



My Dear Parishioners,

As we enter the month of May, the month of flowers and mothers, we find a similar parallel in the Church. For May is the month of our Blessed Mother and the flowering can be seen in the Ordinations that happen this month as men become priests and deacons.

This Saturday at 10AM, our own Ryan Nguyen and Andrew Auletta, will be ordained deacons at the Cathedral Basilica in Philadelphia. I encourage you to watch the Ordination on the Archdiocese website. In addition, this year marks the Anniversaries for our priests: Father McCabe is celebrating 50 years; Fr. Sharrett 56 years; Fr. Andres 28 years and for me it is 21 years of priesthood. That's a lot of years and by the grace of God, a lot of fruitfulness or flowering which is a bit ironic. It's ironic that such great fruitfulness flows from chaste celibacy, yet by the grace of God it does! We have only to consider the life of Mother Theresa, she had no children yet the whole world knew her as "Mother"! Or how about Jesus, Himself, he too was celibate, yet how fruitful his life, his love. In a world where love can be quite sterile, there is something to be considered about faithful, fruitful chaste love, even chaste celibate love for the sake of the Kingdom.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the CHASTITY AS A VOCATION. And people in all states of life are called to this way of living. For the Christian, that call to be chaste is a duty. It's one of the criteria upon which we will be judged. So what is chastity? **Chastity is the successful integration of sexuality within a person.** Sexuality becomes personal and truly human when it is integrated into the relationship of one person to another, in the complete lifelong mutual gift of a man and woman.

Examples of unchaste behavior are pretty clear: masturbation, fornication, pornography, prostitution, rape. Engaging in genital sexual activity outside of marriage. All unchastity is fueled by lust and lust is disordered desire or inordinate enjoyment of sexual pleasure. In a nutshell, whenever sexual pleasure is sought for itself, isolated from the procreative and unitive purposes of love, it is disordered.

While examples of unchaste living are abundant, what does chaste living look like? Well, in describing that, the Catechism uses words like apprenticeship, temperance, long and exacting work. Grace, virtue, friendship and communion. Chastity is something that needs to be cultivated, learned and desired so as to flower and bear fruit.

We have great power to cultivate chastity in the way that is suited to our state of life. Whether that is through virginity, consecrated celibacy or married love, chastity provides the growth and fruitfulness in which and for which we have been made. All the baptized are called to live chastity for the Christian has put on Christ. Let us then, love others as Christ, with respect, mutual love and in in friendship.

As we begin May, let us embrace chastity.

Peace, Fr. Rogers



CONGRATULATIONS TO
DEACON RYAN NGYUEN
AND
DEACON ANDREW AULETTA!

