



St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Temperance, Michigan

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The Antonian" August 26, 2018



ST. ANTHONY'S DIRECTORY

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Father Robert Slaton.....734-854-1143
frslaton@stanthonytemperance.org

Rectory.....734-854-1143 4605 St. Anthony Road, Temperance, MI 48182

Fax.....734-854-4622

Parish E-mail.....stanthony@bex.net

Web site: stanthonytemperance.org

OFFICE STAFF:

Michelle Lindsey, Parish Secretary: 734-854-1143 stanthony@bex.net

Summer Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00am - 1:00pm (*Memorial Day - Labor Day*)

Linda Moeltner, Business Office: 734-854-8445 busadmin@stanthonytemperance.org

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday: 9:00am - 3:00pm

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC

Eric Hite.....419-266-0571.....ehite820@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Ginny Stout, RE Coordinator.....734-854-1160 dredu@stanthonytemperance.org

Office Hours: Monday - 10:00am - 3:00pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday (Sunday Vigil): 5:00pm (*OF-MC*)

Sunday: 9:00am & 11:00am (*OF-MC*); 12:30pm (*EF-LM*)

Holy Days: Check Bulletin & Website

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 3:30-4:30pm;

Thursday: 6:00 - 6:30pm

Devotions

First Friday: 9:00am & 7:00pm Mass (*OF-LM*)

First Saturday: 9:00am Mass (*EF-MC*)

O. L. of Perpetual Help & Prayer - Wednesday @ 6:15pm

Prayer Blankets

Sandy Maenle.....734-847-7813

Prayer Chain

Miriam Dressel.....734-888-1192

† Our Sacramental Policy †

Six-month Parish registration and participation are required for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.

Baptisms: Arrangements must be made in advance and parents must attend a baptism class. The Church requires that at least one of the parents be a practicing Catholic, and the Godparents must be active, practicing, fully initiated Catholics at least 16 years of age. If two Godparents: must be 1 male & 1 female; if one Godparent: may be male or female.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least nine months in advance. Please call the rectory office. Officiate at the ceremony must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

Funerals: Officiate must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

Please note: The services of the Parish Organist are used for all sacramental liturgies.



For more details regarding our Sacramental policies and procedures, please refer to the Sacrament link on our Parish web-site.

Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:67,68

Religious Ed Registration: 2018-19

Register now for Religious Education classes for the 2018-19 school year, Grades 1-8



Please register by the end of August; materials will need to be ordered in time for the beginning of classes on September 10. Forms may be returned to the Parish Office or via email.

Any questions, please call Ginny Stout 734-854-1160 in the Religious Ed. Office.

St. Anthony Parish Summer Office Hours

(*Memorial Day - Labor Day*)

Parish Office:

Monday - Friday: 9am - 1pm

Parish Business Office

Monday & Tuesday: 9am - 3pm

Religious Ed Office

Monday: 10am - 3pm

Fridays are Fr. Slaton's Day off

Traveling Vocation Chalice

August 26 *Host Family Needed
September 2 *Host Family Needed
September 9 *Host Family Needed
September 16 *Host Family Needed



† **MASS SCHEDULE** †

Key to Abbreviations:

EF - Extra-ordinary Form (Trad. Latin Mass)

OF - Ordinary Form (New Rite; Novus Ordo)

LM - Low Mass; MC - Missa Cantata (Sung)

Monday, August 27, 2018

8:30am Roselyn Zweifel
(OF-LM) by John & Colleen Clark

St. Monica (387), mother of St. Augustine, Pt. of mothers (New)
St. Joseph Calasanctius (Calasanz) (1648), Pr. F. of Piarists (Trad.)
Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Hist.)
St. Caesarius of Arles (543), B. (Hist.)

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

8:30am †Patrecia Lemble
(OF-LM) by Stephen & Lisa Fischetti

St. Augustine (430), B., D., Pt. of theologians (New, Trad.)
St. Hermes (132), M. (Trad.)

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

8:30am Jacob Moran
(OF-LM) by John & Colleen Clark

The Passion (Beheading) of St. John the Baptist (c.32), (New, Trad.)
St. Sabina (127), M. (Trad.)
St. Medericus (Merry) (700), Ab. (Hist.)

Thursday, August 30, 2018

8:30am Patrick Clark
(OF-LM) by John & Colleen Clark

7:00pm Margaret Scott
(EF-LM) by Michael & Cheryl Scott

St. Rose of Lima (1617), V., first canonized Saint of the Americas, Pt. of South America & gardeners (Trad.)
Sts. Felix & Adauctus (304), Ms. (Trad.)
St. Fiacre of Brie (670), Hermit, Pt. of gardeners & cab-drivers (Hist.)
Bl. Bronislava (1259), V., Pt. of happy death & disease prevention (Hist.)

Friday, August 31, 2018

No Mass

St. Raymond Nonnatus (1240), R., Pt. of midwives (Trad.)
St. Aristedes (2nd C.) (Hist.)

First Saturday, September 1, 2018

9:00am Fr. Slaton's Intentions
(EF-MC)

St. Giles (724), Ab., Pt. of the physically disabled (Trad.)
Twelve Holy Brothers (258), Ms. (Trad.)
St. Anna, the Prophetess (1st C.) (Hist.)

Sunday Vigil Mass

5:00pm †Edward Louis Holup
(OF-MC) (2nd Anniversary of Death)
by Jeanne Holup on Behalf of the Family

Sunday, September 2, 2018

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (New)
15th Sunday after Pentecost (Trad.)

9:00am †Stephen Scott

(OF-MC) by Michael & Cheryl Scott

11:00am Paul Schmidt (80th Birthday)

(OF-MC) by Jim & Jackie Ruggirello

12:30pm The People of St. Anthony

(EF-LM)

Mass Schedule continued in next column

Readings for the Week

Monday, August 27:

2Thessalonians 1:1-15,11-12;
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday, August 28:

2Thessalonians 2:1-3a,14-17;
Matthew 23:23-26

Wednesday, August 29:

2Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-18;
Mark 6:17-29

Thursday, August 30:

1Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-51

Friday, August 31:

1Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13

First Saturday, September 1:

1Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday, September 2:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,21b-22,27
James 1:17-18,21b-22,27
Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

God Works Dinners

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Temperance
Wednesdays, 6-7pm (Doors open at 5:30pm)

Every Wednesday, a *God Works* meal is prepared and served in the dining room at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Temperance. The *God Works* Dinner program provides a free meal to anyone in need. No reservations are needed.

St. Anthony Parishioners have committed to hosting, preparing and serving this meal the last Wednesday of every month. Our next turn is this Wednesday, August 29.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this ministry, please contact Ron Oehlers 419-377-8952. The program also welcomes financial support, and especially prayers for its continued success.

Visit our website:

stanthonytemperance.org.

There are many features to browse through, as well as links to the Archdiocese of Detroit and Monroe Vicariate websites and to our **St. Anthony Facebook page**. Also included are weekly bulletins, monthly liturgical assignments, and current events.

The **Latest News** feature gives the most current information, including the current weekday Mass schedule. **Check it out!**

Mass Schedule, continued

St. Stephen (1038), King of Hungary (Trad.)
St. Agricola (700), B., Pt. of Avignon (Hist.)
St. Ingrid of Sweden (1282), V. (Hist.)

This Week's Calendar



Monday, August 27, 2018

8:30am - Mass

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

8:30am - Mass

11am - Communion to Aspen Grove

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

8:30am - Mass

6:15 - 7pm- Perpetual Help & Prayers

God Works Dinner - OLMC

- St. Anthony Team

Thursday, August 30, 2018

8:30am - Mass

6-6:30pm - Confessions

7:00pm - Mass

Friday, August 31, 2018

No Mass

First Saturday, September 1, 2018

9:00am - Mass

10am - 12pm - Carmelites

10:15am - Worship Commission

3:30-4:30pm - Confessions

5:00pm - Sunday Vigil Mass

Prayer Blankets - Narthex

Sunday, September 2, 2018

9:00am & 11:00am - Mass

12:30pm - Mass

Prayer Blankets - Narthex

*St. Anthony of Padua,
Our Patron and Intercessor,
Pray for Us!*



★ Please keep in your prayers ★
★ all our service men and ★
★ women, especially: ★
★ ☆ AB Aaron Ford, USAF ★
★ ☆ Kenneth Lee Ziegler, Jr., Army ★

The Offertory Story

August 19, 2018

Env. assigned: 289; # Env. used: 111

Envelope total \$ 5,437.50

Loose: \$ 572.00

Children's Envelopes: \$ 1.50

Total \$ 6,011.00

Weekly Budget amount...\$ 5,400.00

+Over/-Under Budget \$ + 611.00

Year To Date +- \$ - 1,711.84

Other:

Candles \$ 99.00

Church in Poland \$ 70.00

Central & Eastern Europe \$ 50.00

Holy Day \$ 778.00

Masses \$ 190.00

Religious Ed \$ 392.00

Total for Other: \$ 1,579.01

Upcoming Parish Events:

- **K of C Breakfast** - Sept. 9
- **Religious Ed Begins** - Sept. 10
- **Rummage Sale** - Sept. 26 & 27
- **Parish Potluck, Pig Roast & Bonfire** - Oct. 20

Kroger Community Rewards is a



great way to help the Parish just by doing what you already do.

Once enrolled, anytime you spend money at Kroger's, the Parish receives cash back. In the last fiscal year, St. Anthony received \$1,048.38 just by shopping at Kroger's and using the card. It's not necessary to re-enroll if you already participate in the program.

For newcomers, it's easy to enroll; go to:

www.kroger.com

Our NEW organization number SG716

If you need help, please call Linda or Michelle in the Parish Office.



Natural Family Planning

Learn how freeing it is to know and understand how your body works rather than being enslaved to artificial hormones. Look into Natural Family Planning (NFP). Online classes begin almost every week. To learn more, call (313) 451-4NFP; or visit www.live-the-love.org

The Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland and Polonia



White envelopes may be found at the ends of the pews. There will not be a second collection; you may drop any donations into the regular Sunday collection through the end of August.

Visitation Monastery

1745 Parkside Blvd., Toledo Ohio

Holy Hour

Sunday, September 9 at 4:00pm

All are welcome!

Evening prayers (Vespers), the Rosary, Homily and Benediction

The devotions are held each month on the Sunday following the First Friday.

....Let us Pray for....

All the Recipients of the Prayer Blankets and Prayer Squares

- Dorothy Armistead
- Maria Baer
- Sherry Bailey
- John Bordine
- Fred Borowski
- Toni Breininger
- Jack Burns
- James Callahan
- Michael Callahan
- Bob Carey
- Dcn. George Cousino
- Prudy Cousino
- Elaine Esper
- Scott Ferguson
- Ed Fish
- Jim Fuelling
- Judy Grize

- Janet Harrell
- Gloria Hartman
- Barbara Hite
- JoAnn Huntwork
- Bill Hurley
- Rosemary Jacobs
- Audrey Lawrence
- Jim Lemble
- Judy & Gary Lowen
- Dick MacAdams
- John Maenle
- Sandy Maenle
- Edward Malik
- Barbara Mata
- Hudson Joseph Mata
- Chris May
- Cameron Minney
- Diane Miscannon
- Sandy Mitchell
- Robert Moeltner
- Eugene Molnar

- Steve Murzynski
- Josh Nolan
- Julia Nusbaum
- Tim O'Brien
- Tyler & Jen Oehlers
- Austin Oehlers
- Bob Quinell
- Rachel Renn
- Harriet Rochowiak
- Carol Romero
- Margaret Scott
- Robert Shute
- Alexander, Andrew & Tanner Skeldon
- Randy Stowell
- Tom Townsend
- Carole VanBrandt
- Virginia VanKirk
- Aaron Vyse
- Rebecca Williams
- Judy Zimmerman

Traveling Vocation Chalice

What is it?

We are all aware of the need for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life. The **Traveling Vocation Chalice is a Consecrated Chalice**, passed from home to home, to provide families with a focal point to pray for Vocations.

Prayers are essential for raising up Vocations in our church. Sometimes we forget how powerful prayer can be for an increase in Vocations. The Second Vatican Council instructs us that it is the job of the laity to pray for and raise up vocations, and this was echoed by Saint John Paul II in many of his teachings. Remember the words of our Lord, **"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest"** (Matthew 9:37-38). The Chalice is available to serve as a reminder of your commitment to pray together for vocations during the week, and also a reminder that the Mass does not end with the closing prayer.

If you would like to host the traveling Vocation Chalice in your home, the sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, by the elevators. The box with the Chalice contains all the materials you will need to set up a special place in your home, as well as prayers and ideas for your prayer.

Questions? Call Linda Brown at 419-215-1478.



Liturgical Assignments for September 1 & 2, 2018



Mass	Priest	Lector	Altar Servers
Saturday, 5:00pm Mass	Fr. Slaton	J. Holup	J. & J. Jemaa
Sunday, 9:00am Mass	Fr. Slaton	K. Dressel	A. Vaughn
Sunday, 11:00am Mass	Fr. Slaton	J. VanBrandt	J. Clark
Sunday, 12:30pm (EF-LM)	Fr. Slaton	--	J. Hajdu T. Peterson

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church Temperance, Michigan

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please forgive the omission of my pastoral articles for the last two weeks; my travels left my schedule somewhat strained. Nevertheless, I left my last article with a reflection on our response to the scandalous misconduct of some of our shepherds that was unfolding at the time. Of course I have returned to find the situation had only grown in magnitude, vileness, and ire. The situation that has so recently marred the integrity of Holy Mother Church has even brought our Archbishop and our Holy Father to write letters publically addressing the scandal. I have included a copy of Archbishop Vigneron's letter regarding this matter. **I believe that the letter does incorporate several important sentiments for our consideration.**

Firstly, several of our shepherds have failed us...and in doing so have failed Christ Himself. I cannot (and will not) attempt to make any form of justification or excuse for such failings. Some priests have failed us, some bishops have failed us, some cardinals have failed us; and some of the most innocent among us have suffered terribly as a result. No response other than one of penance and repentance can begin to be adequate. Secondly, that such behavior should not have been **tolerated and will not be tolerated in future times. I do appreciate His Excellency's stated commitment to ensuring that our schools and Churches must be made safe.** Furthermore, that there is no place among the clergy for those who would harm children. In my own experience, I believe our Archbishop to be sincere and serious regarding this statement. Thirdly, His Excellency has called all priests and deacons of the Archdiocese to renew their commitment to pursue holiness. Invoking the memory and spirit of St. Philip Neri, our chief shepherd has reminded the clerics of their obligation to pursue lives of prayer, penance, chastity, and to engage in the personal struggle to weed out the sinful tendencies of life. These are all good and laudable points for us to ponder.

I do not think that I can adequately express my revulsion at this mess. However, it can be said with conviction that our Church stands in need of healing. Victims of such abuse have been harmed by men who stood as shepherds, while disregarding the moral convictions of Christ. While our hearts and prayers should hold all such victims in the heart of our blessed Lord, I am haunted by the thought that we have not fully addressed the spiritual rot that has sprouted into such vile acts. The vast majority of men who have been ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ are good and holy men who diligently uphold their sacred vocations. But there are men who have been ordained, consecrated for the service of the people of God, and who have vowed to teach and preach the good news of salvation who have abandoned the morality they promised to uphold. The morality of Christ and the Church He founded has been jettisoned in theory, in practice and in their teaching. This is a thought that haunts me each time I am informed of a priest teaching something odd, or stating a teaching in some horribly ambiguous manner. Each time I hear of a priest who makes light of sin or seems to mock the words of our blessed Lord I begin to wonder: How was this priest trained? Does Father know that what he is saying is **contrary to the faith? Is he just trying to be a crowd pleaser? ...Etc.?**

We stand in need of much healing, we stand in need of spiritual reform, and we stand in need reparation to almighty God for the sacrilege and blasphemous that have been a part of these events. In former times, the Church had set aside certain **days for praying for the needs of the people. These "Ember Days" were considered minor holy days of fasting and prayers** for the blessing of a healthy crop and for the various needs of our society. In an attempt to find solidarity with the victims of these outrages and to foster the spiritual cleaning of our Church I have decided to observe these days coming in September. This upcoming month, Wednesday September 19th, Friday September 21, and Saturday September 22nd will **appear on the traditional calendar as such "Ember Days". Following Bishop Marlin's suggestion (Madison Wisconsin), I will personally commit to observing these days with the Lenten fast (one meal—meatless) and offering my rosary for this intention.** I would invite the faithful to join me in this practice. Furthermore, on the evening of Wednesday the 19th we will be hold a 7:00pm prayer service of reparation here at St. Anthony and observing Saturday the 22nd with a 9:00am Latin Ember Saturday Mass. Additional details will be forthcoming.

I know the times are difficult my brothers and sisters. Let us lift up our prayers to heaven. Let us pray for the victims of abuse, for healing in our Church, for the conversion of sinners, and all shepherds of souls. Let us take to heart the words **of our Archbishop "because of the death and rising of Christ, no evil if beyond his healing power".**

God love you,

Fr. Slaton



August 13, 2018

Dear Father,

I am keenly aware of two items in the news which will continue to present a daunting challenge to us priests. The first is the grand jury report in Pennsylvania on the failures of bishops and other church leaders to protect young people from being sexually preyed upon by their pastors. The second is the revelations concerning former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. I want to share with you, my principal co-workers in the vineyard, some of what has been on my mind in these days – especially since the accountability of bishops is at the center of much of the ongoing discussion. In writing, I offer in part an accounting of my ministry. If you think it would be helpful to share with your parishioners any of what I'm writing to you, by all means do so, in whatever way you see fit.

To begin, be assured that I am one with you in lamenting all of the hurt and pain caused by these moral failures – failures by those who have committed sins against chastity and failures by those who ought to have used their authority to prevent these acts, respond so as to help heal the wounds inflicted, and to ensure that the perpetrators lost their positions of authority. I have met with victim-survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation, and have heard firsthand of the grave harm they have suffered. I continue to pray for them, with confidence that because of the death and rising of Christ, no evil is beyond his healing power.

I acknowledge, too, how disheartening it is for us once again to come face-to-face with moral failures in the priesthood, especially among us bishops. I realize how discouraging it is that we have not decisively overcome these sins after all these years. These sins are marks of shame upon the Church and a great weight impeding the progress we strive so zealously to make in advancing the Lord's Kingdom. In order to find a graced-ray of guiding light in the gloom, I have returned to the 23 April 2002 address of St. John Paul II to the cardinals of the United States during the height of the abuse crisis. Now, as much as then, these words of this great pope and pastor ring true, and so I share them here:

It must be absolutely clear to the Catholic faithful, and to the wider community, that Bishops and superiors are concerned, above all else, with the spiritual good of souls. People need to know that there is no place in the priesthood and religious life for those who would harm the young.

Since the Holy Father affirmed this principle, we bishops have implemented a charter and set of norms designed to make it a lived reality in the life of the Church. In the

Archdiocese, we have worked diligently to implement preventative measures and to ensure there is no place in ministry for those who harm the young. I acknowledge that the news reports of these days show that we must re-double our efforts to fulfill our responsibilities to protect minors from abuse, and I affirm here once again that I am fully committed to this goal. The Pennsylvania report serves as one more warning to us that we cannot become complacent or let down our vigilance. I am most grateful for your cooperation in making our churches and schools places where young people are safe. I want also to acknowledge the invaluable help we have all received in these matters from the Archdiocesan Review Board.

Building on the charge of St. John Paul, and in the light of reports about former Cardinal McCarrick's sins against chastity, I affirm that priests who try to live a double life by "cheating on the Church" through impure relations with others need to repent or to give up their pastoral office. I am committed to helping all our bishops, priests and deacons cultivate those habits which reinforce their commitments to lives of holiness, and holding them accountable for maintaining the virtue of chastity.

Likewise, I acknowledge that I, too, am accountable for living up to my commitment to celibacy. I am called to persevere in growing personally in the virtue of chastity, and to assist you in that same passage from the old Adam to the new man in Christ.

In regard to the first duty I mention immediately above – my personal obligation – it is essential that I adhere to my habits of prayer and asceticism, especially regular Confession and spiritual direction. In standing before Christ's judgment, I humbly give an accounting for myself, acknowledging my weaknesses and asking for pardon and healing. Were I to lapse in my chastity, I should be corrected not only by those in authority over me, but by any brother or sister who had knowledge of my fall.

In the second sort of duty – my duty to govern – let me speak about problematic cases first. Instances in which the clergy sin gravely against the sixth or ninth commandments of the Decalogue are never taken lightly. My response to them is to resort to the medicine of the Gospel: a call to repentance and renewal, using all the supernatural and natural remedies at our disposal for repairing moral failure. As your bishop, it is my duty to preserve and advance the integrity of celibate chastity in the life of our priests. In this, I am conscious not only of assisting each of you to flourish as holy priests, but also of the resulting good of the whole Christian community, especially the common good of our presbyterate. If our people cannot trust us, we cannot serve them. In order for us to effectively accompany our people on the narrow path to eternal life, we must first prove ourselves to be Christ's faithful disciples who honor our commitments to him above every other good, even life itself.

In the course of his remarks in 2002, St. John Paul also called upon us bishops to be clear in teaching the whole of the good news of Christ on matters of sexual morality. He pointed out that this is an essential condition for renewal:

They [the faithful] must know that Bishops and priests are totally committed to the fullness of Catholic truth on matters of sexual morality, a truth as essential to the renewal of the priesthood and the episcopate as it is to the renewal of marriage and family life.

Here, in this address to you, I renew my resolve to be the sort of good shepherd I hear St. John Paul calling for me to be. I owe that not only to you and to the Church, but to Christ himself. The message handed on to us from the apostles about the norms for chaste living is of one piece, an integrated whole. To cover over, not to mention dissenting from, one part of

Christ's vision for chaste living is to weaken every other dimension of that sexual purity Christ demands of his followers. The new Adam is one in all his parts.

Weak teaching about the demands of the Christian life makes it easier for us to lapse into vice, and thus pushes us toward personal and communal shipwreck. While policies and best practices are necessary, we will never be able to create, as T.S. Eliot once put it, "systems so perfect that no one will need to be good." Nothing can replace the need for each of us to strive for personal holiness in our sexuality. I know this, and am resolved to do my part by my teaching and leading as Christ expects.

This seems to be an appropriate place for me to affirm to you, as part of my accounting of my stewardship of the leadership of our local Church, my endorsement of what Cardinal DiNardo, as the President of our Bishops' Conference, wrote on 1 August:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will pursue the many questions surrounding Archbishop McCarrick's conduct to the full extent of its authority; and where that authority finds its limits, the Conference will advocate with those who do have the authority. One way or the other, we are determined to find the truth in this matter.

We must give an accounting for the failures that have occurred. While policies and best practices are, as I acknowledge above, never substitutes for moral integrity and virtue, they are nonetheless necessary. They do much to protect the vulnerable and to create clarity about what needs to happen when things go wrong. We bishops must look honestly at how this situation unfolded, and I want you to know that I am committed to joining my brother bishops in seeing this work through.

Regrettably, I note a temptation to despair among some – both on our own part and in the hearts of those we serve – over whether things can change. However, we know that reform can only happen when hope lives. We must move forward with the conviction that God will not abandon his Church, that he wants to see his Bride purified and cleansed of this stain, and that he will bring her through this death to new life. St. John Paul II concluded his 2002 discourse with these words of encouragement:

We must be confident that this time of trial will bring a purification of the entire Catholic community, a purification that is urgently needed if the Church is to preach more effectively the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all its liberating force. Now you must ensure that where sin increased, grace will all the more abound. So much pain, so much sorrow must lead to a holier priesthood, a holier episcopate, and a holier Church.

By the power of the risen Christ, this hour of darkness is a moment to anticipate the dawn. Remembering what we recently read in the Liturgy of the Hours for the feast of St. Lawrence, by God's grace we too can say, "the night is not dark for me; all things shine as in the noonday light." We are called to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to turn what could deflect us from the work of the new evangelization into an opportunity to proclaim the Lordship of Christ over all sin – yes, even these sins of which we are so painfully aware in these days.

Along these lines, I want to offer you a figure of encouragement in St. Philip Neri. It does not need to be explained to anyone that scandal hamstringed the efforts of our pastoral charter, *Unleash the Gospel*. But St. Philip earned the title "Second Apostle of Rome" during a time of deep corruption and moral laxity in the Church. The path to reform for St. Philip was through his own heart, and in following that path fully, he brought many along it with him. As parish priests, do not underestimate the impact you will have on those closest to you, your

parishioners, when you have conformed your hearts and minds to Christ's. You are the only St. Philip your parish knows. They will follow you to Christ even when other leaders are negligent or absent.

In all the gifts and talents you have placed at the service of unleashing the Gospel in the Archdiocese, your relentless pursuit of holiness is the greatest gift you can offer Christ. Let us be more open about reminding and encouraging one another on this path. As your bishop, I consistently call on our parishioners to pray for you – our dedicated priests and deacons. Please know of my appreciation for all your labors on behalf of God's people, and of my continuous prayers for you. I am grateful for yours.

Please pray for me, that I may be a good pastor and that God's power will be made perfect in the weaknesses and shortcomings I bring to my ministry. Know that this is always my prayer for you. And, St. Philip, pray for us all.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

UNLEASH THE GOSPEL

12 State Street, Detroit, Michigan 48226-0823 | 313-237-5800 | aod.org