



# St. Catherine of Siena

## Catholic Church and Student Center

12th Sunday of Ordinary Time • June 25, 2023

### Upon Reflection...

a semi-regular series from some of the world's finest spiritual writers

## More Than Two Men and a Bird

*Long ago I was startled by a comment of theologian Sandra Schneiders: "God is more than two men and a bird." I laughed, but then realized her challenge to go beyond the names I had for the blessed Trinity.*

*Although we endow "God" with attributes of our imagination, there is only one ultimate reality into which all these traits dissolve. Renowned religious historian Huston Smith ... pointed out that when we move beyond the personal attributes we give to the divine "all the attributes of the personal God melt down into an ultimate unity that we cannot imagine ...." Like the parable of the blind persons trying to describe what an elephant is as each one holds on to a different part of the animal, the same with divinity. Each name is just a glimpse of the mysterious "I Am."*

*The knowledge that our names for divinity consist of projections and that our perception of the Divine One is limited could be a source of frustration and doubt. Or it could lead to more exploration and wonderment. My response has been an eager interest in further exploration. I am enthralled with never being able to fully comprehend the totality of divinity. There is always another aspect to be discovered that might confirm or add to my understanding and experience of the One who has captured my heart.*

**Joyce Rupp, OSM, Fragments of Your Ancient Name, pp. 8-9,  
lightly edited for length.**

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### PARISH STAFF

**Rev. Protas Okwalo**  
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**Fr. Emmanuel Offiong**  
Weekend Pastoral Associate

**Fr. George Komo**  
On leave

**Rev. Mr. Rick Condon**  
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**Gus and Dee Cordero**  
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Liturgical Coordinators

**Laura Catherine Carruthers-Green**  
Faith Formation Coordinator

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**Larry James**

**Annette Roth**

**Kristi Ryan**

### MASS TIMES

#### WEEKDAYS

**Monday:** 5:15 PM  
(Communion Service)

**Tuesday-Thursday:** 5:15 PM

**Friday:** 12 NOON

#### WEEKENDS

**Saturday:** 5 PM

**Sunday:** 10:30 AM

**African Mass:** 2 PM  
3rd Sunday in English;  
other Sundays in Kiswahili

**Last chance Mass:** 8 PM

## Welcome to St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and Student Center

New parishioners and students are invited to register online at [stcatherinedrake.org](http://stcatherinedrake.org) or by contacting the parish office. Please notify the parish office when moving or with change in phone number, address or email.

### Campus Ministry

#### New Communications Intern

By Maddi Cave



I'm Maddi Cave, an incoming junior at Drake and the new St. Cate's intern! My role will consist of a little bit of communications, a little social media, a little graphic design, and some social justice research. I am also excited to start serving on the new Parish Communications Team at St. Cate's, which came about as a result of the Haven Project.

At Drake, I am a double major in Public Relations and Strategic Political Communications, with minors in Music and Magazine Brand Media. I have two other jobs— I am a Communications and Outreach intern at the AARP, and during the school year I am also the Assistant to the Dean's Office for the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. I'm also a percussionist in the Drake bands and a writer for the Times-Delphic student newspaper.

I couldn't be more excited for my new position at St. Cate's. I love this community, and I am deeply invested in helping it grow! I'm also so excited to start working with the new campus minister, Megan, whom I had the pleasure of meeting when she interviewed back in March.

Note from the Editor: Maddi is also the 2023 recipient of the David Robinson Scholarship.



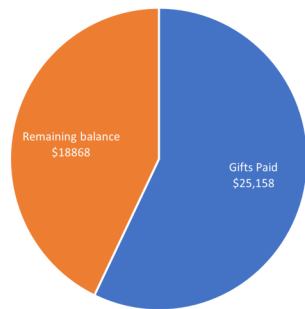
#### Bishop Agyenta to visit St. Cate's

Most Rev. Alfred Agyenta, the diocesan Bishop of the diocese of Navrongo-Bolgatanga in Ghana will visit and preach at the masses on Sunday, July 23. Prior to his appointment, Bishop Agyenta was a Lecturer and Formator at St. Victor's Major Seminary. After his doctorate, he served as a staff of St. Victor's and St. Augustine Millennium Seminary till his election as bishop. His Diocese is currently hosting over 1,400 refugees from neighboring countries.

Most Rev. Bishop Alfred Agyenta preached a sermon on the theme of "They have no wine" back in July 2, 2011. He said, "In the story, we are told that when the wine ran out, Mary informed her son Jesus about it: He explained that "to say that 'there is no more wine simply means there is no more joy, there is nothing to celebrate. Life has become sombre, gloomy, dark and meaningless." The conclusion of the bishop's sermon was that the Navrongo-Bolgatanga Diocese has run out of wine because "when Navrongo-Bolgatanga is mentioned anywhere, it is about a diocese that is divided and polarized; in conflict and at war; very turbulent and with people fighting one another.." In a mournfully loud voice that chilled the crowded congregation (moving some to tears), the bishop passionately pleaded with all to give peace a chance since the diocese cannot continue this way."

## Parish Life & More

### ADA 2023



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As of June 16, 2023, our donations total remains at \$25,208. We have \$18,818 left to fulfill our goal.

### Help Serve Coffee and Donuts

Greet members and serve them coffee and donuts after the 10:30 mass. We need volunteers for July 9, 16, 23 and 30. Sign up at the table in the Gathering Space.



### Help Care for Church Linens

Volunteers are needed to wash linens used during mass. We need someone for July, August, October and November. Sign up at the table in the Gathering Space.



### Eucharistic Ministers Needed

Now that we have resumed receiving communion in both species, we need more Eucharistic Ministers to serve at the 10:30 mass. Sign up at the table in the Gathering Space.



### Plastic Bags and Containers Needed

The Catholic Worker House is in need of plastic bags and plastic containers for food to go for their guests. Any containers larger than yogurt containers would work. Please put them in the bin under the coat closet by the north wall. Thank you.



Bulletin announcements are due by noon of Wednesday each week. Submit to: [office@stcatherinedrake.org](mailto:office@stcatherinedrake.org)

## Around the Diocese

### Man-Up West July 2023

St. Catherine's FOCUS Missionaries will be the featured speakers on July 14<sup>th</sup> at Man-Up West. They will share experiences of their missionary work here and elsewhere.

### Called to Silence: 3 Day Directed Ignatian Retreat

Meet with an Ignatian-trained spiritual director daily to reflect on what's stirring in your heart. The retreat cost including room and meals is \$375. Choose one of the 2 opportunities to attend: July 16-19, 2023, or October 26-28, 2023. Register at [www.creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats](http://www.creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats).

Or scan the code:



### Job Opportunity at St. John's in Adel

St. John's Catholic Church is hiring a full time Parish Secretary position. Please go to our website, <https://www.stjohnsadel.org/>, and see the full job description.

### A Can in each Hand

Our free little pantry is often empty. Can you help?



If each of us put a can in each hand every time we come to church, we could make sure there would be something in the pantry when someone is hungry and looking for something to eat. This is an ongoing need. If we could all just make it a habit, we could keep the pantry stocked. So, if you can, please put a can in each hand whenever you leave your house to come to St. Catherine's.

Together, we can help feed the hungry in our neighborhood.

Thank you.

## Upon Further Review

From Catholic Studies Program at Saint Louis University

### Taking Life Seriously John Foley, SJ

In the [Gospel](#), Jesus encourages us as follows: “Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid.”

God pays attention to each of us. God knows us each in the tiniest detail! A conclusion follows. See what you think of it: *Each of us is created to be a place where God’s love can dwell.*

It follows that we will never be truly human unless the greatest value in each of our lives is to receive the love of God and to carry it to the people around us.

#### God’s love remains constant and precious in spite of the rampant sin in all of us

Our culture would never buy such a proposition. On television we see people seeking ease, beauty, convenience, pleasure and so on. Quite often on broadcast channels, cable channels, and now on subscription programs, one could conclude that the human person is made for one purpose only: sex. Without realizing it, commercials are built to encourage the seven Capital Sins (pride, gluttony, avarice, lust, sloth, envy and anger). Jot that list down, put it by your television and put a check behind each one when it is promoted.

Alright, we human beings do get attached to many things or fascinated by them. But if *each of us is created to be a place where God’s love can dwell*, then any of these fascinations might be left aside if it begins to take over God’s place. If I am attached to wealth, or my stamp collection, or my good looks, or drugs, or even my mate—in a way that makes God’s love take second (or third or fiftieth) place, then my life is disordered and I am headed for a fall.

How do you react to this proposal? Personally, I used to react to it with confusion and resistance. “You mean I am to love God only and not

#### Upon Further Review continued

care about my friends, my family, music, sports, food, health, etc? Not care about anything except God?” No.

Healthy love of all these things has its roots in love of God. Everything gets its own individual value from the indwelling of God within it. Each person, each blade of grass receives its full value of love because it proceeds from God’s gentle hand. Whoever takes this proposition seriously will live a full human life. But I can hear the reader saying immediately that this is too difficult. So many things get in the way. Have a look through your life and see how often you forget God the source. “Leave me, I am a sinful man,” Peter once said to Jesus in the boat, remembering that he had actually deserted Jesus at least three times. How many times have you and I done likewise?

So, does the above proposition really apply just to those who never sin? Not at all. “If you sin, I will not leave you, I will love you,” God has said throughout the ages. The cross of Jesus is the ultimate statement of that truth. God’s love remains constant and dear, in spite of the rampant sin in all of us and each of us. His love will help us get closer to the goal. Let us rejoice, then. No matter how many hairs we have on our head, God’s love remains to be let in.

### Donations

*Please assist St. Cate’s by mailing a check to the office or giving online by clicking on the DONATE button on our website or by completing an ACH form for automatic withdrawals.*

***Thank you for your generosity.***

## OUR MISSION

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Student Center is a spiritual “home away from home” for resident parishioners and Drake students alike. We strive, through worship, prayer, fellowship, study, and service, to be disciples of Jesus today, so that we will be the leaders of the Catholic Church and Community tomorrow.