



**Transformed By A Renewal Of Our Mind ... Discerning
Reflection from Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.
August 30, 2020 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jeremiah 20:7-9 & Matthew 16:21-27 with Romans 12:1-2**

Both conventions are history. We have listened to opposite views of the world in which we live. As Confirmed Catholic Christians, what did we hear and what does it tell us? In a little over two months, if all goes as planned, we will know. Then what?

I am finding listening to the Word of God offers a teaching to us. "Don't conform to this age. Be transformed by a renewal of mind. Discern the will of God, which is good, pleasing and perfect."

What is the message? As I reflected upon the first reading and the Gospel, what I found they had in common was the stark difference between Jeremiah and Jesus. Jeremiah didn't want to speak the truth. Jesus wouldn't let anyone stop Him!

There is a fundamental truth that Jesus declares today. It definitely is not part of the rhetoric of anyone running for office. "Follow Me ... If you wish to save your life, you will lose it. If you lose your life for my sake, you will save it."

He started His in-depth transformation program of His successor. "Get behind me Satan. You are an obstacle to me ... thinking not as God does but as humans do." If that's what He told Peter, who was chosen to be the Rock, what's he telling us?

Some of us may agree with Peter. Jesus should not die. He doesn't want to. No one wants Him to do so. Peter doesn't buy it. He might eventually think he was duped. He doesn't want to be mocked. He'll deny he even knew Jesus.

The transformation of our mind to become the mind of Jesus is to confront the most basic human instinct of self-preservation. To look at losing as winning, dying as living, sorrow as joy is the invitation of Jesus. Why? Because we discern the will of God.

What is the will of God for His people – the poor, the oppressed, the outcast? What is good for them? What is pleasing for them? What is perfect for them? Let's look at the power of the Resurrection. Let's decide what we can do with our talents to reach out to them. Let's pray that we are willing to be sent into their world and radiate healing!

Sunday Mass

Recognizing the ongoing health threat from the COVID-19 pandemic, Archbishop Vigneron has announced the extension of the dispensation from the Sunday obligation through the Feast of Christ the King, November 22, 2020.

While we will continue to celebrate Eucharist every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at Marygrove College, utilizing all proper precautions, including the wearing of face masks, using hand sanitizer, and maintaining social distancing, we also will continue to livestream the Mass online via Zoom for those who are not able to attend Mass. A link is available on our website, 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.

Families of Parishes

Today, Father John will provide an update on the process of defining Families of Parishes, as announced by Archbishop Vigneron on Pentecost, and the results of our parish survey. Thank you to everyone who responded to our mail survey as we seek to discern which parishes would best complement St. Peter Claver as family partners. Input from the confirmed is essential, as the effectiveness of each family will require active involvement from both the ordained and the confirmed. Father will continue to provide updates as recommendations are prepared for presentation to the Archbishop.

Catholic Services Appeal

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA), which usually kicks off in May, will begin on CSA Sunday, September 14. In addition, parish targets have been reduced by 15%. Details will be provided next week. In the meantime, included with this bulletin is a message from Archbishop Vigneron regarding the CSA.

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. It is also available on our parish website.

Pope Francis: Church Cannot Abandon Human Life

"Reason alone is sufficient to recognize the inviolable value of each single human life, but if we also look at the issue from the standpoint of faith, "every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offense against the creator of the individual" (John Paul II, *Christifideles Laici*, 37). Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the Church cannot be expected to change her position on this question. I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or 'modernizations'" -- *Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel," November 24, 2013.*

All the Information That's Fit to Print!

Our parish website, spcccdetroit.org, is your one-stop source for all things relating to St. Peter Claver. We are trying our best to keep it up to date as a means, along with the robocalls, of providing current information to those interested in our parish. Besides a "live" calendar and links to "virtual" events (such as Mass), the website provides special announcements, access to "online giving," event photos and videos, news of upcoming events, and, for those who cannot attend Mass, even access to this bulletin. Make it a point to check in regularly. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Ed Shea.

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

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 September 6, 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
	3:00 pm	Life Directions Picnic at MC
Tuesday	9:00 am	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom

Legend: PH=Parish House; MC=Marygrove College
Church refers to the Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College

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

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