

TIDINGS

OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH

A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

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Month of June

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Theological Reversals? – Part IV

Last month I asked why in the world would the recent National Clergy Conference ask the church to revisit our teaching in opposition to the late dogmatic innovations of Mary's Immaculate Conception and her bodily Assumption. Our rejection of these innovations has been clear and explicit, the former when Bp. Hodur signed the Declaration of Utrecht and the latter in an article of Bp. Hodur in the official publication of our church in 1950. This reactionary bent of a majority of the clergy there present was again manifested in opposition to a proposal offered by Fr. Mark Niznik of our parish in Belleview, FL. Fr. Niznik had the courage to stand alone and to broach the subject of women's Ordination in our church. As with my effort at the 2006 General Synod, the idea never had the chance to leave the starting gate, but I give Fr. Niznik credit for trying to initiate the discussion of this unavoidable topic.

Since it is not likely that this subject can be discussed at the national level of our church, we have decided to test the waters at the local level. If the format of this month's Central Seniorate *Women in the Ministry* Retreat proves successful, then we may have provided a template for such discussions to take place in other local venues of the church. There is no way to gauge the views of our people because this subject has not been freely discussed. However, there have been scientific polls of the members of the more conservative Roman Catholic Church on this topic. Recent polls have shown that almost 2/3 of US Roman Catholics favour the idea of women's Ordination, and that the treatment of women by the RCC was cited by 39% of former Roman Catholics as part of the reason why they left. If we in our church approach anywhere near these numbers, then we have a sacred obligation to pursue this topic even if we have to start at the parish or Seniorate level.

When I was in the seminary, Hans Kung was a theologian of great acclaim, and much of his praise by National Catholic clergy was based on his book *Infallible?*. This book led to Fr. Kung's censure by his church and the removal of his

credentials to teach theology in Roman Catholic institutions. But for the obvious reason of our rejection of papal infallibility, Hans Kung was praised for his scholarly advocacy of a position we had long held. This same priest and theologian expressed his views very publicly in the news media after the clergy sex abuse scandal reached his homeland of Germany. In early March, he spoke out strongly against mandatory clerical celibacy, once again giving intellectual depth to our church's almost 90 year old tradition. But Fr. Kung was not finished. He also said that the future health of the Catholic priesthood required along with the end of celibacy the end of the exclusion of women from Ordination. In his words, "The [Roman Catholic] bishops know this, but they do not have the courage to say it in public." (*TimesOnline*, 3/9/10) This is the world respected theologian our church has touted for his examination of infallibility and subsequently for his advocacy of a married clergy. Should we not respect his erudition when it comes to the Ordination of women or is it a matter of courage?

It is a fact that women earn the majority of diplomas in fields men once dominated from biology to business, and they have caught up to men in the pursuit of law, medicine and other advanced degrees. The number of women enrolled in undergraduate classes has grown more than twice as fast as it has for men, and there are currently more than 2 million more women on college campuses than men. Likewise, the US Navy is getting ready to introduce women into the submarine fleet by 2012. Women in the military are almost everywhere that men can be. Is it a safe assumption to believe that women in our church will passively accept exclusion from one of the sacraments as the world obviously changes around us? Some worry that our church will be divided by women's Ordination. I worry that it will wither because of its visceral rejection. This is why I hope you will sign up and attend our June 13th retreat. It is of sacred importance that we make our voices known and heard.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
MONTH OF JUNE

- June 1, 2010 – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- June 3rd – Central Seniorate Corpus Christi Mass and procession at 7PM at our Chicopee parish.
- June 5th – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.
- June 6th – Early summer Mass recited at 7:45am. Special congregational meeting at 10:00am to elect our lay delegate to the October General Synod.
- June 8th – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.
- June 13th – Closing of our School of Christian Living classes for the academic year.
CENTRAL SENIORATE WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY RETREAT at the Genesis Retreat Center in Westfield from 1 – 5:00pm.
- June 14th – Flag Day. Display the Colours proudly.
Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- June 19th – Spojnia District 3's Paw Sox outing, van leaving the church at 2:30pm.
- June 20th – **FATHER'S DAY**. Special prayers offered for fathers, and weather permitting Mass outdoors.
United Youth Association sponsored continental Father's Day breakfast at 10:00am.
- June 29th – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.

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“To embrace diversity is to embrace God.” –
Sign at Bethany Methodist Church.

SACRED VOCATIONS MONTH

The church asks that we pray for Sacred Vocations each June. As high school and college graduations are held, we are all asked to pray that those whom Jesus has called to the sacred ministry of His priesthood may respond in the affirmative. We invite our high school graduates to think about Sacred Vocations as they finalize their plans for college, and we pray that our college graduates give serious consideration to continuing their education at our seminary in Scranton, PA. For those who are called, no other life will be as fulfilling as the priesthood. Let us all pray throughout the month of June that Jesus' voice be heard above the din of the world's distractions so that

those who should be priests may come forward and serve God and congregation in our church.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

We continue to read from Matthew's Gospel. When we complete this early Jewish-Christian text, we will move on to St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians, which will offer us a marked contrast from Matthew's church. In this way I hope we can come to appreciate the vitality and complexity of the earliest church, and its implications for churches today.

As we move into the summer months our schedules offer us more free time. I hope that some of you will take advantage of this summer-time opportunity and come to learn more about the Word of God. The text and our discussions may be able to open up a whole new way of thinking about our faith and that book that sits un-opened on too many of our shelves. Please think about accepting this invitation to begin Bible study.

CORPUS CHRISTI

The parishes of the Central Seniorate will gather in Chicopee on June 3rd for a combined celebration of the Corpus Christi Mass and procession. During the Easter season we celebrated the great mystery of the Father's resurrection of the Son from the dead. On Pentecost, the church rejoices in the sharing of the Holy Spirit with all believers. Then on the Sunday after Pentecost the themes of Father, Son and Holy Spirit are brought together as we observe Trinity Sunday.

With the completion of this liturgical sequence, the church can now finally return to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist that was cut short on Holy Thursday by the start of Jesus' Passion. At the Last Supper Jesus spoke the words of Institution, but the church was in no position to celebrate since on that same night Jesus would be arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. Now after the above mentioned liturgical cycle has been completed the church can return to properly address the mystery of the Holy Eucharist, and thus we gather for the Feast of Corpus Christi.

Clergy and laity from our various Seniorate parishes are invited to gather in Chicopee for a Mass concelebrated by all of our local pastors. The Mass will finish with a procession to four altars, symbolizing the world-wide outreach of Jesus through the sacrament of the Altar. Adoration Society members are invited to process with can-

dles, choir members to sing and acolytes to serve, and of course the faithful to join in our worship.

MONTHLY EARLY MASS

The need for a monthly Polish Mass has dissipated over the years. There are now fewer and fewer members who speak or understand the language. For this reason we have now discontinued the practice of reciting the Polish Mass once a month. In its place, from May through September, we will offer a recited early Mass at 7:45am on the first Sunday of the month. This Mass will be recited in English and is offered so that those who have plans for their Sunday may still be able to attend Mass.

SOCL CLASSES

The academic year of our School of Christian Living classes comes to an end on the 13th. Our students and teachers will be recognized that Sunday at Mass. I wish to again thank our SOCL teachers for their time and dedication to the youth of our church. They are: Barbara Stahelski, Mary Tudryn, Chris Piekarski and Leesa Lesenski.

WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY RETREAT

At our 2009 annual Central Seniorate Council Meeting we voted to convene a gathering to discuss the topic of women in the priestly ministry of our church. That meeting will take place during this Sacred Vocations month of June at the Genesis Retreat Center in Westfield, MA on the 13th of the month. We will open our day together with a prayer service at 1PM. Fr. Sen. Banas will offer the homily at this time and speak about Bp. Hodur's progressive attitudes towards church. Sessions will be held during the afternoon and discussion is encouraged. We also have the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Crosson-Harrington with us from the Whately Congregational Church. She will speak firsthand to the everyday realities of women pastors. I hope that many of you will choose to join with us as we discuss this important issue in the contemplative, retreat setting of Genesis Center. If you have any questions, please contact the rectory.

FATHER'S DAY

On the third Sunday of June the nation honours the institution of fatherhood. The church joins in this celebration. Prayers will be offered during the Mass for the fathers of our church and community, both living and dead. If the weather permits, we

will celebrate this Mass as the first of our summer outdoor Masses.

Following Mass, the Parish United Youth Association invites the congregation to a continental breakfast in honour of Father's Day. I hope that you and yours will spend a bit of this special day with us at church.

YOUTH CONVOCATION

This summer's National Youth Convocation will be held at Monmouth University located at the Jersey Shore in West Long Branch, New Jersey. The Convo will be held from July 26th -30th. The theme of the Convo is "Governed by God." Along with the sessions, a trip is planned to both Ellis Island and to the Statue of Liberty, and also a "private beach bonfire bash" is scheduled. The Convo is open to parishioners aged 12-18, with adults serving as chaperones. Information has been e-mailed to families of teenagers. For more information, visit their website: www.Convo2010.org. **The registration deadline is June 1st** at \$285, with a late fee of \$25 until the registration period ends on June 25th. These forms are available through the rectory.

DIOCESAN YOUTH RETREAT

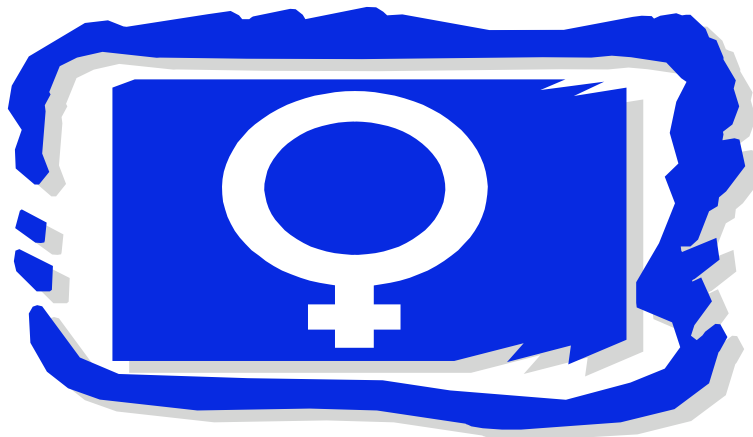
The 2010 diocesan Youth Retreat will be held once again at 4-H Camp Howe in Goshen, MA. It will be held from August 15th - 19th. The cost is \$110 per person if your registration is postmarked **by July 1st**. After this date a \$25 late fee will be included. The Retreat is open to all youth of the parish between the ages of 8 and 17. We also could use chaperones. Non-members may be eligible to attend, but the pastor must be notified beforehand or the application will not be accepted. Registration and health forms are available through the rectory.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

The following donations have been received recently: Frank Kozikowski, \$100, in memory of Alec & Helen Kozikowski; Heather & Jeremy Gates, \$50 (organ); Mark & Barbara Stahelski, \$50 (organ); Robert & Pat Blakeslee, \$30 (windows); David Logan & Camella Peace, \$150; Alice Maiewski, \$25, in memory of Jennie Wilga; Jane Grybko, \$50 (organ); Louise Puchalski, \$25, in memory of Peter Backiel Sr.; and Tim Fannin & Andrea Lavoie, \$100 (organ). Thank you all for your donations that help us maintain and improve our parish facilities.

***Women in the Ministry
of the National Catholic Church?***

A Spiritual Retreat of the Central Seniorate Parishes



**At Genesis Spiritual Retreat Center
53 Mill St., Westfield, MA 01085**

Sunday, **June 13th from 1 – 5:00pm**

All are welcome to come and share in this prayerful discussion.