

From Your Pastor

“No Greater Love...” ~ Memorial Day 2009 ~ Requiescant in Pacem



Memorial Day is perhaps best known to young Americans as the day that marks the unofficial first day of summer. But this well-loved national holiday has a much nobler and far more

beautiful meaning. Memorial Day was first proclaimed in 1868 to honor those men and women buried in Arlington National Cemetery who died serving our beloved nation in a time of war. From its beginning Memorial Day has been all about acknowledging and remembering those who made the supreme sacrifice in order to defend the lives, liberty and pursuit of happiness of their fellow citizens.

Many little practices have been introduced since 1868 to highlight and to strengthen the importance of Memorial Day. For example, around the time of World War I a woman from Georgia named Moina Belle Michael introduced the custom of wearing red poppies on Memorial Day to honor of those who died for their country. The proceeds from the sale of the poppies goes to the welfare of our veterans and to the well being of their dependents. In the 1950s, the custom developed of placing flags on Memorial Day at the graves of the deceased members of the armed services. Thankfully, both of these customs became traditions and they survive in our own time to keep alive the original significance of the day.

In the Gospel of last week - the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Jesus says to his disciples: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13). He might have been speaking about our servicemen and women who have given their lives for us on the field of battle. In fact, their sacrifice goes beyond what the Lord asked of his disciples, because these men and women gave their lives not only for

friends but for strangers - for those they would never know in this life. Their sacrifice has its origin in love - love of neighbor and love of country; and it is precisely this love which makes their sacrifice such an extraordinary gift to us.

Memorial Day is a special time to remember as well the families of the men and women who gave their lives defending the liberty that we enjoy. I think of spouses who have lost their best friend, and of children who have lost their first love. I think of Gold Star Mothers and Fathers who never imagined that their daughter or son could predecease them. I think of brothers and sisters who have lost their mentor or protigi. In a very real way, the loss that these family survivors live with every day is a true part of the sacrifice that their loved one has made in our behalf. May the Lord comfort these survivors in their sorrow.

Over the years, Memorial Day has transformed into a day when many of us go to the cemeteries to visit and to pray for all of our deceased loved ones. As we make our visits this year, may the flags we see dotting the landscape remind us of Memorial Day’s first meaning and purpose. Let us take a moment to thank those who have given their lives for our freedom. And let us raise our hearts in thanks and in prayer to God who gave these men and women the desire and the courage to love us so unselfishly:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.



God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Prayers Are Requested for those who are ill, for vocations to the Priesthood and to the Consecrated Life; for married couples and for families; for the safe return home of the men and women in our military services; and for the repose of the souls of Anna Twomey, Henry D. Walsh, Norberto Torres and deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

Memorial Day Service - Evergreen Cemetery. A Memorial Day Service sponsored by St. Columbkille Parish will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, May 25, at Evergreen Cemetery, Commonwealth Avenue, Brighton to remember the men and women from Allston and Brighton who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of our country. Prayers will also be offered for those currently serving overseas, for their safety and safe return. Msgr. William Fay, presiding.

2009 Catholic Appeal - *Responding to God's Grace, Renewing Our Church.* **Congratulations!** Our parish has done a great job of responding to the call to renew our local Church through support of the 2009 Catholic Appeal. We have made our parish goal of \$35,500, with pledges from 207 households. Thank you to all who contributed - we couldn't have done it without each of you! Now that we've reached our goal, our parish will receive 25 percent of all pledges made from this point forward. This is a great opportunity to increase parish revenue while also supporting the shared ministries funded by the Catholic Appeal. It is not too late to still make a pledge. Every gift matters. You can pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the Church. For more information please visit www.BostonCatholicAppeal.com or call 617-779-3700. Thank you!

Installation of New Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion - Next weekend on the Solemnity of Pentecost, new Lectors will be installed at the Masses in which they serve. New Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion will be installed during the Masses on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 13-14. These ministers are appointed for a three year term and, with their installation, have the right to wear the medallion indicating their particular service to the Church.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST will be received for the first time at the 12:45 Mass this week by the following children:

Adelaida Bedoya

Carlos Berrios

David Castro

Sebastian Ferreras

Luis Godoy

Melvin Guerra

Melissa Holguin

Daniela Mazz

Kenny Parada

Miguel Parada

Juliemar Perez

Natalia Vasquez

Madeline Veloz

Jonathan Villagran

Please keep these children in your prayers on this joyous occasion.

The Second Collection Next Weekend is for the **Seminaries of the Archdiocese.**

A Make-up Review Training for all Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who were unable to attend the last training session will be on Saturday, May 30 in the upper church. Lectors will meet at 10:00 am and Extraordinary Ministers at 11:00. Please mark your calendars.

Please Remember the St. Vincent de Paul Boxes as you leave Mass today. Next meeting Tuesday, May 26 at 7:00pm.

The Knights of Columbus bi-monthly meeting will be on Thursday at 7:00 pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

Couples Celebrating Their 50th or 25th Anniversaries are invited to join Seon Cardinal O'Malley for the annual celebration Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Sunday, June 7 at 11:30 am. Family members and friends as well as the general public are welcome to attend. Please register with the parish office by May 26 if you would like to attend this celebration.

Parish Giving

Parish Offertory (May 16 - May 17): \$4,632

Communications (May 16 - May 17): \$1,303

Catholic Appeal To Date: \$35,877

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

St. Vincent de Paul (May 16 - May 17): \$168.00

Thank You for Your Generosity

MAY 24, 2009

**From a Commentary on the Gospel of John
by St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop (d. 444)**

Christ Is the Bond of Unity

Paul bears witness to the fact that we achieve bodily union with Christ to the extent that we partake of his holy flesh. About this great mystery he says *This that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations: it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ.*

If we are all the same body with one another in Christ – not just with one another, but with him who, through communion with his flesh, is actually within us – are we not then all of us clearly one with one another and one with Christ? For Christ is the bond that unites us, being at once God and Man.

Following the same line of thought, we can say this about spiritual unity: we all receive one and the same Spirit, the one Holy Spirit, I mean the Holy Spirit. So in a way we are blended together with one another and with God. Even though we are many individuals and Christ, the Spirit of the Father and his own Spirit, dwells in each one of us individually, still the Spirit is really one and indivisible. And so that one Spirit binds together the separated spirits of each one of us so that we are seen to be one, together in Christ.

Just as the power of Christ's holy flesh makes into one body everyone in whom it exists, in the same way the Spirit of God, being indivisible, ties together the spirits in which it dwells.

Again, Paul emphasized this point: *Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all. As the one Spirit abides in us, the one God and Father will be with us through the Son, leading those who share the Spirit into unity with each other and with himself.*

MAY 24, 2009

There is another way to show that we are united through sharing in the Holy Spirit. If we abandon living as mere animals and surrender ourselves wholly to the laws of the Spirit, it is surely beyond question that by effectively denying our own life and taking upon ourselves the transcendent likeness of the Holy Spirit who is joined unto us, we are practically transformed into another nature. We are no longer mere men, but sons of God and citizens of Heaven, through becoming partakers of the divine nature.

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Prayer for Marriage

Heavenly Father,
through the intercession of the Holy Family,

Help us treasure the gift of marriage
that reflects the love of Christ for the Church,
where the self-giving love of husband and wife
unites them more perfectly
and cooperates in your plan
for new life created in your image.

Help us support men and women
in their vocation of marriage,
especially in difficult times
when they join their sufferings to the Cross.

Help us uphold the institution of marriage in our society
as the place where love is nurtured and family life begins.

Help us acknowledge that our future depends on this love
and on your providential care for us. Amen.

Please pray daily for the vocation of marriage.

Nihil Obstat: Reverend Mark O'Connell, J.C.D.
Imprimatur: Sean Cardinal O'Malley, OFM, Cap
Archbishop of Boston
May 15, 2007

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UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Sunday, May 24 12:45 pm First Communion -Spanish

Thursday, May 28 7:00 pm Healing Mass

Saturday, May 30 Review for Lectors (10:00 am) &
Extraordinary Ministers (11:00 am) in upper church.

Weekend of May 30/31 Volunteer Fair

Sunday, May 31 9:30 am Family Mass

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MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, May 24 – 7th Sunday of Easter

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Joaquin Gutierrez, Mem.
7:30 am *Missa pro Populo*
9:30 am Antonio & Concetta Grasso, Mem.
11:15 am Barbara Montgomery, 19th Ann.
12:45 pm First Communion
5:00 pm Donato & Cecidia Mazzola, Mem.

Mon. 7:00 am Deceased Military Personnel

Tue. 7:00 am Bartholomew Maher, Mem.

Wed. 7:00 am Evelyn M. Koschen, Mem.

Thu. 7:00 am Kenneth Compton, Mem.

Fri. 7:00 am Johanna Cecilia Murphy, Mem.

Sat. 7:00 am Josephine Zambello, 3rd Ann.

Sunday, May 31 – Pentecost Sunday

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Agustvn Bupuel, Mem.
7:30 am Benedetto & Maria Soave, Mem.
9:30 am Tommaso & Antonette Randolfi, Mem.
11:15 am *Missa pro Populo*
12:45 pm Pedro Pablo Galvez, 3rd Ann.
5:00 pm Rosina Pacitto, 2nd Ann.

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Comments:
