

Fr. Simon Sez

Clergy Days: I will be gone this Monday afternoon, October 3 to Thursday afternoon, October 6, 2022 to Chamberlain.

A.A. Meetings Resume: I had a couple guys ask me if they could resume the weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in the Sacred Heart Church basement. I got personally involved to make sure we have stable group leadership which includes me. These are open meetings. I have found them to be helpful to anyone who has any addictive type tendencies, not just recovering alcoholics. Anyone is welcome to confidentially contact me or anonymously come to the old west entrance of the church, turn left and go downstairs to the old Knights of Columbus (K. of C.) meeting room. We meet Mondays at 8:00 p.m.

Behavior Health Recovery: Gov. Kristi Noem and the Department of Social Services (DSS) had a weekly newspaper article on how our state has been helping spread the news that recovery is possible for everyone who suffers from mental health and substance abuse. To find help in our area regardless of ability to pay, visit dss.sd.gov and click on the Behavioral Health tab or contact the Lourdes Center funded by the annual Catholic Family Sharing Appeal by calling 1-800-700-7867.



Pastoral Planning Process: Last week we mentioned the invitation from Bishop DeGrood to participate in the diocesan planning process. You should have received a pastoral letter directing you to the Set Ablaze website (setablazesf.org). If you didn't get this

letter or haven't visited the website, please contact the parish office for assistance. Your input as part of the planning process will be requested later this fall. In the meantime, Bishop DeGrood has asked us to become more familiar with our current reality and the statistical data that has informed the planning process, which can be found at setablazesf.org.

Inner Healing Prayer in Our Parishes:

The Matthew Ministry will be giving an information presentation Friday evening, November 4, 2022, on this simple prayer method. After this presentation, individuals can make an appointment with them facilitating the prayer of the individual Saturday & Sunday, November 5 - 6 in our parishes. This guided prayer will help individuals go to the source of their hurts and receive the healing Spirit of Christ and be set free. Save the date! For more general information go to: www.themattthewministry.com. For answers to specific questions, contact me. I have been offering this opportunity in my parishes since about fifteen years ago.



Live by Faith: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-9
2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Luke 17:5-10

Because of his faith, the just man shall live. We hear in today's First Reading the original prophetic line made so central by St. Paul (see Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). We are to live by faith in Christ who loved us and gave Himself on the Cross for us (see Galatians 2:20).

The world, though, can seem to us as seventh-century Judah seemed to Habakkuk—in the control of God's enemies. The strife and discord we face in our own lives can sometimes cause us to wonder, as the prophet does, why God doesn't seem to hear or intervene when we cry for help.

We can't let our hearts be hardened by the trials we undergo. As today's Psalm reminds us: Israel forgot His mighty works, lost faith in the sound words of His promise. They tested God in the desert, demanding a sign.

But God didn't redeem Israel from Egypt only to let them die in the desert. And He didn't ransom us from futility only to abandon us in our trials. He is our God and we are the people He shepherds always—though at times His mercy and justice seem long delayed.

If we call on the Lord, as the Apostles do in today's Gospel, He will increase our faith, will stir to a flame the Holy Spirit who has dwelt within us since Baptism.

As Paul tells us in today's Epistle, the Lord will always give us the love and self-control we need to bear our share of hardship for the Gospel—with a strength that can come from God alone.

Our task is to continue doing what He has commanded—to love and to build up His kingdom—trusting that His vision still presses on to its fulfillment.

For His vision still has its time. One day, though we are but "unprofitable servants," we will be invited to eat and drink at our Master's table. It is that day we anticipate with each celebration of the Eucharist.

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"... and on that, you have my word!"