

INNER ATTITUDE OF HUMILITY!

(Zeph. 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps. 146:6-10; 1Cor. 1:26-31; Matt. 5:1-12a)

Many nations, in times of poverty or of moderate means of living, have existed as godly (or Christian) nations. Unfortunately, after drinking from the *chalice of capitalism* and becoming wealthy, they turned away from God and became disinterested in religion and instead pursued their godless ways. Some individuals who served God devotedly in their moments of want and desperation have, unfortunately, turned away from Him in their riches and comfort. A woman once shared with me the painful experience she had and why she had to divorce her husband of ten years: "When we first met, he was the sweetest person you would ever want to be with. He was very loving and cooperative. But he was uneducated, poor and humble." On the other hand, she was very educated and wealthy. "I put him through school, but sadly, a few years after we got married, he won a lottery and became super-rich." His attitude changed. He became proud, selfish, and was rude to her. She added, "He started playing pranks and became greedy." With some bitterness in her tone, she cautioned, "Father, don't trust the humility of a poor person, because when they get rich they become proud, mean and selfish. True humility comes from the one who is rich but humble."

On this fourth Sunday, the Lord Jesus teaches us about humility in His *Great Sermon* through the *Beatitudes*. In the Gospel of Matthew, this *Great Sermon* is known as "The Sermon on the Mount", while Luke on the other hand calls it "Sermon on the Plains." Matthew is a devoted Jew from the priestly clan (a Levi), hence his reason for choosing this location is that he understands the teaching of the "Sermon on the Mount" as the 'New Law', corresponding to the 'Old Law' given by the Lord God to Moses on Mount Sinai. For Matthew, Jesus is the second Moses, the giver of the 'New Law.'

For us who read or listen to the *Beatitudes* today, it may seem very discordant as they did to the apostles who listened to them many years ago. You may wonder how the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart and even the persecuted could consider themselves happy. One would naturally recoil from such a description. This is precisely why Jesus is presenting the *Beatitudes* to us because he wants to give us a road map to help find not just the emotional happiness, but the blessing and grace of God in our lives. He wants us to find true joy, real fulfillment and contentment even in our poverty (or riches), hence, He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit..."

Accordingly, true humility, is not an emotion of pretence, but an attitude of love and compassion. It is a virtue! Christian "meekness" or humility is the strength that comes from *nonviolent commitment* to a just cause – accepting the "daily persecutions" for the sake of "the Kingdom of God." As priests, parents, teachers and leaders of the community, Prophet Zephaniah exhorts us to "seek justice and humility" in our resolve to "pasture and couch the flocks" the Lord has entrusted to our care. In today's second reading, St Paul exhorts you and me to be conscious of the fact that our Christian calling is "a call to humility, holiness and self-sacrifice." Above all, it is a call to service! We are not called to brag how rich or how powerful we are, nor are we called to boast of our position or intelligence and achievements. Instead, if you and I must boast, "We should boast in the Lord". *Boasting in the Lord* entails the realization that all we are and have are gifts from the Lord. *Poverty of spirit* is, in fact, an inner attitude of humility!

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

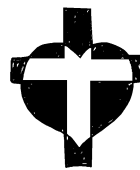
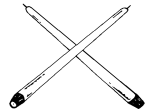
PARISH NEWS



FEAST OF PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

This Wednesday, February 2nd, is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. There will be a candle procession at the beginning of the 9 a.m. Mass. Please bring your candles from home to be blessed.

ST. BLAISE'S FEAST DAY: This Thursday, February 3rd, is the feast day of St. Blaise. We will have the **Blessing of Throats** only during the 7 a.m. & 9 a.m. Masses.



SHARING COMMUNITY MEAL: This Thursday, February 3rd, 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, February 4th, is First Friday. We will have our monthly Holy Hour at 1 p.m. On Saturday, February 5th, the Divine Mercy Holy Hour will begin at 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate in these wonderful devotions.



THE ALTAR BREAD AND WINE for this week has been donated in loving memory of Carmine Nicholas Maccia by Margaret Maccia.

The SANCTUARY LAMP and ALTAR CANDLES for this week will be lit in gratitude for the parishioners' support of the school.



OUR FAMILY MASS: Next Sunday, February 6th, we will celebrate our Family Mass 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.

The members of the Rosary Altar Society will attend the 8:30 a.m. Mass next Sunday, February 6th.



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Ida Iacomini.

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

2011 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

This week marks the beginning of the 2011 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal in our parish. You will be receiving a letter from Archbishop Dolan asking for your support of the vital ministries, programs, and services provided through the *Appeal* each year. When you receive your letter, please fill out your pledge card and send it in. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



“Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth”. In all humility seek the Lord with your spouse and you will find shelter. 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.

**WORLD MARRIAGE DAY IS FEBRUARY 13TH
LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE SEARCH**

The search for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York has begun. To enter, the couple must be Sacramentally married for a minimum of 65 years and reside in the Archdiocese of New York. The longest married couple will be honored on Sunday, February 13th, in St. Patrick’s Cathedral at the 10:15 a.m. Mass with reception to follow. For further information please call the Rectory Office at 914-965-0566.

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.

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

On February 2nd, the Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. In 1997, Pope John Paul II declared that this feast be observed as a celebration of consecrated life. When February 2nd, does not fall on a Sunday, the following Sunday would be *World Day for Consecrated Life*. Next Sunday we will observe this day with a special emphasis on the call to consecrated life in today’s world. We encourage all to pray for an increase in vocations to the consecrated life of men and women.

Bible Study



PARISH 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.

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 **\$6550.00**.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was **\$4432.25**.
- The Collection for Snow Removal totaled **\$2785.8 0**.

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

PARISH SCHOOL SUPPORT: Next Sunday, February 6th, we will take up a second collection in support of our Parish School. Please, endeavor to donate generously.



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, Rose O’Brien, Mary DeStefano, Carmella DelBene, Frank Umbrino, and Ann Ceriale.

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.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE is offering a healing weekend from March 25-27, at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon, NY. This invitation is open to men and women of all ages and faiths who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death, divorce, or separation. It is a time to heal and a time to begin anew. Reservations are required. For information or registration please call Ida on 845 235-5800 or Linda on 845 551-9035 or e-mail ny.hudson.valley@beginningexperience.org.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Providing Help, Creating Hope

New Yorkers in need - Catholic & non-Catholic alike - are helped by Catholic Charities in Manhattan, Bronx, Staten Island, and throughout Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster & Sullivan counties. For more than 90 years, Catholic Charities has provided comprehensive social services for families facing homelessness or job loss, hungry & lonely seniors, neglected children, physically or emotionally challenged & frightened newcomers. Learn more: www.catholiccharities.org.

JANUARY 30, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Monday, January 31

Saint John Bosco, priest

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM No Intention

Tuesday, February 1

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Theresa Bilotta +

Wednesday, February 2

The Presentation of the Lord

7:00 AM Henry Kassik +

9:00 AM Veronica Marchionno +

Thursday, February 3

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

Friday, February 4

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM No Intention

Saturday, February 5

Saint Agatha, virgin & martyr

9:00 AM Pedro Moran +

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

5:00 PM Laudadio Family

Sunday, February 6

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Paul Laspina +

5:00 PM Vincent DiBattista +

