



ST. JOHN

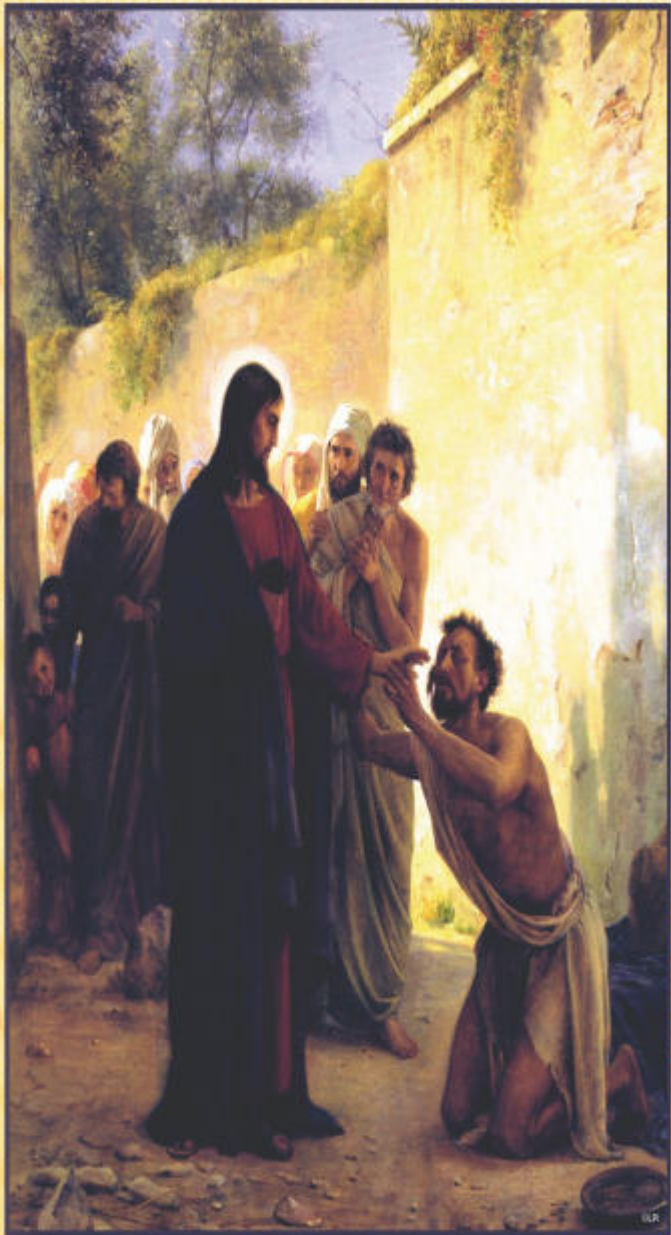
***Together in Christ
Collaborative***

OCTOBER 24, 2021

**30th SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**



ST. ANN



30th SUNDAY *in ordinary time*

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way. - Mk 10:52

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

**Church of Saint Ann
103 N. Main St., West Bridgewater 02379**

508-586-4880

E-Mail: stanns@comcast.net

Website: stannswb.com

Facebook: St. Ann-WB

**Collaborative Office Hours are 9-4 M-Th
For both Churches**

**Saint John the Evangelist
210 Central St., East Bridgewater 02333
Office -103 N. Main Street,
West Bridgewater**

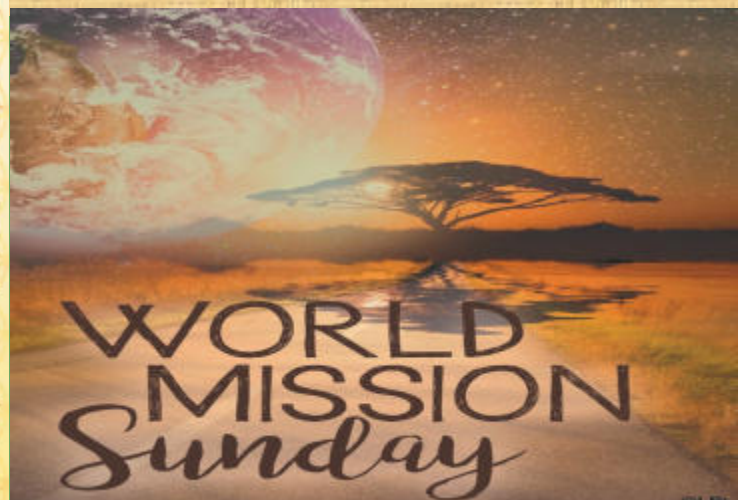
508-378-4207

E-MAIL: stjohnebridge@comcast.net

Website: www.stjohneb.org

Facebook: St. John the Evangelist-EB

Fr. Paul's Facebook Page —Paul Ring



TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Paul L. Ring

fr_plrstjohn@comcast.net

Priests In Residence

Fr. Peter Francis

Fr. Michael Diochi

Permanent Deacons:

Brendan Fitzgerald (Sr. Deacon)

deaconbrendan@comcast.net

Christopher Connelly

cconnelly@rcab.org

The Together in Christ Collaborative Office Hours are 9AM - 4PM Monday -Thursday

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGIES

St John's

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Wednesday– Friday

9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

In the Chapel

St Ann's

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m.

Outdoor Mass – 6 p.m.*

Daily Mass, Mon, Tues, Fri.

9:00 a.m. On hold until further notice

***Alternating between the two worship sites, refer to website for details.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Sacrament of Baptism is being celebrated on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and on Sundays at 1 p.m. These baptisms are private and can accommodate 30 or so people. Social distancing and masks are required.

Alternately you may opt for celebrating the Baptism at the 6 PM Outdoor Mass.

Prep classes will take place before the Baptism.

Please call the Rectory Office for registration.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Is by appointment during the pandemic. Please call the Rectory Office to set up an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the Rectory 6 months prior to the intended date of marriage.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

If you are in need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please contact the Rectory to make an appointment for a visit from a Priest.

Registration: Families not registered, please call the Parish Office

SAINT ANN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Arlene Stefano

stanns@comcast.net

508-586-4880

SAINT JOHN'S STAFF

Administrative Assistant: Deborah Conrad

stjohnnebridge@comcast.net

508-378-4207

Music Minister: Erica Wasil

COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Finance & Operations Manager: Donna Roderiques

donna.stannstjohn@gmail.com

Director of Music: Rich Cesarini

richcesarini@gmail.com

Assistant Music Director: Matt Cunningham

Director of Ministries: Nancy Goggin

directorofministries.tic@gmail.com

508-378-4207 or 508-586-4880

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

St. Ann is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, October 23, 2021

4:00—Lisa Kearney Elias — 4th Anniversary

Sunday, October 24, 2021

8:30 - Manuel & Ana Barros & Family — Mem

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint Ann

Saturday, October 30, 2021

4:00 - Paul Sheedy — 5th Anniversary

Sunday October 31, 2021

8:30 - Joan Mondeau — 5th Anniversary

St. John is a Stewardship Parish

Saturday, October 23, 2021

5:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

Sunday, October 24, 2021

10:30 - Linda Fontaine — 18th Anniversary

Saturday, October 30, 2021

5:30 - Catherine Flood— 1st Anniversary

Robert Flood — 12th Anniversary

David Minella — 10th Anniversary

Sunday, October 31, 2021

10:30 - Parishioners of Saint John

6:00 - Parishioners of Saint John

THE TOGETHER IN CHRIST COLLABORATIVE

Weekly Offertory

Sep 28 - Oct 4, 2021

Oct 5 - Oct 11, 2021

ST ANN

Online N/A

Mail \$ 820

Mass \$ 2,133

TOTAL \$ 2,953

Restoration Fund \$475

ST ANN

Online N/A

Mail \$ 1,175

Mass \$ 2,675

TOTAL \$ 3,850

Restoration Fund \$936

ST JOHN

Online \$ 1,427

Mail \$ 2,371

Mass \$ 2,878

TOTAL \$ 6,676

Restoration Fund \$183

ST JOHN

Online \$ 539

Mail \$ 1,636

Mass \$ 1,933

TOTAL \$ 4,108

Restoration Fund \$348

Your continued support is very much appreciated.



My Dear Friends in Christ,

I have a friend of mine who I've known since college who is blind from birth. He would tell you, if asked, "I'm not sight-impaired, visually-challenged or optically-absent (a term which brought him no shortage of amusement, actually!)...I'm blind". Blindness, he would tell you is not something which he has had to deal with since he knows no other way. He would also tell you that it hasn't stopped him from achieving his life goals, such as getting a degree, getting married or raising children – he's done all three, and quite well.

The "man born blind" in today's gospel, Bartimaeus, would probably tell a different story. Bartimaeus has had to resort to begging, no doubt because he has been ostracized by the community. Blindness (any illness, for that matter) was associated with sin, and so Bartimaeus is seen as a sinner. He is probably pitied by some, but most likely reviled by most (as a sinner). When Bartimaeus hears that Jesus is coming his way, and he knows that this is his opportunity for healing. You know that he knows who Jesus is by the way he calls out to him, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me" (Mk 10:47). In acknowledging Jesus as "son of David", Bartimaeus is recognizing the "kingship" of Jesus. He is also recognizing Jesus as the Messiah, for the Messiah was to come from the "Davidic line". It all comes together for Bartimaeus in that moment. Bartimaeus springs into action, and throws himself at the feet of Jesus with the simple, yet profound, request that he wants to see.

In making the request for sight, Bartimaeus is not only looking for physical healing, but spiritual and social healing as well. Bartimaeus knows that if his sight is restored, he can rejoin the community. Bartimaeus knows that Jesus can do this, as he refers to Jesus as "Master" (Mk 10:51); in doing this, Bartimaeus knows that Jesus is the "key" to healing. Jesus is the key to healing for us, as well. Where is it, in our lives, that we need healing? Where are the "blind spots" in our lives, those things which keep us from being all that we are called to be?

May we have the courage to know that Jesus can heal us. May we trust that this healing is what we need to be restored to fullness in the community. May we, like Bartimaeus, acknowledge Jesus as "Master" for us, our Church and the world.

Have a Blessed Week,

Fr. Paul



MY FRANCISCAN JOURNEY

Today's Gospel deals with Jesus' encounter with Bartimaeus, a blind man who wishes to see (Mark 10:46-52). In ancient times, blindness was among those conditions which were linked with sin. If one was blind, crippled, or leperous, they was a presumption of sin involved with the person. We believe, with our contemporary understanding, that God does not cause disease/illness because of sin. God does allow for such conditions for reasons which are, by and large, beyond human understanding. This is especially true with someone who is seen by most as a good person, begging the question "why do bad things happen to good people".

I mention this gospel passage in light of St. Francis' encounter with the Leper. Francis grew up in a time when there was a large gap between the rich and the poor. At the top were the nobles and rich merchants; at the bottom, the poor and the lepers. During his youth, Francis was taught to be charitable to the poor, but everyone feared lepers. Leprosy was a disease that rotted the extremities of the body, leaving the victim with ugly, oozing sores that smelled and looked terrible. Those with the disease were forbidden to enter the town and were banished to colonies outside the walls. They wore bells around their necks to warn travelers to get off the road when they were coming. Needless to say, they were not treated well by the townspeople.

As a teenager, Francis longed to become a knight. In this way he would win fame and fortune while protecting his town from other, more aggressive neighbors. While traveling to battle, he had a vision from God, which caused him to rethink everything that he was doing. In the vision, he was told to return to Assisi and listen for what God wanted him to do. One day, while Francis was riding a horse through the local countryside, he encountered a leper. The legend tells us that Francis, realizing that the leper was a child of God just like himself, and therefore his brother, got off his horse and embraced him.

In order for Francis to do this, to embrace the leper who was so different from himself, he had to put aside many things that he had been taught and stereotypes he had held about different groups. He had to undergo a conversion from who he was to who God wanted him to be. This begs an answer to some questions for us, today: Who are the "lepers" in society that we can embrace, yet make us feel uncomfortable? How can we overcome this discomfort, this "spiritual blindness", so as to "see Christ in them" and "be Christ for them"? How do we bring about that conversion in our lives so as to make true and lasting change in ourselves, in others, and in the world?

Pax et Bonum,

Fr. Paul



The Deacon's Column

"We are gathered together"

Twenty years ago, Jen and I were getting our young boys ready to go to Sunday Mass. As we were getting them out of bed, cleaned up, fed, and dressed, Jen and I started talking about what we were going to do that day after Mass. She suggested we call our parents and invite them to our apartment for dinner. After a hard and long week at work, I simply wanted to rest at home with Jen and the kids. Our conversation turned to an argument as we moved from the apartment, to the car, along the road, and into the church parking lot. Jen and the kids got out of the car and started to make their way into the Church. I couldn't find the physical, emotional, and spiritual strength to get out of the car—I was still mad. A few minutes later, Jen and the kids returned to the car and we went home where we reconciled our disagreement and attended a later Mass. This true-life story has stuck with me over the years whenever I think about the "Gathering" or "Introductory Rites" of the Mass.

Often, we think Mass begins when the music starts and the ministers of the Eucharist process into Church. However, I invite you to consider that the Mass "begins" in our homes as we prepare to celebrate the Mass and begin our "procession" to Church. The opening procession of Mass ritualizes the movement of God's people from their homes, through the community to our home—the house of God—our parish Church.

In his book, *The Eucharist: Wine of Faith, Bread of Life*, the late Trappist monk and priest, M. Basil Pennington begins with a chapter on "Coming Together." In it he tells the story of how Pope Saint John XXIII began a Lenten Season by gathering at one Church in Rome and then walking through the crowded streets of Rome, gathered the people in procession to another Church a few hundred yards away. As he gathered his flock together bells rang and hymns were sung. Upon entering Church, the Pope formalized the gathering of God's people and "collected" their individual processions and through the opening prayer, the Collect, presented to the Father in heaven the intention and offering of the assembly. By processing through the assembly, the sacred ministers unite to themselves the individual processions the faithful made from their homes to the Church.

This ritual highlights our fundamental identity as Church. The Greek word for Church is *ekklesia*. The word has as its root in the verb *kleo* which translated in English is "to call." It is preceded by the prefix, *ek* which is translated as "out of". When we put the two together the Greek word literally means "to call out of." This is the word we use for Church because we are "called out" of the world to be a priestly, prophetic, and kingly people. We live in the world but we are not meant to be like the world. We are called out of the world to be a leaven and a light in it.

The gathering rite of the Church reminds us that it is the Lord who calls us to himself. When I was sitting in the car, holding onto my anger, I knew that I wasn't prepared to be gathered with Christ. I needed to be reconciled with my wife before we could unite ourselves to the offering of God's people. Knowing that it is the Lord who gathers us together out of the world to be like him in it, how do you prepare and how do you allow yourselves to be gathered?

Facebook talk to Parents of Re Ed

Greetings Together in Christ Collaborative of St Ann's and St John's Religious Ed Parents,

I am Nancy Goggin, your new Director of ministries. Many of you have questions regarding this year's religious Ed program. In an attempt to answer your questions, I have decided to make this video. First, I would like to say that I understand your frustration in not having information. I would like to explain what the holdup has been.

Coming off of the past year and a half of Covid-19, there has been many elements that have needed to come together for us to be able to provide a healthy environment in which to have an in-person program. Therefore, we have made a decision to purchase the highest quality air filtration system available in the marketplace. The units we are purchasing are Purashield units. These units were designed by scientist and engineers that have worked for NASA. These same scientists and engineers designed the air filtration system for the Hubble spacecraft. It is their air filtration system that prevented the Hubble from corroding in the atmosphere, allowing it to do its mission. These are some of the best scientist and engineers in the country. The Purashield air filtration units filter out 99.99% of pollutants and viruses, including Covid-19. These units scrub all the air in the room twice an hour.

Upon making the decision to purchase these units, we realized that for the units to work at their highest level of proficiency, they need to be placed in clean rooms. This led us to realize that we needed to renovate the facility that we would choose to do Religious Education in. Due to both time and financial restraints, we decided to focus all our resources into bringing one building up to Covid -19 safety standards. Therefore, we decided to renovate our largest building, giving us space for all the collaborative programs and events that we want to run. Our largest building is St Ann's Parish center. That is why all Religious Ed classes will be at the Collaborative Parish Center at St Ann's.

Unfortunately, there are many repairs that need to be done at the Collaborative Parish Center before it is ready to welcome our Collaborative family. We are embarking upon an "Extreme Makeover" renovation project. The contractors were supposed to start working on the project last week. However, the contractor we were going to use had staffing issues and needed to pull out of the job. This set us back in time as we needed to find another contractor. Over this past week we have been in negotiations with another company and expect them to be able to start the work this week. Therefore, we need to slightly adjust our Religious Ed schedule.

We were scheduled to fully open our in-person Religious Ed program this coming Sunday, October, 24th, at the Collaborative Parish Center. Instead, we will have a "soft opening" of the program. This "soft opening" will consist of Mass attendance and information that families will take home with them from Mass for at-home family catechesis.

Grades 1-8 families are invited to attend either the 8:30 or 10:30 Mass, each week. I will be at both Masses and will distribute the at-home catechesis handouts after the Mass. I will also have registration forms available at the Masses for those who have not yet registered.

The "soft opening" for grades 9 and 10 will be Sunday evening, November 14th. We request that students and parents come to St Ann's Church for an Opening Prayer Service and a Confirmation information meeting, from 7:00-8:30 pm. At this meeting, the Confirmation program will be fully explained, including a schedule of class dates and Confirmation preparation events.

We expect that the renovations will be complete by the end of November. Once they are completed, we will have a huge Collaborative Parish Center Grand Opening Event. This will be a fun-filled event for people of all ages and will be open to the community at large. You will receive more information on this event as we get closer to the completion of the renovation. Once the renovation is complete, we will resume in-person classes and will update the schedule of classes.

We are truly excited to be embarking upon this "Extreme Collaborative Parish Center Makeover" on your behalf. However, it was a difficult financial decision to make, but it was actually the only decision we could make. It is imperative, in this time of Covid-19, that we have a healthy environment to gather in. Fr. Paul believes that our number one priority is the health and safety of our collaborative family.

Unfortunately, in doing this renovation we are taking on a huge debt. Usually a parish will do a fundraising effort to raise money to do renovations and not start the renovations until they have the money. Unfortunately, we did not have the luxury of time to raise the money before starting the renovations because it was an issue of health and safety. Therefore, we have needed to start the renovations in an act of faith, trusting that our collaborative family will appreciate our concern for their health and safety and will join in our fundraising efforts to pay for the renovations. We will be posting a renovation fundraising page on our websites. We will also be having other fundraising opportunities that you can participate in as well. We look forward to all the fun collaborative events that we will have at the Collaborative Parish Center and thank you in advance for your generosity in our fundraising activities.

COLLABORATIVE NEWS AT SAINT ANN'S AND SAINT JOHN'S

Please keep the following in your prayers:

Tyler Martin, Amanda Little, Patricia Estes, Vince Adornato, Kenneth Upham, Kay Levoshko, Jim Cassidy, Tori Bortolotto, Phil Garbardi, Marcus LaBree, Vickie Vasvatekis, Robert Hanson, Annette Moriarty, Felicia Hernandez, Linda, Frank Conroy, Robert Sullivan, Ann Smith, Joan MacIsaac, Diane Nicolai, Paul Martin, Jim Koury, William Neyman, Janet Wooters, Rene Barnett, Richard Harvey, Sandra Garbardi, Nick, Jennifer Washkevich, Dana Debenedictis, Harry Evans, Frank & Stephen Genatossio, Dr. Irfan Francis, Angela McDevitt, Nathaniel Maniff, Karen & Janet Daly, Bryan Senn, Joan Fisher, Gail Butler, Helen Conrad, Bob Knowlton, Karen Parenteau, Casey L'Italien, Anne Flannery, Joan Ward-Fusco, Claudette Rochefort, Frank McCarthy & The residents of Sachem & Westview & all our service men and women serving in the military.

Please CALL TO UPDATE THE PRAYER LIST. LET THE RECTORY KNOW WHO SHOULD STAY ON THE LIST.

The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul Saint John's Conference PO Box 544

East Bridgewater MA 02333

Call the Food Pantry Hotline for food / assistance
Hotline—508-378-3760

2021-2022 FOOD PANTRY WINTER HOURS/DATES

Winter days will be in effect from **November thru April**, pantry days will be the **first Monday** of the month, except for holidays, from 1pm to 4pm., and **3rd Saturday**, except for holidays, from 10am to 11:30 am

THE FOOD PANTRY HAS NEW HOURS:

*October ,
Monday, October 18th*

*Winter Hours as above.
Monday, November 1
Saturday, November 18*

Donations are always appreciated but please call to let us know you are dropping off. 508-378-3760

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St Ann Prayer Line:

To request prayers from members of Saint Ann's Prayer Line for yourself, another person in need, or a special intention, please call or email Linda Santry at 508-586-6535 or linda@santry.org. If you would like to join the telephone tree or e-mail distribution list, please contact Linda. We would like to expand our membership for this worthy endeavor.



SAINT VINCENT de PAUL
PLEASE CONTACT CHRIS BAKER
@ 774-240-8095 or jchbaker@msn.com
P O Box 474
West Bridgewater MA 02379

Saint Ann's Church is continuing to collect food items for the West Bridgewater Food Pantry. Items can be left in church on the shelves to the right as you come in the front door.

Christmas Sharing Planning

Plans are being made for this year's Christmas Sharing Program and we need your help. Families have been surveyed, and the decision is to again give gift cards to children age 17 and younger in needy families. The families must meet one of the following criteria: be parishioners of St. Ann's, live in West Bridgewater, attend West Bridgewater schools, or be recommended by a parishioner of St. Ann's or one of the other churches involved. As always, we rely on you to help us find the families in need of assistance. If you know of a family who is struggling due to a job loss, injury or disability, please call Linda Santry at **508-586-6535**, or email her, linda@santry.org. All information is kept in strict confidence.

We also are updating our list of senior citizens for a Christmas remembrance. This year we will provide gift cards and a small goodie basket to senior citizens who are needy or have no family to remember them at Christmas. If you know someone we should include, please call Linda Santry.

SAINT JOHN'S AND SAINT ANN'S IS RESUMING THE PRACTICE OF USING EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AT THE MASSES. IF YOU WERE OR WOULD LIKE TO BE A EUCHARIST MINISTER, PLEASE CALL THE RECTORIES TO SIGN UP.

ST JOHN 508-378-4207 SAINT ANN 508-586-4880
WE ALSO NEED LECTORS

Choir Is Back!

One who sings prays twice. If you would like to pray twice by singing in the Together in Christ Collaborative Choir please plan to attend choir rehearsal on Thursdays at 7:00 PM at Saint John's.



Please email Rich, our music director at richcesarini@gmail.com in advance so that he will have enough copies of music for everyone.

Hello,

At times during the pandemic congregational singing was discouraged and congregants were ushered out of the church in a safe manner at the end of mass during the closing hymn. Now that restrictions have been lifted it is a good time to remind ourselves that a liturgy begins with the first notes of the opening song and ends with the final notes of the closing song. We ask that you stay and participate in the closing song if you know the words or stay and enjoy it if you don't know the words. The closing song is one last opportunity to sing God's praises in church before we leave to go about our week. We look forward to having hymn books back in the pews in late November so that everyone can read along. Thank you and God Bless.

-The Together in Christ Collaborative music team.

Communion & Mortal Sin

Question:

I have a friend who receives communion, but who I know for a fact is in a state of mortal sin. Should I tell our priest? Is it my responsibility to say something?

Answer:

While we may always want to do what is best for our friends and family members, we have a responsibility to respect their privacy and their conscience. In its reflections on the Eighth Commandment ("You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"), the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. [One] becomes guilt: -of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor; - of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who do not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (no. 2477).

We will never truly know what is in a person's mind, heart, and soul; only God knows those things. We should, of course, take our concerns to God and entrust the person about whom we are concerned to God's grace and mercy. If we have concerns about the spiritual wellbeing of someone with whom we are close, we should go to the person themselves and talk about our fears and concerns. Unless it is a case of abuse or endangerment (which we have a moral and even legal responsibility to report to the appropriate authorities), we ultimately do not have the freedom to share another's persons faults or sins, however good we think our intentions might be. ©LPi

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