

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### BETWEEN HEAVEN AND MIRTH

BY JAMES MARTIN, S.J.

FROM THE BOOK *BETWEEN HEAVEN AND MIRTH: WHY JOY, HUMOR AND LAUGHTER ARE AT THE HEART OF SPIRITUAL LIFE*

#### WEEK 3

St. Thomas Aquinas, the 13<sup>th</sup>-century theologian who carefully distinguished between different kinds of joy and happiness, wrote at length on joy. He described *delectatio* ("delight") over sensory things, but he reserved the term *gaudium* ("joy") for the attainment of an object that one regards as good for oneself or another. Later Thomas connected joy with love, "either through the presence of the thing loved, or because of the proper good of the thing loved," wherein one rejoices over the good fortune of another. The highest joy, said Thomas, is seeing God "face to face," since one has attained all that one's heart can desire.'

St. Thomas's writings helped me perceive more clearly the difference between a religious understanding of joy and a secular one. The more I thought about Thomas's distinctions and researched the question of joy, the clearer the answer became. In popular terminology, joy is happiness. For the religious person, joy is happiness in God.

In contrast to the more secular definition of joy, which may describe one's emotional response to an object or event, religious joy is always about a relationship. Joy has an object, and that object is God. Contemporary Christian theologians, such as Donald Saliers, a professor of theology and worship at Emory University, often makes this point. In *The Soul in Paraphrase: Prayer and Religious Affections*, Saliers notes that joy is a fundamental disposition toward God. What characterizes Christian joy in contrast to happiness, he says, lies in its ability to exist even in the midst of suffering, because joy has less to do with emotion and more to do with belief.

Joy does not ignore pain in the world, in another's life or in one's own life. Rather, it goes deeper, seeing confidence in God-and for Christians, in Jesus Christ-as the reason for joy and a constant source of joy. Pope Paul VI, in an extraordinary 1975 papal letter called *Gaudete in Domino* ("On Christian Joy"), touched on this distinction. Why, in a culture of plenty in the West, he wondered, where there is so much to satisfy us-wealth, clean water and readily available food, medical achievements, technological advances-is there so little joy?

It is, said Paul, because we are missing what joy really is. "This paradox and this difficulty in attaining joy seem to us particularly acute today," Paul wrote. "This is the reason for our message. Technological society has succeeded in multiplying the opportunities for pleasure, but it has great difficulty in generating joy, for joy comes from another source. It is spiritual."

Here is one example of what leads me to think that many modern believers often fail to link spirituality with anything joyful or even lighthearted. For the past 20 years, I've worked for a Catholic magazine called *America*. One of our regular features is "Faith in Focus," mainly stories about a writer's spiritual life, and each week we get dozens of submissions. Guess what the most common topics are: sickness, suffering and death. How my illness led me to God. How losing a job led me to God. How my pain led me to God.

Now, you might say, "Suffering is a way to God." And often that's true. We can sometimes experience God more intensely during times of suffering, since we are more vulnerable and therefore perhaps more open to God's help. But in my 20 years at *America*, I've rarely seen a funny or even mildly humorous submission for that section.

This is just one indication that, at least in American Catholic culture, suffering is linked to spirituality far more often than joy is. Joy seems to have a disreputable reputation in some religious circles. And that's odd, because joy is a necessary component for a healthy emotional and spiritual life. In fact, we are drawn to joyful people, I believe, because joy is a sign of God's presence, which is naturally attractive to us. God's joy speaks to the joy that dwells sometimes hidden in our hearts. "Deep calls to deep," as Psalm 42 says.

Or, as St. Augustine wrote, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord." Augustine, a 4<sup>th</sup>-century North African theologian, understood something fundamental about human beings: we naturally desire God, the source of all joy. We are drawn to joy because we are drawn to God.

It's difficult to measure the extent joy and laughter have been denigrated, downplayed or deemed inappropriate throughout religious history or how this setting aside of lightheartedness may have occurred. But it's not hard to see the *effects* of this downplaying. If you're Catholic, you may know priests who make you wonder how they can "celebrate" (the official term) the Mass when they never crack a smile. If you're a member of another Christian denomination, you may know pastors, ministers or elders who exemplify the "frozen chosen."

At one church I attended, always seated in the front pew were two middle-aged laywomen who were sisters. They arrived early every Sunday, never greeted anyone, sat in precisely the same spot and stared dead ahead at the altar during Mass. When it came time for the Sign of Peace, the moment when everyone shakes hands as a sign of Christian fellowship, the two sisters unsmilingly shook one another's hand, and they never, ever turned around to greet anyone else. They seemed deadly serious about their faith. And when you're deadly serious, you're seriously dead. A better goal for believers is to be joyfully alive. That seems obvious, doesn't it?

To see Week 1 and 2 of this series, see "Bulletins-August 12 and August 19" on our website [stphilip.org](http://stphilip.org)

## **+ Giving Thanks for Time and Work +**

### LABOR DAY WEEKEND REFLECTIONS

The Labor Day Holiday Weekend is an appropriate time to give God thanks for the gift of the purpose and meaning of our time and work. Uniquely created, we are called to share of ourselves in many ways with each other. This is our work in the simplest form: **OPUS CHRISTI** – doing Christ's work is our mission and purpose. In a word, our work is to **LOVE!**

### **BLESSED ARE YOU, LORD OUR GOD, WHO ENHANCES OUR LIVES WITH WORK**

*For* the gift of work, we are grateful in this prayer.

*As* sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, we follow in the steps of our first parents who, before their fall, worked joyfully with their hands in Your Garden of Eden, Lord and Creator.

*We* are thankful for the dignity and creative challenge of our unique tasks.

*For* the work that ennobles us, that lifts our spirits, we are grateful.

*By* the means of these labors, we are able to give flesh to our spiritual dreams and to work out the salvation of the earth.

*We* take time to thank You for those common tasks that we must perform each day, those necessary labors of life by which, according to Your divine plan, we are also able to create the Kingdom here in our midst.

*We* daily follow in the footsteps of Jesus, the carpenter of Nazareth, and in the way of Mary, his mother, who gracefully worked at the tasks of her home, as we rejoice in the opportunities for work that form us in Your love.

*With* St. Paul, the tent maker, with St. Peter, the fisherman, we too labor in love as we proclaim the mysteries of Your Gospel of good news.

*Help* us Lord our God to use the work of this day-to perform it with mindfulness and attention, with care and devotion-that it will be holy and healing for us and for all the earth.

*Blessed* are You, Lord our God, who enhances our lives with work.

*Amen +*

*Edward Hays*

### **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

**THE DAILY 7:00 AM MASS WILL RESUME ON  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

## **VIVERE CHRISTUS AWARD RECEIPT – BARBARA SALZER**

Bishop Serratelli continues the annual tradition of recognizing an individual in each parish who is a faithful steward and personifies love in action as described by St. Paul in his words, "*Vivere Christus est*, for me to live is Christ." Next Sunday, **September 9<sup>th</sup>**, at 3:30 PM at St. John's Cathedral in Paterson Barbara Salzer will be presented with The Annual VIVERE CHRISTUS AWARD.

Barbara began her ministry of welcome as a part time receptionist 34 years ago and gifted our parish with her people skills as our parish administrative assistant in 1993. Spiritual, service and social ministry are the keys she uses to live her mission. Whether as a volunteer in our Religious Formation Program, coordinating the Blood Drive, participating in our Welcome Committee, serving past and current Women's Cornerstone Retreats and visiting the sick as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, Barbara brings warmth and compassion to each opportunity of service.

Barbara describes the greatest blessing of her work as, "getting to know St. Philip's parishioners." That blessing goes both ways!

Please keep Barbara in your grateful prayer and all are welcome to join us at the award ceremony.

## **RCIA**

### **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

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.

We invite you to be our companion on the journey. 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.

### **Saint Philip Women's Cornerstone Retreat**

**November 16 & 17, 2018**

*Peace be with you*

**Friday, 6:30PM to 10:30PM**

**Saturday, 8:30AM to 6:30PM**

Registration Donation: \$50

Registration opens online [September 15, 2018](http://September 15, 2018) at [stphilip.org](http://stphilip.org)  
Please email any questions to [Cornerstone@StPhilip.org](mailto:Cornerstone@StPhilip.org) or call The Molloy Center (973)779-6200.

Hear testimonials and have your questions answered after all masses the weekend of **September 15 and 16.**

## MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

### PRIME TIMERS

St. Philip Prime Timers will meet on **Friday, September 7, 2018** at the Masonic Temple, 1476 Van Houten Ave, Clifton. The meeting begins at 1:00 PM.

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

A support group for people grieving the death of their spouse. Next meetings: **Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<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>** at 6:30 PM in the Molloy Center.

### ROSARY SOCIETY

- Meeting - **September 10, 2018** beginning at 6:00 PM in Church with the Rosary followed by Mass. Annual ice cream party to follow in the auditorium!
- **Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup>** - 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Communion Brunch following 10:00 AM Mass in the auditorium. Tickets: \$25.00: For tickets call Elaine at 973-472-9019. Tickets will also be sold after all masses on **September 8 & 9**.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday: The VFW Hall -Valley Rd; 8:00 PM**

### ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Knights of Columbus Golf Outing- **September 20, 2018**. Cost: \$150.00 at Knolls West Country Club. Includes golf, luncheon, cocktail hour, dinner, prizes, raffle, contests, golf cart and all fees. To be a player, sponsor or volunteer, please contact Brian Kulesa at (973) 418-2085 or [beezerkul@aol.com](mailto:beezerkul@aol.com).

### NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR LIFE

**Saturday, September 8, 2018 – 9:00 AM Mass  
A TIME FOR HEALING**

- Following Mass, gather to pray for all life from conception to natural death at the K of C memorial site (located outside the left doors of the church).
- Speaker: Fr. Matt Jasniewicz followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND CONFIRMATION

*Grades 1-6 Classes begin on **Sunday, September 16***

*Grades 7, 8 and Confirmation, Grades 9, 10 classes begin on **Sunday, September 23***

- *Classes begin at the 8:00 A.M. Mass, followed by classroom instruction in the school until 10:30.*
- *Following Mass, parents of students in Grades 1-8 accompany your child/children to the school. Students names will be posted outside the classroom.*
- *You are invited to meet your child's Catechist from 10:00-10:30 in their classroom.*

Please contact [dleach@stphilip.org](mailto:dleach@stphilip.org) with any questions or concerns.

### PARISH GIVING

SUNDAY COLLECTION: AUGUST 27, 2017	\$17,243.00
SUNDAY COLLECTION: AUGUST 26, 2018	
Envelopes	\$11,525.00
Cash	\$ 1,141.00
Online giving donation	\$ 4,544.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,210.00</b>
Second Collection: Project Faith	\$ 1,937.00

### PRIESTS' SCHEDULE: SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

5:30 PM	Fr. Joe	8:00 AM	Fr. Kevin
10:00 AM	Fr. Joseph	12:00 N	Fr. Matt
Fr. Joe Preaching at all masses			

### PRAY FOR

**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 Duyn, 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, Angelo Masino, Monique Tommaro, Paul Pairo, RoseMarie Azzaro, Henry Murphy, Annie Omelcvuck, Chris Mueller, Katharine Dasenbrock, Ken Hauser, Albert Pineda, Frank Piscatelli

**THE DECEASED:** Vincenzo Mazzara

### TWENTY- SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8; Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

**8:00** Virginia Castiglia  
**10:00** John, Louis & Clara Belfi  
 Lucia & Antonio Santulli  
**12:00** Deacon Al Ciampa – 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2018

**9:00** Tammy DiSanto

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

**7:00** Charles Grenda  
**9:00** Fred Anthony

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

**7:00** Olga Sutphen  
**9:00** Pepe DiSanto

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

**7:00** John M. Petruska  
**9:00** Anthony & James Butera

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

**7:00** Americo Consolatore  
**9:00** Marsha Kendra

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2018

**9:00** Rocco Carlucci  
 Special Intention: Safeguarding all human life  
**5:30** C. Mildred Petaccio  
 Andrew Doychak – 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 Peter Kenny

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

**8:00** All the People of the Parish  
**10:00** Donald Muller  
 Italo Gonnella  
 Antonio Alfieri  
**12:00** Alfonso Bayuelo  
 Thomas Gaffney-1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
 Robert Parillo

**The Sanctuary Candle:** In memory of  
 Rosa & Albert Wasmer  
 From Rosemarie & Albert