

TIDINGS

OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH

A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

Vol. 20 – 2007

Month of July

No. 7

A Priestly Spirit (Part II)

The story is told in the Old Testament about King David's intention to build a temple to Yahweh. The idea seems noble. The prophet Nathan says in response to the king's initiative: "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." (2 S 7:3) This is the gut reaction of the prophet. The king's plan appears commendable; his motives seem honourable. Therefore, Nathan is personally pleased with the initiative, and since he is rather intimate with Yahweh he assumes that Yahweh must be pleased with David's suggestion too. Then that night the prophet's intuition is replaced by the direct "word of the Lord." (7:4) The prophet's first-impression is countermanded. The Lord reveals that one of David's offspring will build the Temple, but not David himself. What the Lord intended was not what the Lord's anointed king nor the prophet of the Lord expected. They acted from noble intentions, but even so they were acting contrary to the will of God.

The topic of the priesthood is divisive. It has separated Orthodox from Roman Catholic, both from Protestant, and National Catholic from everybody. One group does not recognize the priestly credentials of another, and so holds their worship suspect. Even in ancient Israel, the Levitical priests of the shrines outside of Jerusalem were treated as inferior priests and were, therefore, not allowed to offer sacrifice at the Jerusalem Temple. This eventually became stylized in the biblical tradition as the distinction between the Aaronic priests and the Levite temple servants. From past to present, and I would wager well into the future also, the subject of the priesthood roils the spiritual waters much more than it calms them. Its discussion must be entered into not only with piety and logic, but also disinterestedness, which means a lack of selfish interest. We must strive to hear the "word of the Lord" over our own inclinations and impressions, no matter how pious they may be, no matter how invested we may be.

The Christian priesthood is a difficult subject to argue from the Bible since Jesus is the only one to be found. One reason that may help explain this

dearth of Christian priests is the everlasting priesthood of Jesus as expressed in the Epistle to the Hebrews, which parenthetically is the source of our Eucharistic theology. There are no Christian priests, so goes the argument from Hebrews, because Christ is the perfect and everlasting priest. The whole argument is that others are not needed. Another tack to follow relies on the First Epistle of St. Peter and its emphasis upon the universal priesthood of all Christians, which again is a theme that our organizer did not reject. In the *Apocalypse of the Twentieth Century* he speaks of the priesthood of the future as not being limited to a caste of men.

Another argument against the presence of Christian priests in the New Testament is that the earliest church accepted the priesthood of the Temple (cf. Acts 6:7), and that they had not yet developed the theology of the Eucharist as a sacrifice requiring its own priesthood. In the *Didache* (a first century Christian writing), for example, it says: "Concerning the eucharist, eucharistize thus: First, concerning the cup: We give you thanks, our Father, for the holy vine of your servant David which you revealed to us through your servant Jesus. To you is the glory forever. And concerning the broken loaf: We give you thanks, our Father, for the life and knowledge which you revealed to us through your servant Jesus. To you is the glory forever." (9:1-3) The cup is referred to as a "vine" connecting Jesus as a Davidic descendent, the Messiah in other words. The cup as Jesus' blood offered in atoning sacrifice is not here present. As such, the Eucharist did not necessitate a priesthood.

The reason I mention these things is that we as church have always had to interpret the definition and qualifications of the office of priest. Before we can go any further in the discussion of this office, we have to be willing to accept the possibility that our pious intuitions need not be the will of God. We have to be humble and open enough to let God speak through the clarifying investigation of our discourse. <To be continued ...>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTH OF JULY

July 1, 2007 – **Pulpit Swap Weekend.** Polish Mass will be recited by Fr. Sen. Joseph Soltysiak at 7:45am.

English Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Sen. Joseph Soltysiak at 9:00am. The liturgy begins with the Pledge of Allegiance and the singing of the National Anthem in honour of Independence Day.

Mission collection will be accepted after both Masses.

Fr. Calvo will celebrate the two Masses in Westfield.

July 2nd – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.

July 6th – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish

July 7th – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.

July 8th – **CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES.** Our annual diocesan Prayer Service will begin at 3:00pm.

July 10th – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.

July 15th – Outdoor summer Mass at 9:00am, weather permitting.

July 16th – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.

July 17th – Requiem Mass at 7:30am for Bp. Leon Grochowski (+1969), second Prime Bishop of our church.

July 22nd – Early summer Mass at 7:45am.

Regularly scheduled Sunday Mass at 9:00am.

July 29th – Monthly meeting of the Adoration Society at 10:00am.

July 30th – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.

*** ** * ** **

“Only our individual faith in freedom can keep us free.” - Dwight D. Eisenhower

NEW MEMBER

We welcome Mary Lou Fortier to the parish. If you know someone who does not worship anywhere, invite them to Holy Name of Jesus.

PULPIT SWAP WEEKEND

On July 1st Fr. Sen. Joseph Soltysiak and I will swap pulpits for one Sunday. I will travel to my home parish of Westfield and celebrate their Sunday Masses, and Fr. Sen. Joe will come back to his old parish of South Deerfield to celebrate our Sunday Masses. We both hope that our parishioners will enjoy the chance to see someone

new in the sanctuary and to hear a new perspective on the Word of God. Please make Fr. Sen. Joe feel welcome back here in South Deerfield by making sure to attend Mass this weekend.

This is also the Sunday before Independence Day. It is our tradition on this Sunday to begin our 9:00am Mass with the Pledge of Allegiance and then to sing the National Anthem.

SPECIAL SUMMER MASSES

During July and August, we offer two special Masses. First, on July 15th, 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 July 22nd. 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 meet on three Mondays during July 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.

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the *Altar of the Nation* as a national monument to our war dead. Our prayers at this year's diocesan Prayer Service will focus on those who serve, have served, and for peace.

To honour our veterans and service personnel a collection will be accepted for *Operation Homefront*, which is a charity that serves the needs of military families. Sandra Winkler, President of the New England branch of the charity, will be on hand to accept our donation. A separate page follows that lists the various ways in which a donation can be made. Our men and women in uniform are being asked to make huge sacrifices in

our war on terror. Whatever your opinion on this policy, we should acknowledge the dedication of these Americans for their dedication and professionalism. Some of the families of these service men and women are suffering financially because of these extended deployments. Whatever we can do to help *Operation Homefront* help these people will be appreciated, and I think it will make us feel a bit better too.

Rev. Jordan Greeley, a chaplain at the Air National Guard base in Westfield, will be our guest speaker at this year's Prayer Service. He will offer prayers and comments about those who now serve based on his personal experience as a military chaplain. Also, Bp. Anthony Kopka of our parish in Stratford, CT will be the homilist. I have had the pleasure of hearing Bp. Kopka speak on numerous occasions and I can guarantee that you will not be disappointed.

After the Service, we plan to gather at the Cyprus Grove Restaurant in Rindge. A buffet will be served of chicken, beef, fish, vegetables and potatoes for a cost of \$10/person. Please contact the rectory **soon** if you would like to add names to our reservation list.

In this year when war is at the forefront of our thoughts, let us come together in a peaceful, prayerful place and remember those who have sacrificed and who continue to sacrifice for the cause of our nation, and then let us close with sincere prayers for world peace.

ANNUAL CHICKEN BARBECUE

This year's Chicken Barbecue will be held on Sunday, August 5th at 12:00 noon at the Hatfield Lion's Club Pavilion. Tickets for the barbecue are available throughout this month, but they must be ordered by August 1st to be obtained at the regular price of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Tickets ordered after August 1st 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.

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. This is an important fundraiser for our church and we hope that all of our parishioners will help out in some way.

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 19th and continues through the morning of Thursday, August 23rd. 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 \$100 per person. Registrations must be postmarked by **July 15th**, after this date a \$10 late fee will be added on to the cost. 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 recreation. 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.

YMSofR TRACK & FIELD MEET

The annual United YMSofR sponsored Track and Field Meet will be held in Scranton, PA on Saturday, August 18th. 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.

ST. JUDE'S HOSPITAL

The parish has become a *Partner in Hope* with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. We will soon be receiving monthly stories and photos of the children we are helping. These materials will be 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.

******* Last Chance to Contribute *******

Contribution form for Annual Prayer Service at the Cathedral of the Pines to benefit *Operation Homefront*.

Amount:

- \$_____ Offered in memory of a member of the U.S. military killed in action
Rank and Name _____
Date _____
- \$_____ Offered in tribute of a current member of the U.S. military
Rank and Name _____
- \$_____ Offered in memory of a deceased veteran
Rank and Name _____
- \$_____ Offered in tribute of a living veteran
Rank and Name _____
- \$_____ Offered in recognition of a military family
Name _____
- \$_____ Offered as a general contribution in honor of those who serve and who have served.
- \$_____ Offered as a general contribution in honor of the families of those who serve.

Donations must be mailed by July 2nd or presented personally at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH on July 8th (If presented in person, checks should be made payable to *Operation Homefront*.).

Checks made payable to *Holy Name of Jesus Parish* are sent to:

Fr. Randy Calvo
15 Thayer Street
So. Deerfield, MA 01373-1136

Thank you.

