
Fr. Corey's Comments

Well, it's that time of year again... the birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, the temperature is warming, and Catholic bashing is in full swing again. (Has it ever really stopped?????)

From its beginning, the Church has sinned. From the beginning the Church has been called to reparation and repentance. From its beginning the Church has been a force of good in the world, not only for its members but also for anyone in need. The Church does sin; the Church is always in need of reparation and repentance. The Church is always a source of help, hope, reconciliation, solace and comfort. The Church, with all its goodness and all its sin, is the Church of Jesus Christ and will be treated as Christ was treated in this world.

News media both near and far have used the Church as a punching bag. We have made terrible mistakes; a minority of its people has caused harm and scandal. According to the times in which we live we have tried to do what is best and not always succeeded. But, the Church has never been idol. We are in constant need of growth and forgiveness, and we must never forget the good in the Name of Christ Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit that the Body of Christ has done in this world.

I am sure that many of us do not usually read the Jerusalem Post. I have included a piece from its Opinion Page by the former Mayor of New York City, His Honor, Ed Koch. I hope you find it interesting.

Thursday Apr 08, 2010

Koch's Comments: He that is without sin let him cast the next stone - enough already

I believe the continuing attacks by the media on the Roman Catholic Church and Pope Benedict XVI have become manifestations of anti-Catholicism. The procession of articles on the same events are, in my opinion, no longer intended to inform, but simply to castigate. The sexual molestation of children, principally boys, is horrendous. This is agreed to by everyone, Catholics, the Church itself, as well as non-Catholics and the media. The pope has on a number of occasions on behalf of the Church admitted fault and asked for forgiveness. For example, *The New York Times* reported on April 18, 2008, that the pope "came face to face with a scandal that has left lasting wounds on the American church Thursday, holding a surprise meeting with several victims of sexual abuse by priests in the Boston area.... 'No words of mine could describe the pain and harm inflicted by such abuse,' the Pope said in his homily. 'It is important that those who have suffered be given loving pastoral attention.'" On March 20, 2010, the *Times* reported that in his eight page pastoral letter to Irish Catholics, the pope wrote, "You have suffered grievously, and I am truly sorry ... Your trust has been betrayed and your dignity has been violated."

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

The pope also "criticized Ireland's bishops for 'grave errors of judgment and failures of leadership.'" The primary explanation for the abuse that happened - not to excuse the retention of priests in positions that enabled them to continue to harm children - was the belief that the priests could be cured by psychotherapy, a theory now long discarded by the medical profession. Regrettably, it is also likely that years ago the abuse of children was not taken as seriously as today. Thank God we've progressed on that issue. Many of those in the media who are pounding on the Church and the pope today clearly do it with delight, and some with malice. The reason, I believe, for the constant assaults is that there are many in the media, and some Catholics as well as many in the public, who object to and are incensed by positions the Church holds, including opposition to all abortions, opposition to gay sex and same-sex marriage, retention of celibacy rules for priests, exclusion of women from the clergy, opposition to birth control measures involving condoms and prescription drugs and opposition to civil divorce. My good friend, John Cardinal O'Connor, once said, "The Church is not a salad bar, from which to pick and choose what pleases you." The Church has the right to demand fulfillment of all of its religious obligations by its parishioners, and indeed a right to espouse its beliefs generally. I disagree with the Church on all of these positions. Nevertheless, it has a right to hold these views in accordance with its religious beliefs. I disagree with many tenets of Orthodox Judaism - the religion of my birth - and have chosen to follow the tenets of Conservative Judaism, while I attend an Orthodox synagogue. Orthodox Jews, like the Roman Catholic Church, can demand absolute obedience to religious rules. Those declining to adhere are free to leave. I believe the Roman Catholic Church is a force for good in the world, not evil. Moreover, the existence of one billion, 130 million Catholics worldwide is important to the peace and prosperity of the planet. Of course, the media should report to the public any new facts bearing upon the issue of child molestation, but its objectivity and credibility are damaged when the *New York Times* declines to publish an op-ed offered by New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan on the issue of anti-Catholicism and offers instead to publish a letter to the editor, which is much shorter and less prominent than an op-ed. I am appalled that, according to the *Times* of April 6, 2010, "Last week, the center-left daily newspaper *La Repubblica* wrote, without attribution that 'certain Catholic circles' believed the criticism of the Church stemmed from 'a New York Jewish lobby.'" The pope should know that some of his fellow priests can be thoughtless or worse in their efforts to help him. If the "certain Catholic circles" were referring to the *Times*, the Pope should know that the publisher, Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., is Episcopalian, having taken the religion of his mother, and its executive editor, Bill Keller, is also a Christian. Enough is enough. Yes, terrible acts were committed by members of the Catholic clergy. The Church has paid billions to victims in the US and will pay millions, perhaps billions, more to other such victims around the world. It is trying desperately to atone for its past by its admissions and changes in procedures for dealing with pedophile priests. I will close with a paraphrase of the words of Jesus as set forth in John 8:7: He [or she] that is without sin among you, let him [or her] cast the next stone.

*The Latin Quote I have for you this week is: Si vis amari, ama.
If you wish to be loved, love. (Seneca)*





“FUN IN THE SUN”


JULY 12-16 & JULY 19-23


Camp will be from **8:30am – 12:30pm** here. The cost is \$100/child per week for children **currently** in **grades K-6**. Information and applications are available in the vestibule, at the Rectory or at: **www.stmarybethel.org**. Return your completed forms with payment to the Rectory to reserve a spot. Any questions, please call **Kate (744-5777)**.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL, JULY 26 – 30, 9:00-11:45am, for children 3-8 years old.

Cost: \$15.00. Registration forms are available in the vestibule of the Church  or on our website: **www.stmarybethel.org**.

 **REGISTRATION** – Religious Ed is available for children in K-8th grade. They **must** attend each year in **Grades 1-8** in order to make their sacraments. If your child entering **Kindergarten or 1st grade** is not registered for the Fall, please call **Rel. Ed. (743-4557)**.


BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP:  Next meeting will be **SAT., MAY 15th**, from **10:30am-12:00noon**, in the **Parish House**.

ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: APRIL BOOK
 **“Left to Tell”** by Immaculee Ilibagiza. Meet in the **Children’s Room** for discussion on **TUES., APR. 27th**, at **7:30pm**.

MAY BOOK: **Father Joe, “The Man Who Saved My Soul”**, by Tony Hendra. Group discussion on **TUES., MAY 25th**, at **7:30pm**.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Next Meeting – APR. 26, 8:15pm.
Rosary at 7:45pm in the Church.




 **K of C COMMUNION BREAKFAST**
All parishioners are welcome to join us in the **Gym** on **SUN., MAY 2nd**, following the 8:30 Mass, in honoring **“Our Own Priests”** for their service to St. Mary’s. Tickets are on sale in the vestibule this weekend. For more info, please contact **Dave Whitmore (203 470-0909)**.

School News

St. Mary School Grade 2 – First Eucharist will be on **SAT., MAY 1st**, at **9:00am**.

Come support **St. Mary School Track team** at our meet on **SUN., MAY 2nd**, from **12:00noon-4:00pm** at **Immaculate High School**.


St. Mary School Carnival: Save the Date
WED., MAY 12th – SAT., MAY 15th.


Exciting rides and attractions here on Church grounds. The Carnival raffle will award cash prizes this year. To volunteer please call **Jo Jo Magrone (203 730-1840)**. 

Carnival Raffle: Please pick up your ticket packets in the vestibule after all Masses – they will not be delivered to your home. **CASH PRIZES: 1st – \$1,500, 2nd – \$1,000, 3rd – \$500.**

Carnival Wristbands: Available every night for unlimited rides – **\$15** in advance, **\$20** at carnival. Sold after Mass or call **Kathy Iorfino (744-2714)**.

New this year – Our version of **American Idol!**

 **Calling all local singers of all ages!**
If you are interested in competing or need more information, please contact **Cindy Iazzetta (730-8026)** or at: **ciazzetta@yahoo.com**.

Pie Baking Contest will be on **SAT., MAY 15th**, at **4:30pm**. **\$5.00** entry fee; only the first 15 entries will be accepted – register now! Please call **Konnie Davis (791-8112)**. 

FOR WOMEN WOMEN’S RETREAT–JUNE 11-13

 Come away, rest awhile, and restore your connection to God. **Holy Family Retreat Center** in West Hartford, offers prayer services, workshops, conferences and free time to explore the theme. Retreat offering: \$210-\$250. Registrations online **www.holyfamilyretreat.org**.

COFFEE & ... will be served after the **07:00 Mass** on **SUN., MAY 2nd**.



OFF THE STREETS

Status Report, April 2010

Off The Streets (OTS) is a program we started last October to try to get homeless persons literally Off The Streets or out of Emergency Shelters located in the city of Danbury and place them into a room or an apartment they can call their own. Our Pastor, Fr. Corey Piccinino, is the OTS Chaplain, our Spiritual Director.

So many St. Mary Parishioners have rallied around this program that a status update seemed appropriate. For those who are unaware of the details of the OTS program please read one of the OTS brochures in the Church foyer pamphlet rack. We have no paid staff, no office expenses, no anything expenses – except a small insurance policy and a small Post Office Box. Just about every dollar collected is used directly to assist a homeless person Off The Streets.

When you see the brochures you might get the impression that OTS is a very expensive organization to maintain, but it's not. The professional OTS brochures were not only designed by, but printed by our very own Rick Lawlor, Graphics and Printing – at no cost to OTS.

Our Board of Directors includes a very prominent member of St. Mary Parish, Bob Kozlowski, Treasurer. Another prominent parishioner, Bill Shannon, former First Selectman of Bethel, is also a member of the OTS Board and an OTS Mentor. We are placing in nomination for the OTS Board Rich Schlemmer and Leo Gallagher who have spearheaded the Knights of Columbus initiative to provide for the moving and storage of furniture for all those coming off homelessness. Many of the Knights are working behind the scenes as they so often do; in this example, by offering the use of pickup trucks and their time to make the logistics of this major effort work so well. Terri Spallone handles all our furniture inquiries. You can reach her at (203) 792-9130. We can take only basic household items, please.

Behind the scenes also is Mary Ferri, our Director of Religious Education, who has brought the plight of the homeless to the attention of every Religious Ed Teacher and student. They are in the midst of a fundraising drive. More to follow.

Several parishioners just completed Mentor Training as they work with those we have secured housing for to retain their housing. Our mentors: Bianca Demasi, Ellen Deming, Kevin Ferguson, Phil Palermo, Bill Shannon, Michael Stokes and Denise Tierney.

I realize I haven't identified many of the St. Mary Parishioners involved, but your time is coming. We need lots of help, in terms of Prayer, Mentors, Furniture, and Financial Contributions. Contact any of the persons mentioned herein to get involved. All contributions are tax deductible and should be made to Off The Streets, P.O. Box 591, Bethel, CT 06801.

God's peace, Deacon Mike

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., APR. 26	6:30	+	Marty Ryan – Kathy & George Aiello
	9:00	+	Hugh Lee – Family
TUES, APR. 27	6:30	+	Daniel Kiah – Carol & Bob DiMatteo
	9:00	+	Maurice Roddy – Eileen Freebairn
WED., APR. 28	6:30		Blessed Mother’s Intentions
	9:00	+	Robert Murphy – McDonald Family
THU., APR. 29	6:30		Heavenly Stock Intentions
	9:00	+	Eddie Usher – Betty Grady
FRI., APR. 30	6:30	+	Lirio De Jesus – Roberto & Marivic Matic
	9:00	+	Elsie Campbell – Cecera Family
SAT., MAY 1	8:00	+	Gavino Denosos – Helen & Daniel Yee
	5:30	+	Alfonso Ilaria (<i>1st Anniv.</i>) – Wife & Family
SUN., MAY 2	7:00	+	Mary C. Britt – Family
	8:30	+	Anne Bartkus – Coral & Bill Presti
	10:00	+	Joseph Balestrino – Deanna Joe Mossa
	11:30	+	Florence Santos – Broccoli Family
	5:30	+	Ann Lynch – Kay Flynn



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED



Alayna Sophia Avallone Thomas Philip LaRolla
Daniel Leeds

GOAL: \$15,000 COLLECTION: \$13,285

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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.*

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| <b><u>PARISH OFFICE</u> (744-5777)</b><br>Sheila Kurjiaka: <i>Bulletin Editor</i><br>Kate Fitzgerald: <i>Secretary</i><br>Paul Orsino: <i>Property Manager</i>                                                                                                                          |
| <b><u>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</u> (743-4557)</b><br>Mary Ferri: <i>Director</i><br>Peggy Gavin: <i>Secretary</i><br>Dennis Nauheimer (RCIA): 794-9488<br><i>(Call if interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your initiation as a Catholic with Confirmation and/or Eucharist.)</i> |
| <b><u>MUSIC MINISTRY</u></b><br>Michael Ferrari: <i>Music Director</i><br>Elizabeth Barnes: <i>Choir Director</i><br>Debbie Caraluzzi: <i>Contemp. Group Director</i>                                                                                                                   |
| <b><u>ST. MARY SCHOOL</u> (744-2922)</b><br>Sister Anne McCarthy: <i>Principal</i><br>Linda Curry: <i>Secretary</i>                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| <b><u>MASS SCHEDULE</u></b><br>Monday – Friday: 6:30 & 9:00am<br>Saturday: 8:00am & 5:30pm<br>Sunday: 7:00, 8:30, 10:00, 11:30am & 5:30pm                          |
| <b><u>CONFESSION SCHEDULE</u></b><br>Saturday: 4:00 - 5:00pm.                                                                                                      |
| <b><u>BAPTISMS:</u> Every Sunday at 1:00pm.</b><br>(Call the Rectory to Schedule.)                                                                                 |
| <b><u>PRE-BAPTISM CLASSES:</u> Twice a Month.</b><br>(Call the Rectory to Schedule.)                                                                               |
| <b><u>ARRANGEMENT FOR MARRIAGE:</u></b><br><i>Couples must meet with a parish clergyman at least <u>six (6) months before</u> the marriage is to be celebrate.</i> |