



He for a little while was made lower than the angels  
*Detail of stained-glass window, east apse, St. James Cathedral*  
*Hans Gottfried von Stockhausen, artist*

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL  
*Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
October 7, 2012

ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR

# *The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

FIRST SUNDAY YOUTH CELEBRATION (Noon)

### THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

PRELUDE (8:00 & 10:00)

*Andante in F Major, K. 616*

Mozart

(Saturday Vigil & Noon)

*Cantique*

Langlais

ENTRANCE

The Canticle of Brother Sun: *All creatures of our God and King*

St. Francis of Assisi

LASST UNS ERFREUEN



1. All crea - tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice  
2. O rush - ing wind and breez - es soft, O clouds that ride  
3. O flow - ing wa - ters, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for  
4. Dear moth - er earth, who day by day Un - folds rich bless -

and with us sing: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
the winds a - loft: O praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!  
your Lord to hear. O praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!  
ings on our way, O praise him! Al - le - lu - ia!

O burn - ing sun with gold - en beam And sil - ver moon  
O ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice, O lights of eve -  
O fire so mas - ter - ful and bright, Pro - vid - ing us  
The fruits and flow'rs that ver - dant grow, Let them his praise

with soft - er gleam: O praise him, O praise him.  
ning, find a voice. O praise him, O praise him.  
with warmth and light, O praise him, O praise him.  
a - bun - dant show. O praise him, O praise him.

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

PENITENTIAL ACT

*Missa de angelis*

Vatican VIII



Have \_\_\_\_\_ mer - cy on us.

(10:00)

“Kyrie” from *Theresien Mass*

Haydn

GLORIA (Sunday Evening) *Missa de angelis*, **No. 341** in Worship hymnal

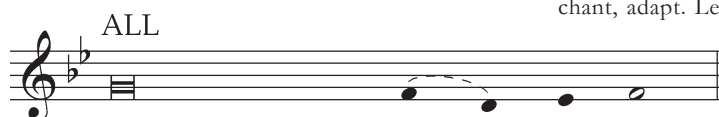
(10:00)

“Gloria” from *Theresien Mass*

Haydn

(all other Masses)

chant, adapt. Lee



Glory to God in the highest,  
We praise you, we bless you,  
we glorify you, we give you thanks  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
You are seated at the right hand  
of the Father,  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
with the Holy Spirit,

and on earth peace to people of good will.				
we adore your great glory.				
for your great glory.				
O God, almighty Father.				
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,				
have mercy on us;				
re-ceive our prayer;				
have mercy on us.				
you alone are the Most High Je- sus Christ,				
in the glory of				
God the Father;	A - - - men.			

## COLLECT

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

## Genesis 2:18-24

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 128

Murray



May the Lord bless and protect us all the days of our life.

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:9-11

ALLELUIA

chant, Mode VII



Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Mark 10:2-16

## HOMILY

Father Peter Ely, SJ

DISMISSAL OF THE CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES (10:00am and Sunday Evening)

Litany of Saints

# CREED

**I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
consubstantial with the Father;**

through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit  
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

**For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son  
is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic  
and apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward  
to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## BLESSING OF CHILDREN (Noon)

*All children, with their parents and the catechists and volunteers of the Faith Formation Program,  
are invited to come forward for a special blessing at the beginning of the school year.*

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Berthier



# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

Offertory (10:00)

*In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust*  
Haydn

## SANCTUS

*German Mass*  
Schubert, adapt. Proulx

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.\_\_\_\_\_

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.\_\_\_\_\_

Heav - en and earth are full,\_\_\_\_\_ full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes\_\_\_\_\_ in the name of the Lord.\_\_\_\_\_ Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

# MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Schubert, adapt. Proulx



# AMEN

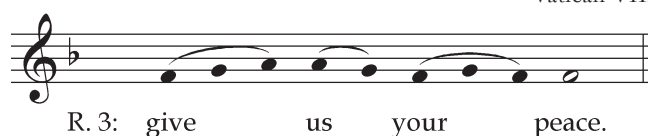
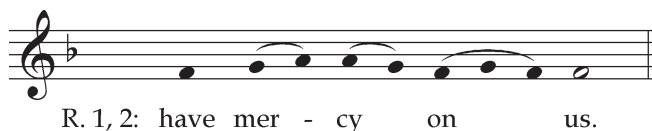
Schubert, adapt. Proulx



# LORD'S PRAYER No. 246

# AGNUS DEI

*Missa de angelis*  
Vatican VIII



(10:00)

“Dona nobis pacem” from *Theresien Messe*  
Haydn

# COMMUNION

My soul aspires after your salvation; I hope in your word;  
when will you judge those who persecute me?  
The wicked are persecuting me; come to my assistance, O Lord my God.

(10:00)

“By Thee with bliss” from *The Creation*  
Haydn

When you return to your place after receiving Holy Communion, please **KNEEL OR BE SEATED**.  
Low-gluten hosts are distributed at the credence table near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

# HYMN OF PRAISE No. 502 in Worship hymnal

*I sing the mighty power of God*  
MOZART

# ANTIPHON IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (10:00, Noon, Sunday Evening)

**Please, no applause following this choral prayer.**

(10:00) *Ave Maria for 4 sopranos* Mozart  
(Noon) *Ave Maris Stella* Piel  
(Sunday 5:30pm) *Regina cæli* Prætorius

# ROSARY FOR LIFE (Noon) Please turn to the next page in this week's bulletin.

# PROCESSION (8:00 & 10:00)

*Allegro in F Major, K 594*  
Mozart

(Saturday Vigil)

*Canzona: Through Adam's fall*  
Langlais

# The Prayers of the Rosary

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**LEADER:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**ALL:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**LEADER:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**ALL:** Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

## HAIL MARY

**LEADER:** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**ALL:** Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## GLORY BE

**LEADER:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**ALL:** As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

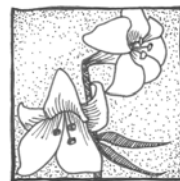
## HAIL, HOLY QUEEN

**ALL:** Hail, Holy Queen, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us, and after this exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

**LEADER:** Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

**ALL:** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

# Rosary for Life



October is Respect Life Month! **We pray the rosary immediately following the Noon Mass today, October 7.** You are invited to join the procession, too! If you don't know all the prayers by heart, don't worry! You'll find the complete texts in the panel at the left. We will pray a special set of mysteries, drawn from the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries. The meditations read by the young people are taken from the Gospels and from the writings of Jean Vanier, founder of the L'Arche communities for people with developmental disabilities.

## THE FIRST MYSTERY

### *The Annunciation of the Lord*

We stand before the image of Mary in the North Transept. The Holy Spirit comes upon Mary, and Jesus, the Word-made-flesh, becomes incarnate in her womb. We pray for the unborn, that there may be an end to abortion, and for all children, that they may have all they need to grow and thrive, especially love.

## THE SECOND MYSTERY

### *The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple*

Simeon and Anna welcomed Mary and Joseph to the Temple, and Simeon took the child Jesus in his arms. We pray for the elderly, that we may treasure them and recognize that diminishment and death are an intrinsic part of life.

## THE THIRD MYSTERY

### *Jesus Proclaims the Coming of the Kingdom*

Jesus came to proclaim the reign of God, which is good news for the poor. We pray for the people of the Beatitudes – the poor, the disenfranchised, the refugee, the mourner – who are the blessed ones of the Kingdom of God. The beautiful East Apse windows in the Cathedral remind us that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for Jesus himself.

## THE FOURTH MYSTERY

### *Jesus Carries His Cross*

We stand before the crucifix. Jesus was condemned to death, but from his cross he spoke words of forgiveness. We pray for all prisoners on death row, that there may be an end to capital punishment, which denies the value of their lives, and does nothing to heal the pain of those who mourn. We pray that every life – without exception – may be respected.

## THE FIFTH MYSTERY

### *The Resurrection of the Lord*

"Why do you seek the living One among the dead?" Jesus, risen from the dead, has conquered death forever. The Lord of Life calls us to be people not of death, but of life. Can we help to build a culture

# St. James Cathedral - Seattle

## ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle

### PASTOR

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

### IN RESIDENCE

The Reverend David A. Brant, The Reverend Richard J. Ward

### PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION

Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

### FAITH FORMATION

TerryAnn Bowen, Director of Religious Education (206-382-2018)  
Marianne Coté & Lita McBride, Children's Faith Formation (654-4658)  
Brenda Bellamy, Children's RCIA/Confirmation (206-274-3108)  
Theresa Van de Ven, Administrative Assistant (206-219-5822)

### FAMILY MINISTRY

Suzanne Lee, Director (206-654-4640)

### LITURGY

Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (622-3559 x3996)  
Brenda Bellamy, Peter Burns, John Marquez, Stephen Pace, sacristans

### MUSIC MINISTRY (206-382-4874)

Dr. James Savage, Director of Music  
Joseph Adam, Organist (206-382-4597)  
Dr. Clint Kraus, Associate Organist  
Stacey Sunde, Director of Youth Music  
Thomas Thompson, Coordinator of Special Projects

### PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

John Simpson, Pastoral Care Minister (206-274-3173)  
Beth Rose, Parish Mental Health Nurse (206-382-4269)

### SOCIAL OUTREACH and ADVOCACY

Patty Bowman, Director (206-382-4515)  
Caitlin Lanigan (206-382-4235)  
Jim and Jill McAuliffe, Cathedral Kitchen (206-264-2091)

### ST. JAMES ESL/MINISTRY to IMMIGRANTS (206-382-4511)

Christopher J. Koehler, Director  
Cecilia Erin Walsh, ESL Coordinator; Glenda Caldwell, ESL Specialist,  
Jim Hodges, Citizenship

### STEWARDSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)

### WEDDINGS

Linda Carr, Wedding Office (206-622-3559 ext. 3979)  
Bev Mauser, Louise Mennella, Wedding Coordinators

### PARISH OFFICE

Sister Mary Slater, SNJM, Bookkeeper (206-382-4564)  
Elizabeth Falzone, Receptionist (206-654-4650)  
Lee Bedard, Administrative Assistant (206-622-3559 x3971)

### FACILITIES and GROUNDS

Dennis Morse, Facilities Manager (206-622-3559)

### CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS

#### MASS

Sundays 8 - 10 - 12 & 5:30 pm  
Weekdays 8:15 & 5:30 pm  
Saturdays 8:15 & "Vigil" 5:30 pm

### LITURGY of the HOURS Weekdays at 12:10 pm

### VESPERS and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sundays at 4:00 pm.

**BAPTISM** Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation program for parents and godparents is required. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**RECONCILIATION** Saturdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated four times yearly in preparation for Christmas and Easter.

**MARRIAGE** A formal program of marriage preparation over a period of several months is required, however, registered parishioners may begin the scheduling process 14 months in advance.

**ANOINTING of the SICK** A communal celebration is held regularly. In other situations (anticipated surgery, emergency) please call the parish office.

**"TAIZÉ" ECUMENICAL PRAYER**, Fridays at 6:30 pm.

**TOURS of the CATHEDRAL** Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Groups of 4 or more may arrange a tour by calling Corinna Laughlin, 206-622-3559

**CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE** Open 11:00 am to 3:00 pm weekdays, after Masses on weekends. Call 206-382-4500 for information

### ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL PARISH

804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104  
Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303  
Website: [www.stjames-cathedral.org](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org)  
Emergency Number: 206-467-3049  
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

**W**ELCOME! *If you are a visitor to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are – whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish here in the Archdiocese. Thanks, in part, to the generosity of visitors like you, we are able to celebrate the Church's liturgy here in a fitting and beautiful way. We are also able to offer a wide range of services to needy people living in the central district of our city.*

**FROM THE ARCHBISHOP** In preparation for the November elections, the Archbishop has asked us to make available a variety of resources relating to the upcoming vote on Referendum 74. Visit the Cathedral website, [www.stjames-cathedral.org](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org), for links to a video statement by Archbishop Sartain and other materials you may find helpful. Printed copies of the materials are also available in the vestibules.

### NEW SHRINE HONORING BLESSED JOHN XXIII

Following the 10:00am and Sunday Evening Masses today, come to the new shrine in honor of Blessed John XXIII for a "ten minute tour" of the new shrine. The tour will begin immediately following the postlude.

**CATHEDRAL ESPRESSO** is back from its summer hiatus! Please come by after the 10:00 Mass. All proceeds for the month of October benefit the Winter Shelter. The Espresso Ministry is also looking for volunteers willing to run the cart after the noon Mass. *Information*, Katherine Berry, 425-772-0897.

### 2ND ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH FAIR TODAY October 7, during all coffee hours in the Cathedral Hall.

*Purpose:* Introduction to Mental Health Ministry and volunteers; learn about mental health and mental illnesses; learn about professional mental health services in Seattle area; meet representatives from variety of mental health programs. *Goal:* Increased awareness of mental health and mental illness, and of how common these experiences are; understanding of available resources. *Information*, Beth Rose, Parish Mental Health Nurse, 206-382-4269 or [brose@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:brose@stjames-cathedral.org) and [www.stjames-cathedral.org/mhm](http://www.stjames-cathedral.org/mhm).

**VATICAN II LECTURE AT SEATTLE UNIVERSITY** Seattle University kicks off a year celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Council with a lecture on Thursday, October 11, at 7:00pm in Pigott Auditorium. Renowned Vatican II scholar Rev. Joseph Komonchak of Marquette University will address the topic *Vatican II as an Event*. The lecture is offered without charge; all are welcome!

**PARISH REMEMBRANCE** *Throughout the year, because we are the Cathedral Church, we remember in prayer at Mass and Vespers each of the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Seattle on a Sunday near their feast day. This week we remember in prayer the parishes of St. Francis of Assisi in Friday Harbor and Seahurst; Holy Rosary in Seattle, Tacoma, and Edmonds; and the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.*

OCTOBER IS  
**RESPECT LIFE MONTH**

*Faith opens our eyes to human life  
in all its grandeur and beauty.*

**40 DAYS FOR LIFE OBSERVANCE** 40 Days for Life is a prayer vigil in which participants pray that we may find practical and compassionate ways that enable parents facing the challenges of a difficult pregnancy to choose life over abortion. In Seattle participants will hold prayer vigils each day from 6 am to 9 pm in front of the Planned Parenthood clinic at 20th and Madison. Participants must pledge to act peacefully and to show respect and love to all. Join fellow parishioners along with members of the cathedral's Life, Peace & Justice Committee to pray for an hour or two on Sunday, October 21st, when St. James will staff the prayer vigil. Learn more and sign up for specific hours during the coffee hours next Sunday, October 14. You may also sign up on line by going to [40daysforlife.com/seattle](http://40daysforlife.com/seattle) and clicking on Vigil Schedule. *Information*, Ted Nutting 206-285-7533.

**WINTER SHELTER NEEDS YOUR HELP** On Monday October 1, our Winter Shelter opened for its 21st season. St. James hosts men from St. Martin de Porres Shelter to provide overflow sleeping space during the cold winter months. We are still in need of volunteers to serve as breakfast cooks and overnight hosts. We are especially in need of additional breakfast hosts. To learn more about this ministry come to a training for new and returning volunteers TODAY, October 7 from 1:30 to 2:30pm in Cathedral Hall. *Information*, Caitlin Lanigan 206-382-4235 or [clanigan@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:clanigan@stjames-cathedral.org).

**WILL YOU ASSIST A PERSON WHO WANTS TO BECOME CATHOLIC?** We continue to have new inquirers coming to participate in our Christian Initiation process to learn more about the Catholic Church (RCIA). We need St. James parishioners to be companions with our new inquirers to help welcome them to our community. The time commitment is reasonable – two Wednesday evening sessions a month. *Information*, TerryAnn Bowen 206-382-2018 or [tbowen@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:tbowen@stjames-cathedral.org).

**EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG MEN** St. James is reviving the St. Edward's Vocal Ensemble, a liturgical choir for teenaged boys with changed voices conducted by Cathedral baritone, Thomas Thompson. The rehearsal will be Mondays 4:30–6:30pm. *For auditions and information*, Stacey Sunde, Director of Youth Music Program, 206-382-4874 or [musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org).

**WORLD-FAMOUS MUSICANS AT ST JAMES** In October the Cathedral is presenting two extraordinary evenings of sacred masterpieces you won't want to miss. October 13, 8:00 pm, Spain's leading sacred music ensemble, Musica Ficta, present music of 16th-century Spain, [www.earlymusicguild.org](http://www.earlymusicguild.org). October 20, 8:00 pm Stephen Stubbs conducts Monteverdi's *Vespers*. [www.pacificmusicworks.org](http://www.pacificmusicworks.org). For pay-as-able parishioner passes call 206-382-4874.

**SOLEMN MASS OF ALL SOULS WITH MOZART'S REQUIEM** Friday, November 2, 7:30 pm. If you would like to remember someone in the printed program or be a patron, please put your donation in an envelope marked "All Souls Patron" and drop it in the offering basket or send to the parish office. Be sure to include the name of the person you want to remember, as well as your name and address. *Information*, Music Office, 206-382-4874.

**CATHEDRAL BLOOD DRIVE** On Tuesday, October 9 from 12:30pm-6:30pm, in the Pastoral Outreach Center, Holy Names Room, our Health and Healing Ministry is sponsoring a blood drive. Sign up to donate TODAY after the morning Masses at coffee hour (look for our booth at the Mental Health Fair). St. James has been sponsoring Lenten and Fall blood drives since 2006. The Puget Sound Blood Center is always enthusiastic about our partnership in this effort, but most especially about the number of new donors at our blood drives. We ask those who have not yet donated to consider donating for the first time. We ask those who have generously donated in the past to please consider doing so again. *Information*, John Simpson, 206-274-3173 or [jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org).

***Getting to know Good Pope John***

*Be sure to stop by our new shrine in honor of Blessed John XXIII to offer a prayer to this great saint of modern times.*

Pope John XXIII died on June 3, 1963. In his last days, he told those gathered around him: "This bed is an altar. The altar demands a victim. I am ready. I have before me a clear view of my soul, of my priesthood, of the Council, of the Universal Church... Come, courage! This is not the moment to weep; this is a moment of joy and glory." To one person he said, "Don't be disturbed. My bags are always packed. When the moment comes to depart, I won't lose any time." And to his longtime secretary, he said, "When it's all over, don't forget to go visit your mother." His last words were "*Mater mei, fiducia mea*" – "My Mother, my trust."

*Recounted in the Wit & Wisdom  
of Good Pope John*





## Civil Dialogue

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In their Introductory Note to *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the Catholic bishops of the United States urge Catholics to “contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue.” In the following essay, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, reflects on how Catholics can carry out this call to civil dialogue.

## Civil Discourse: Speaking Truth in Love

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By Cardinal Donald Wuerl

The preacher's pulpit, the politician's podium and the print and electronic media all bear some responsibility to encourage a far more civil, responsible and respectful approach to national debate and the discussion of issues in our country today.

Over and over again, we are hearing, in the wake of the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, that it is time to examine the tenor and tone of debate. Sadly, it took something as tragic as the Tucson shooting to generate a conversation about how we debate issues, especially those that engender great emotion.

A wise and ancient Catholic maxim has always insisted that we are to “hate the sin and love the sinner.” At the heart of this time-honored wisdom is the simple recognition that some things are wrong and yet we still distinguish between what is done and who does it.

Increasingly, there is a tendency to disparage the name and reputation, the character and life, of a person because he or she holds a different position. The identifying of some people as “bigots” and “hate mongers” simply because they hold a position contrary to another's has unfortunately become all too commonplace today. Locally, we have witnessed rhetorical hyperbole that, I believe, long since crossed the line between reasoned discourse and irresponsible demagoguery.

It should not be acceptable to denounce someone who favors immigration reform that includes the process to citizenship as a “traitor” and “unpatriotic.” The representatives in federal and state government who voted against the District of Columbia Opportunity Scholarship Program or against tax credits for Catholic schools educating minority children should not be labeled in the media as “anti-Catholic bigots” or “racists” since the majority of the children are African American. People and organizations should not be denounced disparagingly as “homophobic” simply because they support the traditional, worldwide, time-honored definition of marriage. The defaming words speak more about political posturing than about reasoned discourse.

Why is it so important that we respect both our constitutional right to free speech and our moral obligation that we not bear false witness against another? A profoundly basic reason is that we do not live alone. While each of us can claim a unique identity, we are, nonetheless, called to live out our lives in relationship with others ~ in some form of community.

All human community is rooted in this deep stirring of God's created plan within us that brings us into ever-widening circles of relationship: first with our parents, then our family, the Church and a variety of community experiences, educational, economic, cultural, social and, of course, political. We are by nature social and tend to come together so that in the various communities of which we are a part, we can experience full human development. All of this is part of God's plan initiated in creation and reflected in the natural law that calls us to live in community.

What does this have to do with toning down our rhetoric? Everything! No community, human or divine, political or religious, can exist without trust. At the very core of all human relations is the confidence that members speak the truth to each other. It is for this reason that God explicitly protected the bonds of community by prohibiting falsehood as a grave attack on the human spirit.

"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor" (Ex 20:16). To tamper with the truth or, worse yet, to pervert it, is to undermine the foundations of human community and to begin to cut the threads that weave us into a coherent human family.

The call to truthfulness is far from being a denial of freedom of speech. Rather, it is a God-given obligation to respect the very function of human speech. We are not free to say whatever we want about another, but only what is true. To the extent that freedom is improperly used to sever the bonds of trust that bind us together as a people, to that extent it is irresponsible. The commandment that obliges us to avoid false witness also calls us to tell the truth. We, therefore, have an obligation to ascertain that what we say or hear or read is really the truth.

Someone once described a "gossip" as a person who will never tell a lie if a half-truth will do as much harm. When we listen to news accounts or read what is presented in the print and electronic media, we are too often reminded that spin, selecting only some of the facts, highlighting only parts of the picture, has replaced too often an effort to present the facts ~ the full story. We all know the tragic results of gossip against which there is little or no defense. In an age of blogs, even the wildest accusations can quickly become "fact." Gossip is like an insidious infection that spreads sickness throughout the body. These untruths go unchallenged because the persons who are the object of the discussion are usually not present to defend themselves, their views or actions.

Irresponsible blogs, electronic and print media stories, and pulpit and podium people-bashing rhetoric can be likened to many forms of anonymous violence. Spin and extremist language should not be embraced as the best this country is capable of achieving. Selecting only some facts, choosing inflammatory words, spinning the story, are activities that seem much more directed to achieving someone's political purpose rather than reporting events. One side is described as "inquiring minds that want to know" and the other side as "lashing out in response."

We need to look at how we engage in discourse and how we live out our commitment to be a people of profound respect for the truth and our right to express our thoughts, opinions, positions ~ always in love. We who follow Christ must not only speak the truth but must do so in love (Eph 4:15). It is not enough that we know or believe something to be true. We must express that truth in charity with respect for others so that the bonds between us can be strengthened in building up the body of Christ.

Freedom of speech and respect for others, freedom of expression and regard for the truth, should always be woven together. This should be true of everyone, whether they speak from a pulpit, a political platform, or through the electronic and print media and other means of social communications.

## Ground Rules for Civil Dialogue

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We are all called to engage in civil dialogue. Here are some possible ground rules for civil dialogue:

1. Make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak.
2. Share your personal experience, not someone else's.
3. Listen carefully and respectfully. Speak carefully and respectfully. Do not play the role of know-it-all, convincer or corrector. Remember that a dialogue is *not* a debate.
4. Don't interrupt unless for clarification or time keeping.
5. Accept that no group or viewpoint has a complete monopoly on the truth.
6. "Be more ready to give a favorable interpretation to another's statement than condemn it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2478, quoting St. Ignatius of Loyola).
7. Be cautious about assigning motives to another person.



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