



4609 Martin Street South, Cropwell, AL 35054
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www.ollpellcity.com parish@ollpellcity.com

Rev. William P. Lucas, Pastor

Deacon Terrence Rumore

Deacon Serge Brazzolotto

Deacon E. Lee Robinson

Director of Religious Education
Music Director
Parish Secretary

Sonya Lewis
Charmaine Welch
Shelly Hamman

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday : 5:00 p.m. Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
Weekdays: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Thursday 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 4:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. or
by appointment.

MARRIAGES:

Must be scheduled with the Priest
at least 6 months in advance.

MORNING ROSARY:

8:30 a.m. before Mass.

MONDAYS:

Miraculous Medal Novena following Mass.

EVERY FIRST FRIDAY:

Novena To The Sacred Heart
of Jesus - before 9 a.m. Mass.
Eucharistic Adoration 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION:

Third Sunday of every month at 7:00 p.m.
Second Wednesday of every month- 7:30 p.m.
Exposición del Santísimo el segundo Miércoles
de cada mes @ 7:30 p.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

August through May. Ages 3 yrs.-High School

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

SUNDAY MASS IS NOW ON FACEBOOK: OUR LADY OF
THE LAKE CATHOLIC CHURCH
OR THE WEB PAGE @ OLLPELLCITY.COM
CLICK ON MASS-RECORDED SERVICE BUTTON

CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER
9:30-1:30 PM DAILY
(limit of 10 people at a time)

Second Sunday of Easter
(Sunday of Divine Mercy)
April 19, 2020



*Blessed are those who have not seen
and have believed. —John 20:29b*



April 20 - April 26

Monday: Gene Smith by Susan Moseley †
Tuesday: Paul Boyle by Susan Moseley
Wednesday: Marlene Catalino by Sam Catalino †
Thursday: Trudy & Andy McClay by the Brazzolottos †
Friday: Daniel Centilli— by Patti Boswell †
Saturday: Phyllis Ross by Larry & Sara Reese †
Sunday: Louise Robinson by Fr. Bill Lucas †

****Sunday's Mass Intentions are
offered at the 11:15 am Mass****

Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

Paul Boyle, Jacky Johnson, Peggy Gessler, Gail Layton, Tom Michaels, Teresa Wolf, Diana Markevich, Dorothy DiMattia, Walton Smith, Juanita Crowson, Kelly Dale, Toni James, Bob Walsh, Sarah Svetlay, Charles & Libby Lafleur, Kevin Reilly, Rosemary Mateer, Lance Stella, Wayne Lowery

Please pray for all our loved ones who are ill and our shut-ins. To add a name, call the church office; or to add to the Prayer Hot Line call Sharon Stice at 205-338-0207, or email: sharonstice46@gmail.com.

Weekly Readings ~ April 20—April 26

Monday: Acts 4:23-31; Ps 2:1-9; Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26; Ps 34:2-9; Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27-33; Ps 34:2, 17-20; Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1Pt 5:5b-14; Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17; Mk 16:15-20

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-23; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11; 1 Pt 1:17-21; Lk 4:13-35

Today's Readings



First Reading — All who believed were devoted to the teachings of the apostles, the communal life, the breaking of the bread, and prayer. (Acts 2:42-47)

Psalm — Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Psalm 118)

Second Reading — God has given us an undiminished inheritance, safeguarded for us in heaven. (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Gospel — The risen Christ comes to his disciples with peace and the Spirit. The absent Thomas doubts. (John 20: 19-31)

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Father Bill's Message

God's will is mysterious. What that means is that God's will can be known generally, but not specifically. We believe that God wants everyone to know Him and be saved. How that plays out in the specifics of our daily life is the mystery.

A mystery is something that must be experienced to be understood. We refer to the sacraments as mysteries because knowledge about them must yield to experience of them. It is important to understand the meaning of the sacraments, but the point of understanding them is to have a more fruitful experience of them. Experiencing them in ignorance limits our cooperation with grace given through them. God is always doing things for us, but sometimes we fail to recognize His activity. The loss is ours, rather than God's

The 50 days of the Easter Season is called the Period of Mystagogia for the new Catholics who were initiated into the Church at Easter. The newly baptized are referred to as Neophytes. It is a time for them to gain a deeper understanding of their Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion.

Perhaps, we are all neophytes when it comes to our relationship with God. We can all deepen our relationship with God in this "new" situation of life during a pandemic. God is still acting in our quarantine. Some religious leaders have made the mistake in believing that, since God never changes, they should also never change. However, Christianity is about always seeking personal change while believing that, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

During Lent we gave up things we would never think to give up. Perhaps, during Easter, we can learn things we would never imagine we could learn.



Office of the Bishop

Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama

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Birmingham, Alabama 35202-2047

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Birmingham, Alabama 35203
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Fax: 205-836-1910

MEMORANDUM

To: All Priests, Deacons, and Those Ministering in the Diocese of Birmingham
From: Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D., Apostolic Administrator
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020
RE: Suspension of Public Worship Update

In order to comply with the latest state and local guidelines, the current suspension of public worship is hereby extended through April 30, 2020. Pastors are reminded that any celebrations that fall within the guidelines previously published should not have more than 10 people present and social distancing should be maintained. Let us continue to pray for an end to the pandemic and for all affected by it!

Most Reverend Robert J. Baker, S.T.D.
Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Birmingham

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
4609 Martin Street South
Cropwell, Alabama 35054

April 9, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I have done a poor job in communicating to you the implications of the many decisions made by civil and Church authorities concerning the Church's liturgy and the Covid-19 virus. I will try to be more specific:

- On March 17th, Bishop Robert Baker suspended all public liturgies in the Diocese of Birmingham through April 3, 2020. On March 27th, the Bishop extended that suspension through April 17, 2020.
- On April 3rd, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey issued a Stay-at-Home Order for the State of Alabama from 5:00 p.m. April 4th through April 30, 2020. Indoor religious services are allowed if there are fewer than 10 people who can maintain a six-foot distance from each other.

As the result of these two orders:

- A private Mass is allowed as long as there are fewer than 10 people in attendance who can maintain a six-foot distance from each other.
- Group Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Celebrations, Weddings, Funerals, and other public liturgies held on the property of Our Lady of the Lake church, parish hall, religious education building and any other parish buildings and property are suspended through April 17th. These would qualify as public liturgies.
- Because there are no public liturgies, there is no need for liturgical ministers. This would include Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Servers, and any other lay liturgical ministers.
- The liturgies for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday will be videoed and posted on the Our Lady of the Lake Facebook page and You Tube. The link is available on the parish web site. Until the suspension of public masses is lifted, the Mass for Sunday will be videoed and posted in the same manner.
- In a letter mailed to all registered parishioners on March 18th and posted on the parish web site, it was stated that the church building is open every day from 9:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. for private prayer, as long as there are fewer than 10 people who can maintain a six-foot distance from each other.
- The deacons and I are available to distribute communion to individuals by appointment either in the church building or at the individual's home. (I am in the parish office every day.)
- I am available for confession for individuals by appointment, either in the parish hall or the individual's home. (I am in the parish office every day.)
- I am available for the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for individuals by appointment, either at the church or at the individual's home. By state law, a priest is only allowed to visit someone in a hospital or nursing home if death is immanent.

Every day things are changing. I will try to keep up and inform you of the changes.

Father Bill Lucas



eGiving with *Faith Direct*

During this time of uncertainty, Our Lady of the Lake needs your support now more than ever! We are offering a new and secure way for you to support our parish offering and second collections with *Faith Direct*.

***Faith Direct* enables parishioners to make contributions even when you can't make it to church. Now, through either direct debit from your checking/savings account or through your credit/debit card, you can apply the convenience of direct debit to your parish offerings in much the same way as you do for other expenses.**

You may enroll by visiting our website, or logging in directly to faith.direct/AL1065.

CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL

Next Sunday, April 26th, there will be a diocesan-wide collection for the Catholic Home Missions. This fund is administered by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to aid mission dioceses in the United States and its territories. Please be generous!

Join us at Mass!

Our Lady of the Lake Church Mass is being recorded and shared so our members can continue to worship. While we are at war with COVID-19, we will make every effort to continue this service weekly.

You can actively participate in the Mass by participating in the Facebook Live Premiere viewing of the Mass scheduled for each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. You may also view the recorded version of the Mass on our website by visiting www.ollpellcity.org.

If you are not already a member of Our Lady of the Lake Facebook group, please join!

Prayer Line

If you need someone to pray for any intention, an online prayer option is being provided by the Good Shepherd Ministries. Email your request to GSM-prayers@yahoo.com. You can also request prayer through regular mail at:

GSM Prayers
P.O. Box 316
Cropwell, AL 35054

Weekly Offertory

	July 2019	—	June 2020
	Actual*		Needed
Last Week	\$9,906.70		\$6,692.00
Year to Date	\$323,185.98		\$281,064.00

*Please note the actual total includes Seminarian Fund, Building Fund & Special Collections which are not part of the general operating budget.

Perfect Contrition and Spiritual Communion

What to do if you cannot go to Confession or Holy Communion due to the Covid-19 coronavirus



If you have to self-isolate or are quarantined due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, It is unlikely that you will be able to receive the sacraments as normal.

In these circumstances, there are devotions through which you can receive absolution for your sins (under certain conditions), and the consolation of Eucharistic grace.

These devotions are officially encouraged by the Church and have been practiced by saints.

How to make an Act of Perfect Contrition

Through an act of Perfect Contrition, you receive pardon for your sins outside of confession, even mortal sins, on condition that you determine to amend your life and make a firm resolution to go to sacramental confession as soon as this becomes possible for you.

Perfect Contrition is a grace from God, so sincerely ask for this gift throughout the day prior to making your act of contrition: “My God, grant me perfect contrition for all my sins”.

1. In reality or imagination kneel at the foot of a crucifix and say to yourself; “Jesus, my God and my Savior, in the midst of your agony, you remembered me, you suffered for me, you wished to wipe away my sins”.
2. Contrition is ‘perfect’ if you repent of your sins because you love God and are sorry for offending Him and causing the sufferings of Christ on the cross. Before the Crucified Christ remember your sins, repent of them because they have brought our Lord to his sufferings on the Cross. Promise him, that with His help, you will not sin again.
3. Recited, slowly and sincerely, an act of contrition focused on the goodness of God and your love of Jesus: “O my God, because you are so good, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you and by the help of your grace I will not sin again. Amen”.

How to make a Spiritual Communion

The key to Spiritual Communion is to grow in your heart a constant desire for the Blessed Sacrament.

1. If you are aware of serious or mortal sin, make an Act of Perfect Contrition.
2. Imagine the sacred words and action of the Mass or watch online or on TV.
3. Make all those acts of faith, humility, sorrow, adoration, love and desire that you usually express before Holy Communion.
- 4.. Desire, with earnest longing, to receive our Lord present — Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity — in the Blessed Sacrament.
5. Say this prayer of St. Alphonsus de’ Ligouri: “My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You are already there, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; do not let me ever be separated from You. Amen.
6. After moments of silent adoration make all those acts of faith, humility, love, thanksgiving and offering that you usually express through prayers after Holy Communion.

Youth

Our Lake of the Lake Parish Religious Education Suspension

All religious education classes have been suspended due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) concerns. This includes our First Communion classes and all OLL Youth groups.

Please continue to pray for those affected by the virus, as well as for their families and caretakers.



Please pray for our First Communion and First Reconciliation class:

**Wyatt Dale, Haleigh Taylor,
Logan Bluhm, Alene Gurrola,
Analuz Gurrola**

Job Opening

Sonya Lewis, our current Director of Religious Education (DRE), has decided to resign her position, effective June 6th. This is a part-time position (25 hours per week). If you or someone you know is interested, contact Father Bill at the church office.

Church Directories Have Arrived!

The OLL Pictorial Church Directory have been delivered. A copy is available to those who have a picture printed in the directory. The directories are labeled with your last name and located in the north foyer of the church.

The church is open from 9:30am—1:30 pm daily with only 10 people allowed at a time. Please remember the social distancing guidelines as you pick up your directory.

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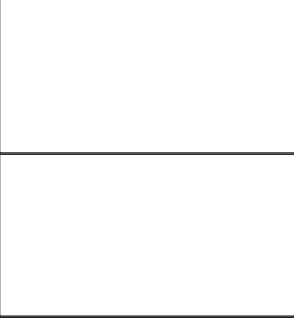
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Catholic

UPDATE

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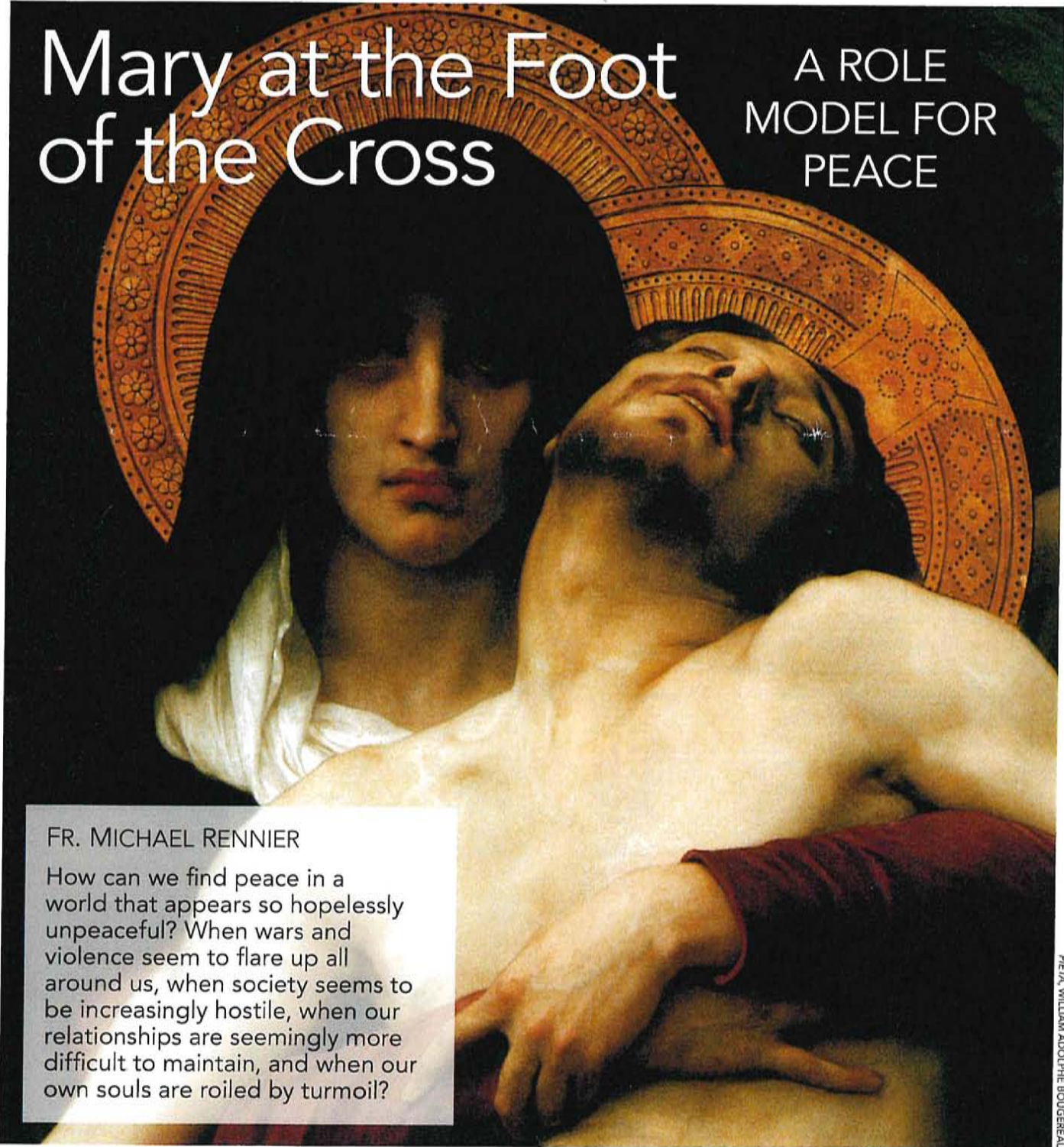
APRIL 2020

Mary at the Foot of the Cross

A ROLE MODEL FOR PEACE

FR. MICHAEL RENNIER

How can we find peace in a world that appears so hopelessly unpeaceful? When wars and violence seem to flare up all around us, when society seems to be increasingly hostile, when our relationships are seemingly more difficult to maintain, and when our own souls are roiled by turmoil?



PIETÀ, WILLIAM ADOLPHE BOUGEREAU

Remember, we won't find peace by asserting our own rights. Peace isn't achieved by conquering the world, or by fighting violence with violence. Rather, if we want peace, we should make our way to the foot of the cross. Here, we will join Mary.

"The same Mary who stood at the foot of the cross is the one who praised the God of the Magnificat, the God who would side with the lowly, the afflicted, the poor, the powerless; the God who would ultimately exalt them" (*The Seven Sorrows of Mary* by Kevin O'Neil, CSsR, © 2008 Liguori Publications).

Mary, like any good mother, wants nothing more than to guide us to a life of happiness and peace. As she lingers at the foot of the cross and experiences despair, she is surrounded by violence. Yet she is not distracted. She has eyes for Jesus alone. He is our peace. And she—Mary—is our role model.

Relational Restlessness

Ever since Adam and Eve had the first family quarrel and were expelled from the Garden of Eden in the story of creation, there has been evidence of a breakdown in relationships. As they left paradise behind forever, Adam and Eve pulled animal skins around their shoulders. The sacrifice of that animal's life is the first casualty of sin. Yes, even our relationships with animals and theirs with each other was altered as a result of sin. The entire world was affected. This is made clear in the curse placed upon Adam that the soil itself will fight his efforts to cultivate it. It is also made clear in the curse placed upon Eve that the act of childbearing, the creation of new life, will be attended by pain. As Adam and Eve march into the cold, uncaring world to wrangle a new existence by the sweat of their brow, their descendants quickly and hopelessly fall into violence. Notice that not only do Cain and Abel quickly come to blows, but so do the early descendants of Adam and Eve who created the first cities and civilizations.

If Eden was a paradise verdant with peace, the world outside of Eden, the world in which we now live, is marked by original sin and thus, in spite of our best efforts, also by violence. It may not be actual, physical violence. In most cases it won't be, but it is the spiritual violence of sin as it works against God and against our best interests. Sadly, we've all probably both caused as well as received forms of violence—emotional, spiritual, or physical. The shameful truth about us is that we act rashly and harmfully toward each other. We lash out and thoughtlessly cause damage, and before we know it, we have been the cause of taking away the inner peace of a person we love. We try as best as we can to repair the damage in our various relationships, but we consistently struggle to avoid the sin in the first place.

Exploring Examples from Life

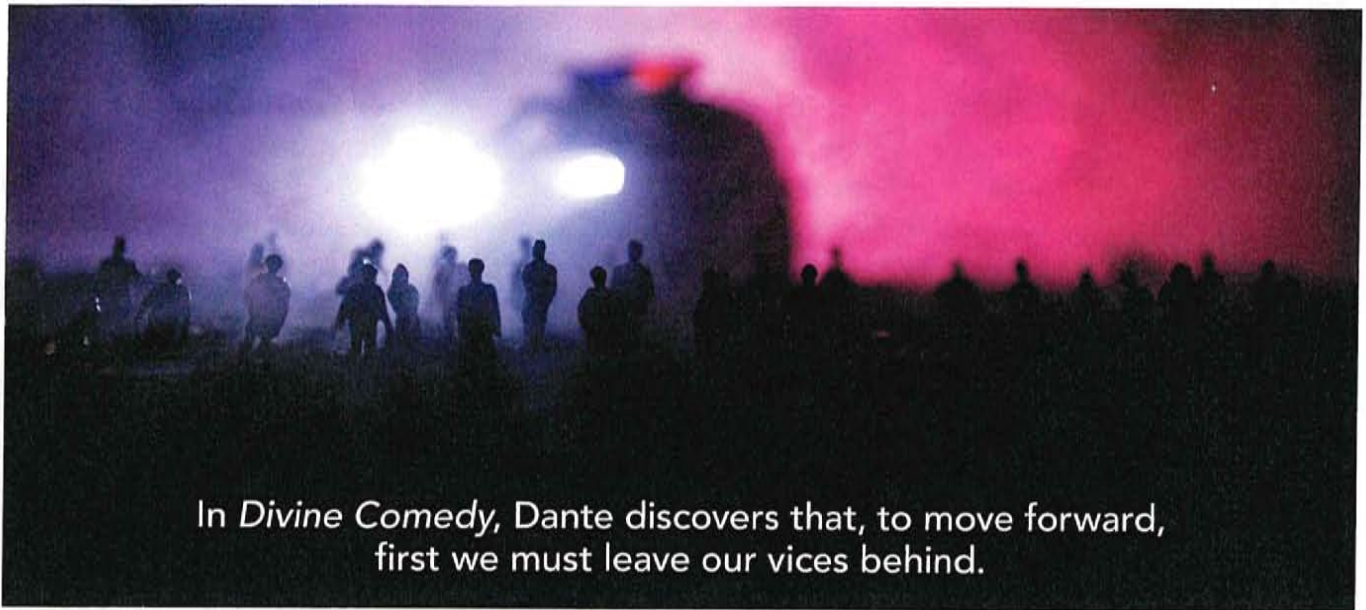
As children, it wasn't unusual that my brothers and I would drive our poor mother to distraction. We would wrestle, run, and jump, hurt ourselves and cause general mayhem. Often, to limit the destruction and to acquire even a semblance of peace, she would chase us outside for the afternoon. Now that I'm a parent myself, I admit that the general chaos of my own home with six young children—from their propensity to create messes to the fights that I constantly adjudicate between siblings—produces little in the way of peace. Nothing could thrill me more than to be surrounded by all these unique, challenging little people. Parenting is the greatest joy of life—but it isn't peaceful. It certainly isn't orderly and quiet.

As a father, I see it clearly with parenting, but because I'm a former Anglican pastor who converted to Catholicism as a married man, I'm also now a Catholic priest who sees the consequences of sin up close and personal in the confessional almost every day. I listen to a steady stream of people who feel hurt or who know they have hurt others. Even sins that seem to have no victim still do violence. They injure the body of Christ, they damage our personal spiritual growth, and they injure the glory of God. For us, there is no justifying our behavior and how harmful it is, no way of pretending that we aren't a part of the problem. Thank God he extends his mercy, forgiveness, and a chance to do better tomorrow.

Accepting Our Role in the Constant Struggle

Anytime we're thrown into the midst of a group of people, there will be moments of unrest. I know of families in which siblings no longer speak to each other and parents who are estranged from their children. Toxic work environments are commonplace. The stress follows these





In *Divine Comedy*, Dante discovers that, to move forward, first we must leave our vices behind.

employees home and then poisons their home life as well. Even our churches have struggles!

I'm sure many of us can agree that, overall, our lives have been tremendously blessed, but during particularly difficult periods we may wonder what we've done to deserve so much unrest. Why is it that, even in our families and churches, there is conflict? Can't a family, job, or church exist in which there is always peace and harmony? You may be shocked to learn that we often find ourselves in high-stress situations because we lack peace within us. This lack of peace within causes us to unwittingly contribute to problems outside of ourselves. We second-guess life decisions, experience anxiety, are conflicted about our choices, uncertain of the future. A common response is to hurt others by overreacting or perhaps gossiping, two common defense mechanisms. Lack of peace can also lead to another type of reaction: withdrawal. We avoid a situation, and in doing so perpetuate the illusion that we are maintaining our peace. This is no solution, and it doesn't work. Remember that true peace isn't defined only by the absence of active conflict.

Sure, not everything that happens around us is our fault. Bad things do happen to people for unknown reasons, and every hint of strife shouldn't cause unwarranted guilt as if you somehow are to blame for every problem. But if the world is lacking in peace, we must admit our individual part in it. Most people are good at convincing themselves that all their actions are justified, and from our particular points of view, perhaps we

are justified, but that doesn't mean we always act in a loving manner.

Being right and doing the right thing are not always the same. Love often gives way, and we can stop worrying about being right. Jesus exemplified the greatest example of love by offering himself as a sacrifice on the cross. He held fast to the virtues of peace and love despite the fact that the opinions and actions of those who pursued his death weren't justified.

Embarking on a Pilgrimage to Peace

The Second Vatican Council teaches, "Peace is not merely the absence of war; nor can it be reduced solely to the maintenance of a balance of power between enemies; nor is it brought about by dictatorship. Instead, it is rightly and appropriately called an enterprise of justice" (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World [*Gaudium et spes*], 78). In short, we must confront peace

actively by striving to create and maintain it.

Every virtue that we seek is like being on a pilgrimage. In Dante's *Divine Comedy*, he learns this lesson as he is led through all the vices and disordered attachments

that he had been holding onto throughout his life. One by one, he encounters sins, seeing how they destroy the peace of those who fall prey to them. One by one, he learns to overcome them by taking another step closer to God. If we, too, would have peace in our world, we must begin with our own spiritual journey and ourselves. We must make a pilgrimage back through our vices, like Dante, and leave them behind. There is no shortcut.

DIG DEEPER

One of the titles given to the Blessed Virgin is "Mary, Cause of Our Salvation."
In salvation, there is peace.

How can the interior peace that Mary exhibits at the foot of the cross inspire you?

If you adopt the peace Mary displays at the cross, consider how such a peace could become a foundational model for peace worldwide.

Always an Easter People

The pilgrimage we make toward peace can never end.
The peace of Christ must always be renewed by love.

At the end of the journey, Dante stands before God, gazing on his majestic beauty. It is here that he feels true peace for the first time. He has discovered that, to move forward, there first is a leaving behind. It's in following the will of God, in humbling ourselves and seeking him first, that we gain inner peace. Knowing this, it becomes clear that living at peace has less to do with enforcing fairness and always getting what we feel we deserve, it has little to do with being right and having everyone stop arguing so they can do what we want. Peace is the product of love. It is the result of true justice. I mean that, out of justice, we strive to give every person what he or she deserves. Combined with love, justice often goes above and beyond. It extends the benefit of the doubt and thinks of the other person first. It doesn't count the cost. It is not jealous. It is full of generosity.

This pilgrimage that we make toward peace is ongoing. It can never end. Christ's peace flows through us as the fruit

of our closeness to him and must always be renewed by love. This may sound frustrating but it is actually very good news. It means that, every day of our lives, we can discover an even deeper, more abiding sense of peace and be further reconciled to ourselves, our family, friends, and to God.

Reaching the End Goal

The only goal of our journey, the only possible ending point, I should make very clear, is to the foot of the cross. Here we kneel with our Mother Mary and gaze on the source of all our peace. Christ is the only one who can heal our conflicted hearts and our broken world. Satan, in a fit of rage, tried to break our Lord through the most unjust accusations possible, the worst violence that he could muster, but he didn't succeed. The powers of this world, those that would take our peace away from us so they might manipulate and rule over us, did the same.

None of the forces of evil—those who have lost their peace and destroyed Eden—are enough to take away the peace of our Lord. His peace comes from his relationship with his heavenly Father, and nothing could take that away from him. Mother Mary's peace came from pondering his divinity and saving action in her heart. Nothing, not even the unjust death of her Son, could take that peace away from her.

Divine Love



How can divine love on a cross and a mother's love beneath it be indifferent to a greater evil than pain, namely, the sin of man's rebellion against God?....If God spared not his Son, then the Son would spare not his mother. That is why, from the cross, he summoned her to a share in

redemption by calling her not "Mother" but "Woman." If by his cross he was making all men his brothers, then he would make his mother their mother, the universal mother, the woman. And to complete the relationship, he said to us, "Behold, thy mother."

—FROM *THE SEVEN RIDDLES OF LIFE ANSWERED BY*
FULTON J. SHEEN, © 2012 LIGUORI PUBLICATIONS

.....
Fr. Michael Rennie is parochial administrator at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in St. Louis. A former Anglican priest, he was ordained a Catholic priest in 2016 under the pastoral provision for the reception of former Anglican priests. He and his wife, Amber, have six children. Fr. Rennie writes a weekly column for *Aletheia*, is on the editorial board of *Dappled Things* magazine, and posts his homilies at michaelrennie.wordpress.com.

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