



Padre's Corner

May 14, 2017
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Inherent within each human being is a long search for an earthly Shangri-La, defined as a utopia for true happiness and fulfilled dreams plus a life of cultural learning and nourishment. This illusion surfaced back in the 1933 novel by author James Hilton of England, the "Lost Horizon," later converted into two Hollywood movies. We desire peace in a world filled with violence, cruelty, secularism, and growing indifference to organized religion. Despite these yearnings, there is the spiritual inclination that paradise will not be found on Planet Earth. We may look for glimpses of it in our favorite sports teams, cruises to tropical lands, smart financial investments, daily commitments to exercise, organized homes in tranquil neighborhoods, flashy cars, and exciting human relationships. Despite the pieces of heaven to be found in these slices of life, death following a strong potential of illness is our future lot. The grave is our destiny.

The late Cardinal John O'Connor (1920-2000), who ordained me in 1993 at Saint Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan (tomorrow **May 15** is my twenty-fourth anniversary), would look daily at the tomb awaiting him in the ground floor of the Cathedral. All the tomb needed was his bodily entrance, and the inscribed name. Like it or not the day came for him, as it will one day come for you and me. I observe that innate sense each time I go to our parish cemetery, perhaps my eventual burial spot. Saint Ignatius of Antioch (35-108 AD) reflected nineteen centuries ago before his martyrdom: "The delights of this world and all its kingdoms will not profit me... I desire to belong to God; do not give me over to the world, and do not seduce me with perishable things." Saint John of Avila, Spain ((1499-1569) continued the same vein of thinking this way: "God grant that our hearts may find no rest and seek no other food in this world, save in hardship and suffering beside the Lord's cross."

I perceive these insights every day as a priest, looking for human goodness despite the weeds of emotional angst. I loathe cruelty to animals, as well as people, which is why I stopped eating meat over a decade ago. I experience emotional pain when seeing or reading about it, yet the beauty of humanity often shines in the partial utopia we call Planet Earth. Iraqi soldiers back in February unstrapped a dog with an attached bomb, sent to kill them by terrorists. One brave soldier, in the trauma of the battlefield, observed: "The (innocent) animal is being sent to the Baghdad Zoo for a nice break from the war zone, and well away from ISIS fighters trying to blow animals up for their sick war."

Also in February Brooklyn police officers, in a Coney Island precinct, adopted an orphaned cat left behind at their station house. One kindly officer reflected: "He's (Martin) definitely lifted spirits. There's not one person here, cop or civilian, that doesn't adore this cat. He cheers me up."

Despite the worldly turmoil, God wants us to remain here until He calls us home to heaven so that we can perform spiritual acts of hopeful optimism (like that heard about with these soldiers in Iraq and police officers in Brooklyn). I need to embrace these types of stories to deal with the challenges of the priesthood, which do include a very few people that are quick with the sharp criticisms (despite my best of effort) without ever a comment about good things happening in our parish. This is why I do find solace with my faith, pets, a few close friends, and taking journeys around the world to grow my Wikipedia of experiences and memories.

There are times we all want to flee from life pressures and burdens, which is why the idyllic setting of Cooperstown in upstate New York is a draw for me. There was a television show in the 1970's called "Journey to Adventure," by the late Gunther Less (1921-2011). As a young boy, my eyes widened as he filmed widespread travel. Travel expands our minds, so that we do not get locked into rigid routines or mindsets. These journeys of life are template preparations for heaven, which is our final monorail stop.

Next week I will continue these thoughts with a reflection on the "Benedict Option" which involves withdrawing from society, easier said than done, and how a cruise helped me to understand my faith better.

Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. May 15

7:00am Mother's Day Novena

Noon Zofia Wilkanowska

By Krystina

Steve Jaffee

By Wife Mary

Tues. May 16

7:00am Mary F. Miller

By Daughters Helen & Marion

Noon Mother's Day Novena

Wed. May 17

7:00am Mother's Day Novena

Noon Marion Miller

By Helen Miller

Thur. May 18

7:00am Barbara Palumbo

By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas

Noon Mother's Day Novena

Fri. May 19

7:00am Mother's Day Novena

Noon Mary Irons

Health & Blessings

By St Francis Staff

Sat. May 20

Noon Mother's Day Novena

4:30pm Dominick Parisi

By Bette & Mark Grethe

Sun. May 21

8:00am June McKnight

By Certo Family

Eric Nedwetzky

By Parents

11:00am June McKnight

By Diane, John & Pat Furlong

& Terry Catania



WEEKLY COLLECTON

May 6-7, 2017

1st Collection \$5,640.00

2nd Collection \$1,324.00

TOTAL \$6,964.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

May 6-7, 2017

4:30pm 160

8:00am 185

11:00am 200

1:30pm 56

TOTAL 601

The 2nd Collection this week is for
MAINTENANCE & REPAIRS



Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on
Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for the intention of
FIRST COMMUNION STUDENTS.

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



MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER

Blessed

is the *Mother*

who lets the

Lord be her

guiding hand,

whose faith

brings her

famly courage,

whose wisdom

comes from *God*

and whose

children stand

and honor

Her.



First Holy Communion will be celebrated next
Sunday, May 21st at our 11:00am Mass.

TODAY
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

During the early growth of the Church, the apostles realized that they needed more disciples in order to carry out effectively the ministry of the Church. The community selected seven men, one of whom was Stephen.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Citing many uses of the word "stone" in the sayings of Jesus and in the Old Testament, Peter urges the Christians to be "living stones...an edifice of spirit."

Gospel: John 14:1-12

In this beautiful passage from the words of Jesus at the Last Supper, Jesus promises that he is preparing a place for the apostles. He tells them, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me." When Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus answers, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday

Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday

Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday

Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11

Friday

Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday

Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wijek, Ashley Barco, Agnes Casey, Rose Marie Michalowski, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Rosalie Nogay, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Rachael Neugebauer, Maureen Kelly, James R. Purpura, Jane Pustola, Joann Quicksell, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elicio, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Carmen De Crosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Donna Delconte, Joan Ponesse, Jim Taylor, Marilyn Lennox, Bruno Marchatta, Anne McClellan, Louis Arbia, Dottie Rodriguez, Michael Rosenburg, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D'amario, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Bill Mowry, Susan Randall, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Carol Brown, Jr, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Rose DiDonato, Lena Biasini Zullo, Pam Kunert, Janet Coiteux, Vincent McParkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski and Teresa Centeno

REGISTRATION

Sacred Heart School is now accepting registration for Pre K - 8th grade for the 2017-2018 school year. Please call 845-561-1433 for an appointment or stop by for a tour at 148 Windsor Highway in New Windsor. You can also apply at www.ApplyCatholicSchoolsNY.org.



CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION PARTY

All Confirmation students are asked to come and celebrate your Confirmation on **Friday, May 19th** from **6:30pm to 8:00pm** in O'Connor Hall at which time you may also pick up your Certificate.

All **7th graders** who will be making the sacrament of Confirmation in **May 2018** are also invited to attend the celebration party.



Food Pantry Hours:

Friday 9:00am to 12noon

Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

The Food Pantry will be closed

Friday, May 26th

Saturday, May 27th

in observance of the Memorial Day holiday

In your goodness please bring **PERSONAL CARE ITEMS such as soap, toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate in our area thru our Food Pantry.

The Pantry no longer needs egg cartons

Thank you to those who donated

If you are involved in a church and/or Newburgh School program and your child needs **volunteer hours**, the food pantry will coordinate service hours through Curt Bourdage at **845-863-6504**. All students need to pre-register with Curt Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.

ST FRANCIS UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17th - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00pm – 6:00pm

May 19th - Confirmation Party 6:30pm in O'Connor Hall

May 21st - First Communion 11:00am

May 27th - Movie Night 6:00pm in O'Connor Hall

May 28th - Bagel Hour after 8:00am Mass

May 29th - Memorial Day Mass at Cemetery 9:00am



GIVE/SHARE A RIDE

We have some people in our parish who would like to share a ride with someone from their area going to Mass on Saturday/Sunday. If you need a ride **OR** would be willing to give someone a ride to Mass, please call the rectory at 561-1317 with your name and telephone number.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Our Senior Group is planning a trip to Clove Creek Dinner Theater in Fishkill on **Sunday June 11th** for the **1:00pm** show of *"What a Glorious Feeling"*. The cost is \$60.00 which includes show, dinner, tax and tip. For more info on Clove Creek Dinner Theater please visit www.clovecreekdinnertheater.com. To make a reservation please call either Sister Gloria 201-819-3726 or Kathi Justino at 845-569-2582 by May 15th.

CASH-N- COCKTAILS FUNDRAISER
LAST CHANCE....Raffle tickets are now on sale for the 4THAnnual **Cash-n-Cocktails** fundraiser sponsored by Sacred Heart PTO to support Sacred Heart School. Tickets are \$100 each and gives you a chance to **win one of three \$5,000 prizes**. Each ticket also admits two to a reception to be held on **Sunday, May 28th** from **7:00 to 10:30pm** at St. Joseph's School. For further information contact Mary Gould (914-805-2332) or Dr. Gina Cook (845-541-4216) or e-mail ptosacredheart@gmail.com



Bishop Dun Memorial School Drama Club will present **"Anything Goes"** on Friday, **May 26th** at **7:00pm**, Saturday, **May 27th** at **7:00pm** and Sunday, **May 28th** at **12:00pm** at the Aquinas Hall theater located at Mt. St. Mary College. Tickets are **\$10.00** and can be purchased at the door. For more information please contact 845-569-3494.

PILGRIMAGES

Fr. Bill is hosting two upcoming Pilgrimages

1) ALPINE CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE December 4-14, 2017

Visit Frankfurt, Freiburg, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Munich, Rothenberg and Heidelberg, featuring Europe's famous Chrstkindl Markets.

2) THE HOLY LAND January 8-17, 2018

Visit Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Walk where Jesus walked in Jerusalem and visit the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and Mt. Zion. Also visit the Church of the Nativity, Shepherd's Field, the Sea of Galilee and the sites of the Sermon on the Mount and the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

Brochures are located in the back of the church and at the sacristy door entrance. For questions please call the rectory 845-561-1317.

ADVERTISER'S CORNER

Thank you

TO OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK, **David L. Russell, PC, Attorney at Law**, whose office is located at 52 North Plank Road, Newburgh, N Y. Call David Russell at 845-562-5550 appointment for all your elder law questions and needs.

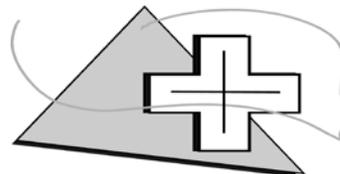


FINDING PEACE IN A TURBULENT WORLD WITH THE GUIDANCE OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Experience a week long special connection through the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi at the **Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center** in Ossining, NY. The retreat runs from **Sunday, July 16th** at 5:00pm thru **Friday, July 21st** at 1:00pm. Our pastor, Fr. Bill Damroth will be the facilitator. Cost is \$475 per person. For reservations call 914-941-4455 ext 106 or e-mail Knoreika@ophope.org. Visit their website at www.mariandale.org.

CAMP VERITAS 2017

Enrollment is open for Camp Veritas, a one week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held **July 16-22** at **Mt. St. Mary College** in Newburgh and **August 13-19** at **Camp Lakota** in Wurtsboro, NY. Cost is \$450 for each camper. More details can be found at www.campveritas.com.



Believe in God

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: _____

Phone: _____

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!