

TIDINGS

OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH

A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

Vol. 22 – 2009

Month of June

No. 6

Ours is not to question why ... Why?

As I have been mentioning, we will be focusing on the sacrament of the Word of God during this centennial year of our unique sacrament.

Back in January this dialogue began by stressing that religion is not a passive enterprise. A sincere faith is an engaged faith. Irenaeus sought to explain the early church to his contemporaries by stressing: "The glory of God is man fully alive." (*Adversus Haereses, Book IV, Ch. 20, #7*) Faith spurs our involvement in life, our connectedness with the world around us, and in this God is honored. About this we will speak more next month.

The Sacrament of the Word of God, as mentioned in February, is the rational and heuristic tool by which the Christian evaluates the information received by a life "fully alive." In March, the month of our denomination's organization, we spoke about Catholic democracy as the vehicle for such information to be shared and implemented within the community of the church.

In April and May, we spoke of this model as distinctive from those who would see faithfulness as holding on to past revelations and traditional models. Instead, ours is the Pentecost-model of the church where the Spirit's presence constantly refreshes the church's authority. Change and adaptation are not anathema in such a model.

Now we have entered the month of June, the month dedicated to Sacred Vocations. Last month's article on the Word of God concluded with the sentence "God is still speaking." In the context of all that has been said above, and in the spirit of God's continuing revelation, I present the question of women priests in our church.

When the Proceedings of the 2006 General Synod are printed, I plan to frame my request to allow women to enter the diaconate program now in case we choose to allow them to serve in the future. This is a very small step, and even this was greeted without so much as an acknowledgment. It was like it was never mentioned. I think this may have been one of the first formal requests at a General Synod to crack the door and let Sacred Vocations be determined by spiritual qual-

ities rather than physical. A priest came over to me after my statement and said, "You sure have no intention of ever becoming a bishop!" I don't, at all, but why is this stance an a priori obstacle for those who would wish to advance to that office?

Ours is a democratic Catholic church. I sense that ordaining women is a minority opinion, but how can we know if it is not openly and freely discussed. The Jesuits are pushing for the Roman Catholic bishops to discuss a married clergy (http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=11620), but they are hesitant to even ask. Should we likewise be apprehensive to encourage the discussion of women priests? The Jesuits appealed to the bishops according to their church structure. Should we not prepare our people for this discussion so that we may bring it to the Synod? Bp. Hodur brought the issue of a married clergy to Synod. The precedent is there. Is avoiding this discussion with arguments that it belongs only to the bishops and then limiting the bishops a priori to those opposed to the subject consistent with our church reforms, and with all that the Sacrament of the Word of God entails?

I believe that the Holy Spirit speaks through the decisions of the church gathered in Synod, and this is why I think the issue of women's Ordination needs to be discussed openly among all of us. To begin this dialogue, I ask you to visit this site: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/should-women-be-ordained-in-the-pncc>. Due to the limitations of the site, we can only ask if you agree with the topic. Depending on the response, we can then take the discussion further.

In a letter soliciting funds for the National Church Center, the Prime Bishop and Fund-Raising Chairman wrote: "It is [our] firm belief that God, who works in strange, diverse and mysterious ways, is showing us the direction in which we are to go. We need to follow that direction." If the Spirit guides us in mundane matters, then the "strange, diverse and mysterious ways" of God can also be embraced when we discuss whether we should limit Ordination to half the human race.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MONTH OF JUNE

- June 5, 2009 – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish.
- June 6th – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.
- June 7th – Polish Mass will be recited at 7:45am.
- June 8th – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- June 9th – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.
- June 11th – Central Seniorate **CORPUS CHRISTI** Mass and procession at Westfield at 7:00pm.
- June 14th – Closing of the School of Christian Living classes for the academic year.
Today is Flag Day. Display the Colours proudly.
- June 21st – **FATHER’S DAY**. Mass at 9:00am.
Weather permitting, the Mass will be celebrated outdoors.
Special collection for the Clergy Pension Fund of the church after Mass.
UYA sponsored Father’s Day continental breakfast following Mass.
- June 23rd – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- June 28th – There will be NO Adoration Society meeting this month.

*** ** * ** **

“All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.” – President Abraham Lincoln.

SACRED VOCATIONS MONTH

During the month of June, the church prays for Sacred Vocations. We ask Jesus to encourage those whom He has called to the priesthood to answer in the affirmative. We are in desperate need of pastors. Parishes are suffering because we do not have a priest to send to them. Fr. Sens. Krusinski and Soltysiak, and Frs. Biedrawa, Nemkovich, Kaszubski and myself are all filling in at pastorless parishes. Bp. Kopka will be leaving Stratford, CT at the end of this month for Chicago to assume his new responsibilities as the diocesan bishop of the Western Diocese. This opens up another parish without a priest. We cannot rely only on bringing outside clergy into our church. We appreciate their service, but if we cannot inspire the called young people in our pews to share their lives with the church as priest and pastor, then we fail them and the church suffers as well.

Let us all pray for Sacred Vocations throughout this month. As students graduate from high school and college, let us pray that those who are called will give serious consideration to the clerical ministry of our church. Let us pray for those now in Seminary and for those already within Sacred Vocations. May their ministries be productive and meaningful. In all seriousness, please pray every day in June for Sacred Vocations. The power of prayer is real, as is our need for dedicated priests and pastors.

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 an extremely interesting book that is 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 Christian community as more and more Gentiles, non-Jews, accepted the faith. Matthew’s story reflects both of these realities.

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. 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. If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to call the rectory.

CORPUS CHRISTI MASS AND PROCESSION

Every year on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, which this year falls on June 11th, the Central Seniorate parishes gather together to celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi. This is Latin for “the Body of Christ.” The purpose of the feast is to celebrate the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. On the day of its institution, the church moves quickly from Last Supper to Gethsemane. The time is not appropriate to joyfully commemorate the mystical gift of Jesus’ sacramental body and blood. Therefore, the church postpones this event to the Feast of Corpus Christi.

At the conclusion of Mass, a Eucharistic procession will be held. Gospel readings concerning the sacrament will be read at the four corners of the church, and likewise the Blessed Sacrament will be raised to bless the congregation. The

Adoration Societies of our various parishes are encouraged to march in procession holding candles, which symbolize their office and the light of Christ. Choir members and acolytes are invited to participate as well, and of course the faithful are encouraged to attend this worship service.

Mass will begin at 7:00pm. Fr. Sen. Soltysiak, our Administrative Senior, will be the main celebrant and the other priests of the Seniorate will concelebrate with him. This year's Mass and procession will be hosted by the Westfield parish, and it will be followed by a light reception. If you need directions to the church or if you need a ride, please contact the rectory.

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN LIVING

Our SOCL classes will be closing for the summer on Sunday, June 14th. We will acknowledge our teachers and students at Mass that day. Christian education is a fundamental component of our worship. We cannot worship God to the best of our abilities in ignorance. We must know what we believe if we are to believe sincerely and if we are to worship wholeheartedly. To this end I thank the families and students who take our SOCL program seriously and who attend faithfully. I also wish to thank our SOCL teachers who share that one extra hour of time after Mass each Sunday. They are: Barbara Stahelski, Chris Piekarski, Kim Lashway and Cheryl Major. Without their commitment, our young people would suffer.

Classes will resume again on September 13th, but we hope that our students will not take a vacation from church while they are on vacation from Sunday School.

FATHER'S DAY

The nation celebrates Father's Day annually on the third Sunday of June. We will join in that national holiday by remembering all of the fathers of our parish and all those fathers who have passed on to their eternal reward through our prayers at Mass. Weather permitting, this Mass will be conducted outdoors in honour of our fathers. We will set up the altar and chairs beneath the maple trees as we have in the past. Pray for a nice day so that our fathers can enjoy the great outdoors as we gather for Mass.

After Mass the Parish United Youth Association will sponsor a continental breakfast for our fathers and their guests. We hope you will set aside a

little extra time on that day to spend with us during our social hour.

CLERGY PENSION FUND

Every Father's Day we are asked by the national church to remember the retired clergy of our denomination. Your donations to the Clergy Pension Fund on this day help the church to offer a pension to the retired men who have served our parishes. This pension is extended to the widows of priest, as well. These men have devoted their lives to church and Christ, and we hope that you will be generous in your donations so that we may help them financially in their later years. Thank you on their behalf for your generosity.

CATHEDRAL OF THE PINES

The annual diocesan Prayer Service will be held at the Cathedral of the Pines in Rindge, NH on Sunday, July 12th beginning at 3:00pm. This year's service coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Sacrament of the Word of God. We will focus our prayers on this momentous anniversary.

The Seniorate is looking into chartering a bus to take us to Rindge. We need to know if there is sufficient interest first. If you would like to travel by bus, please speak with Fr. Calvo. A buffet dinner will follow the Prayer Service at the Cyprus Grove Restaurant in Rindge. The buffet will include chicken, beef, fish, mixed vegetables and potato, and will cost \$10 per person and \$6 for children 12 and under. Reservations for the buffet need to be made by June 28th.

And finally, a special collection will be accepted for the Military Child Education Coalition. This is a non-profit organization whose objective is self-explanatory. For more information about this award-winning organization please visit their website: www.militarychild.org. Our theme of the Word of God and the Cathedral's focus as a memorial to our American war dead have inspired the choice of this charity. You may make your donation at the Prayer Service, or if you wish to do so in advance please mark your donation here at the church clearly for this purpose. Thank you.

PARISH MISSION TEAM

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

2009 marks the 80th anniversary of the organization of our parish. The following donations have been made to the CIF, which helps to maintain the church properties: James &

Rosaline Sledge, \$200; Richard & Miriam Puder, \$30, in memory of Ada Grybko; Mike & Pauline Polczwartek, \$20, in memory of Stella (Mularz) Kaminski Bachel; Sharon Calvo, \$300, in memory of Henry & Anita Wisniewski and Irene Calvo; in memory of Nellie Foster, \$560; Stanley Chmiel, \$25; and Jennie Demara, \$25, in memory of Esther Adamski.