

support limits on late-term abortions. Three quarters of Americans want abortion limited to—at most— the first three months of pregnancy. Only 15 percent of Americans believe that abortion should be available during any time of the pregnancy.

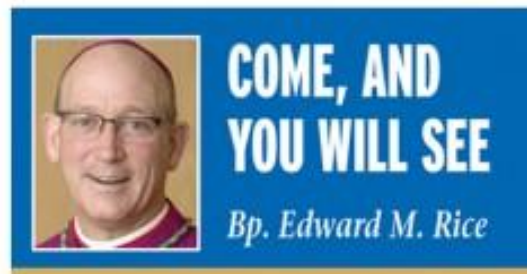
In 1940, Congress passed the original law providing the protection of the Bald and Golden Eagle through the Protection Act, prohibiting the take, possession ... of any Bald or Golden Eagle, alive or dead, including any part, nest, or egg. Why would the egg be included? Back in 1940, they trusted the science that said the egg within the mother of the Bald Eagle or Golden Eagle would produce a baby Eagle. In order to protect the Bald or Golden Eagle, they had to protect the egg. They trusted the science!

As medical techniques have improved, medical centers can perform surgeries on fetuses while they're still in the womb. How can that be? How can you apply the medical knowledge of the human body to the fetus in the womb? Because, even in the womb, we acknowledge its physical makeup to be a reflection of a human person outside the womb. In other words, medical care and treatment recognizes that the fetus is not some sort of "subhuman form," but rather a developing human. Let's trust the science on the unborn!

ABORTION DESTROYS LOVE

While medical advances have given us a greater understanding of the viability of the unborn, we must never forget that abortion is not just a moral or religious issue: abortion is a human issue. Abortion has an effect on the human family and a rippling effect on a country and family life. Mother Teresa of Calcutta stated, "Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. That is why the greatest destroyer of love is abortion." And as we look around our culture and our society with its epidemic of violence, she would say, "If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other." Again, abortion is a human issue just as much as it is a moral and religious issue. "It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish." In this era of the "Me Too" movement, highlighting the sexual harassment and violation of women, Mother Teresa recognized "Abortion is profoundly anti-woman. Three quarters of its victims are women: Half the babies and all the mothers."

Please pray for those men and women in the pro-life movement, and all those witnessing to life at the 2022 March for Life in Washington, DC, Jan. 19-22, 2022.



January 23, 2022

St. Cecilia Catholic Church
1226 College Avenue PO Box 306
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Fr. David Baunach, Pastor
417-851-7136 davidbaunach@gmail.com
Luis Hernandez, Hispanic Ministry
(417) 496-5622
Lynnette Anderson, Parish Secretary
Vanessa Cowart, PSR Director
(561) 351-1380
Magda Cazares, Youth Group Director

Fr. David's Parish Office Hours:
Kennett Monday and Wednesday 10-4, Tuesday off,
Thursday and Friday in Portageville 10-4

Fr. David is available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Adoration or by appointment.

Weekly Schedule

Monday and Wednesday Adoration at 5; Mass at 6pm
Sunday Masses: 10:30am Mass in English; 10:05am Rosary
1pm Mass in Spanish

*If you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist and are unable to attend mass, please contact Fr. David at his number above.

Please pray for /Oramos para:

Bill and Lynnette Anderson, Rita Redman, Polly McAtee, +Judy Abernathy, +Greg Bradley, Paul Deken, +Sandy DeLisle, +Mary Gurley, Justin Miller, Deanne Cole, Bob and Sharon Hines, Vera Gleuck, and Kathy Larsen. Especially let us remember our bishops and our priest, Fr. David, and our homebound.

Mass Intentions
January 23 10:30 Bob Bradley

The Parish School of Religion Will Continue today and January 30th at 11:45am!

Each week, the PSR program continues to have classes for parents at 11:45am. All parents who have a child preparing for **First Communion** should attend as well as parents with a child in 4th grade or up who is desiring to receive **Confirmation** in the church. Parents will be in classes that will help them to teach the faith to their children, while the children will have enrichment activities in the Catholic faith.

Collection Information for January 16

Lynnette and Bill Anderson are in the hospital. Please pray! We will update financial information as soon as we can.

Remember: Online giving is an easy way to tithe to our church! Go to www.stceciliakennett.com to get started.

Monthly Calendar of Events

First Sundays of the Month: Second Collection for Mother’s House in Hayti
PSR Every Sunday at 11:45
Parish Council this Wednesday After Mass

Cat Sitter Needed



Parishioner in Kennett looking for someone to take care of several cats four days a week for thirteen weeks. Will pay \$75 a week.
Please call 314-640-8105.

Saints We Honor This Week

January 24 St. Francis De Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
January 25 St. Paul the Apostle, Conversion
January 26 Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
January 28 St. Thomas Aquinas, the Angelic Doctor

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.
Luke 4*



**Abortion has effect on the human family
JACKSON YOUTH—A ‘Mini March for Life’ was held in Jackson, MO, on Jan. 18, 2020, organized by Meg Garner, Director of Youth and Family Ministries for local Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. (Submitted photo)**

“When the time comes as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I’ve often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine. “But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world and they will plead for anyone who has been in this movement. “They will say to God, ‘spare him because he loved us,’ and God will look at you and say not, ‘Did you succeed?’ But ‘Did you try?’”

The above words quote the late Henry Hyde, a pro-life member of the Illinois House of Representatives who passed away in 2007. He introduced the legislation barring the use of federal funds to pay for abortion. Before the Hyde Amendment took effect in 1980, an estimated 300,000 abortions were performed annually using federal funds.

We live in a time when many people quickly say, “Trust the science.” And that is true especially in regard to the unborn child in the womb. Modern science has shown us that a 15-week child is capable of feeling pain, has a fully formed nose, lips, eyelids and eyebrows, and can suck their thumb. Let’s trust the science on the unborn!

Breakthroughs in science have allowed babies to survive at continually younger preterm ages with the proper care and treatment. Let’s trust the science on the unborn! At 15 weeks, an unborn child has a beating heart, can move around in the womb, can close his or her fingers, and can sense stimulation from outside the womb. Let’s trust the science on the unborn!

LATE TERM ABORTION

A limit on abortion after 15 weeks would bring the United States in line with most European countries, which have adapted their laws to reflect the science. Both Germany and France have 14 weeks gestational limits on abortion. The United States is only one of seven countries that allow elective abortions after 20 weeks. Americans widely



Please Join Us for Dinner, Live Music, Mardi Gras Festivities and support a great cause!

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) is hosting an evening of dinner and dancing to the sounds of Spectrum, a nine-piece band from St. Louis. Saturday, February 26, 2022, at

5:30 p.m. at the Drury Conference Center in Cape Girardeau. All proceeds will benefit the new LifeHouse Crisis Maternity Home coming to downtown Cape. For more information about LifeHouse and the Mardi Gras Ball or to purchase tickets, please visit the Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri website www.ccsomo.org.



Young Men: Come to an Encounter With God's Call



Saturday, February 26 to Monday, February 28. EWGC is a seminary discernment experience **for high school juniors through recent college graduates (ages 16-25)**. During Encounter, the participants further discern the call to priesthood and learn about college seminary life. Throughout the weekend, participants pray, meet, and relax with seminarians. Conception Seminary College is located in NW Missouri near Maryville. Both Father Alex and Father Rick will be leading this trip to the seminary. For more info on how you can attend, email Father Rick at stvcapepadre@gmail.com or call the parish office 537-335-7667. The trip will leave St. Vincent de Paul in Cape early on Saturday morning at 7:00am and will return Monday evening around 8:00pm. There is no cost for the weekend.

Change to the Monday Night Mass at 6pm

The Holy Mass on Monday will be in Spanish, but with the readings read in both English and Spanish. (Wednesday mass is entirely in English except the readings are read in both English and Spanish).

Families Will Resume Bringing Up the Gifts!

You may be asked this Sunday or next to serve as a gift bearer! This is a beautiful tradition of our church, and we are glad to have it back. Thank you for bringing the gifts to the altar!

Saint Thomas Aquinas' Story

By universal consent, Thomas Aquinas is the preeminent spokesman of the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation. He is one of the great teachers of the medieval Catholic Church, honored with the titles Doctor of the Church and Angelic Doctor.

At five he was given to the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in his parents' hopes that he would choose that way of life and eventually became abbot. In 1239, he was sent to Naples to complete his studies. It was here that he was first attracted to Aristotle's philosophy.

By 1243, Thomas abandoned his family's plans for him and joined the Dominicans, much to his mother's dismay. On her order, Thomas was captured by his brother and kept at home for over a year.

Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great. He held two professorships at Paris, lived at the court of Pope Urban IV, directed the Dominican schools at Rome and Viterbo, combated adversaries of the mendicants, as well as the Averroists, and argued with some Franciscans about Aristotelianism.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, pervades his writings. One might expect Thomas, as a man of the gospel, to be an ardent defender of revealed truth. But he was broad enough, deep enough, to see the whole natural order as coming from God the Creator, and to see reason as a divine gift to be highly cherished.

The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology. He stopped work on it after celebrating Mass on December 6, 1273. When asked why he stopped writing, he replied, "I cannot go on... All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." He died March 7, 1274.



Reflection

We can look to Thomas Aquinas as a towering example of Catholicism in the sense of broadness, universality, and inclusiveness. We should be determined anew to exercise the divine gift of reason in us, our power to know, learn, and understand. At the same time we should thank God for the gift of his revelation, especially in Jesus Christ.

Let us make 'ordinary' time 'extraordinary'!

We are beginning Ordinary Time in our liturgical calendar. I hope you do not get discouraged when you hear the words

ORDINARY TIME. Ordinary Time can be an excellent time to grow in our relationship with Jesus, to grow and mature in our faith, and to embrace the Sacraments with the same passion and enthusiasm that we have during other seasons and times. Let us make of this "ordinary time" something extraordinary.

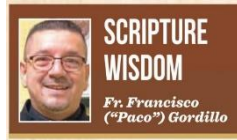
We can start by setting some basic goals so we can achieve great things during this Ordinary Time. This season can be a great opportunity to transform and reinvent ourselves. We must believe that God can transform us and those around us so we can become the intentional disciples the world and the Church need. I believe a humble exercise in our spiritual journey is to recognize that we need to change and transform our minds and hearts so we can become more like Jesus. But it is a personal and individual process. Most of us spend our lives trying to convince others that they need to change. I read a phrase somewhere that says: "JESUS CAME TO SAVE US AND TO RESTORE ONE HEART AT THE TIME."

The First reading of the Prophet Isaiah reminds us of God's love. A love that is generous, sincere, extravagant, and unconditional. Jesus emphasized the character and personality of God the Father who is rich in mercy and in kindness. And it is because we love God that we allow him to touch our lives and transform them. God wants and can transform us! We cannot change the world, but we can change our hearts. We must remember that we cannot do it by ourselves. We need the help of God and the grace to adjust our minds and hearts with His mind and heart.

This second weekend in Ordinary Time brings us one of the most popular stories in the Bible: the wedding at Cana. We know the story, we know the characters, and we know that a miracle happened that revealed the Divinity of Jesus. But let me tell you that the first miracle of Jesus still happening in many churches as well as in so many lives and hearts. It is happening because God wants to make each of us a new creation. Transformation is still happening.

Jesus transformed the water into wine, and he can transform an arrogant and stubborn soul into something new, peaceful, and joyful. He can transform our frustration and bitterness into sweetness and empathy. He can transform unfaithfulness into loyalty and exclusivity with Him. What would you like to see renewed and transformed in your life? Have you asked Jesus to transform the dryness in your life into the wine of hope and joy?

There is another point of the story that I want to invite you upon which to reflect. A lot of times we emphasized the role of Mary in this first miracle of Jesus. This same Mary appeared at the crucifixion. She is a privileged witness of the Divinity of



Jesus from the beginning until the end of his life and ministry. Mary can also advocate for our own personal transformation. We can invite her to witness our own conversion, change, and transformation. Let us invite Mary to walk with us and to ask her Son, as she did at the wedding to obtain for us the humility and the desire to be transformed by Jesus.

It is important to remember that many times we are too obsessed with the transformation of others. We struggle to recognize the gifts we possess and the gifts that they carry for the building of God's kingdom. We all have something to bring to the work of God. We can pray and ask God to transform us so we can see the richness in the Church. God can transform us!

God is willing to fill our hearts with so many blessings. He wants to overflow our lives with love, kindness, and generosity. He wants to overflow our lives with the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. Are we willing to accept his blessings and spiritual gifts? The miracle of Cana and the miracle of Christmas is still happening on a spiritual level. A family I know saw one of its members after several years of absence. This past Christmas evening, the young man and the missing piece of this "family puzzle" showed up at the front door. By coincidence, I saw his parents who shared with me the great news of his visit. However, there was a moment of fear and concern since his background did not bring a lot of hope to the family. I encouraged and challenged his parents to change their attitude toward him. I told them that instead of accusing and blaming him for his past, to accept him and welcome him with an open heart, love and compassion.

The story touched my heart because instead of fighting and grumbling, the family gave the young man the warmth of the Christmas season. Instead of asking him to change his life around, they changed their attitude toward him. They celebrated their most peaceful and joyful Christmas ever.

I think we can do the same. We can change our attitude toward others. We can become more welcoming and forgiving. I believe in the power of love and giving another person a second chance. I believe it is the right thing to do.

God can transform us! The young man did not need another speech or another warning. All he wanted to do was spend Christmas with his family and embrace the second chance they might offer him. He left his home and his family with the conviction of starting all over and turning his life around. He asked his parents for a blessing. The young man returned to his town with Jesus and a family in his heart.

God can transform us! Let him do it! Yes, the presence of Jesus makes all the difference: at the wedding in Cana, at the shores of Galilee, and in our own lives!
Father Gordillo is the Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Webb City, MO, and St. Ann Catholic Church in Carthage, MO.