

UNCONSCIONABLE JEALOUSY FOR GOD'S SAKE!

Num. 11:25-29; Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-14; James 5: 1-6; Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48



As a teenager I once witnessed an incident that left a lasting impression on me. During one of the Sunday Masses in my home parish in Calabar, Nigeria, we were in a line processing toward the Altar to receive Communion, as is the custom. Ahead of me was a European woman, probably in her sixties. Suddenly, one of the enthusiastic church ushers (wardens, as we used to call them) approached the woman who was obviously a stranger to the community.

She asked her to step out of the line, and to return to her seat. Upon inquiry, she was told that she could not receive Communion since she did not have a headscarf on. "It is against the custom for ladies to receive Communion with uncovered hair."

I may have been young and naïve, but it did not make any sense to me then, neither does it now that the woman was prevented from receiving the precious body and blood of Jesus Christ simply because she did not dress as the locals did. I believe Jesus is surely bigger than any dress code! The first reading tells us how the Spirit of the Lord was distributed to the two men, Eldad and Medad, who prophesied even though they were not part of the original seventy elders. Joshua, Moses' aide, did not like the idea that *strangers* were endowed with the Lord's Spirit, thus, he counseled Moses: "My lord, stop them." But Moses answered, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow His spirit on them all!"

Likewise, in the gospel we hear Jesus say to His apostles: "Do not prevent him...whoever is not against us is for us." Prior to this advice, John had told Jesus how they tried to prevent someone from performing a miracle just because he was not one of the twelve. Jesus pointed out to him that it was not enough reason to prevent him just because he was not one of them, as long as what he does is done in Jesus' name and is not contrary to God's will. "Are you jealous for My sake?" Historical and present actions show that we have been "jealous for God's sake" for too long. When you come to think of the unfortunate religious wars - the Crusades - the Jihads waged in the name of God - all the hatred and senseless killings. Sadly, it seems to be an inborn instinct to mistreat and disqualify people who are different from us either from a socio-political or religious point of view. God Who has not limited His sunlight or rain only to a few, wants us never to limit or restrict the spirit of His love to our fellow human beings.

The apostles, like Joshua, were prejudiced and biased because, according to them, one had to be *like them* to be considered *special*. Jesus exhorts you and me that the most important aspect of discipleship is being able to accommodate people of various backgrounds and opinions as long as these do not contradict what God wants and does no harm to the community of believers through scandal. When we focus on a stereotype, we lose objectivity and as a result cannot clearly see the good in others. The Lord wants us to move beyond being xenophobic and stereotyping to the point where we are objective in our judgment of people who are different from us. Insofar as our religious beliefs and practice are nonviolent and promote peace and as long as our political ideologies are not in conflict with the Commandments of love of God and neighbor, they should be accommodated and encouraged. No matter what our cultural backgrounds are, we must always promote and encourage peaceful coexistence. Who are we to use religion as an excuse to hate and / or to kill?

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS

FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

God, You enabled St. Francis to imitate Christ by his poverty and humility. Walking in St. Francis' footsteps, may we follow Your Son and be bound to You by a joyful love. Amen.



This coming Thursday, October 4th, we celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, well known for his great love of animals. That day at 6 p.m., we will have a blessing of animals in our parking lot. Bring your favorite pets to be blessed.



SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, October 4th, we will be providing our Sharing Community Meal. Please bring your ziti or dessert to the Rectory. Doors will open at 6:45 a.m. The Sharing Community truly appreciates our efforts. Please keep up the good work! For information, please call the Rectory Office.

HOLY HOUR This Friday, October 5th, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, October 6th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. All are invited to spare an hour and come to adore Jesus Christ Who is truly present in the Holy Eucharist.



ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Andrew T. McCormack by Florence McCormack.

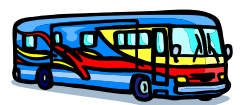
The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE** for this week is donated for the intentions of Joanne Moscarello by Gary Martin DiPaolo.

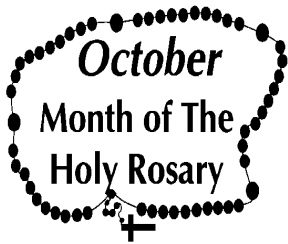


The members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, October 7th.

The Rosary Altar Society is sponsoring the following trips:

- Shopping trip to Reading, PA on Saturday, November 10th. The bus leaves at 7:30 a.m. Call Joan (476-6860) for information & reservations.
- Trip to Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show on Tuesday, December 4th. Package includes show, bus and dinner at Carmine's. Call Nancy (376-2025) for information & reservations.





Remember to invite your family and pray the Rosary with them each and every day throughout the month of October. By praying the Rosary you are requesting the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary for the protection of your family and for the faith and strength to accept any hardship you may be encountering in

life. Please make a special effort to say the Rosary with your fellow parishioners after the 9 a.m. Masses, at the First Friday and First Saturday Holy Hours, or with your family at home.



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running through June, is open. Classes are

available for children in Pre K through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of all ages for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, regardless of any lack of previous instruction. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.

OUR MONTHLY FAMILY MASS

will be celebrated **next Sunday, October 7th**. 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!



We invite everyone to join the Parish Pastoral Council in welcoming new parishioners to our community next Sunday, October 7th, at the 10 a.m. Mass and Family Breakfast after Mass. As part of its Evangelization efforts, the Council will plan additional welcoming events throughout the year with the hope that they become a parish tradition.

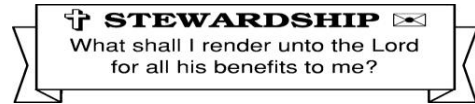
Youth Group



YOUTH GROUP: The first Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our **Youth Group** meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

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

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

September 25, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$6075.70
Children's Contribution	\$62.00
Last Year's Total	\$6137.70

September 23, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$6141.10
Children's Contribution	\$161.85
This Year's Total	\$6302.95

"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."

There will be a second collection at all the Masses next Sunday for the maintenance 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, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, 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, 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, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, 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, Bridget O'Malley, Edith D'Aquila, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., and Patricia Keane.

KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS

The Religious Education office will be sponsoring a Christmas Card Fundraiser in the Parish this year. The cards have really beautiful, religious, full color artwork; and the box of 20 assorted cards will be sold for only \$10. This fundraiser offers you the opportunity to both promote our Faith and support our Parish faith formation programs. Cards will go on sale in November.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 29 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Ragusa Family +

Sunday, September 30

8:30 AM Lenore Erb +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM Lawrence Robinson +

Monday, October 1

Saint Therese of Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of Church

7:00 AM Angelo & Ida Greco +

9:00 AM Anthony DiPaolo +

Tuesday, October 2

The Holy Guardian Angels

7:00 AM Sadie Finnegan +

9:00 AM Stephanie DeRosa & Tim Hassan (living)

Wednesday, October 3

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Rocco & Frances Campana +

Thursday, October 4

Saint Francis of Assisi

7:00 AM Rita Bolduc +

9:00 AM Frank & Carmella Gerace +

Friday, October 5

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Anne Frischman +

Saturday, October 6

Weekday

9:00 AM Joanne Moscarello (living)

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, October 6 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Deceased Members of Laudadio Family +

Sunday, October 7

8:30 AM Giulia Marchionno +

10:00 AM Dave, Peg & Sam Jacob +

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

THE YEAR OF FAITH

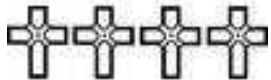


The Year of Faith is a Holy Year that the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI declared, beginning on October 11, 2012, and ending on the Feast of Christ the King, November 24, 2013. In years past, we have celebrated similar holy years, such as the *Year of the Priest*, the *Year of the Eucharist*, and the *Year of the Rosary*. This particular Holy Year is about the gift of faith, that gift by which we are enabled to believe in Jesus Christ and His Church and so receive salvation.

The Holy Father introduced the *Year of Faith* in his Apostolic Letter, *Porta Fidei*. Here he invites all the faithful to open the “door of faith” (Acts 14:27), the door which was first opened at Baptism, but which during the *Year of Faith*, we are called to open again, walk through it, and renew our relationship with Christ and His Church.

The Year of Faith is a time of grace, and we are invited to focus our attention particularly on the Word of God in the Scriptures and on the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, which is the very source of our Faith. We are also asked to deepen our knowledge of what we believe by studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the documents of Vatican II.

Our Holy Father expresses his hope that this Holy Year will “arouse in every believer the aspiration to *profess* the faith in fullness and with renewed conviction, with confidence and hope.” (*Porta Fidei*: 9)



A DAY OF PRAYER FOR PARISH LEADERS

In preparation for the start of *The Year of Faith* on October 11th, a day of prayer and reflection is being organized on Saturday, October 6th, beginning with the 9 a.m. Mass for the leaders of our Parish and its organizations - members of the Parish Council, Finance Committee, Trustees, Board Members of the various Committees and Societies in our Parish.

