



From Father McCabe

An American, a Scottish and a Canadian were in a terrible accident. They were all brought to the same emergency room, but all three died. Just as they were about to put the death tag on the toe of the American, he stirred and opened his eyes.

Astonished, the doctors and nurses asked him what happened. “Well,” Said the American, “I remember the crash, and then there was a beautiful light, and then the Canadian and Scot and I were standing at the gates of heaven. St. Peter approached us and said we could do better work on earth, and that for a donation of \$50.00 we could return to earth. So, I pulled out my wallet and gave him the \$50.00, and then next thing I knew I was back here.” “That’s amazing!” said one of the doctors, “But what happened to the other two?”

The American replied, “Last time I saw them the Scottish man was haggling over the price and the Canadian was waiting for the government to pay.”

It is good to be Catholic in America, because we can be serious when we need to be, as well as lighthearted. Last Sunday’s Gospel was deeply serious because it spelled out the principal action of salvation that we are responsible for: we need to seek God’s forgiveness and forgive others lovingly with our whole heart. This means completely trusting what Jesus Christ as the Divine Head of the Catholic Church teaches us about his mercy in the Sacrament of Baptism, and the Sacrament of Confession if we were to sin – and most of us do sin after baptism, so the Sacrament of Confession is a lifeline of grace that keeps us open to improving.

Today’s Gospel is on the lighter side of things, and it is good to see the subtle humor in the parable Jesus uses. We might relate to the American in the story above who accepts his situation and accepts God’s offer to have a second chance to do things better.

Or we might see ourselves in the Scottish man, who did not accept God’s reality and tries to make a deal; or the Canadian who waits for his government to help. Both these scenarios can be seen as a kind of purgatory since each of them wants it their way and thus have failed to trust and invest in God completely, and thus both need to be purified by waiting and can no longer grow in their good work for the Lord.

Remember how some disciples will produce 30, 60, or 100-fold after receiving the Word of God? To reach 100% of your spiritual capacity we need to love and serve God at the highest level here on earth and then in heaven for all eternity.

In today’s parable Jesus tells us that he wants us to work for him and his kingdom, and to keep improving, to strive for that 100% capacity. He wants us to be eager at working to bring our family, friends and others into the service of God so that they can receive the reward of heaven.

We call the reward of heaven “the beatific vision.” There, we will perfectly see and interact with the fulness of God’s glory of how he created, loved and restored us and all of creation through Jesus Christ with the help of his holy angels, saints and sacraments. The “beatific vision” will be perfect life, love, relationships and wisdom; the reward of remaining faithful to the Lord Jesus and His Catholic Church despite the hardships.

The humorous part of the parable is that some of those who are saved complain. Since they did more work under the heat of

the day, they think that they should get a greater reward than those who worked only the last hour.

God reminds them, and us, that everyone who dies in the state of grace will receive the same, objective payment – the beatific vision for all eternity. However, the subjective degree of their eternal happiness will depend on the degree of love and trust with which they were willing to work for God’s glory and the salvation of souls.

Thus, the more difficult the work you do with a greater degree of love for Christ and others, the more capacity you will have to appreciate your growing friendships, payment, rest and refreshment that the Lord gives to all his faithful. Most of us understand this, and that is why this parable is one of truth, and of subtle humor.

Another way of understanding the different degrees of appreciation of the same beatific vision is to imagine seeing a premier musical drama with others. Everyone enjoys the acting, dancing, singing and music because it is objectively the same for each person.

However, the person who has practiced the violin for years and knows how difficult it is to play, and how much work goes into composing the music and lyrics has a subjectively deeper appreciation of the total beauty of the show. When that person hears someone say after the show, “That was good. It was worth driving two hours to get here,” that person will smile and think about never complaining again, since they know how many years it takes to play professionally the violin, and to bring about the beauty of a premier, life changing musical.

When you get a glimpse of God’s beauty, goodness and wisdom, how much do you appreciate it? How much do you desire to work at sharing it with others despite the difficulties? Your contributions to the work of Jesus Christ and his Church will deepen your capacity for the appreciation of God himself for all eternity, for Christ is the source of all life, friendship, humor, love, wisdom and beauty – the beatific vision.

It is never too late to roll up your sleeves and decide to do the essential work of spreading the full Gospel message to your loved ones. Remember that Moses was 80 years old when God called him to free his people from Egyptian slavery. But you might say, “Well, God sent him his brother-in-law, Aaron, to help him.” True, but Aaron was 83 years old! It is never too late to proclaim the fulness of the objective saving truth of Christ and his Church!

I praise God for all our volunteers who work in God’s vineyard to help build up the physical and spiritual dimensions of our parish community. May God bless you and your family and friends eternally!

Peace in Christ,
Fr. Thoms McCabe



Behold the Lamb of God!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Mondays at St. Mary from 6:30-9:00PM, Wednesdays at Holy Trinity from 9:00AM-1:00PM, and Thursdays at St. Columbkil from 8:00AM-9:00AM (unless otherwise noted). Spend some time with Jesus!

News/Events Office Hours, generally Mondays, 2:30-5:30pm

Donuts & Discussion: Thursday, September 24, 9:30am at Lundberg Funeral Home, 5839 Hwy 19 Blvd, Cannon Falls, to plan today to protect your loved ones in the future. RSVP 507-216-8136

Faith Formation: NET ministry retreat for 7th – 9th grade students is scheduled for SAT. Sept. 26, 12:30PM-7:30PM. Please consider helping with lunch for the Net leaders at 11:30am, or dinner at 6:30pm for the entire group. Call the parish office.

St. Mary’s Fundraising Auction: The Auction will be held after 8:30am Mass of Sept. 20th. Drop off donation items in the back of church prior to mass. If you want someone to pick them up, call Ellen Huneke (651-764-0231) or Char Von Knobelsdorf (651-764-1629). Suggested items include bake goods, produce, toys, crafts, and items in good condition.

Adore Him-He is Here: A two hour documentary/drama at Marcus Theatre, 4340 Main Ave. SE Rochester. Only Sun. October 4 –Thurs. October 8. Fathom Entertainment brought to audiences *The Blind* in November 2023 and *The Chosen, Last Supper; Part 1* in November 2025.

Need a Miracle: Join in praying the complete Our Lady Undoer of Knots novena by searching for “Need a Miracle?” on YouTube or going to <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/novena-to-our-lady-undoer-of-knots>. In this prayer, we ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to intercede for us, untangle our life difficulties and guide us close to Jesus.

Marriage Encounter: Fall in love all over again by attending Oct 17-18 at Mt Olivet Retreat Center in Farmington. Register at: www.marriage.org. A “perfect marriage” is simply two imperfect people who refuse to give up on each other!

First Choice Luncheon: Fundraising luncheon celebrating 20 years, Thurs. October 8th. Doors open at 11:30, lunch begins at noon. St Joseph Catholic Church, Red Wing. Call 651-267-4357 or email info@firstchoiceclinic.org

Fall Festival: St Pius Catholic Church, 410 Colvill St. W, Cannon Falls. Sept. 20, 2026, 11:00am-1:00pm. Mass at 10:00am. KC Grill tent, 1:00pm live auction.

Dueling Pianos: Thursday, Oct. 8th 5:30pm reception, 6:30pm concert. Presented by First Choice Clinic at New River Assembly of God, 240 Spates Ave, Red Wing. Tickets \$25

Pope Leo XIV’s Prayer Intention for September 2026:
Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Holy Trinity is dedicated to protecting children and vulnerable adults. Volunteers serving with minors and vulnerable adults must complete requirements before engaging in ministry. Contact, Zach Siebenaler parish Safe Environment Coordinator, at: faithformation@holyltrinitygoodhue.org.

Please pray for: Bob Eppen, Ann Merry, Ed Heppelmann, Ray & Gloria Poncelet, Dave Buck, Scott Cyert, Louise Heppelmann, Brent Hokanson, Anne Skalicky, Neil Stehr, Jen Berg, Marge Majerus, Shawn Frederixon, Gabe Ryan, Ryan Zorn, Beth Carlson, Chuck Havrilla, Randy Nardinger, Amy Feely, Alan Gadiant, Wilma Seither, Susan Brown, Jocelyn O’Reilly, Marci Dillworth, George ZanMiller, Dave Huneke, Paul Huneke, Bryan Vogel, Steve O’Reilly, Paul Ryan, Loretta Froyum, Mary Haas, Bruce Nord, Rick Shane, Marlys Hofgren, Annette Gadiant, Bishop Kevin Kenney, Berdell Gadiant, Ellen Casey, Fr Kevin Zilverberg, Dave O’Reilly

Calendar/Events			
Sat. Sept 19	HT	4:45pm-5:20pm	Sacrament of Confession
Sun. Sept 20	SM	8:00am-8:20am	Sacrament of Confession
Mon. Sept 21	SM	6:30pm-9:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration
Mon. Sept 21	HT	7:30pm-8:45pm	Pastoral Council Meeting
Wed. Sept 23	HT	9:00am-1:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration & Sacrament of Confession
		2:20pm-3:30pm	1 st – 6 th Faith Formation
		7:25pm-8:35pm	7 th – 9 th Faith Formation
Thurs. Sept 24	SC	8:00am-8:45am	Eucharistic Adoration & Sacrament of Confession
Sat. Sept 26	HT	12:30pm-7:30pm	7th – 9th NET retreat
Sat. Sept 26	HT	4:45pm-5:20pm	Sacrament of Confession
Sun. Sept 27	SM	8:00am-8:20am	Sacrament of Confession

SUNDAY COLLECTION September 12/13, 2026			
Holy Trinity		St. Columbkil	St. Mary
\$1528.00		\$771.00	\$749.75
Church	Role	September 19/20	September 26/27
HT: Sat. 5:30pm Sept 19 & Sept 26	Musician	Wanda Schafer	Eileen Frischmon
	Cantor	Michelle Matthees	Laurel Seither
	Lector	Maureen Lodermeier	Oleana O’Reilly
	Servers	Madalyn, Caleb, Cameron Schofield	
SM: Sun. 8:30am Sept 20 & Sept 27	Ushers	Mike Zorn	Mike Zorn
	Musician	Wanda Schafer	Wanda Schafer
	Cantor	Cathy O’Reilly	Cathy O’Reilly
	Lector	Taylor Buck	Jeremy Keller
SC: Sun. 10:00am Sept 20 & Sept 27	Servers	Jackie Eggenberger & daughters Sophia & Emalee	Isaac & Mabel Ryan
	Ushers		
	Musician	Cindy Eppen	Cindy Eppen
	Cantor	Shelly Jacobsen	Joel Hernke
Sept 20 & Sept 27	Lector	Becky Diercks	Chris Poncelet
	Servers	Brady & Liahna McNamara	Alayna & Mazie Voth
	Ushers	Bruce & Blair McNamara	Chris & JJ O’Reilly

Note New Emails:
Fr McCabe: pastor@holyltrinitygoodhue.org
Zach Siebenaler: faithformation@holyltrinitygoodhue.org
Cathy O’Reilly: admin@holyltrinitygoodhue.org