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## *Fr. Corey's Comments*

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*WOW! What a wonderful collection for the relief effort for Haiti. Our parish raised \$8,684.00 in one weekend. Your generosity and kindness are truly amazing. If you would like to get a glimpse of what is going on you can go online to [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org). Please keep our brothers and sisters in Haiti in your daily prayers. I can't imagine the pain and emotional turmoil and suffering going on in such a beautiful part of the world.*

*I want to repeat many of the announcements I made last week concerning the Sanctuary Project. It looks like the Sanctuary Enhancement will begin on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. I am dedicating the project to Saint Dominic because of his special relationship with the Blessed Mother (our Patron) and the Holy Rosary. We have received from Rome a relic of Saint Dominic for our altar, and I ask you to ask St. Dominic's intercession for a successful project. During the project, daily Mass will be celebrated in the Parish Hall. Saturday evening and Sunday Masses will be celebrated in the Church. All funerals will be celebrated at St. Peter's Church in Danbury. The duration of the project will probably last most of Lent. Also, the contributions and pledges have been coming in steadily. I would encourage anyone who has not yet offered a gift to the project to prayerfully consider making a pledge or a one-time gift to the Sanctuary Fund. Please know that if you cannot make a pledge or gift; please pray for the success of the project. Your prayers are most powerful, and I do appreciate all that you do.*

*Again this year, Bishop Lori has asked all the Catholic Parishes in the Diocese to offer the Sacrament of Penance every Tuesday night from 7:00 – 9:00pm. Please take advantage of this offering to go to confession anywhere in the Diocese every Tuesday night. (We also have confessions on Saturday from 4:00 – 5:00pm.) Last years Confession "campaign" was hugely successful, and we hope you will all avail yourselves of the Sacrament in preparation for the great feast of Easter.*

*A reminder that on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday the 11:30am Mass will be moved to 12:00 noon so that folks may leave the Church and enter the Church with more ease and less frustration.*

*On January 31<sup>st</sup> we begin Catholic School's Week. Having the first Blue Ribbon School in the Diocese we have much of which to be proud. Of course, great leadership is a wonderful start. Sr. Anne McCarthy, S.S.N.D., is the best. As the song goes, who could ask for anything more! We have a terrific faculty and staff and as the saying says, the proof is in the pudding, and we produce a great pudding. The parents and families of our students are without compare. I also include past parents who worked so tirelessly and many who continue to lend a helping hand. And, of course, our students who daily grow in faith, knowledge, social graces and everything in between to make them good citizens and good Catholics. We ALL should be so very proud. When you and I went to Catholic School they were wonderfully filled with Sisters who gave their lives to the Church, the spread of the Gospel and the education of our young people. Now we are blessed with Sister Anne and Sister Alberta. The Sisters of those days of yore were paid very little (and perhaps not a fair wage). Now we need to give a just and fair wages to our teachers, at least it's the best we can do. Please keep St. Mary School in your daily prayers. For over 40 years this place of learning and faith development has been an honored institution in Bethel and the Church at large. We give thanks for all that St. Mary School has done. Happy Catholic Schools Week!*

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## *Fr. Corey's Comments (Cont'd.)*

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*Can you believe the number of people that Deacon Mike Oles and the "Off the Streets" organization have permanently placed in housing and who now have the ability to keep a home. My dear friends, you have done this through your gifts of time, talent and treasure. Because of you lives have been changed and in some cases, lives have been saved! If you can help with donations of furniture or kitchen supplies, money or groceries, please contact Deacon Mike or "Off the Streets" to help in any way you can. PLEASE keep Deacon Mike, Off the Streets and the Homeless in your prayers. Miracles ARE happening, and prayer is so very powerful. It does make a difference. Please don't think that your prayers aren't important. They do move mountains. Your prayers without a doubt make a difference and make things happen. Please read the following page for complete details.*

*The new Men's Ministry is catching on by bringing the men in the parish together to nourish their spirits and souls. If you haven't gotten to the Men's Ministry yet, you can come to the parish hall any Saturday morning at 6:30am. If you cannot make it every Saturday, it's no problem. You are welcome to come when you can and know that the other guys who come are just like you. They are normal guys who want to get closer to the Lord, become a better father and husband or simply become better Christians. Please come and give the Men's Ministry a chance.*

*I am happy to share that the Good Leaders, Good Shepherds program that I have been attending the last two years is coming to an end. My last go-away is this week in Thornwood, New York. Much of what I have learned can be used in the Parish. One of the main subject matters was Parish Councils and how to make them work well. After I "graduate" we shall re-introduce the Parish Council with some new, exciting and prayerful ideas. More to follow.*

*This past Sunday, Pope Benedict XVI visited the Chief Synagogue in Rome. In a beautiful meeting the members of the congregation and the Chief Rabbi, the Holy Father spoke of our common bonds and the terrible event of the Holocaust. Please take a moment to Google this historical meeting and read the sermon that the Pontiff made.*

*What do you call a nun who walks in her sleep? A roaming Catholic.*

*A religious education teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."*

*Saints Dominic, Francis of Assisi and Ignatius of Loyola are transported back in time and place to the birth of Our Lord.*

*St. Dominic, seeing the Incarnation of the Word, is sent into ecstasy.*

*St. Francis, seeing God become a helpless child, is overcome with humility.*

*St. Ignatius (the founder of the Jesuits) takes Mary and Joseph aside and asks, "Have you given any thought to his education?"*

# **OFF THE STREETS**

*January 2010*

*As I was preparing this report, the shocking and unending images of the tragedy in Haiti almost paralyzed me. At first, our program OFF THE STREETS seemed so trivial against the magnitude of the horror in Haiti that I thought I would hold off awhile. But then, a certain reality set in. There are hundreds of thousands of people who need immediate help right now in Haiti. We can't be on the ground for them. The only thing that most of us can do other than wring our hands as we watch the tragedy unfold is to help with prayer and funding. And, even the reality for those on the ground is that no matter how great the magnitude of the tragedy, each caregiver can treat only one patient at any one time.*

*Well, here at St. Mary Parish, the great outpouring of support for the homeless literally in our own backyard has been great in terms of prayer and funding just as I imagine it will be for the needy in Haiti. But, it hasn't stopped there. We are seeing a tremendous outpouring of caregivers, parishioners who are dealing with the reality of homelessness in our area – with their greatest treasures – their time, their energy, their soul.*

*It was just six months ago, last July, that we announced this initiative to get persons who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless Off The Streets. Our Pastor, Fr. Corey, who has many other priorities, was totally behind this initiative from the very beginning, and agreed to be the Chaplain of this new organization. As soon as we presented the idea to St. Mary Parish, there was an immediate outpouring of support that has accelerated. It seems that the entire parish family is behind this effort and more and more there is a feeling that, yes, we really can do something to alleviate the misery associated with homelessness right here, right now, within the Greater Danbury area, one person at a time. Here are a few of the major milestones that have taken place -*

- ✓ *In September, Attorney Hagan and Bob Kozlowski, parishioner, hammered out the complexities of filing with the IRS, and on September 24, 2009, OFF THE STREETS was registered with the US Department of Treasury, and shortly thereafter, was registered in the State of Connecticut.*
- ✓ *A Board of Directors was formed in November 2009. There is no one in the organization who receives any financial compensation.*
- ✓ *Our very first mentor, Bill Shannon, parishioner and former First Selectman of Bethel, took a man who had suffered two major strokes, and was being evicted from his apartment, and found a convalescent home who would take him in. Bill shepherded this man through a major life crisis and continues to provide friendship and guidance to him.*
- ✓ *Groups of mentors for the homeless met for the first time in November and again this month. We now have somewhere between ten and fifteen men and women who are contemplating this one-on-one coaching and guidance of those who recently came Off The Street, but we need more, many more.*
- ✓ *There has been a great outpouring of financial support. It has continued unabated, even though the economy has been a drain on everyone. We are lean and mean: no office, no phones, no vehicles, no fundraising costs; literally no overhead except a Post Office Box and an insurance policy. Just about every dime contributed goes directly to encouraging and assisting a homeless person get a room of their own.*
- ✓ *A facility for the temporary storage of household items has been found. This means that we can now take basic needs such as bedding, kitchen utensils, beds, dressers, lamps, etc. and provide them for the recently housed. The men of our Knights of Columbus will pick up and deliver these items to the recently housed. Only basic needs, please. Contact Terry Spallone at (203) 792-9130 for more details.*
- ✓ *We have helped more than 100 persons getting Off The Streets, some as quickly as within hours of getting involved with them. We are very much seen as an organization that can get things done right now.*

*Please take an Off The Streets brochure as you leave the Church today to see how you might get involved.*



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**ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: JANUARY BOOK**



*"The Screwtape Letters"*, by C. S. Lewis. We'll meet this **TUES., JAN. 26<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**, in the Children's Room.

**FEBRUARY BOOK:** *"The Snakebite Letters"*, by Peter Kreeft. Join our discussion on **TUES., FEB. 23<sup>rd</sup>**, at **7:30pm**, in the Children's Room.

**PRAYER & FASTING** – Please join us in the Parish Hall on **SAT., FEB. 13<sup>th</sup>**, at **8:30am**, when **Lisa Plumb** will give a talk on Fasting. The Prayer & Fasting Group will meet every Sat. morning during Lent following the 8:00am Mass. Questions – call **Deacon John** (203 744-2106).



**St. Mary School** will host an **OPEN HOUSE** for all prospective students entering **Pre-School through Grade 8** next **SUN., JAN. 31<sup>st</sup>**, from **11:00am-1:00pm**. For more info. please call the **School** (203 744-2922).

**Catholic Schools Week: JAN. 31<sup>st</sup> – FEB. 6<sup>th</sup>**, the theme, *"Dividends for Life"*. Hope you can join us. Details in next week's bulletin.

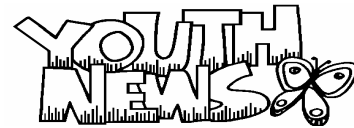
Purchase a **Tuition Raffle** ticket for your chance to win free annual tuition for one student valued at \$4,500; tickets are \$75. Buy for a specific family or make a donation. Drawing will be **FRI., FEB. 5<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**. Tickets sold after Masses this weekend. For info. call **Cathy Drury** (938-4067).



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Next Meeting – JAN. 25<sup>th</sup>**, at **8:15**.  
**Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.**

This weekend, **JAN. 24<sup>th</sup>**, and next weekend, **JAN. 31<sup>st</sup>**, the Knights will be collecting non-perishable goods for our servicemen overseas.



**SENIOR YOUTH GROUP**



**FRI., FEB. 1<sup>st</sup>**, at **6:00pm**, Parish Hall. Interested students and parents should meet to help **PLAN A SKI TRIP**. Tentative date for trip: **SAT., FEB. 20<sup>th</sup>**.

**THUR., FEB. 7<sup>th</sup>** – **Winter Flag Football**. Dropoff at Parloa Park at **12:00**, pickup at **1:30pm**. **Bring Permission slips!**



**SUN., FEB. 21<sup>st</sup>** – Sign up with Annie: **Hartford Wolfpack Hockey Game**. **CHAPERONES NEEDED!**

**Service hours** will be available every **Wed. night** from **5:00-6:00pm** for all Youth Group members.

**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP**

**WED., FEB. 6<sup>th</sup>** – **Ice Skating**. Cost: \$10/child. Drop off at Danbury Ice Arena at **1:30pm**, pick-up at **3:30pm**. Sign up. Permission slips must be returned to Rectory by **THUR., FEB. 4<sup>th</sup>**. **CHAPERONES NEEDED!**



**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**

On **FRI., FEB. 5<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:00pm**, in the Church, **Fr. Ed** will give a talk: *"Carrying the Cross of Losing a Loved One"*. Discussion and refreshments will follow in the **Parish Hall**.



**CURSILLO** – In our busy lives we need to set aside time for prayer and spiritual renewal. Join us at the **Cursillo Day of Renewal and Reflection** at the **John Paul II Center, Danbury**, on **SAT., FEB. 6<sup>th</sup>**, **9:00-5:00**. This year we focus on *"The Year of the Priest"* and how it relates to our lives. The day will include talks, discussions, music, prayer and Mass. **ALL** are welcome. No pre-registration required. Bring your lunch. Cost: \$20. For more information call **Tom Restivo** (203 1268-8409).



**CURSILLO**

**Contemporary Folk Group** is looking for a pianist. If interested, please call **Debbie Caraluzzi** (730-0804).



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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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<b>MON., JAN. 25</b>	6:30	+	Hugh Lee – Family
	9:00	+	Cathryn Costello
<b>TUES, JAN. 26</b>	6:30	+	Dorothy Considine (5 <sup>th</sup> Anniv.) – Daughter
	9:00	+	Joyce Bertozzi – Marie Miller & Catherine Gadarowski
<b>WED., JAN. 27</b>	6:30	+	June Culhane (Anniv.) – Brenda & Kevin Cleary
	9:00	+	Msgr. Bert Gadarowski – Donald & Brenda Craig
<b>THU., JAN. 28</b>	6:30	+	Donald Cleary, Sr. – Knights of Columbus
	9:00	+	Albino Campdo & Juonel Lumugdang – Falguera Family
<b>FRI., JAN. 29</b>	6:30	+	Richard Smithwick – Patricia Kelly
	9:00	+	John Murphy – Pat & Richard Kuhn
<b>SAT., JAN. 30</b>	8:00		John Velez ( <i>Health &amp; Blessings</i> ) – John & Claudia Rodrigues
	5:30	+	Tony Soegaard – Sharon Dietzel
<b>SUN., JAN. 31</b>	7:00	+	Charles McCollam, Sr. – Family
	8:30	+	Nora Kerrigan – Anne Marie & Joe Coniglio
	10:00	+	Gerard Tammaro – Leone Family
	11:30	+	Tony Soegaard – Tony & Debbie Caraluzzi & Family
	5:30	+	Paul Kalinoski – Michael Rostafin

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**This weekend, SAT., JAN. 23<sup>rd</sup> & SUN., JAN. 24<sup>th</sup>,**

**Second collection for the Church in Latin America.**



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**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$14,007**

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*If you, or a family member, are planning a stay at Danbury Hospital,  
please inform the Rectory so a member of the clergy may visit.*

**PARISH OFFICE (744-5777)**

**Sheila Kurjiaka: *Bulletin Editor***

**Kate Fitzgerald: *Secretary***

**Paul Orsino: *Property Manager***

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557)**

**Mary Ferri: *Director***

**Peggy Gavin: *Secretary***

**Dennis Nauheimer (RCIA): 794-9488**

*(Call if interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your initiation as a Catholic with Confirmation and/or Eucharist.)*

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

**Mike Macelletti: *Music Director***

**Elizabeth Barnes: *Choir Director***

**Debbie Caraluzzi: *Contemp. Group Director***

**ST. MARY SCHOOL (744-2922)**

**Sister Anne McCarthy: *Principal***

**Linda Curry: *Secretary***

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Monday – Friday: 6:30 & 9:00am**

**Saturday: 8:00am & 5:30pm**

**Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm**

**CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

**Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00pm.**

**BAPTISMS: *Every Sunday at 1:00pm.***

**(Call the Rectory to Schedule.)**

**PRE-BAPTISM CLASSES: *Twice a Month.***

**(Call the Rectory to Schedule.)**

**ARRANGEMENT FOR MARRIAGE:**

***Couples must meet with a parish clergyman at least six (6) months before the marriage is to be celebrate.***