



PADRE'S CORNER

December 18, 2016

Chiller Theater Convention was held on October 29 at the Sheraton Hotel in Parsippany, New Jersey. The setting was not far from where my office was in the middle 1980's working for New Jersey Bell Telephone. These types of conventions allow nostalgia fans like myself to reconnect to television programs of youth, which reflected the innocence and goodness that we so long for in our troubled world today. Hollywood fantasy aside, there were basic themes that supported decency and an uplifting of family life. The search for a "silver lining" in the midst of relative human existence problems, are a continued theme of my last two weeks of written reflections for the parish bulletin. The programs, mostly from the 1960's, explored meaning within difficulty. This ebb and flow is how we grow emotionally, relationally, and spiritually.

Five Hollywood icons were met, reflecting in their shows this restless search for faith in the midst of the challenge. Glynnis O'Connor was the one Catholic of the five who was interfaced with. She was born on November 19, 1956 in New Rochelle (New York) not far from Iona College. She was in various movies, including "The Boy in the Plastic Bubble" with John Travolta in 1976, as well as many episodes of "Law and Order" from the late 1990's before concluding in 2004. I remember her as Emily Webb in the 1977 NBC production of "Our Town," which was financed by the Bell System who would be employing me six months later. I recorded that movie onto audio cassette at the time, which is now available on DVD. Having studied the play in high school, by author Thornton Wilder (1897-1975), I treasured the development of faith within the basic moments of life and death. Emily will die of an illness young in her marriage, and tries to interact with her family from heaven. But, the chasm created by God allows for a prayerful not a physical encounter. When I met Glynnis and mentioned the influence of this play on my decision to work for the Bell System, she immediately produced a photograph from that 1977 production. The scene depicted was Hal Holbrook as a minister marrying Emily and her beau. Glynnis signed it for me, and mentioned going to Holy Family Church in New Rochelle as a youngster. Dawn Wells starred as Mary Ann Summers on the "Gilligan's Island" series from 1964-1967 on CBS. She was born on October 18, 1938 in Reno, Nevada. She also appeared in episodes of Bonanza, Hawaiian Eye, Wild Wild West, Love Boat, and Fantasy Island. Today she is active in charities for the disabled and disadvantaged. A broken marriage coincided with her television career. Dawn told me that the episodes, created by the late Sherwood Schwartz (have several letters from him where he spoke of consulting with clergy to develop episode themes), employed spiritual themes as the survivors alone on the island from a shipwreck prevailed by encouraging each other. She is a Baptist as a faith group. Jon Provost played Timmy Martin in Lassie, from 1957-1964. He was born on March 12, 1950 in Los Angeles, California. He lives in Santa Rosa, California with wife Laurie whose location I wrote about last week with regard to Charles Schulz. They both promised me a Christmas card for this year, and are active in animal rights programs. "Lassie" was a touching show of family drama, matched by the unconditional love of their dog. Human problems became opportunities for family growth. Barbara Eden was born on August 23, 1931 in Tucson, Arizona. She was most famous for her role in "I Dream of Jeannie," which ran from 1965-1970. She played a genie trapped in a bottle, until rescued by the astronaut and Air Force Major Nelson (played by the late Larry Hagman, who died in 2012). As a young girl during the Great Depression, she endured the divorce of her parents. She also was in episodes of Gunsmoke, Perry Mason, Route 66, Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea, and Dallas. She went through two divorces, and the death of her only child Matthew Ansara. Barbara told me she was Episcopal, but had in-law Catholics. Another human story of finding success within the landscape of struggle. She even signed a genie bottle for me. I believe being trapped in the genie battle metaphorically reflects our spiritual struggle to be freed from sin and negativity, by the grace of God. Lastly, I met Martin Landau who was born in Brooklyn (New York) on June 20, 1928. He was most famous for the "Mission Impossible" television series, as Rollin Hand, that ran from 1966-1973. Born into a Jewish background from Austria, his father rescued Jews during World War II from the Nazis. Landau played in many religiously-themed movies including the "Greatest Story Ever Told" in 1964 as Caiaphas, as Rabbi Schmulic in "David and Fatima" from 2008, a preacher in a "Wagon Train" episode from 1960, Father Gueschim in a 1962 episode of the "Tall Man," and Abraham of the Old Testament from 2000 entitled "In the Beginning." Martin clasped my hands in great respect of the priesthood, mentioning that he had many Catholic actor friends which prompted him to seek membership in the "Catholic Actor's Guild." In a poignant moment, he mentioned his advanced age and not knowing how much more time in life God would permit him. These five memorable experiences remind me of the common human condition, which we all celebrate together. They not only appeared in programs reflecting this condition, but experienced life challenges that reflected the same motifs in their personal lives. They all represented diverse religious traditions, connecting us to the one God. Their respect for our Catholic faith was clearly expressed. We learn more about the "silver linings" in life from them and each other. Lemonade is made from the lemons. God bless each of this as we mix this heavenly drink. **Father Bill**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Dec. 19

7:00am In Thanksgiving to
St. Michael the Archangel
& St. Maria Goretti

Noon Craig Mac Farland
By Wife

Thomas Rozmacinski
By Lasek Family
Deacon Jack Seymour
Health & Blessings on
his 92nd Birthday
By Family

Tues. Dec. 20

7:00am Joseph G. Certo
By Janice & John Roscino

Noon Nancy Geelan
By Family
Olga Deagostino Meehan
By Daughters

Wed. Dec. 21

7:00am Robert Shaffer
By MaryAnn Fabiano

Josephine Landau
(3rd Anniv)

By Jean DoNapoli
Noon John & Victoria Dombroski
By Nick & Helene Stagliano
Richard Carlucci
By Morgan Family

Thur. Dec. 22

7:00am John & Nancy Squilini
Noon Frank Hoffmann
By Family

Fri. Dec. 23

7:00am Joseph G. Certo
Noon Thomas DiDonato
By The Formato Family

Sat. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

4:30pm Children's Mass
7:00pm Christmas Eve Mass
Midnight Mass

Sun. Dec. 25 Christmas Day

8:00am Christmas Novena
9:30am Christmas Novena
11:00am Christmas Novena



WEEKLY COLLECTON

December 10-11, 2016
1st Collection \$6,092.00
2nd Collection \$1,764.00
TOTAL \$7,856.00

Immaculate Conception \$1,772.00

*Our sincere thanks for your generosity
and support of our Parish.
God bless each and every one of you....always*

The 2nd collection this weekend is our
ADVENT OFFERING

MASS ATTENDANCE

December 10-11, 2016
4:30pm 220
8:00am 167
11:00am 240
Total 627

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy
is recited on Sundays
at 10:40am before the 11:00am MASS



ADVENT CONFESSIONS RECONCILIATION MONDAY

In preparation for Christmas, confessions will
be heard here at St. Francis on **Monday,**
December 19th from **3:00pm** until **7:00pm.**

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS EVE

4:30 pm - Family Mass
7:00pm
12 Midnight

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:00am
9:30am
11:00am

HEALING MASS

There will be a Healing Mass at St. Mary's Church
in Marlboro on Route 9W today **Sunday,**
December 18th at **4:00pm.** All are welcome.



Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm will be for the special intention of **THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTY, BOTH HOME AND ABROAD.**

ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION

Tuesday, December 20, 2016

7:00pm to 9:00pm

In O'Connor Hall

In the midst of all the preparations for Christmas, a moment to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus in our hearts, in our lives and in our families.

SPANISH MASS

Our next Scheduled Spanish Mass will be on Sunday **December 18th at 2:00pm.**

All are welcome.

EVENING OF REFLECTION IN SPANISH

In O'Connor Hall on Thursday, **December 22nd from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.**

Adult Catechisis

Any adult who has not received their sacraments and would like to do so, please see Sr. Laura or leave your name at the Rectory, 561-1317.



WANTED...MARY'S HOPE an outreach program, run by Suzanna Campora, delivers bags of groceries to shut-ins twice a month. They are in need of used **brown paper grocery bags with handles** (like Adams) for their deliveries. If you have any to donate please drop them off at them at the rectory or leave them at the back of the church. Please mark them for *Mary's Hope*.



FLOWER MEMORIAL

The flowers in the Sanctuary this weekend are
"In Loving Memory of Howard Scofield"
Love, Kathy



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Kelly Stafford, Robyn McGraw, John Sabo, Andrew Costanzo, Marie Wijek, Rose, Stephen Sabo, Ashley Barco, Tom Scalzo, Nora Brickter, Gary Lake, Agnes Casey, Brianna Barker, Keith Webber, Jake Bryan DeStefano, Rose Marie Michalowski, Meryl Chatham, Vincenturia Cullen, Amy Meyer, Vinnie Yonnone, Grace Keller Peacock, Mary Corwin, Jean DeCicco, Don Hughes, David Jennings, Robert Johnson, Karen Wells, Marcia McKay, Victoria Palkovic, Elaine Pietrzak, Maureen Luzzi, Joyce Poponiak, Corrine Gammino, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Teresa Centeno, Matthew Gallagher, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Sherry Collins, Rosalie Nogay, Richard and Rina Bozzone, Antonio Troia, Cody Favoino Finkbeiner, Marie Louis, Sacha Samuel George, the Koch Family, Frank Pietrzak, John Marullo, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Jennie Serrano, Eddie Koza, Barbara Woloszyn, Gary McGraw, Rachael Neugebauer, Patricia Denniston, Arlene Dietrichsen, Maureen Kelly, Abigail Ryan, Debra Thurston, Toby Persico, Alexis Johnson, Barry Johnson, James R. Purpura, Bob Smith, Tom Kingery, Bud Smith, Amy Finnegan, Jane Pustola, Justin, Peter, Rita, Janice Ruggiero, Angela, Wayne, Abbie K., Dominick Denisi, Sebastian Denisi, Pam Denisi, Linda Hummel, Joseph Michalowski, Joann Quicksell, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elcio, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Carmen De Crosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Dore Williams, Sheryl McGrath, Michelle Ryan, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Michael Rosenburg, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario



JEWELRY SALE TODAY

The **Sisters of the Presentation** along with members of **Newburgh Ministry** co-sponsor a group of local women called "**The Women's Craft Project**". For 5 years these women have been making hand-made jewelry. They will be at all the Masses this weekend selling their handcrafted, one of a kind necklaces and bracelets which are reasonably priced.



Food Pantry Hours:
Friday 9:00am to 12noon
Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

In your goodness please bring **JELLY** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate thru our Food Pantry.

The Food Pantry will be CLOSED
December 23rd and 24th
December 30th and 31st
 in observance of the
 Christmas and New Year holidays.

The Food Pantry is looking for **ONE MORE driver** on **Wednesdays** from **12noon to 3:30pm** to go to the Food Bank in Cornwall to pick up our weekly delivery and bring the items back to the Pantry. Must be able to drive a 24 foot truck. No lifting involved. This additional person will be on a three week rotation along with the two people already signed up. For more information or questions call Paul Zalanowski at 845-234-8564.

ST. FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Dec.18th** – Bagel Hour after 8:00am Mass
- Dec. 18th** – Spanish Mass 2:00pm in Church
- Dec. 18th** – Teen Meeting 4:30-6:00pm.
- Dec. 19th** – Confession 3:00pm to 7:00pm
- Dec 20th** – Advent Reflection 7 to 9pm Connor Hall
- Dec 22nd** – Spanish Advent Reflection 7pm to 9pm

SPAIN PILGRIMAGE

Last Call.....time is getting short to make your reservation for the Spring Pilgrimage to Spain with visits to Fatima, Lourdes, Lisbon, Salamanca, Avila, Madrid, Montserrat and Barcelona. **Reservations with deposits are due this month.** Please call the rectory at 561-1317 for details.



BAGEL & COFFEE HOUR

Join fellow parishioners in O'Connor Hall after the 8:00am Mass today and enjoy some delicious coffee and bagels while mingling and visiting with friends.



THANK YOU

We would like to **thank** Kitty Bernard, Margaret Miller and their crew for the wonderful Tag Sale they held here at St. Francis Church on December 3rd and 4th. They raised a total of **\$2,730.00**, giving \$500.00 to our St. Francis Food Pantry and \$2,230.00 to our Church.



TEEN YOUTH AFTERNOONS

Mark your calendars to join in the fun at our upcoming teen meetings for 12-16 year olds:

** Sunday, December 18th, 2016

**Sunday, January 8th, 2016

Today, Christmas Prayer and Party
4:30 to 6:30pm in O'Connor Hall

SENIOR CITIZENS

Our St. Francis Senior Citizen Group is thankful to **Mr. Greg Gaetano** who gave a very informative talk on personal safety at our December meeting. Our next monthly meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 4th** in O'Connor Hall after the 12noon Mass. All are invited to attend.

*Christmas is joy,
 religious joy,
 an inner joy of light and peace.*
 Pope Francis

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH TODAY
__YES! I want to register as a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and receive offertory envelopes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Zip: _____

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E-mail Address: _____

Fill out and drop in the Offertory Collection or mail to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 145 Benkard Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550.....and Welcome!


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