

Chaput: Kennedy's 1960 speech damaged believers' role in public life

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By [Catholic News S...](#)

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien, Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Although John F. Kennedy's famous speech in Houston nearly 50 years ago could be seen as "a passionate appeal for tolerance," the candidate's remarks about how his Catholicism would affect his presidency "profoundly undermined the place ... of all religious believers in America's public life," said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Denver.

"His speech left a lasting mark on American politics. It was sincere, compelling, articulate -- and wrong," the archbishop said in a March 1 talk at Houston Baptist University on "The Vocation of Christians in American Public Life."

Speaking to the Greater Houston Ministerial Alliance on Sept. 12, 1960, less than two months before his election as the first Catholic U.S. president, Kennedy said that if his duties as president should "ever require me to violate my conscience or violate the national interest, I would resign the office." He also said he would not "disavow my views or my church in order to win this election."

"But in its effect, the Houston speech did exactly that," Archbishop Chaput said. "It began the project of walling religion away from the process of governance in a new and aggressive way. It also divided a person's private beliefs from his or her public duties."

He said Kennedy's talk led to a situation today when there are "more Catholics in national public office than ever before" but at the same time fewer who could "coherently explain how their faith informs their work, or who even feel obligated to try."

"Too many Catholics confuse their personal opinions with a real Christian conscience," the archbishop said. "Too many live their lives as if it were a private idiosyncrasy -- the kind that they'll never allow to become a public nuisance. And too many just don't really believe."

"Maybe it's different in Protestant circles," he added. "But I hope you'll forgive me if I say, 'I doubt it.'"

Moving to the question of what "a proper Christian approach to politics" would be, Archbishop Chaput outlined the skills needed by "the Christian citizen": "a zeal for Jesus Christ and his church; a conscience formed in humility and rooted in Scripture and the believing community; the prudence to see which issues in public life are vital and foundational to human dignity, and which ones are not; and the courage to work for what's right."

Among the "urgent issues that demand our attention as believers" he listed "abortion; immigration; our obligations to the poor, the elderly and the disabled; questions of war and peace; our national confusion about sexual identity and human nature, and the attacks on marriage and family life that flow from that confusion; the growing disconnection of our science and technology from real moral reflection; the erosion of freedom of conscience in our national health care debates; (and) the content and quality of the schools that form our children."

He called abortion "the foundational human rights issue of our lifetime" and said, "We need to do everything we can to support women in their pregnancies and to end the legal killing of unborn children."

The Denver archbishop called on all Christians to unite in "renewing the nation that has served human freedom so well."

"The vocation of Christians in American public life does not have a Baptist or Catholic or Greek Orthodox or any other brand-specific label," he said.

In a second speech during his Houston visit, Archbishop Chaput urged Catholic health care professionals gathered at the University of St. Thomas to rededicate themselves "to being truly Christian and deeply Catholic" in their work.

"We need to ask ourselves how 'Catholic' we really want to be," he said in the March 2 address. "If the answer is 'pretty much' or 'sort of' or 'on my own terms' -- then we need to stop fooling ourselves."

"If you're a doctor or ethicist or hospital administrator or system executive working in Catholic health care, and in good conscience you cannot support Catholic teaching or cannot apply it with an honest will, then you need to follow your conscience," the archbishop said. "It may be time to ask whether a different place to live your vocation, outside Catholic health care, is also a more honest place for your personal convictions. "What really can't work is staying within Catholic health care and not respecting its religious and moral principles with all your skill, and all your heart," he added.

He said the "Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services" offer "practical, real-world guidance for your daily work." Archbishop Chaput criticized what he called "a national pattern" of efforts by various state and local governments "to press Catholic hospitals, clinics and other social service institutions into violating their religious principles."

"In a nation built largely by people of faith, with a long history of religious liberty, this is a battle Catholics should never have been forced to fight," he said. "What kind of society would need to coerce religious believers into doing things that undermine their religious convictions -- especially when those same believers provide vital services to the public?"

He also said the current proposals for health care reform "with any hope of advancing now in Washington all remain fatally flawed on the abortion issue, conscience protections and the inclusion of immigrants."

"But the even harsher reality is this: Whether we get good health care reform or not, legislative and judicial attacks on Catholic health care will not go away, and could easily get worse," Archbishop Chaput said.

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I hope these words of Archbishop Chaput will guide us in the days ahead as Catholics in this country.

God bless. -- Fr. Adams

St. Nicholas Emergency Food Shelf

If you would like to make a donation towards the food shelf or you or someone you know needs assistance please call 952-288-8101.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS THIS WEEK

- Sunday..... **DONUT SUNDAY!** Blessed Art Sale after morning masses in church basement, Sunday School
- Monday.....Confirmation @ Divine Mercy Faribault 7pm
- Tuesday.....Fatima Rosary Group, Baptism Class, Parish Council
- Wednesday...Religious Ed.
- Thursday..... Mom's Group 9:30am, RCIA Picnic @ Kathy Chlans
- Saturday.....PPB Meeting in Rectory 9:15am, Marriage Enrichment Dinner 6pm
- Sunday.....Confirmation/Graduates Mass, **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast following masses**



TODAY - join us for Donuts, Coffee & Fellowship with your neighbors, friends and family .

ADVERTISERS WANTED – We are looking for several new advertisers to fill the back of our bulletin. Rates are cheap & your ad runs every week for a full year. Please call the parish office for more information. 952-461-2403.

Hello parishioners of St. Nicholas! This weekend, as part of our Commitment to Parish Life Program, we are hearing from one of the community at the announcements. We hope to offer all current parishioners and those to come a deeper look into the life of the parish and an invitation to take a further step in the commitment of your whole life. We hope to keep you well informed of all this by mail and here at

church. Please join the leaders of the parish as we seek to serve you and the community by placing this and all our efforts under the protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, a title we as a parish have a long tradition of honoring. Here is our prayer we are praying in these first weeks with the intention of doing the best thing for this community at this time. Pray with me: *Mother of Perpetual Help, you continually sought the meaning of God's words and actions in your life. As we listen to God's Word as a parish family, may the Holy Spirit enlighten our understanding and give us the courage to put his Word into practice in our daily lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*

ATTENTION - ALL GRADUATING SENIORS and 10th GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENTS of ST. NICHOLAS PARISH

Please join us on Sunday April 25th at the 10am mass for a special sending ceremony in your honor! (All students should meet in the church basement at 9:50 to process into church with Father). Please join us following mass in the church basement for a Pancake & Sausage breakfast, sponsored by the KC'c.



The St Nicholas Knights will host their last pancake breakfast of the year on Sunday April 25th From 8 am till noon in the church basement. Please come down after each Mass for some delicious eats and great fellowship and help support the Knights in all their good works. Also, any confirmants are encouraged to sign up for service hours that morning, contact Pat Theisen at 952 461 2599 to sign up."

The St Nicholas Knights of Columbus are selling raffle tickets for their annual "Big Ticket Raffle" being held on Saturday, June 26th at 6 pm. We have some fantastic prizes this year; 2 beautiful Polaris 4wd atv's (500cc H.O. and 300cc) and an Insignia 46"1080p LCD HDTV. Over \$10,000 dollars in prizes. Raffle tickets are \$50.00 a piece, so plan on picking up a ticket or two and register to win one of these great prizes and help support the Knights in all their good works. Visit your favorite Knight to get your tickets or see Tom Wagner or Pat Theisen for more info."

Vacation Bible School – 2010

PARENTS – ARE YOUR KIDS READY TO SINK THEIR TEETH INTO BIG FUN?

That's just what they will do at Crocodile Dock, where fearless kids shine God's light! Crocodile Dock Totally Catholic Summer Program is filled with incredible activities that allow kids to see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible, crafts, team-building games, cool songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the Crocodile Dock activities that help kids connect faith to real life. We will help kids discover how to see God in everyday life – something we call God sightings. Get ready to hear that phrase a lot!

Mark these dates on your calendar...

Monday: June 14th – Friday June 18th.

Time: 8:45 – 11:30am.

Ages: 4 (must be 4 by June 1st) – Gr. 5th (fall of 2010)

Location: St. Nicholas Church Campus

Cost: \$15 per child with a family cap of \$45

Registration: Please call the parish office to register 952-461-2403.

Registration will open to outside the parish if not full by May 1st.

CHICKEN COOKOUT FUNDRAISER

BIG TICKET RAFFLE – We will continue to accept donations for the our 41st Annual Chicken Cookout Big Ticket Raffle. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We need many donations to make our Raffle a huge success – NO DONATIONS IS TO SMALL. You can donate money, prizes, services or whatever else you like, (be creative)!!

The sign up sheet is in the back of church. Simply list the item you wish to donate and that item will be printed on the raffle ticket.

Any questions call LouAnn Wagner 461-3026.

RELIGIOUS ED.

Congratulations to the following students who will be confirmed on Monday, April 19th at Divine Mercy in Faribault:

Sam Anderson, Julie Berry, Brenden Bungert, Joshua Dalen, Dylan DeGross, Nicole Devine, Maria Friedges, Ty Heimerl, Shannon Miller, Steven Olson, Tamiko Petroski, Jason Rhein, Jordan Roemer, Haley Schallehn, Cole Simon & Zachary Warweg.

April / May Calendar

April 19th – Confirmation @ Divine Mercy in Faribault 7pm

April 21st – 1st Communion Interviews (Mrs. Bertram's Class)

April 28th – 1st Communion Interviews (Mrs. Brake's Class)

May 1st – First Communion Practice 9:30am

May 2nd – First Communion 12pm Mass / Professional Pictures at Before Mass

May 5th – Mass At St. Nicholas @ 6pm, followed by Pizza Party in the church basement.

Mass Intentions			
Sat	17	5:00 pm	Rose Gregory+
Sun	18	8:00 am	For the Parish
Sun	18	10:00 am	Confirmands & Graduating Seniors
Tues	20	8:00 am	Charlie & Lena Janisch+
Wed	21	8:00 am	Poor Souls
Thurs	22	8:00 am	David & Ruth Stencil+
Fri	23	8:00 am	Odelia & Alex Zwebner+
Sat	24	8:30 am	For the Parish
Sat	24	5:00 pm	Stuart & Joyce Rusell+
Sun	25	8:00 am	ILah & Wilson Brodie+
Sun	25	10:00 am	John Bednar+

Daily Scriptures		
Mon	Acts of Apos 6:8-15	John 6:22-29
Tue	Acts of Apos 7:51-8:1a	John 6:30-35
Wed	Acts of Apos 8:1b-8	John 6:35-40
Thu	Acts of Apos 8:26-40	John 6:44-51
Fri	Acts of Apos 9:1-20	John 6:52-59
Sat.	Acts of Apos 9:31-42	John 6:60-69
Sun	Acts of Apos 13:14,43-52/Revelation 7:9,14b-17/John 10:27-30	

Liturgical Stewardship		April 24 & 25	
5pm	Lectors:	Chuck Mathews-H	
	Ministers:	Gail Mathews-Ch-H	
	Servers:	Ray & Andrew Petroski	
8am	Lectors:	Margo Theisen-H	
	Ministers:	Leander Wagner-Ch-H	
	Servers:	Daniel Olsesen, Sam Zwebner	
10am	Ushers:	VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	
	Lectors:	Mary Zwebner-H	
	Ministers:	Jackie Devine-Ch-H	
	Servers:	Brent Moening, Hartman Sadusky	
	Ushers:	Ron Chlan, Mike Chlan	

Sacrificial Support Week 41/ April 11, 2010			
Budget	\$4900	Budget-to-date	\$200900
Received	\$6184	Received-to-date	\$192129
Capital Improvement \$58			

Please show your appreciation by supporting those advertisers who help make our bulletin possible. This week we thank...

Jane's Custom Sewing / 952-451-1064

(American Girl Clothes)

Willie's Rugs / 952-758-8716

Seasonal Clothing Drive for St. Joseph Coat is coming in April. Have all donations in the church basement by Monday, April 19th.

We will be preparing & serving a meal at Sharing & Caring Hands on Monday, April 19th. Cooking will begin at 8am in the church basement. If you would

All 8th Grade and High School Students! Come to the Dead Theologian Society (DTS) Sunday nights from 6-9pm! We will begin with sports from 6-7pm outside if good weather, otherwise in the youth room. Then, we will learn about a Dead Theologian (saint) for a bit. We have a delicious home-cooked meal to follow and wind up the night with a blessing from our Eucharistic Lord. We begin Sunday April 25. See you there! -Fr. Adams

All parishioners and anyone interested in supporting the youth: Come to pray for an hour or more in adoration in the main church of our parish Sunday nights from 6-9pm. The adoration chapel will be closed during these hours for at least 5 weeks from April 25 - May 23 for the kick-off of our Dead Theologian Society for the teens of our area. We need your prayerful support to help form and encourage the future of our church! We will close adoration in the main church with night prayer and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at 8:45pm those Sunday evenings and resume adoration in the regular chapel of our old school building. God reward you! -Fr. Adams

BOOK CLUB

The St. Nicholas evening Book Club. We meet at Deb Streefland's home from 7:15 – 9pm. We read a variety of Christian books and enjoy lively and challenging discussions. The next gathering dates are April 28, May 12 and June 2. **If you would like to join or would like more information call Deb at 952-652-2349.**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL

"Adore, in the Blessed Sacrament, My Heart, which is full of mercy" (Words of Jesus to St. Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, 1572).

Adorers are welcome to come to the Chapel at any time. **MORE ADORERS ARE NEEDED FOR HOLY HOURS WITH JESUS. PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING WITH AN HOUR.** Adorers are needed especially for the following hours:

Monday: 1 am, **Wednesday:** 9 am, 4 pm, **Friday:** midnight, 7 pm-(on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month), **Saturday:** 1 pm-(we are looking for adorers for once or twice a month.)

To sign up as an Adorer or for more information on Adoration, please contact Dan and Lynne Soderlund at (507) 645-6012.

CMLG

CMLG is hosting a **Marriage Enrichment Dinner** on Saturday, April 24th, 2010

5 p.m. Saturday Evening Mass

6-7 p.m. Wine & Cheese Social Hour

7 p.m. Dinner Menu includes salad, breads, pork loin, potato, vegetable, dessert and refreshments.

8 p.m. Guest speakers Renewal of marriage vows

*Daycare provided – please sign-up when tickets are purchased.

\$15.00 per person Get your tickets early!

Tickets will be on sale after all masses or contact: Kathy Chlan 652-2286, Deb Streefland 652-2349, Denise Anderson 461-5019 or the parish office.

The purpose of the CMLG is to offer corporal works of mercy under our patron saint "Mother of Sorrows," to promote the Christian education of our children, to aid and maintain certain projects of benefit for our parish, and to help the pastor fulfill his duties, as he is our spiritual director.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

The 13th Annual Holy Cross Golf Outing is scheduled for Friday, July 16. We have moved to a new location this year, Boulder Pointe Golf Club in Elko. We invite you to join us for a 1pm shotgun start. We are currently registering golfers and looking for sponsors for our event. Brochures with information can be found at the back of church or contact the school office at 952-652-6100.

The final Schwan's order for this school year is in April. Pre-orders are due April 21 and the pick up will be on Thursday, April 29 from 2:30-6:30pm in the school parking lot.

The Annual Spring Can Drive will be on Saturday, May 1 from 8am-12pm in the parking lot of Immaculate Conception Church in Lonsdale. Please support the school by recycling your aluminum cans on May 1.

Holy Cross is again selling **annual flowers and vegetables.** We are taking orders now through April 19. The plants will be available for pick up at the school on May 22. Order forms can be found at the back of church.

Holy Cross Catholic School K-8 registration for the 2010-2011 school year has begun! Registration packets can be found at the back of church, on the school website (www.holycrossschool.net) or by calling the school office at 952-652-6100. If you would like to schedule a tour of our school, please contact the school office.

Pre-Kindergarten Registration Starts Now! We have begun the registration process for our 3-5 year old Pre-K Program. Registration packets and brochures about our program can be found at the back of church. We offer full day and half-day options of two or three days per week. For more information, please contact the school office at 952-652-6100 or visit www.holycrossschool.net.

KNIGHTS CORNER

If you are a catholic male in good standing with the church and have some time and talent to give, then see what the Knights of Columbus can do for you. Contact Mike Kaderlik at 651-210-8644 or makaderlik@mchsi.com.

PRO-LIFE

A Collaboration of parishes has formed the Respect Life Groups of South Central Minnesota. The combined group is sponsoring a series of speakers and homilists in an ongoing educational effort in order to motivate, inspire and inform Catholics to address critical life issues. The next speaker is Fr. Tad Pacholczyk, director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center. He will speak on stem cells and cloning at the Church of St. Dominic in Northfield on April 22 at 7pm. Watch the bulletin for future speakers! For questions, call Dr. Richard Weiland at 507-645-2633 or Anne Fredrickson at 507-645-2348.

YOUTH GROUP



Please pray for all of our youth as they consider taking the pilgrimage to Madrid, Spain in 2011.

World Youth Day is a great opportunity to learn more about your faith as a young person. This is also a wonderful way for the whole parish to support our youth. Consider coming on this pilgrimage if you are a freshman this year in high school or up to 30 years of age. So many of us have heard God calling us through his voice and presence of the Holy Father. This is a wonderful time to grow in your faith and your role in the church. -Fr. Adams

Our next planning meeting will be Wednesday, April 21st at 7:00pm in the Youth Room! We will be discussing the new itinerary and upcoming payment deadlines. Parents are welcome to attend. Haven't come to a World Youth Day meeting yet? Its not too late to come and find out all about it! See you on the 21st! Questions....email Meg Anderson at shmeegzey@yahoo.com.

Youth interested in attending April 22nd,s Culture of Life speaker, Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk in Northfield are to call Molly Havlicek at 952-461-2933. Fr. Tadeusz Pacholczyk serves as Director of Education for The National Catholic Bioethics Center. He earned his Ph.D. in neuroscience, has worked as a molecular biologist and has studied dogmatic theology and bioethics. We will meet in the youth room at 5:30pm for supper and leave for the Church of St. Dominic's in Northfield at 6:15pm.

NEIGHBORING EVENTS

Pro-Life Across America's Annual Culture of Life Banquet is on May 13 at St. John the Baptist Church in New Brighton. Social is at 6pm with dinner to follow. Our guest speaker is Michael Clancy, a gifted photographer who is best known for his nationally recognized photo of Baby Samuel, then a pre-born baby, who reached out from the womb to grab the surgeon's finger, during delicate corrective surgery for spina bifida. You will be inspired and uplifted by Michael's touching testimony and the behind the scenes controversy and shock waves that resulted from the photo of Baby Samuel. For more information and to order tickets please call Christine 612-782-9434. Sorry, but tickets will not be sold at the door.

Please join the Church of St. Michael in Prior Lake for our annual April Fest on April 23 (7p-11p), 24 (11a-11p), & 25 (11:30a-5p) . Come for the music, fun, food and prizes. Visit www.aprilfest.org for additional information.

Weight Watchers. Look and feel your best this summer – join us today! Meetings are held every Thursday, in the Bari Meeting room (in old school) weigh in is at 6pm & meeting begins at 6:30pm. Any questions e-mail Tammy @ TAMMYWWLEADER@YAHOO.COM

Catholic Youth Camp, on Big Sandy Lake in McGregor, MN offers resident camp programming for youth in 1st – 12th grades. Currently taking registrations at www.cycamp.org or call 651-636-1645 for information.

The snow has melted as the temperatures begin to climb, everyone will be itching to get outdoors. **This is perfect timing for the Walk For Life! The Walk for Life is one of the major fundraisers Alpha Pregnancy Resource Center, located in Savage.** It is a great way to spend time with friends and family while raising funds and awareness to benefit women and men facing unplanned pregnancies. Please consider spending some of your time with us for this worthy and fun event. The event will be held on Saturday, May 1st, beginning at 9am at Savage Community Park/Environment Learning Center. For questions or more information, please contact Ben Zweber at 461-2366

Vianney – A play honoring Year for Priests

A performance of the play Vianney will be hosted by The Saint Paul Seminary and Saint John Vianney College Seminary at the University of Saint Thomas on April 26. The performance will begin at 7:00pm at the O'Shaughnessy Educational Center. Admission is free and open to the public. Vianney portrays the life of Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of priests, who led an incredible life inspiring hundreds of thousands of people. The performance is part of the celebration of the "Year for Priests" proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI. For information call 651-962-5050 or visit www.saintpaulseminary.org.

