

A CALL TO HOLINESS

(Lev. 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps. 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor. 3: 16-23; Matt. 5: 38-48)

“Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might...Hosanna in the highest” is a popular ancient liturgical song. God alone is holy, and none other. In the creation account, the Book of Genesis tells us that “God created us in His own image.” If God is holy and has created us in His own image, then it follows that He intended us to “Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy” (Leviticus 19:1). Certainly, you and I are called to holiness! What is *holiness*?

St. Thomas Aquinas defines *holiness* as that “virtue by which a man’s mind applies itself and all its acts to God.” In other words, *holiness* is the virtue by which you and I must attempt to make all our acts subservient to God. Thus, Jesus tells us that the first and the most important commandment is “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.” *Holiness*, therefore, is not an emotional display of religiosity, but a disposition of loving God by doing what He has commanded us to do – to love Him above all else and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Four weeks ago, in the *Beatitudes*, Jesus said to us: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.” God has created us in His own image, but due to the effect of Sin, we cannot be as holy as He is, but Jesus wants us to continue to strive for holiness. It is our hunger for truth and our desire for justice and fairness that will bring us to holiness. It is our love for our brothers and sisters, and our desire to keep God’s commandments that will put us on the path to *holiness*. St. Francis of Assisi was very much conscious of the fact that holiness is not attained unless we allow God to work in us and through us; hence, he said, “I have been all things unholy. If God can work through me, He can work through anyone.” In other words, God, Who is All Holy can always work through you and me if only we hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Our quest for *holiness* requires you and me to know that “you are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwells in you.” Since God created all in His image, His Spirit, therefore, dwells in everyone. Therefore, you and I must treat our bodies and indeed, every life, as sacred, because, “If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are is holy.” The call to holiness requires you and me not to “bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart.” It is our responsibility to offer mutual correction to a brother or a sister who has gone astray, but this we must do with love. The call to holiness exhorts us to “Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people.” In addition, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Thus, in the gospel Jesus says to you and me, “Offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other one as well.”

What you and I ought to know is that *holiness* is what gives purity, beauty, meaning and dignity to our lives. It is in holiness that we find part of the mystery of God. This mystery of God is made visible in Christ Who teaches us the true meaning of love by going out of His way to mingle and to eat with those that society regarded as sinners – tax collectors, prostitutes and pagans. In the same vein, He exhorts you and me to demonstrate our holiness by loving our enemies and praying for those who persecute us.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

PARISH NEWS

President’s Day: This Monday, February 21st, is Presidents’ Day, a legal holiday. The Rectory Office will be closed and there will be only one Mass at 9 a.m.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will meet this Monday, February 21st, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

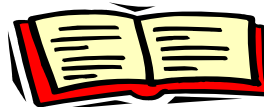


CHILDREN’S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children’s Mass next Sunday, February 27th. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children’s Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

Our next **Family Faith Festival** for parents and their children will be held on **Saturday, March 5th, from 12 – 2:30 p.m.** Families with children in grades 1 through 8 are invited, regardless of what school they attend. **Reservations must be made by Tuesday, February 22nd,** by calling the Religious Education Office at 476-6676.



Bible Study



Join Father Anthony and your fellow parishioners in discovering more about the Bible this Friday and every Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the School. Bring a friend! Come and have fun exploring both the Old and New Testaments.

The ALTAR CANDLES for this week will be lit in loving memory of Antonio Vitullo and Carmela D’Intino.



OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or has 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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES: STRENGTHENING FAMILIES & RESOLVING CRISIS: Each year more than 3,000 families are helped to stay together through services that prevent children from being placed in foster care; 4,000 families are given financial assistance in a crisis and 26,000 helped with social services and counseling - all by the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of NY. To learn more visit www.catholiccharitiesny.org.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2011 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

As stewards and Disciples of Christ, we recognize that all the goods and riches in our life are gifts from God. Strengthened by the Eucharist, we respond to God's generosity in our lives with gratitude by using and sharing our gifts in service of others. Please share your gifts and make a gift to the *2011 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal*.



"He redeems your life from destruction". There is so much in modern life to erode the love in marriage/holy orders. Come away and renew your sacrament. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is February 25 – 27. For more information, call (877) 697-9963, ext. 3.

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.

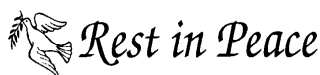
Couples celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime during 2011 are invited to attend the **Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass** with Archbishop Dolan at St. Patrick Cathedral, **Sunday, May 22nd**, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Rectory Office for more information. The deadline for registrations for the Mass is Thursday, May 5th. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.



Our Lady of Fatima School, 963 Scarsdale Road, Scarsdale would like to offer an invitation to St. Bartholomew's families and students to come and visit their school. They offer **grades Pre-K3 through 8**. Their curriculum includes Religion and all major academic subjects, as well as instruction in

Art, Music, Physical Education, Spanish and Technology. SMART Board technology is available to all grades. Private tours are available. They will make every effort to accommodate your schedule. Please call Mrs. Angela Marranzino, Director of Development, at (914) 723-0460 to make an appointment.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Frank Umbrino, Martha Cianfaglione and Michael Albanese.



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

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 PM. Please join us for this most efficacious prayer.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 PM. 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.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was **\$6620.00**.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was **\$5251.35**.

We thank everyone for their generosity to St. Bartholomew's Church. May God bless and reward all your sacrifices for the Parish!



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Alejandra Santander, Amadeu Amorim, Gloria Flanagan, Grace Raguso, Andy DeFabritis, Maryann Tolli, Maria Marte, Julieann Moroch, Ed Carpenter, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Dolores Santamarena, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Francis Farrell, Mark Baum, Christine Bellino, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Mildred Moscarello, Edith Dugan, John & Gary Roth, Lena Castaldo, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Frank Marra, Josephine Somma, Carmela Massaroni, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Ann Ceriale, and Dan Seratto.

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD

Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week 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.

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR MARYKNOLL SISTERS GLOBAL MISSION OUTREACH

Music for the World, featuring the Hudson Valley Symphonic Wind Ensemble with James D. Wayne conducting will take place on Sunday, March 6th, at 3 p.m. at the Maryknoll Sisters Center, 10 Pinebridge Road, Ossining. Tickets are \$25 in advance or at the door. For information or directions call (866) 662-9900, or visit www.maryknollsisters.org/concert11, or e-mail maryknoll@mksisters.org.

CATHOLIC SINGLES: The New York Catholic Alumni Club offers a varied program of social, spiritual, cultural, sports and community service activities to single Catholics (no age restrictions). To receive a free copy of our March newsletter and a brochure about the club, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: NYCAC c/o Voekel, 327 East 238th Street, Bronx, NY 10470.

Road to Jerusalem - Lenten Scripture Sharing

Wednesdays during Lent, beginning March 9th
10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. or 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Franciscan Retreat Center, 49 Jackson Ave, Hastings-on-Hudson
There is a \$25 fee, which includes a booklet. Please let Sister Pat or Sister Judy know if you plan to attend (914 478-3696).

FEBRUARY 20, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, February 19 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, February 20

8:30 AM Leonore Erb +

10:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

11:30 AM Caroline Longobardi +

5:00 PM Angelina Merola +

Monday, February 21

Weekday - Presidents' Day

9:00 AM No Intention

Tuesday, February 22

The Chair of Saint Peter, apostle

7:00 AM Bernard Finnegan (living)

9:00 AM No Intention

Wednesday, February 23

Saint Polycarp, bishop & martyr

7:00 AM Deceased members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Nancy & John Gaffney +

Thursday, February 24

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Michael Dwyer +

Friday, February 25

Weekday

7:00 AM Katie Monaghan (living)

9:00 AM Rose O'Brien +

Saturday, February 26

Weekday

9:00 AM Msgr. Joseph F. Tracy +

Saturday, February 26 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Charles Sullivan +

Sunday, February 27

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Michael Castognozzi & Mary Ann Karpinski +

10:00 AM Charles & Stefana Barba +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Fred Gentile +

**PREPARE
DON'T QUIT - DON'T GIVE UP!**

Here is a man with his milestones and his age:

Failed in business at	22
Ran for Legislature – defeated at	23
Again, failed in business at	24
Elected to Legislature at	25
Sweetheart died at	26
Had a nervous breakdown at	27
Defeated for Speaker at	29
Defeated for Elector at	31
Defeated for Congress at	34
Elected for Congress at	37
Defeated for Congress at	39
Defeated for Senate at	46
Defeated for Vice President at	47
Defeated for Senate at	49
Elected President of the United States at	51

This is the record of a man who could not give up or quit! He
PERSERVED! His name was **ABRAHAM LINCOLN**.

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PRAYER FOR THE PRESIDENT

Sovereign God,
You govern the nations with justice
And judge with equity the people of the world.
Your rule extends over all creation
And the peoples of the world You guide.
Hear our prayer for the president of our land.
Give him Your wisdom that he may judge rightly.
Give him Your strength that he may rule well.
Give him Your compassion
That he may care for the citizens equally
And protect the least among us
Who look for solace and comfort in their need.
Help him in time of crisis
That he may be steadfast and resolute.
Guide him always in accordance with Your will.
Amen.

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OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten
Commandments with her five- and six-year-olds. After
explaining the commandment to honor thy father and thy
mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us
how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family)
answered, "Thou shall not kill."