

IT'S TOUGH BEING A CHRISTIAN*Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Psalm 34:2-3, 16-21; Eph. 5:21-32; John 6:60-69*

"As a result of this (Jesus' teachings), many of His followers returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied Him."

It has become common practice for *fickle-minded* Catholics to abandon their faith for the most frivolous of reasons. In my twenty-one years as a priest, I have met many Catholics who claimed that they are no longer practicing Catholics because they disagree with the Church's teaching on certain social issues. Some would easily walk out of a church or stop attending it if they disagree with what the preacher says. You and I are in a society that cannot tolerate the truth. Thus, craving acceptance or recognition, some often resort to outright falsehood, *bending* the truth and/or attempting to *be politically correct* in order to impress their listeners.

After Moses' death it was incumbent on Joshua to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. With their military prowess they had invaded other nations and as nomads they had interacted with people who were pagans; and thus, they had strayed from the true God. Many times they promised fidelity to God and many times they failed. Many times they promised never to return to their evil ways and many times they went back on their promises. Joshua was exasperated, thus, he exhorted them: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve..." The fickle mindedness of the Jewish people continued on to the time of Christ, setting the stage for the encounter in today's Gospel, where they said: "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

Today's first reading and the Gospel paint a true picture of the Christian reality. It is a fact that it is not the intellectual difficulty that keeps people from becoming Christians and remaining committed to it; but it is the height of Christ's teaching and His moral demands. Surely, Jesus offers you and me words of comfort, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, healing, joy and happiness. But, on the other hand, if this is all we are willing to receive from Jesus, we are not practicing the true form of Christianity. The Christian reality stems from a relationship with God in His Son Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. It consists of a set of beliefs, practices and statutes. Make no mistake about it, the real difficulty of Christianity is twofold - it demands an act of surrender to Christ, an acceptance of Him as the final authority; and it demands a moral standard of the highest level.

The decision to follow Christ is a hard choice to make when compared to what the corporate world offers through various forms of entertainment and recreation. But the choice is yours: "Whom will you and your family serve...?" There is so much indifference towards worshipping the true God. Many have opted to leave the Church because of her adherence to the teachings of Christ on morality - the sanctity of life - the sacredness of Marriage - emphasis on attending Mass where we offer the sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist - the Ten Commandments, et cetera. For sure, life sometimes deals us painful, heart wrenching cards, which tend to take away our ideals and our enthusiasms and our dreams and our loyalties. In moments like these, Jesus inquires: "Do you also want to leave?" Master, to whom shall we go? You are the only One who can offer us the Spirit that gives life; while, the media, the politicians and the secular world can only offer us the flesh, which is of no avail. Thank you, Jesus!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS



HOLY HOUR: You and your family are cordially invited to come and spend one hour adoring Jesus Christ present in the Holy Eucharist during the Divine Mercy Holy Hour held this Saturday, September 1st, at 3 p.m.

Religious Education classes begin next week on Tuesday, September 4th.



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

If you haven't already done so, please register your child now. Classes for public school children run September through June. All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program. Please call (476-6676) for more information.



ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Giuseppe & Pantaleo Aloia by Theresa DiRodio.

OUR FAMILY MASS for the month of September will be celebrated on the **second Sunday, September 9th**, when we will have the opportunity to welcome back our parish and Religious Education families from their summer vacation. The Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. All children and their families are encouraged to attend. Mass will be followed by "Family Breakfast" at the McManus Parish Center. All are welcome.



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Rita Bolduc.

OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office listed on the cover for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.



ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY

The ladies of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, September 2nd.



ADOPTION OPPORTUNITY: Baby girls in China need homes. Infants and toddlers are available. Older parents and single women are welcome. For info call Barbara Salvesen (845 623-5277).

THE REDEMPTORIST FATHERS / BROTHERS
WRITE TO THANK YOU, OUR PARISHIONERS,
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

August 15, 2012

Dear Father Bassey,

We want to thank you most sincerely for the collection of \$1085.58 on behalf of the Redemptorist Mission Appeal in your parish. We are most grateful to you.

Please be assured that our prayers and many prayers from God's poor in the mission field are being offered on your behalf and for the charitable folks that helped in this appeal.

With every good wish and blessing and hoping to be of any helpful cooperation to you in the future, we remain,

Sincerely,
Father Daniel Francis, C.Ss.R.
Director

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



"This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church." Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and learn how important your marriage is to the Church. For more information call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wmearchny.org.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a life style.

CREMAINS: A frequent question to priests seems to be: "What do I do with the cremains of a deceased loved one?" This question often surfaces after an extended period marking the death of the deceased loved one.

The Committee on the Liturgy of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us: "The remains of cremated bodies should be entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium; they may also be buried in a common grave in a cemetery. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires."

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us when you are able.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

August 21, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$5120.45
Children's Contribution	\$46.50
Last Year's Total	\$5166.95

August 19, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$6093.55
Children's Contribution	\$48.00
This Year's Total	\$6141.55

The collection for the Feast of the Assumption totaled \$2118.05

There will be a second collection next Sunday, September 2nd, to support the upkeep of our buildings and grounds. Please be as generous as possible.

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH

Remember, "We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share." Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Mark Baum, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Mary Ann Berengur, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkovicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Carol Swetz, and Bridget O'Malley.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

The Mass Book for 2013 opened on Ash Wednesday and there are still many dates open in this year's Mass Book, as well. Consider giving a loved one or someone (living or deceased) who has a special place in your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also, you may consider offering the altar flowers, altar bread and wine, altar candles, or sanctuary lamp for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

AUGUST 26, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 25 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Tom & Ita Keane +

Sunday, August 26

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM Luis Barcelo +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Luis Angel Blanco +

Monday, August 27

Saint Monica

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Brian & Jason Shannon (living)

Tuesday, August 28

Saint Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Angelina Brusco +

Wednesday, August 29

The Passion of Saint John the Baptist

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

9:00 AM Nurys Perez +

Thursday, August 30

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Helen Sullivan +

Friday, August 31

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Louis Manzie +

Saturday, September 1

Weekday

9:00 AM Damiano, Sarafina, & Mariano Zito +

Saturday, September 1 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, September 2

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Oscar Starkenberg +

10:00 AM Richard Jacob +

11:30 AM Vincent J. Campisi +

5:00 PM Giacomo Bilancia +

