

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-4530387 ---- 01-5611390



12 March 2017

POPE SIGNALS OPENESS TO ORDAINING MARRIED MEN



In a new interview with a German newspaper, Pope Francis addresses the issue of married priests, saying simply making celibacy optional is 'not a solution' but signaling openness to the idea of ordaining the 'viri probati,' or tested married men.

Pope Francis has expressed openness to a renewed consideration of married priests in the Catholic Church, especially the possibility of ordaining the so-called viri probati, meaning

tested married men, who could be called into clerical service.

"Then we have to consider what tasks they could perform, for instance in isolated communities," the pontiff said.

While the question put to Francis specifically referred to ordaining viri probati as deacons, many theologians and some bishops have also suggested they could be considered for priestly service.

The pope's comments came in a new interview with the German newspaper Die Zeit, excerpts from which were published on Wednesday, with the full version set to appear on Thursday.

At the same time, Francis appeared to rule out simply making priestly celibacy optional, saying that approach "is not a solution."

Calling diminishing vocations to the priesthood an "enormous problem," Francis said the first response must be prayer, coupled with a more intense focus on "working with young people who are seeking orientation."

A lack of priests, Francis said, weakens the Church "because a Church without the Eucharist doesn't have strength - the Church makes the Eucharist, but the Eucharist also makes the Church."

Francis called for the question to be faced in the Church "fearlessly."

"Fears close doors, freedom opens them, and even when [the space for] liberty is small, it opens a window," he said.

At present, most Catholic priests are expected to remain celibate, although Catholicism does include 23 Eastern churches in full communion with Rome whose clergy are allowed to marry. In the United States, there are also a few hundred former Protestant ministers who've entered the Catholic Church as married men and permitted to remain married after being ordained as Catholic priests.

In April 2014, a Brazilian bishop said he and Pope Francis had discussed the idea of ordaining the viri probati in a private conversation and the pontiff appeared open to the idea, suggesting it's up to bishops' conferences to make proposals along those lines.

Last November, Francis crossed Rome to meet with a community of seven families, all led by men who had left the priesthood to become married. There had been speculation that Francis might choose to devote the next Synod of Bishops in 2018 to the topic of married priests, but instead the focus of that gathering will be on youth, faith and vocational discernment.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Master would often say that Silence alone brought transformation. But no one could get him to define what Silence was. When asked he would laugh, then hold his finger up against his tightened lips - which only increased the bewilderment of his disciples. One day there was a breakthrough when someone asked, "And how is one to arrive at this Silence that you speak of?" The Master said something so simple that his disciples studied his face for a sign that he might be joking. He wasn't. He said, "Wherever you may be, look where there is apparently nothing to see; listen when all is seemingly quiet."

From 'One Minute Wisdom' by Anthony de Mello

NOTICES

Money Matters

Sunday 05 March 2017

Thank you for your contributions.

1st Collection: p220

2nd Collection: p270

Accord: p45

Family Offering: p781



Remembered at Mass

Sat 6pm: Bob & Bernie Richardson, Patrick Brennan, Margaret and Terence Doyle, Madge Nutley, Harry Nolan, Sean, Florrie, Annie, Terry, Tony and Kathleen and Kay Doyle.

Sun 11.30: Patrick O'Reilly 21st anniversary, Deceased members of the O'Sullivan Family.



Support Meeting

Anam Cara, the organisation that supports bereaved parents, is holding its next monthly Parent Evening on Monday 13th of March from 19:30 - 21:00pm in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin 24 (please note change of venue). This event is open to all bereaved parents regardless of the age your child died, the circumstances of their death, or whether the death was recent or not. Email: c.dingle@anamcara.ie or www.anamcara.ie



Novena of Grace

Harold's Cross: Please join in the Novena of Grace on 4th - 12th March at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Harold's Cross. Monday-Friday: 10.00am, Saturday: 11.30am, Sunday: 12.00pm. All welcome.



Gregorian Chant for Lent

Join us for an afternoon in chant on the 18th March in Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Mourne Road, those who think they might be interested or those willing to give it a go. The pieces will be sung at Vigil Mass at 6.30pm and at

Night Prayer directly afterwards: we will sing Attende Domin - Lenten Prose, Parce Domine Ave Regina Caelorum, Mass XVII (Kyrie, Sanctus and Agnus Dei) Registration will be at 2.45pm - 3.00-6.00pm (with a coffee break) and 6.30pm Vigil Mass follow by night prayer - cost is €10. email: mourneroadparish@eircom.net or call or text 086 6838784.



Bluebell Parish

The Oblate Gospel Choir and Friends, directed by Nicola White, presents an evening of inspirational sounds and dance with Parish choirs and guest musicians - on Wednesday, 8th March 2017 at 7.45 p.m. in Our Lady of the Wayside Parish Church Bluebell, Dublin 12. Ticket Prices: Adult - €10.00 and Senior Citizen €8.00 / Student and Child - €6.00 / Family - (2 adults and two children) €26.00 All money raised goes to Motor Neurone Research. Tickets available at the door.



Warrenmount Primary School

Are hosting an Open Visit to the school which takes place on Thursday 23rd March from 9.30 am to 10.30 am. All are most welcome to drop in

ALSO

School Places for September 2017

Enrolling now ..
Presentation Primary School ,Warrenmount, Blackpitts, Dublin 8.
Tel: 01 4539547
Please phone for further information or call in for a visit.
Boys 4- 7 years
Girls 4-12 years



Volunteer in Africa



Humanitarian Volunteers are looking for volunteers to travel to Kenya on 15 June 2017.

The volunteers will work on a humanitarian project for two

weeks. No experience required and no age restrictions. Support and Supervision provided.

Volunteers will also visit the resting place of the Venerable Edel Quinn.

No large fundraising. Volunteers will pay their own costs.

If you can assist teaching English, or assist with sports, games, arts, crafts or more, then you can make a real impact on the lives of the poorest and those without hope.

Contact:

Denis

Humanitarian

Volunteerd

on

086 8520271



SUNDAY LITURGY 2ND SUNDAY LENT

First Reading Genesis 12:1-4

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing. 'I will bless those who bless you: I will curse those who slight you. All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you.' So Abram went as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 32

Response: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. R/
2. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. R/
3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield,
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. R/



GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this the disciples fell on their faces overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. "Tell no one about this vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ