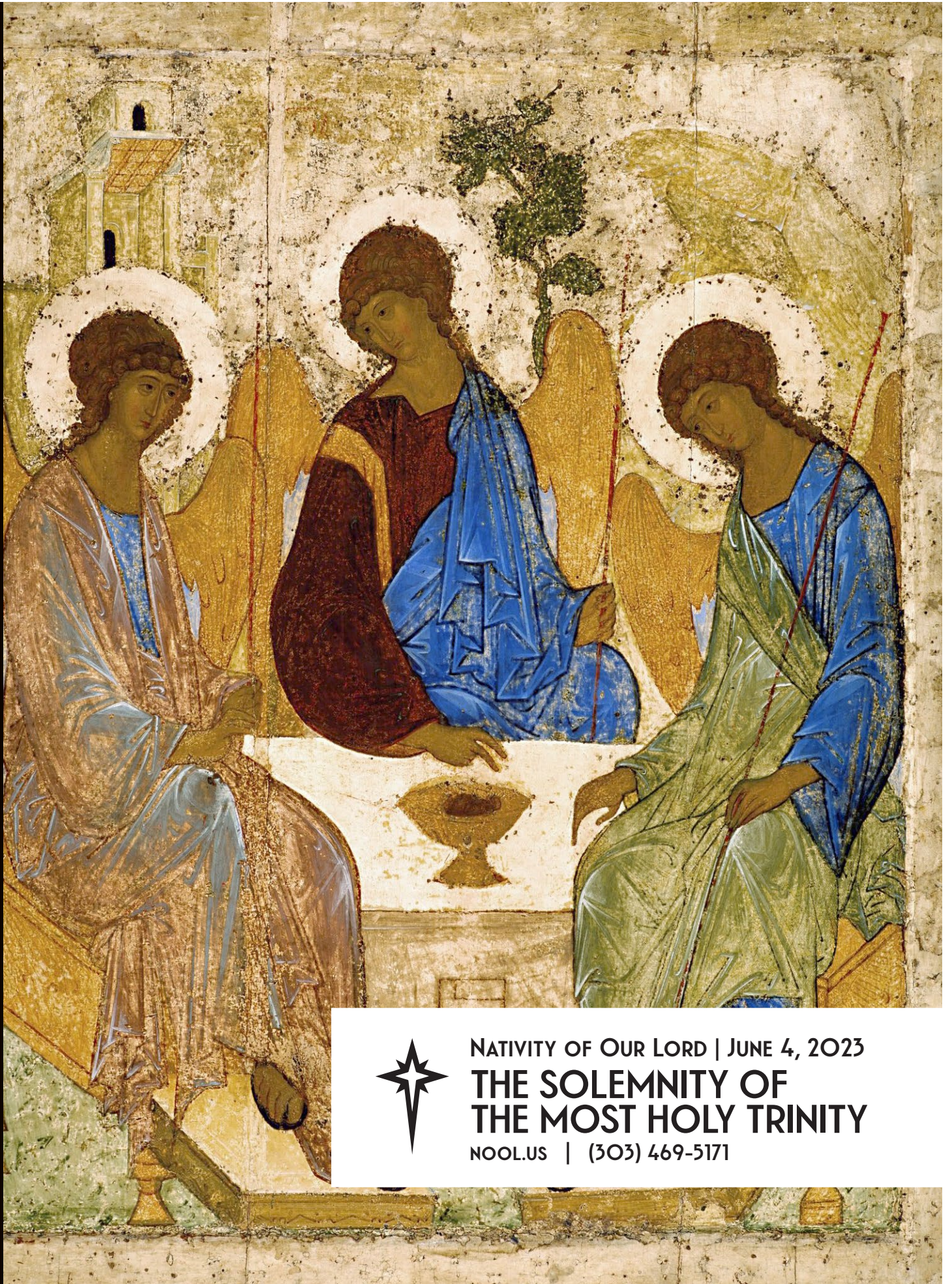


Andrei Rublev, *The Trinity*, 1411 or 1425-27, tempera on board, Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, Moscow, US PD



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD | JUNE 4, 2023

**THE SOLEMNITY OF  
THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

NOOL.US | (303) 469-5171

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## MASS TIMES

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### MONDAY-FRIDAY

7:00 am  
9:30 am (livestreamed)

### SATURDAY

9:30 am (livestreamed)

### VIGIL MASS

4:30 pm

### SUNDAY

7:30 am  
9:30 am (livestreamed)  
11:30 am  
5:00 pm

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## CONFESSION

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### THURSDAY

5:00-6:00 pm

### SATURDAY

8:00-9:30 am  
3:00-4:30 pm

### SUNDAY

30 min before Masses

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## OFFICE HOURS:

**MONDAY-FRIDAY:** 8 am-5 pm

## FRONT DESK:

**MONDAY-FRIDAY:** 8 am-8 pm

**SATURDAY:** 8 am-3:30 pm

Phone: (303) 469-5171

Fax: (303) 469-5172

School: (303) 466-4177

900 W. Midway Blvd.  
Broomfield, CO 80020



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## GOING TO THE HOSPITAL

If you're going to the hospital and need a visit from a priest or deacon, please call the front desk at (303) 469-5171.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Joanne Farver at (303) 466-8859 or at [joannefarver@comcast.net](mailto:joannefarver@comcast.net).

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## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JUNE 3

9:30 am Miss P. Bangert by Mary Lund  
4:30 pm † Judy Dickinson De Salomon by Craig Family

### SUNDAY, JUNE 4

7:30 am † Gregoria Medel by Samson Family  
9:30 am People of the Parish  
11:30 am † Michael Schuster by George & Patty Ketchel  
5:00 pm † Vern Bachinski by Novak-Kirby Family

### MONDAY, JUNE 5

7:00 am Souls in Purgatory by Veronica J. Villaseñor  
9:30 am † Mike Persson by Maria Rask

### TUESDAY, JUNE 6

7:00 am Gavin Golden  
9:30 am † Jim & Midge Anderson by Smith & Zamora Families

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

7:00 am Taylor Buderus by mom  
9:30 am † Pearl Cameron

### THURSDAY, JUNE 8

7:00 am † Gilbert Blazon Jr. by Family  
9:30 am † Katherine Lenihan by Family

### FRIDAY, JUNE 9

7:00 am † Joyce Munsey by Patty Kondratko  
9:30 am The Werner & Dankey Family by Joe and Carol Dankey

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

9:30 am Daniel Knight by Grandparents  
4:30 pm Walter Britton

### SUNDAY, JUNE 11

*The Solemnity of Corpus Christi*  
7:30 am Fitterer Children by Sally Fitterer  
9:30 am People of the Parish  
11:30 am † Michael Schuster by Ann Jander  
5:00 pm Adam Tinlan by Mom

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## THE SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY, JUNE 11

In 2023, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi is on June 8, but it is transferred to Sunday, June 11 in the Archdiocese of Denver.

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## PARISH CALENDAR

### SUNDAY, JUNE 4

8:00 am | CL/Communion & Liberation  
11:00 am | Parishioners' Rosary

### MONDAY, JUNE 5

9:00 am | CGS Catechist Training Level 1  
6:30 pm | Spanish Prayer Group

### TUESDAY, JUNE 6

9:00 am | CGS Catechist Training Level 1  
7:30 pm | CL/University Students

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

5:30 am | St. Joseph Men's Prayer Group  
6:00 pm | Boy Scouts Tr. 766

### THURSDAY, JUNE 8

6:00 pm | Stephen Ministry  
7:30 pm | CL/Communion & Liberation

### FRIDAY, JUNE 9

7:30 am | Men of Emmaus  
1:00 pm | Great Adventure Bible Study CL

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

8:00 am | CL/Communion & Liberation  
8:00 am | Marian Cenacle  
8:50 am | Pro Life Rosary

### SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Marilyn Reichert

### COLLECTION COUNTERS

**Mon, June 5 | 10:00 am**

Ron Riedl  
Susan Martinez  
Don Larson  
Jeanette Nasel



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# A NEW MISSION ASSIGNED TO ME BY THE LORD

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We have happily returned in these days to the liturgical season of ordinary time. Two great feasts are upon us as today we celebrate the Holy Trinity and next week Corpus Christi, and then continue the journey following Jesus through the liturgies of this “green season.”

I’m writing today to communicate some significant news. I am stepping down as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord. I am doing this because over a year ago now, I was elected to be the responsible of the North American region of the Movement of Communion & Liberation. In this year, I have been doing two full time jobs and I believe that each one of these rightly deserves one’s full attention. Reflecting with my superiors and brothers, these days, we have discerned that I should dedicate myself full time to the mission of supporting the life and growth of Communion & Liberation throughout North America.

In the religious life, of which our Fraternity is a part, our members are not so concerned about a career path as of finding that location where they can best serve the needs of Christ in his Church. With this in mind, we decided to invite Fr. Emanuele Fadini to be the pastor of Nativity of Our Lord for the coming years. I will remain here in Broomfield and I will continue to be the head of our mission and our house here in Colorado, while Fr. Emanuele will take up leadership of Nativity as its pastor. This will take place on July 1, 2023, the date on which all the changes in the Archdiocese of Denver take place.

I am full of gratitude to this community and to the Church for having given me these 14 years as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord. I remember well back in 2009, when responding to a couple of beautiful and sincere letters from then Archbishop Chaput of Denver inviting us to establish a house in Denver, it was decided that I and Fr. Accursio should come to Denver. I arrived on the afternoon of the 4th of July and have served as pastor ever since. The Nativity parish community were very welcoming and allowed us to feel their esteem and affection in many ways.

When Archbishop Chaput was called to Philadelphia, we were in the process of arranging for the presence of the Missionary Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo in Denver. In the interim period, now bishop Connolly, gave us much support, but was unable to complete the canonical process for the establishment of the Sisters as this can only be done by the archdiocesan bishop. When Archbishop Aquila was appointed, he quickly proceeded with the recognition and establishment of the Sisters at Nativity who since then have made their valuable contribution to our parish life. Shortly after that, I was appointed as Dean for the Boulder Deanery in which capacity I have served the Diocese since then.

Besides our faith and community that meets on Sundays for Mass and in many other ways, our parish is blessed to have the Nativity School. Five years ago when the diocese was encouraging parishes to define more clearly their specific mission, following many conversations with those involved, we renamed Nativity School, Nativity: Faith & Reason, enshrining this attention to the education of the whole of the human person. At the center of our educational endeavor “faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of the truth” as St. Pope John Paul II opened his famous encyclical *Fides et Ratio*. By the grace of God, our school continues to thrive and our parish continues to flourish with many opportunities for sharing life, many of which are born from you, the parishioners. I love Nativity and will continue to be present in little ways as I continue this new mission assigned to me by the Lord. I know that you will find in Fr. Emanuele a steady guide and a loving father.

We entrust ourselves to your prayers even as we assure you of the continued remembrance in ours.

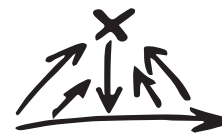
In Christ,  
Fr. Michael



**NATIVITY**  
OF OUR LORD



COMMUNION  
& LIBERATION



## DAILY READINGS

### SATURDAY, JUNE 3

*Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs*

Reading 1: Sir 51:12 cd-20

Psalm: 19:8, 9, 10, 11

Gospel: Mk 11:27-33

### SUNDAY, JUNE 4

*The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity*

Reading 1: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9

Psalm: Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

Reading 2: 2 Cor 13:11-13

Gospel: Jn 3:16-18

### MONDAY, JUNE 5

*Memorial of Saint Boniface*

Reading 1: Tb 1:3; 2:1a-8

Psalm: 112:1b-2, 3b-4, 5-6

Gospel: Mk 12:1-12

### TUESDAY, JUNE 6

Reading 1: Tb 2:9-14

Psalm: 112:1-2, 7-8, 9

Gospel: Mk 12:13-17

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

Reading 1: Tb 3:1-11a, 16-17a

Psalm: 25:2-3, 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9

Gospel: Mk 12:18-27

### THURSDAY, JUNE 8

*Memorial of Saint Justin, Martyr*

Reading 1: Tb 6:10-11; 7:1bcde, 9-17; 8:4-9a

Psalm: 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

Gospel: Mk 12:28-34

### FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Reading 1: Tb 11:5-17

Psalm: 146:1b-2, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10

Gospel: Mk 12:35-37

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Reading 1: Tb 12:1, 5-15, 20

Psalm: Tobit 13:2, 6efgh, 7, 8

Gospel: Mk 12:38-44

## PRAY THE ROSARY

WITH US

SUNDAY, 11:00 AM

Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word: "She kept all these things, pondering them in her heart" (Lk 2:19; cf. 2:51). The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her Son's side. In a way those memories were to be the "rosary" which she recited uninterrupted throughout her earthly life.

— St. John Paul II  
*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*



### ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED FOR

## CORPUS CHRISTI:

Sunday, June 10/11

To sign up please follow the link:

[WWW.NOOL.US/ALTAR-SERVING](http://WWW.NOOL.US/ALTAR-SERVING)



SIGN UP

## Totus Tuus HOST HOMES NEEDED!

We are in need of Host Homes for the teams to provide sleeping arrangements and a morning continental breakfast. Each host home would house either two male, or two female college age Totus Tuus teachers for the week. Housing of the teams begins upon their arrival Saturday afternoon/evening until their departure the following Saturday morning. Each team provides its own transportation. The teachers leave early in the morning, and may or may not be around in the late afternoons due to planning, meetings, and setting up, and may get home late due to the extensive responsibilities of the day. We encourage the Host Home to provide a Sunday night family meal to get to know your guests.

### Interacting with their host families is a great blessing to the teachers as well as the host families.

If you are able to host two Totus Tuus teachers or have questions, please contact:

Diane Irby  
[d.irby@nool.us](mailto:d.irby@nool.us)  
303-731-0425

### "FUN" RAISER AT ST. SCHOLASTICA PARISH JUNE 10-11, 2023

Register online at:  
[www.stscholasticaerie.org/fun-raiser](http://www.stscholasticaerie.org/fun-raiser)

## RESPECT LIFE: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD "BABY SHOWER"

MOTHER'S DAY— FATHER'S DAY

MAY 14—JUNE 18, 2023

To support children, new mothers, and families in need, we will be collecting donations for Marisol in Lafayette, Boulder Pregnancy Resource Center, and Marisol Family (Formerly Gabriel House) in Boulder, from Mother's Day through Father's Day. Please drop off donations in the crib in the gathering area. The following items are needed:

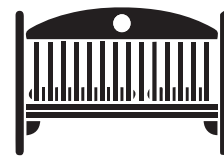
Diapers (Newborn - sz. 5, especially need NB and sz. 4 and 5; Wipes (unscented/sensitive skin); Baby lotions, shampoos, washes; Baby bath towels, wash cloths; Diaper rash products; Newborn nasal aspirators; Pacifiers; Bibs; Knit caps; Booties/shoes/socks (NB - age 2); Bottles; Enfamil formula; Baby clothes (boys & girls, NB-2T), specific request for summer; Burp cloths; Blankets; Swaddling/receiving blankets; Nursing pads; Nursing pillows (Boppy brand); Diaper bags; Maternity clothes, new or gently used.

All items must be *new*, except for maternity clothes, and with tags on (if applicable).

Questions? Please contact

Janet Carpenter:

[janetacarpenter@comcast.net](mailto:janetacarpenter@comcast.net)



### FRIEND IN NEED

Friend seeks off street parking for a 7x14 RV and parking space for a truck. If you are able to help, please contact Matt, a Nativity parishioner, at 720-257-8087.



SAVE  
THE DATE:

THURSDAY  
—SUNDAY

AUGUST  
10-13



# Totus Tuus

## SUMMER CATECHETICAL EXPERIENCE



REGISTER

[www.nool.us/totus-tuus](http://www.nool.us/totus-tuus)

GRADES 1–6 | JUNE 26–30, 9 AM–2:30 PM

GRADES 7–12 | JUNE 25–29, 7–9 PM

Totus Tuus (Latin for ‘Totally Yours’) is a summer youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, Christian witness, and a ton of fun!

## SAMARITAN HOUSE DONATIONS AT NATIVITY

Samaritan House Community in Denver focuses primarily on serving women, families, and veterans who are seeking safe shelter, nutritious food, and supportive life services. There is an URGENT NEED of the following:

All hygiene items (preferred small or travel sizes of soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lip balm, and body lotion); Feminine hygiene products; Bath and hand towels; New women’s underwear (larger sizes); New women’s bras (all sizes); Warm clothing (sweatshirts, sweat pants, coats for men, women, and children all sizes); Shoes (boots, shower).

Please bring the NEW items to the parish office and they will be delivered by one of our SH weekly volunteers. Please contact **Tammie Donohoe** if you have any questions, [tammie.donohoe@gmail.com](mailto:tammie.donohoe@gmail.com).

Register for FREE today  
at [nool.formed.org](http://nool.formed.org).

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## DAUGHTERS OF MARY MOTHER OF MERCY (DMMM) WILL VISIT NATIVITY ON THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 17–18, 2023

### Brief History of Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy

Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy (DMMM) congregation is an Institute of Apostolic religious life with Pontifical Right, whose members take the three evangelical vows of Obedience, Poverty, and Chastity. This women religious order was founded in 1961 in Nigeria by Bishop Anthony Gogo Nwedo, C.S.Sp.

The Charism of Daughters of Mary Mother of Mercy is to bear witness to the Mercy of God by following the footsteps of Christ, the Merciful Savior, and that of Mary the Mother of Mercy. This Mercy is expressed as Compassion, Forgiveness, and Kindness.

DMMM has spread her missionary arms to many parts of the world including Africa, Europe, Canada, and United States of America. Our Spirit of Charity, Humility, Prayer, Penance, and Abandonment to the Will of God animate us to be God’s instrument in giving hope and meaningful life to the poor and needy, the orphans, the sick, and the elderly in our society through our apostolates of Caring, Healing, Teaching, and social work. We also evangelize the spiritually impoverished through pastoral ministry in the dioceses and parishes where we work.

Sister Franklyn Ofoma, DMMM

## FROM ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

This June we will be celebrating feast days that reflect God’s infinite love and mercy, from Trinity Sunday to the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), as well as the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Inspiration and thanksgiving to serve others come from God’s goodness. Encouragement often comes as well from our fellow travelers along the way. Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853), the young college student, professor, and founder of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, was mentored in his works of charity by Sister Rosalie Rendu (1786-1856). Sister Rosalie was familiar with the poor and often dangerous Mouffetard district of Paris. While the area was not physically far from the Sorbonne, where Frederic and many of his university friends were based, reaching out to those in need in this area was a whole different world. When Frederic was starting his work of helping the poor, Sister Rosalie helped to choose those individuals Frederic and his companions should visit. She also shared with Frederic and his friends how to treat the poor with dignity and to have patience.

Frederic Ozanam and his mentor Sister Rosalie Rendu were both beatified by Pope John Paul II. Frederic was beatified at World Youth Day in Paris in 1997. Sister Rosalie Rendu, whom Pope John Paul II praised as being “inventive” in helping the poor and as a “true daughter of St. Vincent de Paul,” became a “Blessed” in 2003.

For more information on or local Nativity chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP), see our Flocknote service at: [NOOL.FLOCKNOTE.COM/SVDP](http://NOOL.FLOCKNOTE.COM/SVDP) for meeting times and updates.



"THIS IS MY BODY"



Fra Angelico, *Institution of the Eucharist*, fresco, 1441-1442, Museum of San Marco Florence; US PD

## ...on the altar of the world...

When I think of the Eucharist, and look at my life as a priest, as a Bishop and as the Successor of Peter, I naturally recall the many times and places in which I was able to celebrate it. I remember the parish church of Niegowic, where I had my first pastoral assignment, the collegiate church of Saint Florian in Krakow, Wawel Cathedral, Saint Peter's Basilica and so many basilicas and churches in Rome and throughout the world. I have been able to celebrate Holy Mass in chapels built along mountain paths, on lakeshores and seacoasts; I have celebrated it on altars built in stadiums and in city squares... This varied scenario of celebrations of the Eucharist has given me a powerful experience of its universal and, so to speak, cosmic character. Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world. It unites heaven and earth. It embraces and permeates all creation. The Son of God became man in order to restore all creation, in one supreme act of praise, to the One who made it from nothing. He, the Eternal High Priest who by the blood of his Cross entered the eternal sanctuary, thus gives back to the Creator and Father all creation redeemed. He does so through the priestly ministry of the Church, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity. Truly this is the *mysterium fidei* which is accomplished in the Eucharist: the world which came forth from the hands of God the Creator now returns to him redeemed by Christ.

St. John Paul II, *ECCLESIA DE EUCCHARISTIA*

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AT NATIVITY

In the Church: Thursday, 12:00-6:00 pm  
In the Chapel: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm

For Holy Hour on Thursdays between 5:00 and 6:00 pm, Adoration and Confession is available in the church. Evening prayer is prayed after Exposition, and Benediction takes place at 5:55 pm.

## THE MYSTERY OF THE GLORIOUS BODY AND PRECIOUS BLOOD: MEDIEVAL DEBATE OVER THE REAL PRESENCE

FREE ONLINE LECTURE

MONDAY, JUNE 5

TIME: 6:30-8:30 PM

ST. JOHN VIANNEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Middle Ages abounded in both Eucharistic miracles and highly intellectual Eucharistic debates. The doctrine of the Real Presence has never been easy to accept: "This is a difficult statement, who can listen to it" (Jn 6:60). In 1264, Pope Urban IV declared the feast of Corpus Christi to be universally celebrated and commissioned Thomas Aquinas to write the text of the Office and Mass for it. In this lecture with Dr. Seth Fabian, we will look at the medieval debates about the Eucharist and closely read Aquinas' hymns, which are the pinnacle of Christian Latin poetry.

Registration and more information:

[WWW.SJVLAYDIVISION.ORG/REGISTRATION](http://WWW.SJVLAYDIVISION.ORG/REGISTRATION)



## THE HOLY EUCHARIST: THE BODY, BLOOD, SOUL, AND DIVINITY OF JESUS CHRIST

A 3-WEEK ONLINE COURSE:

JUNE 7, 14, AND 21

TIME: 9-11 AM & 6:30-8:30 PM

ST. JOHN VIANNEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Since the inception of the Catholic Church, the Church has taught that the Holy Eucharist is the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. However, a 2019 Pew Survey of Catholics indicated that most Catholics only think that the Eucharist is a symbol, as most Protestant denominations believe.

Registration and more information:

[WWW.SJVLAYDIVISION.ORG/REGISTRATION](http://WWW.SJVLAYDIVISION.ORG/REGISTRATION)





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With questions about admission or to schedule a tour, contact  
**Shannon Spinuzzi**  
**s.spinuzzi@nool.us**

**COME & SEE!**



[school.nool.us/enroll](https://school.nool.us/enroll)

**2023-2024**  
**ENROLLMENT**  
**IS OPEN!**

**FAITH**  
**AND**  
**REASON**  
*FIDES ET RATIO*

Our school is built on the pillars of Faith & Reason, following the guidance of St. John Paul II expressed in the Encyclical Letter, *FIDES ET RATIO*:

"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth."



Dear Nativity School Families,

As we reach the end of another remarkable year, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for this school. This will be our final Knight Times until next school year. It has been a truly wonderful year for the school and we have much to celebrate.

Our happy and committed faculty members have played a vital role in fostering a nurturing environment where our students can thrive. With over 90% returning next year, we are excited to build upon this year.

We take great pride in our education and are thrilled to have a 99% student retention rate. Our commitment to building a clear faith foundation for our students has been evident through our weekly assemblies and daily moments of reflection. These practices have helped nurture their spiritual growth and provide them with a sense of purpose and meaning.

Financial stability is crucial to the continued success of our school, and I am thrilled to share that we have had a robust financial year. Thanks to our exceptional fundraising efforts, we have achieved record-setting numbers, allowing us to invest in various improvements. The enhanced

security measures, such as new doors, locks, and security film, ensure a safer environment for our entire community. Additionally, we have been able to offer double rounds in every grade, will be upgrading our wi-fi system to support the latest technological advancements, and, despite rising costs, keep our tuition increase at a modest 2% compared to the national average of 6%.

On a personal note, it has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as the principal of Nativity School this past year. I am profoundly grateful for the support I have received, particularly from our incredible staff. Their commitment to our students are the core reason for our collective success. I couldn't have asked for a better team, and I am truly humbled to work alongside such exceptional individuals  
[...] As we close the year, we wish you a blessed summer. Thank you once again for your unwavering support, trust, and commitment to Nativity School. Together, we have built a thriving community that nurtures the minds, hearts, and souls of our students.

Sebastian Calvino, principal  
*Knight Times*, May 26, 2023

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# THE NON-SOLITUDE OF GOD

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The fact that God is relational is a profound and deep mystery. There is an old phrase in Latin, *nemo potest dare quod non habet*, which means nobody can give what they don't have. Here's the interesting thing, we all say that God is love. Saint John says it, Saint Paul says it, and most of our kids would say it if I asked them; they would know God is love. How could God be love if he was monadic? There has to be a relationship for there to be love. Love is in a relationship. Love is actually a relationship. This is the great mystery of God, that he is relationship. That becomes even deeper when we realize that we are created by him.

First of all, let's take a moment and think about being created by him. Why would God create us? We know that God is completely self-sufficient. [...] God has everything. So why did God make us? And this is a beautiful intuition that comes to us on this feast. God made us because of his nature. God is love and it is in his nature to love. And God loved. We are an emanation; all of creation is an emanation of God's love. We are an initiative of God's love. For example, a husband and wife might say, "We love each other, we know each other, and that's enough."

Therefore, they just kind of go through life presuming on one another's love. But love doesn't work that way. Love is communication. Therefore, there are gifts, gestures, caresses, and so many ways in which that love is expressed. We are an expression of God's love. Our existence, this world, this reality is an emanation that emerges from God's love. I know that's kind of deep, but it's also true.

We come out of God's love. One way we sometimes phrase it so that we can get our minds around it, God made us because he knew that when we existed, we would enjoy existing. After he had made us, we would have joy in that existence. This is a way of trying to understand what it means that we come from God's love. [...]

Then we come to this other intuition which is very important: we are made in the image and likeness of God. [...] We are not made to be alone. In those same first pages of the Bible, we read that it is not good for man to be alone. Nature is made for each other. That is why love, community, and communion lie at the very heart of the Christian experience; because we are made for love. Christ came into the world precisely to reconcile us to that plan of the Father: that we would love one another as he has loved us. We are made for this, and anything less is simply not adequate.

There is one more extraordinary word of Saint Paul in the readings that I want to point out to you. He is speaking to us about hope and he says, "Hope does not disappoint." I think that this word disappointment is a very important word to think about and meditate on a little bit. Unfortunately, it is an experience that we all know. Disappointment. I don't just mean that the gift you got for your birthday wasn't what

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EXCERPTS FROM **CHANGING THE EQUATION, CHRIST CHANGES EVERYTHING** BY FR. MICHAEL CARVILL, HUMAN ADVENTURE BOOKS, 2021.

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Featured image: Avanzino Nucci, *Abraham and the Three Angels*, tempera on panel, ca. 1629 (detail); US PD



you were hoping for. I mean a deeper and more generalized disappointment. We thought that life would be full and will completely answer our cravings, yearnings, desires, and hungers; what we are made for. When we live the relationship with one another and the world in a way that doesn't receive this gift of God's revelation, we find life disappointing. By God's gift of revelation, I mean this second initiative of his love, which is the sending of his son into the world. [...]

Our heart is made for something truly great, but when we offer it a hundred and one small satisfactions, in the end, the heart begins to say, "No. I'm not getting what I want here." New cars, new houses, new gadgets, trips, all the things you can put on the list of the things with which we tend to fill our lives. What I'm looking for, what the human heart is looking for, isn't there. It is not among those things. It is in the life that Jesus comes to bring us, and that life is nothing other than our share in this life of the Trinity. Christ brings us to share in the life of the Trinity and to live this relationship because this is what God made humanity to be. God made humanity to be something beautiful.

Only when we set our hearts on something less than our relationship with him does life stop being beautiful, and this world becomes that valley of tears which we know it to be. We experience that disappointment of finding out that there is a lot here, but not what I'm looking for. What I'm looking for is given as a gratuitous gift in our relationship with Christ. That's what he came for and it is nothing less than that share in his life by which we can actually and truly live that command of Jesus; be perfect and love one another as he has loved us. [...] ■



# THE DISCOVERY OF ANOTHER

THE FOUNDATION OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY IS FOUND IN THE SERVICE OF THE WORK OF CHRIST, IN THE COMMUNION OF THE CHURCH.



”  
It is only God that fulfills this desire and that, through the face of the other and their diversity from us, He wants to make us understand something about Himself.

One of the most beautiful experiences of our mission is the accompaniment of families in their vocation. To accompany and to be accompanied: because for a priest, it is important to be close to many couples who are happy with their relationship: grateful for the gift of children, full of desire to understand more deeply how to serve the Kingdom of God as husbands, wives, fathers and mothers and how to give witness to a humanly-fulfilled life. Unfortunately, you also sometimes find that they are stuck, as if they have lost the reason for their staying together; this can happen after many years of marriage or after a few months. Questions emerge, such as: “Where do we restart when it seems that we don’t love each other anymore?”; “How does our acceptance of each other become real, and not just putting up with the other person?”; “How do I learn to love that which in the other bothers me or that I don’t understand?”

Thinking of them, one of the most human events described in the Gospels comes to mind: the time when Mary and Joseph, returning from Jerusalem, realize the Child is no longer with them

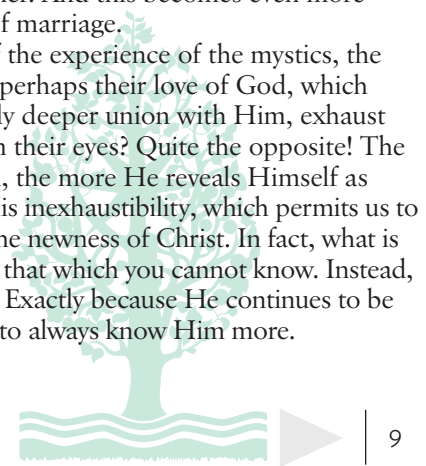
How many times in our life, for a stretch, we realize that we haven’t brought Him with us? How often does His presence, taken for granted, cease to have any affect on daily life? What strikes me about the episode of the finding of Jesus at the Temple is the fact that both Mary and Joseph begin searching for Jesus together. It is the same for us: the diminishing of the affection between us is more often than not connected to the loss of the reasons to stay together. The tiredness and coldness in our relationships start when the fountain of true love dries up. When Christ, without our realizing it, disappears from our life, it is then that you need

In the photo, a moment of celebration at the Youth center of Rome, entrusted to the priests of the Fraternity of St. Charles

to begin to search for Him, together. And this implies a work, a struggle. First, it is necessary to have the poverty of spirit to admit that we have lost Him, that He is no longer with us. Then, we must begin to search for Him, to beseech Him. The account of the finding in the temple tells us that Jesus has something elusive about Him, irreducible to our attempts to cage Him inside of something that we have already understood: this is the reason that we have to continually search for him. The first job of a family, therefore, is to pray together.

But Jesus’ irreducibility to our plans reminds us that each of us is a mystery to the other. And this becomes even more evident in the experience of marriage.

Think, for example, of the experience of the mystics, the contemplative saints: does perhaps their love of God, which brings them into continually deeper union with Him, exhaust the mystery that Christ is in their eyes? Quite the opposite! The more that man knows God, the more He reveals Himself as mystery. It is exactly this, His inexhaustibility, which permits us to have a daily experience of the newness of Christ. In fact, what is the Mystery? Mystery is not that which you cannot know. Instead, it is the infinitely knowable. Exactly because He continues to be Mystery that He allows me to always know Him more.



But if this is true in the love of God, why must we think that human love is any different? The more I know and love my wife, the more I know and love my husband, the more I become aware of the mystery that he or she represents for me. Certainly, this discovery of the other's "you" as different from me, different than what I was expecting, is often difficult to accept. Joseph Ratzinger describes it well in his Introduction to Christianity, when he affirms that every "you" is, in the end, a delusion. A delusion that is born from the illusion that he (or she) will respond completely to my desire to love and to be loved, when instead it is only God that fulfills this desire and that, through the face of the other and their diversity from us, He wants to make us understand something about Himself. Christ wants to let Himself be found by us, but he asks that we begin to search for him together. And, searching for Christ, each one finds himself and the other that is with him. Only now will I start to truly accept my husband or wife, to discover and appreciate even his or her aspects that I did not know. It is then that the diversity of the other becomes a treasure for me. In this road towards the rediscovery of one's vocation, the family is never alone. It isn't by chance that Mary and Joseph's search concludes at the Temple. It is in the communion of the Church that husband and wife rediscover Christ and their reason to be together, which is, ultimately, to put yourself at the service of a project greater than yourself, that Christ wants to complete in the name of his Father.

Source:  
<https://sancarlo.org/en/la-scoperta-dellaltro>



In the photo, a moment together with John Paul II Families at Nativity last April

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