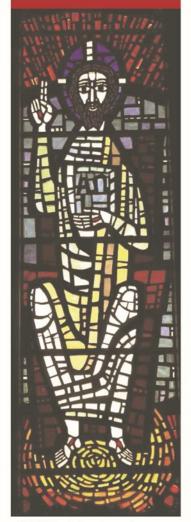
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The Ascension of the Lord, Year C

May 29, 2022

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Lk 24: 46-53

THE DEACON'S SPEAKIN'

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This week's letter is an article from the Director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute, Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J. In it, Father Kammer reflects on the Church's stance on gun violence. I hope that you will make time to read this and then participate in a discussion on Wednesday night, June 8 at 7:00pm in the Cafeteria. For those of you who are unable to attend on the 8th, another session will take place on Wednesday, June 15 at 1:00pm in the Cafeteria.

Peace and Love, Deacon John

Catholic Social Thought and Gun Violence By Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J.

"We must come to the firm determination that there is a fundamental problem in our society. A Culture of Life cannot tolerate, and must prevent, senseless gun violence in all its forms."

Twenty-four years ago, the U.S. Catholic bishops wrote: "Our families are torn by violence. Our communities are destroyed by violence. Our faith is tested by violence."

Not only was violence then destroying lives, dignity, and hopes, the bishops wrote, but fear of violence was "paralyzing and polarizing our communities."

The violence then described by the bishops is now compounded in our consciousness by terrorism abroad, wars across the Middle East, mass shootings in places like San Bernardino, Charleston, Sandy Hook, Orlando, and now Parkland, school shootings and shootings by police and others of Black men, women, and children, shootings of police officers, and violent political discourse. Despite our impressions and fears, as the bishops then noted, "It doesn't have to be this way."

Change has to begin in this nation because, as the bishops continued, "No nation on earth, except those in the midst of war, has as much violent behavior as we do—in our homes, on our televisions, and in our streets..." At the heart of much of this violence are guns—from handguns to assault weapons. There are almost as many guns in the United States as there are people. ²

Change begins with the simple sign seen on some church properties: Thou shalt not kill. The fifth commandment's mandate is rooted in the essential dignity and sanctity of every human life—life that is tragically assaulted by every bullet that tears through human flesh. One practical and compelling step in reducing gun violence is gun control, as the bishops have written:

We support measures that control the sale and use of firearms and make them safer (especially efforts that prevent their unsupervised use by children or anyone other than the owner), and we reiterate our call for sensible regulations of handguns.³

Continued on page 2

Mission Statement

Gifted by God, called by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center is a parish committed to serving the academic community and all those who choose to be part of our parish family. We dedicate ourselves to bringing the transformative power of Christ to the world through word and action.



Continued from page 1

In a recent statement, the bishops's conference enumerated its support for "implementing reasonable regulations on firearms" such as: universal background checks for all gun purchasers; limiting civilian access to high-capacity weapons and ammunition magazines; making gun trafficking a federal crime; improving access to mental health and addiction treatment for those who may be prone to violence; and supporting reentry programs to help people avoid re-offending.⁴

The Vatican has urged the international community "to assume its responsibility in establishing an obligatory legal framework aimed at regulating the trade of conventional weapons of any type, as well as of know-how and technology for their production." As one of the world's leading producers and exporters of conventional arms, the United States has a heightened responsibility to add support for control of conventional weapons to our existing commitment to control of weapons of mass destruction.

Gun violence is nurtured by a pervasive culture of violence. Popes and bishops repeatedly have urged us to confront that larger culture in many different ways. As Saint Pope John Paul II put it, To choose life involves rejecting every form of violence: the violence of poverty and hunger, which afflicts so many human beings; the violence of armed conflict; the violence of criminal trafficking in drugs and arms; the violence of mindless damage to the natural environment.⁶

The U.S. bishops also have emphasized confronting domestic violence, the glamorization of violence in the media and music, abortion, and "the slow motion violence of discrimination and poverty, hunger and hopelessness, addiction and self destructive behavior."

Fr. Fred Kammer, S.J., serves as the Director of the Jesuit Social Research Institute at Loyola University in New Orleans, Louisiana. For more information on the JSRI: www.loyno.edu/jsri. Reprinted with permission: https://bit.ly/2EVTtUB.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ National Conference of Catholic Bishops, Confronting a Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action, November 1994.
- ² "According to the Congressional Research Service, there are roughly twice as many guns per capita in the U.S. as there were in 1968: more than 300 million guns in all," http://n.pr/2oyRH0t.
- ³ U.S. Catholic Conference, Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice, November 2000, no. 4.
- ⁴ U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Office of Domestic Social Development, A Mercy and Peacebuilding Approach to Gun Violence, January 2016.
- ⁵ Statement by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace on behalf of the Holy See concerning the International Trade in Conventional Weapons, October 10, 2006, no. 3
- ⁶ Saint Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae, March 25, 1995, no. 57.

Office Closed

Our office will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. There will be no morning Mass.

Mass and Confessions Schedule

Please note we will have Communion services Tuesday, May 31 through Friday, June 3 at 8:00am. There are no Confessions on Thursday, June 2 and no Thursday evening Mass. Please also note that we are only having one Mass on Pentecost weekend on Sunday, June 5 at 9:30am.

Attention Picnic Volunteers

Thanks for signing up!

We will <u>SET UP on SATURDAY, JUNE 4 at 6:00pm</u>. We will meet in the courtyard right outside Newman Hall (by the Solar Panel Parking Lot). We will help out setting up for Mass, carry chairs, pull games out, tables and tents. We hope to get it done in about 1.5 hours. And we will <u>CLEAN UP on Sunday</u>, <u>June 5 at 1:00pm</u>.

You will be getting a reminder phone call or email from a member of our Creation Care Team. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, May 29 Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Lk 24:46-53

7:30am Mass for Departed Members of the Breunig Chapel

Family

9:30am Mass for Patrick J. McGee Chapel
11:30am Mass for Mely Dacuycuy Chapel
12:45pm Baptisms Chapel
3:00pm Igbo Mass Chapel
7:00pm Mass Chapel

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day - Office Closed

Tuesday, May 31 Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-56

8:00am Communion Service Chapel

12:00pm Christian Meditation Community Room

6:00pm FF&F First Communion Practice Chapel

Wednesday, June 1 Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19

8:00am Communion Service Chapel

Thursday, June 2 Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26

8:00am Communion Service Chapel

Friday, June 3 Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19

8:00am Communion Service Chapel 8:30am Sacred Heart Devotion for Families Chapel

Saturday, June 4 Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25

7:30am SoulCore Chapel Courtyard

7:30am Men's Saturday Breakfast Group Cafeteria
10:00am First Communion Chapel

Sunday, June 5 Acts 2:1-11; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

CNH Courtyard

9:30am Mass for Barbara and Su Prandini, John

Godburn, Masita Costales, Int. of Beau

Nicholson

11:00am Parish Picnic CNH Courtyard

May Contributions

2021		2022	
May 2	\$16,289.46	May 1	\$18,412.75
May 9 ACH	\$19,440.00	May 8 ACH	\$24,558.88
May 16 ACH	\$15,904.21	May 15	\$11,321.29
May 23	\$ 9,818.71	May 22 ACH	\$18,229.63
May 30	\$15,085.00	May 29	
May Total	\$63,881.13	May Total	\$72,522.55

<u>Prayers:</u>

 Please pray for those who have requested special intentions and prayers:

Joan Renner, Margery Toll, Kristal Lowe Limon, Abigail Love, Gary Payne, Linda Alvarez, Marianne Coons, Julissa Mojarras, Estefania Medina, Mary Garr, Kathy Papagni, Michael Vienna, Issac Orozco, Diana Mock, Sandra Barrie, Nettie Shute, Sandy Keith, Meghan Vasquez, Dan Dungy, Isabel Wiggins, Monica Becerra, Alice Schultz, Dick and Jan White, Sr. Joanne Bauer, Jan Fusselman, Nyla Zender, JoAnn Myers, Monica Baker (Lucido), David Toll, Susan Olson, Mary Yoakum, Olivia King, Maria Coronel, Clara Marrone, Penny Mull, Judy Marchi, Raymond Ram, Nacho Flores, William Rogal, Donna Garcia, Melissa Kane, Kim Bach, John Cook, Joey Perez, John Morgenroth, Phyllis Scialabba, Walt Whelan, Martin Zapata, Carl Britto

To better serve our Faith Family we are updating our list of prayers. Names for the sick / special intentions will remain in the bulletin for one month then removed from the list unless otherwise notified. If deceased, names are only published the week they died. If you have someone who is in need of prayers please contact the office at 436-3434 or go on our website and fill out the form under the "Prayer Intentions" tab.

Parish Information

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am & 7:00pm

Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am

First Tuesday 6:00pm, Thursday at 6:00pm

Communion Services: Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00am

Reconciliation: Thursday 4:00pm to 5:45pm or call the office for

an appointment.

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 3:00pm

CLOSED FRIDAY

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St. Paul Catholic Newman Center



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College Pages



Newman Catholic Student Association (Fresno)



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Family Life Ministries

Men's Saturday Breakfast Group meets for our last session before summer break on Saturday, June 4 from 7:30am to 9:00am in the Cafeteria. Join us and bring a friend.

Joy of Love Moms Group invites families to the west playground after 9:30 Mass for an opportunity for children and families to meet, socialize and play together. Please join us!

Men's Scripture Reflection and Discussion Group meets Monday mornings after Mass from 8:30 to 9:15 in the Library to reflect upon and discuss the previous Sunday's scripture readings.

Prayer Ministries

Christian Meditation meets weekly on Tuesdays at noon in the Community Room, for 20 minutes of silent meditation followed by a brief lesson about this ancient Christian prayer tradition and discussion. Christian meditation utilizes the mantra, "Maranatha" (a word in Jesus' own Aramaic language meaning, "Come, Lord Jesus") in order to quiet the mind and come to silence, meeting Jesus in the depth of our own being, beyond words or images. The group is a member of the World Community for Christian Meditation. Meetings are facilitated by Benita Lankford. For information email contact John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com.

Bishop's Annual Appeal Second Collection

We will have a second collection for the Bishop's Annual Appeal this weekend. This fund contributes to the following areas at the Diocese: Youth / Young Adult Ministry, Catechetics, Diocesan Retreat Centers, and Vocations. Our parish goal is to raise \$15,000. Thank you for your generosity.

Name Tags

Ever see a familiar face at church and just can't remember their name? It happens to all of us! That is why starting this weekend and continuing weekly, we would ask everyone in attendance to wear a name tag. Name tags are available at a table in the hallway. Please remember to bring yours back every Sunday.

Pentecost Sunday Lunch by the Knights

The Newman Center's Knights of Columbus Council will be selling hot dogs and hot dog / soda or water / chips combination plates at our upcoming Pentecost Sunday celebration. Feel free to drop by our booth to grab a bite to eat, and say "Hi" to the Knights. Let's thank and encourage them in their continuing efforts to support the many charitable causes they undertake.



Campus Ministry News!

Week of May 29 - June 5

Young Adults Bible Study

Every Monday at 6:00pm, we engage in biblical reflections and conversations to strengthen our identity as followers of Christ. It is a space where you will also find other young people who desire to learn and grow with you. Come join us! We will meet inside the Student Lounge. Please note that we will not meet on Monday, May 30.

Job Opening - Administrative Assistant [Part-time]

We are still accepting applications. The full job description and application can be found on our website. If you have any questions, please reach out to Edgar or Stephanie.

Campus Ministry Contacts

Edgar Guzman, Director: edgar@csufnewman.com
Fr. Byron Macias, Chaplain: frbyron@csufnewman.com
Stephanie Beas, Administrative Assistant: catholicclub@csufnewman.com

Mother's Day Thank You!

The Women's Guild would like to thank you, our wonderful Newman Center parishioners, for all of your support for our Mother's Day Cookie Sale. With your kindness and generosity we raised \$1763.00! We will be donating this money to the Newman Center to be used for future projects. Thank you again!



Are you hurting from a past abortion experience and are in need of spiritual and emotional healing? Rachel's Vineyard weekends are a life-changing

opportunity for any person who has struggled with the spiritual and emotional pain of abortion. The retreats are for men, women and other persons effected by an abortion experience.

Upcoming retreat in Fresno area July 8-10, 2022 (English) October 7-9, 2022 (English)

Please contact:

Jennifer | 833.776.0023 or Butcher_Jennifer@yahoo.com (English)

Elizabeth | 559.309.8469 or emzelsdorf@gmail.com (English)

A Prayer for Peace After Gun Violence

Thus says YHWH: a voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and bitter weeping. Rachel, weeping for her children, refuses to be comforted, for her children are no more." Jeremiah 31:15

God, comforter of the broken and disheartened, We come to you plagued with an agonized grief After yet one more outbreak of senseless gun violence. We come to you, From the East to the West, from the North to the South, People of all ages, ethnicities, and walks of life.

We represent one voice, The voice of bitter weeping Echoing throughout our cities And resounding in communities throughout the world.

As violence abounds, We sit in the darkness, Sitting alongside the suffering on the mourner's bench.

We are Rachel, Mourning with wordless sobs, The lives of those sacrificed on the altar of violence.

We are Rachel, Weeping for the wounded, For those whose minds and bodies Are etched with painful memories of men's unjustifiable rage.

We are Rachel, Lamenting with the families who have lost loved ones Whose cries of despair join with those From tragedies of gun violence.

We are Rachel, Perplexed with troubled souls, and searching for answers, Seeking to understand what would cause humans to inflict pain on their fellow sisters and brothers.

We are Rachel, Exasperated, grasping—crying out, "How long, O God? How long will this wave of violence consume your people?

How long, O God, must we succumb to this perverse violence That crushes the breath and life of countless innocent people?

How long, O God, will it take for us to beat our swords into plowshares, And spears into pruning hooks?"

Compassionate God, we turn to you in our grief. Provide comfort to the broken-hearted, All those who are frightened, despairing, and who are hoping for peace.

Help us to become deeply aware of the shared humanity That comes when a sister or brother falls victim to violence.

Guide us on a path of understanding and peaceful dialogue. Show us rightful ways to rid our homes, our neighborhoods, our workplaces, our cities and our world Of weapons that destroy lives.

Grant us the courage to stand together, To join with Rachel in her strident protest of lament Calling for an end to gun violence.

Empower us to be people of light and hope Amid a world painted with darkness and violence. Amen

By Dianna Ortiz, OSU

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Community Assembly*

Monday, June 6th 6:30pm

St. Anthony Mary Claret Catholic Church 2494 S. Chestnut Ave. Fresno, CA 93725

What are the issues affecting you or people you care about? Access to

- Housing
- Jobs
- Mental Health Care
- Safety
- Healthcare and well-being
- Educational opportunities

Join together with people from across the area who want to work together for the common good! *All covid-19 safety protocols will be followed. Masks available at the door.

Register Here

Central Valley IAF is a non-profit, non-partisan organization consisting of congregations, schools, non-profits and unions that work together on a broad agenda of issues affecting local families. For more information about Central Valley IAF contact CentralValleyIAF@gmail.com, and to learn about the work across the IAF network of organizations visit www.swiaf.org.

Are We Known by Our Love?

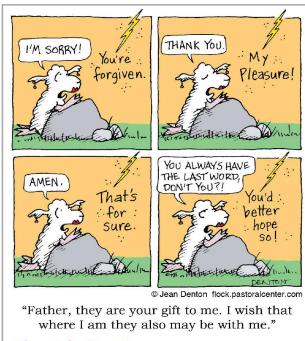
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ► Acts 7:55-60 Stephen's martyrdom
- Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 Blessed are those who follow the Lamb
- ▶ John 17:20-26 Prayer for all believers

As we near the end of the Easter Season and prepare for Pentecost next week, the Church proclaims the story of the first Christian martyr, Stephen. Immediately before the passage read from Acts of the Apostles today, some Jews falsely accused Stephen of claiming that Jesus wanted to overturn their religious laws and customs. Although Stephen proved that he was steeped in the Jewish tradition and education, the crowd did not want to hear Stephen's critique that they were not living up to God's laws. The mob rushed upon him and stoned him. As he died, he spoke words similar to Jesus at his death "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" and "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." The author Luke pointedly writes that Saul (later to become Paul) was a witness to the stoning, apparently in an approving role.

The Gospel passage today is part of a lengthy prayer that Jesus addresses aloud to his Father while the disciples are gathered around him at the Last Supper. Not only is it a prayer for the disciples, but it

is a prayer for us and for all those believers who came before us and will come after us: "also for those who will believe in me through their word." Jesus speaks again of the union between him and the Father "as you, Father, are in me and I in you" and prays in hope that we will also experience this union with him and each other. When there



Sheepish Question:

How has Jesus lifted up my life with his this week?

is infighting among parishioners, between Catholic "factions," or among Christian denominations, this prayer for union can help us to reset. It challenges us to consider if we are working toward unity rather than division.

Like the previous Sunday Gospel readings, Jesus reminds his friends before his departure that they are to love one another as he loved them. Their love for each other will make God's love known to the world. The Christian song "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" inspired by this section in John's Gospel summarizes the message well.

Questions of the Week

Think about those who have passed on their faith to you so that you believed through their words. Whom do you have to thank for this?

Do you think outsiders might know you are Christian by your love? Why or why not?

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