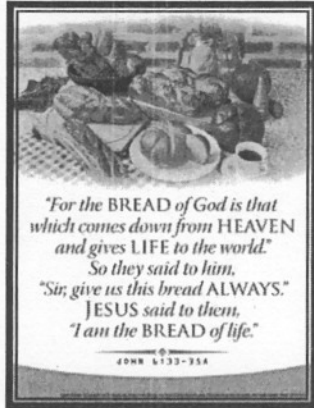


18th SUNDAY—ORDINARY TIME

August 2, 2009



REFLECTION

A day has passed since Jesus fed the five thousand. The crowd has followed him to Capernaum, apparently looking for another free meal. Jesus invited them to recognize a deeper hunger that he can satisfy. The bread they ate yesterday no longer satisfies, the bread he will give will satisfy forever.

The reading from the Gospel of John shows how easily faith in Jesus can be based on the wrong thing. The crowd that eats its fill of the bread and fish that Jesus has miraculously provided for them is ready to believe in the one who can and will take care of their physical needs.

I encourage you to place yourself in the presence of the Lord and speak to God of your deepest hunger.

How do you want the Lord to respond to this hunger?

Is it possible that this hunger is leading you to a yet deeper hunger, the hunger for communion with Jesus Christ and with the Father?

Join us this week for Holy Hour and let Jesus, present in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your heart.

YEAR OF THE PRIEST



We have all heard and I am sure have read that Pope Benedict XVI has declared July 2009-June 2010 as the Year of the Priest. What does it really mean and what are we being asked to do?

We as a faith community are being asked to pray for priests to live lives reflecting the sacredness of their calling and to pray that young men will respond to the Church's need for priests. However, it would be too narrow an understanding of the Year of the Priest if we did not extend praying not only for priests but for all of us who call ourselves followers of Christ.

Lives of priests are deeply affected by the lives of the people they serve as well as our lives are affected by the priests who serve us. I encourage you to:

- ⇒ Pray for Priests.
- ⇒ Participate and be active in your parish by truly embracing your baptismal call to holiness.
- ⇒ Let the priests that come to serve us here at St. Bart's know how grateful we are for the services they provide.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Weekend of July 26, 2009
 Offertory Collection – \$7,188.97
 Budgeted Collection Amount \$8,100.00

Have a Blessed Week.
Sister Dorothy

Religious Education News

We continue our planning for our next year of Religious Education. A reminder that registration forms will be in the mail by the week of August 2nd. There is a five dollar discount for any registration form received prior to August 17th. Open house for students and families will be on September 20th after the 10:30 am mass. Classes begin formally at 9 am September 27th.

The RCIA journey will begin once again as a cluster effort in September. A meeting to plan the upcoming sessions was held this past week. More details to follow soon.

The letters "RCIA" stand for the "Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults". RCIA describes a process in which men and women are guided and cared for as they awaken in faith and are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life. The RCIA process is a series of carefully planned stages, marked by liturgical rites in the presence of the whole community, in which new Catholics embark on and join us in a continuing and deepening conversion into faith and discipleship. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a part of this process, please call the rectory.

Please continue to have blessed, restful summer.

Denise and Colleen

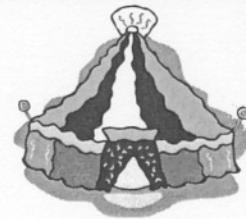


Beginning Experience: A Retreat for Grieving Singles

The loss of a spouse through death, separation or divorce is one of life's most traumatic experiences leading to nearly unbearable feelings of loneliness and grief. This weekend helps grieving single-again people journey through the darkness of grief toward the future with renewed hope. It offers an opportunity for growth through God.

The *Beginning Experience* program is presented by a team of people who have suffered the loss of a spouse and are willing to share their own experience to help others. A sense of community develops in an atmosphere of care and concern that is a hallmark of each *Beginning Experience Weekend*.

The next weekend will be held October 2-4, 2009 at the Gilmory Center in Moon Twp, PA. Payment arrangements and possible financial assistance are available. For more information, contact the Office for Family Life at 412-456-3160, or familylife@diopitt.org or make a confidential call to Susan Ackerman at 724-334-0118.



ST. IRENAEUS PARISH FESTIVAL

387 Maryland Avenue
Oakmont

**August 13th, 14th, and 15th
6-10 PM**

Sit-down Dinners 4-7 PM

Large Indoor 7 Room Flea Market

AUGUST 2, 2009

What preparations did Pope John XXIII enact during the spring and summer of 1959 to prepare for the ecumenical council?

Fifty years ago newly-elected Pope John XXIII announced his desire to convoke an ecumenical council. His announcement encountered a variety of reactions and objections. However, John felt compelled to pursue his Spirit-led desire for a council.

In May 1959, John established an Ante-Preparatory Commission whose task was to survey the world's bishops and other interested parties on topics the council should address. The commission, led by Cardinal Tardini, wrote an open letter requesting suggestions of topics and areas of concerns that the council might address.

The letter, of June 18, 1959, stated "the Venerable Pontiff wants to know the opinion or views and to obtain the suggestions and wishes of their excellencies, the bishops and prelates who are summoned."

Some 2,598 letters were sent, and 1,998 responses were returned, an excellent response rate of seventy-seven percent. The shortest response was six lines from the bishop of Wollongong in Australia, while the longest response was twenty-seven pages from the cardinal archbishop of Guadalajara, Mexico. The information gathered in response to the June letter filled twelve volumes.

This comprehensive and consultative preparation set in motion the groundbreaking ecumenical council.

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Respect Life Meditation

*"Each generation, all parenthood, and every family has its origin in God, the Creator."
Pope Benedict XVI*



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY August 3, Weekday

10:00 AM Florence Spurrier (Joan Lunifeld & Barbara Patchan)

TUESDAY August 4, John Mary Vianney

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph

WEDNESDAY August 5, Weekday

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus

9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Susanna

7:00 PM **Holy Hour**

THURSDAY August 6, Transfiguration of the Lord

10:00 AM Philomena Royko (Sr. Dorothy Pawlus)

FRIDAY August 7, Weekday

10:00 AM Judy DiBerardino (Tom & Angie King)

SATURDAY August 8, Vigil, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 PM Confessions

5:00 PM George W. Nichols (Family)

SUNDAY August 9, Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Blessings of Health for Sophie Jaczynski (Sister Dorothy Pawlus)

10:30 AM Elmer Quigley (Wife)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of our Parish.

The Sanctuary Candle is lit in memory of Vincent Ferrante from his niece Anita Smokevitch.