

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

Jim Mathis
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.-10:30 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. through
High School.

Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church

*Saturday, August 21, 2021
Mass 5:00 pm*

*Sunday, August 22, 2021
Masses 8:30 am & 11:15 am*

*Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary
Time*

August 22, 2021



*As for me and my household, we will serve the
Lord. —Joshua 24:15b*



Aug 23 - Aug 29

- Monday:** Beth Godwin by Walton Smith
- Tuesday:** Manuela Chapparro by
Cristy & Marshall McKinney †
- Wednesday:** Fr. John Reynolds by Fr. William Lucas †
- Thursday:** Art DiMattia by KOC 12270 †
- Friday:** Nicky Brasfield by the Brazzolottos
- Saturday:** Richard Odell Carden by Lisa and Neil Carden †
- Sunday:** Deceased KOC 12270 †
For the People

Please pray for the ill and shut-ins:

*Paul Boyle, Jacky Johnson, Peggy Gessler, Gail
Layton, Ron & Diana Markévich, Dorothy
DiMattia, Walton Smith, Juanita Crowson, Toni
James, Bob Walsh, Sarah Svetlay, Charles &
Libby Lafleur, Fred Brown, Silvia Moten,
Wayne Adams, Herb Kuntz, Bill Frost, Audrey
Springer, Patsy Lopez de Victoria, Christine
Jaks, Jeanie Reid, Ruth Stanley, Doug & Nancy
Ross, Jackie Thoma, Cathy Funderburg Parker,
Rosemary Barnwell, Frank Troncalli,
Robin Becnel, Anna Emerick, Angela Ledlow,
Michael Brayman, Shannon Ray,
Hildegard Bowman*

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 please email Sharon Stice at
sharonstice46@gmail.com or call 205-613-1053.

Weekly Readings August 23—August 29

- Monday:** 1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps
149:1b-6a, 9b; Mt 23:13-
22
- Tuesday:** Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-
13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51
- Wednesday:** 1 Thes 2:9-13; Ps 139:7-
12ab; Mt 23:27-32
- Thursday:** 1 Thes 3:7-13; Ps 90:3-5a,
12-14, 17; Mt 24:42-51
- Friday:** 1 Thes 4:1-8; Ps 97:1, 2b, 5
-6, 10-12; Mt 25:1-13
- Saturday:** 1 Thes 4:9-11; Ps 98:1, 7-9;
Mt 25:14-30
- Sunday:** Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Ps 15:2-5;
Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27;
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Today's Readings



First Reading — Joshua challenges the Israelites to serve either the Lord or other gods. They choose the Lord (Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b).

Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34).

Second Reading — Paul reflects on how husbands and wives should reverence and love each other (Ephesians 5:21-32).

Gospel — Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life (John 6:60-69).

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR LADY OF THE LAKE PARISH

In 1968, Father Robert Bauler, pastor of St. Theresa parish in Leeds, began offering Mass for Catholics in the Pell City area at the Coosa Valley Telephone Company in Pell City. Jean Brandli, a Catholic, owned the company.

In 1969, Our Lady of the Lake Parish was officially established by Bishop Thomas J. Toolen, the Bishop of the Mobile-Birmingham Diocese. The parish boundary included parts of St. Clair and Northeast Shelby counties. Bishop Toolen retired and Bishop Joseph G. Vath became the bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Birmingham in Alabama when it was officially established on June 29, 1969.

Land was purchased by the Diocese and construction of a church was begun. The church was dedicated by Bishop Vath on August 16, 1970.

Due to increased enrollment in the parish, a parish hall was built in 1976. It was dedicated to Mrs. Brandli. A classroom building was added behind the parish hall and an expansion of the seating capacity of the church in 2004. Later, four more classrooms were added to the religious education building.

What began with the desire to have Mass for the people of the Pell City area has grown into a parish in its own right. Due to attendance restrictions from Covid-19, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the church had to be postponed a year. On September 12th we will remember with gratitude how God has worked through the generosity of so many people to give us a vibrant, active community of faith in St. Clair County.



Offertory Collection

July 2021 — June 2022

	Actual	Needed weekly
August 15 Offertory	\$9,464	\$6,500
Year to Date	\$46,712	\$45,500



Chair: Jeff Reach
jreach@protonmail.com

Vice Chair: Bernie Funderburg
boxacarbern1@aol.com

Secretary: Brenda Rochford
edenrochford@yahoo.com

Mary Burns: angels4maryb@gmail.com

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Britton Falkner: brittonfalkner@gmail.com

Debbie Gossett: debbiegossett@msn.com

Allen Ross: allentross5555@gmail.com

Christy McKinney: cmckinney9839@gmail.com

**Council meetings are open to all
parishioners, and are typically on the
third Wed. of the month after Mass.**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

If you or someone you know is interested in joining the Catholic Church, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) will begin soon.

The sessions will be on Tuesday nights from 7:00-8:30 p.m. beginning August 31st. For more information, contact Jim Mathis or Father Bill at the parish office (205-525-5161).

Ann's New Life Center

A Celebration of Life Fundraiser Banquet



Thursday August 26, 2021

6:00 pm

Celebrations

**3005 Martin Street South
Cropwell, AL**

This year will be a Celebration of Life, baby shower style! There has been more than enough sadness and despair in this world. Won't you come celebrate with us? We will have a wonderful meal together and hear from three great bands. And lets not forget our ministry update!

There are also many sponsorship opportunities available with acknowledgement and recognition at different levels:

Presenter Sponsor- \$2000

Gold Sponsor- \$1000

Silver Sponsor- \$500

Bronze Sponsor- \$250

Please contact Sharon Stice at (205) 613-1053 or sharonstice46@gmail.com if you would like to be a sponsor at this event.

Please RSVP to Gabrielle by either text or phone call for a seat at the celebration— 256-346-5257.

Knights of Columbus Labor Day Barbecue Sale



Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
Friday, September 3, 2021 at 8:00 a.m.
through Saturday September 4, 2021

\$40 for Boston butts

\$30 for large pork ribs

\$10 for a whole chicken.

All meat will be freshly smoked with KOC "special dry rub". All proceeds will be used to fund the numerous charitable activities KOC Council 12270 supports. Our Lady of the Lake is located at 4609 Martin St (Hwy 231 South) in Pell City.

Altar Server Training



An additional Altar Server training for all current and new altar servers will be held on

Saturday, August 28, 10:00-11:00 am

Our Lady of the Lake Church

If you did not attend either of the July training sessions, please attend this one.

For questions, contact Stephen Reese at sreese71@gmail.com or call 205-937-5658.

Assignments—Aug 25~ Aug 29

WEDNESDAY MASS

8/25/2021 7:00 PM

Lector: Sarah Brazzolotto

Ministers: Deacon

SATURDAY MASS

8/28/2021 5:00 PM

Greeters: Allen Ross, Kathy Shivers

Lector: Tom Rosetti

Ministers: Deacon

Altar Servers: Larry Reese, James Raynor

Ushers: Bob Nicholas, Amy Carreker,
Jim Dale

SUNDAY MASS

8/29/2021 8:30 AM

Greeters: Darren & Becky Freeman

Lectors: Dennis Veigl, Larry Reese

Ministers: Deacon

Altar Servers:

Ushers: Michael Gagliano, Bart Perry
Phillip & Bit Thomaston

8/29/2021 11:15 AM

Greeters: A&W Struzik, Shirley Skeivelas

Lectors: Robert Lewis, Lexie Smith

Ministers: Deacon

Altar Servers:

Ushers: Chris Gallegly, Andy Payant
John Bluhm, Emily Bluhm

**If you are unable to keep your
assignment, please find a substitute.**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

As we relax the restrictions on the celebration of the Mass, we need more Liturgical Ministers. If you are interested in continuing or starting to serve in these ministries, contact the following people:

Lectors- Anita Allor 256-343-6767

Ushers- Michael Gagliano 205-937-8933

Cantor/Choir- Charmaine Welch 205-913-4967

Greeters- Parma Boyle 205-338-2767

Altar Servers- Stephen Reese 205-937-5658

Altar Care/Cleaning- Susan Moseley 205-613-6431

You can always call the church office and let us know of your interest. (205-525-5161)



Registration has begun!

Thank you to everyone who has registered their child(ren) for Religious Education so far. We are looking forward to an AMAZING year of learning, faith formation, and fellowship— so don't miss out, get registered today!

To register **online**, use your smart device's camera to scan the QR code! You will be taken directly to the **Religious Education Registration Form!** You can also follow this link: <https://forms.gle/dm4KU1n3WNy2WQnp9>

Contact Jim, DRE, if you have any questions or concerns!

Email: jimmathis.oll@gmail.com

FORMED
FAITH AT HOME

Parish Code: **JRQNH8**

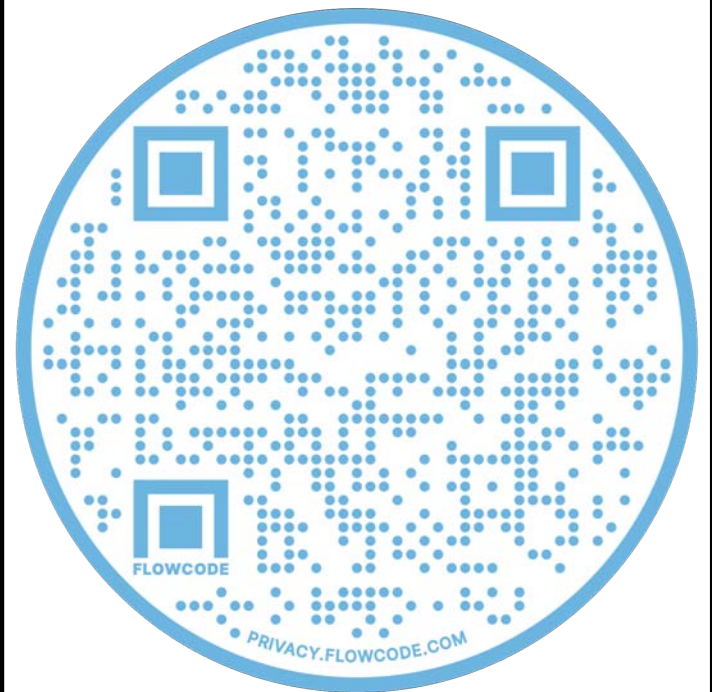
Looking Ahead:

August 22nd - Religious Education Kick-Off Breakfast! Come join us in the Parish Hall!

August 29th - Religious Education 9:45AM -11:00AM.

September 5th - Labor Day Weekend! Religious Education will **NOT** meet.

September 12th - Religious Education 9:45AM-11:00AM. Join us for the Parish's 50th Anniversary Celebration!



SCAN ME!

“Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

- Joshua 1:9



50TH ANNIVERSARY CHOIR

CALLING ALL SINGERS, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE CHOIR MEMBERS AND ANYONE WHO LOVES TO SING! THE CHOIR IS FORMING TO SING AT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION MASS ON **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH**. WE WILL REHEARSE BETWEEN THE MASSES ON **SUNDAYS FROM 10:00 am - 11:00 am. PLEASE JOIN US!**

WE NEED YOU!! REMEMBER; THE WOODS WOULD HAVE LITTLE MUSIC IF ONLY THOSE BIRDS SANG THEIR SONGS WHO SANG BEST!



The Christian Love Pantry

The Christian Love Pantry is helping the poor in the St. Clair County area. To assist them we are continuing to collect canned soup at the church. You can leave donations in the South vestibule.

There is also a box for cash donations in each vestibule. If you prefer, you may drop your donation at the parish office during normal office hours.

Goal -400 cans/month

Total cans to date in August - 222 cans

Please consider donating \$1 per week

Sunday-August 22

Mass 8:30 & 11:15 am

Religious Education Begins -Breakfast & Orientation-9:45 am

Monday- August 23

Mass 9:00 am

KOC Meeting-6:00-8:00 pm

Tuesday- August 24

Mass 9:00 am

Wednesday-August 25

Mass 7:00 pm

Thursday- August 26

Mass 9:00 am

Friday- August 27

Mass 9:00 am

Saturday- August 28

Reconciliation 4:00-4:45 pm

Mass 5:00 pm

Sunday-August 29

Knights of Columbus Mass-8:30 am

Mass 11:15 am

Religious Education-9:45 am

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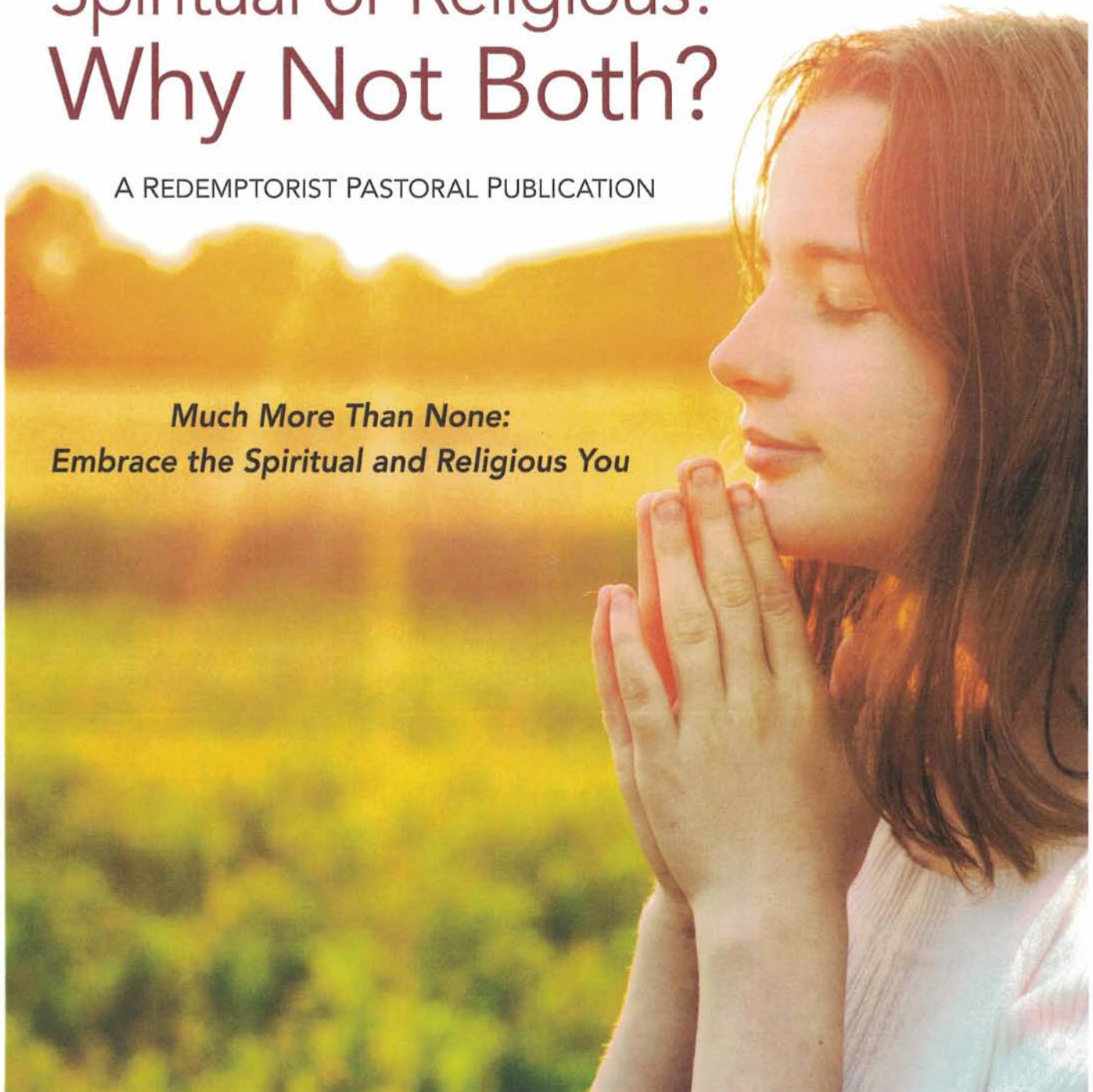
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AUGUST 2021

Spiritual or Religious? Why Not Both?

A REDEMPTORIST PASTORAL PUBLICATION

*Much More Than None:
Embrace the Spiritual and Religious You*



Are you religious, spiritual, both, or neither? Seemingly more so than ever before, when individuals are presented with this question or one equally inquisitive about their stance on religion, the response is: “I’m spiritual but not religious (SBNR).” For some, spirituality and religion are intertwined—one doesn’t exist without the other—while others delineate a clear separation between the two.

You may ask why this matters to those of us who are firm in our Catholic beliefs. It matters to some of us because our children and grandchildren express a SBNR or similar ideology. In addition, it should matter to every Catholic because this issue affects the future of our beloved Church.

DEFINING TERMINOLOGIES

Broadly, the word *spiritual* refers to something that exists but can’t be seen. People of all stripes agree that spirituality also implies a connection to another realm of life. Catholics talk about the connection to the communion of saints that exists through faith. People evoke a spiritual connection to the earth since both humans and the planet are alive and change over time. Most would agree that a healthy life means integrating spiritual elements with family, work, play, and other activities.

The word *religious* and its companion, *religiosity*, point to a way of acting and thinking that identifies a person as belonging to a group motivated by certain ideas. The vision of this group and its rituals and structure become part of a person’s life, inform how a person relates to others, and how he or she navigates life every day.

Like a coin that has a front and back side yet is one entity, a human is a union of body and soul. Furthermore, people have the capacity to develop a religious outlook. This consists of systemic symbols and concepts that weave the earthly and spiritual orders together.

THE RISE OF THE “NONES”

When asked on census forms to state their religious beliefs, a rapidly rising number of people are selecting “none.” In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, when asked about their religion, 65 percent of American adults described themselves as Christians. At the same time, the number of individuals who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic, or “nothing in particular” increased ten percentage points since 2009 to 26 percent. This group has grown so rapidly over the last decade that statisticians now project it will be the single largest “faith group” by 2023. The disparity among the two groups is notably parallel to generation gaps between the people born from 1928–45 and millennials (1981–96).

In a world where people value individual freedom so highly, the decline of organized religion is no surprise. For millions, there is little room for any faith that limits the “freedoms” expressed in sentiments like, “If it feels good, do it,” “you only live once,” and “my body, my choice.”

Of course, everyone who claims to be SBNR or to hold no religious beliefs at all isn’t evil. Similarly, people who claim religious principles aren’t all good. Atheists can certainly perform virtuous works, and priests can certainly perform sinful ones. What separates them? In his book *The Parables of Judgment*, Robert Farrar Capon explores this question by studying Jesus’ “judgment” parables that he gave toward the end of his ministry. Capon concludes:

Those who are congratulated at the end are those who believed in the mysterious, vindicating parousia of the main character and who lived their lives on the basis of trust. Those who are condemned are those who did not. It is not the good works of the blessed that saves them, any more than it is the evil deeds of the cursed that damns them. It is only faith or unfaith that matters.

If faith is all that matters, what is it that those with faith have that the “nones” and people who are SBNR do not? Is it something essential or a panacea?



Know God,
Know Peace.
No God,
No Peace.

"You may call God 'love,'
you may call God 'goodness.' But the best
name for God is 'compassion.'"

MEISTER ECKHART

Let Us Learn from One Another

What can those who identify as "SBNR" (spiritual but not religious) teach the "religious" camp?

They teach the religious the need to live a life of integrity. Young people especially have a heightened sense of injustice. They see around them examples of when power is protected, not shared; where resources are exploited, not used wisely. They become suspicious of any institution that puts resources into preserving itself and not fulfilling its mission.

When a people become blind to their mission, their energies go into protecting that which is known and familiar. Many a SBNR person stares at the gap between the truth and the urgency of the gospel message entrusted to the Church and the ineffective (seemingly judgmental) communication style and tone used by some in the Church in trying to share this Good News with them.

What can those who identify as religious teach the SBNR camp?

One piece of wisdom is summed up in the famous saying, "Life is a marathon, not a sprint." The long race requires attention to details that a sprinter doesn't have to worry about. Over the span of six or more decades, a person can learn that the painful memories of family disagreements can give way to expressions of forgiveness.

The comfort given to family members when they lose a parent and acts of charity to those in need count over the long haul. It's the community that pledges to be that presence to each other, and that is religion in the fullest sense of the word: putting the gospel into practice in concrete, living ways. Today's gospel way teaches us that community requires boundaries, and boundaries will differentiate based on who's participating and who's not. A group can't fulfill its purpose if no one commits to fulfilling his or her duty, and that's as true for a parish as it is for a Rotary Club.

DIG DEEPER

Give your definitions of "spiritual"
and "religious."

Where does a person's relationship with the
faith community fit—on the side of spiritual,
religious, or both?

How can you more fully integrate faith
—both spiritual and religious—
into your everyday life?

WHY HAVE FAITH?

Katie Patrizio, a director of religious formation at St. Cecilia Church in Ames, Iowa, and Fr. Jim Secora of Ames, a retired parish pastor, offer some insight on this crucial question. This conversation outlines the importance of faith and can help us discern our own response as it applies to our individual faith life and the life of those we encounter who may be questioning their faith.

What have you gained from your faith?



KATIE: Everything! This is true for me theologically, but also experientially. My dignity comes from God; my virtue comes from God; anything good in or around me is a gift from God. It is, therefore, a gift of faith. What gives a gift its meaning? The

love of the giver that the gift conveys. With faith, I can pull back the curtain on the good things in my life and recognize they are signs of God, who loves me.

FR. JIM: I know that I am loved not for what I can do, but as a unique creature formed in the image and likeness of God. But it isn't just me. All humanity is loved collectively as this image of God in the world. I want to live a good life not only for myself but also so that others can experience the love of God through me.



Where would you be without your faith?

KATIE: Lost. Without faith, I am convinced that I would be wandering through life in a daze of my own echo chamber. Perhaps I'd have some semblance of natural happiness, but I know it would be fleeting because only God can provide lasting happiness. Even in times of suffering, God gives meaning to my life!

FR. JIM: Without my faith, I'd be floundering from one spiritual path to the next, searching for something that would give my life meaning and purpose. If I did not have my Christian faith, I would not have the framework to organize my life according to a larger reality beyond myself.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE.

**What are the SBNRs and the “Nones” missing out on?
What dangers do you see them facing?**

KATIE: Those who have closed themselves to faith—and therefore closed themselves to God—face innumerable challenges. On a day-to-day level, it is much more difficult to be peaceful, joyful, and content when you don’t have a God who is the source of your peace. We’ve all experienced the feeling of helplessness in the face of our own disordered desires. Only God can free us from ourselves in this regard.

FR. JIM: I see them having a great yearning and continually searching for that which can give their lives meaning and purpose. As our society becomes more secular and sees no

purpose beyond this present life, it becomes very easy to make policies without regard to life. They look only at the utilitarian value of human life...I also see them as missing out on the great mysteries of life and the universe that cannot be explained by science alone.

The primary lesson we need to learn is that we each need to examine the depth of our own faith. If it’s only tradition or fear of hell that holds us to the Church, we must dig deeper. Catholicism can bear the weight of this scrutiny. We believe in a God who created the world, loves us and asks us to spread this love to others. The means for spreading God’s love is gathering in community in Christ’s name.



PHOTO: GUS EDGARDO GARIBO, REUTERS

“Let your religion
be less of a
theory and more
of a love affair.”

G. K. CHESTERTON

KEEP THE FAITH!

Our faith is a gift from God. However, like the wealthy merchant who gave ten talents to his servants and left for a long journey, we will not be praised at the master’s return if we did nothing but bury his gifts in the ground (Luke 19:12–27). None of us are popes or presidents or mega-stars with millions of social media followers—but then neither were any of Jesus’ twelve chosen disciples. We, like them, need only possess one loaf of faith, one fish of faith, even just one mustard seed of faith. God, in his great love, will provide the rest.

As you encounter people in your life who have no faith, be loving and patient with them. We are all on our own journey, and each of us enters the path from a different point on the road. The Church Fathers tell us to meet people where

they are and guide them from there. Just as not all people in church belong to God, there are many who belong to God who aren’t in church. Accept them, love them, welcome them, witness your faith to them.

With a solid faith, God the Father will adopt you as his child, God the Son will receive you as his own, and God the Holy Spirit will dwell in you as his temple. And with that, you can move mountains. Religious or spiritual? Catholics should be both.

*This article consolidates products from Liguori Publications, including *Spiritual but Not Religious*, a 2015 pamphlet by Mathew J. Kessler (824975); and “Power of Faith,” an article by Joe Baumgarten in the March 2021 edition of Liguorian.*

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Imprimi Potest: Stephen T. Rehrauer, CSsR, Provincial, Denver Province, the Redemptorists

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