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**Msgr. Scull's Funeral Homily for Monsignor Edward B. Karl – 9/24/09**

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*My Sisters and Brothers in the Lord: Sacred Scripture speaks quite frequently of mountains and hills and valleys. With ease we recall three such in particular. In the Old Testament we read of Mount Sinai, a quite formidable mountain on which God gave Moses the Law. It is often referred to as the Mountain of the Law. Also mentioned many times in the Old Testament is Mount Tabor, more of a big hill than a mountain. For us Tabor's significance is that in the New Testament it was the place of the Transfiguration of Jesus, the Mount of Vision, if you will. Finally, there is Calvary, nothing more than a small rise in the ground, but so very, very big in the life of every Christian, the Mountain of the Cross. On each of these risings God spoke to His people because He loved them.*

*I single out these three "mounts" this morning because I think they are significant in the life of a priest. Probably he sees them, as St. Paul says: "Not distinctly but as in a mirror." God has spoken to his priests from these "mounts" because He loves them.*

*Sinai is the Mountain of the Law. "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, strength and mind." While all are called to obey this commandment, the priest especially is called to love God above all other loves, to have no other love of his own. Loving God above all other loves is a great joy. We hear Jesus words:*

*"Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love. As I also have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full."*

*As the priest climbs looking to the summit, the joy of anticipations grows. Each step brings him closer to complete joy. Each step strengthens his faith as he preaches the Gospel in his life as eloquently as in his words. As he moves up the mountain, he is so much like Abraham: he left his own land, his guarantee of providing for himself; and went to the land promised to him by God. THERE is distilled the life of a man of faith who expects God to provide. THERE is distilled the life of a priest.*

*With love there is also pain. As the priest moves forward up the mountain, not every step is easy, and not every step is a source of joy. Every slip, every fall is a source of pain. We do not like to talk about pain and its sources, but they are there, and they are real. The falls into the unseen pits of loneliness, the slides down the wet rocks of dry prayer, the sprawls on the flat plateaus of tension, all cause pain. Who would hope to judge the tensions that build in the soul of a man whose life is touched by the mission of God. Just to have hung on at times, just to have tried to get up, may have been miraculous.*

*The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, echoing the words of St. Paul, wisely stated: "For in man himself many elements wrestle with one another. Thus, on the one hand, as a creature he experiences his limitations in a multitude of ways. On the other, he feels himself to be boundless in his desires for and summons to a higher life."*

*Tabor is the Mount of Vision. When the Apostles looked up after hearing the voice of God, they "saw Jesus only". As the priest moves along Sinai, Tabor begins to merge with it in his life. Those who watch and those who accompany him must see "Jesus only". Someone has written of the priest: "You have been called to do the work of God, in a world tied to becoming man's glory." The work carries with it a share of Jesus joy. The joy of healing gently, of reconciling slowly, of perseveringly trying to mend those people and things that get broken in life. St. Paul put it this way: the joy "of restoring all things in Christ".*

*There is pain with Tabor — with the vision. The priest must often watch helplessly, as those he tries to help SEE struggle with their quest for God amid mirage-like temptations. Even if he knew what to say and do for every pastoral need, how could he know the mysterious response of the human heart to the grace of God. He is the instrument of that grace, sometimes sharp, often blunt. Like all men, he must suffer the pain of the unprofitable servant, who knows that God alone gives the increase.*

**Msgr. Scull's Funeral Homily for Monsignor Edward B. Karl – 9/24/09 (Cont'd.)**

*And, there is Calvary - the cross, death, victory. Most every day of his priesthood, the priest shares the complete joy of Jesus as he celebrates the Eucharist, the God given answer to the question of death. He represents on the altar the "good news" which is embodied in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He proclaims to all the joyous Good News: Salvation comes through the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ.*

*When the priest reaches the summit of Calvary, he also reaches Sinai's and Tabor's summits. The joy of all three merge into one, the pains of all three merge into one.*

*Monsignor Edward Karl climbed these mountains. They were crucial to him in Fairfield, Norwalk, Bridgeport, and these last twenty or so years in Bethel. All of us here shared his joys and sorrows. And, Sunday last, he reached the top, and all of us share in his victory. While we suffer the human emotion of grief, we also share the good news that on Calvary and Tabor and Sinai, he truly lives.*

*It is a sacred personal duty and honor which I assume here to speak at the funeral of a priest with whom I have had the privilege of being closely associated for the past forty-seven years.*

*All priests find a "oneness" in Jesus; friendship occasionally both transcends and finds deeper roots than the bond, however exalted, of mere priestly unity. I knew Monsignor Ed Karl, and I knew him well. What tribute I pay to him issues from a commitment of appreciation, gratitude and affection for him who was both a fine man and a fine priest.*

*The virtue and practice of charity lie at the very core of priestly life. In few can they have shone as brightly as in the life of Monsignor Karl. He was always outgoing, a stranger to no one, a friend to everyone. Generosity became him; he gave of himself, he gave, indeed, himself. He exhibited by his very manner the instinctive marks of the Christian gentleman — the Christ-like priest — which were his by his birth, by cultivation and by ordination.*

*In our day the role of the priest as a servant of the people of God has received merited emphasis. In many ways, in his priesthood, Monsignor seemed to have anticipated this. His familiar approach, his geniality, his friendly and hearty greeting, his sympathy for the afflicted, his sharing in the joys and happiness of men; all these recall the priest whose kindness and understanding came not from the lofty heights of authority, but rather from the conviction that the office of the priest is not above, but AMONG, his people.*

*I would be remiss, if I did not mention Monsignor's love and affection for priests. He had many friends over the years, many were priests. He enjoyed being with them at priest gatherings and celebrations. How honored he was when others would seek his counsel and advice. I have always felt that a very good sign of a good priest is his respect and love for his fellow priests. This large gathering here this morning and last evening shows how much he had that respect and love.*

*One parting word to Monsignor's sister, Mary, His brother and sister-in-laws, Kathy and Margaret, his eighteen nieces and nephews, and thirty-one grand nieces and nephews — I thought I would name you all but... and I also said to myself what a Christmas list- and to all his relatives and devoted friends. We share your grief. We shall pray for him. We shall pray for you. Please pray for us. Please pray for vocations to follow in his footsteps. With you, in holy faith and hope, we humbly accept the plan of God.*

*A Dutch priest and poet has written of that plan in this way:*

*"God calls a man to life, we know not how or why,  
He has to give himself and live only to die.  
Christ gave his life for us  
His body is our bread,  
And we who share his life  
Will rise up from the dead."*

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## A Note From Fr. Corey

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*The Saint Augustine Medal for Service started with Bishop Lori about 5 years ago. Those awarded the medal here at St. Mary's are: Mary Guertin, Leo Gallagher, Paul Orsino, & 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, and easy because there are so many deserving folks here at St. Mary. This year's recipient is Bob Legnard. Everyone knows Bob. Bob is an outgoing, dedicated and kind member of our Parish. Outgoing – You always know that Bob is around. He has a humorous story, he knows how to laugh and since he knows everyone in the town of Bethel he always has a story to tell. Dedicated – there is nothing Bob will not do if he is asked – drive me to the cemetery during a snow storm, visit Monsignor Karl when he was in Wilton, help out with every school event even though his children graduated long ago, and the list goes on and on. I am sure that almost everyone in the Parish can tell their own "good deed" story concerning Bob. I am sure Bob would shy away from stories about his kindness, so I will simply say that Bob has got a heart of gold!!! Bob has helped our Church and our town in so many ways that he truly is a model citizen and Model Catholic. I am very lucky to call Bob my friend. We are truly lucky to have him in our Parish, and our community. Thanks Bob for all you do. I am sure that our Good Lord smiles like the rest of us when we hear the name Bob Legnard.*

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*Fr. Cyrus would like to thank the people of St. Mary Church for your love, care and generosity for the typhoon victims in the Philippines. Your generous support will help many people who are in dire need. Once again, thank you very much!*

*On OCT. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-5pm, the Filipino Catholic Ministry will collect used clothes, new socks and underwear, toiletries, canned goods, etc. to be sent to the flood victims in the Philippines. This is the time to clean your closets and donate unwanted clothes to a worthy cause. Please drop your donations in the Parish Hall. For more info. please contact Fr. Cyrus (203 744-5777, ext. 114) or email: frcyrus@comcast.net. Thank you!*

## **SCHOOL NEWS**



**School Closed: MON., OCT. 12<sup>th</sup> –**

**School Closed: TUE., OCT. 13<sup>th</sup> –** Faculty attending Teachers' Institute at Sacred Heart University.


We are looking for volunteers for the **2010 St. Mary School Auction Committee**. If you are interested, please join us in the **Library** this **WED., OCT. 14<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:00pm**.

**St. Mary School's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine Tasting**  
Save the Date: **SAT., NOV. 14**, in the Parish Hall.

## **Youth Activities**

**Junior YG: Indoor games and Ice Cream** today  
**SUN., OCT. 11<sup>th</sup>**, from **6:00-8:00**, **Parish Hall**.  
**SUN., OCT. 18<sup>th</sup>**, from **3:30-6:30pm** – Meet at **Blue Jay Orchard** for **Pumpkin picking**. Then to **Parish Hall** for **Carving Contest** and games. Will include **5:30 Mass**. **\$15/pp**, pre-sale only. **Bring Permission slip** to Rectory by **OCT. 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Senior YG: Spanish Mass– St. Peters, Danbury,**  
**SUN, OCT. 18<sup>th</sup>**, at **5:30pm**. Meet/pick up there. Dinner to follow and World Youth Day meeting. Our **Invisible Children** fundraiser was a hit! **Maggie and Joey** did an amazing job!

**ATTN: Current & Prospective Altar Servers!**  
 **Seminarian Matthew** is updating the altar server program, called "**The Altar Corps**", so **ALL servers** need to attend **all** sessions. Our next **Wednesday** sessions are **OCT. 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**, in the **Church**. For St. Mary students training will be at **2:15pm**. For others (and St. Mary students who can't attend at **2:15**), sessions will be held on the **same dates** at **5:00pm**. Parents are welcome. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact **Seminarian Matthew** at **makrankall@gmail.com**.

If you are currently an altar server and no longer wish to serve, please inform **Seminarian Matthew** by **MON., OCT. 19<sup>th</sup>**, so you are not included in the **November/December** schedule.



**SAINT PATRICK CATHEDRAL TOUR**  
**Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, New York City**

We will meet in the **Parish Hall**, and the bus will leave St. Mary's at **8:30am** for an **11:00am** tour. After the tour Fr. Cyrus will celebrate Mass for us in the Cathedral. We will then go to lunch and return to St. Mary's about **4:00pm**. Cost: **\$30.00** (not including lunch). To sign up, please call the **Rectory (744-5777)**. **Deadline: MON., OCT. 26<sup>th</sup>.**



**ST. MARY BOOK CLUB: OCTOBER BOOK**



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

**OFF THE STREETS** is now a federally recognized non-profit program whose mission is to get homeless persons out of emergency shelters in Danbury and into triage housing within a month. It costs about \$500 to get a homeless person off the streets. We help with deposit money, etc. as long as a person has a way of paying the monthly rent. 100% of donations go directly to helping a homeless person get off the streets and stay off. There is no paid staff, and no federal, state or municipal funding; only contributions from individuals, companies, private organizations, churches are accepted. Some of you have already made generous contributions through Dorothy Day Hospitality House while we were getting this program established. You should receive a letter of thanks in the next couple of weeks. (If you don't, please call Deacon Mike.) **All contributions** should now be made to: **Off The Streets, P.O. Box 591, Bethel, CT 06801.** Our website is: **www.offthestreetsnow.com.** Any questions, call **Deacon Mike Oles (203 733-5880).**



**Columbus Day**

**THE RECTORY  
WILL BE  
CLOSED ON  
MON., OCT. 12<sup>TH</sup>**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**



**MON., OCT. 12, 8:15pm, Parish Hall.**  
**Gather for rosary in Church at 8:00pm.**

**Knight of the Month: George Branecky**  
**Family of the Month: Leo Gallagher Family**



**K OF C PASTA DINNER**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30-8:00pm**

**St. Mary School Gym**

**Let us do the cooking and cleaning up!!!**

**Pasta & Meatballs, Salad, Bread & Butter,**

**Soda, Coffee, and Dessert**

**Adults: \$10.00; Children 10 & under: \$7.00;**

**Children under 5 – Free.**

**(Family Max - \$35.00)**

**For more information contact:**

***Bob Nelson -- 748-6797***

Couples who are celebrating a significant wedding anniversary, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 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. 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 **Rectory (744-5777)** to register. The **deadline** is **OCT. 13<sup>th</sup>**.



The purpose of **Cursillo** is to nourish Christian individuals with the knowledge of God's love and grace, and to help them discover their personal mission in the world. Join us at our next Ultreya on **THUR., OCT. 15<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:30pm**, in the **Parish Hall**. To learn more contact: **Yvonne Cecera (797-1361)** or email **yvonne\_cecera@hotmail.com**.

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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

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|----------------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|--|
| <b>MON., OCT. 12</b> | 6:30  | <b>NO MASS</b>                                        |  |
|                      | 9:00  | + Brendan Duffy – 9:00 Mass Friend                    |  |
| <b>TUES, OCT. 13</b> | 6:30  | + Rosalie Palomba – Mary Ellen & Peter Leone          |  |
|                      | 9:00  | + Clare LeSeelleur – Carol Roth                       |  |
| <b>WED., OCT. 14</b> | 6:30  | + Feliks Zajkowski – Diane & Joe Riccelli             |  |
|                      | 9:00  | + Timmy Billingham – Eleanor Roche                    |  |
| <b>THU., OCT. 15</b> | 6:30  | + Msgr. Edward B. Karl – Dave Deakin                  |  |
|                      | 9:00  | + Nora Kerrigan – Mary Bardani                        |  |
| <b>FRI., OCT. 16</b> | 6:30  | + Theresa & Ralph Pascale – Fran Schmale              |  |
|                      | 9:00  | + Mary Catherine & Jim Malone – Cornie & Jed Costello |  |
| <b>SAT., OCT. 17</b> | 8:00  | + Carolyn Basso & JR Starnes – Family                 |  |
|                      | 5:30  | + Carmelo Broccoli – Marie & Domenic Broccoli         |  |
| <b>SUN., OCT. 18</b> | 7:00  | + Cathryn Costello                                    |  |
|                      | 8:30  | + Joan Lewis – Family                                 |  |
|                      | 10:00 | + Valerie Barzetti – Family                           |  |
|                      | 11:30 | + Margaret Orr – Giuseppina Inzitari                  |  |
|                      | 5:30  | + Catherine & Joseph Kelly – Family                   |  |

Mass Intentions



**WELCOME TO THOSE WHO WERE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

*Peyton John Dugay*

*Andrew Richard Mould*

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**GOAL: \$15,000**

**COLLECTION: \$15,586**

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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.***