

SACRED HEART HEARTBEAT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY December 29/30, 2018

COMING SPECIAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Dec. 29/30 – Feast of the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph (Regular Mass schedule)

Jan. 1 - **Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God**

Masses at the Jesuit Center at 8:30 and 10 AM

Jan. 3 – The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Jan. 4 – First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass

Jan. 5/6 – The Feast of the Epiphany

Jan. 12 – First Communion class resumes

Jan. 12/13 – The Baptism of the Lord

Jan. 19/20 – The 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year C)

Jan. 25 – Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Feb. 1 - First Friday – Adoration following the 8:30 AM Mass

Feb. 2 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Blessing of Candles

Feb. 2/3 – Blessing of candles and blessing of throats at both weekend Masses

Feb. 11 – Our Lady of Lourdes

Feb/ 22 – Feast of the Chair of Peter





Pope Francis'
MONTHLY
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith

That people, who are involved in the service and the transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language that is suited to the conditions of the present times.

ADVENT BASKETS – You may bring your baskets/cans to any Mass, or to the Jesuit Center. If you want to keep your baskets until after New Year’s because you are away or because you want to get more money to put in the basket, terrific. Just get them back to us so we can use your gifts for others.

END OF YEAR DONATIONS – IN THE US, IN JORDAN

It is certainly the case that the parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish continue to be extraordinarily generous and this is not a solicitation for money. But some have asked about making donations at the end of year, so here is the information.

To make a US tax-deductible contribution

- 1) Make out the check to: UNE Province - Society of Jesus
- 2) Send the check to Treasurer - Society of Jesus
39 East 83rd Street
New York, NY 10028
- 3) **IMPORTANT** – Attach a note that this donation is for Father Sheehan and his work in Jordan.

If you are able to make a tax deduction for contributions in dinars, we have to know that the contribution is from you (ie we cannot credit what you have put into the collection basket anonymously) and we are pleased to write you a receipt for your gift. Our understanding is that in some cases this is accepted and in some cases it is challenged. If you are making a gift in the name of a company or corporation, let us know the exact wording for the acknowledgement.

PARISH BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

- 1 Stephanie Madzey
Christina Masannat
- 2 Adam Abaker Bush
- 13 Alejandra Proana
Janaurieu D’SA
- 14 Amy Mitchell
- 20 Anthony MacDonald
Joseph Mooney
- 21 Ramon Senga
Nida Pante Lamadrid
- 24 Alice Doherty



If your birthday is in January and you’re not listed here, there are 3 possible reasons:
 1) *We made a mistake. Let us know and we can fix that.*
 2) *You didn’t register in the parish. That means we don’t know your birthday. YOU can fix that by registering.*
 3) *You DID register – but you didn’t include your birthday. See #2 above.*



If you are already starting to think about New Year’s Resolutions – think about volunteering for one of the parish ministries. Lectors – Altar Servers – Care for the Poor Committee – (is Music and a small choir a dead issue?) – Liturgy of the Word for Children – and others. Think about it.

A LETTER FROM FATHER SCHINELLER

One of the joys of Christmas is that it is often the time when we catch up with old friends. Recently we got a Christmas note from Fr. Peter Schineller, excerpts of which are here, with two photos.

Greetings of Peace- Christmas Peace - that we need and long and work and pray for. Thanks to so many who have sent me Christmas and New Year Greetings.

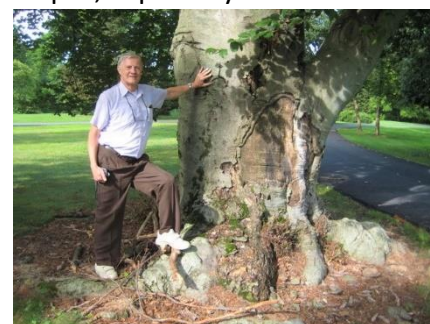
It has been quite a year for me, very positive, a year of transition from the Jesuit Center in the Mid-East (Amman Jordan) to the Jogues Center in the Mid-Hudson (Cornwall, New York).

I began my Jesuit journey in 1957 at St. Andrew-on-Hudson, Poughkeepsie. Now at Cornwall, I can see the Hudson River from my room, about two miles away. I arrived in New York in January. After a stay at Fordham, I moved to Jogues Retreat Center, Cornwall. I live and work here with two other Jesuit priests. We host meetings of groups (up to 24) of teachers, counselors, administrators, Jesuits, non-Jesuits. Most groups have their own guides and leaders, and we welcome them and celebrate Mass with them if they wish. I work part-time with the Office of Ignatian Spirituality, researching and suggesting resource books, articles, internet links on and about Jesuit spirituality for laypersons. Beyond this, I have much time for some writing projects. And I enjoy getting outdoors, making the grounds more attractive (we have 30 acres of woods and paths).

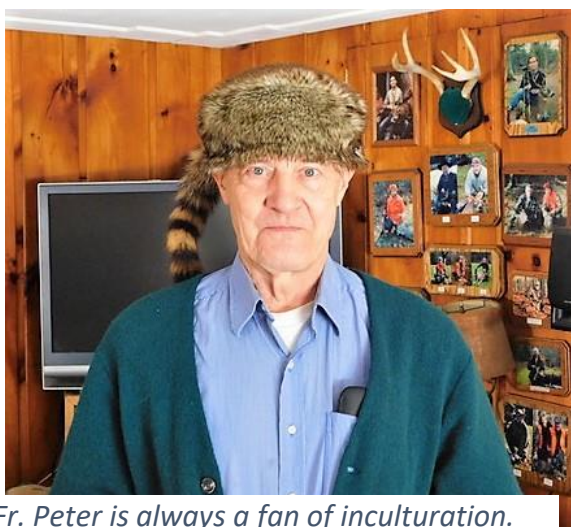
Health has been strong - better eyesight due to two cataracts out; now some therapy to improve my scratchy voice (nothing serious, just part of aging). Of course, the varied crises facing the USA and the Catholic Church are never far from my mind. But hope remains strong and deeper, especially at this season of Christmas. One wonderful example of hope and love and joy is the adoption of two boys, Jayden John and James Eugene, by my nephew Ron and Tanya Schineller. Their love and generosity is the high point of my reflection on the meaning of Christmas, the best Good News. Thanks Ron and Tanya - and proud family and grandmother.

All the best in 2019. May the joy and peace that we celebrate and see glimpses of at Christmas invade and pervade our world, our families and friends. Courage and Blessings!

Fr. Schineller is in residence at the Jogues Retreat Center – P.O. Box 522, Cornwall, NY 12518-0522 Tel: (845) 534-7570



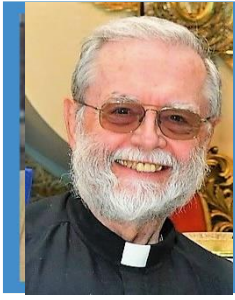
Fr. Peter always likes the outdoors. This tree on the property at the Jogues Center is over 260 years old.



Fr. Peter is always a fan of inculturation. Here he is trying on a coonskin cap. The cook at the Center used to run a pub called "The Raccoon Saloon."



This is what the Jogues Center looked like when Fr. Peter arrived. For those seeing this picture on line, or electronically - it is in color, although it looks like a black and white. But that's what winter can be like in upstate NY - white snow and dark skies.



RAMBLINGS

OF THE REVEREND REDACTOR

There are several times during the year that have their own flavor for me, and they are each special and almost sacred in the impact they have on me.

One is the long weekend from American Thanksgiving Day through the following Sunday. Back when I sent Christmas cards through the mail, by that weekend I would have had my cards printed, and I would spent the long weekend watching football on television and addressing cards, so I could keep in touch with friends and let them know I was still alive.

Holy Week is certainly a special time, but as a priest, those days are usually busy, filled with activity. But the time from the end of the Good Friday Service until the Vigil Mass for Easter – those hours are, for me extraordinary. It is the one time in the whole year when there is no Mass being said. It is truly a sacred silence and I treasure it.

The third time is this space between Christmas and New Year's. We leave one anticipation and move to another. Schools are out, many businesses are on reduced schedules, and for many people, the arrival of Christmas IS the climax, and everything else is sort of a let-down. Of course, Christmas should be the beginning, not the end, of celebration. But those days – however others feel about them, or use them, or ignore them – those days for me are special. And we are in the last gasps of those special days, before January 1 comes, with gunshots and whistles and fireworks and resolutions we know we won't keep. Christmas, of course, lasts until January 6. But in the "real world," Christmas ends, if it has not already ended, on January 2. Back to school, back to work, back to complaining about the weather and the driving and having to clean up and put away all the Christmas decorations, which somehow makes us both sad and grumpy all at the same time. For me, I try and keep this week quiet and reflective and for me.

I sometimes find myself wondering, "What just happened? After 4 weeks of preparation and special prayers and an Advent wreath and daily reflections – what happened? We spent more money than we should have, we went to more parties than we should have, we probably didn't do half the "Christmas" things we wanted to – bazaars or concerts or novenas or just wandering around looking at decorations.

The answer to my meandering is, of course, Jesus Christ. It all comes back to Him. Becoming flesh at the moment of incarnation when Mary said, "Be it be done unto me according to Thy word." Being born as a fully human and fully divine person in our world. Dying for us in great suffering and agony. And coming again to prove that everything He said was true. That is history – our call is to take all that and make it a part of our lives and a part of our world.

This newsletter contains the text of the Holy Father's message for the World Day of Peace, a tradition that was started 52 years ago to help celebrate January 1. The Pope is trying to bring the call of Christ into the world in concrete ways, and this is his vision for beginning the new year. We also have a letter from Father Peter Schineller, catching us up on his latest assignment.

Let us continue to pray for one another.

Fr. John's Email: pastorsh@jordanjesuits.org Website: Jordanjesuits.org

Fr. John's Mobile: 079 013-8985 (If no answer, leave a message.)

Facebook: Go to Parish Group and ask to be admitted to the group. You will be.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE
FRANCIS
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
52nd WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1 JANUARY 2019

Good politics is at the service of peace

1. “Peace be to this house!”

In sending his disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them: “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace be to this house!’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace shall rest upon him; but if not, it shall return to you” (Lk 10:5-6).

Bringing peace is central to the mission of Christ’s disciples. That peace is offered to all those men and women who long for peace amid the tragedies and violence that mark human history.[1] The “house” of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent, in all their diversity and history. It is first and foremost each individual person, without distinction or discrimination. But it is also our “common home”: the world in which God has placed us and which we are called to care for and cultivate. So let this be my greeting at the beginning of the New Year: “Peace be to this house!”

2. The challenge of good politics

Peace is like the hope which the poet Charles Péguy celebrated.[2] It is like a delicate flower struggling to blossom on the stony ground of violence. We know that the thirst for power at any price leads to abuses and injustice. Politics is an essential means of building human community and institutions, but when political life is not seen as a form of service to society as a whole, it can become a means of oppression, marginalization and even destruction.

Jesus tells us that, “if anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all” (Mk 9:35). In the words of Pope Paul VI, “to take politics seriously at its different levels – local, regional, national and worldwide – is to affirm the duty of each individual to acknowledge the reality and value of the freedom offered him to work at one and the same time for the good of the city, the nation and all mankind”. [3] Political office and political responsibility thus constantly challenge those called to the service of their country to make every effort to protect those who live there and to create the conditions for a worthy and just future. If exercised with basic respect for the life, freedom and dignity of persons, political life can indeed become an outstanding form of charity.

3. Charity and human virtues: the basis of politics at the service of human rights and peace

Pope Benedict XVI noted that “every Christian is called to practice charity in a manner corresponding to his vocation and according to the degree of influence he wields in the pólis... When animated by charity, commitment to the common good has greater worth than a merely secular and political stand would have... Man’s earthly activity, when inspired and sustained by charity, contributes to the building of the universal city of God, which is the goal of the history of the human family”. [4] This is a programme on which all politicians, whatever their culture or religion, can agree, if they wish to work together for the good of the human family and to practise those human virtues that sustain all sound political activity: justice, equality, mutual respect, sincerity, honesty, fidelity.

In this regard, it may be helpful to recall the “Beatitudes of the Politician”, proposed by Vietnamese Cardinal François-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, a faithful witness to the Gospel who died in 2002:

Blessed be the politician with a lofty sense and deep understanding of his role.

Blessed be the politician who personally exemplifies credibility.

Blessed be the politician who works for the common good and not his or her own interest.

Blessed be the politician who remains consistent.

Blessed be the politician who works for unity.

Blessed be the politician who works to accomplish radical change.

Blessed be the politician who is capable of listening.

Blessed be the politician who is without fear. [5]

Every election and re-election, and every stage of public life, is an opportunity to return to the original points of reference that inspire justice and law. One thing is certain: good politics is at the service of peace. It respects and promotes fundamental human rights, which are at the same time mutual obligations, enabling a bond of trust and gratitude to be forged between present and future generations.

4. Political vices

*Sadly, together with its virtues, politics also has its share of vices, whether due to personal incompetence or to flaws in the system and its institutions. Clearly, these vices detract from the credibility of political life overall, as well as the authority, decisions and actions of those engaged in it. These vices, which undermine the ideal of an authentic democracy, bring disgrace to public life and threaten social harmony. We think of corruption in its varied forms: the misappropriation of public resources, the exploitation of individuals, the denial of rights, the flouting of community rules, dishonest gain, the justification of power by force or the arbitrary appeal to *raison d'état* and the refusal to relinquish power. To which we can add xenophobia, racism, lack of concern for the natural environment, the plundering of natural resources for the sake of quick profit and contempt for those forced into exile.*

5. Good politics promotes the participation of the young and trust in others

When the exercise of political power aims only at protecting the interests of a few privileged individuals, the future is compromised and young people can be tempted to lose confidence, since they are relegated to the margins of society without the possibility of helping to build the future. But when politics concretely fosters the talents of young people and their aspirations, peace grows in their outlook and on their faces. It becomes a confident assurance that says, "I trust you and with you I believe" that we can all work together for the common good. Politics is at the service of peace if it finds expression in the recognition of the gifts and abilities of each individual. "What could be more beautiful than an outstretched hand? It was meant by God to offer and to receive. God did not want it to kill (cf. Gen 4:1ff) or to inflict suffering, but to offer care and help in life. Together with our heart and our intelligence, our hands too can become a means of dialogue". [6]

Everyone can contribute his or her stone to help build the common home. Authentic political life, grounded in law and in frank and fair relations between individuals, experiences renewal whenever we are convinced that every woman, man and generation brings the promise of new relational, intellectual, cultural and spiritual energies. That kind of trust is never easy to achieve, because human relations are complex, especially in our own times, marked by a climate of mistrust rooted in the fear of others or of strangers, or anxiety about one's personal security. Sadly, it is also seen at the political level, in attitudes of rejection or forms of nationalism that call into question the fraternity of which our globalized world has such great need. Today more than ever, our societies need "artisans of peace" who can be messengers and authentic witnesses of God the Father, who wills the good and the happiness of the human family.

6. No to war and to the strategy of fear

A hundred years after the end of the First World War, as we remember the young people killed in those battles and the civilian populations torn apart, we are more conscious than ever of the terrible lesson taught by fratricidal wars: peace can never be reduced solely to a balance between power and fear. To threaten others is to lower them to the status of objects and to deny their dignity. This is why we state once more that an escalation of intimidation, and the uncontrolled proliferation of arms, is contrary to morality and the search for true peace. Terror exerted over those who are most vulnerable contributes to the exile of entire populations who seek a place of peace. Political addresses that tend to blame every evil on migrants and to deprive the poor of hope are unacceptable. Rather, there is a need to reaffirm that peace is based on respect for each person, whatever his or her background, on respect for the law and the common good, on respect for the environment entrusted to our care and for the richness of the moral tradition inherited from past generations.

Our thoughts turn in a particular way to all those children currently living in areas of conflict, and to all those who work to protect their lives and defend their rights. One out of every six children in our world is affected by the violence of war or its effects, even when they are not enrolled as child soldiers or held hostage by armed groups. The witness given by those who work to defend them and their dignity is most precious for the future of humanity.

7. A great project of peace

In these days, we celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in the wake of the Second World War. In this context, let us also remember the observation of Pope John XXIII: “Man’s awareness of his rights must inevitably lead him to the recognition of his duties. The possession of rights involves the duty of implementing those rights, for they are the expression of a man’s personal dignity. And the possession of rights also involves their recognition and respect by others”.^[7]

Peace, in effect, is the fruit of a great political project grounded in the mutual responsibility and interdependence of human beings. But it is also a challenge that demands to be taken up ever anew. It entails a conversion of heart and soul; it is both interior and communal; and it has three inseparable aspects:

- *peace with oneself, rejecting inflexibility, anger and impatience; in the words of Saint Francis de Sales, showing “a bit of sweetness towards oneself” in order to offer “a bit of sweetness to others”;*
- *peace with others: family members, friends, strangers, the poor and the suffering, being unafraid to encounter them and listen to what they have to say;*
- *peace with all creation, rediscovering the grandeur of God’s gift and our individual and shared responsibility as inhabitants of this world, citizens and builders of the future.*

The politics of peace, conscious of and deeply concerned for every situation of human vulnerability, can always draw inspiration from the Magnificat, the hymn that Mary, the Mother of Christ the Saviour and Queen of Peace, sang in the name of all mankind: “He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly; ...for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever” (Lk 1:50-55).

From the Vatican, 8 December 2018

Francis

^[1] Cf. Lk 2:14: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased”.

^[2] Cf. *Le Porche du mystère de la deuxième vertu*, Paris, 1986.

^[3] Apostolic Letter *Octogesima Adveniens* (14 May 1971), 46.

^[4] Encyclical Letter *Caritas in Veritate* (29 June 2009), 7.

^[5] Cf. Address at the “Civitas” Exhibition-Convention in Padua: “30 Giorni”, no. 5, 2002.

^[6] BENEDICT XVI, *Address to the Authorities of Benin*, Cotonou, 19 November 2011.

^[7] Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris* (11 April 1963), ed. Carlen, 24.



CHRISTMAS STYLE---Author: Unknown

Based on Corinthians

If I decorate my house perfectly with bows, and twinkling lights, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave in the kitchen baking, cooking set a beautiful table, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at a soup kitchen, care in a nursing home and give all to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a lot of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking and baking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating and cooking to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried at times and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home and Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of your way.

Love doesn't give to those who will be able to give in return, but to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, and endures all things.

Love never fails, Video's will break, pearl necklaces will get lost, golf clubs will rust.

Real True Love is giving the gift of love that will endure forever.

**Be mindful That Happiness Is Not Based on Possessions, Power or Prestige,
But On Relationships With People You Love And Respect.**

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
AND TO ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**