
Fr. Corey's Comments

➤ *The First Sunday of Lent is always "Sending Sunday". Catechumens and Candidates (those who are not Baptized and want to become Catholics and those who have Baptized in other Christian traditions or those Baptized Catholic but never received any religious education respectively) are sent off to the Bishop for a word of acceptance, encouragement, support and direction in their final Lenten journey toward the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.*

In our Diocese there were 230 in attendance. In the Archdiocese of Boston there were over 600 seekers at the Cathedral. In the Archdiocese of Atlanta there are over 2000 people seeking the Easter Sacraments. The number of Catholics, including the priests and seminarians, is increasing worldwide, especially in Asia and Africa.

These statistics are found in the 2010 "Annuario Pontificio", or Pontifical Yearbook, presented Saturday to Benedict XVI by his secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, and Archbishop Fernando Filoni, who is in charge of general affairs for the Secretariat of State. The compilation of the yearbook will be in bookstores soon.

In 2008 there were 1.166 billion baptized Catholics worldwide, an increase of 19 million (up 1.7%). Taking into account the increase in the world's population to 6.7 billion, there is a slight growth in the percentage of Catholics who make up the global population (from 17.33% to 17.40%).

There was also an increase in the number of bishops, from 4,946 in 2007 to 5,002 in 2008 (up 1.13%). The growth in Africa (up 1.83%) and the Americas (up 1.57%) was significant, while in Asia (up 1.09%) and in Europe (up 0.70%) the values are below the overall average. In Oceania during the same period there was a 3% decrease in the number of bishops.

There was also a slight increase (around 1% between 2000 and 2008) for diocesan and religious priests, whose numbers grew from 405,178 in 2000 to 409,166 in 2008. The number of clergy by continent has Europe on top, with almost half of the world's priests still residing there (47.1%), followed by the Americas (30%), then Asia (13.2%), Africa (8.7%) and finally Oceania (1.2%). At the global level the number of candidates for the priesthood is up, rising from 115,919 in 2007 to 117,024 in 2008, which is an increase of about 1%.

The number of professed women religious dropped markedly: They numbered 801,185 in 2000 and decreased to 739,067 in 2008 (a 7.8% drop). The largest numbers of professed women religious are in Europe (40.9%) and America (27.5%), but the most notable declines are also in Europe (down 17.6%) and America (down 12.9%), while there are noteworthy increases in Africa (up 21.2%) and Asia (up 16.4%). This growth in Africa and Asia counterbalances the decrease in Europe and America somewhat, but does not stop it.

So, it seems that with eyes set on the number of folks coming into the Church the numbers look good. The Church is alive and well, and no matter the sins of the Church, people still seek the good news of the Gospel, the solace of the Church and the Sacraments of Jesus Christ. THANK GOD!

➤ *It is Church practice and tradition to scale down to simple and basic when it comes to liturgy. No flowers on the altar, less music, greater silence a sort of penitential and self-reflective time. We have added a little Greek to the Mass with the chanting of the Kyrie Eleison and the Mass parts in a simple chant in Latin. You can join in singing this by looking at page 6 in the Misalette for the Kyrie and #859 and the hymns following for the Mass part. It is wonderful in our Church that it truly is a melting pot of traditions from all different cultures and so things that are traditional in all cultures of the Church.*

➤ *The "Loaves and Fishes" envelopes are available in the vestibule of the Church. These envelopes carry your donations from what you have 'given up' during Lent and will help to feed the hungry in our Diocese.*

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

➤ *Since the bulletins ran out last week (we shall be ordering more), I want to repeat my column about the Parish Pastoral Council.*

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.

More from Fr. Corey

MARCH



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).

COFFEE & ... will be served after the **8:30 & 10:00 Mass** on **SUN., MAR. 14th**.



➤ *The Sanctuary Project is coming along nicely. The builders are right on schedule. As I have said many times before, the results are going to be most promising. If you would like to pledge or give a one-time gift, we still need a few more dollars to reach our goal. St. Dominic, the patron saint of the project, is praying for us as well; may he continue to intercede for our success.*

➤ *Catholic Charities Morning Glory Program provides a nutritious breakfast for the hungry and homeless in the Danbury area. Breakfast is served Monday through Friday from 6:30 – 9:00am by a travelling van. Jeff, who benefits from this program, is a gentleman in his 40's diagnosed with chronic mental illness. Due to the challenges of treatment, he is without an income, insurance or services. He utilizes the Morning Glory Breakfast Program and receives a healthy, nutritious meal to assist him in getting through the day. In addition he also receives socks, underwear and toiletry items to care for his basic needs. In Jeff's world, Catholic Charities is one of the safest places he can go where he knows he will be treated with dignity and respect.*

Your gifts to the Annual Bishop's Appeal help support this vital ministry through Catholic Charities. Thank you for your support. Please be as generous as you can to help us reach our goal of \$135,000.00.

➤ *Speaking of the Morning Glory Breakfast Program, (when I hear or read that name 'Morning Glory', I think of that scene in the first SISTER ACT movie when the novice gives the daisy clock to Sr. Clarence and the alarm went off saying, "Get out of bed, sleepy head".) Catholic Charities will be holding a champagne brunch on April 11, 2010 at 11:00am at Plain Jane's Restaurant, 208 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT. Come support Morning Glory as it continues to supply meals to the hungry and homeless of Greater Danbury. The fundraising event is \$25 per person. Tickets include a brunch buffet and a mimosa or bloody mary. For tickets, contact: **Michele Conderino** (203) 733-3185 or mail a check to: **Michele Conderino**, Catholic Charities, 24 Grassy Plain Street, Bethel, CT 06801, with the names of those attending, and tickets will be sent to you. Tickets will not be sold at the door.*



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).

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:

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



ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: MARCH BOOK



"Befriending Life: Encounters with Henri Nouwen", by **Beth Porter**. Discussion will be on **TUES., MAR. 30th**, at **7:30pm**, in **Children's Room**.

ST. MARY MEN'S RETREAT – LAST CALL!

Just 4 weeks until Easter. Many men have been thinking about making the retreat, but they haven't done anything about it. Now is the time! Join us the weekend of **FRI.-SUN., MAR. 12-14th**. It's a great way to prepare to celebrate Easter. Call **Holy Family Retreat House**, in West Hartford (860 521-0440), or **Nick Santarelli** (203 470-7102).



VIRTUS TRAINING SESSION

SUN., MAR. 21st, at **6:30pm**, in the **School Gym**.

STEUBENVILLE INFORMATION NIGHT

TUES., MAR. 9th, at **7:00pm**, in the **Children's Room**. Come hear about the summer's most awesome Catholic youth conference. Parents and teens are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Early dismissal: WED., MAR. 10th, 11:15am.
Teacher's Professional Development Day.

Kindergarten Screening for the 2010 – 2011
MON., MAR. 22: 8:00–11:00am, 12:15–3:00pm;
TUE., MAR. 23: 8:00am – 12:00n.
Screening for all incoming students Grades 1–8
WED., MAR 24: 8:00am – 12:00n.



Congratulations to all who participated in the Science Horizons Fair at WestConn. 8 finalists: Hannah Bertozzi, Olivia Dalmedo, Faith-Anne Rapley, Alison Baranovic, Ysabelle Esteban, John Jerolimo, Christopher Calo, and Peter Iorfino who received special recognition from the Navy Dept. for his project.

St. Mary School Auction

Don't you deserve a night out?

How about a gourmet meal:

Caesar Salad,

Penne Pasta with Oil & Garlic,

London Broil with Bordelaise Sauce,

Herb Roasted Chicken,

Green Beans Almondine?

Top it off with Dessert & Coffee

All for \$37.50 per person

Saturday, March 20th, 6:00pm

Stony Hill Inn

We have amazing items to fit every budget. Some fun surprises too!

Start planning your bidding strategy.

Come for the great deals or

just have a great time socializing!

Donations are also being accepted.

Interested in becoming a sponsor or advertiser?

Call Ruth/Erik Apotheker (733-1470).



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

APPLICATIONS for TWO \$4,000 SCHOLARSHIPS to be awarded by Pavia Council #48 are now available. An applicant must be a resident of Bethel or daughter/son of a current or deceased member of Pavia Council. High School seniors may pick up an application at their guidance office or the Rectory. For more info call Tom Liquori (792-0664). Deadline: 3/30.



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

ST. MARY MIDNIGHT RUN

On Friday, MAR. 19th, St. Mary Parish will participate in a Midnight Run, and we need you! There are several ways you can help:

- Make sandwiches & pack lunch bags (7:30);
- Help assemble toiletry bags;
- Go on the actual Midnight Run to New York (We will take 8 Adults, 4 H.S. Sign up quickly);
- Make a Monetary donation (Each run will cost approximately \$200-\$300);
- Donate Toiletries (toothbrush/paste, soap, small shampoo, washcloths);
- Donate new items (men's socks & underwear);
- Donate gently used items (men's coats, hats, hoodies, sweatshirts, pants, jeans, shirts, gloves, backpacks, blankets, sleeping bags).

For more information and/or to volunteer, please call Mary Ferri: 730-2726

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., MAR. 8	6:30	+	Helen Gulczynski – Mary & Bob Sawitsky
	9:00	+	Dorothy Clarke – Lou Walsh
TUES, MAR. 9	6:30		<i>Heavenly Stock</i>
	9:00	+	Anita Byrnes – Maura Melody
WED., MAR. 10	6:30	+	Peter Bartholomew – St. Mary School
	9:00	+	Stephen Blizman – Roger & Veronica Hibbert
THU., MAR. 11	6:30	+	Nancy Shannon Potts – Shannon Family
	9:00	+	Jack Gallagher – Brenda & Kevin Cleary
FRI., MAR. 12	6:30	+	Arthur S. Blackman – Wife, Eleanor
	9:00	+	Robert Carlo (<i>1st Anniv.</i>) – Family
SAT., MAR. 13	8:00	+	George Hibbert – Roger & Veronica Hibbert
	5:30	+	Lando Dominici – Deanna & Joe Mossa
SUN., MAR. 14	7:00	+	Albert Prato (<i>Anniv.</i>) – DiMatteo Family
	8:30	+	Patricia Maier – Rosalie & Paul DeMarco
	10:00	+	Manuel Mello – Kitty & Charlie Grant
	11:30	+	Peter & Wilhelmina Suchodolski – Family
	5:30	+	Charley Gallagher – Joan & Robyn



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED



*Stella Rose Grenier
Jacob Ryan Topham*

*Kristina Marie Guillet
Avery Kaylen Dexter*

GOAL: \$15,000

COLLECTION: \$16,010

*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.