

Pope Benedict XVI: Excerpt from World Youth Day Homily

Dear young people, let me now ask you a question. **What will you leave to the next generation?** Are you building your lives on firm foundations, building something that will endure? Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects him in the name of a falsely-conceived freedom? How are you using the gifts you have been given, the “power” which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you? What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?

The power of the Holy Spirit does not only enlighten and console us. It also points us to the future, to the coming of God’s Kingdom. What a magnificent vision of a humanity redeemed and renewed we see in the new age promised by today’s Gospel! Saint Luke tells us that Jesus Christ is the fulfilment of all God’s promises, the Messiah who fully possesses the Holy Spirit in order to bestow that gift upon all mankind. The outpouring of Christ’s Spirit upon humanity is a pledge of hope and deliverance from everything that impoverishes us. It gives the blind new sight; it sets the downtrodden free, and it creates unity in and through diversity (cf. Lk 4:18-19; Is 61:1-2). This power can create a new world: it can “renew the face of the earth” (cf. Ps 104:30)!

Empowered by the Spirit, and drawing upon faith’s rich vision, **a new generation of Christians is being called** to help build a world in which God’s gift of life is welcomed, respected and cherished – not rejected, feared as a threat and destroyed. A new age in which love is not greedy or self-seeking, but pure, faithful and genuinely free, open to others, respectful of their dignity, seeking their good, radiating joy and beauty. A new age in which hope liberates us from the shallowness, apathy and self-absorption which deaden our souls and poison our relationships. Dear young friends, the Lord is asking you to be prophets of this new age, messengers of his love, drawing people to the Father and building a future of hope for all humanity.

The world needs this renewal! In so many of our societies, side by side with material prosperity, a spiritual desert is spreading: an interior emptiness, an unnamed fear, a quiet sense of despair. How many of our contemporaries have built broken and empty cisterns (cf. Jer 2:13) in a desperate search for meaning – the ultimate meaning that only love can give? This is the great and liberating gift which the Gospel brings: it reveals our dignity as men and women created in the image and likeness of God. It reveals humanity’s sublime calling, which is to find fulfilment in love. It discloses the truth about man and the truth about life.

The Church also needs this renewal! She needs your faith, your idealism and your generosity, so that she can always be young in the Spirit (cf. Lumen Gentium, 4)! In today’s second reading, the Apostle Paul reminds us that each and every Christian has received a gift meant for building up the Body of Christ. **The Church especially needs the gifts of young people, all young people.**

Assumption Holy Day Thurs. Aug 14, 7 PM Ashland Fri. Aug. 15 7 AM & Noon Ashland Fri. Aug. 15, 7 PM Greenwood	BARN DOOR Restaurant & Lounge Eat In - Carry Out 7 Days a week! 440 East Elm Ceresco NE 402-665-2500 <i>Catholic Owners</i>	Thomas Dredging & Excavating Lake Development & Restoration 944-7852 Cell: 432-7852 www.thomasdredging.com
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St. Mary & St. Joseph Catholic Churches

Ashland



1625 Adams Street, Ashland NE 68003
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 PM
Sunday Mass: 8:30 AM

Pastor: Father Gary Coulter

Greenwood



7 Oak Street, Greenwood
Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Rectory & Fax: 944-3554, CCD/Hall: 944-7509
 Cell: 202-3782, stmaryashland@alltel.net

Welcome to new parishioners,
 please call the rectory to register
 or for information on any of our parish
 activities and organizations.

Confessions a half hour before Masses
 Saturday 4:00-4:50 PM St. Mary
 Sunday 8:00-8:20 AM St. Mary
 10:00-10:20 AM St. Joseph
 Any time by calling the rectory.

CCD & Youth Group Parent Night
 will be Wed. Aug. 20, 7:00 PM

Mass Schedule for this week				
Sat.	Aug. 2	5:00 PM	Ashland	Earl Brauckmuller
Sun.	Aug. 3	8:30 AM	Ashland	For the People
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	Poor Souls
Mon.	Aug. 4	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Alonzo Ksiazek
Tues.	Aug. 5	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Boy Scout
Wed.	Aug. 6	9:15 AM	Care Center	+ Jerry Proctor
Thurs.	Aug. 7	9:00 AM	Greenwood	
		7:00 PM	Ashland	[Knights of Columbus Meeting]
Fri.	Aug. 8	9:00 AM	Ashland	+ Fidencia Medina
Sat.	Aug. 9	9:00 AM		No morning Mass
		5:00 PM	Ashland	Poor Souls
Sun.	Aug. 10	8:30 AM	Ashland	+ Jerry Proctor
		10:30 AM	Greenwood	For the People

August 3, 2008

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ministries for next weekend

Sat. Aug. 9 - 5:00 PM
Servers: Novotny, Zobel
Acolyte: Ken Broz
Lector: Kathy Broz
Sun. Aug. 10 - 8:30 AM
Servers: Survil, Kresak
Acolyte: Todd Survil
Lector: Rod Reisen
Sun. Aug. 10 - 10:30 AM
Lector: Jon Sundermeier
Offertory: McNealy

Stewardship Thought

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
The crowd in today's Gospel demanded a sign from Jesus.
May our faithful stewardship be a sign to others that we, like the Ephesians in the second reading, have laid aside our former way of life and acquired a "fresh, spiritual way of thinking" in Christ.

Our Return to the Lord, St. Mary Ashland

Table with 3 columns: Category, July 19-20, July 26-27. Rows include Adult, Plate, Children, Mission Cooperative, Peter's Pence, and Weekly Budget.

Congratulations

Anniversaries: Shannon & Tony Dobias 8/6, Jim & Carol Neneman 8/8
Birthdays: Landon Munch 8/3, Alivia Pike 8/3, Logan Sobota 8/3, Al Hartman 8/4, Amy Douglas 8/6, Pierce Isaacson 8/6, Camryn Ray 8/7, Sherry VanLaningham 8/8

Readings and Celebrations this week:

August
4 Mon Jer 28:1-17 (407) / Mt 14:22-36
Saint John Mary Vianney, priest
5 Tue Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22 / Mt 14:22-36
[Dedication of the Basilica of Mary Major]
6 Wed Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 / 2 Pt 1:16-19 / Mt 17:1-9
The Transfiguration of the Lord
7 Thu Jer 31:31-34 / Mt 16:13-23
[St Sixtus II, pope and martyr, and his companions, martyrs; Saint Cajetan, priest]
8 Fri Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7 / Mt 16:24-28
Saint Dominic, priest
9 Sat Hb 1:12-2:4 / Mt 17:14-20
[St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin martyr]
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a / Rom 9:1-5 / Mt 14:22-33

Calendar for This Week

Wed. Aug. 6, 9:15 AM Mass at Care Center
Thurs. Aug. 7, 7:00 PM Mass at Ashland
7:30 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting
Plan Ahead: Fri. Aug. 15 Assumption Holy Day
Sunday Aug. 24, will be our annual combined Parish Picnic with 1 PM Golf, 3:30 PM Games, and 4:30 PM Picnic Potluck.

Parish Announcements

Knights of Columbus meet in Ashland at 7:30 PM this Thurs. Aug. 7.
Mission Cooperative Collection. We received a thank you letter from Fr. Mike Dodd of the Columban Fathers for the warm welcome he received at our parishes. The Columbans are a missionary society in Asia and Latin America, working with people who have not yet heard the gospel, especially the poor. They also assist the church in our country with educational programs to promote awareness of missionary activity. Your good will and generosity to the Columban Mission is deeply appreciated.

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae, and to increase our understanding of the Church's teaching about the sacred gift of human sexuality, the flier titled: "Freely, Totally, Faithfully, - Natural Family Planning," is attached to the bulletin this weekend. Pope John Paul II said in his encyclical "The Gospel of Life" that the "trivialization of sexuality is among the principal factors which have led to contempt for new life" and that "contraception and abortion are...fruits of the same tree." I hope you will take the opportunity to take a deeper look at the richness of Church teaching on this critical subject.

Community Announcements

A dedicated Rescue Captain faces unexpected cancer medical bills and travel expenses. Donations can be sent to Kevin DeGarmo Benefit, PO Box 10, Greenwood NE 68366.

Project Extra Mile Thurs. Aug. 7, 11 AM at Wahoo Union Bank. Join a discussion on the impact of underage drinking on our community.

Diocesan Announcements

Divorced, Separated and Widowed - Mass on Mon. Aug. 4 at Bl. John XXIII Center, 3700 Sheridan, Lincoln. 7 PM Confessions, 7:30 PM Mass, refreshments and presentation follow.

Fr. Lawrence Gyhra will visit St. Wenceslaus, Wahoo on Sun. Aug. 10th for the 10:30 AM Mass, followed by a reception and open house to honor him for his service and retirement.

Benefit Concert for Elizabeth Webster - Sun. Aug. 10, 2 PM, North American Martyrs, Lincoln. Elizabeth will be entering the Contemplative Sisters of St. John, but cannot do so until she pays off her student loans (due to the Sisters' vow of poverty.) Free will offering.

Magnificat Prayer Meal on Sat. Aug. 23, 10 AM at Beacon Hills-County Inn Suites on N. 27th St, Lincoln. Elizabeth Webster will share about her calling to contemplative life. To register send \$15 to 5500 L St, Lincoln NE 68510. Invite a friend or student (student price \$10.)

Natural Family Planning Creighton Model Introductory Sessions on Thurs. Aug 7, Tues. Aug. 12 and 19, 7:00 PM. Call 488-2040 for information, location and pre-registration.

Birthright is an organization that offers a loving alternative to abortion by supporting women through their pregnancy. Birthright of Lincoln is in need of volunteers (2 hours a week) so they can expand their hours. If interested, please call Barb 421-8141 or Paula 423-2472.

Stress in Your Marriage? There is less than a week left to sign up for Retrouvaille, a program that helps couples change their patterns of conflict and re-awaken their love; has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels. For confidential info about the Aug. 8-10 weekend, call 1-888-317-5654 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org on the web.

Holy Family Shrine (Glass Chapel) Benefit Concert and Wine Tasting on Thurs. Aug 7, 6:30 PM at Soaring Winds Vineyard, Springfield, NE. Call 650-0166 or 332-4565 for tickets.

Plan ahead for Assumption Holy Day
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