



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have again called for a *Fortnight for Freedom*, a two-week period of prayer, education and action, to address the many challenges of religious liberty. We need to pray for the sake of the kind of place we want our children to grow up and live in.

For more information, visit the Bishops' website: usccb.org

The Truest Love, the Love of God

Please take a moment and think of someone you might want to invite to know God. Maybe its even someone who is a vague acquaintance. Maybe it's a neighbor or co-worker.

The Lord wants us to share the burning zeal for souls that he has for all people. Pray about it. Ask God to give you the right words for the people in your life. Ask the Lord to open the right opportunity to talk. God might be just waiting for you to be willing to take that step of reaching out. RCIA starts officially in the Fall.



Retreat for Married Couples

Marriage in the Year of Mercy, July 29-31, 2016, St Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt. Through-



out the weekend our facilitating couples will reflect on scripture, Church teachings and God's presence in their marriages. This retreat will support participants in recognizing their marriage as a living sign of God's love. The weekend will encourage couples by bringing the tenderness of mercy and the goodness of God more fully into their marriage. For more information, <http://www.stfrancis.ws/>.

Lawyers and Law Students

Bishop Boyea has a special message for you at lansingcatholiclawyersguild.com/news.

Be Love Revolution

All high school girls entering 9th -12th grades are invited to attend weekly BeLoved summer events sponsored by the Be Love Revolution. Meetings are Wednesday nights, during the summer, beginning June 15 from 7-9:30pm. Cost: \$5. Bring a friend and a snack to share! Find out more about us at: [beloverevolution.com](http://belovereolution.com).

The Catholic Biblical School of Michigan

The Catholic Biblical School of Michigan will be offering a Scripture Study beginning this September. Classes meet weekly from September to May and will cover the entire bible in four years. All faculty members hold graduate degrees in Catholic theology. Information Nights will be held at Christ the King on July 18 and August 18th at 7pm. For more information, visit their website at www.cbsmich.org.

Respecting Yourself and Others

In Rome and in the Holy Land women are not allowed to enter with bare shoulders or skirts above the knee. Men are not allowed in wearing shorts. This acknowledges that these places are special places — holy places.

Of course when I was growing up, the argument offered to rationalize our behavior was "the Church should be glad people are coming at all! God doesn't care how I dress!" Setting aside the presumption and blinding arrogance of that statement (which I myself used as a teenager) and dealing with that claim directly, the answer is that there is a *purpose* in coming to Mass. Some-

thing of the purpose of an act is expressed in how one executes *any* act: the more care in the preparation and execution, the more important the act is evidently. Therefore, if worshipping God is important, than it ought to be important to do it well.

In Church, we are in the presence of a God whose love is awesome. Our whole lives should resonate with the significance of His Real Presence here.

Furthermore, entering the Church dressed as if for the beach is potentially insulting not just to the Lord, but to others. It is important to note that we are not talking just about how much

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skin is showing, but how form-fitting some things are as well as the dignity of the garment(s).

Obviously, there will be times when it cannot be avoided. For this reason, we ought not look around with a critical eye and judge others. That is wrong. Nor should we be self-conscious as long as we have made some effort to give honor to God.

The problem of immodesty is especially disturbing in Church because it is a place where most folks are seeking *relief* from the world. This call to dignity in Church is an opportunity to be unselfish and to acknowledge the truth of our relation to God. We worship a truly awesome, holy God! — *Fr Gerald*

FATHERS ARE FORMATIVE! HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Families and Faith, a book by Vernon Bengston, Norella Putney, and Susan Harris is a study that shows the power fathers have with their children. The comprehensive long-term study shows that children are 25% more likely to adopt the moral and spiritual outlook of their father and only 1% more likely to adopt the same of their mother (although moms have other unique influences).

This book shows the importance of fatherhood. It is altogether too easy for a father to withdraw especially when mom seems to have such a knack for dealing with the kids. You need to be aggressive, creative and physically affectionate with your kids dad.

Even the *touch* of a father has a special power in forming the identity

of children. Studies show that boys who are hugged by their dads are more secure in their masculinity. Girls are also more secure when dads are affectionate. There can come a time in a girls life when dads become skitish in showing affection, but it is the responsibility of the father to find the proper way to give their children the formative affection that helps them to be filled with love in a healthy way.

The father's presence, his attitude toward the world and his touch are powerful in the capacity to transmit hope, confidence, resilience and resourcefulness.

What a man says has a certain power among his family. I believe that is one reason God gave Adam the responsibility to name everything in Genesis (2: 19). He had to appreciate

the creation that God gave as a gift. Naming things gives them their identity.

When a man *names* the goodness of those he loves, he assists them in finding their identity. He forms people around him. If the man is critical, that also has its effect. This power of the man's words is complementary with the feminine ontology of women, girls and boys when they are boys. This means that they are *sensitive*, they are especially receptive of the man's sentiments.

We live in an age of abundant resources. I hope men will read books and visit good websites (we put one website on the cover of last week's bulletin) to get ideas. **Most of all: be a man of prayer because the inner strength you need comes from God.**

ST. PATRICK'S MEN IN FORMATION

Yesterday I met with another young man from our parish who will be entering the seminary in the Fall. This means we have two in the diocesan seminary and one in formation in a monastery or hermitage in Ohio. Also, Gary Perrydore is studying to be a deacon. Our little parish has a significant interest in vocations relative to the average parish.

The young man who I spoke to yesterday, Gabe McGill, was an altar boy for a while here. He began to take up the challenge to pray before the Blessed Sacrament and this is how he learned to listen to God.

Whether one is called to religious life or to be married, I always tell our young people you will find yourself in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. God reveals us to ourselves as well as revealing Himself to us.

Gabe and I took a walk. He had prepared some questions ahead of time and asked for some advice. My experience of talking to him, however, was far more one of friend to friend than mentor.

John Henry Keenan is studying at Sacred Heart Seminary. He had a very successful year from an academic

point of view and is continuing his discernment. Please pray for these men. They are, in some sense, sons of all of us since they come from here and look to this as their spiritual home. And pray for all our young people.

We just received a note from Mark Iadonisi who is now known as "Brother Mark" at Holy Family Hermitage. I want to share with you just a little bit of what was in his letter to us:

All is well for me here. I am learning a great deal. Life changes much and going "out of the world" revealed to me how much the world was in me. No doubt it still has roots in me, since we are always in need of conversion. Nevertheless, if growing up in today's society is so perilous for kids, yet God's mercy still flows abundantly...

(At this point Brother Mark writes about particular people here at St. Patrick and then concludes:) **I can tell the Blessed Trinity is at work at Old St. Patrick's and through your**

good works. Keep the fire burning! Only a little while for to reach the eternal shore.

So pray for Mark Iadonisi who is still in the first year discerning whether God is calling him to be a monk.

I mentioned Gary Perrydore. He is three years away from his ordination as a deacon and we hope that everything continues to go well for him. He and Mary and their whole family do a lot to keep things going around here. The whole Perrydore family has a true heart of service.

We are all blessed to have each other!

Finally, I will simply say that I made the announcement that I was going to Iraq at the bishop's direction. He and I thought that I would be out of the parish here at the end of June. Suddenly things changed and I am going to be here until mid-August. So one goal I have is just to *set my leaving aside* for a while so the whole thing doesn't get talked about *ad nauseam*.

Be sure to use some of the "extra" time that summer affords to give to the Lord in prayer and spiritual study. *Peace!* — Fr. Gerald