

Bulletin for the Catholic Parishes of Oklee, Grygla, and Goodridge

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Confessions: 15 minutes before Mass
 Tuesday Confessions: 1 hr. post Mass

85,000 children missing at the border:
 Not our responsibility?

The recent mega hit movie *"The Sound of Freedom"* has brought attention to the reality of sex trafficking children internationally and the abuse they suffer. The movie screen is not the only place this crisis is playing out before our eyes but could be the only place it is being recognized by the public. Within the walls of Congress, the testimony of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Xavier Becerra this week has sent many lawmakers into a tailspin regarding 85,000 missing children. We, as Christians, should certainly be as concerned and impacted regarding these missing children as many of us were by the movie. The movie is based on a true story. Many of these 85,000 children are living a similar nightmare right now. It could easily be their story.

According to available numbers from the federal government, over 130,000 minors crossed the border in 2022 without parents or guardians accompanying them. The reports indicate an estimated 85,000 of those unaccompanied minors are missing. The government has no knowledge of where they are located. Becerra acknowledged the "reports that have flagged an increase in children being employed illegally and exploited by companies are real, repulsive, and unacceptable," according to his own statements to Congress during the testimony. However, he seemed to shirk responsibility for the missing 85,000 by saying, "HHS's custodial responsibility for unaccompanied children legally ends once we place them in the custody of a vetted sponsor." Most are not released to a verified parent but are released to "vetted sponsors".

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SAFE ENVIRONMENT

NOTE: If you or someone you know has been the victim of sexual misconduct on the part of a priest, deacon, or individual representing the Diocese of Crookston, its parishes, or its schools, your first call should be to law enforcement. Red Lake County Sheriff at 218-253-2996, Pennington County Sheriff at 218-681-6161, Marshall County Sheriff at 218-745-5411. In addition, the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator is available at 218-281-7895 (24-hour confidential number).

Oklee	Sunday	08/27/23	8:00 a.m.	†Tony Weber
Grygla	Sunday	08/27/23	10:15 a.m.	†Dean Kiesow
Goodridge	Sunday	08/27/23	12:00 p.m.	For the People
Oklee	Monday	08/28/23	8:00 a.m.	†Genevieve Metzdarff
Oklee	Tuesday	08/29/23	No MASS	NO MASS
Grygla	Wednesday	08/30/23	5:30 p.m.	†Delbert Blickenstaff
Oklee	Thursday	08/31/23	8:00 a.m.	†Tony Weber
Oklee	Sunday	09/03/23	8:00 a.m.	†Tony Weber
Grygla	Sunday	09/03/23	10:15 a.m.	†Marjorie Polansky
Goodridge	Sunday	09/03/23	12:00 p.m.	For the People

CLERGY COLUMN

Happy Lord's Day!

I want to use this space this week to put down on paper some of the things I preached about during my homily. To be clear, these readings point very directly to Jesus installing Peter to a particular office, which has its foundations in the Old Testament, as the Steward of the House - the house which is the Kingdom of God. It is an office, so the office does not die out when Peter dies out, but instead it continues and another man takes his place. This office is an earthly office, the head of the Lord's Church. Historically speaking, this Church is the Catholic Church and Peter is the first pope. Read this quote from an early Church Father, St. Irenaeus, who was born in the year 130 AD:

[T]he very great, the very ancient, and universally known Church founded and organized at Rome by the two most glorious apostles, Peter and Paul; as also the faith preached to men... comes down to our time by means of the successions of the bishops. For it is a matter of necessity that every Church should agree with this Church, on account of its pre-eminent authority, that is, the faithful everywhere... The blessed apostles, then, having founded and built up the Church, committed into the hands of Linus the office of the episcopate... To him succeeded Anacletus; and after him, in the third place from the apostles, Clement ... To this Clement there succeeded Evaristus. Alexander followed Evaristus; then, sixth from the apostles, Sixtus was appointed; after him, Telephorus, who was gloriously martyred; then Hyginus; after him, Pius; then after him, Anicetus. Soter having succeeded Anicetus, Eleutherius does now, in the twelfth place from the apostles, hold the inheritance of the episcopate. In this order, and by this succession, the ecclesiastical tradition from the apostles, and the preaching of the truth, have come down to us. And this is most abundant proof that there is one and the same vivifying faith, which has been preserved in the Church from the apostles until now, and handed down in truth. (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.3.2-3)

Peter was succeeded by St. Linus, who was succeeded by St. Anacletus (a.k.a. Cletus), who was succeeded by St. Clement (shoutout to St. Clement's in Grygla!), etc. All the way down to St. John Paul II, then to Benedict XVI, and now to Francis. This is the very Church that Jesus established in the Gospel of Matthew chapter 16. May all come to know this truth and embrace it with their whole lives, even by converting to Catholicism.

Just as the Lord spoke to Shebna, the al bayith of the Kingdom of Israel, about how he would take the keys of the kingdom and give them to Eliakim, his successor, so Jesus gives the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven to Peter, the al bayith of the Kingdom of Heaven. This means he and his successors have the authority of Jesus to make binding decisions while they hold the office on earth (not every decision the pope makes is a binding decision - there are conditions that must be met). He is also supposed to be a father to the kingdom and all who dwell in it - the word "pope" comes from the Greek word pappas, which means "father". Peter is the rock, the father, the steward of the house, and the clear leader of the early Church. What a gift that we can call ourselves members of this same Church!

May the Lord give you his peace!
Fr. Bryan

According to available numbers from the federal government, over 130,000 minors crossed the border in 2022 without parents or guardians accompanying them. The reports indicate an estimated 85,000 of those unaccompanied minors are missing. The government has no knowledge of where they are located. Becerra acknowledged the "reports that have flagged an increase in children being employed illegally and exploited by companies are real, repulsive, and unacceptable," according to his own statements to Congress during the testimony. However, he seemed to shirk responsibility for the missing 85,000 by saying, "HHS's custodial responsibility for unaccompanied children legally ends once we place them in the custody of a vetted sponsor." Most are not released to a verified parent but are released to "vetted sponsors". The sponsor could be any adult with any motive.

He also admitted that HHS does not contact local Department of Social Services or Department of Children's Services when the minors cross the border without a guardian. He said it was in the interest of protecting the privacy of the children that other state government agencies were not employed to assist. In exchange for the "privacy protection", HHS forfeits these children's ability to be protected and, as a result, the children vanish. Many of them end up being sex trafficked, abused, and are forced laborers by cartels and sex traffickers.

The hearing had several references to "The Sound of Freedom" movie while trying to determine what has happened to these children. It is appalling that Becerra, a Catholic, appeared to be complicit or ignorant of the severe problems and

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Cursillos

Would you like to deepen your faith and let Jesus become more involved in your life? Let the Spirit lead you on a Cursillo. The Diocese of Crookston is offering a Women's Cursillo on the weekend of September 21-24 and a Men's Cursillo on the weekend of October 26-29, 2023 at Mount St. Benedict in Crookston. Applications are available at <https://crookstonscursillo.weebly.com/>.



St. Francis Altar Server Training



Saturday, September 9th
@ 9:00 a.m.

For current & new altar
servers 3rd grade and older.

TITHING

St. Francis Xavier's in Oklee

August 20, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$1266.00
Endowment for Priests	\$16.00
Flowers for Altar	\$35.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$120.00</u>
Total	\$ 1437.00

St. Ann's in Goodridge

August 20, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$476.00
Endowment for Priests	\$40.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total	\$ 556.00

St. Clement's in Grygla

August 13, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$500.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$55.00</u>
Total	\$ 555.00

August 20, 2023

Adult Envelopes	\$580.00
Endowment for Priests	\$255.00
Loose Plate	<u>\$40.00</u>
Total	\$ 875.00

dangers these children face. It is despicable that he could so easily dismiss it as "not our responsibility." As human beings it should be our responsibility to ensure children are protected. It is the entire reason state governments have departments such as the Department of Social Services or Department of Children's Services. It is the sole purpose for your tax dollars funding such departments and investigators. Yet, Becerra seems to be content with no follow-up to ensure these children are safe and no reports to local state governments to seek monitoring and provide social services to the children. There is no caring for the orphans.

***"For I was hungry, and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'"* (Matthew 25:35-40)**

On the other hand, church leaders remain silent once again. It appears they are only able to speak and figure out they have a voice when it is advocating for allowing the migration of undocumented immigrants. They only use their vocal cords when the issue is favorable toward their own political party and preferences. Meanwhile, 85,000 children are missing, and we hear crickets from the clergy.

Christians should be united in prayer for these children. We should demand these children be located and their safety ensured. Regardless of if you support the migration of undocumented immigrants at the border or you oppose it, we should all be able to agree that these children are in danger and need to be protected. They are innocent and helpless. It is not a Catholic exclusive responsibility or obligation. It is a human responsibility. We should do better because the Lord requires better. We should care because Christ weeps at the abuse of these children.

***"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world."* (James 1:27)**

What are we doing if we do not care about 85,000 missing children? Catholic 365

We are the Hands of Christ

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, a new neighbor, a new work colleague, a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home?

Many of us probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded.

A simple "hello" goes a long way.

Say Hello!

St Francis Xavier's

Oklee, MN

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Sacristan: Phyllis

Lector:: Jan

Counters: Deb & Jo

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Sacristan: Margaret

Lector:: Paul

Counters: MaryAnn & Jan

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Sacristan: Phyllis

Lector:: Mary Lynn

Counters: Anne & Delores

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Sacristan: Emily

Lector:: Bob M.

Counters: Margaret & Linda



St Ann's

Goodridge, MN

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Lector:: Carol

Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Lector:: Paula

Counters: Marie & Audrey

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Lector:: Carol

Counters: Deb & Maggie

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Lector:: Paula

Counters: Marie & Audrey



St Clement's

Grygla, MN

Sunday, August 27, 2023

Lector:: Gary

Sunday, September 3, 2023

Lector:: Robbie

Sunday, September 10, 2023

Lector:: Dawn

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Lector:: Jim C.

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Lector:: Laurie



Recently Deceased Loved Ones

†Iona Berry
†Kim Johs
†Elias Abboud
†Audrey Martell
†Harold Cyr
†Judie Hendrickson
†Alden Morinville
†Kathleen Erickson
†Joseph Cullen
†Laura Nadeau
†Lucy Christianson
†Vernon Rogalla
†Donovan Stoneouse
†Adelore Plante
†Richard Perreault
†Cecelia Christianson
†Corlan Magnell Klein-schmidt
†Judy Zavoral
†Dean Lambert
†Richard Bronken
†Jerome Carriere
†Gary Paquin
†Gayle Radniecki Grossman
†Delores Longtin
†Lorraine Cote
†Lorraine LaCoursiere
†Tony Weber
†Matt Genova
†Elaine Radniecki

Pray For Those Who Are Sick

Delton Sebenaler
Donnie Tougas
Kenneth LaCoursiere
Shirley Dessellier
Michael Bachand
Annette LaCoursiere
Debra Olson
Ambrose Beaudoin
Steve Sebenaler
Don LaCoursiere
Cindy Deterrman
Marie Adams
Grace Rundell
MaryAnn Lambert
Bailey Herried Drotts
George Pittman
Bambi Lambert
Doris Dessellier
Danielle Swanson
Mark Stromberg
Sylvia Remick Morey
Penny Kalar
Jo Lambert
Tony Radniecki
Bob Radniecki
Darren Tougas
Rick Dulka
Richard Bourque
Jude Syvertson
Mary Radniecki
Dave Zavoral



Pray for our parishioners who have been away from the sacraments and Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all of us.

Anyone wishing to have a MASS offered for a loved one you may leave name and the customary donation of \$10.00 in the offering basket in an envelope.

*St. Michael, the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our safeguard against
the wickedness and snares
of the devil.
May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray;
and do you,
O Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God
cast into hell Satan
and all the evil spirits
who wander through the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.*