

Fr. Dave's Den: Today, August 15, 2004, the Church celebrates the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Article 966 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Finally, the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death."

In the opening prayer for today's liturgy we acknowledge this belief and we pray, "May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory." As we set our agenda and make our plans and pray to the intercession of Mary, may heaven always be our final goal.

Speaking of Mary, didn't she really smile on our parish this past week. Thanks to everyone who sought the intercession of Mary for good weather. Our festival coincided with the most beautiful weekend of summer. Thanks, Mary!

How about that Festival? Thanks to all of our sponsors and patrons for all of their hard work and support. Special thanks to the Festival steering committee for their advance planning. Every year it amazes me how so few people can do so much. Please see the insert in today's bulletin which offers a detailed list of our sponsors.

There will be an Appreciation Dinner for all of the Festival workers on Thursday, August 26, 2004 at 6:30 PM, in the parish hall. Only those who volunteered to set-up, work the Festival, and tear-down can attend and be eligible to receive some special door prizes.

Congratulations to the Sweepstakes winners: First prize \$5000.00 - Ruth Moran, second prize \$2000.00 Virginia Kohute, and third prize \$1000.00, Sr. Marcellus Schratz.

Every parish is required to have a Pastoral Council comprised of a representative group of parishioners who work in collaboration with the pastor to enable the parish to respond to Jesus and his mission. The Pastoral Council hinges on the tripod of prayer, study, and action. The chief purpose of the parish Pastoral Council is to promote the spiritual growth of the parish community and to plan ways for the parish to carry out the mission of the Church.

Throughout the years this parish family has been well served by its Pastoral Council. As pastor I am most grateful to our current Pastoral Council for their dedicated service to our parish. Some of these people have served as members since 1996. Thanks to the following

people for their service: Mrs. Ann Ruffing, Mr. Bill Haddad, Mr. Larry Lucas, Mrs. Joanne Turka, Mrs. Donna Russman, Mr. Joe Vento, Mrs. Barbara Fratan-gelo, Mrs. Carmela Rihn, Mr. Robert Babilon, Mr. Tom Kmonk, Mrs. Virginia Fey, Mrs. Regina Beck, Mrs. Lorraine Paulette, and Dr. Tom Zullo.

The service of these members will end Sunday, September 5, 2004, when a new parish Pastoral Council will be installed at the 10:30 AM Mass. Congratulations to our new Pastoral Council members: Mrs. Dawn Angiulli, Mr. Michael Busbey, Mr. Dan Casey, Mrs. Joan Filipich, Mr. Ted Johnson, Mrs. Gloria Marano, Mrs. Pat Nigro, Mrs. Cheryl Richards, Dr. Bradford Smith and Mr. Don Turka.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Don't forget our first meeting is: Monday, September 20, 2004 at 7:00 PM in the Pastor's Conference Room.

After a series of interviews with the assistance of a dedicated search committee (Dot Craver, Larry Lucas, Pat Nigro, Ann Ruffing, and Shirley Schilling) I am happy to announce the hiring of Sister Dorothy Pawlus, CSFN, as the new Social Services Director for our parish. Sister is a member of the Holy Family of Nazareth, located in Bellevue. This community is dedicated to ministry to families in whatever ministry to which they are called.

Sister Dorothy is a recent graduate from Duquesne University with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry. Sister also holds an undergraduate degree from Duquesne in Business Administration. Sister previously served an internship as a Pastoral Associate in a parish and also held the position of executive director of St. Leonard's Personal Care Home in Holidaysburg, Pa.

The search committee and I believe that Sr. Dorothy, among other things, will be a tremendous asset in ministering to the needs of our increasing elderly membership. Sister Dorothy will begin this part time ministry on Monday, August 30. The search committee has recommended that her position become a full time position. I have accepted this recommendation and hope to make this a reality, with the approval of the Finance Council, by December 1.

Sister Dorothy, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, comes from a large Catholic family. I know that you will give Sister Dorothy a warm St. Bartholomew welcome.

Have a wonderful week!



School News with Mrs. Fleet

Remember that though the school year has ended you can still register your children for preschool through eighth grade at St. Bart’s school. Also, please continue to save Campbell’s product labels, Shop N Save receipts, Box Tops for Education, and school friendly copy paper.

BINGO

If you enjoyed playing Bingo at our Festival, join us every Monday night at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall for more of the same great fun!



Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

The religious education office is closed for the summer. Classes for religious education will begin the third Sunday of September.

A Respect Life Meditation

(Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes #51) “... from the moment of its conception, life must be guarded with the greatest care, while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes.”

We pray that our Heavenly Father, who writes in all hearts the natural law to do good and avoid evil, will enable husbands and wives to accept generously the gift of life when God wills to share His creative power with them.

Music Notes

Why This Music Now?

Preparation of the Gifts

Paragraph 74 in Chapter 2 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal is brief when describing the Preparation of the Gifts:

“The procession bringing the gifts is accompanied by the liturgical song for the preparation of the gifts, which continues at least until the gifts have been placed on the altar. The rules for this liturgical song are the same as for singing the entrance antiphon (see n. 48). The liturgical song may always be associated with the offertory rites.”

At St. Bartholomew Parish, the offertory song is probably the “most sung” of all the songs. Since many people are not coming in late or leaving early, the most singing is heard at this time. It is for this reason that a well known hymn is chosen or a new hymn that is to be learned is used at this time. As with the other “musical events” in the liturgy, it is usually associated with the readings and/or the season we are celebrating (i.e. Advent, Lent, Easter).

So what do we do if the offertory hymn ends early? We may have a second collection or the hymn is really short. What happens if there is no more music, but the priest is not finished with the blessing?

Paragraph 142 addresses this issue:

“... However, if no liturgical song is sung at the offering of the gifts, and the organ is not played, the priest is permitted to offer the formulas of blessing in the presentation of the bread and wine audibly, to which the people respond with the acclamation: *Blessed be God forever.*”

You may have noticed that *Voice of Christ* (MI #516) has been used often during the month of July. The reason is two-fold:

1. In most of the Gospel readings during the month of July, Jesus is either telling us how to treat others or how we should spread the news of His Gospel.
2. This is a new song, and should be placed in our Church’s repertoire. There is no better way to learn a song than through repetition.

Everyone should be singing at the preparation of the gifts. There is nothing to distract you except the collection basket. So, before the basket comes to you, open your hymnal and start singing!

A Revelation

The overriding purpose of the Book of Revelation was to offer encouragement and hope to Christians undergoing persecution at the hands of the Roman state. The vision described in today's reading from Revelation discloses that God is in charge of heaven and earth and all human history, and the outcome of the present struggle is certain to be victory for God's faithful ones. This message, however, is coded by the use of imagery and allusions that would have been understood by the early Christian community, but missed by pagan Roman authorities who might come upon it.

Thus, for example, the image of a dragon attempting to devour an infant at its birth would seem to the Roman authorities as harmless as one of their own myths. For the Christian, however, the woman in labor would have evoked the image of Israel, giving birth to the Messiah, or perhaps Mary giving birth to Jesus, or even Mother Church begetting new Christian believers. When the liturgy selects a passage like this and places it in a specific context such as today's feast, it encourages us to see in this imagery how Mary's Assumption is her own victory over evil, her "rescue" from sin and death, and to see in it a prefiguring of our own destiny.

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Treasures from our Tradition

In recent weeks, we have reviewed how the Churches of East and West have enriched one another, and today's solemnity was born in the Eastern Church. It is a gift from the ancient Church of Jerusalem, a commemoration of the death of Mary, and a feast charged with a deep sense of the Resurrection. Mary, the first disciple, is the first to share fully in Christ's victory over death. In the tradition of the East, today is the "Dormition of the Theotokos," or the "Falling asleep of the God-bearer." There is no shadow of death or gloom in the theology, since this is seen as a transformation of Mary's life into a heavenly and immortal existence. There is a sense in the tradition that she who made earth heavenly, and exalted the human race by her faithfulness, is glorified today.

A persistent legend among Orthodox Christians tells how all the disciples, except Thomas, who was preaching in India, were present at Mary's death and burial, and sat by the tomb for three days. On the third day, Thomas saw Mary's body rising to heaven. She greeted him as "my friend," and he was escorted by angels to proclaim her assumption to the others, who then realized her tomb was empty. Thus Thomas, the one who expressed doubt at the resurrection of Christ, receives a gift from Mary: the chance to proclaim Resurrection faith to the disciples.

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Mass Intentions



MON., August 16 - St. Stephen of Hungary

10:00 A.M. Elmer Quigley (Family)

TUES., August 17 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Michael & Michelle Wentworth (Mary Wentworth)

WED., August 18 - Weekday

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., August 19 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Patsy & John Chianese (Family)

6:00 P.M. Rehearsal: Walters/Hutsenpiller

FRI., August 20 - St. Bernard

10:00 A.M. John DeLuca (Elsa DeLuca, wife)

4:00 P.M. Wedding: Walters/Hutsenpiller

SAT., August 21 - St. Pius X

10:00 A.M. Al Smith (Daughter & Son)

11:00 A.M. Confessions heard until 12:00 noon

5:00 P.M. Anna & Stephen Kovacs (Robert Kovacs Family)

SUN., August 22 - 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish (Renewal of Vows: William & Joanne Jeffcoat)

10:30 A.M. Frank B. Thomas (Daughter Marie & Family)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Mary Senderak (Sister of Sr. Geraldine)

Weekly Offering: Total: \$7473.50 Env. Dist.: 1753 Env. Used: 594
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$119.84

Atlantic City

We are still in need of a few fun-loving people to join us on the bus to Atlantic City this October 26, 27, and 28. If you are interested in signing up for the trip, please call the rectory to have your space reserved. The cost of the trip is \$162.00, with a deposit of \$62.00. We will be staying at Caesar's again this year. Don't miss out on this wonderful outing!



HAIL
MARY



Assumption



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH WISHES TO THANK OUR FESTIVAL SPONSORS

St. Bartholomew's Parish would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our Festival 2004 sponsors and encourage you to patronize their businesses:

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 Senator jay costa, state senator 43rd district
 Findlay c. wylie funeral home
 National city bank, penn hills shopping center



DONATIONS OF GIFTS IN KIND

Bloomfield Jewelry
 Comfort Inn on Rodi Road
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 Vocelli Pizza, Frankstown Road
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 saltsburg road
 Arby's, frankstown road
 Mama c's pizza, ritzl and plaza
 Meadowink Golf Course,
 Murrysville
 Silvio Painting
 St. Bart's Women's Guild (2 baskets)
 Colteryan Dairy



The following merchants located in the Penn hills shopping center also made donations:

Carol of Casey's Pizza
 Sir Williams hair Fashions
 Bassett Music Store
 Giant eagle
 Penn hills cinema
 Jean's hall mark
 Pat's Place
 Morgan's Family restaurant

Thank you also to those who donated groceries for the grocery raffle and also baskets for the bits N pieces auction.



Our thanks to the penn hills police for their diligent efforts to keep our festival grounds safe. May god be with you always.

Also the festival committee wishes to thank all those who came out to assemble our festival grounds and also to those who came out last Sunday to put the festival to rest for another year. We were able to disassemble the grounds in record time!!

Thanks to mCcabE funeral home for allowing us the use of their parking lot not only during our festival, but also on Sundays.

Another thank you goes to Thelma brown, a new parishioner, who helped anyone and everyone this year.

Thelma was responsible for many of our gifts in kind by visiting the stores in our area and asking for donations, she also helped the flea market, the kitchen, and served as this year's cashier.

Finally, a huge thank you to the parishioners and friends of st. Bartholomew parish.

Without your patronage and help we would not have had such a successful festival!! Thanks also to all those who donated vegetables. Your donations of fresh veggies was overwhelming and made our sandwiches very tasty!!



Don't forget our "festival worker's appreciation dinner" to be held Thursday evening, August 26, 2004 at 7 pm in helzlhouer hall. Anyone who helped in any way with Festival 2004 is invited to attend. Food and beverages will be provided so come and enjoy yourself, you earned it!!

