



MONTHLY BULLETIN

June 2026

At Home with the Lord

In Biblical times, Mosaic law approved the bringing of small birds as offerings to God. Sparrows also served as food for the body. People could buy a pair of sparrows for a small coin.

Jesus assured the Disciples that the heavenly Father valued them more than many sparrows. We can sympathize if the Apostles wanted to count for more. Plus, the example of sparrows alluded to the truth that following the Lord involves sacrifice.

Under His Wing

Some of the Apostles would become martyrs, yet Jesus told the Twelve to fear not. He explained that nothing remains hidden forever. Hearing that Scripture passage, we might think of sin, but that wasn't the main topic of the day.

Jesus taught the Apostles, but not solely for their benefit.

Birds of a Feather

He instructed them to proclaim from the housetops what He told them!



Fr. Mark Payne
Chaplain

Sparrows' eyes work independently, so that they can see in two directions at once. Jesus wants His followers to look to Him for spiritual help in times of facing fearsome challenges.

Finding a Place

Wanting to provide shelter for a couple of actual sparrows, a Heart of the Nation staff member put up a birdhouse. Spring turned to summer, yet no nest

appeared in the small dwelling. One day, she saw a sparrow poke its head into the round doorway but go no farther.

Then came the revelation that only a smaller bird could get inside. When borrowing a drill, she also received help to enlarge the opening and make way for a pair of sparrows to move in.

With the Right Tools

Jesus shared his lifetime with us. By word and example in that time, He gave the Disciples the tools needed to build a Church open to everyone.

Using their beaks, the sparrows brought bits of plants, paper, and other nesting materials. Perching outside the birdhouse, their chirping enlivened the patio.

God hears our every peep. Jesus taught us to industriously bring the birdsong of faith into the world.

Helpful Hints

To help Heart of the Nation process your gift quickly and accurately, please include your **reply slip** when mailing a donation. To write a check, please use **blue or black ink**. Thank you for enabling us to use every penny that you donate efficiently.

Father's Day Prayers



Please use the enclosed spiritual bouquet card to send the names of fathers, grandfathers, and other beloved dads for remembrance at Mass by one of Heart of the Nation's chaplains on Father's Day (June 21).

“At our affordable living complex, we pray with your gathering for the Sunday liturgy. Then we have social time together.”

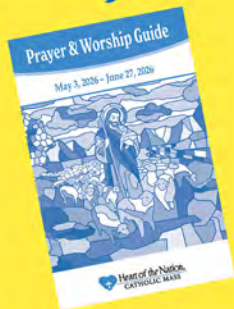
— Sister Linda, OSF



SNOWBIRD ADDRESS

Please contact Heart of the Nation if you change your address, either for the summer or long-term. The post office will not automatically forward your bulletin or the *Prayer & Worship Guide*.

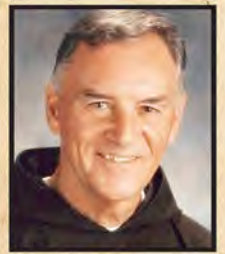
Prayer & Worship Guide



To order a free subscription, please send the recipient's name and postal address to Heart of the Nation, P.O. Box 14428, Milwaukee, WI 53214.

Salt for the Sheep

In Old Testament times, Moses and the future King David both tended sheep. Descendants of Abraham sang a joyful Psalm as members of God's flock (Psalm 100). Then came Jesus. Crowds seeking Him reminded the Lord of sheep in trouble and in need of a shepherd. He had called the Twelve "salt of the earth," and Jesus sent them to His sheep. To survive, sheep need salt!



Fr. Tony Scannell
Chaplain

Sheep provided milk and cheese, meat, wool, leather, and even signal trumpets made from rams' horns. By making a comparison with sheep, Jesus expressed that people have great worth.

A New Breed

From medieval sheep-raising on the Iberian Peninsula (mostly land of Spain and Portugal), a fancy breed emerged. Beneath dust and dirt that clung to them, Merino sheep had strikingly white fleece with fine, crimped strands. Merino wool clothing had a bit of spring to it, and breathability.

Sin makes us spiritually scruffy, but God knows the goodness underneath our faults. In the words

that Jesus wove into lessons, He clothes us with knowledge and hope. He also encourages us to take a breather for prayer.

Knowing the Way

To keep Merino sheep healthy, the shepherds led them out of lowlands in spring to cooler elevations and plentiful pastures. Before winter, the migration reversed.

On dedicated roads, shepherds kept droves of Merino sheep on track for hundreds of miles each way. Licking salty rock formations provided essential salt for the sheep, as did provisions from the shepherds.

Losing None

One of the Sunday Gospels this month describes Jesus

sending the Twelve to heal and preach in His name. Preparing them to make those early missionary treks, Jesus said to avoid pagan territory. For the time being, they would focus on the "lost sheep" of Israel.

As instructed, the Apostles took nothing with them. They had to trust in the Good Shepherd! For their part, the Disciples would serve as salt meant to season and preserve spiritual life.

On the Same Road

Although the old sheep roads remain, trucks now transport most flocks to new grazing areas. Few modern shepherds make the sacrifice of going on foot—unlike the Lord, who gives His all to shepherd His flock.

Very Worthwhile

Onlookers may have wondered why a woman bothered to put two small coins into the Temple treasury. Our Lord knew that she wanted to do her part. When you donate to Heart of the Nation, the blessings received have infinite worth!



Prayer for Peace



Lord Jesus,
There is much in this world
beyond what I can remedy,
and so I come to you in prayer:

For help to end ravages of war
and for peacemakers;
For all victims of violence
and for the gentle-hearted;
For blessings on the
dehumanized
and for rescuers of dignity;
For those crushed in spirit
and for every caring soul.

Prayer for Fathers



Lord, please bless fathers
with patience to teach
repeatedly, both gentleness
and strength, love given
unconditionally, and
steadfastness in faith.
Please bless, too, grandfathers
with delight as children grow,
with generosity and wisdom
to lend a hand or let go.
May godfathers and others
who share in triumphs or
tears reflect belief that You
abide in Heaven and with us
here. Amen.

New Heights in Faith

Traditional celebrations of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (*Corpus Christi*) have length, depth, and height. Street processions displaying the Sacred Eucharist in a vessel called a monstrance make the Body of Christ visible outside of Church buildings as a way of inviting newcomers to discover the Catholic faith. Expressing a deeply cherished truth, Scripture from Saint Paul describes the Church as Christ's body, with Him as the head.

On *Corpus Christi* (June 7 this year), festivities in Catalonia and elsewhere in Spain will include building towering *castells* (castles) with people as the building material. Originating as part of a much older Marian festival in Valencia, the idea spread.



Participants built higher towers, and on various occasions centuries later, the tradition continues.

To begin, *castellers* stand in concentric circles to form a strong base. In the founding of the early Church, we can envision Saint Peter at the center, appointed by Jesus to his place of leadership. The Apostles, helped by the Holy Spirit's coming at Pentecost, welcomed people in one round after another of joyful Baptism in the Spirit.

Castellers support the growing tower with their arms around or backing each other. As members of the Church, we stand linked together and strengthened by one another's faith.

Encouraged by the rhythmic music of drums and a type of wooden flute, a second group of *castellers* climbs onto the shoulders of those at ground level. As the process continues, one tier after another, the tower grows.

Scripture describes the Lord's Ascension to Heaven. Imagine the Lord at the top. He shared our humanity in order to give His Body and Blood for us. We hope to share eternity with Him as one Body of Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven.



THANK YOU, Circle of the Heart members, for your monthly donations! Heart of the Nation gratefully includes members in perpetual prayers placed before the altar for every Sunday TV Mass. To join, please use the reply card mailed with your bulletin, or contact Heart of the Nation (see page 4).

Saints on Jesus' Swim Team

Saints Peter and Paul seem to have more in contrast than in common. Jesus chose a fisherman named Simon as one of the Twelve Apostles, called him Peter ("Rock"), and declared that He would build the Church upon that rock. Our Lord might as well have called Paul a blockhead. Once a Pharisee who persecuted early Christians, Paul experienced a dramatic conversion, complete with blinding light and the voice of Jesus from Heaven. Jesus wanted both men on His team.



*God pooled the human resources
of Saint Peter, one of the Twelve;
and Saint Paul, "Apostle to the Gentiles."*



Soon after the Lord's Ascension, Peter dove into his leadership role by directing the selection of a disciple to replace Judas. On the first Pentecost, Peter became a spokesman before the gathered crowd. Paul regained his sight and preached in both Arabia and Damascus before heading to his first recorded meeting with Peter.

In the early Church, tensions remained high between converts to Christianity with Jewish and Gentile backgrounds, especially regarding circumcision and dietary laws. When fear led Peter to distance himself from Gentiles, Paul angrily challenged him for backsliding. Still, the first Letter of Peter calls Paul a "beloved brother."

Although an angel once rescued Peter from imprisonment and execution, he eventually became a martyr. Paul's Roman citizenship saved him from scourging as a prisoner in Jerusalem, and he survived a shipwreck within swimming distance of Malta during his transfer to Rome to appeal for his freedom. Like Peter, he suffered martyrdom in Rome.



 **Heart of the Nation.**
CATHOLIC MASS



PRAYER LINE: (414) 475-4700

I would like a Heart of the Nation prayer minister to call me.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

*"Cast all your worries upon Him
because He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7)*

Return this form in the envelope provided, or call to speak with a prayer minister from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Central Time. (At other times, please leave a message for a call back.)

MASS SCHEDULE

Reminder: For those who can get out to church, TV liturgy does not meet the Sunday or Holy Day Mass obligation.

Sunday, June 7, 2026
**The Most Holy Body and
Blood of Christ
(Corpus Christi)**

Sunday, June 14, 2026
**Eleventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

Sunday, June 21, 2026
**Twelfth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
(Father's Day)**

Sunday, June 28, 2026
**Thirteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

Online Mass on Sundays and Holy Days:

Available all day at
www.HeartoftheNation.org



Heart of the Nation.
CATHOLIC MASS

**For local time and TV
channel information,
please visit**

www.HeartoftheNation.org

or

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