

June 21, 2009 – 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Stewardship is a way of life. Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing Income: June 14, 2009 \$7,704.00
June 15, 2008 \$7,244.00
Children's Offerings \$9.00

Catholic Communication Campaign 2009 \$ 822.00
Catholic Communication Campaign 2008 \$1,110.00

Next week's tithing: Next week's tithing will be for the charitable works of our parish Saint Vincent dePaul Society.

From the pastor: As your generosity continues to grow through tithing, so does our parish ability to help others less fortunate than ourselves. If you have any ideas or requests of ways we can use our parish tithing, please let us know. God bless you for your faithfulness in offering your weekly tithing!

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "Thank you for the opportunity to prioritize. The majority of our 10% has always been given to outside the [parish] - Missions, etc. It is not only a blessing to be here at Sacred Heart, but a real blessing to give here also."

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithing, in addition to their financial gift: A kindergartner said: "I helped spray weeds." A couple of 5th graders said: "I helped clean the house, I sprayed weeds." A couple of 6th graders said: "I fed my grandma's cat while she was on vacation, I helped my brother water the flowers." A 6th grader said: "I built a fire in our campfire ring." A 3rd grader said: "I helped my brother build legos."

FROM THE PASTOR

Weekly Reflection: Even when we think we are safe, violent storms catch us and we do all we can to protect ourselves from their potential destruction. We buy expensive surge protectors to safeguard our electronic equipment from lightning strikes. Some must put plywood over their windows and "batten down the hatches" as best they can in face of a predicted hurricane or tornado. We store nonperishable food and bottled water in case deep snow keeps us from getting out. Almost all of us can identify with the disciples' fright when they are out at sea and a "violent squall" comes up. After all, Jesus is with experienced fishermen who know well the peril of a storm at sea.

What they do not "yet" know fully is the extent of Jesus' power and of His "care" for them. The fishermen are frightened, and Jesus is comfortably "asleep on a



cushion." Either Jesus was especially tired or He displayed a trust in His Father that the disciples did not share with Him. So, we might ask, from what disaster does Jesus really save the disciples? From a storm? Yes, but much more: He saves them from their own lack of faith and trust in Him – an even bigger disaster than a storm at sea. Storms can destroy property or hurt us physically or even take our lives. The surprise of the Gospel is that this isn't the biggest concern of Jesus. His biggest concern is that the disciples do not have sufficient faith and trust in Him.

As the first reading demonstrates, God has power over the might of creation. God assures Job "out of the storm" that it was divine power that contained the seas and set its limits: "Here shall your proud waves be stilled!" The disciples were experiencing a similar might of nature: "waves were breaking over the boat." When Jesus commanded the sea to be "Quiet! Be still!" it obeyed Him. The response that welled up in the disciples was one of "great awe" which led them to ask about Jesus' identity. And here is the crunch of the Gospel: only God has power over nature. When Jesus asked faith of the disciples, He was asking them to grow in their relationship to Him as more than a "Teacher." He was revealing further that He was the long-expected Messiah, the Son of God. When Jesus asked faith of the disciples, He was not asking faith in Him as their Teacher and leader – He was asking them to have faith and trust in Him as the Divine One with power to save.

After Jesus commanded the sea to be quiet, "there was great calm." We might surmise that a similar calm washed over the disciples – that their "great awe" brought them to humble silence before this Teacher who had such extraordinary power. Calm comes out of trust. And thus is diverted the real "storm" at sea. The disciples' faith was tested, and this became an occasion for them to grow in faith. So it is with us. The "storms" of our own lives become occasions for us to grow in faith and trust that God is ever present to us, calming whatever threatens us, bringing us to a deeper relationship with the God who cares for us.

About Liturgy: *The Year of the Priest:* Pope Benedict XVI has declared a "Year for Priests" beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19, 2009. The year will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests with the Holy Father on June 19, 2010. With the announcement of this Year for Priests, the Pope has declared St. John Vianney the Universal Patron of Priests on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the death of the Curé d'Ars. On a new website from the USCCB (www.usccb.org/yearforpriests/index.shtml) you will find a number of resources to aid our celebration of

the year for priests. There is also information regarding events for priests that will occur throughout the Year for Priests. Please pray for your priests that they might always be faithful to their sacred calling. Here is a prayer you might use...

Dear Lord,
 we pray that the Blessed Mother
 wrap her mantle around your priests
 and through her intercession
 strengthen them for their ministry.
 We pray that Mary will guide your priests
 to follow her own words,
 "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).
 May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,
 Mary's most chaste spouse.
 May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
 inspire them to embrace
 all who suffer at the foot of the cross.
 May your priests be holy,
 filled with the fire of your love
 seeking nothing but your greater glory
 and the salvation of souls.
 Amen.
 Saint John Vianney, pray for us.



Explanation of the icon of Christ the Great High Priest: Iconographer Marek Czarnecki of Seraphic Restorations in Meriden, Connecticut, has graciously given the USCCB the rights to use the icon of *Christ the Great High Priest* during the *Year for Priests*.

This icon (egg tempera and gold leaf on wood panel, 28" x 22") is "based on a fifteenth century Greek prototype; here Christ is shown in Latin Rite vestments with a gold pelican over His heart, the ancient symbol of self-sacrifice. The borders contain a windig grapevine and altar prepared for the celebration of the liturgy of the Mass; in the borders are smaller icons of Melchizedek and St. Jean-Baptiste Vianney." Incidentally, it is St. John Vianney whom Pope Benedict XVI, with the announcement of this special year, has declared the Universal Patron of Priests.

Czarnecki explains: "I wrote the icon about seven years ago [for seminarians and priests] to be able to see Christ in themselves, and themselves in Christ. We often hear that the icon is called a window; in this case, it's also meant to be a mirror." The Good Shepherd reminds the priest that he is to "lay down his life for his sheep."

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Sacred Heart Rummage Sale – July 25: Don't throw away that old fishing pole! The 1st Annual Sacred Heart rummage sale is set for Saturday, July 25th from 8am until 4pm at the Reedsville Youth Park. I know your basement is just chuck full of stuff you just don't use anymore. Any and all items will be accepted (please use common sense). The two drop-off points are the parish office basement or the basement at Dr. McCusker Eye Care at 2 E Market St., Lewistown. Please feel free to contact Gordon Parker at 248-3643 (work) or 667-9714 (home) or Theresa Dybach at 667-6893 for more information. More details will follow in coming weeks.

Father Weary - Installation as pastor of Sacred Heart will occur on Sunday, June 28 at the 11am Mass by Father Frank Karwacki dean of the Shamokin-Mount Carmel deanery. Please come and greet our new Pastor. We will have a welcoming party for him at our Parish Picnic on July 19.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

21 – St. Monica Rosary Prayer / 7pm / church

22 – Parish Council / 7pm / Office

28 – Father Weary installation as Pastor /11am Mass

July

3 –Office Closed

4 – Independence Day

Octogenarian Mass & Dinner – Our second annual Mass of Thanksgiving and dinner honoring those of our parish who have devoted their lives to serving Sacred Heart of Jesus Church will be held Saturday, July 25. Mass will be at 4pm and dinner at the Lewistown Recreational Center on Montgomery Ave. will be at 5:30pm. Please call either Sister Mary at 242-0472 or Marie Bender at 242-2781 to confirm your reservation.

Needed – a Multi-disc CD changer for the parish office. If anyone has one they do not need, please call the parish office. Thank you!

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD at the farewell party for Father Bateman's. Thank you to Mike Leeper for his talents as an emcee and to all those who gave presentations, and many thanks to all who attended. Father Bateman was presented with a lap top computer and a check for \$1,628.00 (money left over after purchasing the computer) from the parish. A big thank you to all who helped finance the party and to those who helped set up and decorate.

LITURGICAL NOTES

Van Transportation to Mass: The following is the van schedule for the next several weeks:

June 28 – Russell Krug
July 5 – Mel Reed
July 12 – Dave Kaniecki

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, June 21

7:30 AM Frank Ross
11:00 AM Richard Quilter

Monday, June 22

7:00 AM Caroline Fletcher

Tuesday, June 23

7:00 AM Kathryn Shaughnessy

Wednesday, June 24 (Nativity of John the Baptist)

7:00 PM Wright & Zeigler families

Thursday, June 25

7:00 AM Patricia Potts

Friday, June 26

7:00 AM Bernie Miklos

Saturday, June 27

8:00 AM Kay Smith
4:00 PM People of the Parish

Sunday, June 28

7:30 AM Anna E. Hackenberry
11:00 AM Marjorie Kaufman

Memorialize the Sanctuary Lamp: The following dates are available: July 12, 19, 26

The Sanctuary lamp this week is in loving memory of Angelo & Kathryn Meloni

Memorialize Flowers: If you would like to memorialize flowers at the altar or ambo (podium) please call the parish office to schedule. The next available dates are: July...

The flowers on the altar this week are in loving memory of Angelo, Kathryn & John Meloni

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010: Deadline to send in registration forms is July 1! If you would like to join us on this pilgrimage, the time is NOW! Brochures are available in the pamphlet rack or you can contact Fr. Bateman directly. Join us on this wonderful pilgrimage as we visit Israel, walking the same shores, streets and towns Jesus walked during his ministry on earth. Then we complete this “once-in-a-lifetime” journey with the Passion Play in Oberammergau.



Fiat Days 2009 – Young women 15 -25 years old. Sunday, July 19 – Tuesday, July 21 at Mount St. Mary’s

College & Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland. Fiat Days is a retreat for young Catholic women who want to deepen learn more about consecrated life, to deepen their faith, and to better discern God’s call in their lives. Activities include prayer (Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary, etc.); talks from religious sisters about vocation discernment and their communities; recreation and sports; great food and discussions. For more information or to request a registration packet please contact The Office of Vocations, Diocese of Harrisburg, 657-4804 x282 or email vocations@hbgdiocese.org.

EDUCATION

Surf, Click, Zap Will Get You Nowhere: VATICAN CITY, JUNE 1, 2009 (Zenit.org).- In an age of surfing, clicking and zapping, there's a need for more reading and study, says a Vatican spokesman. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Vatican press office, underlined the motto "Ora et labora et lege" (pray, work and read) on the most recent edition of Vatican Television's "Octava Dies."

He affirmed the "perennial relevance" of St. Benedict of Norcia's message, which was highlighted by Benedict XVI during his May 24 visit to the Abbey of Monte Cassino. St. Benedict, known as the patriarch of Western monasticism, founded the abbey in 529. Father Lombardi noted that St. Benedict's message puts prayer first, as “the primacy of God and of Jesus Christ in personal and community life.”

Then, he added, the saint emphasized work, affirming that “daily toil should be humanized and spiritualized and so bring about the discovery and respect for the order of creation.” Finally, the spokesperson said, St. Benedict urged “reading, that is, culture and education.”

US Bishops Denounce Abortion Doctor Slaying: WASHINGTON, D.C., JUNE 2, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-life Activities, denounced the killing of abortion provider Doctor George Tiller.

Tiller, 67, was the owner and operator of Women's Health Care Services in Wichita, Kansas, one of three clinics in the country that provide late-term abortion after 21 weeks of pregnancy. He was shot May 31 outside his church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

“Our bishops’ conference and all its members have repeatedly and publicly denounced all forms of violence in our society, including abortion as well as the misguided resort to violence by anyone opposed to abortion,” Cardinal Rigali said. “Such killing is the opposite of everything we stand for, and everything we want our culture to stand for: respect for the life of each and every human being from its beginning to its natural end. We pray for Dr. Tiller and his family.”

Articles provided by ZENIT News Agency.

*May God Bless
All Our Fathers*

