

Our Lady of Peace

May all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Everyone in the OLP parish community is invited to attend the

All Souls Prayer Service

being celebrated on

Monday, November 2, 2020

7:00PM

This special service will be offered as a time of peace and reflection as the parish community honors our family and friends who have passed away this year.

Come and celebrate our hope and promise of new life through Christ Jesus.

All are welcome.

Please contact the church office to include the name of a loved one whose funeral was celebrated in the past year.

Livestream will be available through our Youtube Channel.

Scan the OR Code to find us on Youtube.



Parish Office Phone 814-833-7701 Fax 814-833-7702 Website www.olp.org E-mail olp@olp.org

814-838-3548 **Faith Formation Office** 814-838-9983

School

Office Hours: 8:00AM - 8:00PM Business Hours: 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Parish Pastoral Team

Pastor

Rev. Rich Toohey Parochial Vicar Rev. Mark Hoffman Priest in Residence Rev. Shane Mathew Permanent Deacons Rev. Dr. Glenn Bailey Rev. Mr. John Mang Rev. Mr. Joseph Yochim, Jr. School Principal Mrs. Lisa Panighetti Music/Liturgy Director Mr. Brian Kuzmin Faith Formation Director Mrs. Tammie Mang Youth Minister

Office Manager
Mrs. Mary Beth Whitman
Office Secretary
Mrs. Cynthia Berarducci
Maintenance Supervisor
Mr. Michael Przepierski
Pastoral Council President
Ms. Nancy Milkowski
Finance Council Chairman
Mr. Paul Vojtek
The Sacrament of Baptism is

celebrated the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month, 11:00AM Mass & 12:30PM respectively. A mandatory preparation class for parents is available (6-7PM): 2020: Call the office for info. Call the Parish office to register. Sacrament of Matrimony An appointment with a parish priest six months prior to the wedding date. Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesdays 11:30-12:00 or by appt. Saturdays 8:30-9AM; 3:45-4:45PM New Parishioners Welcome!

Registration forms are available in the Parish Office or online.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation)

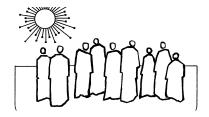
Anyone seeking information on becoming Catholic or completing one's initiation into the Catholic faith should call the Parish Office.

Prayer Request Line: Day: Kandace, 453-6515 Night: Donna, 866-0792

Our Mission Statement:



Our Lady of Peace is a Catholic Community of Faith called to proclaim the greatness of the Lord through Worship, Service, Education and Ministry.



The Solemnity of All Saints November 1, 2020

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

— 1 John 3:1

West Millcreek Food Pantry

The following are suggested items to purchase for each week; you may buy what is on sale; all non-perishables are acceptable. CEREAL is needed.

November 2020



1st Toilet Tissue / Bar Soap 8th Nut Butters / Rice 15th Spaghetti Sauce / Spaghetti 22nd Mac & Cheese / Peanut Butter 29th Cereal & Baked Beans

Pantry is OPEN November 10 & 24
(every 2nd & 4th Tuesday) 9-11AM for those living in
Millcreek & for OLP Parishioners,
at the Westminster Presbyterian Church,

The West Millcreek Food Pantry is asking for extra food donations:

- Canned Soup
- Canned Vegetables
- Whole Grain Cereal
- Any non-perishable food/item that you are able to donate
- Plastic Grocery Bags
- Granola Bars

The Food Pantry is so thankful to those who have continued to make donations.

Sunday's Readings:

First Reading - John's vision of a vast throng from every nation and people, whose robes had been made white in the blood of the Lamb (Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14).

Psalm - Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face (Psalm 24).

Second Reading - By God's love, we may be called God's children (1 John 3:1-3).

Gospel - The Beatitudes: your reward will be great in heaven (Matthew 5:1-12a).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Family Discussion of the Week: Sincerity of Heart

Jesus said, "Therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach." (Matthew 23:3)

Adults: Is there an area of your life in which you sometimes feel like a hypocrite? **Kids:** Why is it important for you to live according to how you believe?

OUR HOPE AND GOD'S PROMISE

The Church uses these waning November days and darker skies as the season to remind us of the last things. Today's feast, the Solemnity of All Saints, is the centerpiece of three days that point to doctrines we proclaim each time we say the Apostles' Creed: "We believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." And while the days and our hearts may be dark, the readings today are bright with the light of faith. John's vision in the book of Revelation reveals dazzling angels and white-robed saints gathered in triumph around the throne of God. In the responsorial psalm we sing our longing to see God's face, and in the second reading John writes that we are God's children and will, in fact, see God "as he is" (1 John 3:2). This is our hope. This is God's promise. Today we celebrate the triumph of those who already gaze on the face of God. Tomorrow we cry out for mercy with those in purgatory, who, like us on earth, still long to see God's face.

ALL SAINTS DAY **NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2020

7:00AM For the Souls in Purgatory—Bro. Paul Wilson

12:10PM Rose Popeski—

Lynn & Deacon Dennis Kudlak

7:00PM All Souls Memorial Prayer Service

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020

Eucharistic Adoration from 7:30AM—6:45PM

7:00AM Sharon Bruno—Bill & Chris Sweeney

12:10PM James Sekula—Rose Garbulinski

1:30PM School Mass—Patti Kirk—Friends of OLP

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2020

7:00AM Connie McMillen—Jean Verdecchia

11:30-Noon **Confessions**

12:10PM Richard B. Johannesmeyer—Family

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020

7:00AM Shirley Wilczewski-

Elizabeth & Mike Morrison

12:10PM Don DiPlacido—Gerry Ryan

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2020

Frist Friday

7:00AM Bernadine Zdunski—Family

12:10PM Deceased Members of the Burke Family— Tom & Phyllis

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020

8:00AM Paul Ragan—Paul Vojtek Family

8:30-9AM Confessions

3:45-4:45PM Confessions

5:00PM Mary Cook—Cook Family

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30AM Parishioners

9:00AM Frances Piatkowski—Family

11:00AM Audrey Zimmer—Barry, Keith & Julie

4:30PM Leonard Tillerson—Wife

The church will remain open for private prayer daily from 7:00AM - 8:00PM.

The church office staff is only available by phone or email: 833-7701 / olp@olp.org

Confessions available (in the Chapel):

Wednesdays 11:30-Noon Saturday 8:30-9AM and 3:45-4:45PM

SANCTUARY LAMP - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Roman & Helena Bieniek—Family.

<u>CHAPEL LAMP</u> - The lamp is burning this week in memory of Theresa Prassack—Husband, Jack.

Readings for the Week of November 1st

Monday: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9;

> Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016

Phil 2:5-11; Ps 22:26b-32; Lk 14:15-24 Tuesday:

Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;

Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 15:1-10 Friday: Phil 3:17 — 4:1; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 16:1-8 Saturday: Phil 4:10-19; Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9;

Lk 16:9-15

Sunday: Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18

[13-14]; Mt 25:1-13

Special Masses This Week:

Monday, November 2nd - All Souls

Tuesday, November 3rd - St. Martin de Porres,

Religious

Wednesday, November 4th - St. Charles Borromeo,

Bishop

Friday, November 6th - PURPLE MASS "In Time of

Pandemic"

Saturday, November 7th - Mary, Mother of Divine

Providence

OLP 31 Club

Praying for vocations every day of the year!

Members agree to go to daily Mass on a particular day every month and offer that Mass for an increase of vocations to the Church. There is a great need for vocations. One of the best ways to increase vocations is through prayer, and the greatest prayer we have is the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Upcoming Mass commitments:

Nov. 1: Maxine R., Mark S., Evelyn V., Pat B.

Nov. 2: Kathy W., Deacon Dennis K.

Nov. 3: Sister Peggy, Linda D., Virginia S.

Nov. 4: Arlene B.

Nov. 5: Ed B., Joyce K., Chuck & Linda R.

Nov. 6: Maxine B., Denise & Michael G., Susan F.

Nov. 7: Margaret K.

If you would like to join the OLP 31 Club, please call Dave or Kathy Wayman at 397-6443. There are no dues and no meetings, only opportunities for grace and the satisfaction that comes from helping to fulfill a great need in the Church.

When at Mass offer the Mass for

Vocations by praying the prayer below:
O God, who wills not the death of a sinner * but rather that he be converted and live * grant we beseech you * through the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin * Saint Joseph, her spouse * St. Junipero Serra * and all the saints * an increase of laborers for your Church * fellow laborers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls * through the same Jesus Christ * Your Son * Who lives and reigns with You * In the unity of the Holy Spirit * God forever * and ever. Amen.

Serra Prayer for Vocations Serra Prayer for Vocations

From the Pastor's Desk...

Last week Pope Francis caused a stir in the media over comments that were made in a film that was released on October 21st. I have included an article from Catholic News Service that is on the Diocese of Erie Website that summarizes the situation well. I am asking you to read that article to get the basic facts of the situation and not going to repeat them here. There are a few observations that I would like to add here.

One- never get your information about what is happening in the Catholic Church from the secular media. Make sure to utilize reputable Catholic sources to try to fully understand what is being said or done (Catholic News Service, the Catholic News Agency, the USCCB, the National Catholic Register, the Knights of Columbus- to name a few).

Two- when Pope Francis speaks to the media or in other informal settings, it does not hold the weight of official teaching, like Encyclicals, Apostolic Exhortations or Solemn Declarations EX CATHEDRA (from the chair of Peter). The Pope is giving personal opinions usually about pastoral areas of concern. I agree with those who say that it is not particularly helpful when the Pope does that since most people, media and even some Catholics do not make that distinction and it seems to lead to more confusion than anything else, but nonetheless it is part of his approach so we have to figure out how to deal with it.

Three- Pope Francis has NOT changed the churches definition of marriage or its' understanding of the sacrament of Matrimony. No church doctrine is being changed or proposed to be changed, the Pope is asking us to look at how we pastorally deal with the issue of homosexual relationships and the questions of justice that surround that issue.

Four- Pope Francis is NOT approving homosexual acts or suggesting the Catholic Church change her moral stance on that. Again, he is looking at the pastoral and justice issues involved.

Five- I am not convinced this is a translation issue as some church commentators and leaders have suggested. Yes, things can get lost in translation; but I believe that focusing on the translation is missing the Pope's ultimate point.

Six- I believe that Pope Francis wants to consider how to seek justice and love for all people, regardless of their way of life and regardless of what implications that gives to other dimensions of Catholic doctrine (one implication that some have raised is that if we seek justice for homosexual unions then we are implicitly approving this way of life). My sense of what the Pope is saying (and this is just Fr. Rich's take) is that while the church upholds her traditional view of marriage, he thinks it could still be acceptable for the church to seek justice and desire communion with our brothers and sisters in same sex relationships. I believe he is proposing that these 2 perspectives can coexist in a continued dialogue with one another and do not have to be mutually exclusive.

I understand where the Pope is coming from and the pastoral challenges that come from this issue. Our church

has much work to do (led by the Holy Spirit) to continue to process this issue and its challenges. I do not claim to have the answers but pray that we can all be open to this process and have faith that the truth will prevail through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Let us all seek to grow in relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, and from that, our path as a church will become more and more clear.

May God bless our church, our upcoming elections and our week ahead!

Fr. Rich

Our Lady of Peace, patroness of our parish & school.... pray for us!

St. Nicholas, patron of the Erie Catholic School System. pray for us!

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the Catholic Church of the USA... pray for us!

St. Joseph, universal patron of the church.... pray for us!

St. Patrick, patron of the Diocese of Erie.... pray for us!

Other notes from the pastor...

**Special Masses This Week Monday, November 2nd- All Souls; Tuesday, November 3rd- St. Martin de Porres, Religious; Wednesday, November 4th- St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop; Friday, November 6th- PURPLE Mass "In Time of Pandemic"; Saturday, November 7th- Mary, Mother of Divine Providence. **All Saints Day Sunday, November 1st is All Saints Day. We will celebrate this feast liturgically instead of the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Let us honor the saints today in a special way as we also seek their constant intercession and support. Allow them to inspire us to recommit to our call to holiness in our own lives. All Saints of God... pray for us! **Holy Hour for Vocations Several years ago the US Conference of Catholic Bishops moved the celebration of National Vocation Awareness Week to the first week in November. We will have a Vocation Holy Hour on Sunday, November 1st from 6-7pm. Please keep the intention of praying for the youth of our parish, diocese and world in mind this week in a special way as we pray for them to seek and be open to God's call in their life and the courage to say yes... whether it be to Holy Matrimony, to Holy Orders as priests or deacons, to Consecrated Religious Life as nun, sisters, monks or brothers, or the dedicated single life.

**Matthew Kelly Virtual Event This Thursday, Nov. 5th at 8pm Matthew Kelly is holding a virtual event called "Amazing Possibilities." Registration tickets are required.

**Our Lady of Peace Parish Staff will be on Retreat this Thursday, November 5; therefore, the parish office will be closed for the day. Please keep the staff in your prayers.

**Parish Survey

Recently you received an invitation to participate in the Pastoral Council Survey. Please return the survey you received in the mail or complete the survey via the email in which you received it. It is very important to us to see if there are things we can improve as a parish and staff or that we can help you with personally. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at fr.rich@olp.org or the office at olp@olp.org.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Classes have begun for all Religious Education students. If you have not heard form your child's catechist or Confirmation facilitator please contact Tammie Mang.

November 29 Confirmation forms due: Bishop Letter Part 1, Conf. Name Form, Baptismal Certificate.

These forms may be turned in before the due dates and can be dropped off at the church office when you go to Mass or mailed to:

Our Lady of Peace Church Faith Formation Office 2401 West 38th Street Erie, PA 16506

All forms can be found on our website under the Faith Formation tab at www.olp.org
For more info please contact Tammie Mang, Faith Formation Director,

at 838-9983 or <u>Tammie.mang@olp.org</u>

**Elections/Adoration this Tuesday A great resource on the elections can be found on the Diocesan Website at www.eriercd.org/election.html. There you will find a letter from Bishop Persico that was in the bulletin last week. I would like to reinforce several of the Bishop's points in his letter:

<u>First-</u> we must pray in preparation for our vote and for the election in general. Prayer is essential in any discernment in order to allow the Holy Spirit to inspire us to know and do God's will and we seek that will for our country as well. In order to reinforce the need to pray for this election, we are going to move our regular **First Friday Adoration to Tuesday, November 3rd immediately after the 7am Mass until Benediction at 6:45pm.**

Second- we must be aware of what our church teaches us in regard to the issues of social justice and the public life of our country. It is essential to be informed of our Catholic principles as we consider our stances in these issues. I realize not everyone agrees on these principles but we must at least know what they are and understand them. Make sure you are fully informed.

Third- vote! This is one of the most fundamental rights and responsibilities that we have as faithful citizens. Please make sure to act on your prayer and formation and vote.

**OLP Parish Anniversary: "65 Rosaries of Acts of Kindness and Formation for 65 Years" Our rosary continues to fill up with beautiful acts of kindness and formation. The parish goal is to fill the rosary with more than 3,900 total acts of kindness and formation and we are well on our way! Please turn in your completed acts and pick up a new form to continue the challenge. OLP is bringing the "light of Christ" into the Erie Community and beyond during this difficult time.

See back page for Catholic News Service Article...

SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES (1579-1639) November 3

An old illustration pictures Martin de Porres, finger to his lips—"Shhhh!"—as several mice peek out of sacristy vestment drawers, preparing to join a rodent "procession" following him out of church! Martin's rescue of these unwelcome guests, and statues depicting him, broom in

hand, feeding a dog, cat, bird, and mouse from the same dish symbolize his life and sanctity. Initially denied entrance by the Dominicans because of his mixed race (Spanish father, Panamanian mother), Martin cherished society's marginalized. For him, menial tasks, lovingly done, were sacred. Great and lowly alike feasted on his charity. Enemies were reconciled by this "poor mulatto" (his self-description), kind even to those whose



racism demeaned him. Apprenticed to a surgeon-barber in his youth—thus patron saint of hair stylists and public health providers—Martin dispensed healing and dignity to Lima's poorest, serving in them the Christ he adored for hours in the Blessed Sacrament. By the time he died, all Peru called him Martin the Charitable, a title even those of us who will never be called "saint" might still aspire to.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



OLP Face Masks available

\$5.00 each

OLP Ski Club

The Peek has been working hard to get plans together for the ski season and creating distancing protocols for the lodge and other gathering areas and they are looking forward a great winter.

Parishioners are able to purchase Ski and Snowboard passes; forms are available in the OLP school office or by contacting Chris Kurpiewski: 814-602-3772 or ckurp@velocity.net.

Forms need to be returned by November 11th to the school office or via email. Prices and discounts will remain the same as last year.

At this time there will be no weekly busing for the school students to the Peek. Feel free to reach out with questions or to request information.

	Our Lady of Peace Parish Membership Form	CHECK ONE:
Name	Phone	 □ New Registration □ Change of Address □ Moving out of Parish □ Want envelopes
City	Zip	
	Please drop Membership Form into the offertory basket or mail to rectory.	_

Ways to stay connected during this time:

As most of our communications will be by EMail please make sure the office has your current email.

We are sending weekly emails with updates and resources you can use to strengthen your Spiritual life. Also visit our website: www.olp.org.

Downloaded the **MyParishApp** as we will use the App as well to communicate during this time.

To the right are directions for the App and how to log into FORMED, which is one of our greatest resources.



Download Our Parish App! myParish App



Our OLP app is available to

download for iPhone and Android smartphones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via FaceBook or Twitter. **Download the myParish app by texting APP to phone number 88202.** You will receive a reply with the app link to download. Once downloaded, select Our Lady of Peace, Erie, PA.

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The Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is an international Order of Catholic men who are called to lead with faith, protect our families, serve others and

defend our Catholic values in a changing world. Our Lady of Peace Council is seeking new members. You will find that membership in the Knights of Columbus brings many fraternal benefits. If you are a man over the age of 18 and would like to join, simply go to KofC.org/join and enter council #11454. Join today and receive FREE membership by using promo code MCGIVNEY2020 (all caps) through December 31. October 31st was the Beatification of the Knights of Columbus founder, Father Michael McGivney.

If you would like more information about our council please email Doug Fleming at douglasfleming@roadrunner.com or checkout our FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/kofc11454

Your Help is Needed...

The **Millcreek Food Pantry** is in need of Rolls for their Thanksgiving Food Baskets.

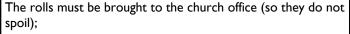
The rolls need to be delivered to OLP by Sunday, November 8th.

They can be any type of roll: *Fresh

rresn

Refrigerated (ex. Pillsbury)

Frozen.



*Fresh rolls should be purchased either Saturday or Sunday, November 7th or 8th to keep their freshness.

Advertiser of the Week.

Our bulletin is supported through the generosity of the advertisers - many of whom are our parishioners. Most are members of our local community. Please support our advertisers with your patronage. Tell the business owner that you appreciate their support of our parish through their ad in the bulletin.

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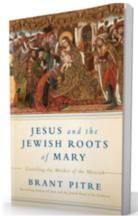
1620 W. 8th St.

456-6211

Stop and see what's new at the OLP Catholic Resource Kiosk in the church vestibule.

Books 5 - NEW: Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary

Dr. Pitre takes readers step-bystep from the Garden of Eden to the Book of Revelation to reveal how deeply biblical Catholic beliefs about Mary really are. Dr. Pitre uses the Old Testament and Ancient Judaism to unlock how the Bible itself teaches that Mary is in fact the new Eve, the Mother of God, the Queen of



Oualifies for

service hours!

Heaven and Earth, and the new Ark of the Covenant.

Erie City Mission Volunteers Needed

We need your help in preparing and cooking food for our brothers and sisters in need.

Dates are Saturday's:

November 21

December 19 <u>Time</u>: 10:00AM to 1:30PM

Where: 11th & French St.

What: Prepare & Serve the Lunch

Meal

<u>Time</u>: Any parishioner 15 yrs or older Contact: Scott Barnes, 881-8889

Online Safety Tips for Parents & Kids

Child Protection and Creating Safe Environments - November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month: We consider our homes to be safe places for our children, but up to 2.5 million US youth experience homelessness every year. 50,000 youth sleep on the streets for six months or more each year. One of the main causes of youth homelessness is family instability, which includes child abuse and/or neglect, domestic violence, parental substance abuse and family conflict. The website of the National Child traumatic Stress Network (www.nctsn.org) offers information on a range of child safety topics. Visit: http://www.eriercd.org/childprotection/ for additional resources on recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse.

Last Chance to Register...



For the first time ever, Dynamic Catholic is hosting an interactive virtual event with **Matthew Kelly**. Join in on the event on **Thursday**, **November 5**, **2020 at 8:00PM** for a night of inspiration, live music and prayer!

Something wonderful is about to happen. What? Well, join us on November 5th and lets find out together!

Each ticket purchase includes an event-exclusive copy of Matthew Kelly's newest book Amazing Possibilities delivered to your door.

To order tickets visit: www.dynamiccatholic.com

A Family Perspective

Anyone can be "Saint" in front of strangers but the daily acts of patience, acceptance, forgiveness, listening, and dying to oneself within the family are religious acts. Family life is the turf of sanctity.

Christmas Market & Bake Sale Ladies Guild of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

The Ladies Guild of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in cooperation with the Carmelite Scholarship Program will jointly sponsor their Christmas Bake Sale and Christmas Market COVID-19 style!

For safety reasons, all orders must be made in advance and prepaid. We will offer a variety of holiday favorites, including: nut bread, pumpkin roll, assorted cookies, pepperoni balls, our famous OLMC pierogi, cabbage rolls and czarnina.



Order forms may be obtained at www.olmcerie.org or at the OLMC parish office. You can also order by phone, 814-825-7313; mail in your order, or drop it off at the parish office (1531 East Grandview Blvd.). You may also pay on the website. Pick-up, at Scheffner Hall, is on the weekend of December 12-13 from 3-5PM on Saturday and 8:30-11AM on Sunday.

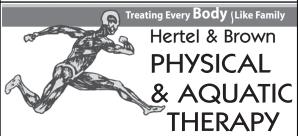
Deadline to order:

Tuesday, November 17 at 3:30PM

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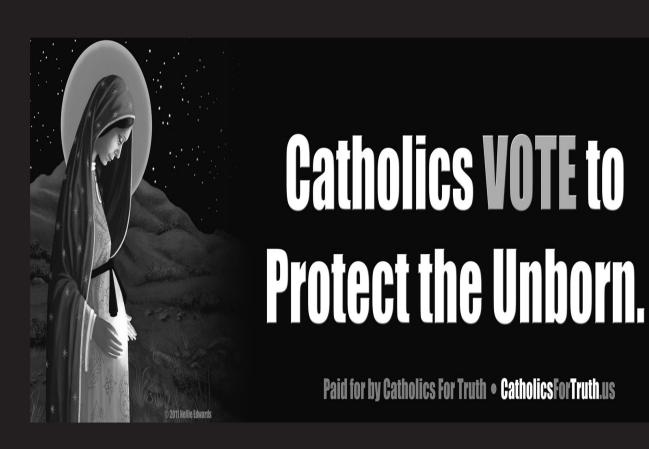
For further information, please call the Parish Office

Jim Lyons Financial Advisor CFP, AAMS 2316 W. 8th St. 459-8657



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QUESTIONS CONTINUE AROUND FILM'S USE OF POPE'S QUOTE ON CIVIL UNIONS

Cindy Wooden/Catholic News Service

10/26/2020

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While there is no doubt that Pope Francis said civil laws should protect the rights of gay couples, some mystery shrouds the context in which he said it and the way it is used in a new film.

The film, Francesco, which was released Oct. 21, presents the pope saying: "Homosexual people have a right to be in a family. They are children of God and have a right to a family. Nobody should be thrown out or be made miserable over it. What we have to create is a civil union law. That way they are legally covered."

When the documentary by Evgeny Afineevsky debuted at the Rome Film Festival and some news outlets focused on the 20-second clip referring to civil unions, a Vatican official dismissed it as old news, pointing out that the comments were from a 2019 interview with Valentina Alazraki of the Mexican television Televisa.

But the reference to civil unions does not appear in the one-hour, 17-minute interview broadcast by Televisa and available on YouTube, nor does it appear in the Vatican's Spanish or Italian transcripts of the pope's conversation with Alazraki. And, in fact, the whole 20-second clip in Francesco appears to be a re-edit, placing phrases the pope did say in the interview together in an order not found in the original. In statements to the Associated Press, The Washington Post and The New York Times, Televisa confirmed that the pope's comment about civil unions was part of the interview he gave to Alazraki, which was filmed by the Vatican television center. When Televisa was given the footage, the station said, the civil unions passage had been removed.

Televisa spokesman Ruben Acosta Montoya told The Washington Post in an email, "Someone at the Vatican gave us the part that we did broadcast, and later they gave the rest of the material to someone else," specifically, Afineevsky. The Vatican press office did not respond to requests for clarification.

Pope Francis has made similar references in the past to the need to provide legal protections for the rights of nonmarried people living together in a stable way — rights, for example, involving inheritance, health care decisions and visitation when one is ill.

And reporters are not the only ones he has discussed it with; Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone of San Francisco issued a statement Oct. 21 saying the pope talked about such protections with the bishops of California when they made their ad limina visits in January.

In an article on the conversation Jan. 27, Catholic News Service wrote, "The pastoral care of LGBT Catholics was another topic Pope Francis spoke about, Archbishop Cordileone said. 'He spoke about the pastoral care that we have to give' and the need to understand the suffering many of them have endured, including being shunned by their families."

"He made important distinctions between the (sexual) orientation and the question of marriage,' for example saying it was important to ensure gay couples have access to public benefits, but insisting gay couples cannot marry, the archbishop said. 'Marriage is unique; marriage, by its nature, is complementarity between man and woman. And he spoke about the danger of the gender ideology and how it denies difference,' the diversity with which God created human beings male and female."

Pope Francis also is on the record supporting some form of civil union legal protections during his tenure as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, and in interviews published in 2014 and 2017. In every case, he has insisted that a civil union law that equated gay relationships and marriage would be unacceptable since marriage is only between a man and a woman.

Archbishop Victor Fernandez of La Plata, Argentina, who is known to be close to Pope Francis, wrote on his Facebook page Oct. 21 that when, as archbishop of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis advocated for some form of civil union law, the majority of bishops disagreed fearing that many people would equate such a law with marriage. Pope Francis never equated the two, he said. "For him, the expression 'marriage' has a precise meaning and applies only to a stable union between a man and a woman open to transmitting life." And, in fact, in the Televisa interview as broadcast, when Pope Francis said that LGBT people "have a right to a family," he immediately added, "this does not mean approving homosexual acts — not at all."

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