

NATIVITY NEWS

5900 McClellan *June 7, 2020* Detroit, MI 48213

PASTOR'S PEN



Last week, I was asking what we have learned from going through the COVID-19 Pandemic. It would seem that a pandemic that comes around every century should be contemplated. Yet, this week in the light of the death of George Floyd, the country is wrestling with the pandemic of racism. As we've watched the protests and marches, some of us are tremendously sad for the many victims of an unjust system. For others, there is anger that nothing ever seems to change. No matter how many times we march and protest, people of color continue to be unfairly treated. Others will realize the death of George Floyd as an awful and unjust act and call for those involved to be arrested and convicted. Some will see this death as just an isolated incident and won't understand the deeper issues of race inequality and a broken system that gives privilege to some and scraps to others.

This week has called me to go deeper with my own biases and prejudices and even my well meaning ways of helping people often filled with arrogance, judgement, and superiority. I realize over and over again the subtle voices or impressions I received growing up that "we" were really not like "them." "We" can help "them," but they are not like us. None of us want to be told we are prejudiced or, God forbid, racist but all of us carry world views that we didn't necessarily choose but are in the background of our minds. They become the filter with which we see the world. When we hear the news and there's an incident between a black person and white person, who do we tend to believe? What would have happened if Black people showed up in the State Capitol building armed as the white protestors did last month? Would the police have stood there reminding us that they have the right to bear arms? There are many issues that I, as a white man, don't have to deal with because of my privilege. I realize the words, "white privilege" makes many feel uncomfortable, but if we are to make any strides, we have to be brutally honest with ourselves. I can spend my life denying that privilege and live my life unaffected by the struggle that others experience every day and therein lies the privilege. I can benefit by a system that favors some over others. I can trust the police. I can expect respect everywhere I go. I am not a suspect in stores, etc. I can move freely as a citizen of the country with all rights while others are treated as non-citizens.

I say none of this to place guilt on any of us. Conversion can only occur through love and understanding. I ask each of us to look gently at the world view we've been given. Who are our friends and who are our enemies? What subtle messages have we been given over the years that make us fearful of some and not of others? What assumptions do we have about others who are different from ourselves? God has sent the Spirit to work on our hearts at this sacred moment. May God who created all of us heal the deep wounds in ourselves and in our world.

Two recommendations to read and view this week:

Fr. Bryan Massingale's article titled, "The assumptions of white privilege and what we can do about it."

Rev. Dr. Otis Moss: "The Lynching and the Cross" On Youtube

MISSION STATEMENT

Nativity is a diverse and inclusive Catholic Faith Community on Detroit's eastside dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel and sharing God's love through commitment to social justice, service to the neighborhood, the community and each other.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: 6-09: Ric Bezel 6-10: Mesha Adams & Judy Brooks, 6-11: Bill Brooks, 6-12: Gary Colett & L. J. Kendricks, 6-13: Tom Davis & Virginia Ferrante

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: 6-12: Harry & Pat Wimble

We pray for God's healing for:

Brenda Banks, Judy Bartnik, Frank Candela, Brian Cavanaugh, Frank Candela's brother-in-law, Ed, Randy Clarke, Gabriel Crowe, Tom Davis, John Deisinger, Diane Ferschneider, Douglas Frattini, Rosa Gracey, Neidra Halthon, Bart Houston, Art Hill, Patrick Jansen, Journee Jones, Mia Halthon-Jones, Alex Kelly, Genevieve and Rosy Krembel, Mickala Lewis, Clarence Lewis, Kathy McDonald's Granddaughter, Ryan, Beth McLaughlin, Traver Meathe, Andrea Milligan, Jennifer Mondalek, Allan Patterson, Helen Randall, Yvonne Rottach, Phil Scamihorn, Margaret Sebastian, Geoff & Joyce Shahady, Larry Shelton, Jim & Marie Singer, Sheila Starke, Marianne Szymanski, Phyllis Treece, Sr. Jolene, Pat Wimble, Nikki Zapinski, Tom Zarro, Carolyn Sutton's friend, Molly, Barbara Gabriel's sister Pearl, Joni Scott's mom, Annie, Rosanne Schwartz's grandson, Gavin, Shivaun Wois' mom and student Jacqueline, Kathy Walsh's sister, Marianne, Joanne Pierick's sister, Suzanne, The Benigni and Chida Families

MASS INTENTIONS TRINITY SUNDAY

SUNDAY, June 7, 2020

Mert & Dorothy Kroetsch (Family)
Patty Godin & Tom McLaughlin
(Nancy Silveri & Tony Novara)

THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, June 14, 2020

Mert Kroetsch (Family)

Deceased residents of
the Kundig Center
(Family & Friends)

PARISH DIRECTORY

5900 McClellan, Detroit, MI 48213

Parish Phone: 313-922-0033

Website: nativitydetroit.org

Email: nativityol@sbcglobal.net

Raymond Stadmeyer, OFM Cap-Pastor

Frances Carnaghi & Chris McLaughlin

Pastoral Ministers

Joni Scott Director of Faith Formation