



**Rejection is a Two-Edged Sword to Heal All Sides, If We Remember!**

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

**August 16, 2020 - 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Isaiah 56:1-7 & Matthew 15:21-28 with Romans 11:13-32**

The Word of Life deepens the indispensable relationship between rejection and discerning the Will of God sending us. Humanly, rejection is negative with no value. It is definitely a sign that we are not following the way to living the world accepts for us.

When our world gives rejection, pause and reflect with Paul on his discovery. The rejection by his Jewish community sent him as an Apostle to the Gentiles. In fact, "Their rejection is the reconciliation of the world." His accepting rejection brings life from death.

I have constantly listened to rejection. Like the Canaanite woman she listened. Her daughter needed a cure. Jesus had the power. He rejected her request. He was sent to the lost sheep of Israel. But she focused on her daughter and didn't walk away.

47 years ago, in the midst of funerals of teenagers, most of whom were dropouts, I wanted to find a way to step into the violence. I was rejected by the Catholic Schools, when I asked to bring our students with me. I listened and heard myself being sent.

I had learned how to listen to rejection. I listened to Jesus. What He did when He was rejected. He didn't reflect on them, letting anger and depression set in. He reflected on His Mission. He embraced it and accepted where it would lead Him.

The old Aramaic word for rejection is Nazareth. "Can anything good come from Nazareth" said Nathaniel. "The Stone rejected by the builders became the cornerstone." The Canaanite woman? Her daughter heals. Paul? An Apostles to the Gentiles, to us.

Black lives matter. How many people have been rejected and still are rejected when they speak? For us chosen to raise the words, we are part of a legacy of life after so many have died. When we focus on where we're being sent, we focus on L.I.F.E.

Paul would even speak of what he is doing will cause his own race to be jealous. He is so clear that both sides were disobedient. All sides will receive His mercy. All will be saved – both the Jews and the Gentiles. "Rejection is Reconciliation" if we remember L.I.F.E. – Love Includes Forgiving Everyone – friend and foe together.

**Sunday Mass!!**

This week, Archbishop Vigneron announced the extension of the dispensation from the Sunday obligation through Christ the King Sunday, November 22. The Archbishop noted that, "While this decision is a prudent and practical response to the present [COVID-19] crisis, it is, nonetheless, a dramatic response and not lightly taken." He continued, "There is no substitute for our gathering as a people knit together by the Holy Spirit, to worship as one with, through and in Christ." The Eucharist remains at the center of our worship; however, for those who cannot attend public Mass, the Archbishop stressed the need to maintain spiritual communion, especially on Sunday.

We will continue to celebrate Eucharist every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at Marygrove College, with all proper precautions, including the wearing of face masks and the maintenance of social distancing. In addition, for those who are not able to attend Mass, we will livestream the Mass online via Zoom. A link is available on our website, [spcccdetroit.org](http://spcccdetroit.org). If you do not have access to the internet, you can benefit by participating in Masses offered on TV. Check your TV listing for Masses offered by your provider.

***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.***

***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.

## Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

The Catholic bishops of the United States are pleased to offer once again to the Catholic faithful *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, our teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents our guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. You can download and print a copy of this guide at [www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf). It is also available on our parish website.

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**AUGUST 21-23, 2020**  
**Right here in Detroit Area!!**  
Covid-19 Precautions will be followed

## Confronting Structural Racism in SE Michigan: Where to Begin?

This webinar, co-hosted by the Multicultural Ministries Office and the St Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity of Detroit, will describe structural racism, share a brief history of its development, and discuss how to dismantle it. The speakers will be Peter Hammer, PhD, JD from the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights and a professor at Wayne State University Law School, Vickie Figueroa from the AOD, and Eileen M. Smith from the St. Bonaventure Secular Franciscan Fraternity of Detroit.

Date: Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 p.m. Please click the following link to join the webinar: <https://aod.zoom.us/j/99452963803>, or, for audio only, dial (929) 205-6099, or (301) 715-8592 and use webinar ID: 994 5296 3803.

## 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, Myrtil 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

## 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, Vickee Viado, Constance Washington-Daniel, Larry Washington, and relatives of our parishioners

## Ministers Schedule

August 23, 2020

**Celebrant: Rev. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.**

*During this period of transition to "normal" Sunday Mass, no set schedule for the Minister of Service, Lector, and Sacristan is available. Any questions should be addressed to Jennie Sinatra.*

## 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
	7:00 pm	Leaders In Motion/Leaders On Mission via Zoom
Saturday	11:00 am	Knights of Peter Claver at TBD
Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
	2:00 pm	Knights of Peter Claver at TBD

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](http://spcccdetroit.org)**

## Sacramental Preparation

Are you, or someone you know, interested in joining the Catholic Church or receiving one of the sacraments? Please contact Jennie Sinatra at the Parish Office.

## 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](http://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](mailto:parishoffice@spcccdetroit.org)

website: [www.spcccdetroit.org](http://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.**

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**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