

October 4, 2009 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Tithing Income: September 27, 2009	\$8,933.00
Tithing Income: September 28, 2008	\$9,197.50
Children's Offering:	\$ 7.00

Next weeks tithe will be for the CROP WALK

From a Pastor: "I am now a 69 year-old Christian, a Capuchin friar since 1953 and an ordained priest since 1959. In all this time, I have NEVER, NEVER experienced less generosity from the Lord than I have shown to Him on the occasion of giving a gift to Him or to one of His little ones. On the contrary, I have been more than generously repaid. Have you experienced the same thing? Can you not tell a similar story and bear a similar witness?" **Friar Francis X .Russo, OFM Cap St. John the Evangelist, Phila., PA**

Comments on Tithing from the Pews: "Only one time in the Bible does God allow us to test Him – He even challenges us to do so. That Scripture is Malachi 3:10: 'Bring the whole tithe into the warehouse that there may be food in My house, and try Me in this, says the Lord of hosts: Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven and pour down blessings upon you without measure?' I gave and God did!" A parishioner, St. Denis, Hopewell Junction, PA

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift: A few 5th graders said "I helped my sister clean her room." A 7th grader said: "I got my Gramma's groceries out of the car."

Pastor's Column

"WHAT ORDER DO YOU BELONG TO, FATHER?"

"I don't belong to an order," I say. "I'm a diocesan priest."

And they just look at me. And they say something like, "Yes, but what order do you belong to?"

And I have to repeat, "I'm not in a religious order. I'm a diocesan priest. I operate directly under a bishop." And this is a whole new revelation for someone who has lived all of his or her life in a parish run by a religious order, which happens sometimes. And it's an opportunity for me to explain the difference.

A diocesan priest, like I said, works in a diocese under a bishop. A religious order priest has joined a religious order and operates under a house superior and then a provincial (general area) superior. Examples would be Jesuits, Franciscans, Redemptorists and the list goes on and on. There are hundreds, maybe thousands, of religious orders in the Catholic Church.

What's the difference? While not entirely accurate, I like to say that diocesan priests are the general practitioners of the Church. Most commonly running parishes, we are in family practice, primary care. The religious order men are the specialists, often teachers, university professors, writers, researchers, speakers, foreign missionaries, cloistered monks, etc.

It gets blurry because sometimes religious order priests are assigned to run parishes. And yes, sometimes, diocesan priests take on those areas of expertise mentioned above. But generally – very generally – diocesan priests do parishes and religious order priests do other kinds of work. .

Another difference is that religious order priests take solemn vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Diocesan priests make promises of celibacy, of respect and obedience to the bishop but no vow of poverty. Diocesan priests are allowed checking and savings accounts; religious order priests are more restricted in those areas, because of the poverty vow.

Also, religious order priests tend to live in community, three or more together, in a friary or monastery or some kind of house, praying, eating, and working together. Diocesan priests live in a rectory, next to or near the parish church, oftentimes alone, especially with today's clergy shortage. Even when two or more diocesan priests live together, they generally don't have a "common life" as such (maybe some shared meals) and praying together is optional, not required.

What was the original form of priesthood? In my opinion, it was diocesan priesthood. Religious orders came later, starting with the 2nd and 3rd century desert hermits, then the 4th, 5th, 6th century monks and developing into the 13th century "mendicant" orders (Franciscans, Dominicans), then in to the later even more active orders (Jesuits, Salesians, etc.)

What is the evidence for our "firstness"? Titus 1:5, where St. Paul, a bishop, says to his protégé bishop Titus: "I left you in Crete, that you might amend what was defective and appoint elders (presbyters or priests) in every town as I directed you."

There you have it, from the 1st century apostolic era: A bishop appointing pastors in every town; the beginning of parish priests, the primary caregivers, on the front lines, working directly with the people. Think on that during this Year of the Priest.

PARISH NEWS & ACTIVITIES

Parish Advocacy Update: The results of the accessibility survey suggest that the Parish Advocacy Committee should place major focus on the following items: accessible and functional parking spaces closer to

the church, automatic door on the restroom, doors 36" in width, and assistive listening devices for persons with hearing difficulties.

Additional areas of focus based on the results are disability awareness training for staff and congregation; pew cuts for accessible spaces throughout the worship space; and a private, accessible area for confessions.

The committee has met with Fr Bill to discuss these suggestions. We are meeting with the Building and Grounds Committee to consider the feasibility of suggestions dealing specifically with any structural changes in the church itself. Mary Lou Sigler is in the process of arranging training sessions to be held early in 2010, and the borough will be contacted regarding the addition of accessible and functional parking spaces. We will also attempt to procure a number of assistive listening devices. Call Mary Lou Sigler with questions or comments.

Father Thoms & Father Bill will be away at the required priest continuing education workshop Sunday evening, October 11th to Friday evening October 16th. If you have an emergency and need a priest Sunday October 11th through Wednesday October 14th, please call Good Shepherd Church, Camp Hill, at 717-761-1167. Thursday October 15 to Friday, October 16, please call Our Lady of Victory Church, State College, at 814-237-7832.

Pilgrimage to the Basilica: Sign up now for trip to the Basilica in Washington, D.C. on October 24th. The cost is \$40. Send reservation check to the church office by **October 17th**. Any questions, contact Dottie Peiffer at 248-1804 or Nora Torquato at 667-6551.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus parish is sponsoring a trip to New York, Monday, November 30th. **Saturday, October 10th is the deadline to sign up.** If interested please sign the sheet in the back of the church, we will need to order tickets for those who wish to see the Christmas show.

Knights of Columbus will have a dinner October 12, 5:30pm at the Lewistown Country Club. Cost is: Members - \$50.00 Guests \$25.00
Widow of Knights members – No cost. Please call Chuck at 247-3963 or Jim at 667-2979. Please respond ASAP

Attention 4th Degree Knights Of Columbus 4th Degree Assembly Meeting Tuesday October 6th 630pm St. Johns Council Home.



Knights of Columbus – are having a Social Event on October 20 at 6pm at the Knights hall. The speaker will be the Committee of St. Joseph Academy the new

Catholic School being built in State College. All parishoners welcome.

To All Who Are Preparing to make the Consecration to Jesus through Mary you are asked to come to a meeting on October 7 at 7:30pm at the office.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 4 – CCD / 9am
- 4 – St. Monica Prayer Group / 7pm / church
- 4 – Life Chain Sunday / 1pm / Courthouse
- 6 – Bible Study / 7pm / office
- 8 – RCIA / 7pm / office

LITURGICAL NOTES

Van Transportation to Mass: The following is the van schedule

- October 11 – Dave Kaniecki
- October 18 – Russell Krug
- October 25 – Mel Reed

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday, October 4

- 7:30 AM People of the Parish
- 11:00 AM Maria Cardinale

Monday, October 5

- 7:00 AM Mid Rocco

Tuesday, October 6

- 7:00 AM Madeline Wear

Wednesday, October 7 (Our Lady of the Rosary))

- 6:30 PM Rosary for Priests
- 7:00 PM Madeline Workerger

Thursday, October 8

- 7:00 AM Intention of Fr. Vincent Druding
- 9:00 AM Paul Wright

Friday, October 9 (St. Dennis)

- 7:00 Intention of Grace Thomasshefski

Saturday, October 10(BVM)

- 8:00 AM Edward Pallo
- 4:00 PM Richard 7 Elizabeth Showers

Sunday, October 11

- 7:30 AM Anna E. Hackenberry
- 11:00 AM Deceased of the Battista family

Memorialize Sanctuary Candles: The following dates are available: October 11, 18, 25.

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: October 11, 18, 25.

COURTESY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daily Mass from St. Ann's Basilica – The Passionists from St. Ann's Basilica in Scranton, PA invite you to

watch the televised daily mass at 8:30am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on WLYH-TV CW15. Please tell your family and friends especially those who are homebound. The Mass is also available on their website: www.themass.org. The televised daily Mass is a soothing way to get in touch with God.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

. **Mark Your Calendars:** Fall into the Treasures of SHS on Thursday, October 15th. An Open House will be held from 6:30 - 8:00PM at the school. Displays, activities, treats and fun for all! Prospective families will want to join us to discover the treasure of a Catholic Education.

SHS is participating in the Giant A+ program. This is a quick and easy way for the school to earn money to help with school programs. We are asking parishioners who shop at GIANT to sign up by listing your GIANT bonus card on the sheet at the entrance of the church. Please stop and add your number and help SHS to benefit. Thanks so much for your help

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO HELP SACRED HEART PARISH AND SCHOOL FROM KISH BANK! It has recently come to our attention that Kish Bank has a Customer Loyalty Program that allows customers to accumulate points for doing business with Kish Bank which they can donate to a charitable organization in their community. Thanks to Dominic and Joyce Damicantonio who recently donated \$50.00 to Sacred Heart School through this program! For more information, contact Kate Clark at Kish Bank at 717-667-9208 or kate.clark@kishbank.com. Thanks in advance for taking advantage of this program to help our parish and school!

THE TREASURE TREE WILL BE UP OCTOBER 10TH - Starting Saturday, October 10, parishioners will be able to participate in the Treasure Tree Project, named for SHS's theme for this year: "Catholic Schools - Treasures for Life." This project will benefit the SHS Angel Fund, which provides scholarships and financial assistance to families whose children attend Sacred Heart School. This year, the need for financial assistance **has already surpassed** the funds available in the Angel Fund. Although the fund will continue to receive donations through the Tuition Dollars Program throughout the year, these donations may not be enough to make up for the current shortfall. Here's how the Treasure Tree will work:

Yellow Apples in various amounts from \$25.00 - \$500.00 represent a **one-time donation** to the Angel Fund to be made any time in the next 6 months. **Donors can place their name in the book to pledge their donation, or simply send their**

donation to the parish or school office when able.

Red Apples in various amounts from \$30.00 - \$270.00 represent **actual amounts the Angel Fund has pledged monthly to families to supplement their tuition payments.** Donors who choose these apples are pledging to make **monthly contributions over the next 8 months** to "sponsor" these families at SHS. **Donors need to place their name in the book** to pledge their donation, unless they wish to remain anonymous. They can contact Sue Parzanese at the parish office to have their donation remain confidential.

Donations to the SHS Angel Fund are accepted at any time during the year, however, if you are able, we encourage you to participate in this program. Consider using your 5% tithe to other charitable organizations to participate, if possible. Thanks for your support of SHS!



At 6 weeks old, your baby's nose, mouth, eyes and ears begin to shape. The arms and legs begin to bud out, and blood begins its first course. The tissue that gives rise to his or her lungs appears, and every part of their body continues to grow. Your baby is about the size of a lentil bean, a quarter inch long.

Your baby has been given so many things at 6 weeks, but where are his or her rights when you take them all away with an abortion?

Humans have a key right, from the moment of conception to death — A right to live. Please come and pray for those lost and those that could be saved.

Life Chain

1 to 2 p.m.

Oct. 4

**Downtown Lewistown,
Historic Courthouse.**