Pastor’s Corner

My brothers and sisters,

I am asked questions repeatedly – and I mean repeatedly – about going to Confession. I would say that most questions center on sin itself—from the amount of sins confessed to the size, shape, variety and inevitably, what is the WORST sin that was ever confessed to me as a priest. In most cases, I will start with some very broad generalities. However, instead of answering the questions, I respond by discussing what are good habits and why we fixate on bad habits. Then, I begin to discuss how we can turn away from those bad habits. I know it’s difficult, but we can.

From the skeptic, I hear “What’s the point?”, “Nothing changes” or “Same ole’, same ole’”. Indirectly the skeptic has set-up a situation to fail in curbing the bad habit. He or she hopes that the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation wields magic. The wand is waved and the problem, the habit or the difficulty is “poof” gone. Of course, we know it does not work this way. Many of us lie, gossip, swear, speak ill of others, deflect blame. We do it over and over again. If I believe in His Mercy that I cannot earn, then I have all the more reason to do the work and bring an end to the bad habit. Perhaps the “magic” of the Sacrament is to trust the One who is Mercy and because of His unconditional Mercy, feel called to find a way out of some bad habitual behavior. Here is some “public penance” that I would share as I strive to live well and let go of some of these behaviors.

First, don’t go after the bad habit head on and get fixated. Such an unhealthy focus on the sin creates greater anxiety and fear. For some, pushed to the extreme, a paralysis can happen. We can get stunted by what is not good. We can be frozen by the reality of the sin and the seemingly perpetual engagement of the bad habit. For example, I can get fixated on the fact that, “I always lie”. Oftentimes, this worsens

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the situation entirely. Instead, let’s approach this differently. I am a firm believer in focusing upon what is good and right. When I live out good virtue, such as prudence and temperance and realize I am making some good choices, then I can exercise a good choice again and again to pattern good habits or behavior. This will have a wonderfully blossoming effect. The good can freeze the bad. When there are areas in my life where I do find the freedom to tell the truth, it helps me see the craziness of living in a lie in other areas. So, instead of fixating on what’s wrong; be about what is good and possible. God makes it possible to do the work of living out what is good and right. Make it happen!

Second, ask the “why” question. Why am I drawn into behaviors like lying, cheating, gossiping and slander? Why am I filled with vengeance, anger, anxiety, bitterness or laziness? What might surprise us all is that the root of the bad behavior or habit is love. We are formed to be loved and to act lovingly and to serve in the same way. My brothers and sisters, I can forget that I am motivated by God’s grace to love. I realize that in my humanness, I don’t love in my life the way God has ordered me to love. Yet, even my undisciplined and selfish ways are – believe it or not – expressions of love that are misfiring. What we must do is look up and not down because of sin. We realize this higher calling to love when we are willing to admit we do not always love well. When I choose to learn from others who love well but also struggle I am inspired to keep striving. We need to order our lives in Jesus’ life of meaningful or real love. Or “love with teeth”.

These two approaches to addressing bad habits are “penance” that is not easy. It requires work. Why not? Why would I not want to be so free that shackles of sin fall away and a new order is revealed?

My brothers and sisters, I invite you to join us Saturday afternoons this summer from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM at St. Augustine Church. You can call and make an appointment with me, Or Frs. Kwame and Fili. We are here to accompany you in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation: to experience the good work of freedom. Let’s be about all that is good...

Fr. Paul
## Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday
- **June 10**
  - 8:00 AM: Roy Dewitt
  - 10:00 AM: Cynthia Irene Gibson
  - 12:00 PM: Francis Jacob

#### Monday
- **June 11**
  - 8:30 AM: Deepa Palamuttam (L)

#### Tuesday
- **June 12**
  - 8:30 AM: Happy & Rose Pisenti & Family

#### Wednesday
- **June 13**
  - 8:30 AM: Allen & Gene Pisenti

#### Thursday
- **June 14**
  - 8:30 AM: Alice Del Vecchio

#### Friday
- **June 15**
  - 8:30 AM: Grace Weakley

#### Saturday
- **June 16**
  - 8:00 AM: Raymond Northam

#### Sunday
- **June 17**
  - 8:00 AM: Charles A. Berger
  - 10:00 AM: Natasha Palamuttam (L)

### Calendar of Events

#### Sunday
- **June 10**
  - 8:00 AM: Rosary
    - Church

#### Monday
- **June 11**
  - 8:00 AM: Rosary
    - Church

#### Tuesday
- **June 12**
  - 8:00 AM: Rosary
    - Church Room 13
  - 10:00 AM: Infant & Toddler Playgroup
  - 12:00 PM: Al-Anon Meeting
  - 7:00 PM: Adult Choir Rehearsal
  - Room 8
  - Church

#### Wednesday
- **June 13**
  - 8:00 AM: Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting
    - Church Rooms 4 & 5
  - 7:00 PM: Bible Study
    - Rooms 16 & 17

#### Thursday
- **June 14**
  - 8:00 AM: Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting
    - Church Rooms 4 & 5
  - 7:00 PM: Bible Study
    - Rooms 16 & 17
  - 7:30 PM: Al-Anon
    - Church Rooms 4 & 5

#### Friday
- **June 15**
  - 8:00 AM: Knights of Columbus Officers Meeting
    - Church Rooms 4 & 5
  - 7:00 PM: Al-Anon
    - Church Rooms 4 & 5
  - 7:30 PM: AA—Words of Wisdom
    - Church Rooms 4 & 5

#### Saturday
- **June 16**
  - 8:00 AM: St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Devotion
    - Church
  - 3:00 PM: Al-Anon
    - Church
  - 6:00 PM: Reconciliation
    - Church

#### Sunday
- **June 17**
  - 8:00 AM: Rosary
    - Church
  - 10:00 AM: Rosary
    - Church
  - 12:00 PM: Rosary
    - Church

### Mass Intentions

#### Sunday
- **June 10**
  - 9:00 AM: Laurel Alice Williams
  - 11:00 AM: Genevieve Giordano
  - 4:00 PM: For The People
  - 6:30 PM: Emmanuel Cartago (L)

#### Monday
- **June 11**
  - 11:30 AM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room B

#### Tuesday
- **June 12**
  - 12:10 PM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A

#### Wednesday
- **June 13**
  - 12:10 PM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room B

#### Thursday
- **June 14**
  - 12:10 PM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A

#### Friday
- **June 15**
  - 12:10 PM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A

#### Saturday
- **June 16**
  - 8:30 AM: St. Padre Pio Prayer Group Meeting
    - Rooms A & B

### Calendar of Events

#### Sunday
- **June 10**
  - 10:15 AM: RCIA
    - Room A
  - 10:15 AM: M.O.M.S. Bible Study
    - Room B

#### Monday
- **June 11**
  - 11:30 AM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A

#### Tuesday
- **June 12**
  - 11:30 AM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A

#### Wednesday
- **June 13**
  - 11:30 AM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A

#### Thursday
- **June 14**
  - 11:30 AM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A

#### Friday
- **June 15**
  - 11:30 AM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A

#### Saturday
- **June 16**
  - 11:30 AM: Rosary & Angelus
    - Chapel Room A
Scripture Readings

June 17
Ezekiel 17:22-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34

Requests for Mass Intentions

A wonderful way to honor and remember your loved ones is to offer a Mass intention. The 2018 Mass Intention Calendars (July—December) will open for reservations on June 11 at:

St. Augustine Rectory Conference Room
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Monday – Friday 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

St. Elizabeth Seton Office
Monday – Friday 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Monday – Thursday 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Infant & Toddler Playgroup

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM
St. Augustine Hall, Room 13

Giving Pre-K children in our community a casual setting to play, learn and socialize in a Christ-centered environment while providing a forum of support, friendship and fellowship for parents/caregivers.

Facility Scheduling

The Facility Scheduling packets have been emailed to all Ministry Coordinators. If you did not receive yours, please contact Michael Harmon, Director of Communication at mharmon@catholicsofpleasanton.org.

Bi-Monthly Grief Workshops

Our bi-monthly workshop for grief support will be held June 14 and 28, July 12 and 16, August 9 and 23. These meetings will be at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel.

All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation. For a complete schedule and more information, please visit our website catholicsofpleasanton.org, scroll down to grief ministry tab and tap on it for additional information.

St. Padre Pio Prayer Group

“Prayer Groups are beds of Faith” says Padre Pio! The “Sons and Daughters of Padre Pio Prayer Group” at CCOP, (officially aggregated to the International Center of the Prayer Groups of Padre Pio for the relief of the suffering) invites you to join and celebrate the Eucharist on June 16. Mass starts at 8:30 AM at St Augustine Church followed by devotion, meeting and fellowship at St. Elizabeth Seton Rooms A & B.

Habitat for Humanity

Volunteers are needed to build a home for a deserving family in Martinez. Please join us on Saturday, June 16 from 8:30 AM until 4:00 PM. Adults and teens 16 years and older are welcome. With your help we can fulfill the dream of homeownership for low-income, hard working families in Alameda County.

For information or to volunteer, please contact Diane Cowart at djcowart@aol.com or (925) 989-5083. You can also sign up at https://eastbay.volunteerhub.com/lp/CCOP/.

This volunteer activity is organized by the Social Justice Committee.

Safe Environment Training

Safe Environment training is mandatory for all who minister and volunteer at CCOP. It must be done first before starting work or volunteering and then every 3 years thereafter. The Diocese of Oakland announces our affiliation with VIRTUS, Protecting God’s Children. The links for registration are on the Safe Environment Page of the Diocese website.

To register and take the online course go to www.virtusonline.org. It is available in Spanish and English. Cost paid by parish.

All volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults must be live scan printed and cleared prior to beginning work.

Fingerprinting Vendor:
AAA Live Scan
1576 2nd Street - Suite E, Livermore, CA
Military Peer Support Group
St. Augustine Church—Rectory
3rd Wednesday
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Veterans share life challenges and opportunities with other veterans the 3rd Wednesday of each month. For more information, contact Dom Pietro at (925) 462-4665 or pietr11@comcast.net. All ages are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Thursday, June 14, 6:30 PM
St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Rooms A & B
The Prayer Shawl Ministry Team meets the 2nd Thursday at 6:30 PM in Rooms A & B at St. Elizabeth Seton Church. All who knit and crochet are welcome—especially beginners! For more information, please contact Joanne Lenigan at (925) 872-8940.

Faith Formation Registration
In case you missed faith formation registration, we will have another registration opportunity on August 14 in St. Augustine Hall. If you have any questions, call the office at (925) 846-3531.

Ice Cream Social For Newcomers To CCOP
Sunday, July 1
11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
St. Augustine Hall and Grounds
This is an event for newcomers, those who joined CCOP in the last year or so. Members of the clergy, staff, pastoral council and ministry leaders will be there to meet and mingle with you!
To ensure we have enough ice cream, we request your RSVP to roxanneras@gmail.com by June 20.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

| Agnes Fuentes | Tom Gleason  |
| Sheri Joyce  | Sabrina Bachelor |
| Bella Gavino | Zosimo Yasana    |
| Kathy Sitzman| Carl Metz       |
| Andrew Holmes| Juliet Blake    |
| Nancy Wright | Fr. Dan Danielson |
| Ernesto Santos| Lehua Sobrero  |

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES

| Joseph Raj Antony & Dolly Hyacinth Xavier | Donald Hayes Devlin |
| Martin Ascanio & Mariana Chagoya          | Dick Partida       |
| Adriana Austin                            | Rex Pasibe         |
| Simon & Marta Baird                       | Marie Lambert      |
| Mauricio Escalante & Victoria Romero      | Susan Jacinto      |
| Elenita Forsman                           | Rickie Murphey     |
| Maria M Gonzalez                          | Eleanor Doty       |
| Andrew & Michelle Knuth                   | Jean Sjoberg       |
| E. James & Kristi Macias                  | Edmundo Ramos      |
| Paul & JeriAnn Marty                      | Peggy Ramos        |
| Mike & Kelly Morgan                       | Elena Sandiego     |
| Christopher & Joselina Patio              | Gretchen Piscotti  |
| Rhona Pedregosa                           |                     |
| Albert & Johanna Perez                    |                     |
| Maria Valera                              |                     |

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

| Donald Hayes Devlin | Duane Wolfe |
| Federico N. Difuntorum | Dick Partida |
| Beatrice Quintana    | Rex Pasibe  |
| Sister Christine Patrinos | Marie Lambert |
| Don Bliss            | Susan Jacinto|
| Alice Del Vecchio    | Rickie Murphey|
| Rene Aurot           | Eleanor Doty |
| Diane Brown          | Jean Sjoberg |
| Ruth Lagrimas        | Edmundo Ramos|
| Angel F. Palarwan    | Peggy Ramos |
| Frank Di Christopher  | Elena Sandiego|
| Josephine Di Christopher |                     |

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Blessings & Congratulations To All The Newly Confirmed!