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## Fr. Corey's Comments

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- *I promised you more about the symbols of Easter, so here they are: Easter eggs & baby chicks symbolize new life. Eggs have been a symbol of spring since ancient times. An egg also is a symbol of the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged when he arose again. The chick, hatching out of the egg, also symbolizes re-birth. Easter bunny - The rabbit, or hare, was a symbol of abundant new life in ancient times, and reminds us of spring and new life. Easter Lilies - The white blossoms symbolize the purity of Jesus. Lilies, emerging from the earth in the spring, also symbolize new life and the resurrection of Christ. The lamb represents Jesus, "the Lamb of God". Easter hats & wearing new clothes for Easter symbolizes new life offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The Butterfly is one of the significant symbols of Easter. Its whole life cycle is meant to symbolize the life of Jesus Christ. The first stage is the caterpillar, which stands for His life on Earth. The second phase begins from the cocoon stage, portraying the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. The third and final stage is the butterfly, representing His raising from the dead in a glorified body and peace.*
- *This past weekend our parish was blessed with 2 more classes receiving First Holy Communion. We pray that our young people may grow in love of the Eucharistic Christ and each Sunday when they come to Mass with their families they understand more and more how much Jesus loves them.*
- *As you all know, May is one of the months of the year dedicated to the Blessed Mother, our patron. The rosary is said every weekday morning before the 9 o'clock Mass. I would encourage everyone in the parish to pray the rosary always but especially during the month of May. There is no more powerful an example than children seeing their parents praying this beautifully meditative prayer. Perhaps you have forgotten how to say the Rosary. I have included some instruction sheets in the vestibule of the Church to give refresh your mind. There are so many reasons in our world to ask for the Blessed Mother's intercession. Please ask our Mother to help us in our need.*
- *Also, this Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, we shall conduct our May procession. It is a chance for our First Communicants to wear their First Holy Communion outfits, and for all people in the parish to gather together and ask Holy Mary's intercession.*
- *I would like to mention a few things about the Annual Bishop's Appeal. Helping with counseling, feeding and sheltering the homeless, educating our young people, paying for our seminarians' education, and supporting our retired priests are just a few programs that are directly helped by the Appeal. To think of all the priests in all the parishes in the Diocese that gave their lives for the salvation of souls and the praise of God giving them a comfortable retirement is not only our obligation but an honor to thank them for all their work and kindnesses. The priests' retirement home in Stamford is now completely full and to make their retirement years happy is a wonderful gift for us to give. Please make a careful and prayerful decision and make a pledge. If you have already made a pledge, thank you very much for your generosity.*
- *Pope Benedict XVI named five new saints Sunday, including Portugal's 14th century independence leader and a priest who ministered to factory workers at the dawn of the industrial era. Speaking in a packed St. Peter's Square, Benedict praised each of the five as a model for the faithful, saying their lives and works were as relevant today as when they were alive.*

*Benedict singled out the Rev. Arcangelo Tadini, who lived at the turn of the last century and founded an order of nuns to tend to factory workers — something of a scandal at the time, since factories were considered immoral and dangerous places. Tadini also created an association to provide emergency loans to workers experiencing financial difficulties. "How prophetic was Don Tadini's charismatic intuition, and how current his example is today, in this time of grave economic crisis!" Benedict marveled in his homily.*

*The only non-Italian canonized was Nuno Alvares Pereira, who helped secure Portugal's independence from the Spanish kingdom of Castile, leading Portuguese forces in the critical Battle of Aljubarrota in 1385. After leaving the military, he entered religious life as a Carmelite and changed his name to Nuno de Santa Maria. He dedicated himself to the poor, never taking the privileges that would have been afforded to him as a former commander. He is remembered as a national hero today in Portugal, with street signs named after him in many towns, but also as a humble man of great spirituality. "The canonization of Nuno Alvares Pereira honors one of the personalities that most clearly mapped out our national history," Portuguese President Anibal Cavaco Silva said in Lisbon.*

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

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*Also, canonized was Bernardo Tolomei, a nearly blind monk who founded the Benedictine Congregation of Santa Maria di Monte Oliveto in the 1340s. He died in 1348 along with 82 of his monks after leaving the safety of his monastery to tend to plague victims in Siena. Benedict praised his dedication, saying he died "as an authentic martyr of charity".*

*The others canonized were Gertrude Comensoli and Caterina Volpicelli, 19th century Italian nuns who founded religious orders.*

*Benedict has presided over a handful of canonization ceremonies in his four-year pontificate, and has left it to other Vatican officials to officiate at beatification ceremonies. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II, beatified 1,338 people and canonized 480 during his quarter-century pontificate. Beatification is the first step to possible sainthood. The Vatican must certify one miracle attributed to the candidate's intercession for beatification, and a second miracle that occurred after beatification for the candidate to be declared a saint. I thank Yahoo news for this information.*

*Augustus Tolton was born of the marriage union of Peter Paul and Martha Jane Tolton in Ralls County, Missouri, on April 1, 1854. He had one older brother, Charles, and two younger sisters, Cordella and Anna. These children were all born into the same slavery to which their parents were subjected. Peter Paul Tolton, in looking at his condition, could see nothing but the abuse of his people. He and his family were subject to the rules of another man's life. As the Civil War began in 1861, Peter escaped slavery and joined the Union Army to fight for his family's freedom. Tragically, he was among the 180,000 other Black men who were killed during that war. He died in St. Louis Hospital. Martha Tolton, a strong and courageous woman, fulfilled her husband's long quest for freedom. She gathered her children and walked to freedom by crossing the Mississippi River. Reaching safety, she spoke to her children, "Now you are! Never forget the goodness of the Lord!". Augustus was seven years old when he and his family reached Quincy, Illinois. He remembered his mother's counsel, and never did forget the goodness of the Lord. Prior to their escape, the slave owners of the Tolton family (the Elliots) had all their slaves baptized; so upon reaching Illinois the family became members of the Roman Catholic Church. They continued to practice their faith after becoming free. Augustus was enrolled in Catholic School for a time, but had to withdraw because of the racial prejudice of the parishioners who protested the presence of a "Negro" in the school. Some of the School Sisters of Notre Dame who staffed St. Boniface School tutored Augustus until he got enrolled in St. Peter's School, where he was allowed to attend classes.*

*As he grew, Augustus began to desire to serve the Lord more deeply by becoming a priest. However, at that time, the American Catholic Church did not allow black men to be admitted to studies in United States seminaries. Request to have Augustus admitted to an American seminary fell on deaf ears. His parish priests, disheartened by the prejudice of those in charge of seminaries, began to tutor Augustus themselves.*

*In 1878, he was admitted to Franciscan College at Quincy, Illinois as a special student. However, the two parish priests (Frs. McGuirr and Richardt) continued their efforts to get him into a seminary. In 1880, they were successful, and Augustus left for the Propaganda College in Rome to prepare for priesthood. For a time, Augustus thought that he would be sent to Africa to serve as a missionary after ordination; but Cardinal Giovanni Simeon thought it best that he return to his home country and diocese of Alton, Illinois. The Cardinal said "America needs Negro priests. America has been called the most enlightened nation, we will see now whether it deserves the honor. If the United States has never seen a Black priest, it must see one now. Can you drink from this cup?" Despite knowing well the resistance he would surely face upon returning, Augustus answered the call, "I can drink of the cup of the Lord!" Fr. Augustus Tolton was ordained on April 24, 1886, as the first known and recognized Black priest in the United States of America. Returning to the United States, he ministered for two years as pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Quincy, Illinois. He quickly gained a reputation as a fine preacher, so much so that many of the German and Irish Catholics began to attend Mass with the Black Catholics! He was most attentive to the spiritual and human needs of his people. Soon his Masses and instruction classes gained prominence, and he was asked to attend and speak at many public gatherings. His increasing popularity unleashed both hidden racism and the jealousy of both Catholic and non-Catholic ministers in the area. His enemies referred to his church as "that n.... church", and to him as "the n.... priest".*

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## Comments (Cont'd.)

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The persecution Fr. Tolton received especially from the other Catholic pastor in Quincy (Fr. Weiss) led to his transfer from Quincy to Chicago. Then Chicago Archbishop Feegan thought this gifted young black man would have a powerful impact in the Chicago diocese. Upon arriving there, Tolton ministered in a Southside church basement that was known as St. Augustine's, and later became St. Monica's Church. Parishioners eventually found him an apartment. His mother and sister moved in with Fr. Tolton, who had been given jurisdiction of all Blacks in Chicago, and had become the first Black pastor in Chicago. Although the formal church building was never totally completed, the parish continued to gather at the small chapel for Mass and other assemblies. St. Monica's became the center of Black Catholic life for more than 30 years.

Augustus Tolton continued to be well known in Chicago and the United States. He spoke at numerous gatherings and lectures, including the 1<sup>st</sup> Catholic Colored Congress in Washington DC in 1889. Catholics in Boston and New York heard him speak, and he preached at places like the Cathedral in Galveston, Texas. Papers throughout the country played up Fr. Tolton's unique role as the only full blooded Black priest in the American Catholic Church. Augustus was proud of his Blackness, and extremely devoted to his people. Perhaps, it was because he was so devoted and hard-working that his life was cut short far too early. In July 1897, he journeyed with other Diocesan priests to a retreat, returning on an excessively hot day on Friday, July 9, 1897. As he stepped from the train and began walking home, he was stricken with heat stroke and rushed to Mercy hospital. He died that night at the age of 43.

Later, the first Black Catholic Bishop, Harold Perry, SVD, wrote this of Fr. Augustus Tolton: "Fr. Tolton found his opposition within the Church and among church people, where compassion should have offset established prejudice and ignorance. It was his lot to disprove the myth that young Black men could not assume the responsibility of the Catholic priesthood."

Please take a look at the many sponsors on the back of the bulletin. We thank those who have taken an ad to defray the expense of the bulletin. Using these sponsors is a wonderful way of saying, "Thank You" for helping to produce our bulletin each week.



# MAY

## MAY CROWNING PROCESSION

MON., MAY 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm. All parish children who recently received First Communion may participate. You should wear your First Communion clothing. Meet in the **Parish Hall** by 6:45pm.




## DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS

WED., MAY 6<sup>th</sup>: *Our turn to Cook.*

COFFEE & ... will be served after the 8:30 & 10:00 Mass on SUN., MAY 10<sup>th</sup>.



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

**ST. MARY BOOK CLUB** – **MAY BOOK:** Rediscovering Catholicism: "*Journeying Toward Our Spiritual North Star*", by **Matthew Kelly**. Please join **Deacon John** in the **Children's Room** at 7:30pm, on TUES., MAY 26<sup>th</sup>, for a group discussion.



**Schedules for JUNE & JULY** will be out in a few weeks. If you are unable to serve any weekend during these months, please call **Sheila** (744-5777) so you will not be scheduled for that time. Also, please call if you no longer wish to serve.

## STEUBENVILLE EAST 2009

Come to the High School conference, the most dynamic youth event in New England, from JULY 24-26. There will be an information night on TUES., MAY 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, in the **Parish Hall**. Questions? Please call **Mary Buzak** (790-8489).



## odds "n" ends

**REMINDER:** FIELD DAY is early this year, FRI., MAY 15<sup>th</sup>, to coincide with the Carnival.



St. Mary's will host its first 5K Road Race & Fun Run on SAT., MAY 16<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins at 7:30am with the Fun Run for children 10 and under at 8:00am, followed by the 5K at 8:30am. For more info, please call Eve Olson (744-5540). Registration forms are available in the vestibule, or you can register online at www.stmarybethelct.org.

St. Mary School Carnival will be on our grounds from WED., MAY 13<sup>th</sup> - SAT. MAY 16<sup>th</sup>, with new rides and attractions! Bracelets will be sold after Masses the weekends of MAY 2/3 and 9/10.



RAFFLE TICKETS for the Carnival are available after all Masses this weekend for only \$1.00 each. We ask each Parish Family to stop by and pick up their envelope of tickets. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize - 42" Flat Screen TV; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize - iTouch; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize - Digital Camera; 4<sup>th</sup> Prize - iPod.



Come celebrate St. Mary School's 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Blue Ribbon Award at 8:30am Mass on SUN., JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Communion Breakfast at Cappellaro's Grove where Mary Ronan will be the Guest Speaker. Tickets for breakfast are \$20 per adult, \$10 per child, and no charge for children 5 and under. Seating for the breakfast is limited to the first 200 responses. Please make checks payable to St. Mary School and send to 24 Dodgingtown Road. For more info please call Kathleen DeMarco (270-3597).

Support Catholic Charities' Morning Glory Breakfast Program on THUR., MAY 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm, in the Parish Hall. Wines served along with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy the music of Roger Young and participate in the silent auction. Tickets are \$30/person, \$50/couple. Tickets: Michele Conderino (733-3185).



**Anniversary** Couples celebrating a special wedding anniversary - 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, etc. - during the months of January-June are invited to participate in a celebration of their anniversaries with family and friends at St. Theresa Church, Trumbull, on SUN., JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00pm. This will consist of a concelebrated Mass with Bishop Lori, the renewal of the marriage vows, and the presentation of certificates. Interested couples should call the Rectory (744-5777) to register by JUNE 1<sup>st</sup>.



Life is a precious gift that should be nurtured and protected. **Birthright** has helped thousands of women in the greater Danbury area since 1972. **Birthright** volunteers help pregnant women in crises find workable solutions that allow them to give birth and face the future with dignity and hope. Next weekend, on Mother's Day, MAY 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, baby bottles will be distributed after each Mass. Please take one home to fill with coins, currency, or a check. Volunteers from Birthright will be here on MAY 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> to collect the returned bottles.



### PERMANENT DIACONATE FORMATION



The Diocese has a new preparation class for the Permanent Diaconate. Interested men must be between the ages of 31 and 60, be men of faith and good character, and must be disposed and willing to give the required time/effort to the Diaconate Formation Program. Married and single men may submit applications now through August 31, 2009. For more info, please call Deacon Tony Detje, Program Dir., (203 748-5235 or 203 416-1415).

### ST. MARY CONTEMPORARY FOLK GROUP

The Contemporary Folk Group is in need of a **pianist**. If you would like to play piano with them, please call Debbie Caraluzzi (730-0804).



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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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<b>MON., MAY 4</b>	6:30	Special Intention	Mass Intentions 
	9:00	+ Veronica Dowd – Ginny & Tom McAuliffe	
<b>TUES., MAY 5</b>	6:30	+ Tony Soegaard – Mary & Bill Walsh	
	9:00	+ Bruce Park – Lawrence Havey	
<b>WED., MAY 6</b>	6:30	Carmela Cassese ( <i>Health &amp; Blessings</i> ) – Bridget & Art Cuomo	
	9:00	+ Patrick Buckley – Friend	
<b>THU., MAY 7</b>	6:30	+ In Memory of Those Remembered with Easter Flowers	
	9:00	Tom & Grace McGuire ( <i>Health &amp; Blessings</i> ) – 9:00 Mass Friends	
<b>FRI., MAY 8</b>	6:30	+ Nancy Sirko – Beverly Thiemann & Albert Kontis	
	9:00	+ Julia & Nicholas Macelletti – Mike & Joan Macelletti	
<b>SAT., MAY 9</b>	8:00	+ Joseph Visconti – Helen & Dan Yee	
	5:30	+ Ronald Dorman – Family	
<b>SUN., MAY 10</b>	7:00	+ Ted Przywara – Fleckenstein Family	
	8:30	+ Concetta Maddalena & Concetta Milone – Children, Rosalie & Paul DeMarco	
	10:00	+ Ann Miller – Marie Miller	
	11:30	+ Barbarajean Ellis – Tom & Dayle Renna	
	5:30	+ Henry Zowine – Wife & Daughters	

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**GOAL:    \$15,000**

**COLLECTION:    \$14,489**

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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*  
**Steve DeMarco:** *Parish Council President*  
**Jane Shannon:** *Cemetery Administrator*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (743-4557)**

**Mary Ferri:** *Director*  
**Peggy Gavin:** *Secretary*  
**Dennis Nauheimer (RCIA):** 794-9488

**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.*