

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H



Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
25 June 2023

The Sparrows by Saida Sultana

Saint Cecilia

P A R I S H

25 JUNE 2023

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE PROCESSION | How Can I Keep from Singing



1. My life flows on in end-less song. A -
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife I
3. What though my joys and com-fort die? The
4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A



bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion I hear the clear though
hear that mu - sic ring - ing. It finds an ech - o
Lord my sav - ior liv - eth. What though the dark - ness
foun - tain ev - er spring-ing! All things are mine since



far - off hymn That hails a new cre - a - tion.
in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



No storm can shake my in-most calm While to that Rock I'm



cling - ing. Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth,



How can I keep from sing - ing?

CALL TO WORSHIP

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

GLORIA | Mass of Remembrance

Curtis Stephan

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to peo-ple
of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a -
dore you, we glo-ri-fy you, we give you
thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord God, heav-en - ly
King, O God, al-might-y Fa - ther.
Lord Je - sus Christ, On-ly Be - got-ten Son, Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us; you take a -

way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer; you are seat - ed

at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer -

cy, have mer - cy on us. For you a - lone are the

Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the

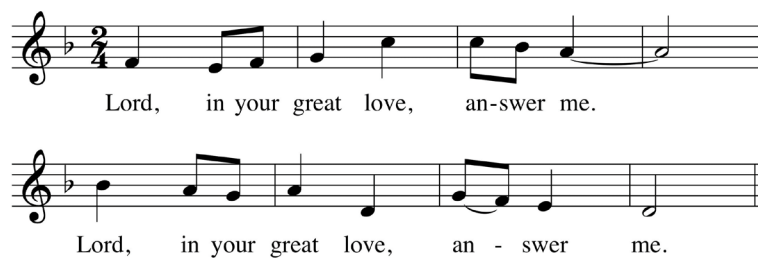
Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, a - men.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING | Jeremiah 20: 10-13



SECOND READING | Romans 5: 12-15

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Remembrance

Marty Haugen



GOSPEL | Matthew 10: 26-33

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE PARISH!

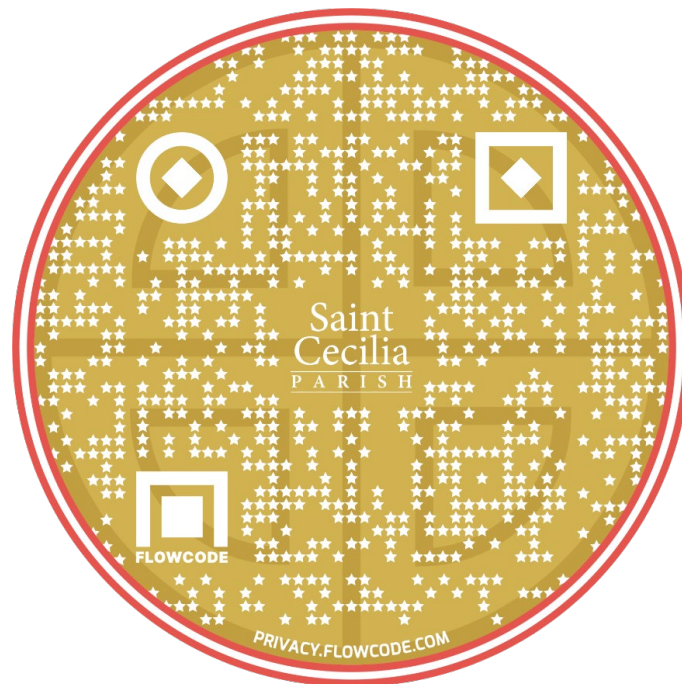
We are grateful for your ongoing support of Saint Cecilia. The easiest way to make a financial contribution to our parish is to use the parish Flowcode below.

Using the Flowcode with the camera on your smartphone is as easy as Aim & Tap. Aim your camera at the Flowcode image and tap the notification banner when it appears on your phone's screen. You may need to zoom in a bit to focus on the code.

If the Flowcode doesn't work for you, please visit www.flowcode.com/page/stceciliaboston.

You can also mail a check to:

Saint Cecilia Parish
18 Belvidere Street
Boston, MA 02115



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS | All That is Hidden

Bernadette Farrell



1. If you would fol-low me, fol - low where life will lead:
2. If you would hon - or me, hon - or the least of these:
3. If you would speak of me, live all your life in me:
4. If you would rise with me, rise through your des - ti - ny:



do not look for me a - mong the dead, for I am
you will not find me dressed in fin - er - y. My Word cries
my ways are not the ways that you would choose; my thoughts are
do not re-fuse the death which brings you life, for as the



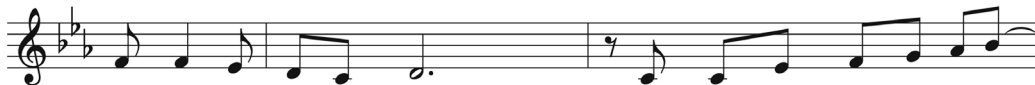
hid - den in pain, ris - en in love;
out to be heard; breaks through the world:
far be - yond yours, as heav - en from earth:
grain in the earth must die for re - birth,



there is no har - vest with - out sow - ing of grain.
my Word is on your lips and lives in your heart.
if you be - lieve in me my voice will be heard.
so I have plant - ed your life deep with - in mine.



All that is hid-den will be made clear. All that is



dark now will be re - vealed. What you have heard in the dark



pro-claim in the light; what you hear in whis-pers



pro-claim from the house - tops.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

✕ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✕ Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

✕ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

HOLY, HOLY | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts. Heav-en and
earth are full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na! Ho -
san - na! Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is
he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with various note values including eighth, quarter, and half notes, as well as rests. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

We pro - claim your Death, O Lord, and pro - fess your
Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

GREAT AMEN | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte

A - men. A - men. A - men.

The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It features a melody with quarter, eighth, and half notes, and rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD | Mass of Christ the Savior

Dan Schutte



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It is a long-held Catholic belief that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an "Act of Spiritual Communion." When we are unable to be physically present at the celebration of the Eucharist, Pope Francis invites Catholics to say this prayer as a source of grace. We can be assured that when we express our desire to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, God will be with us spiritually in a special way. Here is an Act of Spiritual Communion that we encourage you to pray as you participate in our live-streamed liturgies:

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Loving Jesus,
I believe that you
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.

1. You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a -
 bide in his shad-ow for life, say to the Lord: "My
 ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the
 breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
 hold you in the palm of his hand. *Last time to Coda ⊕ To verses*

Verse 2

snare of the fowl - er will nev - er cap - ture you, and
 fam - ine will bring you no fear: un - der his wings your
 ref - uge, his faith - ful - ness your shield. **D.S.**

Verse 3

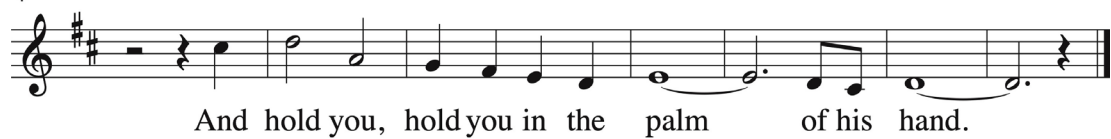
3. You need not fear the ter - ror of the night, nor the
 ar - row that flies by day; though thou - sands fall a -



Verse 4



♠ Coda



CONCLUDING RITES

✠ The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

✠ May almighty God bless you, the Father, (+) and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

✠ Go forth, the Mass is ended.

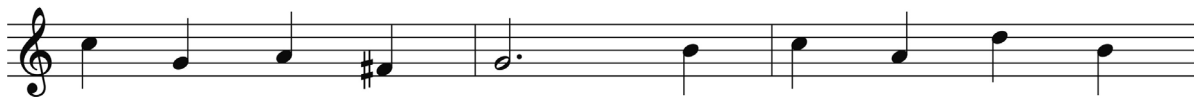
All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL | O God, Our Help in Ages Past

OLD ONE HUNDREDTH



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our
2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne Your
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or
4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight Are
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears
6. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our



hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the
saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is your
earth re - ceived its frame, From ev - er - last - ing
like an eve - ning gone, Short as the watch that
all our years a - way; They fly for - got - ten,
hope for years to come, Still be our guard while



storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home.
arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
you are God, To end - less years the same.
ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
as a dream Dies at the o - p'ning day.
trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home.

WELCOME!

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children's faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus' teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids ("Irish working out girls") and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings. Our church building resides on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket and Massachusetts tribal nations.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci's The Last Supper, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius' life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 54 ranks, and 3,084 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. Our numbers are increasing by 350 new households each year, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We've been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for over 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God's love makes all things new.

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS



MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday, June 24 | 5:00 p.m.

Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Emily Bogert, lector

Sunday, June 25 | 8:00 a.m.

Rev. Peter Gyves, SJ, celebrant
Bob Mann, lector

Sunday, June 25 | 9:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Christopher Loh, Maggie Loh, and Moira Macdonald, lectors

Sunday, June 25 | 11:30 a.m.

Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Catherine Horsley, Karen McMenamy, and Chika Offurum, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Sunday, June 25 | 9:30 a.m.

Clarise Chase, *1st Anniversary*
Gene Vaillancourt, *1st Anniversary*
Richard Paynter, Memorial

Sunday, June 25 | 11:30 a.m.

Robert Yobaccio, *17th Anniversary*

Wednesday, June 28 | 11:30 a.m.

Maria Cristina Campo de Paez, *Anniversary*

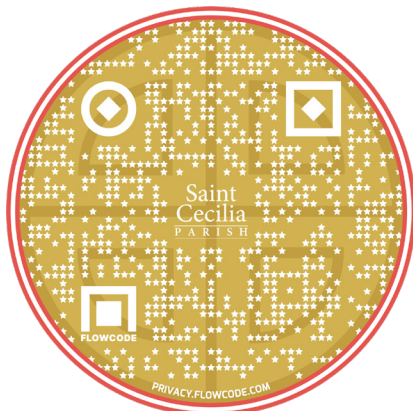
TODAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 20:10-13
Romans 5:12-15
Matthew 10:26-33

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a
Romans 6:3-4, 8-11
Matthew 10:37-42

SCAN THIS CODE
FOR OFFERTORY GIVING.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF SAINT CECILIA PARISH!



"Do not be afraid; you are worth more
than many sparrows."

— Matthew 10:31

PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased

Roger Dumont died on June 21. Pray for his eternal repose, as well as for the consolation of his family and friends. The funeral Mass will be held at Saint Cecilia at 11:30 on Friday, June 30. Prior to the funeral there will be a viewing in the church at 10:30. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Sick

Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially **Elizabeth Kennedy, Jeff Hommes, Anastaja Lee, Sue Ryan, Necee Regis, Tim Finn, Glenn Gallo, Carol Tebo, John Hosang, Mary Walters, Marc Pelletier, Ray Cronin, Rick Gaillardetz, Michele Maniscalco, Nick Hungerford, and Fred Tufts.**

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish

We are pleased to welcome the following newly-registered members of our parish: **Claire Jaeger** of Boston, **Johanna Essenwanger** of Tyler, Texas, the **Connolly-Spriggs Family** of Boston, and **Maria and Leonard Connolly** of Boston. If you have not previously registered you can do so online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Happy Anniversary!

In June, we celebrate the baptismal anniversary of **Pat Maguire**, who was baptized on June 24, and **Melon Regis-Civetta**, who was baptized on June 30. May the Lord continue to bless them with the grace to live out their baptismal call. Happy Feast Day, Pat and Melon!

Happy Summer!

Summer officially began last Wednesday at 10:57 a.m. This period around the June solstice is known as midsummer and Midsummer's Day is June 24—the Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. The Nativity of John the Baptist is one of the oldest festivals of the Christian church and long ago helped to Christianize the pagan summer solstice rites. Pray for a happy and safe summer for all the members of our community.

Thank You

Thanks to your generosity, we've collected **\$1,425** for Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) and the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) from last week's second collection. Thank you very much!

WELCOME TO THE STAFF!

TANYA RYBARCZYK
Pastoral Associate



Tanya Rybarczyk is a Catholic writer, speaker, teacher, and retreat leader specializing in adult faith formation, meditative Christian prayer, and spiritual caregiving. She most recently worked as the Director of Spiritual Care at two Massachusetts residential care facilities

and as a retreat team member at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in Connecticut. Tanya holds a master's degree in pastoral ministry from the University of Portland and is excited to join the staff at Saint Cecilia! Tanya finds it a joy to walk with parishioners through the RCIA process, lead Saint Cecilia CARES, and liaise with our vibrant parish ministries. Tanya lives with her husband in Waltham and is the mother of two college-aged children.

DANIEL LAMOUREUX
Vigil Organist



Daniel Lamoureux, a native of Chicago, is a Roman Catholic convert who went through the RCIA program at Boston's Paulist Center in 1983. Daniel received an undergraduate degree from Brown University and graduate degrees in organ from Syracuse University and

in harpsichord from the Conservatoire de Musique de Montréal. Now semi-retired, he continues as one of the pianists at the Symphony Café at Symphony Hall, Boston. Daniel was interim organist at Saint Cecilia in 2019 and became a parishioner at that time. He is delighted to return!

A REQUEST FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

For over 100 years, Sunset Point Camp has provided a dream vacation at the seashore to over 40,000 low-income, at-risk children aged 6-13 from Greater Boston without regard for their race, nationality, or religious affiliation. Nearly 450 city-based boys and girls travel to Hull, Massachusetts each summer for a one or two-week overnight camp experience that allows them to enjoy fresh air, learn new talents, receive academic summer support, and simply have fun! Sunset Point Camp is operated by our friends at Catholic Charities and they need donations of the following items for kids at the camp:

- **Sunblock (the higher the SPF the better!)**
- **Bug spray**
- **Flip flops (boys/girls ages 6-15)**
- **Underwear (boys/girls ages 6-15)**

The next time you're shopping or on Amazon.com, please consider picking up some of the above items and dropping them in the labeled plastic bins in the narthex. Thank you!



JOIN US AT COMMUNITY SERVINGS

Do you have some spare time and are you looking to make a difference in the lives of others? We have an upcoming opportunity for volunteers to assist in preparing and packaging free, nutritious meals for those who are homebound with life-threatening illnesses throughout the Commonwealth. **12 volunteers are needed on Monday, July 3 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please feel free to join us even if you can't be there until a bit later than 4:00 p.m.** No culinary skills are needed to make a difference, but volunteers need to be at least thirteen years of age and free of COVID and its symptoms. Community Servings is conveniently located next to the Stony Brook T Station in Jamaica Plain. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Mark Lippolt at mark.lippolt@gmail.com.



DONATIONS FOR DORCHESTER FOOD PANTRIES

With summer almost here, many of the families that have been faithful donors to our collection of food items for the Catholic Charities and Mary Ann Brett pantries will be away until September. We hope that you will consider participating in this important ministry during the summer months so that the volume of our donated food remains strong. The local economy might have improved for some of us, but the working poor and unemployed continue to face enormous economic challenges—especially in light of rising food prices. Saint Cecilia is committed to providing these items to the food pantries: Cheerios or cornflakes, peanut butter, white flour pasta and spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, canned tuna fish, canned chicken breast, cooking oil, and tomato sauce. While any canned or shelf-stable items are appreciated, it is particularly helpful when parishioners can help with the staples listed above. Unfortunately, we cannot accept donations of baked items or produce in the narthex.



RCIA WELCOME SESSION

Are you or is someone you know searching for a spiritual home? Are you interested in knowing more about what it means to be Catholic? Our “no strings” Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) inquiry group begins Tuesday, September 19 from 6:30–8:00 p.m. If you would like to explore Catholicism or if you were baptized in the Catholic Church but have not yet received Eucharist, we invite you to journey with us! For information contact Tanya Rybarczyk at trybarczyk@stceciliaboston.org, or at 617-536-4548 x117. We will gather for a welcome/information session on September 12, from 6:30–7:30 p.m. Join us to learn more!

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

Tuesday, June 27 | 7:00—8:00 p.m. In-person
Location: Saint Cecilia Church
Open to: Everyone

Join the Saint Cecilia Young Adults for an in-person evening of adoration and worship in the Saint Cecilia Church sanctuary. Please enter through the side entrance on St. Cecilia Street, and ring the bell to be let in. All are welcome!

HUNGER & HOMELESSNESS MINISTRY: DRIVERS NEEDED



Each weekend parishioners have the opportunity to pick up donated meat, dairy products, prepared foods, and produce from four local supermarkets and deliver it to either Catholic Charities' Haitian Multi-Service

Center in Dorchester or the Huntington Y's Families in Transition program. In addition, we deliver parish donations to two Dorchester pantries: the Mary Ann Brett Pantry and the Catholic Charities pantry at the Yawkey Center. This vital ministry takes place at 8:00 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday morning and on Sundays can be completed in time to attend or watch the 9:30 a.m. parish Mass. We need drivers for all the Saturdays and Sundays in June and July. Please email Mark.Lippolt@gmail.com if you would like more information about how you can help.

HEARING ASSISTANCE IN THE CHURCH

The church is equipped with an FM listening device. Small receivers are available for anyone who may have trouble hearing the sound system. Simply request a receiver from one of our greeters before Mass.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION EVENTS

SUMMER EVENTS AT BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY

THE 14th ANNUAL SAINT MARY OF MAGDALA CELEBRATION

This celebration of the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene begins with Mass and lunch, followed by a lecture.

Rereading Biblical Women

Presenter: Dr. Jaime L. Waters, Associate Professor of Old Testament, Boston College School of Theology and Ministry

Thursday, July 20, 2023 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

St. Ignatius Church and Heights Room, Corcoran Commons, Chestnut Hill Campus | Hybrid, attend in person (space is limited) or virtually | Registration Required | Free of charge

For further details or to register for this event, please check the STM Online: Continuing Education website: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education.html#tab-events_webinars

ONLINE COURSES

Liturgy Essentials

July 19 – August 22, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00

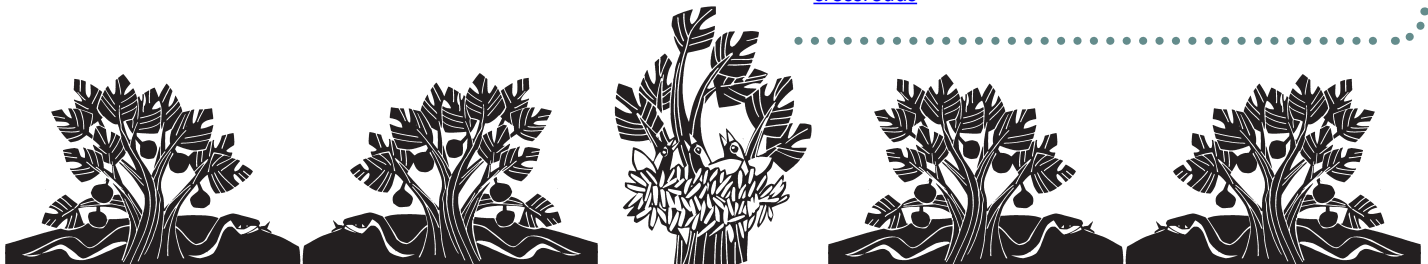
Teaching Religion to Adolescents

July 19 – August 22, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00

Teaching Religion to Children: Creative Strategies and Best Practices

July 19 – August 22, 2023 | 5-Week Online Course
Registration Required | \$60.00

For further details or to register for these events, please check the STM Online: Crossroads website: https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/schools/stm/continuing-education.html#tab-stm_online_crossroads





ASSEMBLY OF US CATHOLIC PRIESTS DISCUSSES CALLS FOR WOMEN'S ORDINATION

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

When her son Andrés, then 19, came home for a weekend visit after his first week living in the dormitory for first-year students at Loyola Marymount University visibly upset, Cecilia González-Andrieu was quick to find out what was bothering him.

"He started crying," González-Andrieu, now professor of theology and theological aesthetics at Loyola Marymount, told the audience of priests and laywomen gathered June 14 on the third day of the annual assembly of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests at the University of San Diego. " 'Mama,' " he told me, " 'it's so awful how the kids in my dorm make these terrible messes, they throw trash everywhere, they waste food.' "

Young Andrés was ecologically conscious, so obviously the waste was a concern, she thought.

"But surprisingly he continued, 'Someone has to clean up after them, and she's a nice lady, Mama, a little Latina señora.' His eyes red, he added, 'She looks like you. The other kids don't see her. She's not a person to them.' "

"My son was grieving the denial of human dignity to women workers because his own blood called to him, his sense of fairness called to him, and seeing me in them and them in me engendered compassion in him," González-Andrieu said.

Her son's experience can serve as a reminder of the need to truly see "*la realidad*"—the reality of life—of marginalized people, and women especially, as the Catholic Church continues its three-year journey exploring Pope Francis' invitation to synodality, she said.

Synodality, González-Andrieu explained, is meant to highlight the rich diversity of the voices and talents of the people of God. Her talk turned to the word "difference" and how through the diversity of people and cultures and animal and plant life "God's creation loves difference."

"As a church, we can make difference our super power. That's where synodality comes in. Synodality is the tool that

reveals the colorful variety of all that is and allows us to use those very colors to craft a new and hope-filled vision," González-Andrieu said.

Each person has gifts to bring to the church and González-Andrieu urged that the gift of women in particular be more widely welcomed within the church, including in ordained ministries.

As a woman, she lamented, she is ineligible for the diaconate or the priesthood. "As such, my genetic makeup, what is inscribed in my cells by biology, makes it so I am kept from preaching, or baptizing, or exercising an ordained ministry that is assured to others simply because of their genetic makeup.

"Is it possible that centuries of erroneous theories about who women are, of wrongheaded assumptions about women's abilities, and of power structures seeking to subjugate women, have resulted in a church that has effectively silenced the Holy Spirit? The difference of being a woman in a church that rejects our gifts and our calling causes me, and my sisters, a level of grief that is difficult to describe to others because it runs so deep."

In an act of synodality, leaders of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests, or AUSCP, in collaboration with Ellie Hildalgo and Casey Stanton, co-directors of the organization Discerning Deacons, welcomed 40 women serving in various ministries and leadership roles in parishes and the Diocese of San Diego chancery to hear González-Andrieu and participate in the table discussions that followed her address. Each person was asked to share why they were in ministry, the specific work they were doing and where they find the "fire to keep doing this work."

Clarisa Gomez, who has worked in pastoral ministry at The Immaculata Church on the USD campus, said she "felt truly called to the work that I do. It's joyful work, even at times it is frustrating. The challenge for me sometimes is to respond with love and not sometimes feel like Martha." In her role, she said she initially had not thought about the ordination of women, but that her feelings are beginning to change. "I

started asking myself why can't women be at the pulpit. For the first time I'm really thinking about why not. God is constantly creating. Priests can't do it all. Our expectations [of them] are getting in the way," she said.

Fr. Kwame Assenyoh, parochial administrator of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Livermore, California, in the Diocese of Oakland, called for parishes to implement some of the ideas presented in the listening sessions held in advance of the October 2023 and October 2024 Synods of Bishops, rather than waiting on the expected final report from Rome. "Practice precedes theology," he said. "We should not wait for Rome to come out with a big book before we start doing things."

Synodality Explored

The assembly explored the theme "Unity Through Synodality," hearing from speakers who addressed the historical context of synods throughout church history and the contrasts between acts of synodality in other countries and the U.S.

Massimo Faggioli, professor of theology and religious studies at Villanova University, explored efforts at synodality in Australia and Germany that began years prior to Francis' announcement of the current synodal process in 2021.

He said efforts by Australian prelates are notable for allowing widespread input into reforms in response to the clergy sexual abuse scandal. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference and Catholic Religious Australia established the Truth, Justice and Healing Council to shape the church's response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Headed by a layman who formerly served as secretary general of the Australian Medical Association, the church council is a "creative response" to the abuse crisis and the commission's recommendations, said Faggioli, who served as a consultant in its development.

In Germany, the Synodal Path, which launched in 2019 in response to the clergy abuse crisis, has led to widescale consultation between bishops and laypeople. Faggioli said the German Catholic Church is "comfortable" with the history of the Second Vatican Council and the long history of church councils and synods dating back centuries.

Such comfort is allowing German Catholics to explore reforms, he said. During a March meeting that is part of

the Synodal Path process a majority of bishops and laity agreed to call for the church to approve blessings of same-sex unions and approved asking Rome for the ordination of women deacons.

The actions in Germany are unlikely to occur elsewhere but indicate a willingness of a church entity that is "large, powerful and wealthy" to "put on paper and approve things that until a few years ago could get you fired as a theologian or bishop," Faggioli said. In contrast, the synodal process has been met with less openness in the U.S. and Faggioli pointed to the lack of significant consultation with theologians or the establishment of a national committee of lay Catholics as part of the American effort. The U.S. church remains under a "very strong episcopal leadership," limiting discussion on matters of concern to the wider church, he said.

"There is a mistrust of synodality, which in this country is a mix of clericalism and technocracy," he explained. "I believe technocrats should be more afraid of synodality than bishops are. It's not just about the bishops. Synodality is exactly the opposite of the theology of the market."

In another presentation, Brian Flanagan, whose tenure as associate professor of theology at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia, ended in June when the school reduced its liberal arts offerings, said the church has a long history of synodality, dating to the Council of Jerusalem in the first century.

Such councils have involved discussions that led to consensus on charting a path forward, he said, acknowledging that the same can be said of Francis' call to synodality today. "It is aiming at the idea that this is not a 51% to 49% parliamentary democracy. It's aiming at the idea that we should be getting to the point that we should agree enough to say how we agree and if we can't, then the commitment is to remain part of the conversation until we can," Flanagan told the assembly.

"It's a very hard way of doing church. It's a very challenging way, but it also might be the way we can actually make space for the Holy Spirit."

Table discussions followed the presentations, allowing priests and others in attendance to discuss what was said and describe their experiences with the synodal process in parishes, potential concerns and roadblocks to synodality in the U.S.

Despite widespread welcome of synodality, priests readily identified concerns about its future. They cited

efforts among some diocesan bishops to downplay its effectiveness, to limit participation in listening sessions or to diminish ideas that emerged in conversations regarding liturgy, ministry, management and the role of laity, particularly women, within the church.

Still, priests widely acknowledged the synodal process stems from Vatican II and said synodality can bring about the full realization of the council's conclusions in the years ahead. They have used the listening sessions to begin strategic and pastoral planning initiatives with laypeople as collaborators.

"Synodality is not just keeping [the council] alive but growing it. Synodality is a continuation of the moving forward of the spirit of God in the church," said Fr. Bob Nee, a retired Archdiocese of Boston priest.

In a nod to critics of the synodal process, Fr. John Grace, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Hampton, Virginia, described the plan laid out by the pope as "something that is not new and gimmicky but rather we are tapping into a much deeper sense of being the body of Christ."

"We can no longer think in terms of 'my' ministry. We have to think collectively especially in a new generation who will not even engage with the church," he said.

However, Fr. John Judie, a retired priest in the Archdiocese of Louisville, Kentucky, expressed concern that people who feel hurt by the church, including African Americans, are not going to fully trust the synodal process. He called for stronger efforts to heal the wounds of those who "are not receiving the healing they need."

"Jesus was always going to people who were hurting. But he spent his time with the people no one else would deal with. He did something to give them healing, and restoration and a sense of hope in society," said Judie, who is leading an AUSCP effort to address racism.

Calls to Conversion

During a vesper service to open the assembly June 12, Cardinal Robert McElroy of San Diego styled the steps toward wider collaboration and participation in the church among the faithful as "calls to conversion."

"God is saying to us a rebirth is possible to become more like the church we are called to be, a church rooted in the word of God, discernment of the Holy Spirit and the Eucharist, and participation and collaboration and witness

in missionary outreach and inclusion. And as God calls us to be this church in these coming months, let us have a sense of genuine hope for what the possibilities are," McElroy said.

He described the church's role of being pastoral in its ministry as central to the pope's focus on synodality. "I think he says to us this is the centerpiece of the life of the church. Sometimes people will contrast and say, 'Well, doctrine comes first.' Doctrine is in service to the pastoral service of the church. It cannot be erected in opposition to it or without reference to it without being more deeply and profoundly in the pastoral mission of the church," McElroy said to applause. "The mission of the church is to preach the Gospel, to inspire people to aspire to the values of the Gospel, and to understand the hearts and souls of those who suffer," he added.

In a formal action, the priests' assembly approved a statement calling on the U.S. bishops "to offer fraternal, pastoral affirmation of their gay priests and their ministry."

The statement asks the bishops "to admit all candidates for seminary formation and priesthood according to the same criteria: a mature and balanced personality, capable of establishing sound human and pastoral relationships, a full working knowledge in theology and the living tradition of the Church, a solid spiritual life, and a love for the Church."

The AUSCP also called on the bishops to publicly call for continuing development of church teaching on human sexuality, drawing from work in the human and social sciences, biblical scholars and theologians and in conversation with LGBTQ people.

The priests' group encouraged the bishops to provide gay priests with "a safe environment to be who they know themselves to be" and to accept that "the issue is sexual maturity and integration, not sexual orientation." While acknowledging the number of faithfully serving gay priests in the U.S. is "unknown but significant," the statement concluded that they have "unjustly suffered from the formal ecclesial situation in which they find themselves." Finally, the statement said, gay priests share the struggle alongside other LGBTQ people with teachings that describe homosexuality as "objectively disordered." Acknowledging that the church calls LGBTQ people to chastity, priests have publicly promised to remain chaste, the statement said.

~ Dennis Sadowski is a freelance writer in Avon, Ohio, and has worked in the Catholic press for more than 24 years.

PARISH RESOURCES

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Schedule for Liturgy

Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.

Lord's Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30*, 11:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Holy Days | 8:00 a.m.

* Please note that the 9:30 Mass is both in person and livestreamed.

Baptism for Infants

Infant baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office.

Faith Formation for Children

To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact our Children's Faith Formation Coordinator, Olivia Hastie, at ohastie@stceciliaboston.org.

Marriage

Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the Parish Office at least six months in advance.

Order of Christian Funerals

The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and confirmation.

Care of the Sick

To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the Parish Office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team

The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God's Children program (VIR-TUS). They also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com), Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.com), or Erin Young (erin.t.young@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full text of the policy is also available in the narthex and Parish Office, as well as on our website.

For Those with Celiac Disease

If you have celiac disease, please let us know. We have a supply of low-gluten altar bread available for those who cannot tolerate gluten.

Hearing Assistance in Church

The church is equipped with an assistive listening system. If you would like to use one of the small receivers, please ask one of our greeters.

Building Accessibility

Both the church and Parish Hall Center are accessible by elevator.

Parking

There is discounted parking at The Hynes Auditorium Garage (located at 50 Dalton Street next to Bukowski's Tavern), for \$13, available on Sundays until 3:00 p.m., and \$13 after 4:00 every day of the week. To take advantage of this discount, ask a greeter for a chaser ticket at Mass or ask a staff person during the week. Chaser tickets must be used at the machine at the exit gate. To obtain the discount, place the ticket you received upon entering the garage into the machine, then follow it with the chaser ticket.

Joining Our Community

We're happy that you're with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston, but also have long distance parishioners from around the country and around the world. If you are local, please introduce yourself to a staff member or drop in for coffee on Sunday. We invite both local and long distance individuals and families to fill out a new parishioner form on our website. No matter what your background or location, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.