

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER - May 14, 20178:30 am - **FRANKLIN TOLENTINO†**

(Donna Maxon)

FRANK BORJA, Jr.† (Donna Maxon)**HILITA MATUS†** (M/M Barry Binnion)11:00 am - **Missa Pro Populo**

(Mass for the people)

MONDAY - May 15, 2017

(Easter Weekday)

8:00 am - **MARK SMITH†**

(Wed. Night Choir)

ROSIE CUBA† (Cuba Family)**SOULS in Purgatory†** (Jimmy Ho)**TUESDAY - May 16, 2017**

(Easter Weekday)

8:00 am - **Liturgy of the Hours****WEDNESDAY - May 17, 2017**

(Easter Weekday)

10:15 am - ND School Mass

6:15 pm - **JERRY HAWKINS†**

(Jeri Hawkins)

RODRIGO and CRISANTA PLAZA†

(M/M Bob Jones)

SOULS in Purgatory† (Jimmy Ho)**THURSDAY - May 18, 2017**

(Easter Weekday)

8:00 am - **KAREN POIROT†**

(Thomas Poirot)

ALBERT BELGRADO†

(M/M Richard Belgrado)

SOULS in Purgatory† (Jimmy Ho)**FRIDAY - May 19, 2017**

(Easter Weekday)

8:00 am - **Deceased members of****CARLTON family†**

(M/M Mike Carlton)

SOULS in Purgatory† (Jimmy Ho)**SATURDAY - May 20, 2017**

(Easter Weekday)

6:00 pm - **DONNIE WHITE†**

(Ginger White family)

SOULS in Purgatory† (Jimmy Ho)**Intentions of Fr. SOJAN GEORGE**

(M/M Davy Tolentino)

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER - May 21, 20178:30 am - **KAREN POIROT†**

(Thomas Poirot)

SOULS in Purgatory† (Jimmy Ho)11:00 am - **Missa Pro Populo**

(Mass for the people)

Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish**"One Family of Faith"***We are delighted that you have come to worship with us today!**We hope you and your family received a heartfelt Welcome, there is always room for you in our growing parish family. If you come to Mass and tithe at OLQP but have not yet filled out a registration form, you are not yet a member here. If you want to become a member of our parish, please complete a registration form (available in the Narthex and online or simply call the parish office) and return it to the Parish office. If you are just visiting, please know that you are always welcome here. Again, thank you for coming today.***Electronic Offertory Giving with Faith Direct!***Faith Direct enables your family to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through your Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover credit cards.**With Faith Direct, Our Lady Queen of Peace will gain predictable cash flow that will help us with planning our parish needs and programs.**Of course, enrollment is voluntary. If you find this program appropriate for your family, please enroll by visiting www.faithdirect.net to enroll securely on line. Our parish code is **TX420**.***Offertory Collection****May 6 and 7, 2017:**.....\$9,046.01**Good Shepherd:**\$1,644.98**Faith Direct****May 4:**.....\$**Good Shepherd:**\$**April 15:**.....\$**Good Shepherd:**\$**WE ARE A CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP PARISH***We sincerely thank our parishioners who give online, mail, bill pay or drop off their weekly donations to the parish office while they are away during the summer. Our parish expenses and obligations are met because you continue to give and support even when you cannot personally be with us at Mass here. Once again we extend our gratitude for your continued faithfulness in supporting Our Lady Queen of Peace parish.***PRAY for OUR TROOPS and LAW ENFORCEMENT***Let us pray for our brothers and sisters as they go forth with courage and determination to face the forces of violence, weapons of destruction and hearts filled with hate.***FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

(Religious Article Store open after Mass)

9:30 am - Religious Education Classes

(Grades K-6 / NDES - Jr. High / YH)

9:30 am - Bible Study/SEASR

MONDAY (Easter Weekday)

8:45 am -NDE Candlelight practice/church

All Day - NDE D.A.R.E. program/YH

TUESDAY (Easter Weekday)

8:00 am - Liturgy of the Hours/HFC

11:00 am - ND Music practice/church

6:30 pm - CDA Court Queen of Peace/SJR

WEDNESDAY (Easter Weekday)

(Religious Article Store OPEN after Mass)

10:00 am - ND 5th & 8th Grade Reception/YH

4:00 pm - Adoration/HFC (until 6:30pm)

5:30 pm - Pray the Rosary/HFC

7:00 pm - Christ Renews His Parish/SEASR

7:00 pm - Bible Study/SJR

THURSDAY (Easter Weekday)

7:00 pm - R.C.I.A./SJR

FRIDAY (Easter Weekday)

No Activities scheduled

SATURDAY (Easter Weekday)

9:00 am - Deacon Formation/SEASR

9:00 am - St. John Paul II/SJR

4:00 pm - Confessions/chapel

7:30 pm - ND Baccalaureate/ church

8:30 pm - ND Pinning/GH

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST/GH

(Religious Article Store open after Mass)

9:30 am - Religious Education Classes

(Grades K-6 / NDES - Jr. High / YH)

9:30 am - Bible Study/SEASR

SJR-St. Joseph Room; **HFC**-Holy Family Chapel; **GH**-Great Hall; **NDE Cafe**-ND Elementary Cafeteria; **NDHS** - NDHigh School; **CR**-Conference Room; **WR**-Workroom; **BR**-Brides Room; **SCMR**-St. Cecilia Music Room; **SEASR**-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; **SJP2R**-St. John Paul II; **SMR**-St. Matthew Room; **YH** - Youth Hall

MOTHERS'S DAY
Breakfast - (in the Great Hall)
Sunday, May 21st, 9am-12:30pm
Sponsored by the Men's Club

Adults: \$5, Children (12 and under): \$3, Moms: FREE!!!



SPECIAL COLLECTION: May 6 & 7, 2017

Thank you to all who support our Seminarians through the Good Shepherd Sunday Collection this year and in the past years. Your generosity will continue to help the 28 seminarians who are currently studying in seminaries throughout the United States.

The Diocese of Fort Worth provides education and formation for each seminarian at an annual average cost of \$52,092. The Good Shepherd Sunday Special Collection assists with funding this annual cost. In addition to the Sunday collection, donations are always being accepted online at www.fwdioc.org. **Again, thank you for your generosity.**

BIBLE STUDY

Great Unifying Themes in Scripture (from the Old Testament through the New)

Investigating nine great themes in the Bible. These meetings, led by Jack Abel, will consist of a presentation on the theme followed by a discussion in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Room on Sunday mornings, 9:40-10:45.

The themes studied will be:

1. **To Believe in God**
2. **The Messiah of God**
3. **The Spirit of God**
4. **Exodus: Type and Reality**
5. **The Kingdom of God**



**Please remember to pray for
 Fr. Alexander
 while he is visiting
 his family in India.**

PRAY FOR PRIESTS THIS WEEK

Listed below are the Priests of our Diocese for whom we are asked to pray for daily.

5/15 - Rev. Jerome Ward 5/18 - Rev. Jose Manuel Jimenez, CORC 5/20 - Rev. Msgr. E. James Hart
 5/16 - Rev. Ellsworth T. Wigginton 5/19 - Most Rev. Michael F. Olson, STD, MA 5/21 - Rev. Msgr. Juan Rivero
 5/17 - Rev. Msgr. Publius Xuereb

Eternal Father, we lift up to You these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

DAILY READINGS

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7 * 1 Pt 2:4-9 * Jn 14:1-12

Monday (Easter Weekday)

Acts 14:5-18 * Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday (Easter Weekday)

Acts 14:19-28 * Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday (Easter Weekday)

Acts 15:1-6 * Jn 15:1-8

Thursday (Easter Weekday)

Acts 15:7-21 * Jn 15:9-11

Friday (Easter Weekday)

Acts 15:22-31 * Jn 15:12-17

Saturday (Easter Weekday)

Acts 16:1-10 * Jn 15:18-21

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 * 1 Pt 3:15-18 * Jn 14:15-21

FREE MASS TIMES APP! (masstimes.org)

The Catholic Directory iPhone App is FREE and will quickly find the churches nearest to you, including Mass Times, Web sites, Maps, Directions, Staff, Bulletins, and other important information. Powered by TheCatholicDirectory.com

ARE YOU REGISTERED AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH?

Occasionally a letter of reference or recommendation to become a godparent, sponsor, or enroll in school may be needed and the Parish Office will not be able to give you a letter if we have no record of you being a registered parishioner. If you attend Mass here regularly and support our parish, are not registered, please fill out a registration form. Registration cards are available in the Narthex, online: olqpwf.org or you may call the office at [940.696.1253](tel:940.696.1253).

Intentions of Holy Father, Pope Francis May - Christians in Africa.

That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK!

Please Support our bulletin advertisers

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940-500-4263

The Sunday Bulletin is provided to us every week by the generosity of our many sponsors. Their ads defray the expense of printing the bulletin. Please contact **Thomas Miner at 512-452-3413** (Bartleby Press, Austin).

ACTIVITIES

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish has TWO STAFF JOB Openings:

Director of Religious Education/Faith Formation

(Elementary School through High School)

Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Wichita Falls, a parish of over 1200 families, is looking for a full-time Director of Religious Education/Faith Formation to develop catechetical activities, as well as, coordinate, supervise and execute parish programs designed to engage and educate the youth of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Wichita Falls, Texas, from Elementary School through High School.

An advanced degree in Catechetics, Theology or Religious Education from an approved Catholic Institution Degree with some experience in working with youth is preferred. Candidate must exercise personal initiative, work collaboratively with other staff and youth ministry team members, and possess excellent organizational skills. Candidate must be a prayerful, practicing Catholic, who works well with parents, has a genuine love for working with elementary, middle school and high school youth, and possesses excellent relational and communication skills.

NEW! Application DEADLINE: **May 31, 2017.**

Send resume to Parish Administrator, Our Lady Queen of Peace, 4040 York St., Wichita Falls, Texas 76309 or email to: jbindel@olqpwf.org.

Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Wichita Falls, a parish of over 1200 families, is looking for a full time coordinator of youth ministries to develop, coordinate and implement a holistic youth ministry. Degree in religious education or certificate in youth ministry with some experience preferred. Candidate must exercise personal initiative, work collaboratively with other staff and youth ministry team, and possess excellent organizational skills. Candidate must be a prayerful, practicing Catholic, who works well with parents, has a genuine love for working with high school and middle school youth, and possesses excellent relational and communication skills. Application deadline: June 23, 2017. Send resume to Parish Administrator, Our Lady Queen of Peace, 4040 York St., Wichita Falls, Texas 76309 or email: jbindel@olqpwf.org or info@olqpwf.org.

OLQP has FORMED.org! 24/7!!!

OLQP church pays for this so that you can access it for FREE!

What is FORMED.org?

It is the BEST Catholic Content and available in ONE Place. FORMED.org is a revolutionary online platform featuring the best Catholic videos, audio talks, eBooks and movies from trusted partners like the Augustine Institute, St. Paul Center, Marian Fathers, Lighthouse Catholic Media, Ignatius Press and Word on Fire. Catechism and Personal Faith Formation are at the fingertips of every parishioner. Visit FORMED.org to learn about these resources delivered to you by the Augustine Institute.

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Go to: www.formed.org

(scroll down to the middle of homepage)

Enter Parish Code: 6MWCYK

(case sensitive)

Complete User Profile:

(only on first visit; remember your password).

HOLY LAND Pilgrimage with Fr. Khoi

January 29 - February 7, 2018

Fr. Khoi Tran is leading a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The all-inclusive cost is \$2,889 per person. Please contact Fr. Khoi at Fr.KhoiTran@gmail.com or 940-569-1222 for more information.

Month of Mary

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the Month of May, no. 1).



This Christian custom of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin arose at the end of the 13th century. In this way, the Church was able to Christianize the secular feasts which were wont to take place at that time. In the 16th century, books appeared and fostered this devotion. The practice became especially popular among the members of the Jesuit Order — by 1700 it took hold among their students at the Roman College and a bit later it was publicly practiced in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there it spread to the whole Church.

The practice was granted a partial indulgence by Pius VII in 1815 and a plenary indulgence by Pius IX in 1859. With the complete revision of indulgences in 1966 and the decreased emphasis on specific indulgences, it no longer carries an indulgence; however it certainly falls within the category of the First General Grant of Indulgences. (A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful who, in the performance of their duties and in bearing the trials of life, raise their mind with humble confidence to God, adding — even if only mentally — some pious invocation.

Excerpted from *Enchiridion of Indulgences*.

MEMORARE

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

This group meets in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton room every First and Third Tuesday & every First and Third Thursday of the month (please see schedule below).

New Members always Welcomed.

May 16 (Tuesday; 9:30am - 11:30am)

May 18 (Thursday 7:00pm - 9:00pm)

Please Call JoAnn Brennan if you're interested in this ministry (940)691-0460.

Prayer Ministry Team is available after weekend Mass in the Holy Family Chapel to pray for your personal Intentions. Please enter through the entrance across the Saint Joseph Room.



SonWest VBS will be from June 19-23. Registrations will be held this weekend in the Narthex. Please register as soon as possible so there will be an accurate count of children for classes and supplies. Volunteers are welcome to sign up this weekend as well.

Heritage Society (for those 50+)

Next gathering: Sunday, May 28th.

This group meets for potluck and games. For more information call Kevin Connors (940-782-0335).

SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, June 11th: Father's Day Breakfast – Dad's eat FREE! (Sponsored by CDA Court Queen of Peace)

INTERFAITH OUTREACH SERVICES

(Our Name has changed but not our services)

Please help us to re-stock our shelves!

Current needs are: Canned beans (NOT green beans), Boxed potatoes, Mac & Cheese, Pasta (dry), Pasta (ravioli, etc.).

Interfaith Outreach Services also accepts used medical equipment which will be refurbished and distributed to others who are unable to afford or qualify for assistance. The following items are needed: shower benches, shower chairs, toilet chairs, toilet risers, wheelchairs, hospital beds (without mattresses), power mobility chairs, Hoyer lifts, walkers, canes and crutches.

For more information: www.interfaithwf.org or 940-322-1365

Located at 1101 11th Street

FB-page: Interfaith Ministries, Inc.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2017

at 6:30pm in the St. Joseph Room.

Some items to be discussed:

- Texas State Convention Report - Part I
- Father's Day Breakfast
- Christmas Party

(#2710) Court Queen of Peace gladly Welcomes New Members. We encourage and invite all Catholic women 18 years and older to join the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Queen of Peace #2710. You may join by attending one of our upcoming meetings. Registration forms are available in the Narthex and at the meeting.

Court Queen of Peace is looking forward to living out the Mission of Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

"Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all."

MEN IN CHRIST

Men of the parish: Do you have a desire to grow as a Christian man? Come join us as we pray, explore Scripture together and support one another in our Christian walk. Meet us in the Parish Office Conference Room each Saturday (except 2nd Saturday of the month) at 7:30 AM. Please call Jack at 696-0741 if you have questions.



St. Mary's Catholic Church in Windthorst, Texas is Celebrating 125 Years.

June 9-10-11, 2017

FRIDAY: 6:30pm – Authentic German Meal "Presale only"

Adult \$20 Child 12 & under \$10

Call: Gina 940-423-6717, Diane 940-631-6764; Ann 940-423-6542; Mitzi 940-733-5506; Whitney 940-631-8328

Catered by Opa's Schnitzel Haus (Parish Hall)

10:30pm - Fireworks

SATURDAY: Day begins at 8:00am and ends at 11:00 pm. The day is full of Family Fun activities, Display of Historical items, vendors, Mass at 5:30pm, Food Trucks, Tour of the church, Car Show, Concert and more. Concert Tickets: Presale \$15 At gate \$20. Visit the event Facebook page @ Windthorst, Texas Celebrates 125 Years

SUNDAY: Day begins at 8:00am and ends at 4:00pm. Adult 5K run, Mass at 10:00am, Dairy Derby Run, Lots of Games for the entire family, Tour of church, B.I.N.G.O., Display of Historical items, Quilt Show, Beard Contest, Music, Auction and Raffle.

For more information, please contact any of the persons listed above.

OLQP Men's Club

Next Meeting: Monday, June 5 at 7pm.

In the St. Joseph Room

Men ages 18 and older are highly encouraged to attend.

There is NO COST to join.

KID'S CORNER

5th Sunday of Easter - 2017 Sr. Ginny says...



After Jesus resurrection
The number of His followers' grew!
So amazing because,
when He started,
There were really just a few!!!

A lot of preaching went on!
A lot of praising too!
The Christians gathered often.
It was with great joy; it is true!

Today's reading at Mass tells us
That some of the
Christians were mad.
The food was not
given to elderly ladies
And it was making them feel sad.

So the apostles had
a serious meeting.
"We must show that we care!

Let's appoint some deacons!
Then the ladies will have
food to share!"

And the apostles
then knew for certain
That they were free to preach
And they would take God's word
To everyone whom
they could reach!

Just like those early deacons,
We are to love
and serve one another.
For in our Church community
Each of us is sister and brother.

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ADULT FORMATION

R.C.I.A. - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

meets every Thursday evening at 7pm in the St. Joseph Room.

Come learn more about our Catholic Faith. Childcare is available, please RSVP to the Parish Office @ 696-1253.

MAY 18 - Social Justice: The Environment

MAY 25 - Social Justice: Peace

WorldWide Marriage Encounter

(Dallas-Fort Worth-East Texas)

"Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, ..." Let the Lord into your marriage to do his works by attending a WorldWide Marriage Encounter Weekend on June 9-11, 2017. Dates fill fast. To apply, visit our website at: <http://www.dfwme.org/apply>. For more information e-mail apply@dfwme.org or call 469-444-0904. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a emmdfw@gmail.com o visite <http://www.emmseccion21.org/>

Rachel's Corner

"At the retreat forgiveness is found, shame is lifted, healing is bestowed, and most of all motherhood is given back. God has restored ALL! How can God love us so much? I don't know, but I'm so glad He does."

- Testimony after a **Rachel Retreat**

Join us on our next retreat for healing after abortion and see how much God loves you!

Rachel Ministries

817-923-4757

Next Retreat Sept. 15

GROWING IN FAITH

Take an antidote for a deadly sin

Some sins are considered especially deadly because they lead to other sins. Fortunately, the "Capital" or "Deadly" sins such as envy, pride and lust have antidotes. For example,

Envy is wanting what someone else has. Heavy doses of gratitude will help. Our peace is restored when we remember that all good gifts come from God and are glad for others' good fortune and grateful for our own.

Pride is seeking attention and honor that belong to God. Pride makes us focused on ourselves, concerned about how we appear to others. Humility is a counter. Purposely draw attention to others, rather than yourself. Praise and thank God daily for your gifts.

Lust is focusing on sexual self-gratification rather than glorifying God. Sexuality is a gift from God and not inherently impure. Lust, however, is misuse of that gift, straying from God's intentions for us. Love, willing the good of the other, is at the heart of what it means to be human. Love for God and each other is the antidote.

St. Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi

Born Catherine de' Pazzi to a noble family in Florence in 1566, she entered the Carmelite order when she was sixteen, taking the name Mary Magdalen. Soon after, she began experiencing mystical ecstasies, which lasted until her death. She enjoyed a personal relationship with Jesus and had many conversations with him. She considered these graces as a sign of weakness, not holiness. She was known for her wisdom, charity, and her love for the Eucharist.

Do we really receive gifts from the Holy Spirit?

At Baptism, we receive actual, spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit intended to help us live virtuous lives. Traditionally numbered seven (Isaiah 11:1-3), these gifts make us receptive to grace and the promptings of the Spirit. They grow stronger the more we use them. They are also strengthened by the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Wisdom: This gift helps us stay focused on God's will and his plan for us. Understanding: Lets us grasp truths of the faith with our mind and heart.

Understanding: Lets us grasp truths of the faith with our mind and heart.

Counsel: Also called "right judgment," counsel enables us to weigh all the alternatives to make the right (moral) choice.

Fortitude: Courage, or the ability to remain firm in seeking the good against all pressures.

Knowledge: A person with knowledge sees more than one dimension of an issue to determine the right path.

Piety: This gift helps us think of ourselves as children of God and be eager to serve him.

Fear of the Lord: The wonder and awe God inspires encourages us to respect him and all his creations.

NOTRE DAME NEWS



Notre Dame Catholic School is currently seeking a Business Manager to start in May of 2017.

The preferred candidate will possess a desire to support the mission of the school and of the Catholic Church through this role. The primary responsibilities of the Business Manager include maintaining bookkeeping, assisting in preparing the budget, compiling financial reports for the principal, pastors, and other various committees, and assisting and advising the principal on the fiscal and financial matters of the school. For additional details and information on how to apply, please visit the school website at notredamecatholic.org.

ENROLLMENT

Notre Dame Catholic School is now accepting new student enrollment applications for the 2017-2018 academic year for grades 3k through 12th. To apply online, please visit www.notredamecatholic.org. Paper applications are also available for pickup at the school office, 2821 Lansing Blvd. For more information, contact Matt Ledesma, Director of Enrollment, at 940-692-6041 or matt.ledesma@ndcswf.org. Personal tours available by appointment.

ND Alumni Association NEWS!!!

The Notre Dame Alumni Association All Class Reunion will be June 3rd at the high school gym, starting at 6:30 p.m. All former students and families, faculty and staff are invited to join us for dinner, drinks and dancing. Tickets can be purchased by visiting the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ndhs-alumni-reunion-tickets-34358862282?aff=eac2>. Tickets are \$45 for over age 21 and \$40 under age 21. Call Matt Ledesma, 940-692-6041, for additional information.

Notre Dame All School Mass: Wednesday's at 10:15am (unless indicated otherwise)

Youth Ministry

Youth Religious Education Classes (in the Youth Hall):

High School (9th-12th) Wednesdays 7-9pm

Middle School (7th-8th) Sundays 9:30-10:45am

GROWING IN FAITH

Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 6:1-7, 1 Pt 2:4-9, Jn 14:1-12

One of the greatest accomplishments of Roman construction was the arch. It enabled them to span larger distances and make bigger buildings without sacrificing strength. Just think of the Roman aqueducts, basilicas, and coliseums standing today.

The key to the Roman arch is that each stone is well cut. Additionally, the cornerstone takes all the stress and stabilizes the whole. Saint Peter uses these construction images as a metaphor for the Church. We are all living stones, built into a spiritual house founded on the cornerstone, Jesus Christ. Like the deacons in the early Church, we each have a role to play.

What is asked of a stone in a building structure? Every stone needs to be strong. It needs to be formed and shaped. Accepting and seeking formation in faith is key to finding our place in life and in God's house. A stone needs to be connected to the stones alongside it. Finally, the stone needs to accept where the master builder places it. If a stone could move itself from one place to another, there would be chaos.

Our active participation in God's plan and the Church is important. We must build on the one sure foundation and follow the plan of the master builder and those who represent him. Jesus has prepared a place for each of us in the Church and in heaven. Jesus is the way. Follow him and he will lead you to your place.

For Reflection

Have I sought out a place to serve and build up the Church in my local area?

What spiritual means do I use to discern Jesus' plan for me?

Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

DEAR PADRE

Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, (4) by a legitimate authority. If one of these elements is lacking, then the law is an unjust law and need not be followed.

According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is missing, the law lacks something that should be there and is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law.

As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, "Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God" (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church.

Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism.

Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences.

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR

sundaybulletin@liguori.org