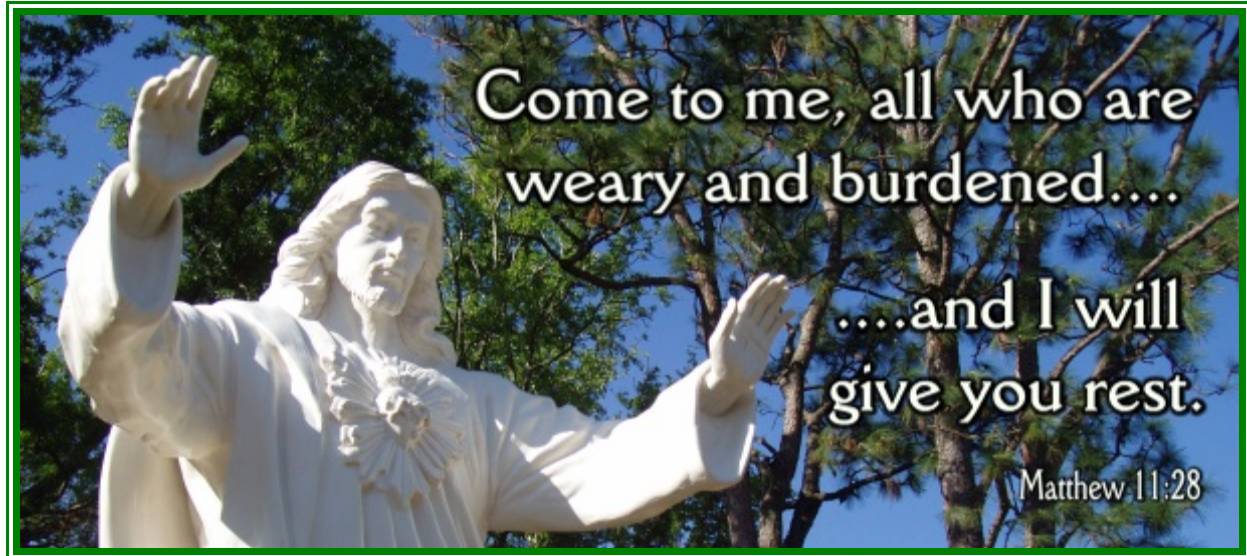


January 27, 2013

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

6300 McKenna Drive, Mobile, Alabama 36608

Email: Church@CorpusChristiParish.com • Website: www.CorpusChristiParish.com

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313
School Office: 342-5474, ext. 1 • Fax 380-0325
Rel. Ed. Office: 342-5474, ext. 7 • Fax 380-0325
Preschool Office: 342-2424 • Fax 343-3119
Youth Ministry: 342-1852 • Fax 342-6313

PASTORAL STAFF

Very Rev. James F. Zoghby, V.F., Pastor
Rev. John S. Boudreaux, Associate Pastor
Deacon Arthur W. Robbins, Deacon
Sr. Donna Cooper, R.S.M., Visitation Chaplain
Mrs. Linda M. Hawkins, Pastoral Assistant
Mrs. Judi B. Ankiewicz, Pastoral Assistant
Mrs. Joan T. McMullen, School Principal
Mrs. Kathleen Q. Jester, Parish Catechetical Leader
Mrs. Colleen DeVoe, Youth Ministry Co-Director
Mrs. Brenda Martens, Youth Ministry Co-Director
Mr. Matthew F. Purvis, Music Director
Mr. Jay H. Henley, Gym Manager

TO REGISTER AS A MEMBER OF THE PARISH

Please fill out a Census Form. Census Forms are available in the church vestibule and parish office.

COMMUNITY CENTER RENTALS & SERVICES

For rental information and kitchen services, please call the parish office at 342-1852 or 342-1420.

SUNDAY MASSES

Vigil: 5:30 p.m. Saturday
Morning: 7:00, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

6:30 a.m.: Monday through Friday
8:15 a.m.: Monday through Saturday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 5:00 p.m. and by request, particularly after the 6:30 & 8:15 a.m. weekday Masses.

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, ANOINTING OF SICK

Please call the parish office (342-1852) for information and scheduling baptism, marriage, anointing of sick.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Please see published schedule for specific dates and times, or call the parish office (342-1852).

SUNDAY SCHOOL (C.C.D.) Grades K–12, Sundays during school year, 10:05-10:55 a.m. in school bldgs.

SCHOOL, *SACS-accredited* for Grades K through 8. For info & registration, please call the school office.

PRESCHOOL, *State-licensed* for 6-week to 4-yr. olds. For info & registration, please call the preschool office

Catholic Charities

We extend a warm welcome to *Jon Green*, scheduled to speak at all our Masses this weekend on the Catholic Charities Appeal. As last year, the our parish's goal is \$260,000, but, as always, we hope to exceed the amount pledged the previous year. Last year, the total amount pledged was \$282,277.

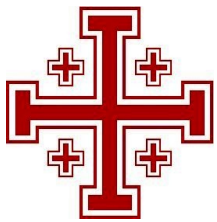
As last year, the basic pledge is \$39 a month (\$468 a year). We are grateful to all who pledge and prayerfully support Catholic Charities. Pledge envelopes may be placed in either collection.

Volunteers are needed today at 1:30 p.m. to help ensure that everyone in the parish has had an opportunity to pledge to Catholic Charities. To volunteer, please come to the community center atrium this Sunday at 1:30 p.m. John Gelineau, our chairperson for Catholic Charities, and Mike Wilson, our vice-chairperson, will give each volunteer a number of pledge envelopes with the name and phone number of parishioners who need to be contacted; the volunteers will write in the amount of the pledge on each envelope and return the envelopes to the atrium to be counted in the first report, to be called in later today for publication in *The Catholic Week*.

Once a month

3rd Sunday 5:30 p.m. Mass

During the school year (Sept. to May), extra Sunday Mass at Corpus Christi. This school year's remaining **3rd Sundays**: Feb. 17, Mar. 17, Apr. 21, May 19.



UNDERSTANDING THE CHURCH

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Adult Ed. Room in the Community Center

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (R.C.I.A.)

Continuing education for Catholic adults and other adults who wish to learn more about and/or join the Catholic Church.

If you are not a Catholic but are interested in joining the Catholic Church, please call 342-1852 or come to this Wednesday's class.

Bible Study Groups

Sundays, 8:45 -10:45 a.m. in the school counselor's conference room. Breakfast is served also. We are studying Isaiah.

Tuesdays, 1:45 - 3:00 p.m., in the Adult Ed. Room. Study of Exodus and Comparison to Hollywood Version. Info: Judi Ankiewicz, 344-0321.

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Rm. (2nd Flr, Community Ctr). The Acts of the Apostles. Info: Dave Burchette, 367-6660.

Thursdays, 9:00-10:45 a.m., Conf Rm (2nd Flr), Com.Ctr. Penny Claiborne, 776-5850, claibomeps@aol.com or Joanne Donaghey, 554-6753, joannekd@aol.com

Please support the advertisers on the back of the bulletin

Their ads enable us to have our bulletins printed by Diocesan Publications at no cost to the parish. Ads are purchased from Diocesan Publications. For information about placing an ad, contact them at 1-800-292-9111 or www.diocesan.com.

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL *Celebrating Catholic Schools Week*

Nicole Elizabeth Lausier Cox

a 1986 Graduate of Corpus Christi School
will be honored as

Corpus Christi's Distinguished Graduate
at this year's Catholic Schools Week Mass
this Tuesday, Jan. 29, at 8:15 a.m.

Friends and former classmates are invited to attend the Mass in the church and the reception in the atrium.

This is Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools Raise the Standards". The 2013 theme supports the recent launch of the National Standards and Benchmarks for Effective Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, that ensure the effective operation and responsible governance of Catholic schools across the country, thus promoting high academic standards and Catholic identity. The logo designed for the week illustrates a chart of steady growth culminating in the highest achievement of all, a cross representing the faith that underscores all Catholic education.

New-Student Registration

Registration for the 2013-2014 school year continues this week. For info, please call the school office at 342-5474, ext. 1.

Christian Attitude Award Winners

Second Quarter 2012-2013

The Christian Attitude Award is given to students who are consistently kind, considerate, and respectful to their classmates and teachers. They live Jesus' command to love one another.

Jase Arendall, Jayde Demsey, Zoey Vilapando, Joseph Parrino, Maggie Heller, Lucca Rodrigues, Leland Normand, Lily Skelton, Connor Fadalla, Riley Carter, Harry Edwards, Anna Vo, Brandon McKee, Kate Skelton, Lauren Fadalla, Jack Steiner, Molly LaCoste, Keigan Andrews, Natalie Costanza, Sean Martin, Zoie Givens, Charlie Bracewell, Katrina Espinosa, Winston Young, Cara Colletti, Brody Espiritu, Matthew Jalkh, Gracie Skelton, Christian Steiner, Hannah Palmer, Griffin Bond, Isabelle Bracewell, Emily LaCoste, Jacob Nelson, Arden Hebert, Selena Hetrick.

www.CorpusChristiParish.com/School

Sunday School (CCD)

Classes: 10:05-10:55 a.m. in the school buildings. Sunday School participants at the 9 a.m. Mass are dismissed with the final blessing.

Info: Kathleen Jester, SundaySchool@CorpusChristiParish.com.

Bulletin Announcements

Send bulletin announcements to Bulletin@CorpusChristiParish.com
Deadline: Monday at 12 noon.

Hearing Assistance Available in Vestibule

Two types of receivers: one fits on the ear and one is simply worn around the neck of a person who wears a hearing aid.

High School Youth

REMINDER: Today, Sunday, Jan. 27, is the deadline to turn in your forms for the Archdiocesan Catholic Youth Conference to be held Feb. 22-24 at the Perdido Beach Resort. Please email corpuschristihsyouth@yahoo.com if you have turned in your forms at the parish office through the front-door mail slot.

Next Youth Gathering will be Sunday, March 3. We will meet at Pump It Up from 6:30-8 p.m. on Hillcrest Road. Cost is \$10. Permission Forms are available by emailing the corpuschristihsyouth@yahoo.com. Please turn your permission form into the Parish Office by Saturday, March 2. Don't forget to fill out the waiver on the back and to bring socks!

Respect Life

"Cast the Vision" Dinner, 40 Days for Life, Spring 2013 will be held at Original Oyster House, 3733 Battleship Parkway. Guest Speaker is Marty Carrell, Director of Claire's Hope, a former abortion clinic that is now an educational facility, named after the daughter of Tammy and Billy Cox – Claire Hope Cox – whose short lifespan touched many lives and continues to do so. Come join us to learn how you can help to end abortion in our community. For reservations, call Mae or Chris Rehm, 251-554-2032.

Gabriel's Project - To serve as a Prayer Angel for a woman requesting help with her pregnancy, to give assistance, or to donate using the pay pal account: Visit gabrielangels4u@gmail.com. Maria at 251-753-2416.

Pray for the protection of religious freedom. Info: www.usccb.org/conscience

Wednesday Night Dinner

5:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Banquet Hall

\$9.00 for Adults • \$4.00 for Children (Age 12 & under)

Jan. 30 ~ Homemade Meatloaf, Southern Fried Chicken, Herb Crusted Baked Fish • Smashed Potatoes • Brown Sugar-Glazed Carrots • Steamed Broccoli Florets • Mixed Greens w/Strawberry, Tomato, Cucumber, Red Onion, Broccoli Florets, Mushrooms, Bell pepper, Cheddar & Parmesan Cheese • Assorted Desserts and Beverages. **RSVP:** Return an RSVP Card, or call 342-1852, or email WedNightDinner@CorpusChristiParish.com.

Men of St. Joseph

Tuesdays, 7 to 8 a.m. in the Family Room

Also Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. in Room 6 (2nd Floor)

All men are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

Info: Jim Donaghey, jbd@orthomobile.com or www.MenOfStJoseph.com

Wed. Evening Info: Walter Bracewell, 599-1650 or walter.bracewell@yahoo.com

Women of Mary

Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m., in the Family Room

All women are welcome to meet for prayer, reading the Gospel, and discussion.

Info: Sr. Deborah Kennedy, R.S.M., 316-3960.

Knights of Columbus

Meeting: 2nd Tues., Feb. 5, 7 p.m., at The Parish House.

Contact: Grand Knight, Bob Wheat, 490-9350.

Help keep your church neat!

When leaving your pew at the end of Mass, please take the song sheets, bulletins, and other materials with you! **Thank You!**

Donate items for newborn babies.

Place diapers (sizes NB, 1, 2, 3 & 4) and other baby care items (wipes, baby bottles, powder, baby wash, oil, etc.) in the designated box in the vestibule. They will be sent on to 2B Choices for Women.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Poor Box, Food, Clothing donations put in the designated places in the vestibule are distributed by our St. Vincent de Paul Society

To obtain assistance, call 432-5173 and leave name & phone no.

Meetings: 1st & 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Com. Ctr. Conf. Rm. (2nd Flr.)

Join the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Attend our next meeting. Meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room (2nd Floor of the Community Center).



That Man is You! Men's Program

Thursdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in "The Parish House"

(Behind our parking lot at the S.E. corner of Evergreen Rd. & McKenna Dr.)

Jan. 31: Becoming a Man after God's Own Heart

Our Lenten Journey and the Parable of the Sower • The Fate of the 3 Seeds • Orientations and Obstacles of the Spiritual Life • That You Would Bear Fruit • Evaluating Your Spiritual Life • Encountering the Living God and His Mercy.

Info@paradisusdei.org or 281-974-3541 or Damian Bell, damian@rockbwm.com

Widowed Persons' Support Group

For information call parishioner Glen Porter at 666-8977.

Support Our Seminarians

MARANATHA 5K Race/Walk for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Mobile: Saturday, March 2, at 8:00 a.m. at the University of South Alabama Intramural Fields. \$15 pre-registration entry fee includes T-Shirt! There will be food, drinks, entertainment and awards in numerous categories, including children and seminarians. Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi will fire the gun to begin the race. Sponsorships are available for as little as \$100. Register online or at McCoy Outdoor, Mobile, Run-N-Tri or Running Wild in Fairhope. <http://www.southalabamacsa.com/5K.html>



BOY SCOUTS — 1/26 Venture Crew Hike Black Creek.

1/27 meeting at 5:00 p.m.– 6:00p.m. 2/3 meeting at 5:00 p.m.– 6:00 p.m. 2/9 Snow Skiing in Gatlinburg. 2/10 No meeting.

Cub Scout News 2/3 Scout Sunday 9 am. • 2/5 & 2/19 Den

Meetings 6 pm • 2/23 Pack 29 Winter Campout – Camp Pinetreat. **To Join Cub Scouts or for more information** please contact Walter Bracewell 599-1650 or Mike Martin 633-5218 or visit us on the web at ccspack29.scoutlander.com

AA — Alanon — OA — CODA

AA: Sun., 7 p.m., and Wed., 7 p.m., Cougar Den.

Alanon: Sun., 7 p.m., and Wed., 7 p.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

OA: Sat., 9 a.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

CODA: Tues., 6:45 p.m., Arts & Sciences Bldg.

Scout Sunday

Next Sunday, Feb. 3, at the 9 a.m. Mass, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will be in the procession and serve as readers, ushers, etc.

Girl Scout Cookie Sale

Next weekend, Feb. 2-3, at all the weekend Masses.

Please Support Parishioner Cameron Kenney's Eagle Scout Project for Corpus Christi

I am planning to build a patio on the back of The Parish House, and gates to The Parish House from the surrounding parking lots. My fund raising goal is \$1600. Checks can be made payable to Cameron Kenney's Eagle Scout Project, and mailed to 2205 Sterling Ct. Mobile, AL 36695. Info: kenney.cam@gmail.com.

See "To Kill A Mockingbird" in Actual Courthouse

Anyone interested in going to see "To Kill A Mockingbird" in Monroeville, in the actual courthouse the book was based on, Please see the sign-up sheet on the door to the choir room. TBA: Date & time in March or April. Great way to spend time with the Corpus Christi Community! We can buy advance tickets if we get a group of 10 or more. — Matthew Purvis

Singers & Instrumentalists

Sing or play for the Holy Week Liturgies

ALL are invited and welcome! Many of our regular choir members are out of town for the holidays. Please do not be afraid to come and sing or play an instrument with us! There are no questions asked and NO ONE will EVER be turned away!

Practice and Service Schedule

7 p.m. Rehearsals in Room 4, Community Ctr. 2nd Floor on the following dates: February 19 & 26 and March 5, 12, 19, 20.

Palm Sunday Service: Mar. 24. Meet at 10 a.m.

7 p.m. Rehearsals in Room 4, Com. Ctr. on March 26 & 27.

Holy Thursday Service: Mar. 28. Meet at 6 p.m.

Good Friday Service: Mar. 29. Meet at 6 p.m.

Easter Vigil Service: Mar. 30. Meet at 6 p.m.

Easter Sunday Service: Mar. 31. Meet at 10 a.m.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



First Friday, February 1

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In the Chapel

All are welcome to come and spend some time in Eucharistic adoration on Friday, Nov. 2, any time from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Corpus Christi's chapel. Exposition of the blessed sacrament will begin after the 8:15 a.m. weekday Mass.

A sign-up sheet is in the vestibule to ensure that there are at least two persons committed for each hour.

Welcome, New Parishioners

Mike & Elizabeth Calhoun and their daughters, Lauren, Lindsey and Katie + Jonathon & Abby Woodard and their children, Audrey and James.

BAPTIZED IN CHRIST

Andrew Frederick Arvidson, Jr.
(son of Andrew Frederick Arvidson, Sr. & Kari Lynn Stevens Arvidson)

REST IN PEACE

Raymond John Grabfelder
Melvina Mary Kahalley

Around the Archdiocese: Ash Wednesday Day of

Recollection at Visitation Monastery, Feb. 13. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the day includes Mass, opportunity for confession, spiritual conferences given by Rev. Stephen Hellman. \$10 cost includes lunch. Space limited. Call for reservations: 473-2321. **Friends of Catholic Cemetery** \$25 dues were due July 1. For info, or if interested in joining, please contact Laura Cunningham at LauraACham@gmail.com or FriendsOfCatholicCemetery@gmail.com. **ACCW Mobile Deanery Winter Quarterly meeting**, Thursday, Feb. 7, at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1621 Boykin Blvd. with St. Vincent de Paul Altar Sodality as host. Mass and luncheon follow the meeting. Lunch is \$12.00 per person. Make reservations by Feb. 4 with Jane Shoulders at 479-4989, Beth Cain at 973-1126, or Betty Russell at 479-8907. All Catholic ladies welcome! Call Shirley Norton, President, at 973-0626 with any questions.

FIRST COLLECTION TODAY for tithing offerings.

SECOND COLLECTION TODAY for Corpus Christi Building Fund.

JAN. 20TH TITHING ONLINE & COLLECTION: \$26,459.26

JAN. 20TH BUILDING FUND ONLINE & COLLECTION: \$1,543.35



Online Giving

With Online Giving you can either make a one-time contribution or set up a recurring automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings or credit card account: Go to www.CorpusChristiParish.com; click "Church"; then click the green Online Giving icon, and follow the instructions to contribute to the tithing or building fund or special collections.

For assistance, call 1-800-348-2886, ext 4, or parish office, 342-1852.

Thank You and God Bless You

God bless all who faithfully tithe and contribute to the support of God's work here at Corpus Christi, and those who make a special bequest in their will for Corpus Christi Church. To make a direct donation of stock, contact your stockbroker, or call Steve Setterstrom at Citigroup Global Mkts. at 470-1060.

Reports of Contributions have been mailed out this week for parishioners and all who request them. Detailed reports of contributions can be mailed or emailed at any time by calling the parish office (342-1852). If you do not receive a report, or if you find any error, please call the parish office so that corrections can be made promptly. God bless you for your support and generosity.

Love

and you fulfill the
whole Law

EVANGELIZATION is the mission of the Church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus - the Gospel - to all the people of the world. Because of growing secularization in the world, the Church has recently recognized a need for (in the words of Pope John Paul II) a “New Evangelization” effort.

At a recent synod in Rome on evangelization, two bishops shared their insights:

Philippine bishop Socrates Villegas:

Why is there a strong wave of secularization, a storm of antipathy or plain cold indifference towards the Church in some parts of the world necessitating a new wave of evangelization programs. The new evangelization calls for new humility. The Gospel cannot thrive in pride. When pride seeps into the heart of the Church, the Gospel proclamation is harmed. The task of new evangelization must begin with a deep sense of awe and reverence for humanity and her culture. Evangelization has been hurt and continues to be impeded by the arrogance of its messengers. The hierarchy must shun arrogance, hypocrisy and bigotry. We must punish the errant among us instead of covering up our own mistakes. We are human among our human flock. All our beauty and holiness we owe to God. This humility will make us more credible new evangelizers. Our mission is to propose humbly not to impose proudly.



Italian Archbishop Salvatore Fisichella:

We have lost credibility. We are wrapped up in ourselves... We have turned a life of faith and ritual into bureaucracy.

The key to the priest’s efforts to evangelize is to live what he preaches, and to resist the temptation of careerism. In the Church, just as in society, the good of the community is harmed by leaders who work primarily for their own interests. The priestly spirit is opposed to careerism, the attempt to arrive ‘high up,’ to seek out a position through the Church,



to serve oneself and not serve others. This is the image of a man who, through the priesthood, seeks to become important and famous. Yet, to be a priest is not to desire to be someone important, but to live for others, for Christ and through Him so that He may use me as He wishes, so that I serve Him and follow His call even when this contrasts with my own desire for self-fulfillment and respect.

Pope Benedict XVI



Jesus was quite often denounced as a violator of God’s law when he showed compassion for the weak, the poor, the sick, the women, and public sinners. He offered new life to those considered impure by eating and mingling with them. He assured them that God was not distant and there was hope in God’s loving mercy.

Like those who opposed Jesus in the name of authentic religion, we could be blind to God and neighbor because of self-righteousness, spiritual pride and rigidity of mind. Ecclesiastical customs and persons, when deified and glorified, might become hindrances to true worship and compassion.

Philippino Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle

“Jesus was more severe toward those who condemned the sinners than toward the sinners themselves.”

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Papal Preacher

The Catholic Church must take sin seriously, but it must do so like Jesus did, by emphasizing God’s mercy, and trust in the sinner’s ability to change. Jesus does not deny that sin and sinners exist, but Jesus was more severe toward those who condemned the sinners than toward the sinners themselves. From the evidence in the Bible, being merciful appears to be an essential aspect of being in the image and likeness of God. Mercy is the form God’s love takes in relation to sinners. After we have experienced it, we must demonstrate it to our brothers and sisters, both on the level of the church community as well as on a personal level.

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, Papal Preacher

The Catholic Church is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, which began on October 11, 1962, and closed on December 8, 1965. Over the coming months, we will be exploring some of the documents and decrees produced by Vatican II. This week:

The Declaration on Religious Liberty “Human Dignity”

Every person - believer or non-believer, Catholic or non-Catholic - has a right to religious freedom and no one should be coerced into religious practice by the state or by anyone else.

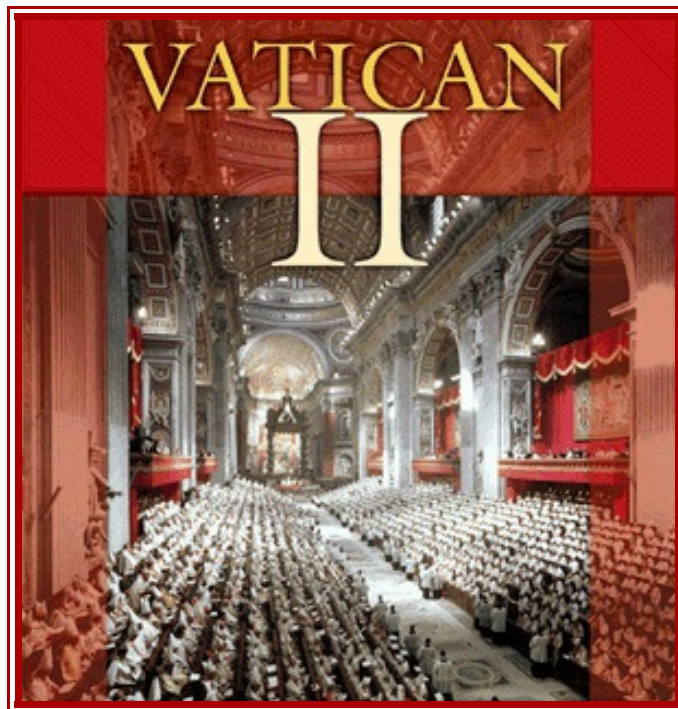
The Declaration on Religious Liberty (*Dignitatis Humanae*, Human Dignity) was one of the most fiercely debated teachings of the Second Vatican Council, and one of its greatest achievements.

Before Vatican II

To understand the importance of the decree, it is important to look back at the Church’s teaching on religious liberty before the Council. We need to go back as far as the Emperor Constantine! Up until the time of Constantine, the Church was alternately persecuted and ignored by the Roman Emperors. But Constantine tolerated the Christians (and became one himself), and after 313, with the Edict of Milan, gave Christianity privileged status in the Empire. He style himself “protector of the Church,” and convoked several Councils, waged wars against heretics, and generally made it clear that there was one “official” religion in the Empire.

With the Protestant Reformation, that assumption of a church-state identity necessarily changed, and a new relationship between church and state emerged. One religion (that of the prince or ruler) was given preferred status, but other religions would be tolerated. It was in this environment that the Catholic Church began to develop its teachings on religious liberty more fully.

In a nutshell, that teaching was: Catholicism should be the religion of the state, but in nations where it is not,



Catholics must be free to worship. As for other believers, whether they be Protestant or non-Christian, they do not possess any inherent right to worship as they choose, because they are in error, and (as was stated in the famous phrase) “error has no rights.” Nonetheless, for the sake of peace, they should be tolerated.

The American Experience

It was in the atmosphere of the religious wars of the 15th & 16th centuries that

the first Europeans settled in America, many of whom had left Europe to escape religious intolerance and violence. Gradually, a new nation was established in which there would be no state religion, and what was more, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof” (Bill of Rights).

To the surprise of many, the Catholic Church thrived in the United States under this governmental system which accorded all religions equal status. At the Second Vatican Council, the United States bishops shared



this American experience with the universal Church. With the significant contribution of the American Jesuit priest, Father John Courtney Murray, S.J., the Church's teaching on Religious Liberty was gradually formulated.

It produced some of the most contentious moments of debate in the Council, and it was only by the strenuous efforts of some of the American leaders among the Council Fathers, especially Cardinal Meyer of Chicago, that the Declaration survived at all. But at last, it passed overwhelmingly and its promulgation on December 7, 1965, has been called "the end of the Constantinian era."

What does the Declaration say about religious liberty?

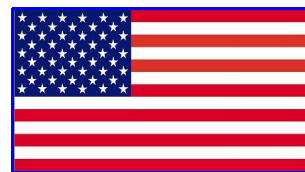
Every person - believer or non-believer, Catholic or non-Catholic - has a right to religious freedom and no one should be coerced into religious practice by the state or by anyone else.

This does not mean that the Church considers all religions to be equal! "We believe that this one true religion subsists in the Catholic and Apostolic church," and every person has not only the right, but the duty, to seek the truth. However, "This Vatican Council likewise professes its belief that it is upon the human conscience that these obligations fall and exert their binding force. The truth cannot impose itself except by virtue of its own truth, as it makes its entrance into the mind at once quietly and with power."

Religious freedom is a God-given right; it should be a civil right in every place. And this right extends to every aspect of a person's public and private life. "This freedom means that all men are to be immune from coercion on the part of individuals or of social groups and of any human power, in such a way that no one is to be forced to act in a manner contrary to his own beliefs, whether privately or publicly, whether alone or in association with others, within due limits."

While none of this sounded very revolutionary to American Catholics, to bishops of other nations it represented a major shift in thinking.

The Archbishop of Seattle, Thomas Connolly, offered the following summary of the Declaration on Religious Liberty and its impact:



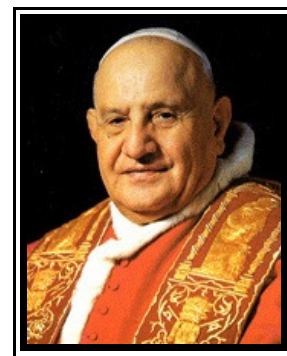
"The Council has repudiated the idea that the power of the State should be used to promote the Catholic religion. The document was received with enthusiastic approval all over the world. You should all be immensely proud of the key role that was played in this discussion by our American cardinals and hierarchy. We were not alone, of course, but we spearheaded the campaign for the passage of this historic document in the face of more or less bitter opposition from certain die-hard obstructionists..

"Protestant, Orthodox and Jewish leaders everywhere, together with their representatives who were in attendance at the Council (having been invited and welcomed by Pope John XXIII to be present throughout the Council as special observers), warmly acclaimed the Council's stand on behalf of religious liberty as a landmark in Church history. When the final vote was cast in almost unanimous favor of the measure, the observers broke out in spontaneous applause."

Corinna Laughlin, St. James Cathedral, Seattle, Washington

Pope John XXIII:

"Today, more than ever, certainly more than in previous centuries, we are called to serve humankind as such, and not merely Catholics; to defend above all and everywhere the rights of the human person, and not merely those of the Catholic Church.



Pope John continued: "It is not that the Gospel has changed: it is that we have begun to understand it better. Those who have lived as long as I have were faced with new tasks in the social order at the start of the century — those who, like me (with twenty years in the East and eight years in France), were enabled to compare different cultures and traditions and know that the moment has come to discern the signs of the times, to seize the opportunity and to look far ahead."

