

THE MOTIVATION TO BE!

Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; Ps. 103: 1-2, 11-12, 19-20; 1 John 4: 11-16; John 17: 11-19

The total number of Christians worldwide is estimated at 2.1 billion (about one-third of the world's population). It is incredible to see that a group that started with twelve rustic and uneducated men has grown so fast in just a span of 2000 years. Though this "Union" may have been marred by human weaknesses and human deficiencies, one may wonder how it is possible that Christians are still together after more than 2000 years. "What motivates Christians to come together and stay together – What motivates you and me to bond together as Christians – What motivates us to come to Mass and to pray as a community?"

The answer to these questions is found in today's scripture readings. The first reading tells us of the early Church that gathered together under the leadership of Peter. The disciples were bonded together in love. As a community of believers they had an important task at hand – to choose someone who could take the place of Judas and "be a witness to the resurrection." They prayed for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for them to fulfill this task faithfully. It was through their love for God and for His Church, that the early disciples were able to deal with one of the most challenging tasks of choosing someone to replace Judas ("the son of destruction" who betrayed Jesus). It was their love for each other that made them listen to Peter and follow his guidance as head of the Church. St. John reminds us that, "No one (including you and me – Christians) has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us." God, who poured His Spirit into Peter and the other disciples, is always willing to pour His Spirit upon you and me so that we might always remain faithful to his Church and thereby, be committed to loving one another.

Thus, in His "Priestly Prayer," Jesus prays, "Holy Father, keep them in your name...so that they be one just as we are one." Because of Jesus' prayer, God's Spirit has always been present in His Church – for He says: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there with them." Jesus' presence has always been the knot that binds the Christians together and motivates them to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." The strength of every community is found in their ability to unite and bond together. Christ has promised to always be present in such a community.

The communal aspect of our Christian life is very important if we are to succeed in the task of spreading Christ's gospel under the difficult circumstances we face today. When we lovingly carry out our different ministries in the Church, we are doing so in service of God whom we have never seen. "Yet if we love one another (in the services we render and the sacrifices we make), God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us." You and I, like many others, are in the world – confronted with many challenges, real and/or perceived – often tempted to deviate from the truth of the gospel – confronted with doubts and uncertainties about our faith. We are truly in the world, but we "do not belong to the world." Jesus is concerned that we, His followers, will come to experience deep joy despite the challenges we face, thus, He says, "...I protected them...guarded them...in the world so that they may share my joy completely." This is where you and I get our motivation – our mutual love paves the way to complete joy and lasting happiness!

Rev. Anthony Ito Rascow, MCD

PARISH NEWS

1ST ANNUAL PARISH RAFFLE



Have you returned your Raffle stubs for our first Annual Parish Raffle? The winning tickets for our latest fundraising effort will be drawn at this year's Parish Picnic. Three lucky participants will take home cash prizes of **\$2,000, \$1,000, or \$500** - just in time to kick off summer!

Raffle Books and donations can be placed in an envelope marked **Raffle** and deposited in the Sunday Collection basket, dropped off, or mailed to the Rectory Office. For the Month of May, leading up to our **June 10th Parish Picnic**, you will be able to turn in your Raffle Tickets and donations or purchase additional Raffle Tickets after each Sunday Mass, as well as at the Rectory Office. **Please make all checks payable to St. Bartholomew's Church.** Raffle Tickets are \$2 each or a book of six tickets costs \$10.

Please help make this fundraising effort a success. Good luck and God bless!



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Monday, May 21st, at 7:00 p.m. in the school building. 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. 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 together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.



ALTAR FLOWERS for this week have been donated in loving memory of Gabriel Naoia by Louis & Angela Brusco



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for the week have been donated in loving memory of Gabriel Naoia by Louis & Angela Brusco.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? Please help spread the word that we have a program tailored to these adults. This is an ideal time to inquire about our program. Call Cheryl Duda at 476-6676.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM OUR "FIRE VICTIMS"



Dear Father Anthony, fellow parishioners and friends of the parish:

We cannot thank you enough for your generosity. Please accept our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for all of your prayers, donations, kind words and support.

This has been a difficult and trying time for us. Your support has made a world of difference. Your gracious giving has allowed us to start anew where we can begin to heal and rebuild. Out of such darkness, came much light.

May God bless each and every one of you, and may He return your kindness and generosity tenfold.

We cannot thank you enough!

With much love,

Mildred, Steven, Justin and Angelica

The Annual Parish Picnic sponsored by the Holy Name Society is scheduled for Sunday, June 10th, at St. Joseph's Seminary from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Please plan on attending this great family day.



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another."
Deepen your love for your spouse on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter, August 10-12. 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 and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.



CONGRATULATIONS to Richard Buoninfante and Carla Ceriale who were married on Saturday, May 5th, at St Ann's Church. May they live happily ever after!

Catholic Charities: Welcoming & Integrating Immigrants and Refugees: Are you confused about new immigration policies? The New York Immigration Hotline can provide help, guidance and support in 18 different languages. Call (212) 419-3737 or (800) 566-7636 or visit www.catholiccharitiesny.org.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Frances Swetz.



✠ **STEWARDSHIP** ✠
What shall I render unto the Lord
for all his benefits to me?

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving

May 15, 2011

Adults' Contribution	\$4351.20
Children's Contribution	\$178.90
Last Year's Total	\$4530.10

May 13, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5382.35
Children's Contribution	\$111.90
This Year's Total	\$5514.25

"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, Dolores Santamarena, 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, Angelina Brusco, Mary Romanchik, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkiewicz, Rose Botcheller, Silvia Georgi, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Paul Bolduc, Amelia Gagliardi, Louis Brusco and Josephine Daniele.

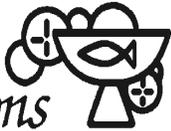
CREMAINS: A frequent question to priests seems to be: "What do I do with the cremains of a deceased loved one?" This question often surfaces after an extended period marking the death of the deceased loved one.

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 practices 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 AM 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.

MAY 20, 2012

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 19 (Anticipated Mass)

Easter Weekday

5:00 PM Lucille Pragana +

Sunday, May 20

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Charles & Mary Barba and Son +

11:30 AM Parishioners (Thanksgiving by Mr. Ben Obasa)

5:00 PM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, May 21

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for the Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Raffaele Falcone +

Tuesday, May 22

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Joseph Marucci Beck +

9:00 AM Gabriel Nanoia +

Wednesday, May 23

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Tina Sciveresi +

Thursday, May 24

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Jose Miguel Gonzalez +

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Friday, May 25

Easter Weekday

7:00 AM Gloria Stefano

9:00 AM Timothy O'Sullivan +

Saturday, May 26

Saint Philip Neri, Priest

9:00 AM Giacomo Bilancia +

Saturday, May 26 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Sharon Siravakian +

Sunday, May 27

Pentecost Sunday

8:30 AM Deceased Members of Magzag Family +

10:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary

11:30 AM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

MAY 20, 2012

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH
FAMILY!**

**We
Love
To
Serve
You!**



Our warmest welcome to all our visitors and parishioners! We are glad you came to celebrate the Eucharist with us today. We thank God for you! Do not hesitate to let us know how we may serve you.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form, check (X) the appropriate box below, and drop the completed form into the collection basket or drop off/mail it to the Rectory. Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Comment: _____

- I am a visitor.
- I am interested in parish membership.
- Change of Address / Telephone Number.
- I am moving out of the Parish.
- I am going to the hospital.
- I would like to be visited by a priest / minister.
- Please send me the *Catholic New York*.
- I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

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(Today is World Communication Day)

The Blessing of Communication

We are blessed with the words of wisdom
We all have gifts to share
Stories to tell

Let us all learn from each other
To exchange words of wisdom

To share the positive things that we learned from our past
Therefore, others will not fall into the traps laid on the paths
below us

The ability to communicate is a wonderful gift
One does not have to communicate through their mouth
But through their actions

We are all touched in a positive way through the ability to
communicate

MAY 20, 2012

Spiritually, verbally or through the actions of one's ability to communicate.

By Stacey Chillemi

