



Keeping Our Balance Calls For Knowing Where We Belong

Reflection from Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.

October 18, 2020 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1-6 & Matthew 22:15-21 with 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

Jesus is getting near His final journey to Jerusalem. The opening line in the Gospel. "They sent their disciples to trap Him in His speech." To trap Him, they praise Him first and then ask the trick question. Jesus knew their malice.

Given the world in which we live, a lot of this rhetoric is in the public square. The message today is about how those in control do what they do, not knowing how God is taking what they do and using it to achieve God's will for His people.

A little history lesson on Cyrus the Persian leader would shed light on Isaiah's teaching. Cyrus took over Babylon – the capital in modern day Iraq – where God's chosen people were in captivity. And Cyrus is positioned to set them free to go home.

Jesus takes what the secular world loves – money. He is asked a question we have its implied answer – to whom we pay taxes mean we're under their control. Jesus sets His people free from the world's control – what's God's, money cannot control.

Paul writes to a community that they are free because they were chosen by God in whom they believe, labor in love and endure in hope, not by people to whom they pay taxes but to Jesus, Who became free from the world's power when they killed Him.

In Word – here is the Word that gives Life. No matter what our situation is, no matter how much what money controls affect us, no matter who is in charge – we are free to give to God our soul, our mind and our heart. We belong to Jesus. Amen!

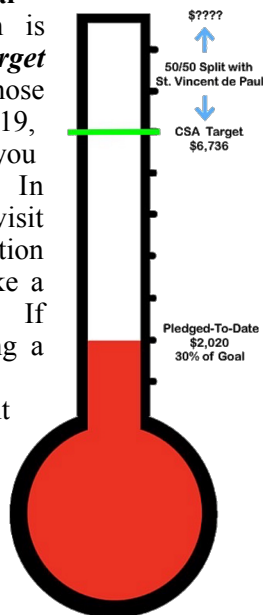
In Power – we have the resurrected life within us. Leaders may think they have power over their followers. But for those of us who know Jesus who has chosen us, we have a power to love and forgive, to hope and encourage, to believe and witness.

In the Holy Spirit – we are convicted, we are confirmed. We have said "yes" to Jesus and "no" to anyone or anything that would separate us from Him. This message is right on time as we get closer to our country's election day. We are the Elect of Jesus. As good citizens, we vote. As great Christians, we know Jesus Who's not on our ballot!

2020 Catholic Services Appeal

The 2020 CSA Campaign is underway. ***This year's CSA target for our parish is \$6,736.*** For those who gave in 2017, 2018 or 2019, CSA information was mailed to you directly by the Archdiocese. In addition, all are invited to visit www.AOD.org for more information about the CSA, or you can make a donation at www.givecsa.org. If you require assistance in making a pledge, please contact Ed Shea.

To date, our total amount pledged remains at \$2,020, or 30% of our target. Remember, any amounts received over the target are returned to the parish, and will be shared 50/50 with our St. Vincent de Paul ministry.



New Church Update!

This Wednesday, October 21 at 1:00 p.m. and repeated on Thursday, October 22 at 6:30 p.m., our Building Committee, led by Jeff Flounory and Clarence Watts, will be joined by David Smith, President of Loyola High School, to present an update on the project to build our new church. Both presentations will be via Zoom video conference. Go to our website (spcccdetroit.org), click on the blue button at the top of the Home page ("Click Here for Access to Live Sunday Mass and Other Scheduled Virtual Events & Meetings"), then click on the blue button labeled "New Church Update." To join by phone only, call (312) 626-6799 or (301) 715-8592, and enter meeting ID: 88176636132#, participant ID: #, and passcode 001103#.

Sacramental Inquiry and Introduction Classes

Are you called to be Catholic? Come and See!! Looking to be baptized, confirmed or make your first communion? *This class is for you.* Are you a parent with a child that needs a sacrament? *This class is for you both.* Are you Catholic and would like to know more to share your faith with others? *Then you are invited.*

If interested, Email: Jennie Sinatra, Director of Formation at jmsinatra@spcccdetroit.org, or call the parish office at 313-342-5292.

Our Mission Statement

Having reflected on the "four faces of our parish," **St. Peter Claver Catholic Community**, chosen by the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, and under the guidance of Mary, resolves that: 1) we will provide more opportunities for deepening prayer life and faith life for youth, young adults, and adults; 2) we will initiate efforts to reach out and re-connect with those individuals and families who have disconnected from the Church; 3) we will collaborate with other faith communities and organizations within our parish to offer ecumenical events/activities (e.g., neighborhood clean-ups, prayer meetings, health fairs); and, 4) we will utilize resources within our parish community to advocate for education and to promote social justice issues.

From the St. Paul of the Cross Retreat House Kitchen

When you haven't been to St. Paul's in awhile, there are lots of things you miss. The beautiful grounds, tranquil chapel, inspiring talks, comfortable bedrooms, and.....

THE POT ROAST!

Wouldn't a plate of St. Paul's famous, mouth-watering pot roast and mashed potatoes hit the spot on a fall evening? We thought so, too!

Don't miss your chance to experience the most popular meal from Chef Dave and the St. Paul kitchen from the comfort of your own home. Preordered dinners can be picked up on Thursday, October 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. Dinners will be safely packaged and ready for your pick up at 23333 Schoolcraft Road in Detroit - simply drive up and we will have your meals ready for you!

Meals cost \$20 each and must be preordered at <https://www.stpaulretreat.org/event/pot-roast-take-out-event/> or call (313) 535-9563. Each meal includes pot roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, hot vegetable and dinner salad. A selection of desserts prepared by St. Paul staff members will be available for your selection as well!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Harvest Talent Fest IV

Come and join us as the Leaders In Motion and Leaders On Mission present the **4th Annual Harvest Talent Fest!** This year we will be right in your living room; it will be virtual. So mark your calendars for Saturday, November 28, and don't forget to share this with your friends and family!



Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Intercessory Prayer Team

Beverly Alessio, Inez (Retinella) Alls, Florine Anderson, Alberta Asmar, Sylvia Baker, Warren & Marcella Bridges, Donald & Barbara Carter, Michael Clarence Carter, Johnnie Davis, Peggy Endlein, Ron Galletero, Ara Grier, Sandra Griffin, Karen Hickman, Myrtis Hildebrandt, Jacqueline Johnson, Bobbie Lewis, Addison Martin, Augusta Martin, Dorothy (Vicki) Martin, Charles Nelson, Joan S. Noland, Nancy Oberhausen, Grady & Celestine Parker, Fred & Villa Ray, Romaine Redd, Flossie Ryles, Jeanne Schuldt, Irene Scott, Gussie Seay, Augusta Starks, Mary Tyler, Christine Versele, Helen Wajda, Anna Washington, Lillie Washington, Carmel Weems, Leonard & Ona Wilson

Please Pray for Them as They Pray for Us!!

Also, Please Remember in Prayer:

Wayne Bradley, Olivia Boulden, Christopher Durant, Rochelle Evans, Kiara Harris, Marley Jonah, Mary Caroline Jonah, Johnetta Mutes, Elke Rittenhouse, Elaine Ryles, Terrence Tidwell, Charles Tilghman, Jon Viado, Vickie Viado, Constance Washington-Daniel, Larry Washington, and relatives of our parishioners

Ministers Schedule October 25, 2020

Celebrant: Rev. Joshua Peters, S.J.
Minister of Service: Bill Tidwell
Lector: Kathryn Crutcher
Cantor: Aurelia Smith

Meetings/Events This Week

Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
Tuesday	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
Wednesday	11:00 am	Lectio Divina Prayer via Zoom
	1:00 pm	Loyola Church Update via Zoom
	6:30 pm	Women Bridging Change via Zoom
Thursday	6:30 pm	Loyola Church Update via Zoom
Saturday	11:00 am	Knights of Peter Claver
	12:30 pm	Sacramental Formation via Zoom
Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
	2:00 pm	Knights of Peter Claver

Legend: PH=Parish House; MC=Marygrove College
Church refers to the Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College
For the "live" Parish Calendar, go to spcccdetroit.org

If, due to health or COVID concerns, you cannot attend Mass on Sunday, but would like to have someone bring you Eucharist, please contact Jennie Sinatra or Ed Shea, and we will work with you to make arrangements.

Collection Results

We continue to rely on your support. If you are unable to join us on Sunday at Marygrove, you can send your weekly donation to the Parish Office. Or you may want to consider online giving. It's convenient, secure, and totally in your control!

Give Online at spcccdetroit.org

St. Peter Claver Catholic Community

*Parish Office: 13305 Grove St., Detroit, MI 48235
(313) 342-5292*

*Church: Marygrove College - Sacred Heart Chapel
8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit, MI 48221*

email: parishoffice@spcccdetroit.org

website: www.spcccdetroit.org

*Mass: Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Church
(Check the bulletin for holy days and special services)*

Reconciliation: Before Mass or By Appointment

Parish Office Hours: Parish Staff is currently working from home. Please contact Ed Shea if you require assistance.

Reverend John Phelps, C.Ss.R., Pastor

*Edward Shea, Administrative Manager/Bulletin Editor
Cell: (248) 633-4476*

Jennie Sinatra, Formation Director

Stephanie Flounory, Youth & Young Adult Minister

Ronald Galletero, Facilities Manager

Tanda Flounory, Parish Pastoral Council Chair

LaTanya Mahdi, Finance Council Chair

This article is reprinted from the University of Michigan-Dearborn News

Building Better Blocks

October 5, 2020

At only 18 years old, freshman Alexcia Starks is working to make her Detroit neighborhood a more attractive, sustainable, socially just place to live.



Graphic illustrating the work being done in Detroit neighborhoods. Pictured from left: Alexcia Starks works with Detroit Councilwoman Raquel Castañeda-López

When Alexcia Starks looks out her window, she can see the remains of a burnt Craftsman-style house. Two doors down from where she lives in southwest Detroit, there's another attractive 1920s home that suffered the same fate.

"The one across the street happened last year. I knew the man who lived there," Starks says with her voice trailing off. Then, possibly looking to focus on the positive, her voice becomes stronger when she shares that both homes were recently bought and someone was renovating them.

"When I was younger, I wondered why blight would just sit there. Now I understand that it's not like your concern goes straight to the mayor. There are many steps in making something happen in your neighborhood. It's just how it is. And it really does start with one person looking to make a change — that person could be you."

At only 18 years old, the freshman sociology major is aware that she can play a role in making her Detroit neighborhood a more attractive, sustainable, socially just place to live. To help her better understand how to do that, she's working as an intern for Councilwoman Raquel Castañeda-López office with the [Building Better Blocks](#) program.

Starks learned of the internship when she let faculty members who teach sociology know of her interest in helping re-shape Detroit neighborhoods. In addition to sharing the opportunity with Starks, she says professors also helped her polish her resume and prepped her for the interview. Starks says she's also getting college credit for her experience.

Starks — whose photo with Castañeda-López is on the September cover of Detroit's District Six newsletter — says her internship is partially in person and virtual. On weekends, she does tours of Detroit neighborhoods and businesses. And last Saturday, she spent time helping plan a playground in a field where Pattengill Elementary School used to be.

"I really want to get in touch with Detroit communities, meet the people around me and find out what they need. I also want to really surround myself with stories from the people who have lived here so I can understand Detroit's history. When I was in Detroit schools, they didn't teach me Detroit history — and our city over 300 years old. Isn't that something? I want to know more about Detroit and where it's been so I can better understand where we want to go."

Starks says she doesn't have political ambitions, but she does want to help her neighbors by better understanding the political systems in play, learning why decisions are made, and figuring out how she may be able to navigate policy and procedures in the future.

And it's something she started before she could drive. At age 15, Starks volunteered for Mayor Mike Duggan's re-election campaign. Starks went door-to-door canvassing Detroit neighborhoods to let them know about the 2017 election. Most of it was on foot and she says she enjoyed interacting with people in neighborhoods across the city and seeing the multicultural fabric of Detroit.

"It was so wonderful going out to neighborhoods I haven't spent time in before. I was helping people learn what was on the ballot and reminding them to vote," she says. "It was a learning experience for me too. I met so many people and was able to ask questions about Mayor Duggan's strategy. I didn't get why Detroit's downtown businesses got so much attention, while the neighborhoods seemed left out. This gave me the chance to talk with someone about it." She was told Duggan's plan is to have a strong downtown whose success radiates out to the neighborhoods.

But until that's fully realized, Starks says there is work to do.

Eventually, she hopes her collective experience will lead to a human rights career where she can work as a Detroit-based immigration attorney. She's already working on learning other languages; she credits that interest to her Haitian grandmother, who is a translator. Starks says she's looking forward to additional experiences in college that will help expand her understanding of the social and political systems that we live within.

Starks says she'll continue to combine her academics with on-the-ground experience like she's gaining through Castañeda-López' office because there is still blight to remove, people who need connections to resources and playgrounds to build.

"It really is about showing up. Caring for the people is what building better neighborhoods is all about."