

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time-B



Why We Do What We Do

Love requires action.

As followers of Christ, we can never be spectators. We must actively put our faith into practice through loving actions of prayer; service; speaking out on moral, spiritual, and justice issues; and doing little and big things to make a difference. Faith in action is the fruit of faith.

"By charity, we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for love of God. Charity, the form of all the virtues, binds everything together in perfect harmony." (Col 3:14) (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1844*).

Jesus makes charity the *new commandment*. (Cf. Jn 13:34) By loving his own 'to the end,' (Jn 13:1) he makes manifest the Father's love which he receives. By loving one another, the disciples imitate the love of Jesus which they themselves receive. Whence Jesus says: 'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love.' And again: 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.'" (1823)

"The Lord asks us to love as he does, even our *enemies*, to make ourselves the neighbor of those farthest away, and to love children and the poor as Christ himself. (Cf. Mt 5:44; Lk 10:27-37; Mk 9:37; Mt 25:40, 45) The Apostle Paul has given an incomparable depiction of charity: 'charity is patient and kind, charity is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Charity does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Charity bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.'" (1 Cor 13:4-7) (1825)

"If I . . . have not charity,' says the Apostle, 'I am nothing.' Whatever my privilege, service, or even virtue, 'if I . . . have not charity, I gain nothing.' (1 Cor 13:1-4) Charity is superior to all the virtues. It is the first of the theological virtues: 'So faith, hope, charity abide, these three. But *the greatest of these is charity*.'" (1 Cor 13:13) (1826)

"The Greek word used by Paul is *caritas* which means charity. In [Christian theology](#) *charity*, or *love (agapē)*, means an unlimited [loving-kindness](#) toward all others. The term should not be confused with the more restricted modern use of the word [charity](#) to mean benevolent giving." (*Wikipedia*)

"The practice of all the virtues is animated and inspired by charity, which 'binds everything together in perfect harmony', (Col 3:14) it is the *form of the virtues*; it articulates and orders them among themselves; it is the source and the goal of their Christian practice. Charity upholds and purifies our human ability to love, and raises it to the supernatural perfection of divine love." (1827)

"The practice of the moral life animated by charity gives to the Christian the spiritual freedom of the children of God. He no longer stands before God as a slave, in servile fear, or as a mercenary looking for wages, but as a son responding to the love of him who 'first loved us': (Cf. 1 Jn 4:19) 'If we turn away from evil out of fear of punishment, we are in the position of slaves. If we pursue the enticement of wages, . . . we resemble mercenaries. Finally if we obey for the sake of the good itself and out of love for him who commands . . . we are in the position of children.'" (*St. Basil*) (1828)

"The *fruits* of charity are joy, peace, and mercy; charity demands beneficence and fraternal correction; it is benevolence; it fosters reciprocity and remains disinterested and generous; it is friendship and communion: Love is itself the fulfillment of all our works. There is the goal; that is why we run: we run toward it, and once we reach it, in it we shall find rest.'" (*St. Augustine*) (1829)

"The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching must be

directed to the love that never ends. Whether something is proposed for belief, for hope or for action, the love of our Lord must always be made accessible, so that anyone can see that all the works of perfect Christian virtue spring from love and have no other objective than to arrive at love." (25)

Prayer

"Keep me, O God, from pettiness; let me be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let me be done with fault-finding and self-seeking. May I put away all pretense and meet everyone face to face without self-pity and without prejudice. May I never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Let me take time for all things. Make me grow calm, serene and gentle. Teach me to put into action my better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that I may realize it is the little things of life that create differences and that in the big things of life we are one. And, O Lord God, let me not forget to be kind!" (*Our Catholic Prayers*)



"2012" Weekly Budget.....\$ 5,650.00
Offertory collected January 22nd.....\$ 5,744.72
Difference.....+\$ 94.72

Second Collection

Second collection January 22nd "Arch. Hispanic Ministries"\$. 1,153.09

Campaign '12 Pledges:

Total donations made (from pledges) as of 1/08.....\$ 116,975.00
January 22nd collection.\$ 25.00
New Campaign total donations from pledges.....\$ 117,000.00

Next week's Second collection

Next week's second collection will be for the St. Clement Building and Maintenance fund. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



Reflection on 10 Years

Very few couples come to us wanting true marriage preparation. They want us to set a date, to stay on the surface and not look too closely at the nature of their relationship, and they don't want to be challenged about attitudes, habits, or issues that will affect their marriage.

My first year as a priest, two couples had major issues that led to changes of plans. Because of good marriage prep, one couple postponed six weeks before and the other cancelled their wedding two weeks before the scheduled date.

The first couple would do extensive counseling and marry three years later.

With the second couple, they had major differences and the sponsor couple program opened her eyes. We intentionally gave them a mentor couple where he was in a second marriage, they had a brand new baby, and he talked about what went wrong the first time.

The bride to be, who was only 20, cancelled the wedding and ended the relationship. A month later she came up to me after mass, squeezed my hand, and said "Thank you."

Both couples had serious communication issues and both were living together, a major mistake before marriage. The second couple was very different at key levels—values, beliefs, backgrounds, expectations, maturity, and spirituality. She was more than five years younger and was the more spiritual and more mature.

We help couples to examine their relationship and make sure it is ready to stand the test of time. The couples that work with us, and take the process seriously, are generally the most ready.

HEALING



"We cannot truly serve God until we have mastered our own self. We master our own self when we surrender to our own self, to our human condition and thereby take full and absolute responsibility for our human condition. When we take responsibility we are free then to serve God as we individually may come to know and appreciate ourselves in Him and He in us as we are one (John 17:21) as God is one." (*White Robed Monks of St. Benedict*)

The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time-B

January 29, 2012

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

I will raise up a prophet and I will put my words into his mouth.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

A virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy.

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

He taught them as one having authority.

Living the Paschal Mystery

The Good News is, because of baptism, we are also God's "kin" (members of the Body of Christ) and, therefore, we are given the same authority as Jesus to teach God's ways and confront and overcome the power of evil. Our authority does not come from us, but rests in our having been baptized into Christ and the intimate relationship with him that baptism opens up. Through baptism we are empowered to know who Jesus is. Our authority also rests within the Christian community, among those with whom we live, work, and worship. The authority is not ours but is the fruit of the life given us by God, a life we share with others. This authority we share because our baptismal dignity brings with it a responsibility. Those who abuse authority diminish life; those who respect authority *enhance* life. Authentic discipleship implies teaching and acting with authority that witnesses to integrity: words and deeds coinciding in such a way that our lives manifest the same integrity as Jesus' life. Goodness overcomes evil when we demonstrate such integrity. We are easily amazed and astonished at the eloquent words of others. Sometimes we ourselves might even talk fancy words about God. These words are truly eloquent and fruitful, however, only when our everyday actions witness to their truth by the very goodness of our own lives. The source of this goodness is the life God gives us. ~ *Living Liturgy*

Saturday, January 28 th , 5:30 pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 29 th , 8:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 29 th , 10:00 am.....	Abel & Jose Maria Ochoa (RIP)
Sunday, January 29 th , 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 29 th , 1:00 pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, January 29 th , 7:00 pm.....	Our Parish Family
Monday, January 30 th , 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Tuesday, January 31 st , 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Wednesday, February 1 st , 12:15pm.....	Daily Mass
Wednesday, February 1 st , 6:30pm.....	Rosary in English
Wednesday, February 1 st , 7:00pm.....	Rosary in Spanish
Thursday, February 2 nd , 12:15pm.....	Communion Service
Friday, February 3 rd , 12:15pm.....	1 st Friday Mass in English
Friday, February 3 rd , 6:00pm.....	1 st Friday Mass in Spanish
Saturday, February 4 th , 5:30 pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 5 th , 8:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 5 th , 10:00 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 5 th , 11:30 am.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 5 th , 1:00 pm.....	Our Parish Family
Sunday, February 5 th , 7:00 pm.....	Our Parish Family

Food for Thought

In today's Old Testament passage, Moses speaks of another prophet God will raise from among the Israelites. In St. Mark's Gospel, that prophecy is fulfilled in Christ Jesus, Who speaks, heals, and casts out evil spirits with authority in the synagogue at Capernaum. As faithful stewards, we acknowledge Christ as the Great Prophet and also the popes and others of our time who continue to speak out against moral relativism and injustices present in our day.



STEWARDSHIP

Next month we will begin the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. As you may remember, last year the Archdiocese moved the appeal from the fall to late-January/early-February. Last year, for the first time in many years, we met our goal. We thank everyone for your generosity and support.

As the "Why We Do" article reminds us, charity never stops. Unfortunately, the expenses of charity don't stop either. To

continue the work of the Lord, we need the support of all—whether it be financial, hands on service, or through our prayers. Thank you for continuing to amaze me as your pastor.

Our Prayers are needed for:



Katie Dain-cancer, Lavere Dembicki-health, Brian Dingler-health, Fr. Denis Kolumber-health, Jean Satz-chrons disease, T.J. Rushing-tumor, JoAnn Silvers-health, Alice Nott-surgery, John Muysken-health, Dolores Maldonado-health, Karla Tatiana Hernandez Maldonado-recovery, Terese Zanol-cancer, Ally Opeka-helath, Yseult Forcier-coma, Casey Collins-recovery, Cooper Brazell-health, Gino Alteri-cancer, Paul Jeffery Adams-health.

* Today let us pray for the repose of the soul of Robert O'Brien Sr. About one month ago Robert departed this life after a long battle with a severe illness. Let us remember his family in our prayers during their time of mourning.



Scholarships

It's that time of year again where our Senior High School students prepare themselves to end one chapter of their lives, and boldly takes steps to another. Although college is an amazing journey, the expense can be somewhat overwhelming. I encourage the kids to seek out as many scholarships as possible, and therefore would like to announce two that may be of interest.

The first would be the 2012 Archbishop John F. Donoghue Scholarship. This essay scholarship awards a first and second place winner. The second is our very own Defalco scholarship. This essay scholarship awards one student who exemplifies the qualities that Mr. Defalco held dear in the Catholic faith.

Applications for both scholarships are posted on the board outside the parish office. Please make note of the guidelines and deadlines. Good luck Senior Class of "2012".

Archdiocesan News

Ross Douthat, columnist for **THE NEW YORK TIMES**, author of several best-selling books, and leading young public intellectual, will speak on Thursday, February 16 at 7 pm in the Krannert Ballroom on religion in public life in America today (his new book). He will also, of course, pay due attention to the current political landscape and the election. Ross is a Catholic convert and certainly one of the most influential young Catholic thinkers today. Please contact plawler@berry.edu for further information.

MAGNIFICAT PRAYER BREAKFAST for women will be held Sat., Feb. 25, 2012 from 9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church, 3773 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta. All women are invited. Come hear the faith story of guest speaker Beth Mappes, wife, mother, and children's performing arts teacher. A cradle Catholic, Beth fell away from the Catholic faith in her early 20s and was involved in an alternative religion. She will speak of how God's grace brought her back to the Catholic Church and the vital and at times surprising spiritual journey she has experienced. **Reservations are \$15. Advance reservations are required. Please mail check, payable to Magnificat Joyful Visitation, by Feb. 18, to: Kathy Timony, 6170 Rachel Ridge, Norcross, GA 30092. Check-in is at the door for those with reservations only. For information call Kathy Timony at 770-263-6957.**

SPANISH WEEKEND RETREAT FOR WOMEN: Feb. 3-5; Carmel Retreat Center, 415 Old Collins Road, Hoschton. Based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, the retreats will be given by a priest of the Legionaries of Christ and will provide time for directed meditations, the sacraments and personal reflection. Contact: (678) 679-5096, M-F, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. or email retreats@MissionNetworkAtlanta.org for information. To register online, please go to www.MissionNetworkAtlanta.org and select "Event Registration."