

The Rights of Human Beings

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

-Declaration of Independence-

In the last days of its recent session, the Supreme Court of the United States, citing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA), ruled in the matter of *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores* that “closely held corporations”—like Hobby Lobby and the other plaintiffs—possessed rights, by virtue of their owners, that prevented the government from imposing upon them a requirement that “substantially burdens their exercise of religion.” Juxtaposed to the recent debates about the court’s decision in *Citizens United*, which seemed to many to grant corporations rights to freedom of speech, this latest decision causes some concern among many people who see rights as the unique purview of natural persons.

Even if one opposes the contraceptive methods which are the source of the Hobby Lobby case—believing they are not contraceptive at all but the cause of early term abortion—one may well question the wisdom of attributing to corporations a right to the free exercise of religion. Corporations, which cannot bear the fundamental burdens and responsibilities of citizens, are legal fictions created to protect individuals from liability and risk, so as to encourage investment and economic development. So it is that a corporation such as Hobby Lobby, through its board or other governing structure, determines investments, pays its employees, contributes to their health care, etc., while the owners are shielded from personal liability in the functioning of the corporation. What “rights” such entities have are determined by the legislature, and, historically, were not seen as intrinsic. In attaching the rights of the owners, as individuals, to the corporation, as a legal entity, many wonder if we are not on the way to giving to those who own corporations a double-dose of rights, and thereby placing their rights over and above the rights of employees and ordinary citizens. Such actions seem to many to betray a misconception about the nature and source of our rights; which, as Americans, we believe emerge from nature, and which, as Christians, we believe are rooted in our divine communion with God.

To see better the debate on corporate rights, we should examine the notion of rights, themselves. For some, rights are simply legal protections, granted by naturally free individuals for the purpose of securing one’s own self-interest. John Locke, in whose theories many see the origin of the American view on rights, believed that, in the state of nature, individuals were all at war with one another; and each gave up some of his or her natural liberty in order to maintain adequate security. Thus, certain rights are “unalienable” not because they are intrinsic to human beings, but because they are necessary conditions for people to pursue their personal interests: e.g., we both have a right to life, because if we are trying to kill each other, we can’t do what we want; we both have a right

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 6, 2014

Homily Next Week:
Father John D. Whitney, S.J.

Readings for July 13, 2014
FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:10-11
SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:18-23
GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:1-23

Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday - 5 pm
Sunday - 9:30 am & 5:30 pm

Weekday Mass Schedule
Monday - Friday, 7 am, Parish Center

Reconciliation
Saturday - 3:30-4:15 pm in the Church
or by appointment

Parish Center Hours
Monday-Thursday - 8 am - 4:30 pm
Friday - 8 am - 3 pm
Saturday - 9 am - 1 pm
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Yuri Kondratyuk, Facilities x110

St. Joseph School

Main Office x210
Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218

to liberty, because I don't want you telling me what to do, so I agree not to tell you what to do; we have a right to pursue happiness, because it's in our mutual interest to protect each other in doing so. And while governments are instituted to maintain this fundamental balance between naturally warring parties, the essentially contractual nature of rights does not end with government. Thus, I support a legal structure for the "right" to free speech because it is in my best interest, in the long run: either because I might have a minority opinion at some point, or because I can profit from the interaction that produces better solutions to society's problems. But, I may give up this right (for myself or others) if I judge security to be more important than free speech. In such a situation, rights are not inherent in the individual, but are granted—e.g., by the majority (when all are equal), or by the ruling class (when they are not)—because it seems prudent for the parties. All rights are thus contingent on the perceived needs of the group.

This, of course, radically oversimplifies a complex group of theories; but it also suggests why the United States has been better at securing "negative rights" (the right not to be hindered in something, e.g., ownership of guns) than it has been in providing "positive rights" (the right to have something, e.g., health care). Further, it illustrates why many traditional conservatives or libertarians worry about granting the rights of citizens to corporate structures, since it means that the owners are somehow given disproportionate power, and the rights of those with wealth supersede the rights of those without.

For Catholics, however, whose grounding of human rights is quite different than it is for libertarians such as Locke, there is an even more profound objection to the notion of corporations having rights.

In the tradition of the Church, rights are not the product of a contract between naturally warring parties. Rather, human beings have a purpose, a reason-for-being defined by God, a *telos* (to use Aristotle's term). This spark of God given in our creation, draws us forward, and when we are discerning well, moves us to exercise virtues that are universal—virtues such as courage and friendship, generosity and compassion, loyalty and trust, humility and magnanimity—which form, within a community, the essence of true human happiness. In such a model, fundamental rights are not granted by the state nor by the majority, but by God, who has made us to shine with the Divine image and likeness by becoming what we can be—by living towards our *telos*, insofar as our human powers and situation allow us. Human beings have a *right* to pursue the good life of communion and justice; indeed, we have a duty to do so.

Called, in the nature given us by God, to be good and to

do good in the world, we, thus, have the inherent right to that which can reasonably be provided to help us fulfill our call. For this very reason, Catholicism has long supported both negative rights, such as personal liberty, and positive rights, such as basic health care, for all people of the earth. ***The question, for Catholics, is not if people have these rights, but how best to secure them.***

In this view, organizations—governments, corporations, etc.—exist as means to the end of human flourishing, without intrinsic value. To ascribe to a corporation the basic rights of a human being, therefore, is not just mistake, but a type of idolatry: putting a fiction of our own making on an equal status with a human being whose end is ordered by God; and then giving that fictional entity the authority to make moral decisions on behalf of natural persons. Though certainly not the intent of the Court, we do well to ask ourselves if the ultimate effect of decisions such as *Hobby Lobby* and *Citizens United* is to do more than grant disproportionate rights to the owners of corporations, but also to eradicate the distinction which raises the human person above a merely legal creation.

This weekend, we celebrate the beginning of that great experiment in liberty known as the United States of America. As Catholics and citizens, we should pray with gratitude for all that has been done to allow "the pursuit of happiness" through this nation—and dedicate ourselves to all that has yet to be accomplished. Understanding our rights, and understanding how best to secure them for all is part of our duty, part of our call, part of our mission in this nation, and in this Church.



Annual Catholic Appeal

If you've already made a gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal—either directly to the Archdiocese, or to the Parish in lieu of a gift of the Archdiocese, **THANK YOU!**

If you haven't done so already, please prayerfully consider a gift to the ACA.

Archdiocesan Goal \$153,391

Total raised so far\$118,073

Percent of goal reached77%

As always, please don't hesitate to contact Tina O'Brien, our Pastoral Assistant for Stewardship & Development. If you have any question whatsoever, Tina can be reached at stewardship@stjosephparish.org or 206.965.1654



Prayer

St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For Chris Miller in his recovery . . . For those who are travelling, may their journey be safe . . . For Lauren and Anthony's weekend wedding, may the weather cooperate in the mid-West . . . For elderly relatives who are becoming forgetful, may we show patience.



***"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened,
And I will give you rest."***

~Matthew 11:28

If you have petitions you would like included in the prayer tree, including birth announcements, illnesses and deaths, please call the parish office at 206-324-2522 ext 100 or email rleet@stjosephparish.org

Sacred Silence

A time for silent prayer and peace

The Sacred Silence prayer group gathers on Monday nights at 7 pm in the Church for an hour of silent prayer. Newcomers always welcome. Open to all types of prayer practice. People are encouraged to use whatever silent prayer practice works best for them whether it is centering prayer, Ignatian imagination or another prayer. Time is spent both sitting and walking in silence.

For information on Sacred Silence and silent prayer contact Jim Hoover at jhoover3law@questoffice.net or 206-286-0313.



Summer Ignatian Retreat: "A Pilgrimage of the Heart"

2:00 pm Friday, July 25 – 2:00 pm Sunday, July 27
Palisades Retreat Center, Federal Way
Retreat Presenters: Fr. Jerry Cobb, S.J. and Jennifer Kelly (with Fr. Jack O'Leary, S.J. supporting)

Take the time this summer to rest, renew your soul, and soak in silence on the shores of Puget Sound with this rich and meaningful 3-day Summer Silent Ignatian Retreat at the beautiful Palisades Retreat Center in Federal Way. Register online by Wednesday, July 9, 2014.

Questions? Contact Andrea Fontana (andrea@ignatian-center.org, 206.329.4824). Sponsored by the Ignatian Spirituality Center.

***A few spots still available,
be sure to register soon to claim yours!***

Prayer Opportunity

From now through the summer, the south doors of the church will remain open until 7:30 pm each day for personal prayer. Come in and sit and pray for a while!

Good Samaritan Housing Needed

My cherry farmer friend from Naches needs a room in Seattle for the summer, mid July through August. Her son and other hired workers will sell cherries at our local farmers markets while she organizes the business. Having just recovered from a fall, she is unable to do the heavy work at farmers markets, but she is quite able to do the desk work. She requires no help in walking or caring for herself, she only needs housing.

Please call Sister Rosemary Dobler at 206.322.1473 and/or Mary Kay Razey (the farmer who needs the room) at 206.910.3244 for questions or details. Thank you!

You cannot love God without loving your brothers, you cannot love God outside of the Church; you cannot be in communion with God without being so in the Church, and we cannot be good Christians if we are not together with those who seek to follow the Lord Jesus, as one single people, one single body, and this is the Church.

~Pope Francis



Community

Gay and Catholic?

The St. Joseph LGBT Ministry is seeking nominees to serve on its steering committee to help discern direction, set goals, and plan social and spiritual events. Through this ministry LGBT Catholics work together to build community among gay Catholics within the parish and beyond, to ensure all people find St. Joe's a welcoming place to nourish their souls. If you are interested in serving, or want to nominate someone, please contact Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org

Volunteers Needed:

St. Martin De Porres Shelter

Our 2nd Saturday Team needs 1-2 volunteers to make 20-25 sandwiches once a month as well as needing 2-3 people to serve the meal from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. To help please email Martha Read at martharead@aol.com or call Deacon Steve at 206-965-1646



St. Joseph Women's Ministry

St. Joseph's Women's Ministry Group invites you to join us for "Coffee Connect" Saturday, July 19th from 10 am-11am at Starbucks on 4000 E Madison. Contact Sheila Sifferman Marie

206.251.7035 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Lost & Found

A woman's watch was found in the Parish Center. Please call Renee at 324-2522 ext. 100.

St. Vincent de Paul

Our St. Vincent de Paul collection Sunday this week comes on Fourth of July weekend, a time when we celebrate our Declaration of Independence as a nation. "That all men are created equal" states this hallowed document. True—in the eyes of God. But we don't all start out in life as equals.

Some of us are blessed with special talents. Some of us are born to plenty, or enough to enjoy life. And some begin life in poverty and circumstances that militate against "success" as the world has it. It is here that with your help we Vincentians come in. For it is your donations that enable us to provide food, rent support, payments for overdue utility bills, clothing, a bed, perhaps a table and chairs, that people who struggle may need.

We visit them in their homes—some no larger than one room—and listen to their stories. By far most want to achieve that sense of personal independence that our ancestors sought when they declared their independence 238 years ago. Many whom we visit are the working poor, holding down low-paying jobs that simply do not yield enough pay to cover the basics of life. Your support for the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, whether it's in money or usable items to our stores, makes a real difference in these people's lives.

This is worth celebrating this July 4th weekend.

Summer Mass Times

Please note that we will change to one Mass on Sunday mornings for the summer. Mass will be held at 9:30 am from June 22 to August 31.





Social Ministry

GOOD NEWS PEOPLE

Faith, Hope, and Love in Action

The Good News People program is an engaging parish-wide, small group, community-building process. On this journey you are invited to pray, reflect, learn, discuss and grow into a deeper understanding of what it means to live as a disciple in today's world.

Each session includes prayer, reflection on sacred scripture, inspiring stories of "Good News" people, focus on a virtue of the week and woven through it all, opportunities for sharing in dialogue.

Goals of the Program:

1. To engage participants in their Catholic FAITH as they share in prayer, reading of Sacred Scripture, spiritual practices and dialogue;
2. To communicate HOPE as participants explore the possibilities that a faithful commitment to the gospel call to be "good news to the poor" can bring;
3. To open hearts to a greater LOVE by encountering the biblical witness of Jesus in the Gospels and that of everyday people who have chosen the path of love as they respond to Luke 4:18-19.

Meet other parishioners and experience a greater sense of purpose and belonging. Groups can be formed in a variety of ways. Gather your friends, form a group and sign up today!

Become a Good News Parish!

- Explore and present the heart of the Catholic Church's teaching, experience and witness in response to the gospel call to love God and love our neighbor.
- Tap into and unleash the hope, power and possibilities found in a faithful commitment to be "*good news to the poor*" (Luke 4:18).
- Empower the parish to be a sign of God's hope-filled presence and activity in the world.

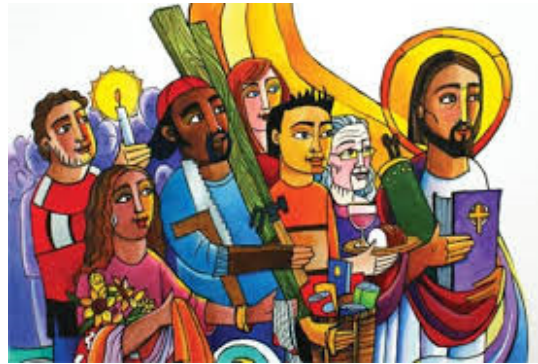
The Good News People Program includes:

- Fourteen 2-hour small group sessions (7 sessions beginning in the fall and 7 sessions continuing in the winter);

- Parish-wide program Kick-off and Closing Celebration;
- Immersion Experience and follow-up;
- A companion DVD filmed by an award-winning film maker;
- A session-by-session Reader and Journal with reading material, reflections, and space for journaling.

DEEPER FAITH + LOVE IN ACTION = GOODNEWSPEOPLE

Right now we are recruiting Facilitators and Hosts. If you are interested, please contact Deacon Steve Wodzanski at 206-965-1646 or stevew@stjosephparish.org or Vince Herberholt at vherberholt3@comcast.net



Volunteer Opportunity: Prison Ministry at Monroe

Can't remember the last time you visited someone in jail? You have (at least) two options:

1. Are you willing to jump through some minor bureaucratic hoops for Jesus? Are you willing to follow this up by semi-regularly enduring atrocious evening Seattle traffic to Monroe Prison with other St Joseph parishioners? If so, you are a candidate for Prison Ministry.
2. Are you a chess nerd? Have you been wondering how to use your domination of the 64 squares for the glory of God? Are you willing to engage in the near-eternal torture of correspondence chess with prisoners of the state? If so, you are a candidate for a potential Chess Prison Ministry.

If either of the above describes you, please contact Stuart Rowe: stu.c.rowe@gmail.com; 206-321-0286. **Very important to pursue prior to July 15th due to the prison training schedule.**

St. Joseph Young Adult Events



st. joseph young adult community

Summer 2014 BBQ

sunday, july 13 | after 5:30pm Mass

July 13th Young Adult Social

Come celebrate summer in Seattle with other young adults (20s & 30s) on the lawn after the 5:30 mass on Sunday, July 13 for grilling, lawn games, and fun! Burgers, veggie burgers, brats, hot dogs, potato salad, ice cream sandwiches for all! Bring beverage of choice and side dish (salad, fruit, veggies) to share. Suggested donation: \$10. If you want to help with set-up, serving or clean-up and to RSVP email youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org

St. Joseph's Young Adult Hike

INCLUDING MASS WITH FR. GLEN!

SUNDAY JULY 27th

2:00pm - 8:00pm

(Ages 21-35)

The Hike: Coal Creek Trail Located at Coal Creek (#COUGAR-N1) in our own Issaquah Alps. Round-trip the hike is 6.0 miles with an elevation gain of 550 ft and the highest point at 600 ft. This is a low impact, fun, dirt/gravel trail. Carpool from St. Joseph's Parking lot. The hike will included Sunday mass lead by Father Glen! It is about a thirty minute drive and the trail is a mile off I-405. The Coal Creek Trail has a pull-in gravel parking lot. There is no fee or cost to hike, a recommend donation of \$5 per car. Please bring a water bottle. Depending on the weather bring sunscreen or rain gear, we will do the hike rain or shine. After finishing the hike and returning to the city, anyone in the mood can gather for dinner at Olympic Pizza. For details or to sign-up email youngadultcommunity@stjosephparish.org For more information about Coal Creek Tail visit: <http://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/coal-creek>