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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 16, 2020

From: Fr. Christian Adike

BE A LIGHT OR SALT TO OTHERS. "Let your light so shine before men (women), that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) It is not enough to pray (present ourselves to God), we must also present ourselves to our fellow humans by treating others just as we would like to be treated (Matthew 7:12). Our Faith is suppose to be demonstrated or felt in our treatment or relation to other people. St. John tells us: "If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his (her) brother (sister), he (she) is a liar; for he (she) who does not love his (her) brother (sister) whom he (she) has seen, cannot love God whom he (she) has not seen." (1 John 4:20). HOW WE TREAT OTHERS MATTERS ALOT. Mother Theresa of Calcutta was able to convert or draw people to Christ because of how she treated them with love. When you treat people with love, you win their hearts but when you treat anyone with disrespect or disregard you loose the person's trust. There is 'one million reasons' why we must never fail to be good to those around us. Permit me to highlight few reasons why we should be good to the people around us or help them.

1. In Helping Others, We Taste like Salt and Shine as Lights. The prophet Isaiah gave a practical explanation of what Jesus meant when He told us to be "Light and Salt". Being 'the salt of the earth' and 'the light of the world' is all about making a positive difference in people's lives just as salt does in our food and light does in darkness, and this can be done by showing love to everybody with more emphasis on those who need it most: the hungry, the homeless, the naked, the sick, the prisoners and so on. Thank God with me for giving me the idea to study Clinical Pastoral Education so as to be more equipped to help the sick in and outside the hospital. I have learned alot since I started the studies last year. My aim for the studies is to acquire better skills in making positive difference in the lives of the sick, rejected, dejected, lonely, those with suicidal intent, et cetera. To be precise, I want to learn a better way to be merciful to others. Seven-Corporal works of mercy are: Feeding the Hungry, Giving Drink to the Thirsty, Sheltering the Homeless, Clothing the Naked, Visiting the Sick, Visiting the Prisoners and Burying the dead. If you recall, Jesus Christ mentioned these as the requirement for admission into heaven. "Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?" And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:37-40). If we must shine before others, that they may see our good works and give glory to God, we must be charitable to others. As salt makes soup sweet, so do our acts of charity make the world sweet and bearable. A little kindness, a smile, a word of appreciation or even a simple hug rendered to someone might just be all they need to continue living.

2. Actions Speak Louder than Words. St. Paul confesses that the success of his pastoral ministry was not due to his academic degrees nor his ability to use grandiose vocabularies, it wasn't even because of repertoire of philosophical sayings (words of wisdom), rather it was due to his demonstration of the Spirit and of power. In truth, the best homilies are not preached with words but with actions. People are not often what they say they are, they are what they do. How can one claim to love you and still hurt you or talk down on you or slander you? Jesus himself said: "You will know them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorns or figs from thistles? So, every sound tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears evil fruit." (Matthew 7:16-17). If we must convert souls for God, our words of preaching will be useless if we do not match these words with practical giving. If we fail to feed the hungry stomachs around us, we all miss out our opportunity to touch their hearts. The saying is true that the way to a person's heart is through the stomach. St. James adds: "If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." (James 2:15-17). It is in helping others that we prove we are convinced of the faith which we are trying to share. And if we are not convinced, how do we hope to convince others?

3. Charity Covers A Multitude of Sins; Brings Healing and Answered Prayers. There are a million reasons we must help others. As Isaiah: "Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, Here I am." (Isaiah 58:8-9). A priest once told a story of how he asked a sick patient during a hospital visitation to find a more needy person to help. After the sick person did this, he was miraculously healed and in no time was free to return home. Each time we pray, we approach God as beggars and most times, the criterion for receiving from God is giving to those who beg from us. Jesus explicitly warned that our refusal to forgive others blocks God's forgiveness, implying that our refusal to give others what is in our power to give, blocks us from receiving what is in God's power to render to us. In the movie "Same Kind of Different as me", I learnt a very powerful lesson: "The only things that remain ours permanently are those things we give away." The rewards of giving are just too much in comparison with the pain of letting them go. Our light breaks forth, we are healed speedily, God becomes our personal bodyguard, He answers us whenever we cry to him. Help someone, put a smile on their face, lift someone's life today.

4. The Best Kind of Giving is Fighting Injustice Around Us. When it comes to giving, it is not just food or money. Isaiah speaks of a deeper kind of giving: "If you take away from the midst of you the yoke, the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness, if you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday." (Isaiah 58:9-10). Isaiah is not just talking about sharing some bread for a hungry person this time around, he is pointing our attention to the real roots of poverty that affect some persons disadvantaged (that is, under a yoke; afflicted, victims of wickedness; unfairly treated). Isaiah is speaking of human rights advocacy; being a voice for the voiceless; defending someone that is being maltreated or speaking for those that cannot speak for themselves. It is not enough that we give people fish, we must remove whatever is preventing them from going to the river. Of course, this requires "pouring yourself out for the hungry" that is, giving our all, using all our power and influence to cause positive change in society and fight injustice. **CONCLUSION:** Never think your problems are the biggest. You only need to open your eyes to see that millions of people are suffering around you. Stop complaining. Stop looking for who to blame. Do something; help someone, share whatever you have, this way you will be shining as God desires that His children shine.

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(In case of an EMERGENCY and you need to reach Fr. Tony Hesse, call 507-616-1337)

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Light of the World website: www.LOWAFC.org

BAPTISM Contact your parish office to set an appointment for class and baptism.	MARRIAGE Contact the parish office at least nine months before intended marriage.	CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING 1-866-670-5163	PRAYER NETWORK Contact Bev Passe 637-5967 bpasse60@yahoo.com
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EVENTS OF THE WEEK

SUNDAY— February 16

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 15:15-20 (76A), 1 Cor 2:6-10;

Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a,27-28,33-34a,37

8 AM Mass - *St. Mary - Seaforth*

d. Ernie & Mike Warner

8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School - PRE-K

9:30 AM Mass – *St. Catherine*

d. Ben & Blanche Serbus

CCW-Mission/Valentines for San Lucas-SC

10 AM Mass - *St. Anne*

d. Joe & Rose Fischer family

4-5 PM Holy Hour for Vocations - SC

MONDAY – February 17

The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13

No Mass

1 PM Prayer Blanket - SC

6 PM Flame of Love Rosary-SC

7 PM Adult Ed-Divine Mercy #5-SC

TUESDAY - February 18

Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21

5:15 PM Mass - *St. Catherine*

d. Richard Wildt

7 PM Young Women's Bible Study-SC

7 PM Adult Ed-Evangelization #5-SA

WEDNESDAY – February 19

Jas 1:19-27; Mk 8:22-26

8 AM Mass - *St. Catherine*

Birthday Blessings for Joan Baumann

10 AM Mass - *Belview*

Special Intention

5:30-6:30 PM RE GR 1-6

7-8 PM RE-GR 7-12

7-8 PM Adoration - SC & SA

8-8:45 PM Youth Group-SC & SA

THURSDAY - February 20

Jas 2:1-9; Mk 8:27-33

8:30 AM Mass - *St. Anne - Wabasso*

d. Linus & Marvin Salfer

9 AM-6 PM Adoration/12 Rosary-SC

10 AM Mass - *Garmette Gardens*

d. Dorothy Soupir

7 PM Choir - SC

FRIDAY – February 21

St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of Church

Jas 2:14-24,26; Mk 8:34-9:1

5:45 AM -7 AM This Man is you - SA

8 AM Mass – *St. Catherine*

l & d members of Tom Ochs family

SATURDAY – February 22

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16:13-19

8:30-9:30 AM - Adoration-SA

9-10 AM Confessions-SC

4 PM Mass - *St. Mathias - Wanda*

People of our Parishes

5 PM Mass – *St. Catherine*

d. parents of Virgil & Grace Kapsner

6 PM Mass - *Our Lady of Victory - Lucan*

d. Irene Goblirsch

SUNDAY— February 23

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lv 19:1-2,17-18 (79A), 1Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48

8 AM Mass - *St. Mary - Seaforth*

d. Helen Turbes

8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School - PRE-K

9:30 AM Mass – *St. Catherine*

d. Caroline Buckley

10 AM Mass - *St. Anne*

d. Harry & Jerry Frericks

4-5 PM Holy Hour - SC

MASS SERVERS: FEBRUARY 22/23, 2020

5:00 PM Saturday

Brad Balko
Griffin Evans
Erik Rasmussen

9:30 AM Sunday

Noah U'Ren
Lydia Bruns
Victoria Johnson

Our Gifts to God and to His Church

Adult Contribution	4,088.00	Adult for Week	4,088.00
Students	3.00	Adult Budget	4,808.00
Loose Plate	316.01		
Maintenance	160.00	YTD Actual	137,381.23
Total	4,567.01	YTD Budget	153,856.00

St. Catherine - Diocesan Ministry Appeal

112 Donated as of February 11

Goal	Total Received & Pledged	Amount Due	Parish 20%
\$23,261.63	\$33,980.80	(\$10,719.17)	\$6,187.16

Congratulations!

Prayers and blessings to Andrew & Erin Kodet on the baptism on their baby, Peter Etienne. *Peter Etienne*, a precious gift of God, became a member of our Catholic family on Friday, February 7, 2020 through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Prayers and blessings to Thomas & Amanda Rohlik on the baptism of their baby, Henry John. *Henry John*, a precious gift of God, became a member of our Catholic family on Saturday, February 8, 2020 through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Holy Hour for Vocations

Join CCW for a Holy Hour for Vocations on Sunday, Feb. 16th from 4-5 PM at St. Catherine's. This is an hour of Adoration praying for those who have responded to their call of a religious life and that more will be open to the call.

2019 Bishop Lucker Lecture - Hungry for God

Bishop Lucker Lecture is on Monday, March 9th at St. Catherine's at 7 PM with speaker Ralph Martin. This talk will consider how to increase our desire for God and for holiness and how to make this practical in our daily lives by turning away from those things that block or impede our spiritual progress and turning towards God in prayer. All are welcome with no registration and free admission. Sponsored by Diocese of New Ulm.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education Classes February, March 2020

Sunday, February 16

- 8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, February 19

- 5:30-6:30 PM GR 1-6

- 7-8 PM GR 7-12 with Adoration & youth group

Sunday, February 23

- 8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, February 26

- Ash Wednesday Mass

Sunday, March 1

- 8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, March 4

- 5:30-6:30 PM GR 1-6

- 6 PM Pizza w/Padre GR 10-12-SC

- 7-8 PM GR 7-12 with Adoration & youth group

Sunday, March 8

- 8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, March 11

- 5:30-6:15 PM GR 1-6

- 5:45-6:45 PM Meal and speaker at 7 PM

Sunday, March 15

- 8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, March 18

- 5:30-6:30 PM GR 1-6

- 6 PM Pizza w/Padre GR 10-12-SC

- 7-8 PM GR 7-12 with Adoration & youth group

Sunday, March 22

- 8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School

Wednesday, March 25

- 5:30-6:30 PM GR 1-6

- 7-8 PM GR 7-12 with Adoration & youth group

Sunday, March 29

- 8:30-9:15 AM Sunday School (Last Day)

- 8:30-11:30 AM - Youth Pancake Breakfast-SC



You are Invited!

...Catholic United Financial Matching Grant Spaghetti Dinner on Wednesday, Feb. 19th from 5-7 PM at St. Raphael School in Springfield, MN.

... Men's Sausage & Sauerkraut Dinner & Raffle on Sunday, March 1 from 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM at St. Mary's school cafeteria in Sleepy Eye, MN

6th Annual Brunch with the Bishop

Join Bishop John LeVoir for Brunch on Sunday, March 22nd at 10:045 AM, following the 9:45 AM Mass, at Church of the St. Mary in Sleepy Eye, MN. This is a benefit for Catholic Schools. Free will offering, no reservations are needed. Support the endowments with your free will offering.

KC Famous Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, March 1st - 8:30 AM- 11:30 AM

St. Catherine's Catholic Church

(Welcome New Registered Parishioners)

Pancakes from scratch, scrambled eggs & sausage

All are welcome!



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is a private weekend away from life's distractions that allows a husband and wife to focus on each other. The next available weekends are April 24-26, 2020 in Hutchinson, MN. Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: southmnwwme.org or contact Miki at 507-227-8229 or website; applications@southmnwwme.org.

HOMEBOUND

If you or someone you know is homebound at home or in a care facility for any period of time, please contact the parish office 507-644-2278 so arrangements can be made for a visit.

Preschool/Kindergarten Information night at St. Mary's

Learn more about your child's Catholic education at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye on Monday, Feb. 24th at 5:30 PM. If you want more information call 507-794-6141 or visit their website: www.sesmschool.com

St. Mary's in Bechyn Snuzzle Card Party

Join us for our Bechyn Card Party on Sunday, Feb. 23rd at 1 PM in the church basement in Bechyn. Lunch will be served at 4:30 PM, bring a snack to share. For more information call 320-522-1218. All are welcome!

KC's Jackpot Junction Night

On Monday, February 24th from 4:30-7:30 PM the Knight of Columbus are having the Jackpot Junction Casino night. Purchase a ticket from a KC member or come that evening and purchase at the Classic Lounge. The cost of a ticket is \$15, must be 18 to purchase. For \$15 you get a package valued at over \$30.

Lenten Meals

On Friday's during lent, starting February 28th at 5:30 PM, we will have Stations of the Cross at St. Catherine's church. Following Stations there are various groups that serve a Lenten Meal. All are welcome to come to Stations of the Cross and to enjoy a delicious Lenten Meal.

Valentine Bingo!

Rescheduled to:

Sunday, February 23, 2020
at 1:30 PM

Prizes & Door Prize
Refreshments served

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus
All are welcome!



Prayer Blankets meeting

Anyone interested in helping with the prayer blankets, please join us on Monday, February 17th at 1 PM at St. Catherine's. This is carrying on the making of the St. Johns beautiful blessed prayer blankets that they have shared over the years. These blankets will be used as an encouragement gift for those in need.

Adoration and Prayer for Hope and Healing

Join Bishop John LeVoir on Friday, March 20th at 7 PM at Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New Ulm, MN.

Eucharistic Adoration with opportunities for healing prayer, Confession, spiritual counsel.



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~ Eleanor Roosevelt

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Plans to give HOPE and a FUTURE."
Jeremiah 29:11

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