

**TIDINGS**  
**OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH**  
**A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events**

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Month of August

No. 8

**A Priestly Spirit (Part III)**

Last month we finished off our discussion of the priesthood by mentioning that it has always been defined by discussion among the faithful. Since Jesus is the only New Testament Christian priest, we have always had to define what we regard as the qualifications of all other Christian priests.

We often imagine that *apostle* and *priest* are interchangeable. We assume that the disciples were the first priests, not to mention the first bishops. However, there is no clear citation of the Twelve ever presiding at the Eucharist. As a matter of fact, in the Bible's story of the earliest church, the Acts of the Apostles, we are told that in Antioch the "prophets and teachers" were "worshipping the Lord." (13: 1, 2) The Greek word for *worshipping* is derived from \_\_\_\_\_ (*leitourgeo*, from which we derive the word *liturgy*), and so could be translated with equal accuracy as *liturgizing*. This function of early church prophets would cohere well with the non-biblical but authentic and reputable writing of the *Didache* where prophets have Eucharistic responsibilities.

With all of this said I would like to quote an important selection from the writing on this subject by Fr. Raymond E. Brown, a world renowned biblical expert: "The only thing of which we can be reasonably sure is that someone must have presided at the Eucharistic meals and that those who participated acknowledged his right to preside. How one got the right to preside and whether it endured beyond a single instance we do not know; but a more plausible substitute for the chain theory [of apostolic succession] is the thesis that sacramental 'powers' were part of the mission of the Church and that there were diverse ways in which the Church (or the communities) designated individuals to exercise those powers – **the essential element always being church or community consent** (which was tantamount to ordination, whether or not that consent was signified by a special ceremony such as the laying on of hands)." (*Priest and Bishop: Biblical Reflections*, Raymond E. Brown, Paulist Press, 1970, p. 41-42)

Brown goes on to say that this office eventually had to be "regularized" through the creation of the privileges of bishops and presbyters. Whether it be an ad hoc charism, the spiritual enthusiasm of a Christian prophet or the "regularized" offices that followed, the truth remains that the one who presided at the Eucharist, let me use the word *priest* to make this clear, was determined by the consent of the community. The priesthood has always been defined by the voice of the community, which is the voice of the Spirit, and there is no reason to believe that the Spirit is silent in our age.

Recently, I read that Pope Benedict XVI has reasserted as Pontiff what he first authored as head of the Roman Catholic Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith that there are "defects" in all non-papal churches because they do not trace their authority directly back to the apostles (Fr. Brown would question if even his own Roman Catholic Church does) and that they do not adhere to the infallible authority of the Pope ([http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/11/world/europe/11pope.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/07/11/world/europe/11pope.html?_r=1&oref=slogin)). In his church, "regularized" has a very formal, hierarchical structure to it, but it need not be that way in all other churches.

The church, says Brown, has the sacramental power to define ordination for itself. In the Roman Catholic Church, such power is almost completely invested in the Pope. Ours is a democratic church. Staying faithful to the tradition of the earliest church, we as a community define the qualifications of ordination. It was a Synod, for example, that rescinded mandatory clerical celibacy. Staying faithful to the post-apostolic church's example of "regularized" ordination, we express that definition through the office of bishop and priest. But we cannot put the cart in front of the horse. Our "regularized" ordination is beholden to the authority of the community, not vice-versa. If the community sees ordination in a new light, then ordination must be "regularized" according to these new standards. This is no more unorthodox than the earliest church intended. <To be continued ...>

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**MONTH OF AUGUST**

August 3, 2007 – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish

August 4<sup>th</sup> – Requiem Mass for Bp. Francis Rowinski, fourth Prime Bishop of our church, at 9:00am.

Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.

August 5<sup>th</sup> – Polish Mass will be recited at 7:45am.

**ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE** at the Hatfield Lion's Club pavilion beginning at noon.

August 11<sup>th</sup> – Requiem Mass for Bp. Thaddeus Zielinski, third Prime Bishop of our church, at 8:00am.

August 12<sup>th</sup> – Outdoor Mass, weather permitting, at 9:00am.

August 13<sup>th</sup> – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.

August 14<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.

August 15<sup>th</sup> – **FEAST OF THE DORMITION.** Mass of the day at 7:00pm, along with the blessing of flowers and herbs.

August 18<sup>th</sup> – Annual United YMSofR Track and Field Meet in Scranton, PA.

August 19<sup>th</sup> – Early Summer Mass at 7:45am.

Fr. Calvo will be attending the diocesan Youth Retreat until Thursday.

August 26<sup>th</sup> – Youth Sunday. Special collection for the Youth Fund of the national church.

August 27<sup>th</sup> – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.

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“Nothing levels a playing field like a better idea.” - Stanley I. Mason Jr.

**PRIME BISHOP REQUIEMS**

In 1990, separated only by one week's time, the church lost two retired Prime Bishops. Bp. Francis Rowinski died on August 4<sup>th</sup>. He was the fourth Prime Bishop of our church. And Bp. Thaddeus Zielinski died the following week on August 11<sup>th</sup>. He was the third Prime Bishop of our church.

Requiem Masses will be offered in their memory on the anniversary of their deaths. Bp. Rowinski's Mass will be offered at 9:00am, and will also serve as the barbecue workers' Mass for those who will not be able to be with us at Mass on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Bp. Zielinski's Mass will be offered at 8:00am on the following Saturday.

**ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE**

This year's Chicken Barbecue will be held on Sunday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon at the Hatfield Lion's Club Pavilion. Tickets for the barbecue are available through August 1<sup>st</sup> to be obtained at the regular price of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets ordered after August 1<sup>st</sup> will cost \$12 for adults and \$7 for children **IF** still available.

If you would like to volunteer to help at this year's barbecue, please speak to Don Skroski. This is an important fund-raiser of the church, our church, so if you can help in any way it will be appreciated.

Barbecue raffle tickets will be available right up until the time of the raffle. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle, please speak with Richard Foster or Fr. Calvo. We hope that all of our parishioners will help out in some way.

**SPECIAL SUMMER MASSES**

During July and August, we offer two special Masses. On August 12<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting of course, we will hold Mass outdoors. We do this beneath the canopy of our beautiful maple trees. People seem to enjoy this, and maybe we'll wake up the neighbours with our singing.

Second, our early summer Mass will be recited at 7:45am on August 19<sup>th</sup>. This earlier time allows people to get to church and still have the whole Sunday in front of them. The regularly scheduled 9:00am Mass will also be celebrated on this day.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

Our Bible study group continues to march forward through the story of ancient Israel, her triumphs and defeats, her short history as a nation and her time of exile and restoration. If you know little or nothing about this exciting story of God's Chosen People, we invite you to come join our ecumenical group. We will meet on two Mondays during August for one hour each evening. No prior knowledge of the Bible is required, just a desire to become more familiar with the textbook of our faith. Summertime schedules slow down. There's more free time to be had. Why not do something constructive with that extra time and come to our Bible class? Who knows you may learn something and enjoy the company to boot.

**FEAST OF THE DORMITION**

On August 15<sup>th</sup> the church celebrates the Feast of the Dormition, the falling asleep of Mary in death. Our church does not teach the physical assumption

of Mary's body into heaven. The physical ascension is limited to the story of Jesus as told in the Bible. There is no such mention or hint of such an event in regards to Mary in the Holy Scripture. According to sacred tradition, we do believe that upon her death Mary was assumed spiritually into the heavens. Her body dies, but her soul lives on with her son Jesus. To symbolize this promise of faith, the church blesses flowers and herbs on this day. The cut branches are separated from the plant, the source of life. They remain both beautiful and useful, however. Even though Mary has died physically, she still lives spiritually and can still be called upon in prayer to intercede on our behalf.

We hope that you will choose to join us at Mass on this special Marian Feast Day, and that you will bring with you a small bouquet of flowers and/or herbs to be blessed. These bouquets in your home remind you of the teaching of the church and of the presence of the Mother of God.

#### **YMSofR TRACK & FIELD MEET**

The annual United YMSofR sponsored Track and Field Meet will be held in Scranton, PA on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. This event is open to all parishioners of the National Catholic Church. It's great fun to participate or to just watch. There are Polish and American foods available, and it's a wonderful opportunity to meet with others of our denomination from across the country. For more information about the event, contact the rectory.

#### **DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT**

The annual diocesan Youth Retreat will be held once again at 4-H Camp Howe in Goshen, MA. The Retreat begins on the afternoon of Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and continues through the morning of Thursday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The theme of this year's Retreat is *Come on Jesus Light My Fire*. The theme completes our series of Retreats based on Christmas, Lent-Easter and now Pentecost. The cost is \$110 per person. Registration and health forms are available through the rectory if you have not yet received one. The Retreat is open to parishioners between the ages of 8 and 17. Those who are older may attend as chaperones, and those 7 and younger would require the presence of a parent.

At the Retreat we do have religion-based sessions and we gather daily for worship. We also set aside a great deal of time for fun and recrea-

tion. There is a beautiful lake for swimming and boating. We will be heading off to Northampton Bowl on the Wednesday of the Retreat. There is a rock wall to climb, an obstacle course, organized games and sports, crafts, and of course the friendship of young people from throughout the diocese. For more information, please contact the rectory.

#### **YOUTH SUNDAY**

The national church asks that all parishes celebrate Youth Sunday on the last Sunday of August. As summer winds down and the new school year approaches, we turn to God and ask Him to bless and protect our young people. Along with the prayers of Mass, we will also accept a special collection for the Youth Fund of the church. Your donations help the church to sponsor youth activities, such as this year's diocesan Youth Retreat and next summer's National Youth Convocation. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

#### **ST. JUDE'S HOSPITAL**

The parish has become a *Partner in Hope* with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. We are receiving monthly stories and photos of the children we are helping. These materials have been placed on a special bulletin board in the parish hall for everyone to read. If you would like to make a contribution to this campaign, a collection-jug is located in the church vestibule. Any donation is appreciated from change on up. If you would like to make your donation by check, please make it payable to the parish with a clear note indicating the St. Jude's collection. Thank you.

#### **C.I.F.**

This month the parish celebrates her 78<sup>th</sup> anniversary of organization. Renovations and improvements are a constant responsibility. Your donations to the Capital Improvement Fund help us to keep-up with these responsibilities: Thank you. We also wish to acknowledge the following contributions: Louise Puchalski, in memory of Ceil Krawczynski, \$25; the Adoration Society in memory of Ceil Krawczynski, \$50; Sophie Gnatek, in memory of Victor Finkowski, \$25; Daisy Benjamin, in memory of Fred Boron, \$25; Helen Godleske, in memory of Albina Malinowski, \$25; in memory of Gerald Fortier, \$480; and in memory of Nellie Hutkoski, \$305.

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**If someone you know needs a hospital visit, please notify the rectory.**