

A Grace Note from the Rector
September 14, 2023

Dear Ones,

Yesterday, I was at Waycross with the clergy of the Diocese for our annual Holy Cross Day gathering with Bishop Jennifer, newly returned, and with stories, from her sabbatical. It was a beautiful day, with time to sing, pray, and reconnect.

Grace made headlines in yesterday's Diocesan News! Check out this link. Go, Grace!
https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Diocese-of-Indianapolis-General-News--September-13--2023.html?soid=1113914586377&aid=i_GnFYxDSM4

Thanks to those folks who volunteered to help me be the face of Grace at the **Old Washington Street Festival**. Come on down and enjoy the Festival. Make sure to stop by Grace between 12-5 on Saturday, and **invite someone you know** to see our beautiful space.

Next Wednesday, **September 20**, *The League of Women Voters* will hold a **Forum** for At-Large City Council, City Clerk, City Court Judge candidates at 7pm at Muncie Central High School Auditorium. The forum will be moderated by Dr. Chad Kinsella. (See the flyer in the Parish Hall.)

Our neighbors at First Baptist Church (309 E. Adams Street) are inviting us to an Open House on **Saturday, September 23** from 11-3. (See the flyer in the Parish Hall.)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP

Lucinda Rarick has expressed interest in forming an Intercessory Prayer Group. Many of us have a practice of praying for others individually, but it can also be a group practice. In some ways, we all do this every Sunday when we lift up the people and organizations listed in the service bulletin. Do you have an interest in praying in some way on a daily basis as a group? At this point, there is no structure. Perhaps there could be a set time every day, each person praying in their own home, with an occasional meeting at Coffee Hour to share their experiences. If this interests you, please contact Lucinda at lucindararick@sbcglobal.net or me. Thank you.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Becky Byrum (September 15)

Laura Kirby (September 17) *now in Kentucky*

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A BETTER WAY – SEPTEMBER NEEDS

Hygiene Items – deodorant, shampoo, hair conditioner, children's toothpaste, and hair brushes. They are in desperate need of coffee/tea mugs. They have 13 women and 12 children in their care. Thank You for your ongoing support!

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES ~ ONGOING NEEDS

Food Pantry: Canned fruit, meats, and soup, crackers, cereal, pasta & pasta sauce, mac & cheese. **Personal Care Items:** Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dish soap, laundry detergent, toilet paper, lg/med diapers, towels, washcloths, blankets.

Today is HOLY CROSS DAY

This feast originally commemorated the day when Helena (d. 330 CE), the mother of the Emperor Constantine, was believed to have found the True Cross. She astonished the inhabitants of Jerusalem by searching the refuse pile that Golgotha had become. Unearthing this discarded sign of shame, the Church exalted it as the greatest treasure on earth. Since that time, this festival has become a day when any of us can again find the cross, still a discarded sign of shame, and find in it the greatest treasure and the source of grace.

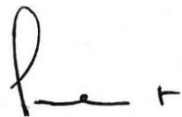
Writing to the Galatians, St. Paul said, “May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Gal 6:14). As our friend Malcolm Guite writes in *The Word in the Wilderness*, “In a daring and beautiful creative reversal, God takes the worst we can do to him and turns it into the very best he can do for us.”

In the late 6th century another poet, Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, wrote a poem about the Holy Cross, one we still sing in the Good Friday liturgy, *Pange lingua gloriosi proelium certaminis* (Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle). You can find it in the Hymnal 1982 at #165. The poem was written in honour of a large piece of the True Cross, which had been sent from the Byzantine Emperor to the King of the Franks. Our joy in the Cross need not be restricted to Good Friday. We can remember the glory of what was accomplished for us on the Cross every day. My two favorite verses from Fortunatus are these...

*Faithful cross! above all other, one and only noble tree!
None in foliage, none in blossom, none in fruit thy peer may be:
sweetest wood and sweetest iron! Sweetest weight is hung on thee.*

*Bend thy boughs, O tree of glory! Thy relaxing sinews bend;
for awhile the ancient rigor that thy birth bestowed, suspend;
and the King of heav'nly beauty gently on thine arms extend.*

God bless you in these days,



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