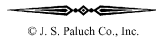


From the Pastor



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Dear Parishioners,

My vacation in Rome was exciting and enjoyable. I stayed in the *Domus Sanatae Marthae* within the Vatican. This is the residence that housed the cardinals during the election of Pope Benedict XVI. As coincidence would have it, my room (#108) happened to be the room that Cardinal McCarrick was assigned during the election. McCarrick is the Cardinal Archbishop of Washington and our former Archbishop of Newark. Many of you may recall that I served as Cardinal McCarrick's Secretary for Development before being assigned as your pastor.

My former boss was in Rome while I was there, except he was working and I was vacationing. Cardinal McCarrick was most gracious and extended several invitations that made my trip memorable. For instance, I accompanied the Cardinal to a Vesper Prayer Service at St. John Lateran Basilica on June 28th. This was the inaugural celebration to initiate the sainthood canonization process for Pope John Paul II. Thanks to the Cardinal I had a very good seat for this historical church event.

I also attended a Papal Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. All the new Archbishops from around the world received their palliums from the Holy Father during this Mass. A pallium is a special liturgical vestment overlay made of white and black lamb's wool and it signifies the *Office* of Archbishop. Thirty-three Archbishops received palliums that day and four were from our country: Archbishop Gregory of Atlanta, Archbishop Gomez of San Antonio, Archbishop Fiorenza of Houston, and Archbishop Naumann of Kansas City.

My contact with Cardinal McCarrick while on vacation also led me to a 4th of July reception at the U.S. Embassy in Rome, to being a dinner guest of His Excellency, George Poulides – Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus to the Holy See, and dinner with Archbishop DeLucca – Former Head of Protocol for the Vatican and Nuncio to Morocco. Before departing for vacation my intention was to pray and eat my way through Rome. Little did I know where my quest would take me.

Most rewarding for me was learning more about our patroness – Saint Agnes. St. Agnes and St. Lawrence are considered two of the most popular early Christian martyrs – an innocent girl and a humble deacon. From the time of their deaths to today, these saints hold a special place in the hearts of all Romans and are heroes in the sainthood hall of fame.

Our patron saint was executed because she committed herself to Christ in a time when it was against the law to do so. She refused the hand of numerous noblemen who were intoxicated by her beauty. When threatened by executioners to change her mind, St. Agnes courageously stood her ground and accepted death over breaking her vow to Christ. The persecution of this chaste girl radically affected the early community of believers and inspired countless others to stand up and die for their religious freedom and convictions.

Father Bart Smith, Secretary to Cardinal Baum - Vatican Official, shared with me the significance of martyrdom in early church history. An evil consequence that should have frightened believers and squashed Christianity had just the opposite effect. Converts to Christianity would rather die than abandon their faith in the Resurrected Christ. That is why the square in front of St. Peter's Basilica is adorned with stone-carved statues of martyrs. Every statue on top of the colonnade surrounding the square is of a saint who poured forth their blood for Christ. The rows of columns along each side of the Basilica are like two outstretched arms welcoming everybody into the church Christ built upon the rock of Peter. In our house of worship, martyrs in stained glass art form surround us, with St. Agnes in a prominent place of honor. May the courage of these holy men and women inspire us to be better Catholics, who are capable of making personal sacrifices for the good of Christ's Church.

(Continued on next page)

As promised, I did pray for you in the church of St. Agnes in Agony and at the Basilica of St. Agnes. Although they are ancient places of worship, I could not help and notice commonalities with our renovation plans, like:

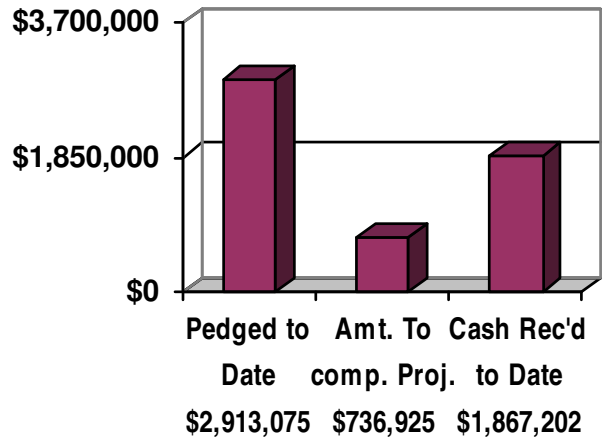
- The majestic beauty of marble. I am grateful to our donors who made it possible for us to build a sanctuary floor, altar, pulpit and baptismal font in Italian marble.
- The Church of St. Agnes in Agony, built over the place where our patroness was martyred, is in the form of a Greek cross. Our newly renovated church will be cruciform in shape also. However, it will be a little lopsided until we complete phase II and expand into the gym.
- In the Basilica of St. Agnes, built over the spot of the Saint's burial crypt, there is a special Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the church. We too will be creating a special reverence area for the Blessed Sacrament.
- In the Basilica there is a beautiful fresco of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs. We have a stained glass window of the Blessed Mother under the same title.
- Similar to our Holy Spirit stained glass window, the Basilica uses a dove to signify the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- When attending Mass at the Basilica, I discovered that parishioners in Rome also forget to shut off cell phones in church – ha!

There is so much to share, but for now let me end by saying that it is good to be back home. Saint Agnes pray for us.

Fr. Jim
Pastor



■ Campaign Progress - Phase I



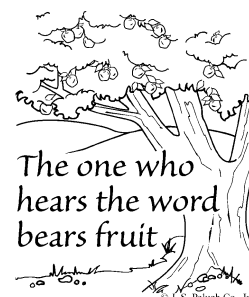
Total Cost of Project: \$3,700,000

Memorial incentives. Anyone who donates \$3,000 or more will be entitled to one memorial listing, in a decorative display, to be displayed in a public location, at a future date.

The following memorials are available for substantial donations (other larger memorial naming rights have already been secured):

- Church Organ \$100,000
- Tabernacle & Marble Base 50,000
- School Classroom 50,000
- Parish Multi-Purpose Room 100,000
- Parish Conference Room 75,000
- Parish Meeting Room 50,000

If you are interested in a memorial or would like further information, please contact the Rectory at (732) 388-7852.



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STEWARDSHIP CLASSIFIED

We are in need of volunteers to make rosary beads to be given to our homebound parishioners, local hospitals and nursing homes and to be sent overseas to our troops. If anyone is interested, please call the Rectory at (732) 388-7852. Training will be provided. Thank you for your help in this important ministry.



Hurry!!! Time is running out!!!! Registration and re-registration has been in progress since March. Due to the increasing numbers and scheduling of classes, we ask that you register your children as soon as possible. Questions?? Please call the Religious Education Office at (732) 388-2560.

WE NEED COACHES!!

The St. Agnes Sports Committee is looking for coaches in the following sports:



Fall and Spring Track

Girls Varsity Basketball

Girls JV Basketball

Cheerleading



Anyone interested, please contact Jeff Dattilo at (908) 486-4480 or email jeff.dattilo@baywaylumber.com



Weekend Retreat for Separated and Divorced

A weekend retreat for separated or divorced will be given on September 16, 17, 18, 2005 in Newton, New Jersey by a Franciscan Retreat team. For more information, please call Fr. Tom Kelly, OFM at (973) 985-9736 or Deacon Milt at (973) 271-5097.

Have a Good Summer!

Please remember the needs of your church before you go your way. Your support given before you leave will make this a good summer for everyone!



Thank you and may God Bless you with a Happy and Safe Vacation!

Coming Soon!!!



St. Agnes School Tricky Tray

Thursday, October 6th, 7:00 p.m.

The Gran Centurions

Tickets go on sale in July

Check the bulletin for information

Now accepting donations

(baskets or monetary)

Mark all donations St. Agnes School Tricky Tray

Drop off at the Rectory

For more information please contact:

Maria O'Connor (732) 882-1893



Coming Events

St. Agnes 6th Annual Golf Outing - Monday, September 26, 2005, Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, N.J. . Proceeds to help support parish and school expansion. More information to follow.



ST. AGNES SCHOOL EXTENDED CARE AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Volunteering is a wonderful way to share your time and skills with others. St. Agnes School is seeking volunteer counselors for its newly structured Extended Care and Enrichment Program (aftercare program). Please consider joining our dedicated staff of counselors in September. Alumni welcomed. For more information, please contact Lance Steinberg @ (732) 381-8964 or Gina Behrend @ (732) 340-9621. Thank you.



St. Agnes Rectory Summer Hours

Effective the week of June 27th, St. Agnes Rectory will be open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (with a lunch break from 12 noon to 1 p.m.), Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (with a lunch break from 12 noon to 1 p.m.) and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Thank you.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Come to the next meeting
1340 Burnet Ave., Union, NJ
Faith United Church of Christ
Wednesday, July 13th at 6:00 P.M.

STEWARDSHIP & FAITH *Time, Talent, Treasure.* *Putting God First?*

May our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure show us to be among those who have heard the message of Christ and taken it in, yielding a hundred or sixty or thirty-fold!

Your Stewardship in Treasure
last week was **\$10,705.50.**
Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

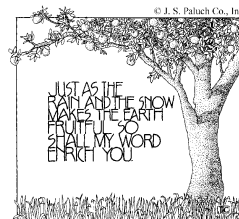


Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22; Mt 10:34 -- 11:1
Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a; Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12; Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Ex 3:13-20; Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Ex 11:10 -- 12:14; Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Ex 12:37-42; Mt 12:14-21
Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86; Rom 8:26-27;
Mt 13:24-43 [24-30]

Loving Someone

To love someone deeply gives you strength.
Being loved by someone deeply
gives you courage.

— Lao Tzu





SATURDAY, JULY 9, 2005

5:30 Dorothy Hampson - Mary Beth Hampson

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2005

7:30 Stanley Stefanik - Ronald & Joyce Hoehn

9:00 Joan Masino - Robert Masino

10:30 People of the Parish

12:00 Nick & Donato Toto - Vito & Rose Toto

MONDAY, JULY 11, 2005

7:00 Robin Helminski - Carol Matthews

9:00 Jane C. Donnelly - Lyn, Carmine, Christopher & Valerie Nigro

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005

7:00 Anna & Ethel Murphy - Murphy Family

9:00 John Scala - Frances Veltre

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2005

7:00 Frank Elischberger - Delaney Family

9:00 Robert Aklonis - Jean & Lorraine

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2005

7:00 Helen Gurrieri - Lenora Goldfarb

9:00 Sadie Lagattuta - Henry Varriano

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2005

7:00 George & Betty Capozzi - Family

9:00 Raymond DeCarlo - John & Karen DeMarco

SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2005

8:30 Memorial Mass - Elizabeth Cordes, John D'Alessandro

5:30 Salvatore DeMarco - John & Lynette Gladdis

SUNDAY	JULY 10
1:30 PM	Baptism
SATURDAY	JULY 16
8:30 AM	Memorial Mass



TRAVELING MADONNA - Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be in the home of Angie Plesh during the week of July 10th.



SANCTUARY LAMP will burn in memory of Ludwik Deren during the week of July 10th at the request of Anna Deren & Family.



Giving of Oneself

Scientists have recently begun to discuss the idea that the primary force behind all life in the universe is self-gift. This is how everything from galaxies to human babies are born and sustained.

If we read the opening of today's passage from Isaiah correctly, we see that he anticipated twentieth-century scientists by over twenty five hundred years. Using the self-giving example of the rain and snow clouds that water the earth that then yields fruit, which in turn is given over to nourish creatures, Isaiah leads us to understand that the primary force behind all life is the word of God. The ultimate giving of that word, we believe, was Jesus Christ, who, in the greatest revelation of divine love, gave of himself on the cross.

To what degree are we in touch with that self-giving God in whose image we are made? To what extent do we really follow the self-giving example of Christ into whose death and resurrection we were baptized, whose ultimate self-gift we celebrate every week in the Eucharist? With God's help, our lives can be like Isaiah's rain and snow, and we will not return to heaven until we have done our part to make the earth fruitful.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR***Those Who Have Died***

George Finger

Those Who Are Sick

Aileen Sasala, Florence Iasello, Mary Zelanko, George Heindel, Joe & Irene Margeton, Ann & Michael Dudek, Frank LaVerda, Alvera Martin, Anna Manigold, Ann Lesko, Irene Sisko, Noel Stevenson, Leilla DiLeone, Michael Denora, Mary Morelli, Anthony Szablowski, Robert Szabo Jr., Louise Venezia, Jean Williams, Mary Lawrence, Ann Miller, Wayne Tribble, Linda Ruth, Vincent Flanagan, Barbara Rygiel, Anna Reichenstein, Gene Andre, Henry Latch, Nora Coletta, Thaddeus Zbikowski Sr., Vickie Tomasco, Mary Marrin, Maria Conforti, Mary Scott, Alice Triano, Barbara Guinta, Alice Bartlomiejczyk, Ronald Francisco, John Cardoso, George Stanka, Earl Miller, Margaret Shea, Barbara Steinberg, Hank Kaczka, Edward Alfano, Robert McKeon, Michael Newman, Andre Kovacs, Patrick Miller, Louise Regeci, Cecelia Smentkowski

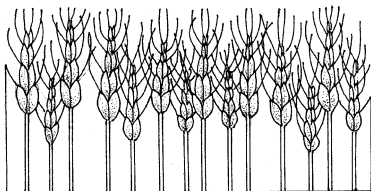
Atlantic City Bus Trip**WHEN: July 21, 2005****TO: Caesar's****TIME: 11:30 AM Coffee & Buns****LEAVE: 12:30 PM From Gran Centurions Parking Lot. Please park in back of lot.****COST: \$22.00****For reservations call:****Tony 388-2315****Joe 381-3395**

**WE WILL BE RUNNING 2 BUSES.
PLEASE CALL EARLY TO RESERVE
A SEAT. BRING A FRIEND.**

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 10, 2005**

You have crowned the year with your bounty,
and your paths overflow with a real harvest.

– Psalm 65:12



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