

Pastor Bill Mugnolo

St. John/Zion Parish

June 2019 Newsletter Article: "Gaining the Son"

This past month was a very eventful one for the Mugnolo family as our older daughter, Emilia, was joined in marriage to Garrett Buvinghausen in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I would like to, first of all, thank all of you for your gifts, cards, and prayers that you gave to Garrett and Emilia as they joined their lives together. Please remember them in your prayers as they move to Texas where Garrett will be ordained and installed as pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg in early July.

As I walked Emilia down the aisle and handed her off to Garrett, the thought certainly occurred to me that my relationship with her would be different from then on. She would be moving far away and running her own household. But I also thought to myself, "I'm not losing a daughter, I'm gaining a son." Yes, I was "surrendering" one relationship only to enter into one that would be deeper, richer, and fuller.

The life that we are called to live out in Christ is also and always one of surrender. To large crowds who were following Him—many of whom were only following on a "surface level"—Jesus said, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). To "hate" here means to always be willing to surrender these relationships for the sake of Christ and His plan for our lives—both here and in eternity.

Yes, in Christ, our relationships in life will continually be redefined. But rather than losing out we will always be gaining the Son and a deeper, richer, and fuller relationship that we are meant to have with both Him and with others. May the Son always shine His Holy Spirit into our lives so that we would truly be blessed as His disciples.

Your Brother in Christ,

*Pastor Bill*