

'Good Morning Parish Family. Divine Mercy Sunday.

I recently came across an online article at catholic answers.com, republished, on 22 March, 2024, by a Norbertine priest, Fr. Hugh Barbour, O. Praem., of St. Michael's Abbey in Silverado, California. St. Thomas Aquinas did not use the word 'stupid' lightly. But that is exactly what he did in his Commentary of the Gospel of Matthew, calling the Pharisees 'Stupid' It's one thing when we call someone stupid, but when St. Thomas does it, well... This article is rich in wisdom and irony. I think you will like it. It begins:

The Pharisees going out took counsel, that is among themselves, namely stupid counsel, how to capture him in his speech. And this was stupid because he was the Word of God, and the Word of God cannot be caught (literally, "comprehended"). Stupid is not a word St. Thomas uses often or lightly. For him, it has a precise meaning. This is not a case of his merely expressing exasperation or disgust at the Pharisees' malice. He was describing their action using the word he thought most appropriate. We can be sure he does so carefully. He was not one to use language loosely or crudely.

So were the Pharisees stupid? What could he mean? They were certainly learned and clever and even crafty. They even sent Herodians who held the opposite view of theirs about the paying of taxes with coins engraved with a little idol of the "Divine Caesar." The Pharisees would want Our Lord to say "no" and so invite trouble with the occupying authorities and their allies, the Herodians. The Pharisees would want Our Lord to say "yes" and so offend their own party and other observant Jewish nationalists. They thought they had him in a bind. Either way he answered, they would have him with a malicious "Gotcha!"

Our Lord, however, shows himself to be much more clever than his enemies, as we might expect, and he answers in an unexpected way. In doing so, the Savior reveals the deeper question about the management of human affairs. He calmly asserts the absolute supremacy of God and the relative supremacy of the civil sovereign. Our Lord, after all, was not only clever in debate, but wise. A wise man sees the order of things from the highest vantage point. He understands questions in the light of the deepest principles that underlie the things discussed.

This does not surprise us, because Our Lord is the Incarnate Wisdom of God, who judges all things in the light of his perfect comprehension of them in their source, which is the creative power of God's goodness. He called himself "the Truth." The truth cannot be deceived or deceive others. The Pharisees were both deceiving and deceived. Thus, the Savior sternly addresses them as the hypocrites they are.

St. Thomas defines stupidity as the ignorance or the lack of consideration of the highest principles. A person is stupid only if he is ignorant of the most important and powerful truths. This is true of knowledge in general and of knowledge in a particular field. For example, an architect would be a stupid architect if he were ignorant of or ignored the laws of geometry and proportion. A musician would be stupid if he didn't know the musical scale, and so on.

A man is stupid most of all if he denies the first cause and final end of all things, saying that the universe is random and without purpose; as the psalmist says, "The fool says in his heart there is no God." The Pharisees were stupid, and their plotting's were stupid because they were trying to trap the very Word of God in his words—a ludicrously impossible task!

Stupidity is thus the opposite of wisdom. Now, for Thomas, wisdom is a special kind of Christian knowledge. It is a knowledge that comes about through a union in love with God who is truth. Wisdom is a kind of unflinching instinct in judgment because its source is the Source himself. This implies that stupidity in the sense of a misjudgment of the very highest things has a moral quality. The wise man savors and loves and lives with the truth. The stupid person cannot see the Truth when he stands right before him.

The usual uncharitable and childish use of stupid as a term of abuse usually refers to small matters: social awkwardness, clumsy speech, ignorance of details of sports or fashion or the news. For Thomas, a man could be supremely wise and yet seem stupid according to these worldly standards. Our present society is rife with real stupidity. The most apparent and universal realities, like the objective nature of humans as male and female, or the obligation to tell the truth and never to lie, or the requirements of gratitude, are ignored or denied, and most of all

God's existence or his power is often questioned.

Thomas says this worldly stupidity is the mirror opposite of wisdom. Stupidity comes about when hearts and minds are bound only to earthly things, to physical pleasure and human opinion, a union with the lowest things. Wisdom is poured into hearts and minds by the gift of the Holy Spirit, which comes from the Heart of the Word of God, the very one whom the Pharisees stupidly thought to overcome in the war of words.

In the midst of all this, the Catholic Christian must cling to the supreme source of truth, the Word of God, by living a life of loving union with him. The less immersed in earthly things our minds and hearts are, the wiser we will be. We are reminded of one great way to overcome our foolishness and become truly wise: by meditating on the mysteries of the life, ministry, passion, and glory of the Savior found in the Holy Rosary. This is a prayer that will unite us to the Word of God and thus keep us from being stupid.

BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS EXHIBIT

Carlo Acutis : a Catholic teenager who died in 2006, was Beatified October 10, 2020 in Assisi. Acutis, a gamer and computer programmer who loved soccer and the Eucharist, has been the subject of interest around the world.



Pope Francis referred to Carlo as a model of holiness in a digital age. Carlo's life should teach today's young people how to properly use and enjoy technology, including the internet and social media. For the first time in history, we will see a saint dressed in jeans, sneakers, and a sweater. This is a great message for us, We can feel holiness, not as a saint thing, but as something very much within everyone's reach, because the Lord is the Lord of everyone. There will be an exhibit about Blessed Carlo Acutis in the parish hall after the Masses on April 14. There will be t-shirts, pictures, books, stickers, coloring pages for the kids, rosaries, and medals for sale.

MASS INTENTIONS

Please join us in praying for these intentions 4/4-4/11/24. If you would like a Mass said, please call the office at 360-629-3737.

4/4 For life from conception to natural death

4/5 Mabel Munoz (INT)

4/6 This Mass is being offered for Maddox McFarlane (Spiritual Growth)

4/6 (5pm) This Mass is being offered for Ellionna McFarlane Spiritual Growth)

4/7 (9am) This Mass is being offered for Preston McFarlane (Spiritual Direction)

4/7 (11am) This mass is being offered for Anthony McFarlane, (Spiritual Growth)

4/8 This mass is being offered for Janelle McFarlane, (spiritual growth)

4/9 Least remembered Souls in Purgatory.

4/10 Partners in the Gospel

4/11 Members of St. Cecilia Parish

**Fr. Jan
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**Office Hours
8:00am-2:00pm**

**Mon-Thurs
Office Phone
360-629-3737**



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

SPRING GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP STARTING TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND

Men and Women: please join us for our Spring Grief Support Group

DATES: April 2nd through May 21st, 2024

TIME: Tuesdays, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: St. Cecilia Parish--High School Room Downstairs

This might be just what you need to help you on your journey through grief. Remember that you may be suffering from many kinds of grief. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. See comments below from participants in previous sessions regarding what was most valuable to them:

"Learning that I cannot go through grief alone. I need God and I also need the people that understand grief and want to share my burden."

"Sharing the grief experience. When my husband died I didn't know where to start. You all were the answer to my prayers! I can go back to the wonderful books."

call Joan Love (425-789-9894) or the Parish Secretary (360-629-3737) for more information.



MAY BABY SHOWER



Throughout April, the Women's Guild will be collecting baby items for the May baby shower on May 14, 2024. There will be a pack and play in the entry of the church. The items received will go to Cornerstone Pregnancy's Ministry. Please help support this worthy mission.



NEW MONTHLY POTLUCK



Let's come together for fun, fellowship, and food! We are starting a new monthly potluck, beginning on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7th, after the 11:00 Mass. Please bring your favorite dish to share.

SPRING AND SUMMER YOUTH EVENTS

For more information about these events, contact Alexandra Calvo

Dates; Ignite NW July 24-28

Cost;\$0 (Cost covered by Knights)

Who can come: High School

Where to register:



Date:NET Retreat Saturday May 4th

Time: 9:00 am-4:00pm

Cost:\$0

Who can come: High School and Middle School youth

ST CECILIA CATHOLIC CHURCH A DISCALCED CARMELITE PARISH

April 7, 2024

Mass Schedule:

Saturday Vigil 5pm **Sunday** 9am & 11am

Daily Mass Mon-Sat 9am

St Joseph Mass First Wednesday of the month. Rosary at 6:30 pm, Mass at 7:00pm

Reconciliation Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday after the 9:00 Mass, except 3rd Friday.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY



BY EUGENIUSZ KAZIMIROWSKI

CARMELITE
INSTITUTE OF
SPIRITUALITY

Br. Mark Moran, OCD,
Director
Store Hours Tuesdays &
Thursday 10:00-12:30

Located at 27004 78th Ave NW
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