

TIDINGS

OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH

A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

Vol. 22 – 2009

Month of August

No. 8

Ours is not to question why ... Why?

We continue to investigate the impact and import of the sacrament of the Word of God during its centenary year of 2009. This is also an important anniversary year for Holy Name of Jesus Parish. It was on August 25, 1929, 80 years ago this month, that Fr. John Solak celebrated our first Mass. Prior to this date, three parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Westfield traveled north to address the inchoate parish on Saturday, August 10th. They met at the Polish Corporation Hall on Elm Street in South Deerfield. The next weekend at Redmen's Hall at the corner of Elm and Main Streets the pastors of our sister parishes in Westfield, Manchester, CT and Union City, CT met with about 400 potential members. At this Sunday evening meeting the body voted to affiliate with the National Catholic Church and assumed the current name of our parish. Two days later the Parish Committee met at Holy Mother of the Rosary Cathedral in Chicopee, MA with Bp. Valentine Gawrychowski. Bp. Gawrychowski then transferred Fr. Solak, the pastor in Union City, CT, to the new parish in South Deerfield.

I hope this sequence of events makes clear that what began as a protest against an assumed past grievance quickly became a constructive collaboration to build a new parish of a relatively new church denomination. It quickly moved beyond the negative and to the positive. It moved away from anger over pastoral assignments and toward the embrace of a new community. Our founding members were no longer anti-this-or-that. Instead, through the concern and involvement of the lay people of local, sister parishes, their pastors and the diocesan bishop, our founding members turned protest around so that we then defined ourselves positively as National Catholics.

As I write this article we are approaching quickly the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 landing on the moon. Michael Collins was the capsule communicator at Mission Control in Houston for Apollo 8, which in 1968 was the first manned space voyage to achieve a velocity sufficient to allow escape from the gravitational

field of planet Earth. Apollo 8 circled the moon ten times and took that iconic photo of the first earthrise ever taken by humans. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:AS8-13-2329.jpg>) Mike Collins has stated: "As you look back 100 years from now, which is more important, the idea that people left their home planet or the idea that people arrived at their nearby satellite? I'm not sure, but I think probably you would say Apollo 8 was of more significance than Apollo 11, even though today we regard Apollo 11 as being the showpiece and zenith of the Apollo program, rightly so. But, as I say, 100 years from now, historians may say Apollo 8 is more significant; it's more significant to leave than it is to arrive." (Quoted in the *NYT*, 7/14/2009)

It truly may be more significant to leave than to arrive. The moon is not a final destination, I hope, in our journey outward. It's an historic milestone, but not a final destination. I hope in my lifetime to see it surpassed. When Apollo 8, however, left earth orbit for the first time and began our journey outward, that will remain forever "significant." To leave in this sense is more compelling than to arrive. A final destination, one would hope, is always ahead, but to leave in the first place takes courage, purpose and determination.

We honour the commitment of those 400 people whose efforts led to the creation of this parish 80 years ago. Like the analogy above, however, they have started us on our journey, but we must continue to move forward. This is where the Word of God again manifests its importance. It challenges our faith with ever changing insight, circumstance and knowledge. It calls upon us to study our beliefs, to reaffirm what inspires and to reexamine what does not. It is like the photo above. It's the same earth, but the perspective changes everything. The Word of God constantly calls us to look anew at our faith, not as a rejection of the past but as a part of our present responsibility to the past. We respect the commitment of those who started us on our faith-path, but we do so most effectively by continuing to move forward.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MONTH OF AUGUST

- August 1, 2009 – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.
- August 2nd – Polish Mass will be recited at 7:45am **ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE** at the Hatfield Lion's Club Pavilion at noon, followed by music from 1:00 – 5:00pm.
- August 4th – Requiem Mass for Bp. Francis Rowinski, fourth Prime Bishop of our church, at 7:30am.
- August 7th – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish.
- August 9th – Outdoor Sunday Mass, weather-permitting at 9:00am.
- August 10th – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- August 11th – Requiem Mass for Bp. Thaddeus Zielinski, third Prime Bishop of our church, at 7:30am.
- Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.
- August 15th – **FEAST OF THE DORMITION.** Mass of the day at 9:00am with the blessing of flowers and herbs.
- August 16th – Fr. Calvo will be leaving for the Diocesan Youth Retreat and will return on the 20th.
- August 23rd – YMSofR Men's Group outing to the Pawtucket Red Sox game at 1:05pm.
- August 25th – **80TH ANNIVERSARY of the first Mass celebrated for Holy Name of Jesus Parish.**
- Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- August 30th – **Youth Sunday.** Special prayers will be offered throughout the denomination for the youth of the church. After Mass a special collection will be accepted for the Youth Fund. Monthly meeting of the Adoration Society at 10:00am.

*** ** * ** **

“We shall not cease from exploration / And the end of all our exploring / Will be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time.”

- T.S. Elliot

ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE

Our Chicken Barbecue will take place at the Hatfield Lion's Club Pavilion on Sunday, August 2nd. The barbecue will be served from 12:00 – 1:00pm. Following the barbecue, **Dennis Polisky**

and the **Maestro's Men** will play from 1:00 – 5:00pm, one hour more than last summer. After the barbecue, hot dogs and kielbasa sandwiches will be available for purchase.

Dinner tickets need to be purchased by July 31st. After this date, the cost will be \$18 if dinners are still available. This is necessary because we must place our order for chickens, etc. by that time. Children's tickets for those 11 and under are \$5 each. Tickets to enter the picnic for the music alone are \$10 each. Beer and wine will be available for purchase along with other non-alcoholic beverages.

Parishioner sponsor ads are now being accepted. Also, if you own a business and would like to advertise it, a special business sponsor ad is planned. For more information about these ads, please contact the rectory.

If you are able to help work at this event, please contact Don Skroski or Fr. Calvo. The Barbecue is an important fundraiser for our church. We hope that all parishioners will support it by at least their attendance.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Our ecumenical Bible study group will meet twice this month as we continue to read through the Gospel of Matthew. This is a book written from the perspective of Jewish-Christians. The earliest church consisted mainly of Jews who had come to accept Jesus as the Messiah. This group eventually became a minority within the church as more and more Gentiles accepted the faith. Matthew's story reflects both of these realities. Matthew deals with the reality and the tension of a church in transition, which also has a lot to say to us a church members today.

If you would like to learn more about the written Word of God, you are invited to join us for Bible study. No prior Bible knowledge is required, and our meetings are rather informal. Summertime offers more free time. Why not use some of it to come and check-out our Bible study group? Please remember also that this group is open to non-members of the parish. If you know someone who may like to come and join us, please feel free to invite them to come with you.

FEAST OF THE DORMITION

On August 15th we celebrate the “dormition,” the “falling asleep” of Mary in death. We believe that upon her physical death she was assumed

spiritually into the heavens to their continue her life with Jesus, her son. To symbolize that Mary's life continues after death the church blesses flowers and herbs on this day. Even though cut from the plant, the flowers and herbs remain beautiful and healing. Even though Mary dies, she remains a beautiful spiritual example for all Christians and through her intercession she helps us to lead a spiritually healthy life. We hope that you will join us for Mass on this feast day, and that you may also bring a small bouquet of flowers and/or herbs to share in the blessing of the church.

DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT

The Retreat will take place at 4-H Camp Howe from August 16th – 20th. This year's theme is "Spread the Word" in honour of our sacrament's anniversary. The cost is \$125 per person. Registration and Health Forms are available through the rectory. It is open to young people between the ages of 8 and 17. Those 18 and older may serve as chaperones.

Camp Howe offers a wide range of activities including boating, lake swimming, archery, crafts, wall climbing, etc. There are organized sports like touch football, softball and kickball, plus on Wednesday we will be heading over to Northampton Bowl. The mornings are devoted to church and our Retreat theme, all afternoons are free time, and the evenings are a combination of both. It's a great way to end your summer vacation – just ask anyone who has attended.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARISH

On August 10th a meeting was held at Polish Corporation Hall on Elm Street in S. Deerfield to discuss affiliation with the Polish National Catholic Church. At Redmen's Hall in South Deerfield on the evening of Sunday, August 18th, an assembly of approximately 400 people voted to affiliate with the PNCC and to name the new parish "Holy Name of Jesus." Two days later delegates of this new parish met with Bp. Valentine Gawrychowski at his church in Chicopee.

The first Mass ever celebrated for Holy Name of Jesus Parish was offered on Sunday, August 25th at 10:30am by Fr. John Solak, the pastor of a PNC Parish in Union City, CT. Fr. Solak would come to be named as the first pastor of this parish. Those who would follow in chronological order are: Fr. Joseph Soltysiak, Fr. J. Rekas, Fr. Edgar

Starorypinski, Fr. Joseph Hornik, Fr. Joseph Zieba, Fr. Stanley Shuman, Fr. Joseph Alen, Fr. Francis Niemiec, Fr. Joseph Soltysiak (the grandson of the previous Fr. Soltysiak), and currently Fr. Randolph Calvo.

At our Sunday Mass of August 23rd we will say special prayers for our parish and parishioners. This church has blessed us with the presence of Christ for eight decades and counting. I hope we treat her accordingly. I pray that this church may be as special to us today as it was to the founding families back in 1929, the same families who struggled through the Great Depression of the 1930's to build this church, buy land for a cemetery and construct a rectory. Those first families saw in this church a gift worth far more than their combined sacrifices of time, effort and finance. May their example inspire our work and dedication today so that Holy Name of Jesus Parish continue to bless and guide us on our spiritual journeys.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

In the spirit of our parish's 80th anniversary, we acknowledge the following contributions to our C.I.F. Your special donations to this collection help us to continue to maintain and improve our physical structures here at Holy Name. We thank the following for their donations: Jack & Francia Lindon, \$200, in memory of Rose & Steven Boron; and in memory of Helen Toczydlowski, \$240. If you would like to acknowledge the 80th anniversary of our church with a special financial contribution, your donation would be much appreciated. Thank you.

YOUTH SUNDAY

The last Sunday of August is recognized throughout the National Catholic Church as Youth Sunday. On this day as summer vacations end and a new academic year begins, we pray for the young people of our parishes. We also accept a special donation for the Youth Fund of the church. These donations help to defray costs associated with events like our Diocesan Youth Retreats and the National Youth Convocations. Your generosity is appreciated. Thank you.

SOCL

On Youth Sunday a letter will be shared with all families of SOCL-aged children and youth about the up-coming academic year. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 13th.