Pastor’s Corner

“Bone of my bones... flesh of my flesh”: The Equality of our Humanity

All “humans” are created equal and are endowed with inalienable rights—of life, freedom, and the pursuit of happiness! Although we hear this assertion in the founding documents of our country, it is first and foremost a Christian, biblical, and a faith truth. To make our society, nation and world peaceful, free, just, and good, we must constantly keep this principle. If we forget that all humans are equal in dignity and rights, we bring into our nation and churches, abuses of all kinds, violence, neglect, environmental degradation, etc. Hence, a glance at our current social, political, and cultural life shows that we need to get back to this basic, raw, and foundational principle of humanity. Our scriptures tell us exactly that!

What are our Scripture passages telling us, this weekend? There are no limits to the messages we may glean from our texts; they include marriage and divorce, faithfulness, gender, etc. I remember in 2006 inviting a priest-friend to preach to my “all-African American” Catholic Church in New Orleans, on this “rib story” in the first reading. He began his homily by saying: “You know... Adam couldn’t have been a black man; because black men couldn’t easily give up their ribs.” He was joking, of course! And, yes, it didn’t go well with the men of the Parish that day and I received phone calls and emails during that week. Still, many others think the “rib story” explains the physical difference between male and female, and the roles that cultures assign to the sexes.

I do not ignore some of these messages, but I do think that there is an overarching message or a purpose of these stories. That message or purpose is

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the equality of our humanity, and hence the need for us to recognize, respect, and do all in our power to promote that equality in dignity above everything. Remember the words of the first human, Adam, in the presence of the second human, Eve: “This at last is bone from my bones and flesh from my flesh”! Compare that statement to the earlier experience when Adam saw the animals God made from the ground: Adam did not find “a suitable mate” among them. The animals are far beneath the dignity and substance of the human Adam. Therefore, Adam and Eve are equal in dignity and substance guaranteed or endowed, not by another human being but, by their common creator – in God’s image that is, “not” God, but “like” God. If this is the way we (humans) were created to function, then we must always return to that original, raw humanity to find solutions to the problems we face today. In the Gospel, Jesus uses marriage to drive that point home. He teaches us to find our “suitable” companion by discovering that human dignity in persons. The only way that human relationships like marriages can last is when they are built on the dignity of equality and rights of humans. Wife and husband fail when they fail to see that dignity; socially, politically, economically and religiously powerful persons abuse other persons when they fail to see the divinely-endowed human dignity, equality, and rights of their victims. This weekend, let us remember all victims of abuse of every kind. Essentially, they have been robbed of their human dignity, equality, and rights which God gave them. Let us return to that original, Christian, human, and American truth that all humans are created equal with endowed, inalienable rights of life, freedom, and happiness. Pray to God with the song that says: “Take me back, [dear God], to the place where I first received you,” and where I first believed that humans, in spite of cultures and ideologies and politics, even religions, have a basic worth that is worthy of our recognition and protection.

Fr. Kwame
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Mass Intentions</th>
<th>Calendar of Events</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Raymound Cook</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus Donut Social</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Eddy Halim</td>
<td>Children’s Liturgy of The Word</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Virginia Trucios</td>
<td>Blessing of the Pets</td>
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<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Office Closed</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
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<td>Emmeline Marie Sedillo</td>
<td>Hispanic Prayer Group</td>
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<td>TUESDAY</td>
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<td>Joseph Kengor</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
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<td>October 9</td>
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<td>Infant and Toddler Playgroup</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
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<td>Pamela Holmberg</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
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<td>October 10</td>
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<td>Parish Pastoral Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
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<td>Suni &amp; Mary Palamuttan (L)</td>
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<td>October 11</td>
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<td>Knights of Columbus Business Meeting</td>
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<td>FRIDAY</td>
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<td>Paul Syliangco</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
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<td>October 12</td>
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<td>Al-Anon - Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Wilbur O. &amp; Anges P. LaMarre</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
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<td>October 13</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Tony Costello</td>
<td>SPRED - Special Religious Education</td>
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<td>SUNDAY</td>
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<td>Tiffany Miller Cooper</td>
<td>Rosary</td>
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<td>October 14</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Alma Ruth Avalos (L)</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Licia Matos</td>
<td>Church Rectory</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Modesto Salazar</td>
<td>Knights of Columbus Donut/Cookie Social</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>The Barreto Family (L)</td>
<td>Confirmation Year 1 Retreat</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Maria del Carmen Gutierrez</td>
<td>RCIA Inquiry</td>
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<td>MONDAY</td>
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<td>Catherine Monzo</td>
<td>Rosary and Angelus</td>
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<td>October 8</td>
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<td>Chapel</td>
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<td>TUESDAY</td>
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<td>Antonio Silva</td>
<td>Rosary and Angelus</td>
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<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Jovita Tice</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>For the People</td>
<td>Confirmation Year 2 Sponsor Retreat</td>
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**Note:** The table above lists events for the specified dates and times, including Mass Intentions and Calendar of Events. The events include various activities such as liturgies, prayer gatherings, and group meetings. The locations are indicated next to each event, such as Chapel, Hall, Church, Rectory, etc.
Scripture Readings
October 14
Wisdom 7:7-11
Hebrews 4:12-13
Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

Holiday Office Hours
In observance of Columbus Day, the Rectory, Faith Formation and St. Elizabeth Seton Offices will be closed on Monday, October 8. Mass will be celebrated at St. Augustine Church at 8:30 AM only.

There will be NO 12:10 PM Mass and NO Eucharistic Adoration at St. Elizabeth Seton Chapel.

St. Vincent de Paul
Conference Update
The following is a recap of how we have helped our clients in the last 2 months with funds collected from the last 5th Sunday that the Parish graciously provided our conference in July.

- Rent – 8 Assisted, $1,753 total paid.
- Grocery Gift Cards – 11 Assisted, $440 total paid.
- PG&E – 8 Assisted, $798 total paid.
- Motel Nights – 14 Assisted, 21 Days, $1,767 total paid

We thank the parish for allowing us to assist those in our community most in need and would ask you consider us again during the second collection for St Vincent de Paul.

Adult Confirmation
Adults interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Matt Gray at (925) 202-5425.

RCIA: Come and See
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process that adults complete to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Contact Matt Gray at (925) 202-5425 or mgray@catholicofpleasanton.org.

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.

Save The Date!
CCOP invites you to our Second Annual Disco Bingo Night! A fun twist on a classic game! January 26, 2019 immediately following the 5:00 pm Mass. Fun for the entire family!

Mass Of Remembrance
A Mass of Remembrance is planned for Monday, November 5, at 7:30 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton. Please join us for a special evening of worship as we honor those you love who have died. All are welcome regardless of religious affiliation. Please bring a small picture or memento of you loved one to share and then take home at the end of the evening.

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED
Bishop Wenceslao Padilla
Antonio Matos
Claudia Hassler
Thomas Gleason
Maria Ledezma
Mark Nelson
Michael Turpel
Bernadette Mignone
Jim DeMello
John Onate
Manuel Rubio
Lou Ann Trinca
Erich Pokorny
Karen Bauer
Judy Jensen
Eleanor Grabowski

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK
Patty Dickerson
Kellie Beattie
Sharon Montagna
Michael Montagna
Dave Johnson
Agnes Fuentes
Tim Burke
Jim Cronn
Randy Bartlett
Tony Sullins
Sheila Buckley
Leonila de la Cruz
Teresa Grande
Juliet Blake
Requests for Mass Intentions
A wonderful way to honor and remember your loved ones is to offer a Mass intention. Please visit one of the offices in person to reserve Masses. The 2019 Mass Intention Calendars (January–June) will open for reservations on October 22 at:

St. Augustine Rectory Conference Room
Monday – Friday 9:30 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, Wednesday & Thursday 4:30 PM -8:00 PM

Prayer Shawl Ministry
The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Thursday, October 11, 2018 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Rooms A and B. Please bring current projects as well as finished shawls, hats, and scarves. Beginners are welcome! For additional information contact Joanne Lenigan at (925) 872-8940.

Job Opening
Administrative Assistant
Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose
43326 Mission Circle
Fremont, CA 94539

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Patricia Boland, Director of Human Resources at www.msjdominicans.org.

FESTA ITALIANA
DINNER & SOCIAL
Saturday October 27th, 2018
St. Augustine Church Hall

No-Host Cocktails
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Authentic Italian Dinner
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Menu
Antipasti, Rigatoni in Bolognese Sauce, Meatballs, Sausage, Salad, Italian Bread, Italian Dessert

Pricing
Adults: $20.00
Children 12 and under: $10.00

For tickets, call or email:
Stephen Natale
925-895-7661 or sanatale@hotmail.com
Chuck Berardi
925-381-1643 or chuck.berardi@gmail.com

Ticket sales end Wednesday, October 24

THIS IS A FAMILY EVENT
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsored By
The Knights of Columbus
CCOP Council 6043
The annual “Tootsie Roll” drive will be held next weekend, October 13th & 14th, following all Masses.

The Tootsie Roll Drive supports people with disabilities from the local area.

Thanks for your help...every little bit(e) counts!