

## TIDINGS

OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH

A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

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Month of January

No. 1

### Not Compliant, But Challenge

January marks the beginning of a brand new year, and it also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the declaration of the Word of God Heard and Preached as a sacrament of our church. This unique sacrament of our church, which the diocese will formally celebrate this summer at the Cathedral of the Pines, and which we at Holy Name will honour throughout the centennial year on the pages of our monthly newsletter, heralds in a most profound way that we are called to be a new kind of religious organization. Bp. Hodur set about trying to recreate the organizational structure of the earliest church which dynamically combined the formal structure of office with the equally valid charism of baptismal authority.

The earliest church was judged by the world at large as an enthusiastic sect of Judaism. *Enthusiastic* in its original meaning was not comparable to a fan's support of an athletic team. It is derived from the Greek words *en* and *theos*, meaning *in God, possessed or inspired by God*. The Jewish faith was highly regulated either by Temple authorities, or by legal and/or pious scholars of the religious law. The earliest Christian communities, by contrast, trusted in the immediacy of the Spirit for its legitimacy (cf. 2 Cor. 3:5-6). Consensus was the paradigm. Office holders had leadership authority within the community not above it, and they derived their authority from the community not vice-versa (cf. 1 Cor. 12:27-31 where leadership is listed as the seventh of eight charisms, and the "still more excellent way" is the gift of Christian love expressed poetically in 1 Cor. 13.).

Based upon the earliest church, Bp. Hodur had idealistic hopes for the future. He wrote in 1930: "The priesthood of the future will not be a cast of men mercenaries growing rich and fat, but rather it will be a free association of individuals dedicating themselves to higher purposes. It will be a brotherhood of men and women chosen by God, prepared and ordained for this purpose ..." (*Apocalypse*, p. 219) In the meanwhile, he pushed for practical measures that would begin to empower all church members with the ability to

participate fully in church life. And a fundamental reform instituted by our church was the elevation of the Word of God Heard and Preached to the dignity of sacrament. The Ordained ministers of the church would teach and advocate so that all in the church would be informed and thus prepared for the decision making responsibility of a church democracy, of restoring the pristine church's respect for the authority of consensus.

Church, therefore, cannot be a spectator sport. Church demands involvement and participation. During this first month of the year, I fill out my yearly calendar, and as I look at so many of the events listed I am disappointed by the amount of apathy associated with them. Let me ask if I may, will you participate in Mass on New Year's Day, Epiphany, Feast of the Presentation, Ash Wednesday, Stations of the Cross, our Ecumenical Lenten Discussions, the annual congregational meeting, Holy Week, Ascension Day, May Devotions, Corpus Christi, Memorial Day, Bible study, the Cathedral of the Pines, Feast of the Dormition, All Saints and All Souls Days, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, Divine Love, the Advent Penitential Service, even Christmas or the days the follow it? Or count the Sundays you actually attend Mass, the principal gathering and purpose for our parish church. Are you proud of the number? How often is your name listed as a volunteer worker at the church? We have had to discontinue Advent and Lenten retreats for lack of interest. We have canceled Mid-Week Worship for the same reason. Will we continue down this path, or does faith require more not less from us? Does such a church as ours require more not less from us?

As we begin a new year, please do not take this inquiry as complaint, but as a challenge. We are supposed to be a different kind of church, one based on choice and consent. We are not forced or scared into church membership. We are to be sufficiently informed to choose to follow this church and to be capably empowered to affect this church. To be uninvolved, inactive and

unconcerned is to be opposed to the direction and hope of our institution, which is to be a “free association” of believers seeking after the “higher purposes” of religion. The Word of God is essential in this quest because it empowers us to act, but all is for naught if we watch church rather than participate in church.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**MONTH OF JANUARY**

- January 1, 2009 – Feast of the Circumcision.  
 Mass of the day at 9:00am.  
 January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish.  
 January 3<sup>rd</sup> – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.  
 January 4<sup>th</sup> – Polish Mass will be recited at 7:45am.  
 January 6<sup>th</sup> – **FEAST OF EPIPHANY.** Mass of the day at 7:00pm, with the blessing of incense, chalk and water.  
 January 7<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany home visitations begin today and continue throughout the month.  
 January 13<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.  
 January 17<sup>th</sup> – YMSofR annual meeting at a local restaurant yet to be decided.  
 January 25<sup>th</sup> – Music Scholarship Sunday.  
 Annual meeting of the Adoration Society at 10:00am..

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“The arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice.” - Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

**MONTHLY VISITATIONS**

Every first week of the month, I visit parishioners who are unable to be with us at Mass because of health reasons. I bring them Holy Communion, and we talk about church and whatever else may come to mind. It helps our members who are homebound or in long-term health care facilities to stay in touch with their church, and the visits allow them to stay sacramentally connected with us, as well. If you would like to be added to my list of monthly visitations, please call the rectory.

**LAY READERS**

Our parish currently has ten lay people who read the Lesson at our Sunday Masses on a rotating basis. If you would like to join the ranks of our lay readers, please speak to Fr. Calvo. A little

instruction, a little courage, and you are on your way.

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS**

The annual meeting of the Parish **YMSofR Men’s Group** will take place on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The members will gather for dinner, fraternity and to elect their new officers for 2009. If you would like to join this meeting-lite men’s group, please contact the President Brandon Poe or Fr. Calvo for more information.

The annual meeting of the **Adoration Society** will be held after Mass on January 25<sup>th</sup>. This organization traces its roots back to 1897 when it was the first church organization formed by then Fr. Francis Hodur. The Adoration Society is only one month younger than our church denomination. The ladies of the Adoration Society take care of the church sanctuary, hold candles during Mass to let the congregation behind them know that Christ is mystically present at the altar, and are some of the parish’s most dedicated workers. If you would like to learn more about the sodality, please speak with Louise Puchalski, ANS President.

For a parish our size we are truly blessed with the **Echo Choir** that adds their gift of music to our liturgy. Some parishes have no organist. We have Peg Kostiuk and Janice Dagilus who alternate Sundays, Holy Days and rehearsals. Barbara Stahelski also plays hymns on occasion so that the other organists can come forward and receive Communion. The ladies of our alto and soprano sections faithfully attend weekly rehearsals and our various Masses and liturgies. If you have attended any of our recited Masses, you know what an asset it is to have our choir at church. The choir is always looking for new members – even men! Also, if you play an instrument and would like to incorporate it into our musical program, it would be a welcomed addition. For more information, please speak with either Janice or Peg.

And finally, I read in *God’s Field* that the Convo 2010 Committee has been formed in the Central Diocese. If any of our parishioners twelve and older wish to attend, then they should think about reactivating our **Parish United Youth Association**. Any fundraisers of this organization can be used to defray the cost of attending the Youth Convocation. Otherwise, the cost will have to be borne by individual families. If you are interested in starting-up again, please speak with

Kristin Calvo – but young people have a terrible habit of procrastinating: Don't!

#### **FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION**

January 1<sup>st</sup> is not a liturgical celebration of the New Year. Rather, it is the eighth day after Christmas, and according to tradition this is the day on which Jesus would have received His name. For a parish that 80 years ago chose the name Holy Name of Jesus this is an important feast day celebration. I hope you will come and start 2009 off on the right foot and come into God's House for worship. Mass on our parish's Name Day will be celebrated at 9:00am.

#### **FEAST OF EPIPHANY**

January 6<sup>th</sup> marks the twelfth day after Christmas. According to legend, this is the day on which the Magi arrive in Bethlehem after their long search for the newborn King of the Jews. They bring with them gifts of gold (symbolizing Jesus' royal blood as the son of King David), frankincense (symbolizing His divinity as the Son of God) and myrrh (the burial spice symbolizing His sacrificial death upon the cross as the Son of Man). The Epiphany refers to Jesus' first manifestation to the world at large, even to a population beyond Israel. The Magi follow the Bethlehem Star. God spoke to them through the world around them because they were not people yet of His covenant. The Jewish shepherds learn of Christmas from God's angels. The Magi from lands to the East discern the birth of God's Son from God's mark on creation. Jesus' birth opens wide the covenant between God and us, all people who believe are now the People of God, and this opening to all the world is first manifested in Jesus' epiphany to the Magi.

Part of this day's liturgy is to bless incense, chalk and water. The incense symbolizes the gifts of the Magi to the Christ Child. The chalk will be used in the pastoral visitations to the homes of parishioners during the Epiphany season. And water is blessed also for use during the blessing of the homes. Mass on this day will be celebrated at 7:00pm as the church continues her observance of the Christmas celebration.

#### **EPIPHANY HOME VISITATIONS**

Beginning on the day after Epiphany, I will start my Epiphany home visitations to our parishioners. As the Magi traveled to the home of Jesus in Bethlehem, so the church through the pastor

comes to the homes of her members. As the Magi brought their gifts to the Christ Child, so the church brings her gift to the faithful, that gift being the church's blessing upon the home and family members.

A broad schedule of visitations will appear in the Weekly Bulletin each week. The only preparation needed for my visit is to have a cross in the room where the blessing will take place, if you have one. Some families light the candles that were blessed previously on Candlemas. As we gather together for our prayers, if you could turn off televisions, radios and scanners, it would be appreciated. During the blessing, I will sprinkle holy water in the room where we are to convey the blessing upon the house and its inhabitants. If the family so chooses, I may mark the doorpost of the home with chalk as "20 K+M+B 09," which refers to the given year and the traditional names of the Magi: Kasper, Melchior and Balthasar.

These visits give me the chance to meet with you at your homes rather than in the public setting of Mass and church affairs. If you have any questions or comments about the church, this is a perfect opportunity to mention them to me. If you would like to opt out of a visit for any reason, and none are required, please call the rectory to let me know ahead of time. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you at your home this January.

#### **MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP SUNDAY**

The church's General Synod has declared that the last Sunday of January be observed as Music Scholarship Sunday. On this day, a special collection is accepted by all parishes to benefit the National United Choir's Music Scholarship Fund. Parishioners are able to apply for Music Scholarships to further their music education with the hopes that they will then share their musical gift with the church. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

#### **PARISH WEB SITE**

If you have not done so recently, take a visit over to our parish website: [www.holynamedeerfield.org](http://www.holynamedeerfield.org). Lynette Poe is the webmaster and she has created one of the best websites in our church denomination. I have received compliments from parishioners, other parishes, old friends and new. Share the site with others too. It is one of our most effective tools to reach beyond the walls of our church building.

