

A WORD FROM FATHER REINERSMAN.....

Dear St. Joe Parishioners:

Where did the outside Advent candles come from -- and where did they go?

Last year Fr. Reinersman thought it would be great to have large Advent candles on the front lawn of church to remind everyone on US 27 that it is the season to prepare for the coming of Christ and not to rush the Christmas season. He would have been satisfied with painted flat plywood boards. That wasn't good enough for some of the STP (spare time parishioners). "We can do better than that", they said. So Father left them alone and got out of the way.

Thanks to their ingenuity and Susan Kahman's artistic ability we ended up with 5' candles made of dense cardboard cement forms. Each had its own "flame" made of wood to be placed on the top at the appropriate week. However, Fr. Reinersman couldn't convince Fr. Pitstick to process out of Sunday Mass carrying the "flame" over his head.

The candles looked great, especially at night with lights on them. There were a lot of positive comments about them. That is until the second week, when a strong wind and rain storm passed through. The cardboard soaked up the rain, even with coats of heavy paint.

So the candles were taken down and the Christmas crib was put up; so much for Advent on US 27.

We received so many positive comments about the Advent candles we are already thinking about next Advent. If you have an idea for a more durable material (6 feet tall X 10 inches diameter) call the rectory to let us know. I'm sure we'll have Advent candles next year. Those STPers are a determined bunch.

An 8 Year Old Boy's Explanation of God

One of Gods main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grow-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way, He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers. Gods second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times besides bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your mom's and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in my town. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But he was good and kind like his Father and he told his Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God say "OK". His Dad (God) appreciated everything the he had done and all his hard work on earth so He told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they got it worked out so one of them Is on duty all the time. You should always go to Church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides, the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim very good and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But you shouldn't always just think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime he pleases. And that's why I believe in God.

Father Gerry Reinersman

From Our Associate Pastor.....Fr. Martin Pitstick

HOW TO SHARE OUR FAITH WITH OTHERS

In the encyclical, **ON EVANGELIZATION IN THE MODERN WORLD**, Pope Paul VI wrote:

"Moreover, the Good News of the kingdom which is coming and which has begun is meant for all people of all times. Those who have received the Good News and who have been gathered by it into the community of salvation can and must communicate and spread it."

As people who deeply love our Faith, we should take the mission to evangelize very seriously. Why would we not, since we have great peace and joy as a result of the gift we have received. It is natural to want to share it with others.

So how does one effectively evangelize? For many, the more "preachy" we get, the fewer our successes. Sometimes we may get tongue-tied or even a bit aggravated when the person we are trying to "help", just doesn't get it.

One way that has shown great promise, is also **the easiest and most non-confrontational** way to share. *We can simply use the tools God has provided us.* For example, the Matthew Kelly book we have in the back of church, *Rediscovering Catholicism*, is an excellent gift to open someone's heart to our Lord. Simply ask your friend to read that first story. Even if they are not a reader, they can and will read the first 3 or 4 pages in that book, if you simply share with them how much it touched your heart. **That is a very powerful story.** If they accept your invitation, you've planted the seed. You've done your part, the harvest is up to God. And, of course, it is also important to pray for them, so that they open their heart to the message of that story.

In the back of our church, there are many CDs, pamphlets and other good materials available. Find something back there that genuinely touches your heart, and then it will be easy to share it with others. Just say, "This really touched my heart and I thought you might enjoy it as well". God will bless your effort!

So, if you love our Lord and his Church, and my guess is you do if you have taken the time to read this, then take Pope Paul's words to heart. Cursillo has a wonderful saying, "Make a friend, be a friend, and bring your friend to Christ". Use the tools provided in the back of church and I am confident our Lord will one day say to you, "Well done my good and faithful child".

Wonderful Christmas Collage

Thank you to our Saint Joseph Choirs and the Newport Central Catholic Church Choir for a beautiful Christmas Collage Concert. Those who attended were treated to a beautiful musical performance. The eight combined choirs really outdid themselves this past Christmas with a variety of well done religious and light pieces. It was a wonderful way to spend an evening before Christmas.

Connie Lauer organized the concert and directed the St. Joseph Choirs along with Jan Schwegmann. The NCC choir was directed by Theresa Blank. We are truly blessed to have such talented and dedicated persons in our choirs and leading them

Father Gerry Reinersman



2 MINUTE PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

Everyday is a journey...a trip along the Pathways to Christ. This isn't a perfect journey. While you travel, expect to fail, lose your way, forget important details, come upon washed-out roads, misplaced signs, and other hardships along the way. One way to keep your eyes focused on the journey ahead and not stray from the course is through prayer.

TOMORROW'S PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS LIVE IN OUR PARISHES TODAY. THEY NEED OUR HELP AND OUR PRAYERS. LET US ASK JESUS TO SEND OUT MANY MORE LABORERS TO GATHER HIS HARVEST.

TO RECOGNIZE GOD'S DIRECTION FOR YOUR LIFE

Lord, I thank You for the gifts You have given me, especially life, love, family, and friends. Help me to know myself better and to know my talents, as I pray, study and decide on my life's work. Help me to see and understand the path You open for me. Help me to choose a life's work which will be in response to Your loving plan for me. If I am being invited to follow You as a priest, brother, sister, missionary, or lay consecrated person, give me a generous heart to respond to Your challenging call and the strength to follow You wherever you lead me. Amen

TRAVELING ON THE RIGHT PATH

O Father, you desire all of us to be happy. Stir up the grace of a religious vocation in the hearts of many men and women. Grant to them the willingness and generosity to give of themselves, their lives, their time and their talents to the service of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord and Savior, and to His holy Church.

May more men and women go forth as priests, deacons, brothers and sisters to bring the truths of our Catholic faith to others so that soon they, too, may know You better and love You more...and serving You, be truly happy. Amen

witness
for Christ *Vocation Awareness*

Discrimination

vs.

The Integral Good of the Life and Dignity of Every Human Being

Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of his dream for an end to all discrimination: "**I have a dream** that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

Discrimination can be defined as: "unfair treatment of one person or group, usually because of prejudice about race, ethnicity, age, religion, or gender."¹

With Martin Luther King, Jr., the Church speaks in defense of, "the integral good of the life and dignity of every human being." (DP, 3)

The Church re-affirms this again in the **INSTRUCTION, DIGNITAS PERSONAE: ON CERTAIN BIOETHICAL QUESTIONS** (published Sept 8, 2008 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; abbreviated *DP*):

"This value belongs to all without distinction. By virtue of the simple fact of existing, every human being must be fully respected. The introduction of discrimination with regard to human dignity... must be excluded. At every stage of his existence, man, created in the image and likeness of God, reflects 'the face of his Only-begotten Son'" (DP, 8)

"Human history shows, however, how man has abused and can continue to abuse the power and capabilities which God has entrusted to him, giving rise to *various forms of unjust discrimination and oppression* of the weakest and most defenseless." (DP, 36)

"At the same time, human history has also shown real *progress in the understanding and recognition of the value and dignity of every person* as the foundation of the rights and ethical imperatives by which human society has been, and continues to be structured. Precisely in the name of promoting human dignity, therefore, practices and forms of behavior harmful to that dignity have been prohibited. Thus, for example, there are legal and political – and not just ethical – prohibitions of racism, slavery, unjust discrimination and marginalization of women, children, and ill and disabled people. Such prohibitions bear witness to the inalienable value and intrinsic dignity of every human being and are a sign of genuine progress in human history." (DP, 36)

"The human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception; and therefore from that same moment his rights as a person must be recognized, among which in the first place is the inviolable right of every innocent human being to life." (DV, I,1; DP, 4)²

"How could a human individual not be a human person?" (DV, I,1; DP, 5)

"The human embryo has, therefore, from the very beginning (from the moment the zygote has formed – DP, 4), the dignity proper to a person." (DP, 5)

¹ World English Dictionary [North American Edition] © & (P) 2009.

² *DP* is the abbreviation for the Instruction *Donum Vitae* on respect for human life at its origins and for the dignity of procreation (published February 22, 1987 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.).

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

St. Joseph Church
4011 Alexandria Pike
Cold Spring, KY 41076
Phone: 859-441-1604
Fax: 859-441-7681

[We're on the Web!]

www.stjoseph@stjoeschool.net

Carpenter Connection is published every other month.
 Deadline is the first of the month. *(January, March, May, July, September, November)*
All organizations are encouraged to send information to be published in the Carpenter's Connection regarding events happening in your organization.
 Information for the Carpenter's Connection can be e-mail to Ken Sharp at ken1962@fuse.net - or a hard copy can be dropped off at the rectory.

OUR PARISH MISSION

The people of St. Joseph's Parish strive to be a dynamic, Catholic faith community, following the example of Jesus Christ through liturgical, communal and personal prayer. We value education, especially education in the faith. Through parish ministries and organizations, we serve others by offering our gifts of time, talents and treasures. We seek to fulfill this mission with the help of Christ,

Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday:

6:30 a.m. & 8:30 a.m.

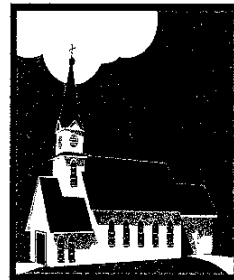
Wednesday and Friday: 6:30 & 9:00 a.m.

Saturdays: 8:30 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Sundays: 8:00, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Welcome New Parishioners.....

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|--|-------------------------------|
| Ms. Jamie Schultz
Fort Thomas | Donna McCartney
Wilder |
| Paul & Cathy Gottbrath
Cold Spring | Elizabeth Whitt
Alexandria |
| Barbara Kuntz
Cold Spring | Emily Schilling
Wilder |
| Jason & Krista Eglian
Alexandria | Jessica Woods
Alexandria |
| Brian & Jennifer Callahan
Cold Spring | |
| Dan & Robin Graham
Cold Spring | |



The Carpenter's Connection is an official publication of St. Joseph Parish, Cold Spring, KY. The primary purpose of this publication is to provide short informative articles about parish news, such as fundraising activities and current events. All articles should be parish related and have the name and number of a contact person.