Established
July 5, 1840

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

We are disciples who act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God.

Churches: † Immaculate Conception-Holualoa † Holy Rosary-Kalaoa † St. Paul's-Kawanui † St. Peter's by-the-Sea-Kahalu'u
St. Michael's Church 75-5769 Alii Drive | Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 | Phone: (808) 326-7771
Email Address: stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org / Office Hours: Monday through Friday | 9am - 4:30pm

WEEKDAY MORNING MASSES: 7am Monday through Saturday at St. Michael the Archangel
WEEKDAY EVENING MASSES: 5pm Mon Tues Thurs Fri (English) & 6pm Wed (Spanish) at Immaculate Conception
Adoration: Wednesday 7:30am - 4:45pm / **Confessions:** Saturday 9am at St. Michael's Church
WEEKEND MASSES: Sat 4pm, Sun 7am, 9am, 4pm / SPANISH MASS: Sun 12noon
Gift Shop (Spiritual Resource Center) Hours: Sun 8:00am - 11:00am (1st & 3rd Sundays until 1:30pm)

Website: saintmichaelparishkona.org **November 1, 2026 | 1 de noviembre de 2026**

All Saints Day

Reading I - **Revelation 7:2-4,9-14** | Psalm **- 24:1bc-2,3-4ab,5-6** | Reading II - **1 John 3:1-3** | Gospel - **Matthew 5:1-12a**
Reading I - **Apocalipsis 7,2-4,9-14** | Salmo - **23,1-2.3-4ab.5-6** | Segunda Lectura **- 1 Juan 3,1-3** | Evangelio – **Mateo 5,1-12**

WE LONG TO SEE THE FACE OF GOD

"Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face." This antiphon for today's responsorial psalm offers the focus for today's readings. As we on earth celebrate the triumph of all the saints - the ones officially canonized by the Church, and the countless others who have also reached heaven - we add nothing to their glory. But we give ourselves reason to hope. We too long to see the face of God and believe that we can one day be counted among those whose robes, as John tells us in the book of Revelation, are washed "white in the blood of the Lamb."

The passage from John's First Letter offers further assurance: we are God's children who will one day see God. But today's Gospel pulls us past longing and reassurance into action. Jesus clearly tells us what we must do to be counted among the saints. We must be poor in spirit, hungry for holiness, merciful, single-hearted and peacemakers! Then we too will see the face of God .

- Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do you, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Prepare for Next Week's Scripture Readings

1st Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16
Primera Lectura: (Sabiduria) 6,12-16
Psalm/Salmo: 63(62):2,3-4,5-6,7-8
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Segunda Lectura: 1 Tesalonicenses 4,13-18
Gospel/Evangelio: Matthew (Mateo) 25:1-13

Aloha! Welcome to Our Parish – We hope you will find our parish community a place where your faith will be nourished. We encourage you to register with the parish. Registration forms are available in the kiosk, or can be completed online at **saintmichaelparishkona.org.** To our visitors, we pray that you enjoy your stay in Kona and are blessed with safe travels home.



The Forerunners of Christ with Saints and Martyrs by Fra Angelico, Public domain

November 1, 2026

Solemnity of All Saints

Rev 7:2-4, 9-14 | 1 Jn 3:1-3 | Mt 5:1-12a

Written by
THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today's feast reminds us that we were not made for this world. We are destined to live with God in his heavenly kingdom. Our first reading from the Book of Revelation contains a vision John received which gives us a glimpse of what we'll see there: "a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue *standing* before the throne and before the Lamb," crying out his praise in a loud voice. For us on earth, the question is: How do we live so that one day, we will join that chorus of all the saints? The Gospel of Matthew gives us a road map to kingdom living. Those who will inherit the kingdom of heaven are those who are "poor in spirit," those "who hunger and thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the peacemakers," those "who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness," and those against whom "every kind of evil *is uttered* falsely because of [Christ]." With these words, we're reminded of the many faces of holiness. May we strive to pattern our lives according to the Beatitudes and so take our place among the ranks of all the saints in heaven.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's responsorial psalm invites us to pray, "Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face." There are so many longings in our hearts – longings for belonging, longing for love, longing for justice. But the ultimate longing of our heart is for the Lord, even if we don't yet realize it. Part of our work in evangelization is to help awaken people's awareness of the ultimate desire of their hearts. As St. Augustine famously wrote, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." Spend some time in prayer this week asking the Lord to increase your own longing for him, as well as that of anyone you want to come to know the Lord better.

PRAY

Being a saint, perhaps, has something to do with longing for the Lord as our greatest and highest good, preferring nothing to him. As St. Thomas was praying before a crucifix toward the end of his life, the Lord said: "You have written well of me, Thomas. What reward will you receive from me for your labor?" St. Thomas Aquinas responded, "*Domine, Non Nisi Te* – Nothing but you, Lord." May we pray to desire nothing but to be counted among the children of God. For so we are.

Life of Stewardship

On this Solemnity of All Saints, we have the profound joy of celebrating our brothers and sisters in Christ, the saints. This is an especially meaningful feast for us as Christian stewards.

At Baptism, each of us receives the call to holiness and discipleship. In other words, we are all called to become saints. Holiness is not reserved for a select few. It is God's desire for every one of His children. The stewardship way of life helps us answer that call each day.

In today's Gospel from Matthew, Jesus gives us the Beatitudes. They reveal the qualities that mark the lives of His disciples and point us toward authentic holiness. As we continue striving to live as faithful stewards, the Beatitudes provide a faithful measure of our growth in Christ.

The "blessed" that Jesus describes are not different categories of people who make it to heaven. Rather, they reveal the character of those who belong to Him - the poor in spirit, the merciful, the pure of heart, the peacemakers, and all who remain faithful in the midst of trials. None of us can live this way on our own. But as beloved children of God, we receive the grace we need through prayer, the sacraments, and a life centered on Christ.

May the example of the saints inspire us to persevere in our own call to holiness, trusting that one day we will join them in the everlasting joy of heaven.

- Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Parish News

Cemetery Clean Up MAHALO

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the cemetery clean-up at St. Michael's Cemetery and Holualoa Catholic Cemetery on Saturday. Your generous gift of time and hard work helped beautify these sacred resting places and honor the memory of our loved ones. We are deeply grateful for your dedication, fellowship, and spirit of service. Mahalo!

Sharing Garden Needs More Helping Hands

Our Sharing Garden volunteers tend to a large garden of fresh vegetables and fruit. We plant, remove weeds, water, and harvest on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7am to 9:30am. Harvests are distributed through the St. Michael Food Pantry, Mālama Nā Keiki, and The Homes at Ulu Wini. Please contact Beth through the Parish Office for more information.

All Souls' Day Remembrance

In honor of All Souls' Day, we remember all those who have passed and gone to be with our Heavenly Father. Names and/or photos of your loved ones are displayed on our memory board at each Mass for the month of November. Please note that you must notify us if you want to use names and photos that was used last year. Submit names and photos by email to **stmichaelarchangel@rcchawaii.org.**

Next Sunday is Commitment Sunday

Is something holding you back from embracing stewardship as a way of life? Please pray about it this week. Review the stewardship materials you received in the mail and take a step forward in faith. Remember to bring your Commitment Card to Mass next weekend!

Faith Formation

Faith Formation Is a Lifelong Journey

REMINDER to all parents: Faith Formation doesn't end with the Sacraments. Even after receiving First Communion and Confirmation, children continue to grow in their understanding of God's love and their role in the Church. Faith Formation classes help to nurture that growth through prayer, learning, and community. We encourage you to bring your children to Faith Formation and Youth Ministry classes so they may continue their spiritual journey!

Faith Formation Grades K-5

Classes for Grades K-5 are held on Sundays from 10:15 to 11:50am in the Grace Parish Center.

Youth Ministry Grades 6-12

Thank you to all parents and students for attending our orientation meeting last Sunday! Classes are held on Sundays from 5:15 to 7:15pm in the Grace Parish Center. We are still accepting new students. Registration forms are available in the kiosks or online at saintmichaelparishkona.org.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Want to become Catholic? Want to receive the Sacraments? Or do you want to refresh what it means to be Catholic?

Anyone age 18+ who is curious about the history, rites, and spirituality of Christianity and wants to learn more about the Catholic faith, the development of Sacred Scripture, and/or is thinking of becoming Catholic to delve into deeper relationship with God as an intentional disciple of Jesus Christ.

Join us for an informal, intimate conversation that may lead to receiving the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). Connect today and talk story without any expectations or obligations. Also open to any parishioner who just wants to learn more.

We meet weekly with Deacon Sandor after our 9am Mass (approximately 10:20am) on the 2nd floor conference room above the Working Sacristy.

All Saints Day

At the end of her short life, my hero, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, found herself in a curious position. Audaciously, she was convinced that she would become a great saint and would be loved by many after her death. At the same time, she insisted that she was weak, impatient, and ordinary. She became arguably the greatest saint in modern times. How is it possible that an ordinary and imperfect person can also be a great saint?

On this All Saints' Day, Jesus overturns our assumptions about holiness. He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). The blessed are not the impressive or the self-sufficient, but the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and the persecuted. These are not heroic traits by normal standards. They are signs of a heart that has learned to rely on God rather than itself. That's what St. Thérèse, and all the saints, are all about.

Stewardship of Treasure

October 19th - 25th, 2026

ONLINE GIVING	**$ 8,550.00**
SUNDAY OFFERINGS / MAILED-IN OFFERINGS	**$ 10,771.67**
BUILDING REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	**$ 5,565.00**

We are grateful that our construction debt for the Grace Parish Center has been paid off. Our weekly second collection will be for our Building Repairs & Maintenance. *Mahalo* for your continued generosity!

Offerings can be mailed directly to the parish office; or use our website's "Online Giving" to share your blessings.

STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TREASURE FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2026

MONTHLY DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT: $14,082.75

The Diocesan Assessment covers shared staff and administrative resources from the Diocese supporting every parish. The new "Annual Appeal" assessment starting in January provides funds for collaborative Catholic ministries and services that extend beyond the capacity of any single parish.

Online Giving

St. Michael's Church provides **Online Giving** - a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy - visit **saintmichaelparishkona.org** and click our **ONLINE GIVING tab.** Your gift will be securely transferred directly to the parish bank account.

All Saints' Day is not a celebration of spiritual elites. Rather, it announces what grace can do in our ordinary lives. The saints are not those who avoid weakness or suffering, but those who allow these things to deepen their trust. What good news for us! The smaller and weaker we are, the more qualified we are to be great saints.

- Father John Muir, ©LPi

Treasures From Our Tradition

Eight hundred years ago, the Church's practice of penance underwent major revision as theologians, called scholastics, reflected on the practice of their day. By then, penance was normally a very secret rite, celebrated completely apart from the community. Public penance had mostly disappeared behind the walls of monasteries and the cloister grills of convents. The scholastics trimmed penance down to bare essentials, even sweeping aside age-old traditions like a lay-ing on of hands and prayers of absolution. All that was left was the confessor's simple statement, "Ego te absolvo," "I absolve you."

In 1614 a new ritual book tried to make penance more public and solemn. It suggested, but did not require, that the priest wear a surplice and stole, and hear confession in a confessional. For the first time, we have the directive that the priest be separated from the penitent by a screen, a rule that some bishops applied very strictly. By the 1940s, large numbers of Catholics availed themselves of the Sacrament of Confession every Saturday, and most people thought confession was a prerequisite for Communion. In some urban parish churches, confessionals were staffed, usually by the junior priest, for several hours every day, even during the celebration of Mass. It is remarkable how quickly things changed, but as we have seen, the system has collapsed before and what often comes next is an impulse of the Spirit, new life, and a fresh start.

- Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Everyday Stewardship - Called to be Holy

I remember attending Catholic school growing up and every year having to write a report on a saint. We were told that these people of faith were role models for us in our Christian journey. Even though they were real people, they always seemed to me to be larger than life. When I was younger I never thought I could become just like them. Now that I am older, I realize that we are all, in fact, called to be just like them.

Holiness is not something reserved for those in a book of saints. It is the goal of all intentional disciples living as good stewards. However, it takes commitment to achieve holiness. It also requires us to live mindfully and be continually aware of how God is moving in our lives.

You may never have thought about a stewardship way of life as a pathway to sainthood, but if you take the time to read the lives of saints you will see how these heroes truly cultivated the gifts God had given them and gave them back with increase to God. You will encounter stories of outreach to the poor, comforting the distressed, and befriending the lonely. And you will begin to see the parallel between what these great disciples did in their lives with the simple responses to God's call in your life. The Church may never formally canonize you, but there will be those whose paths you cross that will bear witness to the fact that at least for a moment they caught a glimpse of what could have been a living saint.

Everyday Saints

Growing up I thought saints were larger than life people with extraordinary stories. The thought that I could one day be revered as a saint by anyone seemed crazy. I wrote my essays on different saints every year in Catholic school right around All Saints Day. These were stories about people I had never met, and I assumed I would never meet anyone like them going forward.

Now that I am older, I realize that I was wrong back then and my immaturity of both mind and heart did not allow me to see that there are saints among us all the time. I have met many people in my life that I would call living saints. They are holy people who give of themselves to God and others in profound ways. Their relationship with Jesus is evident and they live their lives in ways that people witness the transformative power of love.

As a child I was wrong about saints, but even more importantly, I didn't fully realize that all of us are called to be saints! Me, a saint? Holiness is not something simply studied in books. It is the way of life we are all called to live. The call comes from Jesus Christ and each of us must respond. If we are still thinking like children, we may choose to stay silent and live accordingly. If we are more mature in our faith then we might not only respond, we might one day have a school child write a report about us.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS © LPI

YOU ARE INVITED

(schedule may change without advance notice)

MONDAY

- Friendly Place Lunches 10:30am-12pm
- Knights of Columbus 5:45pm
  (2nd Monday of the month)
- Church Cleaning 6:00pm

TUESDAY

- Coffee with the Priests 7:30-9:00am

WEDNESDAY

- Adoration 7:30-5:00pm
- Kupuna Ministry 8:30-10:30am
- Benediction/Evening Prayer 5:00pm
- Hula Ministry Practice 5:30-6:30pm
- Men of Faith 5:30-6:30pm
- Neocatechumenal Way 6:00-7:00pm
  (Last Wed. of each month) 7:00-8:00pm

THURSDAY

- Spiritual Book Club 4:00-5:30pm
  (3rd Thursday of each month)
- Young Adults Group 6:00-7:00pm
  (1st & 3rd Thursday - meetings on hold)

FRIDAY

- Women of the Word 12:00-1:00pm

SATURDAY

- Church Cleaning 7:30am
- Grounds Maintenance 7:30am
- Confession 9-10am

SUNDAY

- Gift Shop Open 8:00-11am
- Children's Rosary Group After 9am Mass
  (Last Sunday of each month)
- Faith Formation (K-5) 10:15-11:50am
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass
- Faith Formation (6-12) 5:15-7:15pm
  (Please refer to the Faith Formation section for class dates)
- Immigration Seminar 1:00-2:00pm
  (Last Sunday of each month)
- Charismatic Prayer Group 2:30-4:00pm
- Consecration to God the Father 2:45pm
  (1st Sunday of each month)
- Order of Christian Initiation of Adults After 9am Mass

Baptism

Baptism Classes are held monthly. Parents and Godparents must attend class. Our next baptism class will be held on Saturday, October 17 at 8:30am in the Grace Parish Center. To register, please email *baptism.stmichaelkona@rcchawaii.org*

Marriage

Please notify the office and allow six months before the date of marriage for preparation.

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments - The Survivors

"I'm no saint." We hear people say this all the time, and what they usually mean is this: "I've made mistakes." Well, congratulations! You have taken that first crucial step to saint-hood. You're well on your way!

A saint is not a person with fewer-than-average mistakes. A saint is a person with greater-than-average hope.

What is hope? Hope is certainty in the promises of God over the merits of man. Hope is what makes a Christian rejoice when he hears the litany of earthly trials described in the Beatitudes, because hope makes him see not the trials but the grace promised through them.

Hope remembers, always, that God is in the business of bringing life from death.

"These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress." (Rev. 7:14) This is how we hear the saints described in the Book of Revelation. We do not hear: "These are the ones who were perfect. These are the ones who had no faults. These are the ones who made good choices." No - these are the ones who survived.

We are all buried in the rubble heap of sin and death. Many of us despair and cry, "We cannot climb out!" The saint is the one who has the hope to answer, "But Someone is coming. Just wait." The saint is the one who looks for the sliver of light, who reaches for it even when everyone else dismisses it as illusion.

Follow the saints. They know how to survive.

- Colleen Jurkiwicz Dorman © LPi

National Vocation Awareness Week Called to Become Saints!

Today, on the Solemnity of All Saints, we begin National Vocation Awareness Week - a special time to focus on vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, and to help young people listen for God's call.

God calls each of us to holiness, but He leads us there along different paths: marriage, priesthood, religious life, the diaconate, or generous single life. Our vocation is more than what we do; it is the particular way God calls us to love, serve, and ultimately become saints.

During Vocation Awareness Week, ask the Lord to help you live your own vocation more faithfully - and encourage the young people in your life to ask a simple question with an open heart: "Lord, how are you calling me to become a saint?" *- vianneyvocations.com*

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

- 4pm - Richard M. Gouveia, Jr. Rest in Peace

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST
ALL SAINTS DAY

- 7am - Roy McRight, May he Rest in Peace
- 9am - Suzanne Bearth, 90th Birthday Blessings
- 4pm - Liwanag Tongson, Rest in Peace

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
ALL SOULS DAY

- 7am - ALL SOULS DAY
- 5pm - ALL SOULS DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

- 7am - Helen Kamaka, Anniversary of Death, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Clifford Kopp, Rest in Peace

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

- 7am - Jim Dunn for Healing

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

- 7am - Randall Dean Smith, Birthday Blessings
- 5pm - Stephanie Ann Mello, Aloha ke Akua

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH

- 7am - Vinnie Cilia, Rest in Peace
- 5pm - Prayers for the Soul of Ferdando Banzon, Rest in Peace

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

- 7am - Joanne Yarnall, 18th Anniversary of Death, Rest in Peace

Requesting a Mass Intention

A Mass intention can be scheduled by calling the Office at **808-326-7771.**

Mass cards are available.

"For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat..."

—Matthew 25:35

The Food Pantry Ministry

The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month **from 9 - 9:45am at Immaculate Conception Church Parking Lot.**

SCAN ME

Use this QR Code for our Amazon Wishlist. Items purchased can be mailed directly to the Parish Office. Mahalo for your support!

Saints: Still Alive Now

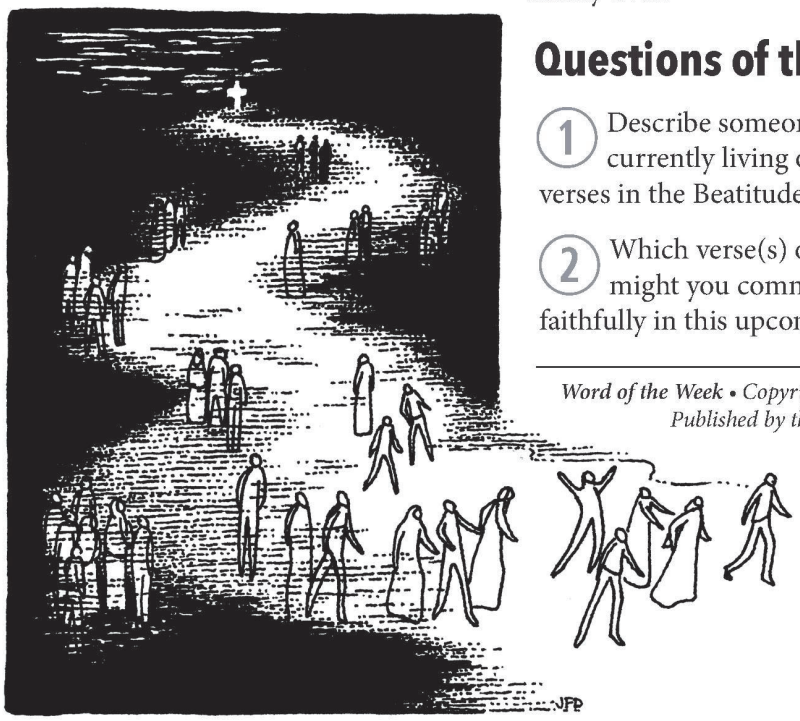
This Week's Readings at Mass

- Revelation 7:2-4,9-14 • Rejoicing of the Elect
- 1 John 3:1-3 • Children of God
- Matthew 5:1-12a • The Beatitudes

On this feast of All Saints Day, the beatitudes offer a description *of* and an inspiration *to* sainthood. This is a day to recognize and remember saints. We remember those who have been officially recognized through the Church's canonization process, *and* those who will never be universally recognized because they lived "ordinary" lives of saintliness.

In the New Testament, all Christians were called saints; the term wasn't reserved only for famous martyrs. What if we widened our personal definition of saints to include people we know who live the beatitudes? In that case, a loved one who is grieving the death of a spouse is a saint. The young people volunteering for the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in their thirst for righteousness are saints. The person who shows mercy to an estranged relative is a saint. Sainthood doesn't mean someone is living a life of perfect holiness, and they have attained perfection. None of the official Saints with a capital "S" were able to reach that either.

If we only think of saints as people in a distant time and place who lived with outstanding piety, we risk letting ourselves off the hook in recognizing and cultivating holiness in our own lives. The truth is, we are all called to be saints in the particular time and circumstances in which we each live. The sainthood of a parent trying to work and homeschool a child during the time of COVID-19 will look different from the sainthood of a healthcare worker or a grocery store cashier, or a widow living alone during the pandemic. All of them will suffer their own shortcomings, maybe impatience, despair, or anger at times. Yet in still striving to live the Beatitudes, they will be living saintly lives.





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"We are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him."

Sheepish Question:

What can I do every day to improve my chances of saintliness?

Questions of the Week

1. Describe someone you know who is currently living out at least one of the verses in the Beatitudes.

2. Which verse(s) of the Beatitudes might you commit to living out more faithfully in this upcoming week? How so?

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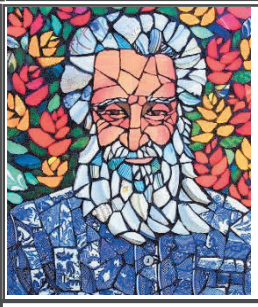
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Loving and Eternal Father,
You chose Brother Joseph Dutton as
An ardent apostle of Your Divine Compassion.
I humbly ask you, through the intercession of
Brother Joseph Dutton, that You will
grant me this favor - - -
Brother Joseph Dutton, please pray for me.
I will be forever thankful if you present my
request to God through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council.
IV. Constitution Gaudium et Spes.
6. Commitment to the family in today's society (GS, 47–52)



Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The first think I would like to say is thank you!. Thank you for the support of your prayers. Thanks be to God for His generosity. Let us all renew our trust in God's goodness and mercy.

The pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes (GS) of the Second Vatican Council, having illustrated in the first part the dignity of the person and his or her vocation in the world, goes on to consider, in the second part, "in the light of the Gospel and of human experience", some of the most pressing contemporary issues (cf. GS, 46). It focuses primarily on marriage and the family, in the conviction that "the well-being of the individual and of human and Christian society is intimately linked with the healthy condition of that community produced by marriage and family" (GS, 47).

To this end, it does not merely reaffirm their values and aims, but proposes a renewed conception of marriage as an "intimate partnership of married life and love" (GS, 48). By incorporating the legal dimension of marriage as a contract, the foundation of this union is recognized in the "conjugal covenant", understood as the "human act whereby spouses mutually bestow and accept each another" (ibid.). The mutual self-giving of man and woman, such that 'they are no longer two but one flesh' (Mt 19:6), underlies the requirement for "total fidelity" and the "unbreakable oneness" of the spouses, finding vivid expression in the procreation and upbringing of children (cf. GS, 48). As a reflection of the Divine Trinity, conjugal and parental love, through the Sacrament of Marriage, is "governed and enriched by Christ's redeeming power", so that spouses may love one another "just as He loved the Church and handed Himself over on her behalf" (ibid.).

Having shed light on the reality of marriage in the light of Christ's love, which is the truth of both human and divine love, Gaudium et Spes turns its attention to conjugal love and marital fruitfulness. Not limited to erotic attraction, which it nonetheless encompasses, conjugal love involves the entire will of the spouses, enlivening the affections of their hearts and expressing itself through sentiments and gestures of tenderness (cf. GS, 49). Embracing the good of the whole person of both man and woman, who are equal in dignity, this love pervades the entire life of the spouses, finding expression in acts proper exclusively to marriage (cf. ibid.). Whilst signifying integral love from person to person, the unique intimacy between the spouses fosters their mutual self-giving and enriches their shared joy (cf. ibid.).

Furthermore, the fruitfulness of conjugal love is expressed in the procreation of children, "the supreme gift of marriage" (GS, 50). By transmitting and educating human life, which must never be rejected, spouses become "cooperators with the love of God the Creator, and are, so to speak, the interpreters of that love" (ibid.). Called to this human and Christian responsibility, they are bound to allow themselves to be guided by a sound judgement regarding their own good and that of their children, whether already born or yet to be born. Such a judgement, which, in the final analysis, the spouses themselves must form before God, requires that their conscience conform to divine law, as interpreted by the Magisterium of the Church in the light of the Gospel (cf. ibid.).

The emphasis on loving communion and procreative fruitfulness within marriage leads the Council to rule out the possibility of there being "a true contradiction … between the divine laws pertaining to the transmission of life, and those pertaining to authentic conjugal love" (GS, 51) and to affirm, instead, that "when there is question of harmonizing conjugal love with the responsible transmission of life", one must "preserve the full sense of mutual self-giving and human procreation in the context of true love" (ibid.). From this it follows both that "from the moment of its conception life must be guarded with the greatest care", renouncing "abortion and infanticide"; and that "the acts themselves which are proper to conjugal love and which are exercised in accord with genuine human dignity must be honoured with great reverence" (ibid.).

The teaching of Gaudium et Spes on the conjugal and family community thus goes on to highlight the social function of the family, defined as "a school of deeper humanity" and "the foundation of society"

(GS, 52), calling upon all those with social responsibilities, especially in the political and cultural spheres, to fulfil their duty to “work efficiently for the welfare of marriage and the family” (ibid.).

Dear friends, this task is more urgent than ever before. The Church is well aware of this, as shown by the pastoral concern of the Popes who have succeeded one another since the last Council, right up to the two Synodal Assemblies convened by Pope Francis, which were addressed again in recent days by the Heads of the Eastern Catholic Churches and the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences. May the Holy Family of Nazareth enlighten us on our journey and protect families throughout the world.

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Special Greetings:

I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today’s Audience. Upon all of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all!

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Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our ongoing catechesis on Gaudium et Spes, today we consider the dignity of marriage and the family in the context of contemporary challenges. The Council Fathers recognized that the well-being of all in society is closely linked to the health of marriage and the family, and sought to present a renewed vision of conjugal love as an intimate partnership which reflects the life of the Trinity and is rooted in and enriched by the redemptive power of Christ. Let us, therefore, pray for God’s blessing and protection upon all families.

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