

From Your Pastor

June 19, 2009 – June 19, 2010 ~ *The Year of the Priest* ~ *Church Teaching on Priesthood, III*

Pope Benedict XVI has designated this year “The Year of the Priest” and has named St. John Vianney the universal patron of all priests. Following is an excerpt from paragraphs 3-4 of the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests (1965).

3. Priests, who are taken from among men and ordained for men in the things that belong to God in order to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins, nevertheless live on earth with other men as brothers. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, a Man sent by the Father to men, dwelt among us and willed to become like his brethren in all things except sin. The holy apostles imitated him. Blessed Paul, the doctor of the Gentiles, “set apart for the Gospel of God” (Rom 1:1) declares that he became all things to all men that he might save all. Priests of the New Testament, by their vocation and ordination, are in a certain sense set apart in the bosom of the People of God. However, they are not to be separated from the People of God or from any person; but they are to be totally dedicated to the work for which the Lord has chosen them. They cannot be ministers of Christ unless they be witnesses and dispensers of a life other than earthly life. But they cannot be of service to men if they remain strangers to the life and conditions of men. Their ministry itself, by a special title, forbids that they be conformed to this world; yet at the same time it requires that they live in this world among men. They are to live as good shepherds that know their sheep, and they are to seek to lead those who are not of this sheepfold that they, too, may hear the voice of Christ, so that there might be one fold and one shepherd. To achieve this aim, certain virtues, which in human affairs are deservedly esteemed, contribute a great deal: such as goodness of heart, sincerity, strength and constancy of mind, zealous pursuit of justice, affability, and others. The Apostle Paul commends them saying: “Whatever things are true, whatever honorable, whatever just, whatever holy, whatever loving, whatever of good repute, if there be any virtue, if anything is worthy of praise, think upon these things” (Phil 4:8).

4. The People of God are joined together primarily by the word of the living God. And rightfully they expect

this from their priests. Since no one can be saved who does not first believe, priests, as co-workers with their bishops, have the primary duty of proclaiming the Gospel of God to all. In this way they fulfill the command of the Lord: “Going therefore into the whole world preach the Gospel to every creature” (Mk 16:15), and they establish and build up the People of God. Through the saving word the spark of faith is lit in the hearts of unbelievers, and fed in the hearts of the faithful. This is the way that the congregation of faithful is started and grows, just as the Apostle describes: “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom 10:17).

To all men, therefore, priests are debtors that the truth of the Gospel which they have may be given to others. And so, whether by entering into profitable dialogue they bring people to the worship of God, whether by openly preaching they proclaim the mystery of Christ, or whether in the light of Christ they treat contemporary problems, they are relying not on their own wisdom for it is the word of Christ they teach, and it is to conversion and holiness that they exhort all men. But priestly preaching is often very difficult in the circumstances of the modern world. In order that it might more effectively move men's minds, the word of God ought not to be explained in a general and abstract way, but rather by applying the lasting truth of the Gospel to the particular circumstances of life.

The ministry of the word is carried out in many ways, according to the various needs of those who hear and the special gifts of those who preach...In the Christian community, especially among those who seem to understand and believe little of what they practice, the preaching of the word is needed for the very ministering of the sacraments. They are precisely sacraments of faith, a faith which is born of and nourished by the word. This is especially true of the Liturgy of the Word in the celebration of Mass, in which the proclaiming of the death and resurrection of Christ is inseparably joined to the response of the people who hear, and to the very offering whereby Christ ratified the New Testament in his blood...



God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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; for the prayers listed in our book of intentions; and for the repose of the souls of the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

2009 Catholic Appeal Reminder – *Responding to God's Grace, Renewing Our Church.* If you have not yet contributed to the Catholic Appeal, it is never too late to make a pledge. Every gift matters. Pick up information packets with pledge forms in the back of the Church. Thank you!

Second Collection This Week will be for the Home Missions in the United States. Please be as generous as your means will allow.

RCIA

Are you...

- * thinking about becoming Catholic?
- * a baptized adult who would like to receive First Communion or the Sacrament of Confirmation?
- * someone who just wants to learn more about the Faith?

If so, please let us know! Call Patricia at the office and ask for Gregory Vozzo or leave a message.

Coffee & Donuts will be served on the rectory front porch after the 9:30 Mass. All are welcome.

Please Remember the St. Vincent de Paul Boxes as you leave Mass today. Thank you! We now have a collection bin behind the school for clothing donations. Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00pm in the rectory.

The Legion of Mary meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the rectory. Interested parishioners are welcome to join us for prayer, discussion and apostolic works.

St. Columbkille School has seats available in Grades K1 through 8. For more information call the school at 617-254-3110.

Religious Education Registration Forms for the upcoming year have been mailed out and placed at the doors of the church. Please take a moment to fill them out and mail them to the rectory or place them in the collection baskets at Mass. If you know of any family who needs the form please take one home to them. Classes will begin the week of September 20. Early registration is necessary to insure that all materials will be available for the students.

Religious Education Teachers are needed. If you could help in this way please contact Chris Carmody at 978-996-9455 or columbkilled@yahoo.com.

Priest Appreciation Dinner On Wednesday, September 16, 2009, there will be a Priest Appreciation Dinner held at the Seaport Hotel / World Trade Center from 5:45– 9:00 p.m. This evening is the major celebration in the Year for Priests and is the public celebration of Cardinal Sean's 25th Anniversary as a Bishop. Tables of 10 and individuals tickets are still available. The cost of each ticket is \$500 and they will need to be reserved by Wednesday, September 2. The cost of the ticket is as high as it is, because all proceeds from this event will benefit the Clergy Pension and Healthcare Funds. If you are interested in being part of the evening, please contact Msgr. Fay directly. Thank you for your consideration of this invitation. It is a very important event and fundraiser for your priests.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Mondays, August 24 & 31 7:00-9:00 pm – Catechist Training in the rectory

Sunday, August 30, 9:30 am - Family Masses

PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (Aug. 15 – Aug. 16): \$3,925

Assumption (August 15): \$600

Catholic Relief (August 15 – August 16): \$385

Catholic Appeal (to date): \$37,893

St. Vincent de Paul (Aug. 15 – Aug. 16): \$63.25

Thank You for Your Generosity

**From an Address on the Nature of Priesthood - II
by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Oct. 1, 1990)**

[T]he priesthood of the New Testament, which appeared first in the apostles, presupposes a true communion with the mission of Jesus Christ. The person who becomes a priest is grafted into His mission. For this reason, an intimate personal relationship with Christ is fundamental for priestly life and ministry. All priestly formation should lead to the fostering of this relationship. The priest should be a person who knows Jesus intimately, has met Him and learned to love Him. The priest should therefore be a man of prayer, a truly “spiritual” man. Without strong spiritual substance he cannot last in his ministry. From the mystery of Christ he should also learn in his life not to seek himself nor his own promotion. He should learn to spend his life for Christ and for his flock.

Such a way of living is opposed to our natural inclination, but little by little it becomes clear that only he who is capable of forgetting himself is truly free. One who works for Christ learns by experience that one sows and another reaps (cf. Jn 4:56). He has no need to look for success and thus have to rely on himself. Since he is working for the Lord, he leaves the outcome to the Lord and in joyfulness of spirit he places his concerns in the hands of the Lord. When we seek our own success, the priesthood begins to appear as a burden which surpasses our strength, and burdens too heavy for our shoulders to bear are the inevitable result. But Christ carries us in faith, and from our union with Christ an invincible joy arises which proceeds from the victory of Christ, who conquers the world (Jn 16:55) and is with us to the very end of time (Mt 28:20). From an intimate union with Christ there automatically arises also a participation in His love for human beings, in His will to save them and to bring them help. He who knows Christ from within wishes to communicate to others the joy of the redemption which has opened up for him in the Lord: pastoral labor flows from this communion of love and even in difficult situations is always nourished by this motivation and becomes life-fulfilling.

...Because Christ is never alone, but comes to gather human beings into His body, a love for the Church must necessarily accompany a love for Christ. Christ has willed to come to us in the community of His Church. In a person's zealous love for the Church, his relationship with the Lord Himself is revealed as intimate and strong.

AUGUST 23, 2009

A PRAYER FOR OUR PRIESTS

We thank you, God our Father,
for those who have responded
to your call to priestly ministry.
Accept this prayer we offer on their behalf:

Fill your priests
with the sure knowledge of your love.
Open their hearts to the power
and consolation of the Holy Spirit.
Lead them to new depths of union with your Son.
Increase in them profound faith
in the Sacraments they celebrate
as they nourish, strengthen and heal us.

Lord Jesus Christ, grant that these, your priests,
may inspire us to strive for holiness
by the power of their example,
as men of prayer who ponder your word
and follow your will.

O Mary, Mother of Christ and our mother,
guard with your maternal care these chosen ones,
so dear to the Heart of your Son.
Intercede for our priests that,
offering the Sacrifice of your Son,
they may be conformed more each day
to the image of your Son,
our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Celebrant: *St. John Vianney, universal patron of priests.*

R.: *Pray for us and our priests.*

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ORACIÓN POR NUESTROS SACERDOTES

Te damos gracias, Dios nuestro Padre,
por aquellos que han respondido
a tu llamado para el ministerio sacerdotal.
Acepta esta oración que ofrecemos en su nombre.

Llena a tus sacerdotes
con la seguridad de conocer tu amor.
Abre sus corazones al poder
y consuelo del Espíritu Santo,
condúcelos a nuevas profundidades
de unión con tu Hijo.

Llénalos de profunda fe
en los sacramentos que ellos celebran,
que nos alientan, nos fortalecen y nos sanan.

Señor Jesucristo, haz que estos tus sacerdotes,
puedan inspirarnos a luchar por la santidad
con el poder de su ejemplo,
como hombres de oración que escuchan tu palabra
y siguen tu voluntad.

O María, Madre de Cristo y madre nuestra,
protege con tu cuidado maternal a estos llamados
tan queridos al Corazón de tu Hijo.

Intercede para que nuestros sacerdotes,
que al ofrecer el sacrificio de tu Hijo,
puedan parecerse cada día más a tu Hijo,
nuestro Señor y Salvador Jesucristo. Amén

Celebr.: *San Juan Vianney, patrón universal de los sacerdotes.*

R.: *Ora por nosotros y por nuestros sacerdotes*

AUGUST 23, 2009

Masses for the Week

Sunday, August 23 – 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Msgr. John A. Broderick, 9th Ann.
7:30 am Joaquin Gutierrez, Mem.
9:30 am *Missa pro Populo*
11:15 am Virginia T. Deary, 1st Ann.
12:45 pm Pompello Gurra, Mem.
5:00 pm Michael Pollard, 14th Ann.

Mon. 7:00 am Michael Diodato, 48th Ann.

Tue. 7:00 am Joseph Spades, Mem.

Wed. 7:00 am Loreto Cedrone, 11th Ann..

Thu. 7:00 am Linda Detoma & Winifred &
Richard Gargan, Mem.

Fri. 7:00 am Edward J. Nally, Sr., 1st Ann.

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

Sunday, August 30 – 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Florence W. Moore, 25th Ann.
7:30 am Bridget A. & Timothy J. Kelly, Mem.
9:30 am Sebastian A. Torrisi, 27th Ann.
11:15 am *Missa pro Populo*
12:45 pm Agustin Buñuel, Mem.
5:00 pm Donato DeRubeis, 4th Ann..

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Comments:
