

From the Pastor's Pen...

Before continuing our examination of the people named in the *Roman Canon* (also known as “Eucharistic Prayer no.1”) I would like to point out the structure of this prayer. Consider it like a pyramid. At the apex is the consecration of the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. In the steps which lead up to, and down from, that high point, various individuals are mentioned by name, indicating that the Eucharistic prayer is not a mere abstraction, but that it has concrete, real consequences for those still living on earth, those who already behold the face of God, and those enduring the final purification to enter into the Beatific Vision.

After the priest celebrant prays for the Church's shepherds – and by name for the Pope and the local bishop – he is required to pray for the people who will benefit from this Mass. Here is the text:

Remember, Lord, your servants N. and N. (the priest joins his hands and prays briefly for those whom he intends to pray. Then, with hands extended, he continues:) and all gathered here, whose faith and devotion are known to you. For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise or they offer it for themselves and all who are dear to them: for the redemption of their souls, in hope of health and well-being, and paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.

You will notice that the “N. and N.” provide the opportunity to include actual *Names* of individuals. In a Mass offered for a living person, this is the point at which the priest should name the individual for whom the Mass is offered. In Masses for the deceased, I often include here the names of the individuals who *requested* the Mass. It has long been my practice to include these names *in a quiet voice*, then, as instructed, to pause briefly to pray for them. If the Mass is offered for the repose of the soul of a deceased person, there is another moment – following the consecration where they are to be named and prayed for. This leads me to reflect briefly on the practice of requesting Mass intentions: Church law allows that a priest may receive a stipend for a Mass intention requested by the faithful. In practice today, that stipend is a nominal amount (\$10 is a minimum suggested donation, though one may offer more for a single Mass) and it goes not to the priest, but to the parish where he is serving – which pays his salary. Effectively, this allows the lay faithful to take part in a particular Mass, in a special way, by directing some of their bounty to the worship of God and for a specific purpose. This is the *principal* intention of the priest celebrant at that particular Mass, but it does not exclude each of the faithful in attendance from bringing their own intentions to the Mass. To avoid simony (the buying and selling of spiritual benefits) Church law allows that a priest may accept only one intention with a stipend attached. That is the one which is often included in the bulletin, and it is the one named by the priest (whether silently or out loud) in this part of the Mass (or the corresponding moment after the consecration where the names of deceased may be included.) This intention is included whether the individuals named (or those who requested the prayers) are bodily present or not!

After the mention, and pause to pray for “N. and N.”, the celebrant prays “for all who are gathered here...and for those who are dear to them.” Notice also the priority of spiritual goods over temporal goods: “for the redemption of their souls” takes first place, then is followed by the “hope of health and well-being.” Finally, we recall that our primary purpose here is an act of worship: “paying their homage to you, the eternal God, living and true.”



-Fr. Totton



Fifth Sunday of Easter

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HALL RENTAL

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MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Tuesday 7:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Sunday 7:30 a.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

We the members of Saint Joseph Catholic parish, will strive to be the reflection of Jesus in this particular time and place.

St. Joseph Church

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May 19, 2019

*Hail Holy
Queen,
Mother of
Mercy, our
life, our
sweetness
and our
hope; to
thee do we
come...*



TO PROTECT OUR CHILDREN: REPORT ABUSE

Diocesan OMBUDSMAN: 816.812.2500

DIOCESAN VICTIM ADVOCATE: Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@dioceseksj.org for more information.