



## WEEKLY MEDITATION — Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's a consolation for us to know that Jesus too had to cope with interruptions. He too had his plans upset. Today's Gospel tells us that he was in such demand that he and his apostles scarcely had time to eat. However, at some point he decided that enough was enough, and took the apostles off to a quiet place for a break.

This time he wasn't thinking of himself but of his apostles. They had returned from the mission on which he

sent them, and he saw that they needed a rest. The caregivers also need to be cared for. However, things didn't work out as planned. Unsurprisingly, the people followed them. Far from getting annoyed, Jesus was moved with pity for them. He had time for them.

Caring is never easy. Some people are willing to care only a little, and provided that they are in the mood, and it's not *too* inconvenient, and it doesn't upset their own plans. But to care as

Jesus did, when it *does* upset one's plans—that's the real test. **Good can come out of interruptions! They prevent us from becoming preoccupied with ourselves and being selfish.**

All of us are capable of caring. The need for caring people is great. Neglect is widespread in our society. There are many people in our world who are like sheep without a shepherd, in need of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. When we care, we share Jesus' love with others.

From Pope Benedict's lips to our ears:

*The Vatican recently issued a question-and-answer format book that teaches the truth about Jesus & the Catholic Church.*

Question: **What does God reveal to man?**

Answer: God in His goodness and wisdom reveals ***Himself***. With deeds and words, He reveals Himself and His plan of loving goodness which He decreed from all eternity in Christ. According to this plan, all people by the grace of the Holy Spirit are to share in the divine life as adopted "sons" in the only begotten Son of God.


Question: **What are the first stages of God's Revelation?**

Answer: From the very beginning, God manifested Himself to our first parents, Adam and Eve, and invited them to intimate communion with Himself.

After their fall, He did not cease His revelation to them but promised salvation for all their descendants.

After the Flood, He made a covenant with Noah, a covenant between Himself and all living beings.

*Next week: what are the next stages of God's Revelation?*

peace with the LORD 

Please pray for **Toni Mucenski** (nee Cecich), 80, and **Mary Spoto** (nee Biočić), 89, whose funeral Masses were celebrated at St. Jerome's this past week. We all join in offering our sympathy to their family and friends in this time of loss. *May Toni and Mary rest in God's peace!*

## WISDOM'S CORNER

### A Costly Caring

Once a man went to see a friend who was a professor at a great university. However, as they sat chatting in the professor's office, they were continually interrupted by students who came knocking at the door seeking the professor's advice or help. Each time, the professor dealt with the student's request. Eventually the visitor asked the professor how he managed to get any work done with so many interruptions.

"At first I used to resent the interruptions to my work, but one day it suddenly dawned on me that the interruptions were my work," the professor replied.

*That professor could have locked himself away and devoted his time to his own private work. In that way he would no doubt have had a quieter life. Yet, being the generous and unselfish person that he was, he couldn't do that. Instead he made his work consist in being available to his students. It was no surprise that he was greatly loved by the students, and it was no coincidence that he was one of the happiest and most fulfilled professors on campus.*

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### THE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"A Christian who doesn't care is like a lamp that doesn't give light."

## NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION IS FOR THE FOREIGN MISSIONS

Each year the Society for the Propagation of the Faith appeals for funds on **Mission Sunday**, bringing to every parish one of the groups working in the missions.

This year at St. Jerome's the St. Patrick Fathers will be focused upon. Founded on St. Patrick's Day 1932, these originally diocesan priests from Ireland work primarily in **Africa, Brazil and Grenada**. They have 3 houses in the U.S., including one in Chicago. There are 342 of their priests worldwide, and there are more than 70 young men preparing for the priesthood from Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and Brazil.

The priest who will preach to us worked in Kenya. Most of the people among whom they work are extremely poor. Therefore, only donations from people like us can pay for training their seminarians and supporting their priests in their work.

***There will be a second collection at all of the Masses.***

**Football Mania reminder:** If you would like more tickets, call Jan Ferro or the school office.

**Congratulations to Kristina Mossman**, a graduate of our school, on achieving Second Honors at St. Ignatius H.S. for the second semester.

**Thank you to all who made enjoyable and prayerful** our Cardinal Francis George's Mass at St. Jerome's on July 15 in honor of the 110th anniversary of the founding of our local area's Knights of Columbus chapter. *The Knights expressed much gratitude for St. Jerome's welcoming parishioners.*

**By now all parishioners should have received the Velika Gospa mailing** sent out 10 days ago. Call the parish office if you are a registered parishioner and didn't receive a mailing. Please buy or sell that two enclosed lottery tickets, and pick up more to buy or sell at the parish office. Thank you.

**Please sign up in the back of the Church** if you wish to volunteer as a bar ticket seller or a bartender for the Velika Gospa celebration.

**Also in the back of the church are hundreds of Velika Gospa postcards.** Mail them to friends who can use an invitation and beautiful reminder to come. Just address it, sign it and mail as many as you can.

**MOVIES** in Armour Square Park: In the shadow of Cellular Field, watch the movie "Field of Dreams" on Thursday, July 27 at dusk. Grab a blanket, picnic basket, and enjoy a free movie.

Tenth in a series on 100 years of Velika Gospa's.

*Countdown continues: 3 weeks & 2 days till 100th Velika Gospa celebration*

## Velika Gospa Time Machine ...

**... 1976 & beyond:** The August 15th/ Velika Gospa celebration here in Bridgeport has always reminded many of our parishioners of their immigrant ancestors' promise to honor Our Lady on her greatest feast day: Velika Gospa.

This celebration has also reminded many parishioners of their roots in Croatia, especially if those roots were anywhere close to the town of Sinj, Croatia, where the original icon of Our Lady of Sinj is located. Many of our parishioners — second- and third-generation Croatian-Americans — have traveled to Sinj to honor Mary at her shrine there, the greatest Marian shrine in the Dalmatian region of Croatia.

In 1976, most of our people participated in a fundraiser to help renovate the sanctuary of the church in Sinj. In the 1980s, our people stepped forward again, in order to help purchase new pews for the church. Every pew in the church has a plaque dedicated to a family in Chicago! The church's museum has numerous pictures and mementoes of the Velika Gospa celebrations in America — at St. Jerome's. Over the years, our parish and our Franciscan friars have held close ties to the shrine of Gospa Sinjska.

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### This year for Velika Gospa, Croatian flags on poles are available for \$28.00 (3 x 5 ft.)

for hanging outside your home and/or carrying in the Procession. Call Louis at 312-225-7654 to order.

Santa Lucia's Carnival is next weekend, July 27-30 in the evenings: Thursday 6-9 p.m.; Friday 6-10 p.m.; Saturday 6-11 p.m.; and Sunday 5-10 p.m. Located at 30th and Wells.

Novena in honor of St. Anne: Our Lady of Fatima Church has its **Novena in progress till Wednesday, July 26**. There will be **special preachers at the 7 p.m. prayers**. Located at 38th Place & California.

**St. Barbara Picnic Fest**, 2859 S. Throop St. (just south of Archer and 2 blocks west of Halsted) **Sunday, July 30 from 1 to 9 p.m.** Live Entertainment, including Nino Folino singing the favorites. If it rains, the fest will be in Parish Hall. For more, call 312-842-7979

**ALL SAINTS-ST. ANTHONY PARISH YARD SALE** is being held July 28-30. Thousands of items on sale, many new and unused. Friday, 4-8 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located at 28th Place & Wallace.

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*Pope implores us to pray, pray, pray for peace — God wills it*

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