
Funeral Homily for Monsignor Edward B. Karl – September 23, 2009

God has three sorts of servants in the world: some are slaves, and serve Him from fear, others are hirelings, and serve for wages; and the last are sons and daughters who serve because they love. That is the life we celebrate, the service we appreciate, and the passing we mourn tonight... Monsignor Edward B. Karl who for over 50 years served the Lord because he loved.

The funeral of a priest in his own parish is a family affair, and that is as it should be. There should be no more familiar person than the parish priest. He is expected to be a friend to everyone without distinction, from the least to the greatest, practicing or lapsed, old and young. Even though this is a bit unfair and unrealistic, there is a nagging hope that he really can manage to be all things to all people. A priest is called to be a gentle heart. That is what we come to remember here tonight, Monsignor Edward B. Karl, priest, pastor, friend, gentleman.

A priest is there to encourage, to laugh, to teach, to pray, each according to his own style, according to the gifts that God has given him. Msgr. Karl did all of this in the gentleness of heart, enthusiasm of spirit and true humility knowing he was doing God's work.

The prophet Elijah's God, in the first reading, is not a God simply of power and might, but one of quiet awesome presence, a whispering gentle sound, one that is surely felt but never overpowering, threatening or showy. And, so it was with our pastor.

Monsignor always had an open heart, never raising his voice or making someone feel uncomfortable. He truly made this parish feel like a family. So many of his good deeds, the many ways he helped people, were done in secret, like the whisperings of a gentle God. Simply ask the broken down traveler, the single parent in need, the person dying from a difficult death, the needy of our town. They will tell you of the countless whispers of God's mercy that were shown to them from Monsignor in God's name.

All of us have different memories of Monsignor Karl. There are some here who remember him as brother and uncle known as Fr. Ed, Fred. We priests knew him as a mentor, brother and friend. The children of the parish remember him as storyteller, full size Halloween candy bar giver and a smiling grandfather who was always available to receive a hug. You remember him as the one who married you and baptized your children, heard your confessions, sat by your sick bed and comforted you, buried your loved ones and celebrated the Eucharist so that we could receive the Lord Jesus body and blood, soul and divinity from his hands.

Funeral Homily for Monsignor Edward B. Karl (Cont'd.)

We knew Monsignor as the avid golfer, the ultimate Yankee fan, the life of the party, and the most generous priest I have ever met.

Thank God for the power of memory. This is the gift that makes it possible for us to link the past with the present and be confident that Monsignor will be with us in the future.

We look back as a Church, a parish, a family, and we remember the night that Jesus took bread and said: "This is my Body, this is my blood. Do this in memory of me." We do what Jesus did, and in doing so we bring all our own memories to this altar, and we can find comfort. We realize that as his priest Monsignor has brought us God's love, forgiveness, consolation and peace. Following the example of the Lord, Monsignor gave all he had for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Let us understand tonight that the memories we have are treasures of Monsignor, and now they are held in God's memory.

I believe that there is a very special quality about Monsignor who loved us so much. It is the quality described in the Gospel by the Lord about himself... Being gentle and humble of heart. The gentle of heart gives without counting the cost, is compassionate without boundaries, laughs yet not at the expense of others, gives till there is no more to give and loves without condition. They have a loyalty toward the people they serve that cannot be matched. Haven't I just described Monsignor Karl? Monsignor loved each and every one of you with a gentle love, and whatever failings he may have had, he was always concerned with what was best for you all.

Such gentleness will certainly lead us to a vision of God because it is an image, however imperfect, of the love that God has for all of us.

Every night before Monsignor went to bed he would stop at my room, stand at the door, and we would chat about the day. He was always encouraging and positive, and we would share a laugh or two. Our fraternal talks wouldn't be long, five minutes or so, and then he would affectionately say, "Ok, see you in the morning... nite nite."

Monsignor, tonight we pray for you, thank you for all you have done for us. We love you, and we know we shall see you again in God's heavenly kingdom. And, until we see you again, from all of us, "nite nite", and may God hold you gently in the palm of his hand.

October

SCHOOL NEWS

Today, SUN., OCT. 4th, **The Feast of St. Francis**, we invite all the pets of our Parish and their families to come to the front lawn of the Church at 1:00pm for the traditional blessing of St. Francis. Last year we had a wonderful turnout, and there was peace among the animals. I would love to have some of your more interesting pets come for a visit. A horse or two, some sheep, snakes, or rabbits would be a wonderful addition – just not side by side. Hope to see you.



The **Saint Augustine Medal for Service** started with Bishop Lori about 5 years ago. Those here at St. Mary's who were awarded the medal are: Mary Guertin, Leo Gallagher, Paul Orsino, and Catherine Gadarowski. It is difficult and yet easy at the same time to pick a recipient. Difficult, because there are so many deserving folks here at St. Mary's, and easy because there are so many deserving folks here at St. Mary's. This year's recipient is Bob Legnard.



DOROTHY DAY VOLUNTEERS
WED., OCT. 7th: *Our turn to Cook.*

COFFEE & ... will be served after the 8:30 & 10:00 Mass on SUN., OCT. 11th.



ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: OCTOBER BOOK



"*A Jesuit Off-Broadway*"; authored by **James Martin, S.J.** See you for discussion TUES., OCT. 27th, at 7:30pm, in the **Children's Room**.

GROWING IN THE FAITH SURVEY



If you haven't already returned your survey, please do so as soon as possible. We need your input in order to present programs that will deal with your interests and needs. You can place your survey in a box labeled "*Growing in the Faith*" which will be in the back of the Church. If more convenient, you can drop it off at the Rectory, or mail it there. Any questions, please call **743-9757**.

A heartfelt "*Thank You*" to all who supported our **Annual Walkathon**. The children walked with determination and spirit for the cause.

School Closed: MON., OCT. 12th –



School Closed: TUE., OCT. 13th – Faculty attending Teachers' Institute at Sacred Heart University.

Youth Activities

SAT., OCT. 3rd – Invisible children car wash, 9-3:00

SUN., OCT. 4th – Invisible children cake sale

SAT., OCT. 17th – **JYG**, Pumpkin picking,

SUN., OCT. 18th – **SYG**, Spanish Mass at St. Peters

ATTN: Current & Prospective Altar Servers!



This year, Seminarian Matthew is heading the altar server training under the title, "**The Altar Corps**". Because the program is being updated **ALL servers** need to attend training sessions to see what's new. If you are a boy or girl in **4th grade or up** and are interested in being an altar server, please contact Seminarian Matthew at makrankall@gmail.com by OCT. 5th. For St. Mary students training will be held at 2:15pm. Please note the correct dates: OCT. 7th, 14th, and 21st, all **Wednesdays**. For others (and for students who can't attend the St. Mary's program), sessions will be held on the same dates at 5:00pm. All sessions meet in the Church and the hour-long sessions are cumulative. Parents are welcome. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Seminarian Matthew. We look forward to working with you this year to make our Masses beautiful.

SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL TOUR

Wednesday, October 28th, New York City

The bus will leave St. Mary's at 8:00am

for a tour at 11:00am. After the tour **Fr.**

Cyrus will celebrate Mass for us in the Cathedral.

We will then have lunch. Cost: **\$30.00**. To sign

up please call the **Rectory (744-5777)**.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

MON., OCT. 12th, 8:15pm, Parish Hall.

The **Knights of Columbus** will hold its annual **TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE** after all Masses next weekend, **OCT. 10th & 11th**. The proceeds will be donated directly to local resources for people with intellectual disabilities (e.g. ***Ability Beyond Disability***, and others).



OFF THE STREETS is now a federally recognized non-profit program. The mission is to get homeless persons out of one of the emergency homeless shelters in Danbury and into intermediate triage housing within a month of being on the streets. We've already taken some 50 people off the streets and placed them in housing. It costs about \$500 to get a homeless person off the streets. We help with deposit money and other expenses as long as a person has a way of paying the monthly rent. 100% of everything you donate goes directly to helping a homeless person get off the streets and stay off the streets. There is no paid staff, and no federal, state or municipal funding is accepted; only contributions from individuals, companies, private organizations or churches. Please help homeless people by making a tax-deductible contribution to **Off The Streets, P.O. Box 591, Bethel, CT 06801**. Homeless persons often need a person willing to coach or mentor them in managing finances or job applications or working with other agencies. If you are willing to help in any way or have any questions, call **Deacon Mike Oles (203 733-5880)**.



What is Cursillo? Ordinary people helping each other apply their faith to everyday situations in life regularly. **Cursillo** (pronounced **kor-SEE-yo**) provides an opportunity for individuals to grow in faith and spirituality through Christian Community. As individuals we all have the ability to influence our society. However, as a Christian Community working together, our impact – and our personal reward – can be even greater. The Cursillo attitude is contagious. It brings Christ's values to those in one's family, schools, neighborhoods or places of business. To learn more contact: **Yvonne Cecera (797-1361)** or email **yvonne_cecera@hotmail.com**.

Couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, etc., during the months of July-December are invited with families and friends to participate in a special celebration of their anniversaries at **St. Theresa Church, in Trumbull, on SUN., OCT. 25th, at 3:00pm**. This will consist of a concelebrated Mass with Bishop William E. Lori, the renewal of the marriage vows, and the presentation of commemorative certificates. If interested, couples should call the **Rector** (744-5777) to register. The **deadline** is **OCT. 13th**.



If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, please call our **Prayer Line**. Our team leaders are **Mary Walsh (798-1237)** and **Colleen Santaniello (792-0009)**.



OPEN HOUSE

Immaculate High School

SUN., OCT. 18th, 11:00am-Noon

Choose your date and register by calling our **Office (744-1510)**, and visit the **IHS web site: www.immaculatehs.org**.

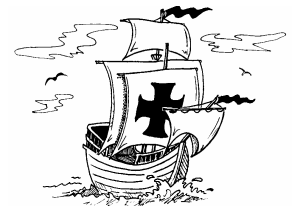
SAT., OCT. 24th, 8:30am – 12:00noon.
SAT., NOV. 14th, 8:30am – 12:00noon

THE RECTORY

WILL BE

CLOSED NEXT


MON., OCT. 12TH



Columbus Day



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MON., OCT. 5	6:30	+	Mary Deakin – Family	
	9:00	+	Lillian Masucci – Family	
TUES, OCT. 6	6:30		Special Intention	Mass Intentions
	9:00	+	Tony Soegaard - McClellan	
WED., OCT. 7	6:30		Blessed Mother's Intentions	
	9:00	+	Christian Major – Walt & Cathi Richard	
THU., OCT. 8	6:30	+	Cathryn Z. Costello	
	9:00		Don & Yola Buonomo (<i>Health & Blessings</i>) –	
			Kevin & Brenda Cleary	
FRI., OCT. 9	6:30	+	Donald Jerome Walsh – Sr. Anne McCarthy	
	9:00	+	T. J. Burke – Eleanor Roche	
SAT., OCT. 10	8:00		Special Intentions – The Girls	
	5:30	+	Margaret Orr – Iorfino Family	
SUN., OCT. 11	7:00	+	James & Dorothy McCabe - Family	
	8:30	+	Hugh Lee – Family	
	10:00	+	Andrea McGrahan – Andrew D' Ambrosio	
	11:30	+	Cpl. James Tibbons – Rosa Timm	
	5:30	+	Leroy Barrett – Friends at CL&P	



WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Shyla Demo

III – *Kenneth Roberts & Rebecca McGehee*



GOAL: \$15,000

COLLECTION: \$13,088

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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.*