



Padre's Corner

July 2, 2017

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In "Padres Corner" last week I was referencing changes that have impacted the Catholic community over the last five decades. Population shifts also affect parishes, usually due to ethnic group shifting that could make a once vibrant church virtually lifeless. Many of the Manhattan parishes, once vivid receptors of the incoming immigrant base, have been reduced to spiritual rubble as a result of these serious shifts. This is why many have been or will be closed. Georgetown University "Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate" indicates only 22% of American Catholics attend weekly Mass, and a 2010 "Pew Research" survey painted the fact that 45% of American Catholics believe the Eucharist is a symbol rather than the Real Presence of Jesus Christ. There are also the property tax factors when many must leave, say New York, for cheaper states such as Florida or the Carolina's, and downsizing when younger generations seeking work must migrate within the country to other regions where employment is more plentiful. When I travel through Upstate New York these transformations are very obvious, resulting in a decimation of church social and sacramental life. Saint Gerard Majella in Hollis, Queens where I was a young boy and Saint Joseph's in Bogota, New Jersey shortly later are not the Irish/Italian conclaves they once were.

Internationally, the reasons for parish numerical drops could be for far grimmer reasons. I remember well a Maryknoll mission trip to Guatemala and El Salvador in January, 2013 when courageous sisters and priests spoke of the mortal risks they faced trying to save their parishioners from oppressive political groups. Many of their peer group, such as Archbishop Oscar Romero, were jailed or assassinated. I visited the bedroom of Romero in San Salvador, where he was shot dead in 1980 on **March 24** while saying a Mass, and can still vividly recall his blood-stained cassock. There were also the graves nearby of religious sisters massacred near an airport.

The Middle East has seen a dramatic drop in Christian presence, because of both a search for better opportunities and the threats of terrorism against Christianity by other "faith" groups. Studies from the "Center for the Study of Global Christianity", out of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts, indicate the Christian population from 2010-2025 will decline from 4.2% to 3% which is a significant loss. Journalist Maria Abi-Habib wrote, "The exodus leaves the Middle East overwhelmingly dominated by Islam, whose rival sects often clash, raising the prospect that radicalism in the region will deepen. Conflicts between Sunni and Shiite Muslims have erupted across the Middle East, squeezing out Christians in places such as Iraq and Syria and forcing them to carve out new lives abroad, in Europe, the U.S., and elsewhere." Declining birth rates, especially among the native generations in Europe, are also seriously impacting parishes. As non-Christian groups increasingly grow numerically in Europe, there is a far less need for parish churches.

The low birth-rate mentality also exists in America, further adding to the vocational numbers crisis for both sisters and priests. In the 1960's large families prevailed in my New Jersey hometown: the Gallagher family with eight and the Fitzgerald with ten as examples. So where do we turn for optimism and inspiration? How about the coinage in the United States "In God We Trust?" This spiritual phrase was added to our monetary system by Congress during the Civil War on April 22, 1864. This addition was prompted in an 1861 letter by the Reverend M. R. Watkinson, of Pennsylvania, to Treasury Secretary Salmon P. Chase reflecting the power of the individual to advance positive change in society be it the United States or elsewhere. Chase, of Ohio, wrote in 1861 to the director of the U.S. Mint: "No nation can be strong except in the strength of God, or safe except in His defense. The trust of our people in God should be declared on our national coins." Great advice for Newburgh 160 years later, on this Independence Day weekend, amidst dramatic changes for parishes. God bless us.

Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. July 3

7:00am Marion Miller
By Helen Miller
Noon In Thanksgiving to
St Anthony

Tues. July 4 Independence Day

7:00am All Men & Women who
serve in the Military
Noon All who gave their lives for
our freedom

Wed. July 5

7:00am Ann & Anthony Farkas
By Mary Ann & Tony Farkas
Noon Maria Cosentino
By Daughter Clotilde

Thur. July 6

7:00am Wm & Eugenia Evans
By Colleen & Michael Corizzo
Noon St. Francis Parish

Fri. July 7

7:00am John Barcia
By Wife Ida
Noon Pope Francis

Sat. July 8

Noon Ann "Nunnie" Alonge
By Fran Catania & Family
4:30pm Melba Fabrizio
By Lastowski Family
Michael Pacella
By Susan & Aldo Strano

Sun. July 9

8:00am Edward Yano Jr.
By Patrick & Sandra LoFaro
11:00am Craig McFarland
By wife
Mary C. Coyle
"Birthday Blessings"
By Your Loving Children



WEEKLY COLLECTON

June 24-25, 2017

1st Collection \$ 6,196.00
2nd Collection \$ 1,546.00
TOTAL \$ 7,742.00

MASS ATTENDANCE

June 24-25, 2017

4:30pm 174
8:00am 174
11:00am 210
1:30pm 52
TOTAL 610



A PRAYER FOR AMERICA

Father in Heaven,
We, the people, in the land of the free
and home of the brave desperately need You.
Oh that we may leave our ways of seeking to be blessed
and instead seek to bless others.
We beg for your guidance and wisdom for our leaders.
We ask you to protect our land from enemies,
both within and without.
And we praise you for the freedom
we have through the blood of Your Son.
May your plan be the desire of our nation.
Amen

The 2nd Collection this week is for
THE CHURCH IN AFRICA



Our Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on
Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm is for the intentin of **OUR
COUNTRY.**

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



POPPIES

Members of the Catholic War Veterans will be at all the
Masses next weekend distributing poppies to remember
all those who have given their lives in battle for our
freedom.

God Bless America

TODAY
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

A woman in Shunem believed strongly in the holiness of the prophet Elisha. To reward her, Elisha promised that she and her aging husband would, within the year, be the parents of a son.

Second Reading: Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

Paul explains to the Romans that by immersion in water at baptism, they “die” to their sins; by rising from the water, they rise from “death and sin” to new life in Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 10:37-42

With simplicity, Jesus tells his apostles that everyone should love him above all others -- father, mother, son or daughter. He adds, “He who welcomes you, welcomes me.”

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday

Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29

Tuesday

Gn 19:15-29; Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday

Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Mt 8:28-34

Thursday

Gn 22:1b-19; Mt 9:1-8

First Friday

Gn 23:1-4, 19, 24:1-8, 62-67; Mt 9:9-13

Saturday

Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Mt 9:14-17



PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Marie Wiejak, 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, Maureen Sullivan, Frank D’amario, Amanda Keane, Tom (Manay) Conroy, Gertrude Poland, Rita Froehlich, Brian Scott Monahan, Chelsea Dunderdale, Susan Randall, Mary Hollenbeck, Donnie Ruckdeschel, Patrick Comyns, John Marullo, Carol Brown, Jaddon Johnson, Rina & Richard Bozzone, Rebecca Pacella, Lena Biasini Zullo, Pam Kunert, Janet Coiteux, Vincent McParkland and Family, Jozef Froniewski, Teresa Centeno, Bobbi Hull and Mary Ann Fabiano



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

In your goodness please bring **BOTTLES OF JUICE** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate in our area thru our Food Pantry.

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](tel:845-863-6504). All students need to pre-register with Curt - Bourdage before showing up at the pantry, please.



St. Francis Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry is selling raffle tickets. This is our major and only fundraiser for the year. All proceeds go to support the Food Pantry. The donation is \$20.00 per ticket and six prizes will be awarded.

- 1st Prize - \$1,000
- 2nd Prize - \$500
- 3rd Prize - \$500
- 4th Prize - \$500
- 5th Prize - \$250
- 6th Prize - \$250

The drawing will be held on August 6th at our Church Picnic. Tickets can be purchased at the rectory between the hours of 10:00am and 2:00pm. Thank you for your continued support of our Food Pantry.



Newburgh Summer Backpack Program

The Food Bank of the Hudson Valley in conjunction with our Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry will again be distributing backpacks, filled with weekend meals, to our local children. Backpacks will be distributed at our Food Pantry on **Fridays** from **10:30am to 12:30pm** from **July 7th thru August 12th**.



SAVE THE DATE

Our Church Picnic will be held on **Sunday, August 6th** from **12noon** until **5:00pm** on the grounds here at St. Francis. Food vendors, music, games and more. Come sit under the tent and join in the fellowship and fun with other parishioners.



St. Francis Seniors will meet the **second Wednesday** of the month on **July 12th at 12:30pm** after the 12noon Mass in **O’Connor Hall**. There will be a guest speaker, Laura Cormier, a Certified Master Walk 15 Instructor. Walk 15 is an indoor aerobic program – come learn the benefits and techniques of Walk 15. All are welcome.



CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Mr & Mrs Charles Alexander the June winners of **\$179.00** in our Monthly 50/50 Raffle. Be sure your envelope is in for our next drawing in July.



WELCOME

Stella Rose Colombo

Michael Mendes Rodrigues

who were baptized last month into our St. Francis of Assisi parish family. May they continue to receive God's blessings and grace.



CONGRATULATIONS

Nathaniel Leonard & Natalie Morales

Bob Hersh & Pat Langle

who were married last month at St. Francis of Assisi Church.



The Catholic Classics Book Reading Club will meet here at St. Francis in O'Connor Hall from **2:00pm to 3:30pm** on **July 11, 25 and 26** to discuss the book "**Silence**" by Shusaku Endo and view the film by Martin Scorsese. This story is about two Portuguese Jesuit priests in seventeenth century Japan who travel to a country hostile to their religion and are captured and forced to watch their Japanese Christian brothers lay down their lives for their faith.

The sessions will be **hosted by Margaret Sanchez** and **led by Fr. Bill**.

HELP WANTED

CARPENTER/CARPENTER'S HELPER

Experience and/or ability and interest in all phases of remodeling required. Call Steve Kuprych at 845-562-6011.

ST. FRANCIS YOUTH GROUP

ALL Junior and High school students are welcomed

Meet **Friday** evenings

6:30pm to 8:00pm

In O'Connor Hall at St Francis Church

For questions or more information

please contact **Sr. Laura**

at the Rectory, 845-561-1317

ADVERTISER'S CORNER

Thank you

TO OUR BULLETIN

ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK, **MID-HUDSON CIVIC**

CENTER, which operates two ice arenas, The Ice Time Sports Complex located at 21 Lakeside Road in Newburgh, 845-567-0005 and The McCann Ice Arena located at 1 Civic Center Plaza in Poughkeepsie, 845-454-5800. With schools out for the summer and the hot humid weather upon us let the kids cool off at the ice rink. They are both open year round and offer not only ice skating, but lessons, birthday parties, camps and theatre programs.

BOOK NOW...TIME IS GETTING SHORT

2017 SUMMER RETREAT

Sunday, July 16th – July 21st

FINDING PEACE IN A TURBULENT WORLD

WITH THE GUIDANCE OF

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Fr. Bill Damroth will be leading a Spiritual Retreat at the Mariandale Retreat and Conference Center majestically set on 61 acres overlooking the Hudson River in Ossining, NY. This retreat will be a time to Relax, Re-center, Re-connect, Meditate, Pray and Experience Nature. There will be an evening of "Dances of Universal Peace", singing and dancing, Yoga and Fr. Bill's signature Movie Nights. Cost is \$475 which is all-inclusive. Register online at www.mariandale.org or contact Karen at 914-941-4455 ext. 106 or e-mail knoreika@ophope.org.

ST FRANCIS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2nd - Youth Group 6:30pm O'connor Hall

July 5th - Eucharistic Adoration 5:00 - 6:00pm

July 11th - Book Club 2:00pm O'Connor Hall

July 12th - Senior Meeting 12:30pm O'Connor Hall

July 16th - Bagel & Coffee Hour

July 22nd - Movie Night

July 25th - Book Club 2:00pm O'Connor Hall

July 26th - Book Club 2:00pm O'Connor Hall

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: _____