

## TIDINGS

OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH

A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

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Month of October

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### Ours is not to question why ... Why?

We discussed last month that the church community is not intended to be limited to a passive role and that this teaching is expressed by the important early Christian concept of *koinonia*. It is not limited as a noun signifying the community per se. Rather *koinonia* is the vitality of that church community in the Holy Spirit. The coming together as church opens a sacred pathway for the Spirit to become active among believers, and as we saw last month this often occurs through the hearing and preaching of the Word of God. Is it any wonder that Bp. Hodur saw our unique sacrament as not only the Bible, but also its liturgical proclamation?

In the fourth century BC, Aristotle theorized that the natural state of motion in the heavens was circular movement, and that the natural state of terrestrial motion was to be at rest. Not only did Galileo destroy this dichotomy of heaven and earth 1900 years later, he also explained that uniform motion is the natural state for both. Therefore, motion needs no explanation; change in motion, however, does.

Similarly, *koinonia*, as the community inspired to act by the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit, is the revealed natural state of the church. This constancy of movement is why it has been stated that the theology of the New Testament could be written around the concept of newness. References are accordingly abundant: 2 Cor. 3:6; 5:17; Rom. 6:4; 7:6; Rev. 2:17; 3:12; 21:1-2, 5; Mark 2:22; 14:25; Luke 5:37-38; 22:20; 1 Cor. 11:25; Heb. 8:8, 13; 9:15; 12:24; Gal 6:15; Eph. 2:15; 4:24; Col. 3:10; John 13:34; 1 John 2:8; 2 Peter 3:13. This motion need not be explained since it is the natural state of the church, but change within the church does.

Our natural state as church is not to return to some idealized, pristine past as if the church at rest, unchanged through the millennia, is the epitome of faithfulness. As Aristotle was supplanted by Galileo, so the ideal of an unchanging church is replaced by one that embraces newness, regeneration. Galileo followed his law of uniform motion with his second law on change. Change alters the

natural state and this requires explanation. Change is not random in the church. It should be motivated by God, and it should acknowledge the value of tradition. James D.G. Dunn has pointed out that prophet and teacher are often linked (Acts 13:1; 1 Cor. 12:28; 14:6; Eph. 4:11), which suggests that the creative role of prophecy was balanced by the conserving role of teaching. Also, the second century writing the *Shepherd of Hermas* declares in its Eleventh Commandment that the community has an important function to fulfill. It is written in *Hermas*: “When, then, a man having the Divine Spirit comes into an assembly of righteous men who have faith in the Divine Spirit, and this assembly of men offers up prayer to God, then the angel of the prophetic Spirit, who is destined for him, fills the man; and the man being filled with the Holy Spirit, speaks to the multitude as the Lord wishes.” The prophet depends upon the congregation, and the congregation depends upon the prophet who speaks the Word of God. These early Christian prophets were the norm not the exception as indicated by the above quote’s use of “a man” rather than “the prophet.” Prophecy was charism not office. As a matter of fact, the unity of scattered congregations found concrete expression not in shared offices, but in the idea that the Word of God was the central church authority and that God’s will and purpose were expressed by the prophets to the church’s scattered congregations.

Change is effected by the Spirit but not haphazardly, thus the union of prophet and teacher, and change must be endorsed by the community of the church. This brings us back to *koinonia*. The symbiotic relationship incorporating the written Word of God (i.e., the teacher), the proclaimed Word of God (i.e., the prophet) and the active role of those who hear the Word of God (the congregation), is maintained still today by our church’s embrace of the Sacrament of the Word of God Heard and Preached. This is the “why” of the sacrament than I find much more interesting than the “how,” but next month we should move on to that more prosaic topic.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**MONTH OF OCTOBER**

- October 1, 2009 – Meeting of the Parish Mission Team at 7:00pm in the parish hall.
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish.
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.
- October 4<sup>th</sup> – Polish Mass will be recited at 7:45am.
- October 6<sup>th</sup> – Bible study group will meet in the parish hall at 7:00pm.
- October 7<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Mass for Health at 6:30pm.
- October 10<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Calvo will attend the Confirmation Service at the Ware parish at 2:00pm.
- October 11<sup>th</sup> – **FEAST OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY**. Mass at the regular time of 9:00am.
- October 12<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Calvo will march with a delegation from the Northampton parish in the Pulaski Day Parade in Northampton.
- October 13<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.
- October 24<sup>th</sup> - Annual meeting of the Central Seniorate Council at the Northampton parish at 1:00pm. (Please note special week.)
- October 25<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting of the Adoration Society at 10:00am.
- October 27<sup>th</sup> – Bible study group will meet in the Parish hall at 7:00pm.
- October 31<sup>st</sup> – **Fall Bazaar** will be held in the Parish hall from 9:00am – 2:00pm.

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“Immigrants are heroes who made an adventure on our behalf.” - Garrison Keillor

**NEW MEMBERS**

On behalf of the parish, I wish to welcome Matthew and Nancy Slusarski to Holy Name of Jesus. If you know someone who does not worship actively anywhere else, please invite them to come with you to Mass here at our church.

**PARISH MISSION TEAM**

The Parish Mission Team will meet on the first day of the month at 7:00pm in the parish hall. This group is open to any and all who would like to help get our church’s name and programs out in the community. We are always looking for new ideas and a lot of the times those new ideas come from new people. We hope you will accept our

invitation to come and join us in the outreach work of our church.

One of the items on this group’s agenda will be our preparations for the Shepherds’ Mass of Christmas Eve. Last year we hired a professional harpist to add her gift of music to that night’s celebration of Jesus’ birth. We need to begin planning now for what we will do this Christmas. If you would like to be a part of this work, we hope to see you at our meeting.

**FALL BAZAAR**

The annual Fall Bazaar parish fundraiser will be held on the last Saturday of the month, October 31<sup>st</sup>. In preparation for this event, volunteers will gather in the church kitchen to make pierogi on three consecutive October Mondays: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The 12<sup>th</sup> is the Columbus Day holiday. If you have the day off from work, could we entice you to come and help our group of workers? Any extra help is always greatly appreciated. Even if you do not know how to make pierogi, we have a wonderful track record of instructing new-comers.

Volunteers will be baking apple pies on the 29<sup>th</sup> in the morning. If you can help, please contact Marge Sanderson. The workers gather around 8:00am to bake their 48 or so pies.

When the job of baking pies is complete, a second batch of volunteers comes in to make golumpki for the Fall Bazaar. If you are able to help with this project, please speak with either Jane Grybko or Theresa Boron.

Even with all the cooking and baking at the church, we still need the homemade foods and treats of our parishioners. We have a wonderful turn-out from the community to this event every year because the reputation of our cooks and bakers precedes us. We hope you will make the time at home to share your culinary creations with us. We are asking people to drop off their donations in the church hall on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> so that they can be priced and set out for sale.

If you have a crafting talent, anything that you would like to donate is appreciated. We also do well selling plants if you have a green thumb. And finally, the parish is also offering tables for rent at the Bazaar for the sale of your own items. The cost for renting a table is \$25 for parishioners only, along with the donation of a raffle prize. If

you plan on renting a table, you must notify the parish by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

When we all come together to help, the work load is spread out and the benefits to the parish increase. We hope that you will share in the work of this important fundraiser even if you have not been able to do so in the past. Thank you.

#### **FEAST OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY**

Back in 1914 at the Third General Synod of our church, the Feast of the Christian Family was born. If we think back to those times, we were an immigrant church of first and second generation Europeans. In 1914, Europe was being torn apart by World War I. It is not hard to imagine that the delegates gathered in Synod would have had their family members across the Atlantic in their thoughts and prayers. Economic and political difficulties had led our organizers to trek across the ocean to a new land and a new life, but to do so they had to leave so many of their beloved family members behind. It is these thoughts and these family connections that I believe inspired the origins of the Feast of the Christian Family.

Sometimes the most important gifts in our lives can be taken for granted and only appreciated after they have been taken away. The separation caused by immigration and the threats born of war caused the delegates of the Third General Synod to ask the church to pray for the Christian Family. Nearly a century later, we continue with those prayers. I hope that our Christian families will gather as one for Mass on this special occasion because sometimes it does take a special effort to cherish that which we sometimes can take for granted.

#### **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 a book 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 church as more and more Gentiles accepted the faith. Matthew's story reflects both of these realities. Matthew deals with the reality and the tension of a church in transition, which also has a lot to say to us as church members today.

This month marks the end of another season of reading the Bible together. We take the winter off

and reconvene after Easter. When we reconvene, we will still be reading from Matthew's Gospel so please do not feel that with only two sessions to go this year it is too late to join our group. Next year we will finish up with Matthew's Gospel and move in another direction as we begin reading St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians.

Matthew followed upon our survey of the Old Testament because we cannot appreciate Matthew without a general understanding of the Jewish Scriptures that predate him. With our completion of Matthew, I would like to read one of the most Spirit-rich works of the New Testament. The Holy Spirit's role in the church comes to the fore in 2 Corinthians. This type of community served as the bridge from the Jewish-Christian origins of the church of the apostles to the more universal church championed by Paul. I hope you will come and join us as we explore the depth and the excitement of these earliest Christian writings.

#### **VIDEO PROJECT**

Public Access Television for Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately is carried on Channel 12 via our local cable provider. This station carries programming 24 hours a day seven days a week. They are looking for programming content. They have approached the local congregations about taping our Masses and Services for broadcast. They will provide the equipment and the training, but we need to provide the volunteer(s) to do the actual video taping. If you would like to help our parish in this way, please speak to Fr. Calvo. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach out to an audience beyond our congregation. It will also be available to any of our parishioners who are ill or homebound and who cannot attend Mass with us. We can start with our first volunteer(s).

#### **MASS FOR HEALTH**

We have returned to our monthly Mass for Health. The Mass will be offered on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. At this Mass we will pray for all of our parishioners who are hospitalized at the time or in long-term care. We will also pray for the intentions that the congregation presents. If you or someone you know needs to be remembered at our Mass for Health, I hope you will join us at church.

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

# **F.Y.I.**

**Due to a scheduling conflict with the band, *Dennis Polisky and the Maestro's Men*, next summer's Chicken Barbecue will **NOT** take place on the first Sunday of August as has been our custom.**

**Instead, the 2010 Chicken Barbecue is now scheduled for**  
**Sunday, August 15, 2010.**

**Please make a note of this change on your calendars.**

**Thank you.**