

From Your Pastor

January News Notes

Blessing of Throats Next Weekend. February 3rd is the day on which the Church traditionally remembers Saint Blaise. Since that day falls on a weekday this year, the Blessing of Throats will be available at the conclusion of all Masses next weekend. The custom of throat blessing comes from the veneration that the Church has had for Saint Blaise since the sixth century. Saint Blaise lived in the late third and early fourth centuries and we do not know much about him. Tradition hails Blaise as a man who put his trust in Christ completely. Born into wealth, Blaise received a Catholic education and was a physician before being called to serve as a bishop during the Roman persecution of Christianity. Blaise suffered greatly for his witness to the faith. Yet the more he was persecuted, the more the healing power of Christ worked in him and through him. Most of us are familiar with the story of Blaise's cure of the boy who was choking to death on a fishbone caught in his throat. It was this report that gave rise to the tradition of the Blessing of Throats on Saint Blaise's Day. The Blessing of Throats with blessed candles, like other blessings that we receive with Holy Water or Ashes, for example, is a "sacramental." It is a "sacred sign which bears a resemblance to the sacraments" and by which "various occasions in life are rendered holy" (CCC, 1667). As we take part again in this pious tradition, may it remind us of one of the most important truths of our faith: the saving life and healing power of Jesus Christ is God's perfect and abiding gift to his children. Though we were sinners, Christ loved us unto death and reconciled us to the Father. As Saint Paul proclaims, "Where sin abounded, grace abounded the more" (Rom 5:20).

Catholic Schools Week. Our Catholic Schools have been an enormous grace to the Church in the United States. We are profoundly blessed at St. Columbkille to have had a school affiliated with the Parish since

1901. With you, it is my fond hope and expectation that Saint Columbkille School will serve the Catholic community in Allston-Brighton for many decades and centuries to come. St. Columbkille School was put on a very solid footing in 2006 when it was incorporated as a new entity, owned and managed by the Archdiocese of Boston and Boston College in partnership with Saint Columbkille Parish. Both the Archdiocese and Boston College have been enormously helpful in offering their expertise and their resources to ensure that our new St. Columbkille Partnership School is a model elementary school for others to emulate throughout the country.

As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week this year from January 31 through February 6, I want to extend, on behalf of all of us, my profound thanks to Cardinal Seán O'Malley and to Father William Leahy, SJ, the President of Boston College, for their foresight and commitment. I also express heartfelt thanks to Dr. Michael McCarthy and to the teachers and the staff at Saint Columbkille Partnership School for their commitment and their service. The gift they are to our children and to us is truly God-sent.

Increased Weekly Giving Program – This week St. Columbkille Parish will begin an Increased Weekly Giving Program. As I mentioned to you in my Annual Report last fall, our parish needs to improve its financial well-being. I will be writing every family during this week asking you to consider increasing your current weekly offering and to make use of our parish envelope system. Please use the special response envelope that you will find enclosed with my letter next weekend to indicate your new total weekly giving amount. The following weekend, simply return to your regular envelopes while maintaining your new giving amount. Please also pray for the success of this most necessary program.



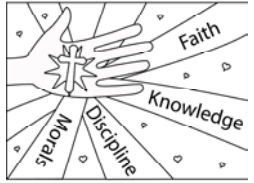
God bless each of you.

Mrs. Fay

THIRD 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; and for the repose of the souls of William Kane, Judith Cavanaugh and the deceased members of our parish, our families and our benefactors.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK – Catholic Schools Week is celebrated throughout the country this year from Sunday, January 31 through Saturday, February 6. This year's theme is "*Dividends for Life*" We will celebrate the gift of our own **Saint Columbkille Partnership School** next Sunday, January 31 at the 9:30 am Mass and we invite the families of the parish to join us.

THE 2009 GRAND ANNUAL COLLECTION will be completing in the next few weeks. 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. We are very near our goal this year. We are very grateful for your help.

Our own Gregory Vozzo who has been serving the parish the past year and one half will be ordained to the Diaconate by Cardinal Seán O'Malley on next Saturday, January 30, at 10:00 AM at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross (1400 Washington Street, Boston). You are most cordially invited to this happy event.

The Minutes of the December Pastoral Council Meeting can be found on our parish website at www.brightoncatholic.org.

Project Rachel, the post abortion ministry of the Archdiocese, will offer three "Come to the Waters" post abortion healing retreats this spring: Sunday, February 28, Saturday, March 13, and Saturday, June 5. For more information and registration for the date of your choice, contact **Project Rachel** at 508.651.3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com

Bequests To The Parish – Thank you for remembering St. Columbkille Parish in your will or by requesting memorial donations at the time of a loved one's death. Your gift is a wonderful way to secure the faith for future generations. "I give the sum of \$_____ to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, a Corporation Sole, to be used for the benefit of St. Columbkille Parish, 321 Market Street, Brighton, Massachusetts."

Donations for Christmas Flowers were made in memory of The Snow Family; The Cedrone Family; Daisy Haynes; Ralph, Ruby & Stephen Smith; Mary C., Joseph & Evelyn LaPierre; The McNeill & Sullivan Families; The Cryts & Mitchell Families; The Soldiers Overseas; The Salvucci Family; Edward Bianchi; All Souls; John Crimlisk, Sr.; The Brady Family; The Rufo, DiNicola, Abate & Cardarelli Families; The DiCicco Family; Frank & Ann Cammarata; The Kenny & Quinn Families; James Grinham, The Grinham Family, Leo & Lena Smith, Margaret & William Ring, The Ring Family, Margaret Pembroke, Dotty Daly, & Kay & Jim O'Leary & James T. Elliott. Please remember these people in your prayers.

Collection for Haiti: If you were not able to donate last week you may do so at anytime by simply putting your donation in an envelope and marking it "Haiti Relief Collection". Thank you for your continued generosity.

Please remember the St. Vincent de Paul boxes as you leave Mass today. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 pm in the rectory.

The Knights Of Columbus will meet on Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 pm in the K of C Hall. All members are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in joining please speak to a Knight before the meeting.

The Monday Night Prayer Group will meet this week in the lower church at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Thursday, January 28 – 7:00 pm Healing Mass

**From a Homily by Pope Benedict XVI
on Christian Unity (January 25, 2009)**

*(January 18-25 is the time of the Church's
annual prayer for Christian Unity)*

St Paul's conversion offers us the model and indicates to us the way towards full unity. Unity, in fact, requires conversion: from division to communion, from wounded unity to one that is healed and full. This conversion is a gift of the Risen Christ as it happened for St Paul. We have heard it in the Apostle's own words in the Reading just proclaimed: "By the grace of God I am what I am" (1 Cor 15: 10). The same Lord who called Saul on the road to Damascus addresses the members of his Church which is one and holy and calling each one by name asks: why have you divided me? Why have you wounded the unity of my body? Conversion implies two dimensions. In the first step one knows and recognizes one's faults in the light of Christ, and this recognition becomes sorrow and contrition, the desire for a new beginning.

In the second step one recognizes that this new journey cannot come from oneself. It consists in letting oneself be conquered by Christ. As St Paul says: "I am racing to grasp the prize if possible, since I have been grasped by Christ [Jesus]" (Phil 3: 12). Conversion demands our "yes", my "racing"; ultimately it is not my action, but a gift in letting myself be formed by Christ. It is death and resurrection. Therefore St Paul does not say: "I am converted," but he says "I died" (Gal 2: 19), I am a new creature. Actually, St Paul's conversion was not a passage from immorality to morality his was a high morality from a mistaken faith to a correct faith his faith was true, even if incomplete but rather it was a state of being conquered by Christ's love. It was the renunciation of his own perfection, the humility of the one who places himself without reserve at the service of Christ for the brethren. And only in this renunciation of ourselves, in this conformity with Christ can we be united also among ourselves, do we become "one" in Christ. It is communion with the Risen Christ that gives us unity.

The horizon of full unity remains open before us. It is an arduous duty, but stirring for Christians who want to live in harmony with the Lord's prayer: "that they may be one, that the world may believe" (Jn 17: 21).

JANUARY 24, 2010

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, Jan. 24 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm Elviera & Salvatore Cutone, Mem.
7:30 am Tamo Sacchetti, 29th Ann.
9:30 am Anthony C. & Crescenzo Pettiglio, Mem
11:15 am Donato Derubeis, Mem.
12:45 pm Juan & Blanca Homar, Mem.
5:00 pm *Missa pro Populo*

Mon. 7:00 am John McGuirk, Mem.

Tue. 7:00 am Joaquin Gutierrez, Mem.

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

Sunday, Jan. 31 – 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- (Sat.)** 4:00 pm The McShane, Hennessey &
Brady Families, Mem.
7:30 am *Missa pro Populo*
9:30 am Joseph A. & Grace Grasso, Mem.
11:15 am John Mee, 20th Ann.
12:45 pm Nieves Montecinos, 3rd Ann.
5:00 pm Barbara Montgomery, Mem.

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CHURCH NAME: **Saint Columbkille**

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ROUTING CODE: **W**

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CURRENT FORMAT: WNS Format -- 6th Column is copy

Comments:
