



Dear Parishioners,

Again this summer Archbishop Lucas and all of our American bishops have asked that we observe a “Fortnight for Freedom” from June 21 to July 4. They ask that we pray especially for the preservation of religious freedom in the United States, especially as the unjust and immoral directive of the Health and Human Services Department of the federal government that contraceptive and abortion-inducing drugs and sterilization be provided by employers, including non-profit religious ones, in the health care policies provided to employees becomes effective this August, which will have repercussions for Catholic institutions. From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website (<http://usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/current-threats-to-religious-liberty.cfm>), here is a listing of various threats to religious freedom in our country along with that of the HHS mandate:

- *HHS mandate for contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs.* The mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services forces religious institutions to facilitate and fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching. Further, the federal government tries to define which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit protection of their religious liberty.
- *Catholic foster care and adoption services.* Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and the State of Illinois have driven local Catholic Charities out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services—by revoking their licenses, by ending their government contracts, or both—because those Charities refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabit.
- *State immigration laws.* Several states have recently passed laws that forbid what they deem as “harboring” of undocumented immigrants—and what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to these immigrants.
- *Discrimination against small church congregations.* New York City adopted a policy that barred the Bronx Household of Faith and other churches from renting public schools on weekends for worship services, even though non-religious groups could rent the same schools for many other uses. Litigation in this case continues.
- *Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services.* After years of excellent performance by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching.
- *Christian students on campus.* In its over-100-year history, the University of California Hastings College of Law has denied student organization status to only one group, the Christian Legal Society, because it required its leaders to be Christian and to abstain from sexual activity outside of marriage.

- *Forcing religious groups to host same-sex “marriage” or civil union ceremonies.* A New Jersey judge recently found that a Methodist ministry violated state law when the ministry declined to allow two women to hold a “civil union” ceremony on its private property. Further, a civil rights complaint has been filed against the Catholic Church in Hawaii by a person requesting to use a chapel to hold a same-sex “marriage” ceremony.

What is most needed is that we commit ourselves to prayer during this “Fortnight for Freedom.” Everyone has the obligation to pray. I ask that all pray daily the following prayer from our American bishops:

*O God our Creator,  
from your provident hand we have received  
our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of  
happiness.  
You have called us as your people and given  
us  
the right and the duty to worship you, the  
only true God,  
and your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Through the power and working of your  
Holy Spirit,  
you call us to live out our faith in the midst  
of the world,  
bringing the light and the saving truth of the  
Gospel  
to every corner of society.  
We ask you to bless us  
in our vigilance for the gift of religious  
liberty.  
Give us the strength of mind and heart  
to readily defend our freedoms when they  
are threatened;  
give us courage in making our voices heard  
on behalf of the rights of your Church  
and the freedom of conscience of all people  
of faith.  
Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,  
a clear and united voice to all your sons and*

*daughters  
gathered in your Church  
in this decisive hour in the history of our  
nation,  
so that, with every trial withstood  
and every danger overcome—  
for the sake of our children, our  
grandchildren,  
and all who come after us—  
this great land will always be “one nation,  
under God,  
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

Further, on Monday July 1, at 6:00 P.M., I will offer a special Mass for the preservation of religious liberty followed by a Eucharistic Holy Hour of prayer for this intention. I hope that as many as possible will come for this time of prayer, recognizing the urgent situation of the times that we live in when we can no longer take for granted the freedom of religion that up until now was a foundation of our Constitution and society.

Have a blessed and grace-filled week.

God bless, Fr. Gutowski

*Mass Intentions for the Week*



### **JUNE 24 THRU JUNE 30**

Monday	Priest's Intention
Tuesday	Priest's Intention
Wednesday	Anne Boro
Thursday	Priest's Intention
Friday	Msgr. James Cain
Saturday	Loretta Patry
Sunday	People of St. Joseph

**STEPHENS' CENTER**

Thanks to Ken and Jerry Patry and to Tom and Rita Ramm for preparing and serving the dinner at the Stephens' Center this past week. Your work is greatly appreciated.

**DEVELOPMENT OF AN UNBORN BABY**

Week 8 – I'm almost two months old now. I'm not an "embryo" anymore. Now doctors call me a "fetus." "Fetus" is a Latin word that means "little one." I am little. I may be less than an inch and a half long! But my stomach is already making its own juices, and, using an ultrasonic stethoscope, you could listen to my heartbeat.

Week 9 (about two months) – My eyelids are starting to move – I can squint! I can also frown, or pucker my brow!

Make plans to attend The Aquinas Forum, a Catholic lecture series for inquiring minds on Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m., at Gloria Deo®, 13065 W. Center Rd., in Omaha. Msgr. John Esseff of Scranton, Penn., will deliver this month's talk, entitled, "Who Am I? Exploring Our Christian Identity". Msgr. Esseff is a former confessor and spiritual director to Blessed Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa). The Aquinas Forum at Gloria Deo is free and open to the public, with a free will offering.

**A REQUEST FROM LIBBY**

I am Libby Cronican and I will be helping to build a new house for a family in need and taking care of children who have no place to go during the day. There is a huge need for clothing, band-aids and Neosporin at the Reservation for the children. (The kids also really love new toys) If you can help with these needs, it would be so very much appreciated.

NOTE: A box is in the church entry marked "Donations for Libby's Project."



Please welcome Tim and Kelly Johnson and their daughter Logan. They recently registered in our parish and live here in town.

**THANK YOU**

Many thanks to St. Joseph's Parish for once again hosting practices for Summer Theater for kids in grades 5 - 8. Practice has been going on since June 10 with the production to be held at the Community Building on Friday, June 28 at 7 p.m. Come one, come all to see "Ms. Nelson has a Field Day" children's theater production. There is no charge to attend.



**June 23**

**12th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**"But who do you say that I am?"**

**- Luke 9:2**

**Good News Reflection**

June 23, 2013

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zec 12:10-11; 13:1

Ps 63:2-6, 8-9

Gal 3:26-29

Luke 9:18-24

"Who do you say that I am?" That's the question we're each asked in this Sunday's Gospel reading. Does your life speak loudly and clearly, proclaiming that Jesus is really your Lord, really your Savior, really your love, really your teacher, really your guide, and really your example of how to live? In every circumstance?

When times are good, do you say that Jesus is the one who provided the blessings? When you've been hurt, do you say you forgive because Jesus took your pain and the other person's sin to the cross? When you feel angry, righteously so or otherwise, do you speak words of irritation or do you pray to Jesus for the ability to find peace again?

Our lips can say that Jesus is Lord even while our lives are saying quite the opposite. We need to pay attention to the messages that we convey with our behaviors. We need to live consciously, deliberately matching our words to our actions and noticing the times when we don't.

When we sin, usually it's because we're reacting to some sort of inner, unhealed pain or fear. If we take the time to read the clues in our behaviors, they will reveal what is lacking in our awareness of who Jesus really is, giving us an opportunity to experience more of his love and his healing.

"Does my life speak loudly and clearly about the real Jesus?" It's a question we should ask ourselves daily. The answer will point to where we need to put more effort

into our education about who Jesus really is and what he is really like. It also explains why we fail to evangelize effectively: People don't believe our words when our lives don't prove that we ourselves believe!

Who is Jesus? He knows you intimately and cares about you totally. He loves you whether you deserve it or not, and he is always helping you, even when you can't see it. He never did and never will abandon you.

To the extent we believe this, we feel safe with him no matter how hard life gets, and his love feels so true that we want to do everything possible to remain close to him, take up our daily cross and follow him in loving others.

**Questions for Personal Reflection:**

Write a list of words that describe Jesus for you. Which of these do you sometimes doubt? What will you do this week to come into a better understanding of who Jesus really is?

**Questions for Family & Community Faith Sharing:**

When is it most difficult to believe that Jesus really cares? In that example, how is this a false image of Jesus? What's he really like?

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