

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER: Mark your calendar for the "SOUP SUPPER" dates, **March 11th, 18th, 25th, April 1st and 8th.**

Why not attend the Soup Suppers held on Monday evenings during Lent? **Father Austin, Deacon Tom Dubois, and Deacon Al Kopp** will be some of the speakers. We begin with prayer service in Church at 6 pm, followed by soup in the cafeteria. Then we listen to the speaker of the week and you will be on your way home by 8:00 pm. What a great way to get a free meal and at the same time do something spiritual for Lent. Bring the whole family!

ATTN: HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GIRLS

The Catholic Women's Club of the St. Juan Diego Deanery is offering a \$500 Scholarship to a high school girl who is planning to attend college. You do not have to be attending a Catholic high school or plan to attend a Catholic college to apply. Call the parish office for an application form.

Wall of Food Collection:

Just a reminder to bring a few cans of food to build our "Wall of Food". This time of year is hard on families who need help, so let's fill the pantry at Catholic Charities. We will collect food during the entire month of February. Thank you for any help you can give.

Immaculate Conception, Port Clinton is having Steve Ray, a convert to the Catholic Faith, as a speaker on Sunday, March 3rd. He is a good "kick-off" to the Lenten season and your Lenten mission. The cost is free. . . there may be a free will offering, but no pressure to anyone attending. Steve is dynamic and LOVES the Catholic Church. Steve's website is <https://catholicconvert.com> See the flyer on the bulletin board. Recheck the flyer as it was changed this past week.

Coming to Holy Trinity, Bucyrus & St. Joseph, Galion is Dr. John R. Wood. He is the author of "Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission: 5 Steps to Winning the War Within". In this Free Lenten Mission, John will be challenging us to: REDISCOVER JESUS, The Bridegroom, The Son, The Savior. March 6th at Holy Trinity at 7 pm, following Ash Wednesday Mass and March 13 & 14 at St. Joseph at 7 pm (Mass will be offered at 6 pm each night)

The Energy Assistance Programs (EAP) through the Ohio Development Services Agency, can be of assistance to eligible low-income Ohioans. The Area Agency on Aging offers assistance with completion and mailing of the application for seniors over 60. Please contact the Agency at 419-524-4144. See the flyers on the bulletin board for the qualifications.

Whenever a county/city within the Diocese of Toledo is placed under a **Level 3 Snow Emergency**, during which all roadways are closed to non-emergency personnel, the Catholic Churches within that geographic region will cancel the scheduled Saturday Vigil, Sunday, or Holy Day Masses. Roman Catholics in that region, therefore, are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass. If Masses are cancelled, Catholics are encouraged to participate in Holy Mass via television, radio, or internet, making a spiritual Communion. When Mass is cancelled, all other diocesan, parish, or school events in that geographic region are also cancelled.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE is available through call 211. Please see the bulletin board flyer for further information.

UPCOMING AREA AGENCY ON AGING EVENTS: 5-14-19 Senior Spring Spectacular

8-22-19 Outstanding Senior Awards Ceremony 9-24-19 Senior Positive Aging Expo

11-6-19 Annual Caregiver Conference 12-5-19 Area Agency on Aging Annual Meeting

Call or visit them on the web at www.aaa5ohio.org for information on CEU trainings.

Matter of Balance classes and Diabetes Education and Healthy U classes are held throughout 2019. 419-524-4144
800-860-5799

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF MANSFIELD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS: Catholic Charities is seeking volunteers for various work areas: volunteer guardian, H.O.P.E. Food pantry, Clerical/office/reception. If you are available for a couple of hours a week, your help is greatly appreciated! Without our volunteers, we would not be able to serve the many needs of the community. We appreciate any amount of time you are able to give and we thank you for your support. Please contact Pam Sellards at 419-524-0733 ext. 235 or psellards@toledodiocese.org

The Sorrowful Mother Shrine Gift Shop (4106 State Route 269, 7 miles south of Bellevue) has all your 1st Communion and Confirmation needs, a large selection, many options to choose from. Gift Shop is closed on Mondays during the winter, Tuesday-Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 419-483-3435 x 106. We also have a large selection of Easter items in the Sorrowful Mother Shrine Gift Shop

Leading the

FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



'Racism'

Racism. The very word causes us to bristle. Racism. The very word may make us uncomfortable. And well it should. Racism, by its first dictionary definition, is the "belief that each race has certain qualities or abilities giving rise to the view that some races are better than others." Its second definition is simpler still: "Discrimination against or hostility toward other races."

When someone is accused of being a racist, it means that person is discriminatory, prejudiced, bigoted against other persons, because of race or ethnic origin. We who call ourselves Catholics and profess to be followers of Jesus Christ, are called to the opposite: to respect for each human person as made in the image and likeness of God, no matter the race or ethnic origin.

Recent events have highlighted anew that the evil of racism is far from being eradicated. In fact, it seems we're becoming more and more polarized as a society. High School boys from Covington Catholic attending the March for Life were vilified, even by bishops, in a social media frenzied flash mob that went viral because of a video first thought to unmask their racist behavior. Only later would the opposite become evident. At a local transmissions plant, allegations of racial intimidation including nooses and discriminatory slurs have received national attention and appear not yet fully addressed. And more recently, the Governor of Virginia's admission and then denial regarding a racist yearbook photo of individuals in blackface and a Ku Klux Klan costume, have garnered the national spotlight.

For the follower of Christ, racism in all its forms is unacceptable. It may be that many folks in the past, including some of our older relatives, spoke about persons of different

racies or ethnic origin using racial slurs or inappropriate derogatory nicknames. While their cultural/societal upbringing may have formed them in such habits, and while many of them may not have intended their language as hateful or racist, it does not negate the fact that objectively, their remarks or language were, in fact, bigoted.

Jesus Christ transcends culture and race. How often have we seen sacred art, for example Nativity Sets from around the world, portray all the persons in the scene in the cultural setting of that nation, including their race. While we all know that historically Jesus was a Jew, everyone recognizes that when he is depicted artistically, it is perfectly understandable that he appears as Chinese for the Chinese, as Black for Africans, as Hispanic for Mexicans, and so on. Jesus Christ transcends culture and race!

For eight of the years I worked at the Vatican in the Congregation for Bishops, I had the privilege of serving under Cardinal Bernardin Gantin as Prefect, a Black African from Benin. He was one of the finest human beings, priests, bishops or Cardinals I have ever met! Once, when examining a list of three candidates for presentation to the Holy Father for nomination as the next bishop of a particular diocese, a majority of my fellow workers were convinced that it had to be a certain candidate, based principally on his race. After all the staff had expressed their opinions, the Cardinal disagreed and said: "The Church must be colorblind!" In fact, the Holy Father in the end did not choose the candidate so many had thought best. I have never forgotten those words of Cardinal Gantin!

With the ugliness of the sin of racism daily before us, and in this Black History Month, it is good for us to pause to do a personal

examination of conscience, no matter our race or ethnic origin. I invite you this month to examine your language, your humor, your cultural conditioning, your attitudes toward those of other races and ethnic origins. Is there any evidence, any residue, any trace of prejudice, bigotry or racial intolerance? And if there is, take the appropriate action to root it out, to excise it from your daily life, perhaps with the help of family members, co-workers, classmates or trusted friends. For further reflection and to address the issue forthrightly both at home in our families, in our parishes, in our schools and in our work places, I recommend you read, study and discuss the recently published document from the USCCB - "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love," a Pastoral Letter against racism.

In the environment in which we live, it is ever more important to recognize and exercise the respect and dignity due to every person, no matter whether they are born or unborn, no matter whether they are healthy or physically or mentally disabled, no matter their race or ethnic origin. Why? Because Jesus Christ transcends culture and ethnic origin.

+ Daniel E. Thomas

Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
February 9, 2019

Christmas Trees

The Liturgy Committee is asking for donations toward New
Christmas Trees

Our current trees are 18+ years old and need to be replaced.
You may pay for an entire tree or a donation toward the purchase of
a tree. The gift can be made in your family name or as a
remembrance for a deceased loved one.

Each year the names of those who gave, will be listed in the
Christmas bulletin on a special insert.

We are looking to purchase:

1-12ft Tree

2-9ft Trees

2-7 ft Trees

2-6ft Trees

These trees will be of high quality like the ones we have gotten in
the past, so they will last.

Please contact the office for more details

Thank You
The Liturgy Committee