

# Straight From The Heart

Volume 4, Issue 1

September—November 2011

## Special points of interest:

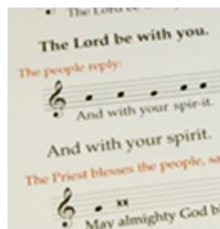
- Roman Missal Changes
- Parish Activities Begin
- Focus On . . .Nursing Home Ministries
- 40 Hours Devotions
- Is a Cursillo Weekend for You?



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## AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT by Fr. Bill



We will talk a little differently during Mass come Advent and beyond. This will happen throughout the United States of America. It is the result of extensive study and re-evaluation of liturgists and bishops seeking to return our English translations to a more accurate rendition of their Latin foundations.

Some history here: Our Mass was originally said in Aramaic (Christ's language); then Greek and Latin during the Roman Empire period. In Western Europe it stayed in Latin, out of respect for the past, even as modern languages developed during the Middle Ages. It stayed Latin until about 1965, not a bad run.

Around 1965, the Second Vatican Council permitted a sea change: Mass in the vernacular (language of the people). Translations were rushed through and within a year or two priests and people were praying Mass out loud in English, until today. Problem is, the English had not always been accurately translated from the "mother tongue" of Latin. Complaints about that continued for years, from clergy and laity.

That brings us to today. After years of study and re-evaluation, we have new translations and, thus, new responses. The biggies? Instead of "and also with you," the new response to the priest's greeting, will be "and with your spirit," reflecting the original Latin "et cum spiritu tuo." Instead of "We believe in one God, the Father Almighty," beginning the Creed, it will be "I believe in one God..." The original Latin is "Credo (I believe) in unum Deum," not "Credemus (we believe)." The other world languages never changed this. When I say Spanish Mass it is always "Creo en un solo Dios," I believe in one God.

In the Penitential Rite's Confiteor ("I confess to almighty God..."), the lines "through my own fault," will be changed to "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault." It may sound a bit overdone but, once more, it reflects the original "mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa." This reflects the original intention of demonstrating not a mere, minimal apology but heartfelt contrition and humble admission of one's sinfulness. The repetition reminds us that sinning against God is no light matter.

With the Gloria ("Glory to God in the highest..."), Jesus is addressed as the "Only Begotten Son." Back to the Creed, "One in being with the Father," is restored to "Consubstantial with the Father." This conforms with the Creed's 4th century bishop-authors, who sought to combat false teachings that Jesus, or God the Son, was of a "different substance" from God the Father. No, insisted those early church leaders at the Council of Nicea (325 A.D.), where most of the Creed was composed. They said that He is "of the same substance" as the Father or "consubstantial" in Latin. It's *consubstantial*, in English. While that word "might not easily roll off the tongue, its use preserves the precise theological tradition...and invites us to reflect more on the divine nature of Christ and the mystery of the Trinity," says Edward Sri in an Ascension Press booklet about these changes.

Also in the Creed, "By the power of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the Virgin Mary," becomes "by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man." This is more faithful to "incarnates est," reminding us that He wasn't simply born of Mary but he took on human flesh, while retaining His divine nature. That's incarnation.

Church leaders encourage an attitude of spiritual renewal in approaching these changes. See it as an opportunity to think about what we are praying. As the priest urges at every Mass, "lift up your hearts" and pray the liturgy with renewed heart, mind, and spirit. The lines indeed may be a-changing, but the spiritual value of the Mass stays always the same, pouring His Grace into us from the Cross and Resurrection.





## Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Tithing Update Weekend, November 19-20, 2011

Christ the King is ideal for our *Tithing Update*. Depending only on His Father, Jesus poured Himself out for us at the Manger, Cross and Tomb. Tithing embodies His trust in the Father, the one way to the peace and contentment of His eternal Kingdom.

At our Saturday and Sunday Masses, two volunteers from the McKenna Stewardship Ministry will testify to *putting God first* in their lives and what it means. Do hear them witness to *trying God in this*. If you have not already done so, the Holy Spirit will invite you to take the same *leap of faith*.

Six years as a tithing parish convinces us that dedicating the first 10% of our income to God's works (5% for parish, 5% for charities) and awakens us to God's Gifts at every turn. No pledges, no sign-ups. Just *commitment* between you and God.

Sincerest thanks to everyone who sacrifices for our parish week-in and week-out. *Look* into your hear. *Heed* the Spirit's call:

*The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither;*

*Not the gift, but the giver;*

*Not your money, but YOU... for GOD.*

## Sacred Heart of Jesus Vacation Bible School



Dear Father Weary and Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish,

It has been some weeks since we held summer camp at your Parish of Sacred Heart of Jesus, but we continue to remember with joy all the children, families and parishioners who were involved in the camp.

As Sacred Heart Sisters, we truly felt at home, and we would like to thank you, Father, and to express our appreciation to all who made this week possible and who took good care of us.

May the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus bless you, Father, and your parish.

Sincerely,

Sister Ryszarda Wittbrodt, SSCJ  
Sister Marietta Therese Hanley, SSCJ  
Sister Kathryn Ostrom

## Sacred Heart of Jesus Mission Statement

We are the Catholic community in Mifflin County, a reflection of God's love for the world. We support each other by reaching out to those in need, fostering the beliefs and Tradition of the Universal Church, and educating our youth in knowledge and faith. We live our faith through Word and Sacrament, prayer and action, commitment of time and talent, tithing, and using our resources to honor Christ and respect all human life. By doing so, we strive to bring all people into Jesus' Sacred Heart, uniting us by living the life He exemplified.

• adopted by Parish Council, December 27, 200

### Upcoming Liturgical Events

**Fri. 9/2** First Friday All-Day Eucharistic Adoration after 7 AM Mass but no 7 PM Holy Hour

**Mon. 9/5** Labor Day Mass 9 AM

**Sun. 9/18** Catechetical Sunday with blessing of religion teachers during Masses.

**Sat. 10/1** Blessing of animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, 12 Noon, rectory yard

**Sun. 10/2** Respect Life Sunday Life Chain Event, Monument Square Lewistown 1 PM

**Fri. 10/7** First Friday All-Day Eucharistic Adoration after 7 AM Mass ending with 7-8 PM Holy Hour

**10/16-18** Annual Eucharistic Devotions (40 Hours): Adoration every day, ending with 7PM service each night

**Sun. 10/30** Remembering the Departed Candle Service 2 PM

**Mon. 10/31** 7 PM Vigil Mass for All Saints, (Holy Day of Obligation)

**Tue. 11/1** All Saints Day (Day of Obligation) Masses at 7 AM and 12 Noon

**Wed. 11/2** All Souls Day 7 PM Mass

**Fri. 11/4** First Friday All-Day Eucharistic Adoration after 7 AM Mass, ending with 7-8 PM Holy Hour

**11/19-20** Feast of Christ the King—Last Sunday of church liturgical year

**Thu. 11/24** Thanksgiving Day 9 AM Mass

**11/26-27** First Sunday of Advent & First Sunday of church year

## Focus on . . . Nursing Home Ministry



There are many ministries within our parish and many people who volunteer their time and talent for these ministries. One such ministry is the visitation to nursing home facilities. Eucharistic Ministers, Bob Workinger and John Tedeschi, have been volunteering their time for several years to this very special ministry. Bob Workinger visits parishioners who reside at Elmcroft Assisted Living Facility in Reedsville. John Tedeschi goes to Valley View Haven Nursing Home in Belleville.

Bob relates that many years ago while making a home visit to a very close friend Bob reassured him that, "wherever you go, I'll follow you so that you will be able to receive communion." His friend, who he had known for more than 40 years, eventually moved to Elmcroft and, as Bob promised, he 'followed' his friend.

As a Eucharist Minister, Bob has been visiting Elmcroft residents for several years. Sometimes Bob would share his experi-

ences with his wife, Eileen. One day Bob asked Eileen to go to Elmcroft with him. She has been accompanying him ever since. And since 75% of the residents are women, Bob said that he is thankful for Eileen's help with the ministry. Usually there are 5-6 residents who receive communion. Along with receiving communion, Bob may read scripture and the church bulletin for the residents. And then there is always time for sharing stories and visiting. The residents look forward to their visits.

This October it will be five years that John Tedeschi has been a Eucharistic Minister for the residents at Valley View Haven. It all began when Father Bateman was pastor at Sacred Heart. Being the only priest in the parish at that time, it was difficult for Father Bateman to visit Valley View regularly. So Father Bateman asked John if he would be interested in helping at Valley View.

John visits residents twice a week. He visits about half of the residents in the nursing

home facility. And he brings communion once a month. He has volunteered in the ministry for such a long time that the residents recognize him and welcome him. He states that he feels that he gets more out of the visits than the residents. "The Lord has been good to me. I will do this for as long as I can."

Joe Olnick has also been busy in this ministry for "quite a long time." His ministry took him to Ohession Manor and William Penn. He recently took a "leave of absence", so we are looking for someone to fill in if possible.

In addition to these three, the Sisters and Fr. Bill regularly visit the shut-ins, the nursing homes, and those in the hospital, on a weekly and/or monthly basis. Tina Stryker has just recently taken over Fr. Fidelis's list during his visit to Africa.

Any Eucharistic Minister interested in becoming involved in this ministry, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Bill.

## Forty Hours Devotions to be Held October 16-18, 2011 at Sacred Heart Church

Each fall, our parish celebrates its love of the Eucharist with a special time of devotions, adoration, prayer, and learning. Every parish holds a celebration once during each liturgical year. Ours falls in October as we celebrate the feast day of St. Margaret Mary Alcoque, to whom Jesus appeared and revealed his most Sacred Heart, on October 16. She shared the instructions received during these visions with those around her, one of which was Eucharistic Adoration during Holy Hour on Thursday evenings. The Holy Hour practice became widespread among Catholics.

This year, our devotions will be held Sunday, October 16, following the 11:00AM Mass with All-Day Adoration ending with a Closing Service at 7PM. A special guest homilist, Deacon Gregory Amarante from St. Joseph Parish in Danville, will join us for the three nights to enlighten us and inspire our devotion to the Eucharist. On Monday, October 17 and Tuesday, October 18, All-Day Adoration will begin following the 7AM Mass ending each night with a Closing Service at 7PM. The Closing on Tuesday is a special event to which not only our parish is invited, but all priests and religious of the Diocese and beyond are invited. A Social Reception and Dinner at the Rectory and School Cafeteria are held for our invited guests prior to the 7PM Closing.

All parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish are invited and encouraged to attend all or some of the 40 Hours Devotions. The choir will be singing at each evening service and the homilist is sure to be inspiring. As this is a major parish event, no other parish activities, events, meetings, etc. are to be scheduled during these three days.



## 24th National Life Chain Sunday October 2, 2012



Last year on the first Sunday of October in more than 1,800 locations in 1,500 cities and towns across the United States and Canada, tens of thousands of pro-life people gathered to pray silently beside major street and hold professionally-printed signs that were provided at the site.

Again this year they will peacefully show solidarity in the Christian community for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. They will stand in honor of the 50 million lives who have been lost to abortion.

Every year young women report deciding not to have an abortion after reading the signs and seeing the people praying. Students who participate understand that a third of their generation has disappeared and then convince their friends at school not to kill their baby.

Numbers of people step in to volunteer pro-life positions after being part of a Life Chain-becoming more aware of the need to pray for people in crisis situations.

**This year the National Life Chain will be on Sunday, October 2, 2012 at 1:00PM Monument Square in Lewistown.**

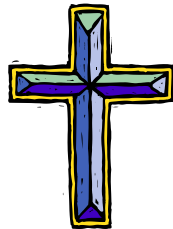
## Upcoming Parish Pastoral Council Elections

Sacred Heart's Parish Pastoral Council seeks nominations to fill openings for 3-year terms. The task of the council is to advise the pastor to "guide and coordinate the activities of the parish and all its organizations." Members of the council should be practicing Catholics and registered members of the parish. Meetings are held the fourth Sunday of each month at 7:00PM at the Parish Office.

Those interested in submitting their names for the ballot are asked to contact the parish office for a nomination form. Parishioners may suggest names of other qualified parishioners for inclusion on the ballot as well. **Nominations will be accepted during the month of September**. Information about the candidates will be available in the bulletins in early October. Elections, if needed, will take place during Masses the weekend of October 15-16. Please consider serving in this important ministry.

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** classes will begin on Thursday, September 8 at 7:00PM in the parish office. People can begin the classes as a come-and-see opportunity with no obligation at all to enter the church. Parishioners please consider attending classes to "refresh" your knowledge of your Catholic faith. Contact the parish office.

## SAVE THE DATE



### *ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR SISTER ANNA MARIE, SISTER CARMELITA AND FATHER FIDELIS*

Sunday, October 23

Check Parish Bulletin for More Information

### Upcoming Parish Events

- 9/4-10 Juniata County Fair, Port Royal, with SHS info booth
- 9/5 Labor Day—Parish Office Closed
- 9/6 Bible Study Begins 7 PM
- 9/7 Choir Practice Begins 7:30 PM
- 9/8 Opening School Mass 9 AM
- 9/8 RCIA Begins 7 PM
- 9/10-11 CCD Registration After Masses
- 9/17 St. Vincent dePaul Free Meal 11:30 AM
- 9/18 CCD Classes Begin
- 9/18 Parish Picnic 12 Noon Derry Township Park
- 9/24 Lector Training at Diocese
- 10/2 Life Chain I PM Monument Square, Lewistown
- 10/15 St. Vincent DePaul Free Meal 11:30 AM
- 10/16 Inscription Service—Grades 7 & 8 11 AM Mass
- 10/16-18 Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions All Day Adoration 7AM—7 PM Closing Program each night 7PM
- 10/23 Anniversary Celebration for Sister Anna Marie, Sister Carmelita and Father Fidelis 4 PM
- 11/19-20 Tithing Ministries Program
- 11/19 St. Vincent dePaul Free Meal 11:30 AM
- 11/24 Thanksgiving Mass 9 AM
- 11/24-25 Parish Office Closed
- 11/27 No CCD Classes

All the important dates are on the parish website. Click on "Calendars" then choose "Events Calendar" from the drop down menu. It is updated regularly, so check back periodically for changes and additions.

## The Parish Register

### Baptisms in the Parish

Tyler James Coons	June 12
Kenzie Rose Cramer	June 26
Delaynie Rae Newlyn	July 17
Daniel Lee McMonigal	July 24
Harley Rose Ammerman	August 14

### Marriages in the Parish

Michelle Quigley and Tyler Starr July 23, 2011  
Molly Powell and Austin Long August 20, 2011

### New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Travis (Jennifer) Sheaffer  
Children: Damon, Whitney and Samantha

Ms. Judith Welty

### Deaths in the Parish

June Madeline Fiore  
August Violet Blovelt

# Parish Organizations Updates

## CCD

Connie Quinn



All CCD classes will begin on September 18th from 9:00AM to 10:50AM.

Registration for all new students, students who have moved or students who have new phone numbers will be held in the school cafeteria on September 10 and 11 after each Mass. Schedules for the CCD classes will be available in the pamphlet rack in the vestibule of the church.

An inscription service for the 7th and 8th grade Confirmation class will be held at the 11am Mass on October 16. All students are to attend.

If you have questions, call Connie Quinn at 717-667-6507.

## LADIES GUILD

Dottie Peiffer



The Ladies Guild met on August 6 after the 8am Mass to plan for the upcoming year. Members elected to meet on the first Saturday of every other month. The following is a tentative schedule for 2011-2012.

October: Provide refreshments for Forty Hours Adoration

November: Provide refreshments for Remembrance Service

December: Donate canned goods to Christmas Baskets and Meet for Breakfast

February: Visit Shut-Ins

March: Day Retreat

May: Distribute Mother's Day gift

June: Distribute Father's Day gift

The Ladies Guild meets the first Saturday after the 8:00AM Mass. **Our meetings will be only in the months of October, December, February, April, June and August.** All women of the parish are welcome.

## CARD COMMITTEE

Sister Anna Marie  
Sister Carmelita



For several years now, a card committee has been functioning here at Sacred Heart Parish. The purpose of this particular committee has been two-fold. Parishioners who are 65 years and older receive a birthday card. Secondly, greeting cards are sent to the homebound and to those in nursing homes to remember them in a special way at each season. The Sisters introduced this project

in 2008 with the beginning of the Time, Talent and Treasure movement in the parish. The parish realizes the value of this endeavor from the numerous calls of grateful parishioners. We know this is truly a labor of love.

About 15 women have generously offered their time and creativity to participate in this endeavor. One of our parishioners, Mary Perry, has offered to personally create cards in her craft shop. What a joy it is for her to share her creativity with us. And what a joy for the recipients to receive such lovely cards. Another parishioner, Jeannie Krepps, joined the Sisters in directing the distribution of cards this year. Mrs. Krepps will be eventually taking over the committee and directing the card distribution. The parish is deeply grateful to the dedicated caring women who have given their time and love to this project.

## COLUMBIETTES

Annemarie Swineford



The St. John Council # 1338 Columbiettes, here at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, began in May 2011, with a First Degree and Major Degree ceremony inducting the following:

Adrienne Zannino – President

Annemarie Swineford – Vice President

Jo Fisher – Financial Secretary

Amy Dalton – Treasurer

Cathy Borger – Secretary

Mary Ann Kline – Sentinel

Ellen Sheetz, Donna Potepan, Maria Amspacker, Christina Stryker, Cyndi Shoemaker, Marianne Thomas



Since then we have had one fundraiser which was held in July. Thanks to the support of our awesome parish, we were able to raise enough money for our Officer Ceremonial

Jewels. Thanks again! Also, in July the Columbiettes helped Bob Sanders and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart with Vacation Bible School which was a blast! Bob and the Sisters did a fantastic job!

The summer may be winding down, but we are just getting started. First up, the Columbiettes will be assisting the Knights of Columbus with the Church picnic on September 18 at the Derry Township Park in the Orange Pavilion. The picnic promises to be so much fun. Also with the Knights we will be helping with the Columbus Day dinner at the Lewistown Country Club on October 10, 2011. Starting September 21, we will be meeting at the church every 3rd Wednesday at 6:30 pm to pray the Rosary together and then attend evening Mass. All are welcome to come join us. In addition, during 1st Friday Adoration, we as a group will be praying during our time from 5:30pm to 6:30 pm All are welcome to join in, our Lord loves the company. In addition, we will be having a "Fall Social" where we will invite parishioners to join us for pie, coffee, and apple cider. So watch the bulletin for the exact date and time.

Continued on Page 6



## PARISH PICNIC

SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 18

12 NOON

Derry Township Park

Orange Pavilion

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs  
Drinks, Kids' Games  
Bingo, A 50-50 Drawing

Bring Covered Dish & Place Settings

COME RAIN OR SHINE!

**Parish Organizations Updates Continued . . .**

We will also be starting "Operation Welcome" in conjunction with the Ladies Guild. We are going to be sending "Welcome" Baskets to all of our newly registered parishioners to show them what a great parish community we have. And just when you thought we were done, rounding out the fall, we will have a booth at the December Festival of Ice. We will be serving up some warm soup for you and your families to enjoy while you walk around and check out the Ice displays.

If any of our activities are something you would enjoy and you would love to have a whole bunch of "new" sisters to hang out and pray with or do good deeds with, come and join us. For information packets, see Annemarie Swineford at the Parish office or call Adrienne Zannino at 717-348-9375.

**ADULT CHOIR**  
Chad Reed



The Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Choir has a busy fall and winter of 2011-12 planned. We will be learning new music for our Christmas Eve service. The Choir will sing at the 10PM Mass on December 24. This service will begin with a mix of contemporary and traditional carols and anthems at 9:30PM. The Choir will also be preparing for the 40 Hours Eucharistic Devotions Service in October. We will sing once a month at the 11AM Mass, during certain feast days and Holy Days, and for every 11AM Mass during Advent. We also plan to host the newly merged Mifflin County High School's select choir, *Cantare*, in either the winter or spring. Sherry D. Morgan, formerly at Indian Valley High School, is the director of choirs at Mifflin County High School.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Choir is open to **high school teenagers and adults** who express a desire to sing sacred choral literature and display basic singing and pitch matching abilities. The choir rehearses from **7:30-8:45PM** on most **Wednesday evenings** from September until June. The choir rehearses and sings 2-, 3-, and 4-part sacred choral repertoire throughout all historical periods ranging from traditional Catholic hymnody and chants to choral anthems and contemporary hymns.

We **always** welcome more **singers and instrumentalists!**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

Grand Knight Chuck Zannino



The Knights of Columbus hosted a dinner cruise at Lake Raystown on Sunday, July 31. There were approximately 35 people who enjoyed a lovely evening on the lake. In the photo, Father Bill is accompanying the band, 3MO, during the lake dinner cruise.

**BIBLE STUDY**

Dr. Philip Quinn



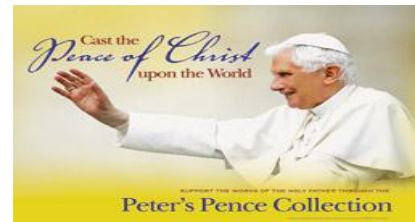
The Adult Bible Study will begin on Tuesday, September 6 at 7:00PM in the basement of the parish office. The subject will be the Gospel of Matthew. The cost for bible study materials is \$20. Call the office at 242-2781 to register.

**OFFER FROM LOCAL OIL COMPANIES**



Nittany Oil Company and JJ Powell Oil Company have begun a new program. If you mention that you are a Parishioner of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, for every gallon purchased throughout the year, Nittany Oil and JJ Powell will donate a portion back to the Church. If you have begun the search for an oil company for the winter, or if you are already a customer, consider contacting Nittany or JJ Powell Oil Company for prices and the different plans they offer. You can contact their local Lewistown office for more information: Nittany 717-248-0189 or JJ Powell 717-248-3717. The Church recommends that you do your research and make sure you pick the company that best suits your needs.

**Peter's Pence Collection**



On September 9, our Diocese will take up the **Peter's Pence Collection** which provides the Holy Father with the funds he needs to carry out his most important charitable works. The proceeds benefit the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. Through your generosity, we can cast the peace of Christ upon the world.



**Giving Tree Ministry By Fran Hartman**

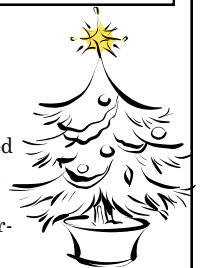
In November, Christmas trees will be seen throughout the community covered with pink and blue heart-shaped tags. These heart tags represent the passion and caring of all the people involved in this annual Salvation Army Christmas Project. This is a wonderful project which brings the community together during the Christmas season to help make the holiday special for local children.

At present, this project encompasses many races and economic backgrounds. The system has improved through the years and is very well organized

Churches in the community, including Sacred Heart, put up a Giving Tree with the names of children with their information.

In two weeks, the church members have shopped for the children and have brought the gifts back to the church. Members of each church organizes a group to record each gift on a list for parents, so they know exactly what each child will receive. Each church wraps the gifts and bags them to prepare them for pick-up. On pick-up day, parents are required to have identification and sign for their children's gifts. The majority of parents are overjoyed at the amount of gifts provided.

Look for the Giving Tree at Sacred Heart in mid November. Please consider being a part of this community project.



## An Open Letter from Bishop John B. McCormack

### “Don’t Wait Too Long for a Renewal”



Have you ever felt like opportunities have passed you by? Like maybe your best days are behind you? Or like you are just too old and too set in your ways to take on a new challenge such as going back to school, changing jobs, learning a new hobby, or entering a new relationship? Well, as I celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of my ordination this past year, I thought I could qualify as someone who was, as we like to say here in New England, “all set.” At my young age, I did not really anticipate encountering anything brand new. Well, I have news for you. Very good news: God is never finished with any of us.

For years, many of my priest and lay friends, as well as a fellow bishop whom I admire, have encouraged me to experience a Cursillo, but I have always had plenty of excuses. Taking three-and-a-half days out of my busy calendar was reason enough to postpone this invitation indefinitely. Yet I have always been impressed with the people in the parishes who were members of the Cursillo movement. They were often leaders in the parishes and they always struck me as people who genuinely wanted to help, not out of a self-centered need to be recognized, but out of a real desire to serve others. This made an impression on me. But still, three whole days dedicated to spiritual instruction and renewal? I am a bishop, after all. I pray daily, teach Christ’s saving grace frequently, and make private retreats annually. I should be all set, right?

Well, leading up to my 75th birthday, I gave myself, or rather God gave to me, a remarkable gift. I finally made a Cursillo. It was for me, as it is for hundreds of men and women each year, a transformative and rejuvenating spiritual experience!

Imagine the awkwardness when I first walked into the room on the inaugural Thursday evening of the Cursillo. I didn’t know anyone in the room. Needless to say, they all recognized me and were no doubt wondering to themselves, “What is the Bishop doing here?” Eventually, once we overcame the initial superficial barriers, they came to see me and treat me as “one of the guys,” which I really appreciated.

Begun among Catholics in Spain in the 1940’s, Cursillo is a movement whose full name is *Cursillo de Cristiandad* or “Short course of Christianity.” The three-day weekend is at the core of the movement. Individuals make this among other men, and then after they have done so, their spouses are invited to do the same among women.

At the essence of Cursillo is the recognition that “while most people would like to live their lives in a Christ-like manner, the pressures of the world often make this difficult.” The movement offers “a method and a technique to provide each of us with tools, the mentality, the strength, and the support” to walk in Christ.

So there we all were, men of different ages and backgrounds from all walks of life: CEO’s, salesmen, teachers, lawyers, skilled laborers, husbands, fathers, single men, and one bishop. All of us were filled with nervous expectations, a bit of hope, and an instinctive desire to turn around and leave in a hurry. What we shared in common with each other was the simple desire to know our faith and the Lord better and to live with a better understanding of the Lord’s ways. And so we stayed.

We not only stayed, we participated together in what was for me a transformative three days that brought us each from complacency to consciousness of Christ’s love for us, animating in turn our desire to love Christ. What was especially moving to me was the faith of the other men present. Men courageously and openly spoke about their relationship with the Lord and what that means in their lives, it affected me deeply and affected all of us. We experienced the power of the Lord in our midst.

Truthfully, I never expected to be animated by this experience in the way that I was. At 74 years old I did not think I had perfected the art of Christian living, but neither did I recognize just how much growth and change was possible. I am embarrassed to admit it, but I had underestimated the power of God’s love to keep shaping our daily lives through challenges, sacrifice, surprises, suffering, and the love of others. Our own perspectives and expectations may become limited, but Christ’s love for us is not. It is not only abundant, it is infinite.

When I consider my own experience of Cursillo, it is more clear to me that God is never finished loving, shaping, and renewing our lives. I therefore encourage all of you to be open to renewal. Don’t wait as long as I did to make a Cursillo, or a Marriage Encounter, or to go on a religious pilgrimage or to reconcile with those from whom you are estranged. Take it from this youngster in the faith: if you find a way to creatively disrupt the comfort and complacency of your routines and relationships, the Holy Spirit will surprise you and animate your lives with a love that is creative and infinite.

*Bishop John B. McCormack, Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire*

## **CURSILLO WEEKENDS IN MARCH 2012**

**Women’s Cursillo March 2-4      Men’s Cursillo March 9-11**

**St. Pius X Church, Selinsgrove, PA**

Contact Fr. Bill or the Parish Office for information and/or application

**SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH**

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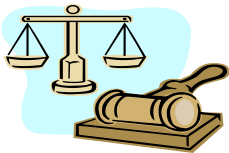
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**RED MASS**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**



Bishop McFadden will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the **Red Mass** on **Monday, September 26**, at 12:00 noon at Saint Patrick Cathedral, 212 State Street, Harrisburg. All who attend the Red Mass are invited to a reception after the Mass in the Cathedral's social hall.

At the Red Mass, lawyers, judges, lawmakers, and public officials gather together to pray for God's wisdom and guidance in their pursuit of justice. The Red Mass originated in medieval England at the time of King Edward I, when the twelve judges of the High Court attended Mass as a group on the opening day of the judicial calendar. Today, the Red Mass coincides with the time period in which the U.S. Supreme Court begins its next term. The Saint Thomas More Society of Central Pennsylvania, an organization of Catholic lawyers, sponsors the Red Mass and the reception each year. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.



**BLUE MASS**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2011**



**Blue Mass Honors Those Who Serve.** The safety of law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel will be the focus of the Knights of Columbus' Annual Blue Mass to be held on **Sunday, September 11, at 9:30 am.** in Saint Patrick Cathedral. At this Mass, we will pray for and honor those who daily protect and serve us in the Greater Harrisburg area and remember those who have fallen in the line of duty. The Blue Mass — referring to the blue uniforms worn by so many public safety personnel — dates back to 1934 and is a venerable tradition in many dioceses. All are invited. Public safety personnel are encouraged to attend in uniform. Saint Patrick Cathedral is located at 212 State Street, Harrisburg,

**WHITE MASS**

**OCTOBER 23, 2011**



The Harrisburg Diocesan Guild of the Catholic Medical Association invites you to attend the Annual **White Mass** for Health Care Professionals and families (medical students and residents welcome!) on **Sunday, October 23, at 12:15pm** at Saint Patrick Cathedral, 212 State Street, Harrisburg. Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden, Bishop of Harrisburg, will be Celebrant and Homilist. A light reception will follow.

Please RSVP for the reception by October 16 to Jean Scicchitano, Secretary, Respect Life Office at 717-657-4804 ext. 294 or e-mail: jscicchitano@hbgdiocese.org