

BE SALT AND LIGHT TO THE WORLD!*(Isaiah 58: 7-10; Psalm 112: 4-9; 1 Cor. 2: 1-5; Matt. 5: 5-6)*

The Romans have a saying in Latin, *Nil utilius sole et sale*, which when translated, means, "There is nothing more useful than sun and salt." For the Greeks, *salt* is called *theion*, which means *divine*. You and I know and appreciate the usefulness of salt. We use it as preservative, and to season our food. Without salt, our food might be very unpalatable and tasteless. Although, for health reasons, some people may be advised to use less salt or none at all, the proper functioning of our nervous system depends largely on sodium – salt. Here in the United States and other parts of the Western world, *salt* is used for the purpose of melting ice. In Jesus' time, apart from the fact that because of its *whiteness*, *salt* was connected with *purity*; it was the commonest of all preservatives; and most importantly, it lends flavor to things. Thus, in today's Gospel, Jesus says: "You are the salt of the earth."

As Christians, you and I have the mandate to be the "salt of the earth." This we must do, by safeguarding the *purity* of the life that the grace of our baptism imposes on us. As the "salt of the earth," you and I must be the yeast that helps *preserve* not just our faith but also that of the people entrusted to our care as parents, teachers, catechists; religious and civil leaders. Most importantly, our lives, as Christians, must *lend flavor* to people who need our help and support. In a more practical way, the Lord exhorts us to "Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own." It is by our ability to forgive – readiness to help – eagerness to love – willingness to show compassion, that you and I can honestly show that Christianity is to life what salt is to food. Our selfless love in action will enable the world to know that Christianity is a religion that lends flavor to life.

In the *Beatitudes*, Jesus, the Master, teaches us that Christianity is a religion with value. It is a religion that does not just speak, but also acts. Thus, Apostle Paul writing to the Corinthians says, "When I came to you, brothers and sisters, proclaiming the mystery of God, I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom." The Gospel that we preach and the message that we hear, is not just mere words, but it is an embodiment of God's wisdom and knowledge: "I came to you in weakness, fear and much trembling...so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God." It is when our faith rests only on the *power of God* that it would be possible for you and me to "remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech." Our light must shine!

A Christian who does not possess the power of God and the generosity of spirit is like salt that "loses its taste. It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." Our Christian calling demands that you and I be relevant to all people by our lives of service and benevolence of heart. Since you and I are "the light of the world," our light of generosity must shine out to those in material, emotional or spiritual need – we must be a reflection of Christ's love to all peoples. The life you and I lead would either attract people to God or would dispel them from Him. Hence, Jesus says, "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." My dear brothers and sisters, indeed, Jesus wants you to know that if you truly become the "salt and light" to the world whenever you pray, "the Lord will answer." Whenever you "cry for help...He will say: Here I am!"

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP


PARISH NEWS


The **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY** meeting will be held this Monday, February 7th, at 7:30 p.m. in the McManus Parish Center. All women of the Parish are invited.



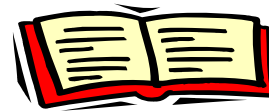
CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday and the rest of the Sundays in February. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit with other children at a designated place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

OUR 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.



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.

**SAINT MEDARD
PATRON AGAINST BAD WEATHER**

Legend says that when he was a child, Medard was once sheltered from the rain by a hovering eagle. This is his most common depiction in art, and led to his patronage of good weather, against bad weather, for people who work the fields, etc.

Jesus My Lord, Saint Medard served as a bishop during very difficult times, and his long life of spiritual leadership created a tremendous impression on the people. Because of his patronage against bad weather, I ask him to intercede for me during the storms of my life as well as the storms in nature. Protect me and my home. And Lord, help the victims of hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. Send in more helpers and multiply the supplies that are needed for their aid. You calmed the storm on the Sea of Galilee; deliver us from the storms that are raging around us now. Saint Medard, pray for us. Amen.

From *Daily Prayers with the Saints for the New Millennium* by Terry Modica

My father always used to say, "Don't raise your voice. Improve your argument." Good sense does not always lie with the loudest shouters, nor can we say that a large, unruly crowd is always the best arbiter of what is right. ~ Most Reverend Desmond Tutu, Former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

Today we rejoice and celebrate *World Day for Consecrated Life*. Over the years, many men and women have chosen to live out their baptismal vocation by professing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They do this by joining a religious congregation, a secular institute, or through private vows. We pray for these people and ask God to bless our Church with others who will dedicate their lives to God's service.



"*You are the salt of the earth.*" Has your marriage lost its taste? Learn how to season it. 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.

2011 ARCHDIOCESAN STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

\$6,500,000 of the funds raised through the Appeal help needy schools and parishes throughout the Archdiocese. While continuing the great tradition of educating our youth and providing spiritual refuge and enlightenment, many of our parishes and schools need assistance to meet their day to day requirements. Invest in your faith and parish community and make your gift to the *2011 Archdiocesan Stewardship Appeal*.

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.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

- The **budgeted** Collection for last Sunday was \$6620.00.
- The **actual** Collection for last Sunday was \$5084.00.

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, 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.


RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.

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. It is endorsed by the Archdiocese Office of Family and Youth and 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.

FEBRUARY 6, 2011

Mass  *for the*
Intentions *Week*

Monday, February 7

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Marianna Aloia +

Tuesday, February 8

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM No Intention

Wednesday, February 9

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Rosaria Gallicchio +

Thursday, February 10

Saint Scholastica, virgin

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM No Intention

Friday, February 11

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Stanley Radzevila +

Saturday, February 12

Weekday

9:00 AM Joseph Martin +

Anticipated Mass for Sunday

5:00 PM Vito Traversa +

Sunday, February 13

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 AM Magzag Families

10:00 AM For All the People of our Parish

11:30 AM Sister Maria Cira +

5:00 PM Felix Vazquez & Jose Romero +

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH FAMILY!

**We
Love
To
Serve
You!**



Our warmest welcome to our visitors! 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.

Every family and single adult to be considered active parishioner of St. Bartholomew's Parish must be properly registered in the Parish, receiving and regularly using the Parish Weekly Collection Envelopes. Only in this way can the Pastor issue documents attesting to Catholic practice of the faith and Parish membership, e.g. a letter to be a Godparent or Sponsor. For further information call the Parish Office at 914-965-0566.

If you have not registered or need to correct some of the information in our file, please fill out this form and check (X) the appropriate box below, or (you may also use the complete Registration Form found on the table at the rear of the Church); 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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OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

One day, a little girl is sitting and watching her mother do the dishes at the kitchen sink. She suddenly notices that her mother has several strands of white hair sticking out in contrast on her brunette head. She looks at her mother and inquisitively asks, "Why are some of your hairs white, Mom?"

Her mother replied, "Well, every time that you do something wrong and make me cry or unhappy, one of my hairs turn white."

The little girl thought about this revelation for a while, and then said, "So, Momma, how come ALL of grandma's hairs are white?"