

Pastor's updates

May 20, 2022



Things you may want to know this week

1. Great News! The Catholic Church has 10 new saints! Pope Francis celebrated the canonization Mass last Sunday, May 15, at St. Peter's Square. The new saints are:

Charles de Foucauld, a Trappist monk.

Titus Brandsma, a Dutch Carmelite priest and journalist.

Devasahayam Pillai, a layman from India.

Marie Rivier, founder of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Presentation.

Maria Francesca of Jesus: established an order of Capuchin sisters in Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil.

Maria Domenica Mantovani, first General Superior of the Institute of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family.

Maria of Jesus Santocanale, founder of the Capuchin Sisters.

César de Bus, a French Catholic priest who founded two religious congregations in the 16th century.

Luigi Maria Palazzolo: Italian priest who is known for having established the Sisters of the Poor.

Giustino Maria Russolillo, founder of the religious congregations of the Vocationist Fathers, the Vocationist Sisters.

2. Grief Consolation: Our monthly Grief Support Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022, after the 8:30 Mass, in the Convent. In honor of Father's Day, we will be sharing photos to honor & reflect on the lives of dads we've lost, as well as the lives of other relatives close to our hearts. The meeting is open to all who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

For more information, please email: **Judy Kerrigan** - srconsolationmin@att.net.

3. Fr. Boie left for the Philippines last night for his yearly vacation. He will be back on June 27, a day prior to his birthday (June 28). **Fr. Stewart Wilber** will be celebrating the Sunday 5 p.m. Mass while Fr. Boie is away, in addition to his regular Saturday 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. Furthermore, he has graciously offered to also celebrate the Monday 8:30 a.m. Mass to allow me to enjoy my day-off. Thank you, Fr. Stewart!

4. Early this year, two seminarians from our Archdiocese studying at St. Patrick's seminary came to St. Robert's to talk about and promote vocation to the priesthood. One was Jeff Cano and the other one was **Stephen Unachukwu**. Wednesday morning of last week, Stephen was found dead at St. Patrick's Seminary. Stephen, 39, originally from Nigeria, worked as a sacristan at St. Mary's Cathedral, volunteered as a catechist for St. Paul of the Shipwreck, All Hallows and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes, and completed a pastoral year at St. Matthew parish. Please pray for the repose of his soul as well as the Unachukwu family and the St. Patrick's Seminary community.

5. Again and again, I keep reminding you to be careful of **suspicious emails** asking for a favor. Please do not respond to this kind of email. Double-check with the purported sender through another means, e.g., phone call, text or even in person. That's what Fr. Boie and another parishioner did this week when they received a suspicious email from someone pretending to be me.

6. Our St. Robert School students presented three **Kid Stock shows** this week: K-2, Grades 3-5, and Grades 6-8. You can watch all three shows on our St. Robert's YouTube channel and Facebook Page. Next Friday is **Graduation Day** with a Baccalaureate Mass in the morning at 9:30 a.m. and the Graduation Ceremony at 5 p.m., both in the church.

7. Jay Morena, our Ushers Coordinator, informed us that we have three new ushers. **Katalina Vaka** and **Roberto Flores** will usher at the 9:30 a.m. Mass. **Junar Lansang** will join him at the 11:30 a.m. Mass. Roberto Flores who was just confirmed last Easter Vigil is also training to be a sacristan for the 9:30 a.m. Mass. Thank you for your stewardship!

8. Just Today! This might give a jolt and elicit different reactions from different people. Archbishop Cordileone just issued a letter to the priests and lay people of the Archdiocese about a notification he sent yesterday to Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi. The letter, issued in fidelity to the teachings of the Church, instructed her that she is not to present herself for Holy Communion. And, should she do so, will not be admitted to Holy Communion, until such time as she publicly repudiates her advocacy for the legitimacy of abortion, in accordance with canon 915 of the Code of Canon Law. **Read the Full Statement to the Lay People below.**

FAZnotes
(Father Arnold Zamora)
May 20, 2022



Dear St. Robert's parishioners and friends,

Life is never easy

We can decide for things we need but we can't expect a good result.

We can choose a lifestyle we want but we can't be sure of contentment.

We can enjoy the feeling of loving and being loved, but there is no sure way for true happiness.

But if we let God be our life's guide, we can be sure of safe landing, real contentment, inner peace and true happiness....

*Blessings to you,
Fr. Arnold*



May 20, 2022

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Pope Francis has been one of the world's most vocal advocates of human dignity in every stage and condition of life. He decries what he evocatively calls the "throwaway culture." There can be no more extreme example of this cultural depravity than when direct attacks on human life are enshrined in a nation's law, celebrated by society, and even paid for by the government. This is why Pope Francis, as much as any pope in living memory, has repeatedly and vividly affirmed the Church's clear and constant teaching that abortion is a grave moral evil.

Surely no Pope has spoken more eloquently than Pope Francis did in the earliest days of his Pontificate, saying on September 20, 2013:

In a frail human being, each one of us is invited to recognize the face of the Lord, who in his human flesh experienced the indifference and solitude to which we so often condemn the poorest of the poor, whether in developing countries or in wealthy societies. Every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world's rejection.¹

Another valuable insight Pope Francis gives us is that of the inter-connectedness of all of the threats to human dignity in the throwaway culture. As one clear example, in his landmark 2015 Encyclical on the environment, *Laudato Si'*, he underscored that care for our common home includes care for the weakest among us, including the unborn child:

When we fail to acknowledge as part of reality the worth of a poor person, a human embryo, a person with disabilities – to offer just a few examples – it becomes difficult to hear the cry of nature itself; everything is connected. Once the human being declares independence from reality and behaves with absolute dominion, the very foundations of our life begin to crumble, for 'instead of carrying out his role as a cooperater with God in the work of creation, man sets himself up in place of God and thus ends up provoking a rebellion on the part of nature.'²

¹ Francis, "Address of Holy Father Francis to Participants in the Meeting Organized by the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations," September 20, 2013,

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2013/september/documents/papa-francesco_20130920_associazioni-medici-cattolici.html.

² Francis. "Laudato Si." The Holy See, May, 24, 2015, 117,

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html.

As the Archbishop of San Francisco, I am bound to be “concerned for all the Christian faithful entrusted to [my] care” (Code of Canon Law, can. 383, §1). This most serious duty can sometimes become unpleasant, especially when Catholics in public life explicitly promote practices that involve the direct taking of innocent human life, which is what abortion does. I have struggled with this issue in my own conscience for many years now, especially with regard to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and member of our Archdiocese, Nancy Pelosi.

I have received letters from very many of you over the years expressing distress over the scandal being caused by such Catholics in public life who promote such grievously evil practices as abortion. I have responded that conversion is always better than exclusion, and before any such action can be taken it must be preceded by sincere and diligent efforts at dialogue and persuasion. With regard to Speaker Pelosi, I have striven to follow this wise route, as delineated by then-Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI) in a letter to U.S. bishops regarding Holy Communion and Catholic politicians who cooperate in the grave evils of abortion and euthanasia:

... when a person’s formal cooperation becomes manifest (understood, in the case of a Catholic politician, as his consistently campaigning and voting for permissive abortion and euthanasia laws), his Pastor should meet with him, instructing him about the Church’s teaching, informing him that he is not to present himself for Holy Communion until he brings to an end the objective situation of sin, and warning him that he will otherwise be denied the Eucharist. When ‘these precautionary measures have not had their effect ...,’ and the person in question, with obstinate persistence, still presents himself to receive the Holy Eucharist, ‘the minister of Holy Communion must refuse to distribute it.’³

This instruction is in accordance with canon 915 of the Code of Canon Law, which stipulates, “Those ... obstinately persevering in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion.” In the pastoral letter I issued a year ago, [*Before I Formed You in the Womb I Knew You*](#), I laid out the Church’s teaching on cooperation in evil, especially that of abortion, and the proper disposition for receiving Holy Communion, precisely to help our people better understand these principles and what is at stake here.

Unfortunately, Speaker Pelosi’s position on abortion has become only more extreme over the years, especially in the last few months. Just earlier this month she once again, as she has many times before, explicitly cited her Catholic faith while justifying abortion as a “choice,” this time setting herself in direct opposition to Pope Francis: “The very idea that they would be telling women the size, timing or whatever of their family, the personal nature of this is so appalling, and I say that as a devout Catholic”; “They say to me, ‘Nancy Pelosi thinks she knows more about having babies than the Pope.’ Yes I do. Are you stupid?”⁴

³ <https://chiesa.espresso.repubblica.it/articolo/7055bdc4.html?eng=y>.

⁴ Mychael Schnell and Mike Lillis “Pelosi says Roe opinion would threaten marriage equality, other rights,” The Hill, May 4, 2022, <https://thehill.com/news/house/3477577-pelosi-says-roe-opinion-would-threaten-marriage-equality-other-rights>.

After numerous attempts to speak with her to help her understand the grave evil she is perpetrating, the scandal she is causing, and the danger to her own soul she is risking, I have determined that the point has come in which I must make a public declaration that she is not to be admitted to Holy Communion unless and until she publicly repudiate her support for abortion “rights” and confess and receive absolution for her cooperation in this evil in the sacrament of Penance. I have accordingly sent her a Notification to this effect, which I have now made public.

Please know that I find no pleasure whatsoever in fulfilling my pastoral duty here. Speaker Pelosi remains our sister in Christ. Her advocacy for the care of the poor and vulnerable elicits my admiration. I assure you that my action here is purely pastoral, not political. I have been very clear in my words and actions about this. Speaker Pelosi has been uppermost in my prayer intentions ever since I became the Archbishop of San Francisco. It was my prayer life that motivated me to ask people all around the country to join me in praying and fasting for her in the “Rose and Rosary for Nancy Campaign.” I especially pray that she will see in the roses she has received a sign of the honest love and care that many thousands of people have for her.

I very sincerely thank all of you who have participated in this campaign, and all others who have otherwise prayed and made spiritual sacrifices for our Speaker, and I ask you to continue (or start) to do so. I also ask you actively to support with your time, talent and treasure the efforts of pro-life advocates to accompany women in crisis pregnancies and offer them the support they need to make a choice for life, as well as those who have been scarred by the abortion experience (for our local efforts, see: <https://www.sfarch.org/standwithmoms>). This is what it means to be truly pro-life. It is the way of love.

May God grant us the grace to be true advocates for the dignity of human life, in every stage and condition of life, and to accompany, support and love women who otherwise would be alone and afraid at a most vulnerable time in their lives.

In Christ, our Source of New Life,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Salvatore J. Cordileone". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Salvatore J. Cordileone
Archbishop of San Francisco



NOTIFICATION

To the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress Nancy Pelosi

The Second Vatican Council, in its Decree on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et spes*, reiterated the Church's ancient and consistent teaching that "from the first moment of conception life must be guarded with the greatest care while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes" (n. 51). Christians have, indeed, always upheld the dignity of human life in every stage, especially the most vulnerable, beginning with life in the womb. His Holiness, Pope Francis, in keeping with his predecessors, has likewise been quite clear and emphatic in teaching on the dignity of human life in the womb.

This fundamental moral truth has consequences for Catholics in how they live their lives, especially those entrusted with promoting and protecting the public good of society. Pope St. John Paul II was also quite consistent in upholding this constant teaching of the Church, and frequently reminded us that "those who are directly involved in lawmaking bodies have a 'grave and clear obligation to oppose' any law that attacks human life. For them, as for every Catholic, it is impossible to promote such laws or to vote for them" (cf. *Doctrinal Note on some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life* [November 24, 2002], n. 4, §1). A Catholic legislator who supports procured abortion, after knowing the teaching of the Church, commits a manifestly grave sin which is a cause of most serious scandal to others. Therefore, universal Church law provides that such persons "are not to be admitted to Holy Communion" (Code of Canon Law, can. 915).

With regard to the application of these principles to Catholics in political life, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, wrote to the U.S. bishops in 2004 explaining the approach to be taken:

... when a person's formal cooperation becomes manifest (understood, in the case of a Catholic politician, as his consistently campaigning and voting for permissive abortion and euthanasia laws), his Pastor should meet with him, instructing him about the Church's teaching, informing him that he is not to present himself for Holy Communion until he brings to an end the objective situation of sin, and warning him that he will otherwise be denied the Eucharist. When 'these precautionary measures have not had their effect ...,' and the person in question, with obstinate persistence, still presents himself to receive the Holy Eucharist, 'the minister of Holy Communion must refuse to distribute it.'

In striving to follow this direction, I am grateful to you for the time you have given me in the past to speak about these matters. Unfortunately, I have not received such an accommodation to my many requests to speak with you again since you vowed to codify the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision in federal law following upon passage of Texas Senate Bill 8 last September. That is why I communicated my concerns to you via letter on April 7, 2022, and informed you there that, should you not publically repudiate your advocacy for abortion "rights" or else refrain from referring to your Catholic faith in public and receiving Holy Communion, I would have no choice but to make a declaration, in keeping with canon 915, that you are not to be admitted to Holy Communion.

As you have not publically repudiated your position on abortion, and continue to refer to your Catholic faith in justifying your position and to receive Holy Communion, that time has now come. Therefore, in light of my responsibility as the Archbishop of San Francisco to be "concerned for all the Christian faithful entrusted to [my] care" (Code of Canon Law, can. 383, §1), by means of this communication I am hereby notifying you that **you are not to present yourself for Holy Communion and, should you do so, you are not to be admitted to Holy Communion, until such time as you publically repudiate your advocacy for the legitimacy of abortion and confess and receive absolution of this grave sin in the sacrament of Penance.**

Please know that I stand ready to continue our conversation at any time, and will continue to offer up prayer and fasting for you.

I also ask all of the faithful of the Archdiocese of San Francisco to pray for all of our legislators, especially Catholic legislators who promote procured abortion, that with the help and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they may undergo a conversion of heart in this most grave matter and human life may be protected and fostered in every stage and condition of life.

Given at San Francisco, on the nineteenth day of May, in the Year of our Lord 2022.



Archbishop of San Francisco



Chancellor