

Bishop's E-news: 11/2/18

All Souls Day: Today, we remember and pray for our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, commending them to the mercy of God. The virtue of Christian hope reminds us that it does not all end here. The preface from the Roman Missal states, "Indeed for your faithful, Lord, life is changed not ended." The death of someone we love and the mysterious journey to the next phase of our existence make up the most dramatic aspect of our lives. The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us,

"In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead; and because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' she offers her suffrages for them. Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them but also of making their intercession for us effective."

Visiting a Cemetery: On this day, Pope Francis is visiting a cemetery. This is an important tradition—especially in November-- in our Catholic faith. When I lived in Rome, visiting a cemetery on All Souls Day is just as big as attending a sporting event. It's good to visit a cemetery once in a while. It reminds us of our destiny, not in a bad way, because as St. Paul reminds us, "death is gain." St. Katherine Drexel once remarked about how visiting a cemetery changed her outlook on life. At the cemetery, she saw that famous and unknown people, rich and poor, all ended up together in one place.

Marching In: Yesterday, we celebrated All Saints Day. Pope Francis stated that, "To be saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone." He said that "the saints love and understand us; they want us to be happy like them, knowing what the true good is." Fr. John Riccardo, a priest from the Archdiocese of Detroit, reminds us, "We're on the field and the stands are packed with the saints who are constantly rooting us on. The real heroes, the real celebrities, are the saints. They're the only ones worth imitating." It's good for us to fix our gaze on the saints. They remind us that this world will end and the next world will not end.

Important Gathering: From November 11 – 15, I will be attending the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops in Baltimore. Cardinal DiNardo, the President of the Conference of Bishops, asked each bishop to join him in seven days of intensified prayer from Monday, November 5, through Sunday, November 11. In addition, each bishop is asked to commit to some form of fasting or sacrifice during those days. He is also inviting all members of the faithful—clergy and laity--to join us. You can find his memorandum about this [HERE](#). Please pray for us. Come Holy Spirit!

Audit: Our diocese was recently audited by the Conference for Child and Youth Protection. This was to make sure that we are following the proper protocols in this area. We won't receive the report until later; but, from my understanding, we passed with flying colors.

Awareness: November is Adoption Awareness month. I'm reminded of the words of a poem, most often attributed to the writer Fleur Heylinger, when speaking of adoption:

*“Not flesh of my flesh,
nor bone of my bone,
but still miraculously my own.*

*Never forget for a single minute
you didn't grow under my heart
but in it.”*

It's beautiful how our Blessed Mother says this to each one of us too!

I am celebrating a Mass to support adoptions on Friday, November 30, at Noon at the Cathedral in Salina. All are welcome.

Prison Ministry: Recently, I met with Chuck Huslig, a member of St. Bernard Parish in Ellsworth. He is very involved with prison ministry in Ellsworth. I was impressed with the Catholic involvement at the prison in Ellsworth. In the last four years, there have been 63 people in prison who have attended the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA). This includes 30 who have been baptized and 40 who have been confirmed during this time. That's really impressive evangelization!

Anniversaries: I really enjoyed the Anniversary Marriage Masses in Salina and Hays. I asked some of the couples who have been married a long time what kind of advice they would give to those preparing for marriage. Some of their responses: “be a good listener”; “pray and play together”; “never give up”; and my favorite, “the best gift I can give my children is to love my spouse.”

Seminarians: I visited with Deacon Michael Leiker in Milwaukee last month when I was in Chicago for the Catholic Extension Conference. This month, I will be visiting the seminarians at Conception Abbey (November 6-7) and at St. Meinrad (November 26-27). Please pray for them.

Seminarian Fund: Speaking of our seminarians, thank you in advance for supporting the seminarian appeal the weekend of November 10 -11. We currently have eleven seminarians. The cost is roughly \$50,000 per seminarian per year. I've been meeting with some men interested in seminary for next year. It's really exciting!

Mark your Calendars: There is black Friday after Thanksgiving. There is also “Giving Tuesday” after Thanksgiving. For the first time in our history, we are joining other dioceses in promoting “I Give Catholic” for Giving Tuesday. So, if you give on Giving Tuesday, please consider giving to one of the many ways of supporting the Church. You can find options for giving [HERE](#). We are blessed that someone is donating a \$50,000 matching gift. Thank you once again for your generosity.

Over 1,000: I just saw Sr. Barbara from our Youth Office. She excitedly exclaimed that, as of today, 1,016 high school students and chaperones from our diocese are already signed up to

attend the National Youth Conference in Indianapolis in November 2019. That's really exciting!

Welcome: We are very happy to announce that Kyle Haugh will become our Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese on December 1. Fr. Keith Weber has held that position for the last four years. He's done a great job, but it's good to have a lay person take over so that Fr. Keith can focus on the high demands of being a parish pastor.

Voting: I already voted, and I hope you will vote too on Tuesday, November 6. The Catholic Church does not tell her flock which candidate to vote for—but, the Bishops of Kansas do offer their guiding thoughts in a short film called, “Reflections on the 2018 Elections.” The video can be found [HERE](#).

Thanksgiving: If I don't see you in person, I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families. I am heading home for the Thanksgiving break. I haven't seen my family since my ordination in August. I know my mom is looking forward to seeing me and I am looking forward to seeing her as well.

God bless you. Please be assured of love and prayers for you.

Bishop Vincke