

Most Holy Trinity – May 18, 2008

Stewardship is a way of life.

Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: May 11, 2008	\$ 2182.00
Income for May 13, 2007	\$ 2483.65
Income for May 14, 2006	\$ 2495.20
Student Offerings	\$ 4.00

Pentecost 2008	\$ 100.00
Pentecost 2007	\$ 33.00

Next week's tithe will be to help our parish Knights of Columbus to put together a care-package for a soldier in Iraq.

From the pastor: Did Mary tithe? If she didn't, it was only because from her first moment she was 100% God-directed. She and Joseph took the risk from the beginning. They understood nothing of what God was asking of them as they accepted her pregnancy, went to Bethlehem for the census, escaped to Egypt, gave the gift of the poorest at the Child's presentation in the temple. Joseph died; Jesus went off impelled by the Spirit. What was left to Mary but soon to stand at the foot of the Cross? She was sinless from the outset. We are not. She gave that 100% every moment. We do not. With all God's poor, thank you for growing in our Lady's example. The sacrifice of the first 10% of the riches God entrusts to us leads us on the journey of dedicating all God's bounty to God.

Comments on Tithing from the pews: "I think tithing is the best thing that happened in our church. I have prayed and I know this is God's will. It is the right thing to do, give to God first. I want to add that I was just watching TV about Padre Pio and thought. . . if we take his motto, PRAY, HOPE, AND DON'T WORRY," all will be OK."

My Good Deed for the Week: Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift. A 1st grader said, "I played with the lonely children." A 4th grader said, "I whacked weeds for my dad." A 5th grader said, "I helped mom."

Building Fund / Construction Update: This past week there was a meeting to discuss laying the tile in the new church. Everyone agrees that it is quite a daunting task, so **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. If we are going to complete the work ourselves, we are going to need volunteers to work nights and weekends. Your help is absolutely imperative to the success of the project, so if you can help, please contact John Kromel. They began laying tile in the bathrooms yesterday. Last weekend the pews were moved from the trailers into our "workshop" at Cameo Kitchens. Again, your help will be needed in doing minor repairs and refinishing on our pews. It all continues to come together, but it will only happen with **YOUR** help. Thanks for all you are doing to help make our building project be so successful!

Don't forget: mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 27 at 9:15am** for our dedication and our Eucharistic Day with our closing service at 5pm followed by the picnic pot-luck.

Weekly Reflection: This is a wonderful solemnity celebrating the life and majesty of God; as the responsorial psalm prompts us, we sing out our blessings and praises in face of God's "holy glory." At the same time that we are uplifted in praise, we are also brought down to earth by this solemnity for it reminds us that the only way

we share in God's glory is to give of ourselves in the same way God gives to us: in love and mercy, graciousness and faithfulness. The 2nd reading gives us concrete examples of what it means even now to live this kind of divine self-giving: "rejoice," "mend your ways," "encourage one another," "agree with one another," "live in peace," "greet one another with a holy kiss." Amazingly, our simple, good, everyday actions toward one another express the very life of God and God's desire for us. The mystery of the Trinity will always be a mystery; nevertheless, we ourselves are privileged to express the wonder of divine life through our own goodness, mercy, love and peace.

About Liturgy – Parish Community Life: Community is something to which most parishes pay a great deal of attention. Like so many other aspects of our Christian living, community has many layers of meaning. Sometimes there is an exaggerated focus on relations internal to the assembly (developing a truly caring and sharing community). Other times the focus is on building bonds amongst parishioners based on our common faith. We must always keep in mind that worship is primarily about making present the Paschal Mystery; it is about our relationship with God concretely expressed through our relationships with each other. Some of the danger signs of a misguided sense of community that we might look for in our liturgies: hospitality during the assembly's gather being so noisy and overextended that it negates any real preparation for worship, too much focus on ourselves as community and our own particular needs and desires, the sign of peace taking so long that we forget it prepares us and opens us for receiving Communion. On the other hand, liturgy that does not draw us to better relations with each other is equally suspect. I believe that our parish of St. Jude does a very good job. Being the "minority" religion in town has helped us develop a healthy and strong sense of community and care for one another. But at the same time, we have a way to go: there continues to be a "divide" between members of the parish based solely on culture and language. Communion with God always leads to communion with each other and the resulting genuine love and concern for each other. Good liturgy always leads to just acts on behalf of others, especially those in need.

MASS SCHEDULE



Sun. May 18 – Trinity (Ex 34:4-9; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Jn 3:16-18)

9:15am – Virginia Doster

Mon. May 19 – (James 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29)

9:00am – Edward Kivlin

Tues. May 20 – (James 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37)

Wed. May 21 – (James 4:13-17; Mk 9:38-40)

Thurs. May 22 – (James 5:1-6; Mk 9:41-50)

Fri. May 23 – (James 5:9-12; Mk 10:1-12)

9:00am – Dr. Carmen Cannon

Sat. May 24 – (James 5:13-20; Mk 10:13-16)

6:30pm – Marie Sabo

Sun. May 25 – Corpus Christi – Body & Blood of Christ

(Deut 8:2-16; 1 Cor 10:16-17; Jn 6:51-58)

9:15am – Kenneth Zimmerman

Week at a Glance in our parish:

Sunday CCD/10:15-11:30am – Last Class

Friday Building Meeting/10am/parish house

Saturday Spanish Choir Practice/5:30pm/parish house

Confessions/5:30-6:15pm/church

Bilingual Mass/6:30pm/church

Food Pantry: Please pray for the Juniata County Food Pantry and continue to support us with your donations as we try to keep food and supplies in the homes of the hungry. Our shelves are very empty, and the number of families needing help continues to increase. If you could help by donating the following items, we would be very grateful. Needs for May: Canned fruit juice, bath soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, deodorant, Lotion, Shaving Cream. Thank You! Kathy Queitzsch 436-9718.

Mass for the Polish Community will be celebrated by Bishop Rhoades on May 25, 2008, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, at 2:00 PM at St. Catherine Laboure Church, 4000 Derry Street, Harrisburg. A procession with the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass. Come celebrate this wonderful feast day in the Polish way!

What you should know about Advanced Health Care

Directives: (continued) *What does the Church say about medically assisted nutrition and hydration?* It is important to note that as Catholics, we believe that God is the author of all life. We believe that we (and our health care agents) have a responsibility to preserve life. In their statement, **Nutrition and Hydration: Moral Considerations**, the Bishops of Pennsylvania said, "There are instances in which it is relatively easy to apply moral principles to the decision to withhold or withdraw nutrition. In the case of a terminal cancer patient whose death is imminent, for instance, the decision to begin intravenous feeding or feeding by nasogastric tube or gastrostomy, may also mean that the patient is going to endure greater suffering for a somewhat longer period of time - without hope of recovery or even appreciable lengthening of life. Weighing the balance of benefits versus burdens makes it relatively easy to decide that this could fall into the category of extraordinary means and that such feeding procedures need not be initiated or may be discontinued."

But these sorts of cases must be distinguished from those in which a patient is severely or chronically incapacitated but not dying. According to the authoritative teaching of the Catholic Church, a patient should not refuse or discontinue medically assisted nutrition and hydration that are capable of sustaining life simply because he or she has been diagnosed to be permanently unconscious or in a chronic, non-terminal condition.

Important guidance has been provided by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in its responses to questions posed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops concerning medically assisted nutrition and hydration for a patient in a vegetative state. The questions posed and the responses provided are directly quoted below.

First question: *Is the administration of food and water (whether by natural or artificial means) to a patient in a "vegetative state" morally obligatory except when they cannot be assimilated by the patient's body or cannot be administered to the patient without causing significant physical discomfort?* **Response:** Yes. The administration of food and water even by artificial means is, in principle, an ordinary and proportionate means of preserving life. It is therefore obligatory to the extent to which, and for as long as, it is shown to accomplish its proper finality, which is the hydration and nourishment of the patient. In this way suffering and death by

starvation and dehydration are prevented. [the Bishop's document is at www.pacatholic.org/statements/nutritionhydration.html.] *To be continued...*

Did you attend a Catholic school as a child? Are your children or grandchildren currently attending a Catholic school? Have you enjoyed watching Sacred Heart School grow and thrive? The number of students from our Parish that are attending our Catholic school continues to grow. In fact, out of the 16 new registrants, 9 are from Juniata County, and 6 of them are from our Parish. We are looking for parishioners interested in forming a booster club that will help strengthen our bond and ties to our school, and facilitate Parish activities and fund raising in support of our school. If you are interested call Shane Armstrong @ 527-4869.

The flowers on the altar this week are in memory of Virginia Doster, Fr. Bateman's grandmother and in thanksgiving to God for the gift of the Priesthood as Fr. Bateman celebrates his 12th anniversary of ordination.

Dinner by Father: Once again Fr. Bateman has agreed to prepare and serve a delicious gourmet dinner for 6. Three tickets will be drawn for the dinner with an additional prize of a gourmet basket for 2. Tickets are \$20 each and are on sale at the back table. The date for the dinner will be decided by the winners and Father. The drawing will take place, Father's Day, June 15th. The Guild appreciates your support!

St. Jude Night at Tyson Hill OIP – Tuesday, May 27. St. Jude parish is holding a "night to benefit Catholic Education: at the OIP on Tyson Hill. All you have to do is go to the OIP on May 27 with the ticket you received after Mass and eat. You need to you're your ticket with you when you go to the OIP. St. Jude will receive 20% of the money made from those who attend. Any adults interested in volunteering to bus tables in the evening hours, please contact Jodi Fitzgerald @ 436-5861. Share the tickets you received last weekend with your friends and neighbors! Thanks in advance for your participation.

World Day of prayer for the Sanctification of Priests: The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, May 30, is the World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests. Please consider coming to Mass that day and receiving Holy Communion for the intention of sanctification of priests. Make a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament or pray the Rosary for the intentions of priests. Our Holy Father Pope Benedict in his homily at the Mass celebrated in Nationals Stadium in Washington, DC on April 17, 2008 said, "...I ask you to love your priests and affirm them in the excellent work that they do." A great expression of love is prayer for priests asking the blessing of Christ the Great High Priest upon them. Remember priests in prayer every day and especially on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. There will be all-day adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart in Lewistown beginning at 7:30am and concluding with a Holy Hour and Benediction at 7pm. All are invited.

Please remember in your prayers the soul of Dr. Carmen Cannon, father of Jane Mort, who died and was buried this week. Also please remember Bob Sabota Jr. who is in the hospital, and Bob Stuchel, who is recovering from surgery.