

## 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### BETWEEN HEAVEN AND MIRTH

BY JAMES MARTIN, S.J.

FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS THIS COLUMN WILL FEATURE EXCERPTS  
FROM THE BOOK **BETWEEN HEAVEN AND MIRTH: WHY JOY,  
HUMOR AND LAUGHTER ARE AT THE HEART OF SPIRITUAL LIFE**

#### WEEK 2

Kuschel, the German theology professor, has a twofold approach to laughter that is helpful when we look at humor from a spiritual vantage point. There is humor that builds up and humor that tears down, a humor that exposes cant and hypocrisy and humor that belittles the defenseless and marginalized. Good humor and bad humor. Of course, most secular observers would agree with this: there is a morality to humor. But religious observers see these two sides of humor slightly differently, for they see the two in the light of God's desires for humanity. "Good" or "bad" depends not only on a moral sense but also on how the humor deepens or cheapens the relationship with God.

The theological approach to humor-condemnatory or praiseworthy-depends, as with laughter, on its intention. The Roman soldiers who robed Jesus in a purple garment, pressed upon his head a crown of thorns and placed a reed in his hand were engaging in a malicious humor, mocking him as a spurious king: "Hail, King of the Jews!" (On the other hand, the Gospel writers use this episode to their benefit, and the soldiers' terrible humor makes an ironic theological point. Jesus truly is a king, though the soldiers do not know this. The joke is on them.)

On the opposite end is Jesus's own use of humor. Many of his parables were most likely not only clever but overtly funny. His barbed comments to Roman officials, some Jewish religious leaders, the wealthy and the complacent often seem designed not only to silence the higher-ups but to provoke some smiles among his listeners. It is usually gentle, but nonetheless effective.

This brings us to joy. When I started to study joy, I was overwhelmed. The theme of joy runs throughout almost all the major religious and spiritual traditions. In Hinduism, the higher form of joy is often called bliss or *ananda*, and is an essential attribute of divine reality. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel express their joy to God for having delivered them from slavery. In the Gospels, Jesus often uses that very word as a way of expressing a goal of discipleship. Later, St. Paul encourages the early Christians to "rejoice always." Joy is

one of the traditional "fruits of the Holy Spirit," that is, gifts from God given to build us up.

#### ***A Biblical Lesson on Laughter***

***"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh...Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep."***

In chapter six of the Gospel of Luke, laughing is both a promise and a warning. It also signals foolish doubt. Matthew, Luke and Mark all tell the story of when Jesus arrived at the home of a synagogue leader whose daughter had died and said, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." The leaders in the room laughed at Jesus. In response he told the 12-year-old to get up, and she did.

To see Week 1 of this series, see "Bulletins-August 12" on our website [stphilip.org](http://stphilip.org)

#### **MISSIONARY COOPERATION PLAN COLLECTION**

Sr. Eileen Tickner, F.M.A., a Salesian Sister of St. John Bosco will be at St. Philip weekend, **August 18/19**. She will be speaking about the Missions in general; mostly about the Missionary call of each person in the Church.

#### **Our Jubilee Prayer**

Rejoicing in you, O Lord, with thankful hearts we pray as . . .

We Remember

gratefully our past companions on the Journey whose sacrifice inspires us.

We Celebrate

the good news of love in action that empowers spiritual, service and social ministry.

We Believe

in God's providence as faithful stewards who continue Christ's work using the Keys to the Kingdom. Amen

#### **Journey with Us Open Your Heart to God Discover the Keys to the Kingdom**

#### **RCIA**

Are you interested in exploring your spiritual life?

Do you want to discover the abundance of God's love and peace?

Would you like to have greater motivation for service?

Do you want to know more about the Catholic Faith?

Did you ever think about becoming a Catholic?

Are you a Baptized Catholic and have never made your First Communion and/or Confirmation?

Are you baptized in another faith and have a desire to become Catholic?

Have you never been baptized in any faith but wonder?

Journey with Us!

Through the process of the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults** or **RCIA**, we explore all these questions and discover the keys to the kingdom. **RCIA** is a restoration of the ancient practice of initiation into the Church. Through a process of discernment, spiritual development and ritualizing stages of conversion, you are guided to sacramental initiation. These Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist which are celebrated at the Easter Vigil open your hearts and empower you to lives of service, charity and justice as witnesses to our mission of *OPUS CHRISTI*, Christ's work. **RCIA** is not a program but a sacramental process. **RCIA** reflects a sacramental attitude that is at the heart of all Christian living: *CONVERSION*, turning your heart to God.

We invite you to be our companion on the journey and discover the keys to the kingdom. We gather on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:30 PM in the Russo Room. If you would like more information about **RCIA**, please call Donna Scancarella at 973-779-6200.

### Save the Date!

ST. PHILIP'S WOMEN'S CORNERSTONE RETREAT

*Peace be with you*

November 16 & 17, 2018

### CURRENT AND NEW ALTAR SERVERS

There will be a meeting on **Tuesday, August 28, 2018** at 4:00 PM in the Church. Grades 4 and up!

### MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

#### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

A support group for people grieving the death of their spouse. Next meeting: **Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM in the RUSSO ROOM. Please contact Dr. Rachel Rengifo at 201-500-2068.

#### WIDOW/WIDOWERS

**Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>** – 6:30 PM – We will be meeting in the Molloy Center.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday** *The VFW Hall* 8:00 PM  
491 Valley Road, Clifton

#### ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Your parish Knights of Columbus are holding their annual Golf Outing on **September 20, 2018**. The cost remains

the same - \$150.00 for Golf at Knolls West Country Club which includes: luncheon, cocktail hour, dinner, lots of prizes, raffle, contests, golf cart and all fees. If you would like to be a player, sponsor or volunteer, please contact Brian Kulesa at (973) 418-2085 or [beezerkul@aol.com](mailto:beezerkul@aol.com).

#### ROSARY SOCIETY

#### SAVE THE DATES!

**Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** - 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Communion Brunch!

The first meeting of our Rosary Society will be **September 10, 2018** beginning at 6:00 PM in Church with the Rosary followed by Mass. More information to follow!

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2018-2019 year is now open. **New families are welcome!**

*Religious Education classes in the process of assigning students to classes, so please register BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1.*

**Confirmation students please register as soon as possible!**

Returning families are reminded, if you haven't already done so, to register for 2018-2019 school year.

**There are two ways to register:**

- **Online:** Visit [www.stphilip.org](http://www.stphilip.org). The registration forms and fees can be submitted electronically.
- **In Person or by Mail:** Download and Print the registration form and return with fees to the Parish Office.

*If you are new to our parish or have a child entering 1st grade in September, please call the Religious Education Office.*

**Be sure that you are registered with the parish prior to registering your child/children for class. Contact Barbara Salzer, parish secretary at 973-779-6200.**

**Please contact [dleach@stphilip.org](mailto:dleach@stphilip.org) with any questions to register.**

### DIOCESAN NEWS

#### SILVER AND GOLD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Couples, were you married in 1968 or 1993? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th or 50th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Serratelli will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held:

**Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 3:30 PM**

Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. **The deadline to register is Monday, October 15, 2018.** You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. *Congratulations on this joyous occasion!*

## PRAY FOR

### THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Zianna Jean Quiming Garcia, child of Nino and Jeannie  
Miles Allen Liebi, child of Matthew and Danielle  
Francesco Charles LoMartire, child of Francesco and Regina

**THE SICK:** Silvia Berardo, Lara Buell, Margaret Sikora, Sister Beverly Aiazzone, Antoinette Van Setters, Alexander Bancey, Derrick Medeiros, Maria Ligato, Philip Kutzenco, Evelyn Wescott, Annette Wanamaker, Mildred Nerone, Eugene & Lorraine DeBellis, Bob Rose, Jack Steffans, Fred Van Duyne, Dave Miller, Sr. Giovanni Aiazzone, Maya Hilario, John Pepe, Ron Kuruc, George Biondi, Theresa Buhler, Chloe LoPresti, Cathy Papuzenski, Roberta & Al Dressner, Eloise Stampoulos, Pina Basile, Jim Weis, Loretta Latona, Rita Latona, Eileen Kirschner, Roger Greff, Maryann Greff, Peg Chambers, Dorothea Stepka, Vivian Hart, John Thievon, Alice Negron, Janet Irizarry, Ryan G. Micale, Vincent Caragliano, Domenico Cirilli, George Heyrich, Angelo Masino, Monique Tommaro, Paul Pairo, RoseMarie Azzaro, Henry Murphy, Annie Omelcvuck, Chris Mueller

**THE DECEASED:** Kathy Appleton, Marlene Bacich, Norma Renta, Joan Jeffas

### PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: AUGUST 26, 2018

5:30 PM	Fr. Joe	8:00 AM	Fr. Joe
10:00 AM	Fr. Matt	12:00 N	Fr. Joseph

### PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: AUGUST 13, 2017	\$16,917.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: AUGUST 12, 2018	
Envelopes	\$ 9,314.00
Cash	\$ 1,365.00
Online giving donation	\$ 5,499.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,178.00</b>
Second Collection: Project Faith	\$ 2,232.00

### PLEASE NOTE

**Our Bulletin company has asked us to submit our bulletin to them one day earlier than we have been. Therefore, bulletin information must now be received at the Parish Office on Mondays. Information should be emailed to Barbara Salzer at [bsalzer@stphilip.org](mailto:bsalzer@stphilip.org)**

## TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

Prv 9:1-6; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58

### SUNDAY, August 19, 2018

**8:00** All the People of the Parish  
**10:00** Kathy Miragliotta  
William Twomey  
**12:00** Simo Borovcanin

### MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 2018

**9:00** Virginia Garofano

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018

**9:00** Andrew Grenda  
Julia A. Beckman

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2018

**9:00** Domenico Pagano

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2018

**9:00** Lottie Fretz

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 2018

**9:00** Fred Anthony  
Marianne Jordan – 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 2018

**9:00** Michael Schimpf  
**5:30** Rose Martin  
Kathryn Miragliotta  
Colleen Livesey

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 2018

**8:00** The O'Brien and Rogers Family  
Albert Levendusky  
**10:00** Patsy Sinisi  
William Weimer  
**12:00** All the People of the Parish

**The Sanctuary Candle:** In memory of  
Theodore Czapla  
From His Family

