



Jesus Sends the Apostles

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Our Lady of Lourdes,

With Pentecost Sunday, we observe that the Holy Spirit appears suddenly and surprisingly to the disciples gathered in the upper room. While this was the very room where the Last Supper had been celebrated by the Lord, the time and place were nevertheless unexpected to those gathered there. I write to share the excerpt of an article by Bishop Robert Barron about a recent film in which he reviews a non-fiction film which was also based on a non-fiction book:

The Case for Christ (Review) by Bishop Robert Barron

(Source: WORDONFIRE.ORG, article, April 11, 2017)

The Case for Christ is a film adaptation of Lee Strobel's best-selling book of the same name, one that has made an enormous splash in Evangelical circles and beyond. It is the story of a young, ambitious (and atheist) reporter for the Chicago Tribune, who fell into a psychological and spiritual crisis when his wife became a Christian.

I liked this for a couple of reasons. First, at its best, Christianity is not fideist, that is to say, reliant upon a pure and uncritical act of faith on the part of its adherents. Rather, it happily embraces reason and welcomes critical questions. Secondly, and relatedly, Christianity is a stubbornly historical religion. It is not a philosophy (though it can employ philosophical language), nor is it a spirituality (though a spirituality can be distilled from it); rather, it is a relationship to an historical figure about whom an extraordinary historical claim has been made, namely, that he rose bodily from the dead.

So what were his inquiries? First, he wondered whether the resurrection stories were just fairy tales, pious inventions meant to take away our fear of death. But he learned that, in point of fact, many people claimed to have seen Jesus after his crucifixion, including five hundred at once. Moreover, most of the leaders of the early Church went to their deaths defending the legitimacy of what they taught. Would anyone do that for a myth or a legend of his own invention?

But another question came to his mind: might they all have been victims of a mass hallucination? A psychologist patiently explained that waking dreams are not shared by hundreds of people at different times and different places. "If hundreds of individuals had the same hallucination, that would be a greater miracle than the resurrection," she informed him with a smile.

But what about the reliability of the Christian texts themselves? Weren't they written long after the events described? A Catholic priest, who is also an archeologist and specialist in ancient manuscripts, told him that the number of early copies of the Christian Gospels far surpasses that of any other ancient text, including the Iliad of Homer and the Dialogues of Plato.

What about the "swoon theory," according to which Jesus did not really die on the cross but only lost consciousness, only to be revived sometime later? A Los Angeles based physician detailed for him the brutal process of a Roman execution, which resulted in the victim slowly bleeding to death and asphyxiating. The swoon theory, the doctor concluded, "is rubbish."

At each stage of the process, Strobel continued to wonder, question, balk, and argue, all the time maintaining the default position that Christianity is bunk. Nevertheless, it was becoming clear that the relentlessness of the counter-arguments and their stubborn congruence with one another was wearing him down. This made me think of John Henry Newman's famous account of how we come to religious assent. It is very rarely by virtue of one clinching argument, Newman said, but rather through the slow, steady confluence of inference, hunch, intuition, experience, the witness of others, etc. This convergence of probabilities, under the aegis of what Newman called the "illative sense," customarily leads the mind to assent.

In the course of their conversation, Strobel's priest-archeologist interlocutor showed the skeptical journalist a reproduction of the Shroud of Turin, purported to be the burial cloth of Jesus. Gazing into the eyes of the image, Strobel asked, "What would have made him go through all of this?" The priest responded, "That's easy: love." As the arguments were jostling in his head, Strobel remembered that image and that explanation—and the filmmakers insinuate that this is what finally pushed him over into belief.

The Case for Christ is interesting for any number of reasons, but I think it is particularly compelling for its subtle portrayal of the psychological, spiritual, and intellectual dynamics of evangelization. *(Source: Bishop Robert Barron, WORDONFIRE.ORG, article, April 11, 2017)*

Blessings of Pentecost Sunday to you,

In Christ's Peace,
Father Jim Ferry



For Your Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

FISCAL YEAR STARTING JULY 2018

WEEKLY GOAL	\$ 6800
Collection: May 25-26*	\$ 4323
Deficit:	\$ 2477

* Includes Online Giving Weekly Average Deposit

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY 8 JUNE	
8:30 am	Samuel Albert Christiano
5:30 pm	Kathleen & Gene Mooney
SUNDAY 9 JUNE	
7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	Michael Chiaramonte
11:30 am	Loring Abad (25th Ann.)
MONDAY 10 JUNE	
8:30 am	Michael O'Boyle
TUESDAY 11 JUNE	
8:30 am	Canico Saniel, Sr.
WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE	
8:30 am	Gene Kidd
THURSDAY 13 JUNE	
8:30 am	Deceased Member of the Pflug & Napolitano Families
FRIDAY 14 JUNE	
8:30 am	Kathy Buonopane
SATURDAY 15 JUNE	
8:30 am	Leo Acevedo (1st Ann.)
5:30 pm	Margaret Brennan
SUNDAY 16 JUNE	
7:30 am	People of the Parish
9:30 am	Carmine Napolitano & George Pflug
11:30 am	Robert & Bernice Shiel



SUNDAY 9 JUNE		
10:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	
MONDAY 10 JUNE		
12:00—4:00 pm	Deanery Picnic—Connor Hall	
WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE		
7:00 pm	KOC Meeting—Connor Hall	
THURSDAY 13 JUNE		
10:00 am	Deadline for News & Announcements for June 23rd bulletin email: lourdesbulletin@aol.com.	
SATURDAY 15 JUNE		
10:00 am	Memorial Mass for Ann Marie Rommel	
6:30—9:30 pm	On the Green Immediately following the 5:30 pm Mass	
		
SUNDAY 16 JUNE		
		
10:30 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal	



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Vincent Aiello, Sean Bailey, Josefina Balerdi, Suzane Ball, Kazimiera Borchet, Darlene Cangialosi, Teresa Carbin, Josephine Ciullo, Tom Collinson, Jeannie Cox, Ramona De Castro, Peggy Dolan, Pierre Ferrus, Catherine Gascoyne, Al Gebhardt, Judy Givas, Gary Grasso, Alberta Greco, Michael Harris, Marissa and Richard Hedstrom, Jovann Henry, Yann Henry, Glenn Holland, Prepty Joint, Bruce Kiefer, Tim Klein, James Leung, Rose Mateus, Marion McConville, Mary McGuinness, Stephanie Montano, Noreen Meyers, Liam Morley, Florence Olabiyi, William Ollenschleger, Otilia Ortega, Idelourdes Petion, Patrick Pierre, Mark Quarno, Thelma Ramaglia, Amy Ricciardi, Mary Lou Ruppel, Vincent Santucci, Jr., Heather Scoffone, Patricia Seib, Natalie Sims, Jimmy Tiernan, Robin Tobia, Harry Vendemia, Annalisa Verdi, Ann Whelan, Kathy Whelan, Michael Whelan, George Zachos.

If you wish to have a loved one prayed for, please call the rectory at 973.325.0110.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS— SUNDAY 16 JUNE			
Mass	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Altar Servers
5:30 pm Choir	Pat Sigalas	Marge Christiano Emily Kunz Eileen Reilly	Francesca Appolon David Broking Jordan Broking
7:30 am	Mary Cassels	MaryEllen Chandler Patricia Saway Louis Volpe	Joseph Lobo Barry Skinner
9:30 am	Jo Ann Melhorn	JoAnne Chiaramonte Sonia Murphy Joseph Petrillo Bill Talbot	Briana Sampson Volunteer
11:30 am	Wendy Sheyka	Virginia Dimapilis Carmelita Dizon Paul Hirsch Sharon Rosario	Gregory Clark Andrew Onubogu William Onubogu
11:30 am	Children's Liturgy -	Carol Ford	

Around the Parish & Community

PIPE DREAM ➔

Church Organ

Raffle Winner
ANNOUNCED!

Congratulations

to our June 1 \$500 winner:

MARGE MINGIN

St. Vincent DePaul Society

is hosting the soup kitchen on Saturday, June 22nd from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. If anyone is interested in preparing or serving food, please call Rosanne Bruno at 973-243-0679.



Our June Graduates help us to reflect...



June is traditionally the time for graduation. Each graduate represents an accomplishment in academic achievement. For many people, however, providing the next meal is an “achievement” due to living in poverty. Would you be willing to clean out your closets and donate any unwanted clothing and shoes to the Catholic Charities donation bin located on parish grounds? The proceeds help Catholic Charities in their work with the poor. Thank you.

How to Report Abuse



The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Individuals who wish to report an allegation of sexual misconduct may do so by calling the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection at 973.497.4012.

PARISH
PICNIC



Join Us

SATURDAY 15 JUNE

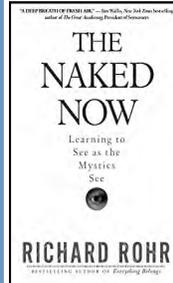
6:30—9:30 pm

On the Green Immediately following the 5:30 pm Mass

Lots of
Food



For all ages



CHRISTIAN BOOK DISCUSSION –

Our Next Book:--“THE NAKED NOW”

By: *Richard Rohr*

Join the Book Discussion Group on

Thursday, June 20th, 7:00 pm

in the Knights of Columbus Room,
Connor Hall

Archdiocese -



Partial Tuition Scholarship for African American Students

All students of African descent about to graduate from high school who are headed to college or technical/trade school may apply for a grant/gift from the “Bishop Joseph Francis” Scholarship Fund of the Archdiocese of Newark, There is a link to the scholarship application on the LOURDESWESTORANGE.ORG home page—or call our rectory office and we can give you the instructions.