

From Your Pastor

Renewing Our Parish Pastoral Council ~ Confirming New Members Next Week

During my first set of listening sessions with you in the fall of 2006, I addressed the issue of our Parish Pastoral Council. As a new pastor, it was necessary for me to re-activate the Pastoral Council. Every pastor needs a vibrant Pastoral Council to advise him.

Given that St. Columbkille Parish embraced the former Our Lady of the Presentation Parish and St. Gabriel Parish – and that there were many people in our newly enlarged parish who did not know one another, I asked for and was given your encouragement to put together a council that would be representative of the many different peoples that make up the Catholic Church in Brighton. The men and women who formed this Council have been a great gift to the parish. The good you have seen in the parish these past three years is directly attributable to their love of the parish and to their very wise counsel to your pastor. May God reward them.

In order that the Parish Pastoral Council remain vital, it is important that its membership change regularly. In fact, the Statutes of the Archdiocese for parish pastoral councils require that members may serve for no more than two consecutive three-year terms and that one-third of the council should change annually. In view of our growth together as a parish, it is now time for us to implement fully that statute.

There are 15 seats on our Pastoral Council, one third of which should change annually. Currently, there are 6 vacancies that need to be filled. While we could

fill these positions by means of an election as happens in many parishes, it is difficult to know how we might set up a successful election. We have six different Masses and two language groups who worship at St. Columbkille's every weekend. The fact is, only a few people in the parish are really familiar with the parish as a whole. For this reason, I would like to suggest a process of confirmation rather than election in choosing new members to our Pastoral Council.

Following the advice of the Parish Pastoral Council, in September I established a search committee whose task it was to receive and to identify nominees to the Council. Announcements seeking nominations were placed in the September and October bulletins. The search committee worked very carefully with those who were nominated. They also sought to fulfill two expectations: 1) that each nominee be an active Catholic; and 2) that the nominees complement each other and the current membership of the council.

At the doors of the church this weekend, you will find a flyer that identifies six nominees, including a brief description of each, for a three-year membership on the council. On the reverse side of the flyer are the current members of the council. Next weekend, you will be presented with a ballot, which will ask you to confirm or not confirm these nominees as members of the council. You will also be given the opportunity to indicate your acceptance of this confirmation process.

Below are the nominees to be presented next week.



Yariela Brandao



Dick Marques



Alex McNeil



Kathy Moore



Ramón Palacio



Maureen Reen



God bless each of you.

Msr. Fay

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 Joseph Cohan and the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

THE 2009 GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION is currently underway in the parish. You can return your Grand Annual Offering by mail or whenever you want in the regular weekly collection at church. If you did not receive Monsignor Fay's letter about the collection, you can pick up a contribution envelope at the doors of the church.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE – There will be an Advent Penance Service next Monday evening, December 14, at 7:00 PM in the upper church. The Service will last only an hour. If you have not yet celebrated the Sacrament of Penance during Advent in preparation for Christmas, this is a wonderful opportunity. As always, there will be a number of priests from outside the Parish who will be available for individual Confessions. Consider bringing a friend who might have been away from the Church for a while. God's forgiveness and grace is both necessary and amazing.

Behold the Lamb of God! With praise and thanks to God I welcome our new statute of the Crucifixion scene from St. Gabriels to the front lawn of the rectory. I am deeply grateful to the members of the parish from the St. Gabriel neighborhood for their abiding encouragement and for their assistance in choosing a proper place for this beautiful ikon of our faith. I am also very grateful to Cardinal Seán, to his staff for their commitment to this project and for their generosity. A special word of thanks goes to Bob Shure of Skylight Studios in Woburn for his artistic expertise and for his great care in bringing this project to completion. Given the work that continues to go on in the front yard, we will look to dedicating this statue - and the new plaza - in the spring. *Msgr. Fay*

LECTORS – Your *Workbooks for Sunday Cycle "C"* are available in the sacristies.

THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION is Tuesday, December 8. **This is a holyday of obligation.** The Masses for the holyday are Monday evening at 7:00 in English and on Tuesday at 7:00 and 9:00 am, 12:30 pm in English and 7:00 pm in Spanish.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS – This weekend we will begin again to pray the Prayer for Priests after Communion at all the Masses. You will always find this prayer in the bulletin and on the prayer cards in the pews. Please return the prayer cards to the ends of the pews after using them.

THE GIVING TREE began last weekend. The tags on the tree are requests for Christmas gifts for children in our parish and for teenage mothers and their babies at the Bridge Eliot Shelter. Please take a tag, purchase the gift requested and return the gift unwrapped to the tree with the tag attached by Sunday, December 20. Thank you for your generosity and concern for those who could use a little help this Christmas Season.

KNIGHTS CHRISTMAS PARTY: The Knights of Columbus members' Christmas party will be Thursday, December 10. There will be recognition for 25 and 50 years of membership. The doors open at 7:00 pm and admission is 3 or more non-perishable food items.

LA FIESTA DE PASCUAS para los miembros de los Caballeros de Colón será el Jueves, Diciembre 10. Se reconocerán los miembros de 25 y 50 años que pertenecen a nuestra asociación. La admisión será tres ó mas latas de comida y las puertas se abrirán a las 7:00pm.

PARISH GIVING

Parish Offertory (Nov. 28 – Nov. 29): \$4,226

Grand Annual (to date): \$28,665

St. Vincent de Paul (Nov. 28 – Nov. 29): \$97.25

Thank You for Your Generosity

**From a Commentary on Isaiah by
Eusebius of Caesarea (d. 339)**

A voice of one crying in the wilderness

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight the paths of our God. The prophecy makes clear that it is to be fulfilled, not in Jerusalem but in the wilderness: it is there that the glory of the Lord is to appear, and God's salvation is to be made known to all mankind.

It was in the wilderness that God's saving presence was proclaimed by John the Baptist, and there that God's salvation was seen. The words of this prophecy were fulfilled when Christ and his glory were made manifest to all: after his baptism the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove rested on him, and the Father's voice was heard, bearing witness to the Son: *This is my beloved Son, listen to him.*

The prophecy meant that God was to come to a deserted place, inaccessible from the beginning. None of the pagans had any knowledge of God, since his holy servants and prophets were kept from approaching them. The voice commands that a way be prepared for the Word of God: the rough and trackless ground is to be made level, so that our God may find a highway when he comes. *Prepare the way of the Lord:* the way is the preaching of the Gospel, the new message of consolation, ready to bring to all mankind the knowledge of God's saving power.

Climb on a high mountain, bearer of good news to Zion. Lift up your voice in strength, bearer of good news to Jerusalem. These words harmonize very well with the meaning of what has gone before. They refer opportunely to the evangelists and proclaim the coming of God to men, after speaking of the voice crying in the wilderness...

What does Zion mean if not the city previously called Jerusalem? ...This is the Zion, the Jerusalem, that received God's salvation. It stands aloft on the mountain of God, that is, it is raised high on the only-begotten Word of God. It is commanded to climb the high mountain and announce the word of salvation. Who is the bearer of the good news but the company of the evangelists? What does it mean to bear the good news but to preach to all nations, but first of all to the cities of Judah, the coming of Christ on earth?

DECEMBER 6, 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*

Masses for the Week

Sunday, Dec. 6 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Donato & Maria Loreta Cedrone, Mem.
7:30 am Helene Mackey, 11th Ann.
9:30 am James & Eleanor Dekas, Mem.
11:15 am Charles, Florence & Kerri Mahoney, Me
12:45 pm *Missa pro Populo*
5:00 pm Patrick, Sarah & Joan Foster, Mem.

Mon. 7:00 am Hugh F. McShane, Mem.

Tue. 7:00 am Immaculate Conception

Wed. 7:00 am Alice G. Maher, Mem.

Thu. 7:00 am Loreto Leone, 31st Ann.

Fri. 7:00 am Leone & Maria Alfano & Maria &
Vincenzo Cirigliano, Mem.

Sat. 7:00 am Anne Ridge, Mem.

Sunday, Dec. 13 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Joseph Zambello, 5th Ann.
7:30 am Lucia Gomez, Mem.
9:30 am Carmela & Amelia Antonucci, Mem.
11:15 am Joseph & Mary Connell, Mem.
12:45 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe
5:00 pm *Missa pro Populo*

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Comments:
