**July Chaplain’s Report**

***No Vacation from your Vocation!***

In the seminary, one of our more concerned formators would often remind us as we left for summer break, ***“Gentlemen, there is no vacation from your vocation!”*** I always thought it a rather cheese-y way of reminding us to keep up our spiritual exercises while away for the summer months but as time goes on I see the deeper wisdom in such a warning not only for men in the seminary but every Christian man.

We read in St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians: ***“So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.”[[1]](#footnote-1)*** Every moment of our lives is an opportunity to giving praise and glory to God not only those moments where we are explicitly doing ***“religious things”***: attending mass, praying etc. It’s a good thing from time to time to consider how well we make use of the leisure time afforded us from time to time and especially on vacation during these long summer months.

In *Leisure: The Basis of Culture* by the German Philosopher Josef Pieper[[2]](#footnote-2) we find a consideration of the real value of the carefree free time for which we long. Pieper argues in the book that in a world of *total work,* where things are good/bad in terms of their usefulness, leisure is seen as idleness or laziness, a “necessary evil.” Rest is seen as a break in the action solely for the purpose of returning to work again with new vigor. But is that all that leisure and rest are?

One begins to see the real purpose of leisure or rest only when examined in light of their proper end. The real basis of leisure is divine worship – a time set aside for the praise of the God. It’s no wonder then why the word “holiday” descends from its root meaning a “holy day.” Leisure in this light is something above and beyond man’s purposes and employment.

That understanding applies not only to our long vacation but even the moments of free time we have throughout the average day or week. In the Opening Prayer, or Collect, for mass just this past Sunday we asked that God might ***“give all who for the faith they profess are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and strive after all that does it honor.”[[3]](#footnote-3)***:

A simple examination of our leisure can help us discern whether or not our leisure time ***strives after*** what give honor and praise to God or deserves to be ***rejected***. I recently attended a musical with some friends and this consideration came to mind. The subject matter of this musical involved a number of things antithetical to a Christian conscience, things that only a few years ago I might have turned a blind eye to or laughed off. Such things I see now very differently and hope to be a little more careful in the future.

In the spiritual life, if we are not moving forward toward heaven we’re regressing on the way to hell. Taking into account the whole of our life in light of God’s will for us by examining the character of our activity and our rest can be a new beginning in really doing ***“everything for the glory of God.”***

**Practical Tips:**

***1) Use some leisure time to study up on the finer points of living the faith; consult the resources found in the Knights of Columbus Kiosk(s) or Website; read Humanae Vitae (See monthly updates for more)***

***2) Pray, practice meditation; the saints recommend a half hour each day***

***3) Practice the Examination of Conscience at the close of a day asking that question: Did my leisure time today give honor and praise to God or should I change it up in the future?***

***4) Spend quality time with family and friends***

**Coming Up:**

***July***

* 50 Years Since *Humanae Vitae* – 7/25/2018
	+ Many different conferences and activities being planned in Archdiocese
	+ Begin by reading Paul VI’s Encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* here: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_25071968_humanae-vitae.html>

***August***

* Solemnity of the Assumption – Wednesday, 8/15/2018
	+ Holy Day of Obligation
* K of C #4160 Installation Mass – Wednesday 8/22/2018
	+ At Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
	+ Great way to begin the fraternal year in prayer as a council! Reception following is a great opportunity for fraternity too!
1. [*New American Bible*](https://ref.ly/logosres/nabre?ref=BibleNABRE.1Co10.31&off=2&ctx=+I+give+thanks%3fu+%0a31~%C2%A0So+whether+you+eat+). (2011). (Revised Edition, 1 Co 10:31). Washington, DC: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Pieper, Josef. *Leisure: The Basis of Culture.* San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2009. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Collect for 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time [↑](#footnote-ref-3)