum	0417 525 617
Moir Ross	0400 675 056
Aaron Russell - Chair	0401 927 502

EX-OFFICIO:
Fr Alex Clemente PP, Fr Wilford Urmaza, Fr Lucas Kyaw Myint and
Sr Mary Sarah Galbraith

SAFEGUARDING COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Coordinator/Officer: Godwin Barton (0425 734 449) **Officers:** St Anthony's - Lorraine Tellis 0409 110 259 & Geetha Vincent 0478 112 996
St Bernard's - Margaret Love (0437 247 779) & Ron Geurts

Items for the newsletter must be submitted by Tuesday 6.00pm. Please email judyparishnews@gmail.com or call 0414 007 009

Judy Johnson's Office Hours 9.00am-1.00pm Monday-Wednesday

MASS AND DEVOTIONS

ST ANTHONY'S MELTON SOUTH 31/07/2023-6/08/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 31/7	6.30pm
Tuesday 1/8	9.30am & 6.30pm
Wednesday 2/8	9.30am
Thursday 3/8	9.30am
Friday 4/8	9.30am
First Friday Devotions	7.30pm & Midnight
First Saturday Devotions 5/8	9.00am

Rosary at 9.00am prior to 9.30am Masses



Sunday Masses

Saturday 5/8	5.00pm
Sunday 6/8	8.30am & 10.30am

Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.
No Confession on Monday.

ST BERNARD'S BACCHUS MARSH 31/07/2023-6/08/2023

MASS TIMES:

Monday 31/7	No Mass
Tuesday 1/8	7.30am
Holy Hour	6.30pm
Wednesday 2/8	9.30am
Thursday 3/8	7.30am
Friday 4/8	7.30am
Saturday 5/8	9.00am

Sunday Masses

Saturday 5/8	6.30pm
Sunday 6/8	8.30am & 10.30am

(Rosary in the Chapel 10.00am on Sundays)

Every Monday-Rosary and Adoration 7pm-8pm in the church.
Confession is available and begins 30 minutes prior to each Mass and will cease 5 minutes before Mass commences.

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS KOROBEIT MASS TIMES

VIGIL	5/8	5.00pm
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PARISHIONER'S FIRST COLLECTION/SECOND COLLECTION

Parishioners who normally give cash each weekend for the collections, if they wish to donate, are now able to go to the link below and make their payments online.

The link to the St Anthony's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMeltonSouth>

The link to the St Bernard's Parish is: <https://bit.ly/CDFpayBacchusMarsh>

Please put your name and thanksgiving number if you know it as a reference. Thank you.

REFLECTION 17th SUNDAY 2023– Mary Fermio rsj

Have you ever tried to explain to someone what Vegemite tastes like, or curry, or chocolate? The taste is unknown until one has experienced it. Swapping lunches at school often gave us the chance to taste the food of other cultures, unknown until experienced.

Jesus tries to explain what the Kingdom of God is by telling stories related to the experience of his listeners, trying to help them understand what it is like. Today's readings liken the Kingdom to a treasure in a field or a pearl of great price, both of which the seekers are prepared to give all to have the prize.

A story is told of an Indian monk who found the world's largest diamond. In a village nearby, a man had a dream that if he went to a certain monastery, he could gain enormous wealth. At the monastery he told the monk of his dream, and the monk handed the diamond to him. The man returned home with great joy, but that night he tossed and turned. The next day he returned to the monastery and begged, "Give me the wealth that enables you to give away this diamond so easily".

God is the greatest treasure in my life and perhaps I am God's greatest treasure.
What am I prepared to give to gain this treasure – the Kingdom of God?



PARISH & EVENTS NOTICES

NEWS FROM THE PARISH OFFICES

SEARCH PROGRAM-HAPPINESS IS NOT BY CHANCE, IT IS A DECISION

'The Search' is for you. Seven free sessions to answer questions about life and death. **Venue:** St Anthony of Padua, Melton South
Date: Commences 4th August 2023 **Time:** 6.00pm. Please see flyers for more information, to register for the program add your name to the clipboard or send your details to Naim 0437 004 790.

SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP – NEXT WEEKEND

Date: Saturday 5 August 2023 **Time:** 10.00am-12.00pm **Venue:** St Anthony's Padua Hall

This Safeguarding Workshop is intended to provide foundational knowledge in relation to safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable persons from abuse and harm. Also, a clear understanding of one's duty of care and expectations. The workshop is presented by Rosemary Teed from the Professional Safeguarding Unit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne.

It is a requirement that all parish leaders, Coordinators, current and future volunteers attend this workshop to keep abreast with the updates and new required processes. Please bring along your WWCC or VIT card in order to receive a certificate of completion. This invitation is also extended to all Parishioners including parents/carers, who have a keen interest in the safety of young children and vulnerable adults. Any enquiries, please call Godwin Barton (St Anthony's Parish) on 0425 734 449, or Margaret Love (St Bernard's Parish) on 0437 247 779.

ST ANTHONY'S

MASS TIMETABLE

Dear Parishioners please note, we will no longer have 7.30am mass on Wednesday mornings. We will continue to have the 9.30am mass on Wednesdays. Also we are adding a 9.00am Saturday morning mass to our timetable, beginning from the first week in August.

BINGO

Bingo is held every Tuesday night at 7pm in the Padua Hall, St Anthony's Parish. Complimentary tea and coffee available. Canteen services available. Come along and enjoy a great night, and with a bit of luck you could be one of our lucky winners!

OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY

2023 -1st-6th AUGUST

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord! We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy. We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and well doing is the best wellbeing.

Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did. Make it a time of testimony and sharing, fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait.

With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace.

Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!

ST BERNARD'S

150th ANNIVERSARY HISTORY

The next update is available in the gathering space. Any help with the information we are seeking will be much appreciated. Have you checked your family archives for any early parish photos? We live in hopes of a photo of a wedding group outside St Laurence O'Toole chapel being found or a good photo of the Fiskien St School-Church. We would like all family information by the end of August. Does anyone know the whereabouts of the embroidered liturgy banners made by Pat Clancy and helpers?

PARISH CENSUS

A St Bernard's Parish census will be conducted at weekend masses during the first three weeks in August. Please be prepared to fill in the census card at Mass.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We need a volunteer from the Bacchus Marsh Parish to write the Prayers of the Faithful- one month a year.

For further details contact Sr Mary Fermio Ph 5367 2078

Thank you.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Thank you to all parishioners and visitors who attended our trivia night last weekend. The event was well attended with more than 100 people enjoying a night of fun and games. A huge thank you goes to everyone who donated auction items, raffle prizes and their time to make this event a success.

\$2,153 was raised for the parish.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for more upcoming social events.



WORSHIP NEWS

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S MINISTRIES

NEXT WEEKEND ROSTER: 5th & 6th August

Please present yourself to the Mass Coordinator

15 minutes before the scheduled Mass time or a replacement will be found. Thank you.

MINISTERS OF THE WORD

5.00pm: Liza Fernandes

8.30am: Mercy Seufatu

10.30am: Rhys Tuala

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

5.00pm: Gavin Pereira

8.30am: Philip Anyayahan

10.30am: Cita Carreon

If you are unavailable for these dates please contact Lesley at the Parish Office Thank you

MASS COORDINATORS

5.00pm: Coleen & Olen

8.30am: Lillian & Godwin

10.30am: Lillian & Godwin

ST BERNARD'S MINISTRIES

MINISTERS OF THE WORD-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Evana Miesen

8.30am: Margaret Love

10.30am: Volunteer needed

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS-THIS WEEKEND

6.30pm: Volunteer needed

MINISTERS OF THE WORD 5th & 6th August

6.30pm: Sonia Smith

8.30am: Gerard O'Shea

10.30am: Beatrice Younger

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

6.30pm: John Thorne

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

August: John Wilson

ST ANTHONY'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Angela Aquilina, Joseph Aquilina, Veronica Butler, Angelo Camilleri, Maria Camilleri, Rose DeBono, Josph Saliba, Jack Tolhurst, Michael Turcsan, Charlie Zammit, & Carmen Zarb.

Please pray for the Sick:

David Bonello, Nickolia & Klara Butkovic, Maria Caruana, Mary Caruana, Christabelle, Lydia De Vega, Melanie Fue, Bruce Hynes, Kotinis Cornelia Kani, Judy Layton, Peter Manicaro, Lisa Melia, Damien Michael, Hazel Michael, Tony Michael, Veronica Michael, Nickol, Caleb O'Brien, John Osborne, Troy Saliba, Anna Samy, Samantha Smith, Charlie Spiteri, Janko Stojanovic, Christina Tuigamala, Uatoa Tuigamala, Clint Abela Wadge, Wai Walsh and all those who have requested our prayers. **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.**

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Father we lift up all those who are facing illness. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of your love. Amen



ST BERNARD'S PASTORAL CARE

We pray for those whose death anniversaries occur at this time:

Josephine Borg, Mary Evans, David Fava, William (Bill) Griffith), John McMahon, Audrey Peasley, Mary Shea, Nadia Vescovi, & Gerard Wheelahan.

Please pray for the Sick:

Patricia Allison, Noah Barlow, Chaiel Balcombe, Michael Barrett, Stephen Beaton, Peter Bennett, Carmel Berry, Steven Braszel, Tina Bower, Tracey Burn, Alex, Fred Capuano, Gary Ching, Josephine Cilia, Brendan Coburn, Robyn Cola, Ted Cooling, Lindsay & Kathleen Dally, Judy Delahey, Theresa Dockter, Allison Evans, Helen Evans, George Farrell, Justin Fernandez, Pasquale Gagliarbi, Mario Galea, Cynthia Goodyear, Gwen Green, Joe Gristi, Adam Hillier, Leonie Kervin, Elle Hillman, Kiahni Holamotutama, Alicia Holborn, Chaiel Jackson, Matthew Jansen, David Kasprzak, Michael Larkin, Marie Maloney, Patricia Marechal, Brian Marshall, Debbie Marshall, Jordanis Mary Pauline McDonald, Ian McKechnie, , Marcus Meno, Paul Mullin, Arthur Pape, Michael Paterson, Georgia Peacock, Mitchell Prendergast, Peter Roberts, Troy Saliba, Ken Shaw, Terry Sims, Marian Smith, Elizabeth Stehmann, Colin Taffe, Catherine Time, Susan Trist, Stephen Van Eede, John Van Orsouw, Angela Vicum, Louis Vogels, Barry Walsh, Jayne Wilkins, Nathan Witmore, Patricia Yazbek, Betty Young and all those who have requested our prayers. **PLEASE LET US KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS NO LONGER REQUIRED ON THIS LIST.**

SERVICE / COMMUNITY

ALL VOLUNTEERS IN OUR PARISH MUST HAVE A CURRENT VALID WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FORM SIGNED.

ST ANTHONY'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS: 5th & 6th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

5.00pm Vigil: Lorraine Tellis
8.30am: Edwina La Rose
10.30am: Judy Van Hoos

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Rosabella

CUPPA VOLUNTEERS– 27th August

5.00pm Vigil:
8.30am: To be advised
10.30am:

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Welfare Number: 1800 305 330
The Melton South Conference meet every 3rd Tuesday morning in the Meeting Room 10.30am.
New members most welcome, training provided.
Non perishable items within the use by date can be left in the 'drop box' in the Church foyer.

We cannot accept re-packaged food.

COMBINED CHURCHES CARING MELTON INC

We're here to support City of Melton residents get ahead through access to our foodbank and other community programs. It's never just about the food or the budget help, it's about recognising the beauty that is in the person and bringing it out so they can be their best.
ress: 100 Coburn Road Melton South 9747 6811

*The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few;
Pray therefore (**Rogate Ergo...**) to the Lord of the Harvest that He may send Good workers into His vast vineyard. (Mt. 9:37-38).*

Prayer is the answer to the perennial problem of the lack of good evangelical workers. It is a command and not just a simple request or an invitation. The Church needs holy workers. She needs committed, faithful, and zealous ministers of the Gospel. But if we will not beg the Lord, we will never be blessed with Good and Holy Vocations.

St. Hannibal Ma. Di Francia, the Patron of Vocations said; Vocations come from on High, if we do not pray, vocations will not come. Let us therefore implore the Master of the Harvest with this short prayer:

Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles into Your Church!



ST BERNARD'S

WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS : 5th & 6th August

PIETY STALL VOLUNTEERS

Saturday: 6.30pm: Marj Tung
Sunday: 8.30am: Dianne Shelley
10.30am: Natalia Klenkowski

CHURCH FLOWERS

August: Debra Hosking



PRESBYTERY & CHURCH GROUNDS-MOWING

August: Stuart Roberston & Sean Giani

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY:

Welfare number 1800 305 330.
Bacchus Marsh Vinnies Store 164-190 Main Street is in urgent need of donations. All donations gratefully appreciated and can be dropped at the Store 7 days a week. Any enquiries please contact the Store Manager on 8199 4205

THE NEIGHBOURS PLACE

The Neighbours' Place is a Christian not-for-profit organisation whose aim is to serve people of the Moorabool Shire, west of Melbourne Australia, who are disadvantaged, at risk or temporarily unable to feed themselves or their family and who are in need of emergency food relief.

NILS is a **No Interest Loans Scheme** for assistance of up \$2000 for things like white goods, furniture and minor car repairs to keep life going.

We are located at [77 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh](#)

Phone: 03 5367 6222

Email: neighbourspl@iinet.net.au

Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9.30am-12.30pm. Closed on public holidays.

SOUL FOOD

Soul Food provides a free community meal each Wednesday (excluding school holidays), in the Uniting Church Hall, Gisborne Rd, Bacchus Marsh. Meals are served up at 12noon. All are welcome and this is a free event. No need to book, just come along.

PARISH CENTRE BOOKING

Tel: 5367 3427 Mon—Fri 9.00am to 6.00pm

Hall Managers: Marie & Terry Casey

FAITH FORMATION

ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM– ST ANTHONY'S AND ST BERNARD'S

Dear Parishioners, the Parishes of St Anthony's and St Bernard's have updated their Baptism Preparation Program.

Baptisms will be held at St Anthony's on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month at 11.00am and Baptisms will be held at St Bernard's on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of the month at 11.00am.

Please go to [St Anthony of Padua Catholic Parish | Melton South](#) click on 'Faith Formation' and then 'Baptism of Infants' for all the information and the application form.

Please contact the Parish Offices if you need any assistance. Thank you.



ADULT PREPARATION Adult preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation are through the R.C.I.A Program. Please see Fr Alex, Fr Wilford or Fr Lucas .

FATIMA STATUE—ST ANTHONY'S

These families are praying together for the mission of the Parish:

Group 1:	Paul & Sonia Zarb	0477 813 272
Group 2:	Ana Taunnu & Family	0406 503 363
Group 3:	Rohini Selvanayagam	0425 868 967

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

1st Sunday of the month 3pm.



PRAYER TO ST MICHAEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



NEO-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

[bow during the next line]

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen



Lord, we ask you to continue
to be with us as we
' TAKE THE WAY OF THE GOSPEL '
together in prayer.
May we open ourselves to you
with a new depth of trust and conviction
in your guiding hand,
so that we may discern our journey
with compassionate and humble hearts
and come to know your Holy Spirit
Moving within and amongst us,
And so be transformed Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who dwell in his house;
he himself gives might and strength to his people.

FIRST READING 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 118

Commentator: Lord, I love your commands.

All: Lord, I love your commands.

My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold.

Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight.

That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways.

Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple.

Lord, I love your commands.

NEXT WEEKEND 'S READINGS –

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD– YEAR A

First Reading: Dan 7:9-10.13-14

Second Reading: 2 Pet 1:16-19

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9



SECOND READING: Romans 8:28-30

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 13:44-52

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

The Holy Eucharist XXIII

The Greatest Need in the World Today (3)

Remember what we are speaking about. We are answering the question of why Eucharistic faith and love must be nourished among Catholics from their earliest years. Why? In order to prepare them for heroic virtue, and in order to make them channels of miraculous grace in a godless world.

This, then, is my principal message to you today. Train the Eucharistic faith of young Catholics today to become the living martyrs of Christ in the next century.

In the early Church, the expression was coined *Sanguis martyrum semen est Christianorum* ("the blood of martyrs is the seed of Christians"). This is even more true in our day. Christ needs martyrs who are willing to shed their blood if need be, and who do shed their acceptance by the world, out of loyalty to Jesus Christ.

In this same early Church, which we call the Church of Martyrs, daily Mass and daily Holy Communion were the accepted practice for Catholics, children included.

But you might object, saying, "That was the age of the catacombs." Well, let me enlighten you. Anyone who wants to really, honestly, sincerely, wholeheartedly live his or her Catholic faith today must be ready to live a catacomb existence in the opening decades of the 21st century. Twenty-five years of working for the Holy See has taught me many things — most of which I will never publish or even articulate in public. But this much I can say. We are today living in the Age of Martyrs.

Where do we get the strength even to survive? From Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. How do we become instruments of divine grace in restoring a Christless society to its Redeemer? From Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Guidelines for the Eucharistic Formation of the Young

How are we — parents and teachers, priests and religious — to become apostles of the Eucharist in our day? What is an apostle of the Eucharist? An apostle of the Eucharist is one who has certain Eucharistic qualities, eight to be exact.

1. An apostle of the Eucharist is one who is personally very devoted to the Holy Eucharist:

as Real Presence,

as the Sacrifice of the Mass, and

as Holy Communion.

2. An apostle of the Eucharist is one who realises that there is no solution to the problems of the world or to the problems of the Church, except through the Holy Eucharist.

3. An apostle of the Eucharist is one who does everything in his power, by word and example, to promote a deeper faith in the Eucharist:

as Presence-Sacrament,

as Sacrifice-Sacrament, and

as Communion-Sacrament.

All these are seen as the main sources of divine grace for the whole human race.

4. An apostle of the Eucharist prays for a deeper understanding of the Blessed Sacrament, by himself and by others — especially by bishops and priests.

5. An apostle of the Eucharist lives a life of reparation for those who neglect the Holy Eucharist or desert the Holy Eucharist, or distort and desecrate the Holy Eucharist.

6. An apostle of the Eucharist is zealous to convert or re-convert people to a life of grace and the fullness of the Christian faith, which believes that Jesus Christ is, now, present on earth, offering Himself in the Mass by giving us the graces He won for us on Calvary, and giving Himself to us and coming bodily into our body, His soul into our soul, as the pledge of eternal destiny.

7. An apostle of the Eucharist is a martyr for the Eucharist. No matter what price has to be paid, an apostle of the Eucharist is ready to pay it as a witness to his faith that Jesus Christ is living in our midst today.

8. An apostle of the Eucharist simply expects the Eucharistic Christ to work whatever miracle needs to be performed in our day, especially miracles of courage in conquering the demon of human respect by confessing Jesus Christ 24 hours a day and miracles of conversion in changing sinners to be humble followers of Christ.

But an apostle of the Eucharist has no illusions. There will be opposition. But Jesus reassures us: "Have confidence. I have overcome the world."

Prayer

Lord Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, we believe you are with us in the Blessed Sacrament. We believe you are inviting us to become apostles of the Eucharist through the young people you place in our lives.

You told us, "Allow the little children to come unto me, and do not prevent them from doing so." In saying this, you were telling us to nourish the Eucharistic faith of the young. It is by believing in you that they come to you. It is by growing in their understanding of this faith that they will grow in their love for you.

Here on earth, they cannot see you with their bodily eyes. But they can see you with the eyes of their soul — provided we nurture their faith by our own deep belief in you, our Eucharistic Lord, and nourish their hearts by our own selfless affection for you, our Eucharistic Love. Amen.

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