

FEEDING ON GOD

Prov. 9:1-6; Ps. 34:2-7; Eph. 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

Not too long ago, I had a discussion with a parishioner who told me that for him, "The Sacrament is like a Reserve Bank, it never runs out of funds." In the past three Sundays we have been reading the Gospel of John on the "Discourse on the Bread of Life," where Jesus has been saying to us: "I am the living bread...whoever eats this bread will live forever...the bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world." Even though the practice of feeding on flesh and blood was not alien to the Jews, on hearing these words of Jesus, they complained and quarreled among themselves, saying, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know His father and mother...How can (He) give us His flesh to eat?" They could not understand why a human being would claim to be from God and how He could give them His body to eat, as if they were cannibals.

To many in our contemporary society, like some of the Jews, this is a very difficult passage to deal with: "How can one claim that Jesus is truly present in that piece of bread (Host)." The truth of the matter is that Jesus was basing His teaching on the people's religious belief. The idea of animal sacrifice was central to the Jewish faith and their neighboring nations. During the feast of sacrifice, although the whole animal was offered to the god, part of the flesh was given to the priests as their *perk*, and part to the worshippers to make a feast for themselves and their friends within the temple precincts. It was their belief that the god was present as a guest during the feast; and thus, it was believed that the god entered the flesh upon offering. Therefore, when the worshippers ate the flesh of the sacrificed animal; they were literally eating the god.

Thus, when Jesus tells us "...the bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world," He, in effect, is telling us that He is replacing the Jewish animal sacrifices with His precious body and blood. He is the true sacrificial Lamb. The "Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world!" Jesus asks us to eat His flesh and drink His blood because it is through this that we would experience His complete humanity. This means that it is in Jesus that we see God Who takes on human form, facing our human situation, struggling with our human problems, battling with our human temptations, and working out our human relationships. Just as food and drink nourish our bodies, so also the body and blood of Jesus, given mysteriously in bread and wine, nourishes and sanctifies our souls.

The Eucharist is the center of our worship! As Catholics it is our belief that the bread and wine, mysteriously transforms into the body and blood of Christ during the *consecration* at Mass. Jesus is physically present – body, soul and divinity in the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist and other sacraments, Jesus is truly present in His Church. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of the minister, but especially under the Eucharistic species. It is in the Eucharist that we encounter the real presence of Christ, where you and I touch Him – feel Him – receive Him and eat Him. Surely, the Eucharist is the "Reserve Bank" of our strength and courage to face the challenges of life - to endure and overcome the threat of separation and alienation - to be strong in the midst of adversity and to find comfort when confronted with rejection and loneliness. You must remember that "...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have (strength and) life within you."

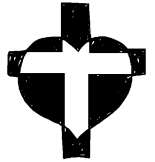
Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP



PARISH NEWS



SOCIAL MINISTRY: Our Food Pantry has an ongoing need, for cereal, pasta sauces, canned fish/meat, canned fruits, rice, jelly, juices and beverage mixes. Please keep this in mind when you see sales on your trips to the supermarket. Thank you for your continuing support!



Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is **open**. Classes are available for children in 1st grade through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children at 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 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.



Volunteers!



We are all called to serve our Parish community. Two opportunities that require very little time or effort have come up:

1. Cheryl Duda needs help spreading the word that Religious Education classes are available here. We need people to approach 1 or 2 businesses in the area to ask them to place a flyer in their window - they are usually glad to comply.
2. We need helpers this week, August 19th – 24th, to set up and price items for our Giant Tag Sale, as well as help for the actual Sale next Saturday, August 25th.

Please call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) if you can lend a hand to make these two undertakings run more smoothly.

The Archdiocesan Pro-Life Commission is working to build a network of healthcare providers in the New York City area to offer guidance, support and medical care to women and couples who have been given an adverse prenatal diagnosis. The Commission is specifically looking for the following: obstetricians, perinatologists, family physicians, pediatricians, parents who've experienced a poor prenatal diagnosis, social workers, psychologists, chaplains and nurses. If interested in serving as part of this network or would like more information, please contact Dr. Anne Nolte at the Gianna Healthcare Center on (212) 481-1219 or giannanyc@saintpetersuh.com.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Advance in the way of understanding ..." A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is great continuing education for your Marriage/Holy Orders. For more information on dates and locations go to: www.wwme.org or call (877) 697-9963.

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

PRAYER FOR TRAVELERS

God of the covenant,
You called Abram to leave Ur of the
Chaldees
And guided him to the Promised Land.
God of the Exodus,
You led Your people out of slavery in Egypt
And brought them to a land flowing with milk and honey.
God of the Exile,
You restored Your people after their captivity in Babylon
And settled them in the holy city, Jerusalem.
Watch over and protect all who travel.
Guide their steps with Your outstretched arms,
And at the end of their journey
Lead them safely home to their loved ones and friends.
Amen.



THE SERRA CLUB OF THE BRONX & WESTCHESTER

Father Martin Kowalski will be the guest speaker at the August 22nd luncheon meeting of the Serra Club of the Bronx and Westchester. Father Martin's topic will be *Evangelization and the Future of the Church in Europe*. The cost of the luncheon is \$25; and reservations are required by August 20th. Please call (718) 798-7176 for additional information and reservations.

The Serra Club is an international organization whose mission is to foster and promote vocations to the ordained priesthood and vowed religious life and through this ministry, fosters and affirms the members' common Catholic faith. Luncheon meetings are held at noon at the Eastwood Manor, 3371 Eastchester Road (corner of Eastchester & Boston Roads), Bronx.

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.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.

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 14, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$4177.35
Children's Contribution	\$91.00
Last Year's Total	\$4268.35

August 12, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5459.75
Children's Contribution	\$100.60
This Year's Total	\$5560.35

The collection for our buildings and grounds totaled \$2605.00.

"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."

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, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, 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, and Barbara Olivieri.

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 19, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions *for the*
Week

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 18 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Denis O'Flynn +

Sunday, August 19

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

5:00 PM Virgilio Brizido +

Monday, August 20

Saint Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Dolores Santamorena +

Tuesday, August 21

Saint Pius X, Pope

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Mario Proia +

Wednesday, August 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM John Bryce +

Thursday, August 23

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Dolores Santamorena +

Friday, August 24

Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Angelina Brusco +

Saturday, August 25

Weekday

9:00 AM Mary Chillo +

Saturday, August 25 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Tom & Ita Keane +

Sunday, August 26

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

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 +

AUGUST 19, 2012

**FEAST OF THE PATRON SAINT OF OUR
PARISH, BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**

AUGUST 24



In the New Testament, Bartholomew is mentioned only in the lists of the apostles. Some scholars identify him with Nathanael, a man of Cana in Galilee who was summoned to Jesus by Philip. Jesus paid him a great compliment: "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him" (John 1:47b). When Nathanael asked how Jesus knew him, Jesus said: "I saw you under the fig tree" (John 1:48b). Whatever amazing revelation this involved, it brought Nathanael to exclaim, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel" (John 1:49b). But Jesus countered with, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this" (John 1:50b).

Nathanael did see greater things. He was one of those to whom Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias after His resurrection (see John 21:1-14). They had been fishing all night without success. In the morning, they saw someone standing on the shore though no one knew it was Jesus. He told them to cast their net again, and they made so great a catch that they could not haul the net in. Then John cried out to Peter, "It is the Lord."

When they brought the boat to shore, they found a fire burning, with some fish laid on it and some bread. Jesus asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught, and invited them to come and eat their meal. John relates that although they knew it was Jesus, none of the apostles presumed to inquire who He was. This, John notes, was the third time Jesus appeared to the apostles.

COMMENT: Bartholomew or Nathanael? We are confronted again with the fact that we know almost nothing about most of the apostles. Yet the unknown ones were also foundation stones, the twelve pillars of the new Israel whose twelve tribes now encompass the whole earth. Their personalities were secondary (without thereby being demeaned) to their great office of bearing tradition from their firsthand experience, speaking in the name of Jesus, putting the Word made flesh into human words for the enlightenment of the world. Their holiness was not an introverted contemplation of their status before God.

The simple fact is that humanity is totally meaningless unless God is its total concern. Then humanity, made holy with God's own holiness, becomes the most precious creation of God.

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

We will celebrate the feast day of the patron saint of our parish at the 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. Masses. Please, endeavor to join us as we commend our parish to the kind patronage of Saint Bartholomew.

