

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time



August 7, 2016

Fr. Steve's Quotes for Consideration:

"All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect."
-Pope Francis

This weekend, I would like to continue our summer series of bulletin articles in which we have been exploring and critiquing several mainstream philosophies, ideals, and opinions of our modern secular society. This week, I would like to focus on an outlook which has a long name, but dangerous undertones: utilitarianism. Utilitarianism is the philosophy that what is useful in bringing about the greatest amount of pleasure and avoiding the greatest amount of pain for the largest group of people is best. Thus, truth is determined to be that which is most useful toward this end: what works is true and good. If a given action, moral decision, or behavior brings about the greatest pleasure and least pain for the greatest amount of people, that's good, right?

No, it's not, because what is useful is not always what is best. Utilitarianism judges a thing's value and even people's value by what they do to promote the greatest societal good. In other words, human beings become means to an end. In fact, utilitarianism is the source for another phrase: the ends justify the means. How many times have we heard someone say that? "Well, what I did must be okay because look at the result: it brought about good!" False! The ends never, ever, ever justify the means. In other words, it is never morally permissible to intentionally do wrong to bring about good. However, utilitarianism takes this thought process even a step further because it says that if a certain behavior produces good results, then that makes *that behavior true and good*.

The implications of this faulty way of thinking are very dangerous. It has been the philosophy behind such brutal regimes as Lenin's Russia, because utilitarianism says that it's okay to kill some people if doing so will usher in a new revolution which will (supposedly) bring about great good for the masses. Utilitarianism is also often the culprit behind what I have determined is a grave disrespect that our modern secular society has for our elderly population. Because our society is in love with efficiency, usefulness, athleticism, and appearances, our modern America often does not honor, cherish or admire our elderly as it should. As we know, health care costs are expensive, and our elderly brothers and sisters often need much health care. Utilitarianism is behind the totally false idea that our elderly, or the handicapped, or those with difficult-to-treat diseases are a burden to our economy or society, because the utilitarian doesn't believe that each individual person has a God-given dignity that must always be cherished and defended. Rather, practicality and pragmatism rules the day.

Friends, beware of this mentality! Our firm belief is that each person, no matter how healthy or frail, young or old, active or inactive, has a God-given dignity and value that cannot be taken away or lost, no matter what, and which must be always defended and safeguarded. Yes, sometimes doing what is right and living the truths and principles of our faith is not easy, efficient, or practical; sometimes it is downright difficult. But growing in virtue, becoming the saint that God calls each man and woman to be is not easy. Truth is not true because it's easy or practical. It's true because it's true. It's true because it's from God, Who is Truth itself. God bless you! **Fr. Steve Laflamme**

All Families with Students in our Religious Ed. Program: The next Faith formation BBQ/Summer Fun Night is being held on Sunday, August 14th, from 5-7pm. at St. Mary's Church in Silver Bay. We hosted the first one, which was well attended by both Silver Bay and Two Harbors. There will be plenty of food and games for all ages. All you need to do is RSVP to Connie (koss@frontiernet.net) or phone (834-4433) and drive yourself up the shore! Everything else will be provided! Please let us know whether or not you can attend by August 10th.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

— 227 Third Street, Two Harbors, MN 55616

Parish Office Located in the Basement of the Church

Office 834-4659

Rectory 834-4313

Church Hall 834-4659

E-Mail hspirit@outlook.com

Parish Web Site www.holyspirittwoharbors.org

Liturgy email: jfleischer-hspirit@outlook.com

Youth Ministry 834-4433

Prayer Intentions 834-4659

Birthright 1-800-550-4900

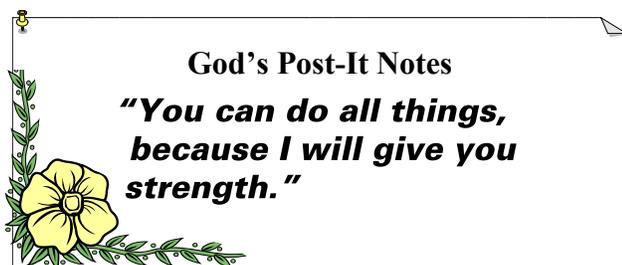
Fr. Steve's E-Mail slaflamme@dioceseduluth.org

Deacon Tim Egan 349-9175

Deacon Scott Peters 834-2543

Saturday	THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD	08/06/16
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Harold Ek Chalices: Carol Anderson & Beth Egan Servers: Ava Fosness & to be assigned	
Sunday	19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	08/07/16
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for † Sylvia Schultz</i> Reader: Mike Hoffman Chalices: Linda Hoffman & to be assigned Servers: Nathan Campbell & Ethan Bopp	
Monday	SAINT DOMINIC	08/08/16
	No Mass	
Tuesday	SAINT TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS	08/09/16
8:15 a.m.	Mass - <i>Intention for † Carol Burger</i>	
Wednesday	SAINT LAWRENCE	08/10/16
Thursday	SAINT CLARE	08/11/16
8:15 a.m.	Mass - <i>Intention for † Vickie Udovich</i>	
Friday	SAINT JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL	08/12/16
7:30 a.m.	Reconciliation	
8:15 a.m.	Mass - <i>Intention for † Patricia Harrison</i>	
8:45 a.m.	Adoration	
12:00 p.m.	Benediction	
Saturday	SAINT PONTIAN & SAINT HIPPOLYTUS	08/13/16
3:30 p.m.	Reconciliation	
4:30 p.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for All Parishioners</i> Reader: Paulette Moreland Chalices: Liz Scheidt & to be assigned Servers: Kate Thomasen & to be assigned	
Sunday	20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	08/14/16
11:00 a.m.	Mass — <i>Intention for † Gary Aleff</i> Reader: Louis Button Chalices: Joanne Button & to be assigned Servers: Hayden Johnson & Luke Johnson	

Attention: Monday August 15th is the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Because it falls on a Monday this year, it is not a holy day of obligation. However, Fr. Steve will have Mass to celebrate the Assumption @ 9:30 a.m on Monday August 15th.



- † **PARISHIONERS:** Please pray for Arthur Barthman, Florian Burger, John Erickson Ron Kor, Diane LeRoy and Peg Werner.
- † **FRIENDS & RELATIVES:** Please pray for Cara Barthman, Bill Carlson, Margie Giacomini and Patty Harrison-Isakson.
- † **MILITARY PERSONNEL:** Please pray for Garrett Aho, Nate Berger, Keith Dahl, Jacob Kearin , James Mickle, Ryan Ray, Christopher Uremovich and Maddison Zavoral.
- † **Sacred Heart Candle:** The Seykora Family.

Please call the church office if you would like to submit a prayer request: these requests will run for 3 weeks. If continued prayers are needed after that time, prayer requests can always be renewed by calling the church office 834-4659.

Youth Happenings

Faith Formation Family Fun Night: Thank you to all who came to the first annual Family Fun Night. Family Fun Night for Sunday August 14th will be hosted by Silver Bay, from 5-7pm. All families with students in our Faith Formation program are invited. Please remember to bring a chair. Food and games will be provided. Please RSVP to Connie

Mark your calendars: Church school sign up will be Sunday August 28th following Mass

We are looking for people who are willing to give some of their time to teach our youth this coming year. We are in need of teachers for our pre-k, 2nd, 7-8th grades. If you are willing to help with teaching, please contact Connie.

Connie is putting together a committee for the annual **Church Bazaar/ Bake Sale**. If you are interested, please contact Connie. **Bazaar meeting: Sunday August 14th, following Mass**

Connie—koss@frontiernet.net or 834-4433.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR OUR YOUTH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

Last Week's Contributions

Weekend Collection.....	\$2,464.58
UCA	\$360.00
Bldg. Fund.....	\$40.00
Organ Repair Funds	\$510.00