
Fr. Corey's Comments

As I mentioned previously, I have just completed my two-year pastoral leadership course, GOOD LEADERS, GOOD SHEPHERDS. All the priests of the Diocese are being asked to take this course, and Fr. Ed is in the first year of the process.

One of the major topics in the executive level leadership experience was forming Parish or Pastoral Councils that would be more in the line of the directives of the Second Vatican Council. Parish/Pastoral Councils have been born in a variety of ways and a variety of styles not only in our Diocese but also around the world. The Bishop would like all priests to form Parish/Pastoral Councils in the manner and likeness that were given to us by the Catholic Leadership Institute through GOOD LEADERS, GOOD SHEPHERDS.

Pastoral councils were first recommended in Vatican II's "Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops". They exist in three-fourths of the 19,000 Catholic parishes in the USA. The main work of the council is pastoral planning, but many types of council mistakenly think that the job is to coordinate a system of committees.

Meaning of "pastoral": Pastoral means that the council helps the pastor do his job by investigating, considering, and offering him their conclusions.

Canon 536 from the Code of Canon Law (which recommends parish/pastoral councils) defines the purpose of councils in an extremely brief way. It says that they "give their help in fostering parish activity". Canon 536 does not mention the threefold task of the pastoral council – the task of investigating, reflecting, and reaching conclusions – but canon 511 does (in a reference to diocesan pastoral councils).

Four other Vatican documents define the "pastoral" councils in terms of this threefold task (Paul VI, "Ecclesiae Sanctae I", no. 16; the 1971 Synod of Bishops', "The Ministerial Priesthood", art 2, II, section 3; the 1973 "Directory on the Pastoral Ministry of Bishops", no. 204; and the 1973 "Circular Letter on 'Pastoral Councils'" by the Sacred Congregation for the Clergy, no 9). Those who read canon 536 without referring to these Vatican documents that speak of the "pastoral" council may not realize that investigating, pondering, and reaching conclusions is precisely what defines the pastoral council.

With all this in mind our new Pastoral Council will meet 3 times a year on a Saturday. It will be a sort of a "retreat day" lasting from morning till afternoon. Membership on the Pastoral Council will be established in the following way. After discernment, understanding the time commitment and most importantly with much prayer a person will submit his or her name into the Pastoral Council nominee box by Pentecost Sunday. Then, the Pastor and members of the current Parish Council will choose under the guidance of the Holy Spirit twelve members of the Parish. Anyone over the age of 16 and registered in the Parish is welcomed to place his/her name into nomination.

The dates of the Pastoral Council will be in the bulletin next week. Please note that you will be needed at each meeting. The "meeting" will consist of times of prayer and reflection, meditation, discussion of vision and future plans for the Parish, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the celebration of Holy Mass.

Undoubtedly, this will be a new experience for ALL of us. One of the Parishes that has implemented this Pastoral council is St. Pius X in Fairfield. Monsignor Larry Carroll has told us that the new Pastoral Council has changed his parish with the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not nominating others than ourselves. Teenagers are more than welcomed to submit their names. Take the next couple of months in prayer and consider this invitation.

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

I would like to share some good news with you. Tony Caraluzzi has been accepted into the Deaconate Program for the Diocese of Bridgeport. I know most of you know Tony, Debbie his wife, and his wonderful daughters. Tony is a sincere, caring, talented and spirit-filled man. He and Debbie and their family are leaders in our Contemporary Choir. Though Tony will be the man ordained, Debbie needs to be his support with his many years of formation. In fact, the whole family will be involved in Tony's formation. I am thrilled that Tony has been accepted into the Deaconate Program for it is a blessing for our Parish, and he will make an extraordinary Deacon. Please pray for Tony, Debbie and their family during his years of formation. All of us who study for ordination truly need the prayers of our parishioners, loved ones and friends. The Holy Spirit certainly will be a steady guide for Tony's journey.

I know that you enjoyed the Parish Mission with Redemptorist Father Kevin MacDonald. Well, Frank Runyeon will be here on Sunday, March 7th, at 2:00pm, with a magnificent performance of the Sermon on the Mount. This prayerful one-man performance is for people of all ages. We invite the Seniors who will be dining at the "Seniors for Seniors" annual dinner to come right across the hall after partaking in their banquet. I invite each parishioner to spend an hour during Lent at this spiritually enriched and entertaining event here in our Parish. Why not come as a family? I promise you will not be disappointed.

When was the last time you attended the Stations of the Cross? This ancient Catholic Tradition is a great way to pray during Lent. Walking with Jesus during the last hours of His earthly life truly gives us an understanding of what He did for us and how much he truly loves us.

Speaking of the "last time"... when was the last time you went to confession? Yes, I am talking to you. If you went to confession at Christmastime, that is great, but you should go again before next Christmas, then it has been too long. We ALL need to go to confession on a regular basis. All of us need God's grace, mercy and forgiveness, and we need it each day of our lives. You have a bunch of "easy" priests: we don't yell, we don't make you feel embarrassed or uncomfortable, and I believe we are very compassionate. Now, if you don't agree with me, that is fine because every other Catholic Church in our Diocese will be hearing confessions every Tuesday night from 7:00 to 9:00pm during Lent. If you would like me to recommend a priest in another Parish, I would be more than happy to help in that way. Please don't let pride, or fear, or the feeling that "I DON'T NEED CONFESSION" to get in the way of a growing relationship with our loving God.

Please remember that the Annual Bishop's Appeal is underway. Please be as generous as you can so we help as a Diocese those who we cannot help as a Parish.

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### **"LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION"**

**Examining the Conscience with Rev. Fr. Michael Barry, SS.C.C**

*Please join us in Spiritual Recollection on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am-3:00pm.*

*Registration will be at 8:30am in St. Mary School Gym (\$5.00 for lunch – 12:00-12:30).*

*For more information, please call Fr. Cyrus Bartolome (203 744-5777, ext. 114).*



### **PRAYER & FASTING GROUP**

Please join us in the **Parish Hall** after the 8:00am Mass every Sat. morning during Lent. Questions? **Deacon John** (203 744-2106).

### **BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:**

Next meeting will be **SAT., MAR. 20<sup>th</sup>**, from **10:30am-12:00noon**, in the **Parish House**.



### **DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS**

**WED., MAR. 3<sup>rd</sup>**: *Our turn to Cook.*

**COFFEE & ...** will be served after the **07:00 Mass** on **SUN., MAR. 7<sup>th</sup>**.



**NOCTURNAL ADORATION** will be on **FRI., MAR. 5<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00pm to 7:00am**.

### **ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: MARCH BOOK**

*“Befriending Life: Encounters with Henri Nouwen”*, by **Beth Porter**. Discussion will be on **TUES., MAR. 30<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**, in **Children’s Room**.



### **ST. MARY MEN’S RETREAT IS COMING!**

**MEN TAKE NOTE!** Any man who reads this knows that any business that doesn’t take inventory and check it’s priorities from time to time is a company headed for trouble. When was the last time you checked your spiritual inventory and the priorities of the things that really matter? A retreat is the ideal time to do this. Join us on our annual retreat from **FRI., MAR. 12<sup>th</sup>** to **SUN., MAR 14<sup>th</sup>**, at **Holy Family Retreat House**. For reservations or information call **Nick Santarelli** (203 470-7102).



### **ST. MARY’S MEN’S MINISTRY**

meets every **Saturday morning** from **6:30-8:00am** in the **Parish Hall**. Please stop by for bagels, fellowship, and faith discussions to help men and their families. Any questions, please call **Dave Whitmore** (203 470-0909).

### **SENIOR YOUTH GROUP**



### **ATTN: SENIOR CITIZENS**

Our Senior Youth Group will hold its **Annual Seniors for Seniors Dinner** next **SUN., MAR. 7<sup>th</sup>**, from **12:30-2:00pm**. Reserve a spot by signing up in the vestibule after Mass.

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

### **GROWING IN THE FAITH**

The Gospel of John Bible Study will begin on **WED., MAR. 3<sup>rd</sup>**, at **7:30pm**, in the **Parish Hall**.



### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**Next Meeting – MAR. 15, at 8:15.**  
**Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.**

**FRI., MAR. 5<sup>th</sup>**,  
from **1:30-7:00pm**,  
in the **Parish Hall**.



***KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS***

***FISH FRY***

***FRIDAYS – March 5, 12, and 26***

All you can eat (Inside table service)

**Adults: \$10, Seniors: \$8**  
**Children 5-12: \$5**  
**Family Maximum: \$30**

**Drive-thru takeout service available**

# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

# Lenten Season

## REGISTRATION for 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR



Registration is ongoing for Preschool – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please note the change in PK4 hours for next year: MON., WED., FRI., from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Anyone wishing to have a PK4 student stay an extended hour (until 2:00pm) may do so for an additional fee. For additional info, please call the School (744-2922).

## St. Mary School 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Auction

*“Children...The Future of our Community”*

will be held on SAT., MAR. 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Stony Hill Inn. Tickets will be available after masses for \$37.50 per person. For donations of goods and services or to advertise your business at the auction, please contact Ruth/Erik Apotheker: eapotheker@comcast.net or 203 778-2901.



Science Horizons Fair: SAT., & SUN., MAR. 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> at WestConn.

## St. Mary Annual 5K Fun Run – SAT., MAY 22.

If you would like to volunteer, please call Cathy Ann Drury (203-938-4067). Details to come.

STEBENVILLE EAST YOUTH CONFERENCE, JULY 23-25, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, offers the ultimate Catholic experience for teens to encounter Christ in His sacraments and in His Church. \$248/person – \$60/person deposit. For more info. call Sharon Closius (203 798-9822).



**RCIA**

## ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASSES Begin today, February, 28, 2010!

Are you an adult Catholic who has not been confirmed but has made your First Communion? St. Mary’s will be offering Confirmation refresher classes beginning on SUN., FEB. 28<sup>th</sup>, from 3:00pm – 5:00pm, in the School Library. These six classes will prepare you for your Confirmation by Bishop Lori on Pentecost Sunday (May 23<sup>rd</sup>) at St. Augustine Cathedral. All materials will be provided. For more info. please contact Dennis Nauheimer (203-794-9488).

## DAILY MASSES during LENT

(MON. – FRI.):



6:30 & 9:00am.  
Saturday Mass at 8:00am.

PENANCE: Tuesdays from 7:00–9:00pm  
(FEB. 22<sup>nd</sup> – MAR. 30<sup>th</sup>)



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

Friday nights at 7:00pm  
(FEB. 19<sup>th</sup> – APR. 2<sup>nd</sup>)

## GOOD FRIDAY: APR. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Day of FAST and ABSTINENCE  
(no eating between meals and no meat)

## FRIDAYS OF LENT:

Days of ABSTINENCE



IHS 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Dance & Silent Auction on SAT., MAR. 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm, at the Danbury Plaza Hotel, 18 Old Ridgebury Road. This year’s honorees are Anthony Rizzo, Sr. (Nancy K. Dolan Leadership Award), David R. Couch (Lifetime Achievement Award - posthumous) and Robert Gerwien, Sr. (Distinguished Service Award). For more info. and online ticket sales and sponsorships, visit www.immaculatehs.org.



The CURSILLO movement helps nourish Christian individuals and makes Christian Community possible in the neighborhoods, parishes, and work situations. It provides the tools, mentality, strength and support to live life in a Christ-like manner. If you would like to learn more, call (203 797-1361) or yvonne cecera@hotmail.com.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

|                     |         |                                                                         |
|---------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MON., MAR. 1</b> | 6:30 +  | Bridget Syron – McDonald Family                                         |
|                     | 9:00 +  | Dorothy Clarke – 9:00am Mass Group                                      |
| <b>TUES, MAR. 2</b> | 6:30    | Major Thomas McNally ( <i>Health &amp; Blessings</i> ) – Donohue Family |
|                     | 9:00 +  | Msgr. Joseph J. Boyd – Mary & Bob Sawitsky                              |
| <b>WED., MAR. 3</b> | 6:30 +  | Francisco Amezcua – Drury Family                                        |
|                     | 9:00 +  | Jack Gallagher – Ray & Juleen Flanigan                                  |
| <b>THU., MAR. 4</b> | 6:30 +  | Jeremiah Butler – Betty & Frank Smullen                                 |
|                     | 9:00 +  | James Leambrou – George Keenan                                          |
| <b>FRI., MAR. 5</b> | 6:30 +  | Eleanor Helgert – Joan & Dick Shannon                                   |
|                     | 9:00 +  | Donald Cleary, Sr. – Maura Melody                                       |
| <b>SAT., MAR. 6</b> | 8:00 +  | Joe Quatraro – Friend                                                   |
|                     | 5:30 +  | Tony Soegaard – Pavia Council, Knights of Columbus                      |
| <b>SUN., MAR. 7</b> | 7:00 +  | Cathryn Costello                                                        |
|                     | 8:30 +  | Josephine Natale – Daughter, Lillie                                     |
|                     | 10:00 + | Patricia Allen – Family                                                 |
|                     | 11:30 + | Alice McShane & Brendan Duffy                                           |
|                     | 5:30 +  | Eileen Lennox – Mary & John Stocks                                      |



**2011 MASS BOOK WILL BE OPEN ON MARCH 15, 2010.**



**HEAR YE,  
HEAR YE.**

You may reserve your Masses for 2010 and 2011 by stopping by the Rectory **Monday through Friday, from 9:00am-4:00pm.** Masses booked this March for weekends in **2011** will be limited to **four** per customer. You may book as many weekday Masses as you like. More weekend Masses may be booked **after April.**

**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**  
**Michael Ferrari: *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.*

