PADRE'S CORNER

July 31, 2016

Tarrytown, New York overlooks the old and new of the Tappan Zee Bridge where I said Mass for thirteen years at the convent of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. An international community of teaching nuns, my master's degree in education at Fordham University in the Bronx as a priest in Yonkers featured interviews with many of the sisters about the underpinnings of their vocation. I will never forget one nun from France many decades ago, whose father was opposed to her entering the convent. Many years later tears still filled her eyes, as she recounted his fatal heart attack one month after she did enter. The sisters are adapting to the modern world of declining vocations to the religious life, and rapidly changing technologies that require them to advertise their community through the Internet to hopefully attract prospective new candidates.

Not far from these sacred walls in Tarrytown is a theater, home to many concerts. A few months ago I went to one featuring the classic 1970's music of the group "Pink Floyd." One of their iconic songs was "Welcome to the Machine", reflecting a new world order dominated by technology and machines. Verses in part bellow: "Welcome my son, welcome to the machine... You've been in the pipeline, filling in time... And you didn't like school... What did you dream? It's alright we told you what to dream. You dreamed of a big star, he played a mean guitar. He always ate in the steak bar. He loved to drive in his Jaguar. So welcome to the machine."

Though machines have their certain value, such as online banking for convenience, there is a definite downside as they commonly replace face-to-face communication in favor of anonymity. I have personally experienced friendships that were once vibrant, with activity and conversation, downgraded to social media electronic comments. Such friendships will often diminish and then disappear. I recently read an article about a young girl age thirteen, whose life was turned upside down by the death of her young mother from breast cancer. She has withdrawn from her family into a cyber world, where her validation as a person is seemingly defined by social media "likes" and checks in the "notification box." She wrote, "Happy birthday posts are a pretty big deal. It really shows who cares enough to put you on their page."

This mechanical world can deteriorate into cyber bullying, at times with suicides of young people crushed by cruel digital remarks. There is also the real harsh potential of hacking, such as what happened recently to the Knights of Columbus national website (infiltrated by obscene images). Healthy communication of word with facial expressions and body language are sadly not as valued, when the "machine" consumes our psyche. There is of course value to the internet, as a depository of information that often helps me in these "Padres Corner" reflections. (One example of the value of the machine we call a phone was remembered to me recently from a high school friend. "Do you still recall that first time that girl called you at Bell Atlantic that late evening, just to talk to you with the hope that somebody could convince her that her life had meaning and that suicide was not the answer? You were God's angel that day that changed her life, at least for that moment. I still wonder if that wasn't a guiding point to the path you have chosen. I don't believe that girl was looking to God for hope, but was looking to just someone to hope for her.")

What is my overall point for this reflection for you dear parishioners? I hope Saint Francis of Assisi parish is a place where we can come together in prayer, activity, worship, education, family movie nights, youth groups, pre-Cana classes, devotions, and other spiritual endeavors to experience God in a personal way undiluted by mechanization and impersonal data connections. The sacraments must be personally received, not distributed through a computer or iPhone. Mass must be attended side-by-side or face-to-face, not through a remote webcam. The need for affirmation when life is tough or blessings are received will be acknowledged by an embrace and handshake, not by social media "likes" or other postings.

Over the next few months our parish will grow in energy and real in-person exchanges, with more programs commenced and the Presentation order of religious sisters leaving their spiritual footprints on our parish grounds. Social media computer outlets cannot achieve this, but human commitment alongside faith sure can.

God bless. Father Bill

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon. Aug 1 St Alphonsus
7:00am Joseph Zmudzinski
By Wife
Noon Pope Francis

Tues. Aug 2 St Eusebius
7:00am Mass of Thanksgiving
By The Como Family
Noon Biagio Bivona
By Family

Wed. Aug 3
7:00am All Priests who have served at St Francis
Noon All Seminarians

Thur. Aug 4 St John Vianney
7:00am All Priests
Noon Victor Feliciano
Health & Blessings
By Julianne Feliciano

Fri. Aug 5
7:00am Our Politicians
Noon Caroline Walsh
By Family

Sat. Aug 6 Transfiguration
Noon Vocations
4:30pm Thomas Popowick
By Loretta Trizinsky
Louis J. Talerico
By John & Jeanette Mirabilio

Sun, Aug 7
8:00am Anna Yuhas
By Bill & Marion Pushman
11:00am Bill Cathcart
By Wife Barbara Family
Donna Talerico Liebgold (3rd Annv)
By Sister Carol & Johnny

Weekly Collection

July 23-24, 2016
1st Collection $6,256.00
2nd Collection $1,757.00
TOTAL $8,013.00

Our sincere thanks for your generosity and support of our Parish. God bless each and every one of you....always

The 2nd collection this weekend is for
LAWN MOWING

MASS ATTENDANCE

July 23-24, 2016
4:30pm...175
8:00am...191
11:00am...195
TOTAL 561

Our **Holy Hour** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday from 5:00pm to 6:00pm will be for the special intention of **ALL PRIESTS**

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is recited on Sundays at 10:40 am before the 11 am Mass.

CONGRATULATIONS
Father Bill Damroth
on his appointment as Pastor here at St. Francis of Assisi Church.
Plans are being made for his Installation Mass followed by a Reception in O'Connor Hall to take place Sunday, September 11th. Details to follow.

DATE CHANGE
Please note that the Bible Study course *"Mary, A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother"* will start on August 9th (one week later) and run thru September 27th. Classes, which start at 7:00pm will be held in O'Connor Hall.

Religious Education

Program News
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
for the 2016-2017 school year. For registration forms or for more information please call Lynda Piper, our Religious Education Coordinator, at the Religious Education Office at 561-2589. Register your child now to secure the day and time most convenient for you.

Food Pantry Hours:

Friday 9:00am to 12noon
Saturday 9:00am to 12noon

In your goodness please bring **BAND AIDS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES** to Church next weekend to be distributed to the less fortunate thru our Food Pantry.

FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISER

OUR FOOD PANTRY IS SPONSORING A RAFFLE AND BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER.

On Sunday, October 30th from 8:00am to 12:45pm there will be a breakfast at the Newburgh Elks Building on Washington Street in Newburgh. Also, 300 raffle tickets will be sold at $50.00 each. There will be 5 $1,000 winners, 1 $500 winner and 2 $250 winners. Each raffle ticket purchased admits 2 people to the breakfast. Breakfast without the raffle ticket is $10 per person. All profits go directly to the Food Pantry.

The breakfast menu will include: eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, toast, coffee and tea. Tickets will be available soon along with additional information.

DOMINICAN COLLEGE

....has scheduled an information session for students interested in Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees including online programs for Wednesday, August 10th from 5:30 to 7:30pm in their Hennessy Center located at 470 Western Avenue, Orangeburg, New York.

This event will provide an opportunity to learn about their programs and to meet the faculty and admissions counselors. Information about financial aid, grants and scholarships will also be available.

PILGRIMAGES

Plans have been finalized for two pilgrimages hosted by Fr. Bill in 2017.

1) Spain Pilgrimage for 11 days, April 24th thru May 4, visiting Lisbon, Fatima, Salamanca. Avila, Madrid, Lourdes Montserrat and Barcelona.

2) Alpine Christmas Adventure for 11 days, December 4th thru 14th visiting Frankfurt, Freiburg, Lucerne, Innsbruck, Salzburg, Oberammergau, Neuschwanstein, Munich, Rothenberg and Heidelberg.

Brochures are located in the back of the church. To register or for additional information please call the rectory 561-1317.

PRAYER S FOR THE SICK

Vincenza Secor, Aaron Stagliano, Kelly Stafford, Robyn McGraw, John Sabo, Andrew Costanzo, Marie Wiejak, Rose, Stephen Sabo, Ashley Barco, Jean Kaiser, Tom Scalzo, Nora Brickter, Gary Lake, Genevieve Pilch, Agnes Casey, Brianna Barker, Keith Webber, Jake Bryan DeStefano, Rose Marie Michalowski, Meryl Chatham, Vincenturia Cullen, Amy Meyer, Vinnie Yonnone, Grace Keller Peacock, Mary Corwin, Jean DeCicco, Don Hughes, David Jennings, Robert Johnson, Karen Wells, Marcia McKay, Victoria Palkovic, Elaine Pietrzak, Maureen Luzzi, Joyce Poponiak, Corrine Gammino, George Vecchio, Jr, Carol Brown, Teresa Centeno, Matthew Gallagher, Luzia Araujo, Celio Thomaz, Sherry Collins, Rosalie Nogay, Richard and Rina Bozzone, Antonio Troia, Cody Favoino-Finkbeiner, Marie Louis, Sacha Samuel George, the Koch Family, Frank Pietrzak, John Marullo, Rose Jurik, Robert & Helen Osborn, Manuel DiNapoli, Jennie Serrano, Eddie Koza, Barbara Woloszyn, Gary McGraw, Rachael Neugebauer, Patricia Denniston, Arlene Dietrichsen, Maureen Kelly, Deacon Larry Kawula, Abigail Ryan, Debra Thurston, Toby Persico, Alexis Johnson, Barry Johnson, James R. Purpura, Bob Smith, Tom Kingery, Bud Smith, Amy Finnegan, Jane Pustola, Justin, Peter, Rita, Janice Ruggiero, Angela, Wayne, Abbie K., Dominick Denisi, Sebastian Denisi, Pam Denisi, Linda Hummel, Joseph Michalowski, Joann Quicksell, Frances Dolan, Daniel D'Elicio, Fr. Fred Kempferi, Hazel Yonnone, Carmen DeCrosta, Parker, Jane Holloway, Dore Williams, Hank Kensing, Virginia Ranaudo, Sheryl McGrath, Robert Landi, Christine Mariani, Michelle Ryan

Msgr. Henry O'Carroll Memorial Car Show

Sponsored jointly by the Knights of Columbus, Council 444 and the Saturday Nite Cruisers of Orange County will be held on Sunday, August 14th from 10:00am to 3:00pm (Rain date August 21st) at the Walmart Shopping Center on Route 300 in Newburgh. Pre-registration is $15.00 and Vendor Spots are $25.00. For more information please contact Ken Ryan at 845-565-8015, Charles Smith at 845-561-8647 or Dan Keenan at 845-562-9353.

AED – CPR TRAINING CLASS

A certified instructor will be here at St Francis Church on Tuesday, August 23rd at 2:00pm in O'Connor Hall to give a training class on Automated External Defibrillator aka AED and CPR use. The 4 hour long course will cost $40.00. A card certificate will be issued after completing the training class.

ST JOHN VIANNEY
PATRON SAINT OF PRIESTS
Feast Day Thursday August 4th
ACT OF LOVE OF THE HOLY CURE OR ARS

I love you, O my God
My only desire is to love you,
until the last breath of my life.
I love you, O infinitely loveable God,
and I prefer to die loving you,
rather than to live for an instant without you.
I love you, O my God
and I desire only to go to heaven,
to have the happiness of loving you perfectly.
I love you, O my God,
and my only fear is to go to hell,
because one will never have the sweet solace,
of loving you there.
O my God,
if my tongue cannot say at all time that I love you,
at least I want my heart to repeat it to you,
as many times as I breath,
Ah, do me the grace:
To suffer while loving you,
To love you while suffering,
And, that when I die:
I not only will love you
but experience it in my heart.
I beg you that
the closer I come to my final end,
You will increase and perfect my love for you.
Amen

BUS TRIP

On Monday, August 15th, VFW Post 1161 and CWV Post 386 will co-host a bus trip to Mohegan Sun casino in Uncasville, CT. Everyone is welcome. Departure is 8:30am from the Newburgh Wal Mart parking lot. Bus will depart for home around 4:45pm. Tickets are $35.00 per person and you will receive a $30,00 package consisting of $15.00 in free play and a $15.00 food coupon plus a chance to win this trip free..
For reservations call John Raszcewski at 845-562-3705

HOLY FACE DEVOTION
THE GOLDEN ARROW

The Autobiography and Revelations of Sister Mary of St. Peter on Devotion To the Holy Face of Jesus
Based upon and quoting authentic French manuscripts emanating directly from the archives of the Monastery of Discalced Carmelites, at Tours, France where Sister Mary of St Peter lived and died.
"By My Holy Face you will work wonders."—
Our Lord to Sr. Mary of St. Peter

The Holy Face Image is located on the pillar to the left of the pulpit.

The New Windsor American Legion Post 1796 is hosting its annual Golf Tournament "The Cathy Burke Memorial Golf Tournament" on Monday, August 15th at the Otterkill Golf & Country Club in Campbell Hall, NY. All proceeds will be utilized for a scholarship to a cadet enrolled in the Air Force Junior "ROTC" program at Newburgh Free Academy. Registration and breakfast from 8:00-9:00am, shotgun start at 9:00am sharp. $150 per golfer includes cart, lunch and beverages, clams and steak dinner with open bar. For more information contact Commander Jack Powell at 845-561-9847 or Nick Volkringer at 845-564-6259.

OUR LADY'S BLUE ARMY

On Saturday, August 6th Our Lady's Blue Army Shrine located at 674 Mountain View Road in Washington New Jersey invites all to honor Our Lady's Plea of December 10, 1925 requesting Five Consecutive First Saturdays of Reparation.

Their program *"You at Least Try to Console Me"* which begins at 10:30am includes confessions, Rosary with meditation, Mass, Benediction, a talk on the Last Vision of Fatima and ends with the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00pm. For more information visit www.bluearmy.com or call 908-689-1700 ext 210.

BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH TODAY
__YES! I want to register as a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and receive offertory envelopes.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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E-mail Address: _____

Fill out and drop in the Offertory Collection or mail to St. Francis of Assisi Church, 145 Benkard Avenue, Newburgh, NY 12550…..and *Welcome!*

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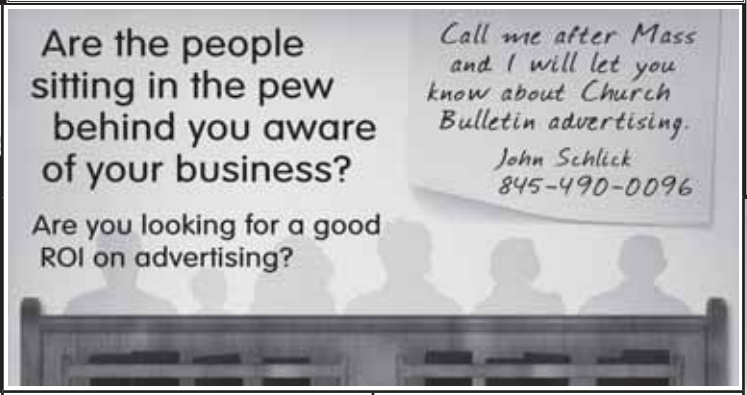

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