



More News



The Seasonal Newsletter of
St. Thomas More Catholic Parish
Scranton, Pennsylvania
Trinitytide 2018



From the Pastor



Dear Members & Friends,

Fifty years ago, on my dad's twenty-fourth birthday, the Feast of St. James, Blessed Paul VI issued *Humanae Vitae*, and four days later, the day my older sister was born, the encyclical was published. Thus, my family feels a sort of personal connection to the short book I consider to be the most important thing written in the twentieth century. The Holy Father's stand for life in 1968 was not popular then – indeed, among secularists this document is still quite unpopular – but its unpopularity hasn't kept my family from living it or from experiencing the joy that comes from faithfulness to the Truth. The openness to life that Blessed Paul VI championed has given my parents 36 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, with another great-granddaughter on the way, but our big Catholic family may not have happened without the Pope's courageous articulation concerning true love. His words, words Pope Francis has called prophetic, were the occasion for my conversion to the Faith after I belatedly discovered them, so they are in a certain sense part of the foundation for St. Thomas More Parish.

Bishop John Dougherty, the retired Auxiliary Bishop of Scranton, recognized the role that *Humanae Vitae* had played in our community's reconciliation to Holy Mother Church, and on the fortieth anniversary of the encyclical's publication he invited my family and me to a Mass commemorating its promulgation. Having been ordained a year before I concele-

brated the Mass, and my wife and children, only five at the time, brought forward the gifts, a moment captured in that month's edition of *The Catholic Light*. Our parish was just getting off the ground, but we were growing and we needed help. So the following month Paul Campbell arrived in Scranton with his family to begin work as our Music Director and Administrator.

Paul and his wife, Sandy, my wife's sister, had become Catholic earlier that year at the Easter Vigil, and as converts they embraced the entirety of the Church's teaching, just as our founding members had. It came as no surprise, then, that soon after their conversion their three children were blessed with two more siblings. We were all surprised, however, when, at age 44 Sandy became pregnant late last year with their sixth child, due this August. How fitting, I thought, when she delivered the good news after Mass one day, that God would grant us this gift the same month they had moved into St. Clare Rectory ten years before. (Their first child was born on St. Clare's Day, August 11, 2000, and our first child is Clara, born three years before our conversion). When we are open to the movement of His Grace, we discover that His plan for our lives is better than any we could devise on our own, and He knew where He was leading us all along.

Nevertheless, such trust is daunting. When the Lord does the planning, for our families and for our lives, we must in some measure expect upheaval, recognizing at the same time that God will help us to bear the obligations He has assigned. God doesn't give notice how life will be upended nor the means of His providence, we just have faith that all will be well. And we have seen this reality in action already, for example, with the baby shower for Sandy, proposed and planned by parishioners interested to provide for middle-aged parents unexpectedly expecting a newborn. Truly we are blessed to have so many people in our parish who understand the implications of living out the Gospel of Life.

I am counting on that understanding now as I must appeal for help on two fronts. For

one, we'll need to increase Mr. Campbell's hours of employment, salary, and benefits. The Church teaches that a man's remuneration should be commensurate with the entirety of his obligations, so a father with six children doing exactly the same job at the same level of competence should be paid considerably more than an employee with only one child. We in the Church must model this manner of compensation, both to demonstrate justice and to encourage workers who don't receive such treatment to request as much. To return Paul to full-time employment for the Parish and to put his family back on our health insurance plan will require an additional \$2000 per month in operating income we don't now yet receive. Please consider increasing the amount you give, that we may witness to the twin truths Jesus revealed when he sent forth the first missionaries: that our trust in God's providence will be vindicated and that the laborer deserves his wages.

The second place we need help is with educating the children with which our many large families have been blessed. You'll read later in the newsletter about the upcoming launch of our Maria Kaupas Academy Upper School. I encourage you to contribute what you are able, either through the GoFundMe site, linked [here](#), by sending something to us through the mail, or by sponsoring a complete set of [textbooks](#) (to be owned and re-used by the Academy) for one student for one year, a cost of \$370. Please be assured that the same truths that led so many of our parishioners to embrace the Catholic Faith will be lovingly and enthusiastically imparted to our students, that in future generations the beautiful surprises with which we have been confronted since our parish's inception will, by God's grace, be multiplied beyond measure.

Hoping you find time to rest this summer, and grateful for the gifts you give to further our purpose, I am,

Your servant in Christ,

The Rev. Eric L. Bergman

Worship

Novena to St. Thomas More June 14-22

The annual Novena to St. Thomas More will be held from **Thursday, June 14 through Friday, June 22**, concluding on our Patron's feast day with **Solemn High Mass on Friday, June 22**. During the Novena, *all weekday*



Masses will be at 5:30 p.m., and Mass on Saturday the 16th will be at 10:00 a.m. Guest homilists will preach at several of the liturgies. All are encouraged to make a discipline of attending the Novena Masses!

Solemn Mass for the Feast of Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher June 22

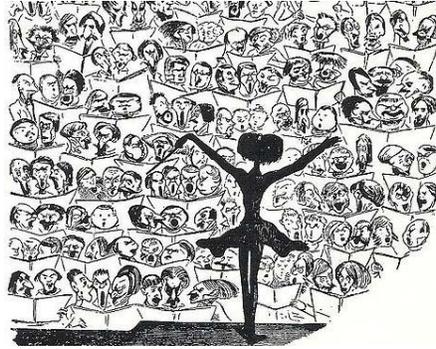
As mentioned above, the annual Novena to St. Thomas More will culminate in **Solemn High Mass** on the feast day shared by our Patron Saint and his fellow martyr under



Henry VIII, St. John Fisher, on **Friday, June 22 at 5:30 p.m.** Local friend and diocesan Priest **Fr. Brian Clarke** will join us. Please join us in the commemoration of these great martyrs for the truth about marriage and the Church!

Summer Choir Begins Sunday, June 10

Each year the final Sunday of the Parish Choir season is Corpus Christi, recently celebrated on June 3. Beginning the following **Sunday, June 10**, all worshipers entering second grade through adults are welcome to participate in **Summer Choir**, which leads the congregational singing throughout the summer, chants the Minor Propers, but does not sing a rehearsed choral anthem. Providing a measure of comfort in the summer heat, a pair of air conditioners helps to cool the loft, and choir vestments are not worn. Volunteers are welcome to sing once, occasionally, or all



summer, and there is no obligation to continue serving once the fall season begins... though we hope you'll consider it! Simply arrive in the choir loft Sundays by 9:30 a.m. to participate.

Parish to Learn New Mass Setting This Summer

Aside from the simple setting by John Merbecke sung during Advent and Lent, the Parish currently sings two other musical settings of the Mass (*Kyrie / Gloria / Sanctus / Agnus Dei*), alternating between the two each Sunday: the *Missa Sancta Maria Magdalena* by Healey Willan (1880-1968), and the *Tisbury Service* by Richard Shephard (b. 1949), alternating the two settings each Sunday. With these settings confidently under our belts, Music Director Paul Campbell has decided that the time is ripe for the congregation to learn a third setting, the **Communion Service in E flat by Len J. White** (1910-1975). Just as



when we learned the Shephard setting, we will learn this Mass gradually throughout the summer by adding new movements one at a time, singing each new movement for several weeks before adding the next.

Eucharistic Adoration Taking Time Off Until November

The Parish now has a well-established pattern of offering Eucharistic Adoration: following 10:00 a.m. Mass on the first Sunday of the month until 1:30 p.m., and 24-Hour Adoration on the First Friday and Saturday of the month. Taking a breather from the demands of ensuring that these vigils are continually



staffed and the Sacrament exposed and reposed at the appointed times, Adoration will take some time off for the summer months. Moreover, as Fr. Bergman will be on pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October, rather than jumpstart Adoration in September only to halt it again a month later, we will wait until November to revivify this cherished and fruitful practice.

Bishop Lopes to Visit August 18-19

St. Joseph Church was opened and dedicated for the use of St. Thomas More Parish on August 18, 2012, a date which the Parish continues to commemorate in two ways. Every year, we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Anniversary of the Dedication of a Church** on that date (or the closest Sunday); and every two years, we host the Bishop on that same occasion to confer the **Sacrament of Confirmation** upon our Youth Confirmation Class.



To that end, Bishop Steven Lopes will visit the Parish on **Saturday evening, August 18** for Confirmation (the Parish does not normally offer a Saturday Vigil Mass, but will do so in this case). Then, on **Sunday evening, August 19**, Bishop Lopes will for the first time ever visit the **Blessed John Henry Newman Society** – our mission congregation in the Lehigh Valley – to greet our members there and assess the progress of the mission. Needless to say, this will be an “all hands on deck” weekend for the Parish! Please plan to participate, both to support our youth as they are confirmed, and to receive our Bishop as he visits our two congregations.

Discipleship

Summer Break

Most discipleship ministries at the Parish (Sunday School, Youth Group, Holy League, etc.) take time off for the summer months and



resume in the fall after Labor Day. Please refer to the leaders of these various ministries to learn the dates of final meetings before the summer break.

Upper School Anticipates September Launch

Maria Kaupas Academy – our biweekly homeschool assistance program for students Pre-K through grade 8 – has completed a highly



successful second season. With our oldest students now reaching high school grade levels, our attention has now turned to the foundation of an Upper School, whereby those students – and others entering the program directly – may continue their Classical Catholic education at the next level. Thus in the fall we will launch a comprehensive hybrid school, meeting three days per week and requiring no academic supplementation at home. To prepare new students to enter the Upper School with adequate facility in Logic and Algebra, a

summer school will be underway in June.

For online readers, clicking the links below will enable downloading, viewing, and printing of each document described. Interested readers who receive this newsletter by U.S. Mail can call the Parish Office (570-343-0634) to acquire these materials.

Lower School

[Brochure](#)

[Class Descriptions](#)

Upper School

[Brochure](#)

[Teacher Biographies](#)

[Academic Disciplines](#)

[Book List](#)

Both Schools

[Fall 2018 Weekly Schedule](#)

[2018-2019 School Calendar](#)

Fellowship

Novena Movie Night

The Parish has adopted a tradition of screening a film about a Catholic Saint on a Friday evening during the Novena, to be offered on **Friday, June 15**. Efforts are underway to secure the new film **Paul, Apostle of Christ [PG-13]**, which releases on DVD on Tuesday; otherwise, we will screen



the superb film **There Be Dragons [PG-13]** about *Opus Dei* founder St. Josemaria Escriva. 5:30 p.m. Novena Mass will be followed by light potluck supper, and then the movie (around 7:00 p.m.) in the Parish Hall.

Baby Shower June 16

All women of the parish are invited to a baby shower for Paul and Sandy Campbell on Saturday, June 16 at 2:00 p.m.. Paul and Sandy have been blessed with the joyful surprise of a sixth child, having given away many of the items and supplies necessary to raise their new little one; they are registered at Target. Ladies, please join us!

St. Thomas More Feast

The annual St. Thomas More Parish Feast will be a potluck luncheon **after 10:00 a.m. Mass Sunday, June 17**, with English Pub fare



strongly encouraged, and English beer provided at no charge. Please join us for warm fellowship and a lively celebration of our Patron Saint!

Young People's Dance

A dance for young people of high school and college age and their guests will be offered in the Parish Hall on **Friday evening, June 22 at 7:00 p.m.**, after 5:30 p.m. Solemn High Mass for the Feast of Ss. Thomas More & John Fisher.



Neighbor Nights

After a highly successful launch that garnered multiple non-parish guests at every



event, our monthly "Neighbor Nights" will take the summer off. Assuming a continuance of the third-Saturday-of-the-month pattern, these fun evenings of free pizza, games, and a movie will resume on September 15. See you then!

Parish Picnic August 11

The annual St. Thomas More Parish Picnic is scheduled for **Saturday, August 11 at Lackawanna State Park**, where we will enjoy a full day of food, play, fellowship, games, swimming, boating, and fishing. Mark your calendar now for this memorable event in our annual cycle of parish life, and consider inviting a friend!



Outreach

Corpus Christi Procession

On Sunday, June 3 – the Solemnity of Corpus Christi – the Parish undertook its third annual outdoor Corpus Christi procession, with just under 100 worshipers filing out of church after Mass, singing Eucharistic hymns and bringing the Real Presence of Jesus to our Neighbors along North Main Avenue, Oak Street, Church Avenue, and Ferdinand Street,



before returning to the church for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Thanks be to God for this opportunity for worship and witness!

Eagle Scout Project Nears Completion

Long delayed by a seemingly interminable winter, regular worshipers at St. Thomas More have no doubt noted the return of incremental progress of the Eagle Scout project of parishioner Jacob Campbell, as rusty railings have been scraped, primed, and painted, both welcoming visitors and extending the life of these expensive features of our campus. The main disabled entrance to the church (whose rotting ramp and rusting steel was largely demolished and replaced with new steel and an ADA-certified ramp) is now entirely painted, and the



most intricate ironwork at the front entrance is also painted, leaving only simpler – but till abundant – painting at the front before the project is complete. Many thanks to **Jacob**, the **Boy Scouts of Dunmore Troop 66**, and to **Paul Hendricks, Jr.**, assisted by **Paul Sr.** and **Paul III**, for improving, preserving, and beautifying our entrances!

Evangelization

New Parish Website Nears Launch

We are excited to announce the imminent launch of a brand new St. Thomas More Parish website, which will be announced via email once we are ready to go “live.” There will be no change to our current web address.

The current parish website was built using rudimentary software just before tablets and smartphones exploded in popularity, and thus while it functions reasonably well on a computer, it is not a “mobile-friendly” website that adjusts pleasingly in proportions and functionality when opened on a mobile device. The new



site – built by Paul Campbell on a platform called e-Catholic and intended for Catholic parishes – will be far more user-friendly on phones, tablets, and computers alike, and far easier to keep current (another challenge of our current antiquated website). Stay tuned for an announcement of the launch, and forward the link to your friends and neighbors!

Four New Ordinariate Priests Ordained

On May 31 – the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Bishop Steven Lopes ordained four new priests into the Ordinariate at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston: The Rev. Aaron Bales, The Rev. Joseph Reffner, The Rev. Matthew Whitehead, and The Rev. Ed Willis. Three of the four men are



former Anglican clergymen serving as chaplains in the Archdiocese for Military Services, and will continue to serve as such. The AMS website reports:

“I decided to become Catholic because the Catholic Church is the One True Church which Christ founded,” Father Reffner said. “It took several years of prayer, study, and faith for me to reach this conclusion. Much of this was driven by a search for certitude of truth, doctrine, and practical theology and application. Only the Catholic Church was valid and universal in sacraments, truth, and doctrine for all ages.”

“I began to be drawn to the Church in 2009,” Father Whitehead said, “when Pope Benedict XVI promulgated the Apostolic Con-

stitution, *Anglicanorum Coetibus*. There were many of us in the Anglican tradition who sought the fullness of the sacramental life, and that document opened the way for Anglican clergy like me to enter full Catholic communion. It was a long and winding road that brought me to the Church, but I was encouraged along the way by so many clergy and lay faithful across the various dioceses where my military assignments have taken me.”

“Father Whitehead said his first act as a Catholic priest was traveling to Kansas to join the 60-mile pilgrimage in honor of Korean War hero, posthumous Medal of Honor recipient, and Servant of God Father Emil Kapaun of the Diocese of Wichita, who died in a prisoner-of-war camp in 1951.

“My entry into the Catholic church is a homecoming to a place where my heart has always longed to reside,” Father Bayles said. “Drawn to the worship of God in the beauty of his holiness I was captivated by the music and liturgy of the Anglican traditions, but my faith and theology were always staunchly catholic. It is with immense gratitude and thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ for his great faithfulness in bringing about *Anglicanorum Coetibus*. In this Apostolic Constitution Pope Benedict XVI created a means to achieving visible unity for Anglicans so that we might fulfill the will of our Lord Jesus Christ as he desired ‘that we all may be one.’”

The full article is [here](#). A video of the Mass of Ordination can be viewed at the Ordinariate website [here](#), and a photo album is [here](#).

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