

Welcome to proudly-blended Saint Francis de Sales Parish United by the Most Blessed Sacrament. SFDS Parish was founded in 1890; Most Blessed Sacrament Parish was founded in 1901; St. Francis de Sales Church was built in 1911; and the two parishes merged here in 2007.

Today, we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an urban setting to diverse members who form a Catholic community of believers of all ages. Our worship together overflows into charity evidenced by service, justice, and peace.



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THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 24, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

At my high school baccalaureate Mass from Roman Catholic High School, our campus minister gave a homily about Saint Francis de Sales. He told the 220 young men in the Cathedral that night to “be who God made you to be and be that perfectly well.” I can still remember those words. It’s great advice, not just for young people about to set off on adulthood, but every single person. It is not just about being what God made us to be, our vocation in life, though it includes that. But it’s even more about who: that is, the kind of person God in his wisdom created us to be.

Saint Francis de Sales did not just give good advice. He put that advice into practice in his own life. He counseled others in doing the same, through his preaching, writing, spiritual direction, and through his leadership as a priest and bishop. He also did it by being a trusted friend to many men and women.

As our Forty Hours devotions begin with his feast day, we ask for his special intercession for our parish. We welcome Father Thomas Dailey who will share his insights into the life and teaching of our holy patron.

May God be Blessed!
-Father Eric Banecker

PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Jennifer Baugh, Eleanor Brooks, Spenser Brown,
 Becky Brown, Phyllis Buckhan, Christopher Browne, Gisselle Marie Burgess, Dawn Byers, Bob and Claudia Christian, Edmund Coccagna, Adlyn Cummings, Michael Farley, Ruth Harrell, Paula Harvey, Shirley Hinson, Vashti Holden, Frank Innes, Bernadette Jengo, the Joseph family, James Kettor, Venus Murphy, Wilma Noel, Marie O'Connor, Denise Pogue, Marve Prowisor, Dorothy and David Ross, Jack Ruane, Joseph Shurillo, Sister Thérèse RA, Timothy A. Triplett, Peter Villa,
 Kristina Zaprasna,

Please keep the staff and residents at Renaissance Healthcare (47th and Chester) in your prayers in this time of Covid!

REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE DIED



Sheila DiCiccio (mother of parishioner Gina DiCiccio)

Brian J. Dooley (brother of parishioner Michelle Dooley)

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Let us pray for the victims of all disasters, and for an end to violence and hatred across the country and around the world.

The Independent reported on the morning of Jan. 20 that “When Joe Biden is sworn in as the 46th president of the United States, he will repeat his oath of office with one hand placed on the Bible, as is customary. The difference here is that Biden’s Bible is much larger than most used by his predecessors over the generations, his a five-inch thick, groaning tome with a Celtic cross emblazoned on the cover....The book is a family heirloom that has been with the Biden clan for 127 years. A devout Roman Catholic, the president has used this same treasured edition at every ceremony he has participated in since he was first sworn in as a senator in 1973, the youngest in the history of the nation at just 30 years old when he did so.”

“The business of finding fault is very easy; the business of doing better, very difficult.”

(Saint Francis de Sales)

SFDS HISTORY MYSTERIES: Letters Under the Door



St. Francis de Sales is famous for the flyers he delivered under people's doors in the 1590s – an early form of journalism -- but the writings themselves are rarely referenced. Do we know anything about them?

Charles Auguste de Sales, nephew of the Saint (and later, a Bishop) wrote that in 1658, when he returned to his chateau of La Thuille after an absence of fourteen years, he discovered a manuscript “contained with other papers in a plain deal box which for greater security during those disturbed times had been cemented into the thick wall of an archive-chamber.” These appear to have been the famous under-door-delivered writings of St. Francis de Sales – the reason he would later be declared “Patron Saint of Journalists!” The translator’s preface to the 1899 edition, compiled as The Catholic Controversy, notes “The original was written on fugitive separate sheets, which were copied and distributed week by week, sometimes being placarded in the streets and squares. The Saint did not consider them of sufficient importance to be mentioned in the list of his works contained in the Preface to the Love of God, but they were carefully written, and he preserved a copy more or less complete which bears marks of being revised by him later.”

What was in the pages? St. Francis de Sales explained that since protestants who lived near Thonon in the French Chablais were afraid to come and listen to him, he would put his words in writing. This would allow people to access his information in the quiet of their own homes. It would also give people something they could take to their church minister, if they wished, to get his opinion. “Writing can be better handled; it gives more leisure for consideration than the voice does; it can be pondered more profoundly.” And “it will be seen that...I write in everybody’s sight, and under the censorship of superiors, being assured that, while people will find herein plenty of ignorance, they will not find, God helping, any irreligion or any opposition to the doctrines of the Roman Church.”

Over the course of many installments, de Sales outlined important differences between Calvinist protestants and Catholics on ideas of faith and free will. John Calvin had written that “All are not created on equal terms, but some are preordained to eternal life, others to eternal damnation.” His followers believed that everyone was drawn towards evil, but some were pre-selected by God to be saved in spite of themselves. The identities of those created for the “Secret Church” of the Saved, known only to God, would only be revealed on Judgement Day. Catholics, on the other hand, believed humans had free will to choose good or evil, and their individual actions and choices would determine their place in the afterlife. Earthly success was no measure of God’s favor. De Sales even acknowledged that “there are many...in the Militant Church whose end will be perdition...” (who will go to Hell) because of their poor choices. These include many “bishops and prelates who, after having been lawfully placed in this office and dignity, have fallen from their first grace and have died heretics...” The rule of faith was in the Bible, which all agreed was Holy Writ, but de Sales observed that its words were interpreted differently by different people: “heresy is in the understanding, not in the Scripture, and the fault is in the meaning, not in the words.” He noted that protestant leaders reconfigured the Bible to leave out portions that didn’t suit them: “Calvin finds that the Apocalypse is to be received, Luther denies it; the same with the Epistle of S. James...Either the one or the other is ill formed...” The “true” church, according to de Sales, is inclusive.

His arguments convinced many. Cardinal Zaccetti, in introducing the cause of Beatification, noted that de Sales “recalled so great a multitude of wandering souls to the Church that he happily raised up and restored first Thonon and then the other parishes.” Today, other works of St. Francis de Sales, such as the Introduction to the Devout Life, are much better known, but his long-ago writings to people in Thonon provide an interesting early example of information dissemination, while offering perspective on some deep roots of differences among groups that share the name of “Christians.”

Find more at <https://SFDShistory.wordpress.com>; Contact mdooleylework@hotmail.com

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What's My Name?

The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

#WHATSMYNAME

In Remembrance of Samantha Josephson

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