

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

A number of you told me that you found my homily last week helpful, so I am printing it here.

With my prayers,

Fr. Conley

Building our Lives on the Promises of Jesus

In His appearances after His Resurrection, Jesus tells His disciples that His Resurrection is the fulfillment of what He had promised them before His death on the cross. The obvious lesson from this is that Jesus does fulfill His promises to us. Jesus makes many promises in the Gospels and we can count on Him to keep them, just as He fulfilled His promise to rise again. Today I would like to consider five of the most important promises that Jesus has made to us.

1. Promise number one from Jesus is that He loves us. In the gospel He tells us "as the Father has loved me so I love you." This is an amazing promise. God the Father loves His Son above everything else. So Jesus is saying this is how His love is for us. The Son of God demonstrates His love for us for the very fact that He came into our world and became man. The Son of God did this because of His love for us and because He wants to redeem us.

2. Which brings us to the second promise that Jesus makes and that is that He forgives our sins. As our second reading today tells us, Jesus Himself is expiation for our sins. This means that because of His own obedience to the will of God the Father, to the point of dying a horrible death on the cross, Jesus has made up for all of our sins. Additionally, he also forgives our sins. Just as Jesus told people who needed forgiveness two thousand years ago, "go in peace, your sins are forgiven," He continues to say that to each of us when we come to him in repentance. In fact, when we go to confession it is precisely those words that we hear. We come away from the sacrament knowing that our sins are truly forgiven by Jesus himself.

3. The third promise that Jesus makes to us is that He will lead us. Jesus tells us that He is "the way." By this Jesus means that, by His own example, He shows us how to live a meaningful and joy-filled life. He will lead us on the right path through the trials and tribulations of this life, to our Father's house, where Jesus himself has prepared a place for us. So Jesus is our leader and Jesus is leading us every day when we listen to Him.

4. The fourth promise that Jesus makes to us is that He will feed us. Just as the Israelites needed food for the journey from slavery and exile in Egypt to the Promised Land, so we too need food for our journey from the exile of alienation from God to the promised glory of heaven. And the food that Jesus gives us is first of all **His word**.

The word that we received from Him is the Scriptures, most especially the Gospels. By His word, Jesus frees our minds and hearts from the petty and worrisome things of this world so that we know what our lives are truly about. When we read and reflect on the words of God in the Bible they have the power to transform our lives.

Jesus also feeds us His body and blood in the Eucharist. When we receive our Lord worthily in Holy Communion, we receive His flesh and His blood which He says brings the promise of eternal life. In our reception of Holy Communion we also receive more grace from God, the power of God's life within us. This grace strengthens us to keep the commitment that we made in baptism and confirmation to follow the Lord.

5. The fifth promise of Jesus that we should remember is that He remains with us always. As He says at the conclusion of the gospel of St. Matthew "I remain with you until the end of time." So Jesus is always with us if our hearts and minds are open to Him. He is always present to us and we can always go to Him. He is as close as a prayer. He will remain with us until we are finally united fully with Him in the glory of the Father's house.

So these are five of the most important promises that Jesus makes to us. **1. Jesus loves us. 2. Jesus forgives us. 3. Jesus leads us. 4. Jesus feeds us.**

5. Jesus stays with us. When we think about these promises and really take them to heart there is only one response that we can make and that is to surrender ourselves to Him.

During the mission last week, Michelle Moran pointed out in the picture we have in the sanctuary the flag that Jesus holds in His hand. The flag is His flag of victory over sin and death. Michelle mentioned how we all share that victory by surrendering our lives to Jesus. We need to raise our white flag of surrender, not the surrender of defeat but the surrender of love. When we love Jesus and place our trust in Him, then we embrace His flag of victory, and His victory becomes present in our lives.

When I think about how much Jesus loves me, I want to surrender myself to Him. This is my prayer: **Jesus, I love you. Jesus, I trust you. Jesus, I follow you. Jesus, I receive you. Jesus, I live in you. Amen.**

SONS & DAUGHTERS SERIES CONCLUDES THIS THURSDAY. Fr. Conley will be speaking on what Jesus says about the "The Tree that bears Good Fruit". We will meet in the hall from 6:30-8:30pm. Dinner is included. All are welcome, but please let Fr. Conley know if you are coming at frconley@comcast.net.

CONGRATULATIONS to parishioner Wendy Slay, who is the fourth grade teacher in our school. She has received the Golden Apple Award from the Archdiocese in recognition of her excellence as a teacher.

PARISH COUNCIL will have their meeting on Monday, April 30th.

RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE NEEDS HELP
We need some help to work after the 4 & 12 PM Mass. Please call Ellen Walls at 301- 579-2557 or Fay Adriani at 301-645-3531.

Please support our advertising sponsors. This week we recognize Raymond Funeral Services, P.A.

MARY'S HELPING HANDS

We would like to thank you for your generous raffle support throughout the years and hope we can count on you in the future. We would like to tell you how wonderful donations have helped our community. The money from the bake sales/raffles is donated to the Charles County Student Snack Sak Program, Carmelite Nuns, Seminarians, Shepherds Table, Women's Shelter and Father Pittman's Farm just to name a few. Our own Kay McClure was the winner of the raffle for the diamond cross necklace. Once again, thank you for your generosity!

THERE WILL BE NO MORNING MASS NEXT SATURDAY, APRIL 28TH.

LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC – MARIAN DAY OF PRAYER – "BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BELIEVE"

Monday – May 7, 2018 9:00 – 3:00pm.

Our Day of Prayer begins with a continental breakfast and includes lunch. During the day, our retreatants are invited to spend time in quiet mediation, reflecting on the theme for the day. Confessions are offered, Mass is celebrated, and reflections are shared during the Motivation to Prayer time. *Fee for the day is \$40.00.*

To register contact Lisa White at (301) 392-0801 or reservations@loyolaretreat.org.

CATHOLIC QUOTES

Those who have hope must live different lives. By your prayers, by the witness of your faith, by the fruitfulness of your charity, may you point the way toward that vast horizon of hope which God is even now opening up to his Church and indeed to all humanity: the vision of a world reconciled and renewed in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

Pope Benedict

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Parishioners, 10am Larry Wood, **12N:** Virginia Merz, **MON:** 8am Carol Ann Chagnon, **TUES:** 8am Louis L. Plater, **WED:** 8am Doris Gross, **THURS:** 8am Mary Helen Tippett, **FRI:** 9:30am Larry Wood, **SAT:** 9am Louis L. Plater, 4pm Kathie Mace.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Mary Bowes, Bill Branick, Frances Card, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, Judy Istvan-Windsor, Irma Johnson, Regina Kijesky, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Maurice Long, Jim Middleton, Mary Emma Middleton, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Ryan Myers, Joseph Quade, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Beth Weise, Tim Welch, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST

WEEKEND was \$9,605.00. The unidentified donations totaled \$592.00. We received \$105.00 for our School Support.