

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

Some years ago, I read an article by James Francis Cardinal Stafford, who singled out 1968 as being a year of intense darkness. He focused particularly on the devastating effects of angry and open dissent, set loose by theologians and priests who rebelled against *Humanae Vitae*. The Cardinal asserted that the violent revolution raging outside the Church decisively entered within her during that time and that we still stagger from the effects today. Here are some of his observations of that year, when he was a priest in Baltimore:

English historian Paul Johnson dubs 1968 as the year of “America’s Suicide Attempt.” It included the Tet offensive in Vietnam with its tsunami-like effects in American life and politics, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee; the tumult in American cities on Palm Sunday weekend; and the June assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Southern California. It was also the year in which Pope Paul VI issued his encyclical letter on transmitting human life, *Humanae Vitae*. He met immediate, premeditated, and unprecedented opposition from some American theologians and pastors. By any measure, 1968 was a bitter cup.

The summer of 1968 is a record of God’s hottest hour. The memories are not forgotten; they are painful. They remain vivid like a tornado in the plains of Colorado. They inhabit the whirlwind where God’s wrath dwells. In 1968, something terrible happened in the Church. Within the ministerial priesthood, ruptures developed everywhere among friends which never healed. And the wounds continue to affect the whole Church. The dissent, together with the leaders’ manipulation of the anger they fomented, became a supreme test. It changed fundamental relationships within the Church. It was a Peirasmòs [i.e., a trial or test] for many.

During the height of the 1968 Baltimore riots following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I had made an emergency call to [an] inner-city pastor ... He described the view from the rectory while speaking on the phone ... his parish was becoming a raging inferno. He said, “From here I see nothing but fire burning everywhere. Everything has been set ablaze. The Church and rectory are untouched thus far.” He did not wish to leave or be evacuated. His voice betrayed disillusionment and fear. Later we learned that the parish buildings survived.

Memories of the physical violence in the city in April 1968 [following the King assassination] helped me to name what had happened in August 1968 [the explosion of dissent against *Humanae Vitae*]. Ecclesial dissent can become a kind of spiritual violence in its form and content.

What do I mean? Look at the results of the two events. After the violent 1968 Palm Sunday weekend, civil dialogue in metropolitan Baltimore broke down and came to a stop. It took a back seat to open anger and recriminations between whites and blacks. The ... priests’ August gathering [against *Humanae Vitae*] gave rise to its own ferocious acrimony. Conversations among the clergy ... became contaminated with fear. Suspicions among priests were chronic. Fears abounded. And they continue. The Archdiocesan priesthood lost something of the fraternal whole which Baltimore priests had known for generations. 1968 marked the hiatus of the generational communion ... Priests’ fraternity had been wounded. Pastoral dissent had attacked the Eucharistic foundation of the Church. Its nuptial significance had been denied. Some priests saw bishops as nothing more than Roman mannequins.

Cardinal Shehan later reported that on Monday morning, August 5, he “was startled to read in the Baltimore Sun that seventy-two priests of the Baltimore area had signed the Statement of Dissent.” What he later called “the years of crisis” began for him during that hot ... August evening in 1968 ... Its unhinging consequences continue. Abusive, coercive dissent has become a reality in the Church and subjects her to violent, debilitating, unproductive, chronic controversies.

The violence of the initial disobedience was only a prelude to further and more pervasive violence. ... Contempt for the truth, whether aggressive or passive, has become common in Church life. Dissenting priests, theologians, and laypeople have continued their coercive techniques. From the beginning, the press has used them to further its own serpentine agenda (The Year of the Peirasmòs – 1968, J. Francis Cardinal Stafford).

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Liturgical Ministers for August 18th/19th, 2018

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	J. SMITH	A. WITKOWSKI, H. ECKES, W. PONDS	E. AND A. WITKOWSKI
8:30AM	P. CAL	T. HOPPEY, D. MURO	T. LAMOREAUX, D. GERARDO
11:30AM	H. MARINARO	T. MARION, N. SMITH, B. DENNINGTON	M. FEDRIZZI, M. LAUTURE

Please welcome Fr. Joel Kambai Duwai who will be joining our parish starting this weekend , for the rest of the summer.

Wednesday, August 15th is the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 9am and 7pm in the Church.

This year's Parish Picnic will be at the Sparrowbush Firehouse on Sunday, September 16th at 1pm.

**Last names: A-G Salad or Vegetable
H-P Appetizer
Q-Z Dessert
(Enough for 8 to 10 people)**

.....

Family Name: _____

Number of Adults: _____ Children: _____

Bringing: _____
(Please be specific)

Telephone #: _____

Please return the reservation form to the parish office before Tuesday, September 4th

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Sunday September 9th will be our annual Backpack Blessing at the 8:30 Mass. Have your child bring their backpack to Mass for a blessing.

Saturday, September 22nd, is the annual St. Jude Walk in NYC. Our parish team is **Team St. Mary's Port Jervis**. Anyone can register to walk or raise money at:

http://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?pg=team&fr_id=89628&team_id=224380

Transportation details to be determined.

[Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Part 1 Formation Course](#)

Dates: September 8, October 13, November 3., December 1, 2018, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, 2019 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

[Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Part II Formation Course](#)

Dates: September 7, October 5, November 2., December 7, 2019; March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, 2020
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: St. Teresa of Avila Parish, 130 Beekman Ave, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

For more information contact Teresa Lothian 858-4208

St. Mary's Religious Education/FAITH now has a facebook page! **St. Mary's Religious Education Port Jervis** . Look for us, like us and drop us a comment or two. Information on the first day of Religious Education and other important information will now be centrally located.

Children who will be receiving Confirmation in October 2019 **and their parents** have a mandatory meeting on Monday, September 10 at 7pm in the Most Sacred Heart Hall.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, August 13 (Pontian, pope and Hippolytus, priest, martyrs)
9:00am Beverly Cordisco, by Evglina Cordisco

Tuesday, August 14 (Maximilian Kolbe, priest and martyr)
9:00am Rosemarie Kucera, by Rich, Shirkey, and Glenda

Wednesday, August 15 (Assumption of the BVM)
9:00am Ann Brown, by Peter Anderson and Barbara Dwyer Anderson
7:00pm Nicholas Moscatiello, by Robert Bailey

Thursday, August 16 (Stephen of Hungary)
9:00am Eileen Darcy, by her family

Saturday, August 18
4:00pm Luann McCarthy, by Mom and Dad

Sunday, August 19
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am Kathleen Ann Gore-Wright, by the Tunney family



The Sanctuary lamp will burn brightly this week in the church, in memory of Luann McCarthy, by Ernie, Debbie, and Ashley Jackson.

Please Pray For the Sick: Joseph Portella, Angela Portella, Joann Wilcox, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Elizabeth Brennan, Michael Medaglia, Jackie Mundy, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Louis Harford, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Donald Wolff, Ramonita Irizarry, Theresa Kavanagh, Debi Cotugno, Theresa Fuller, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Helen Andreano, Tito Rivera, Neil Stasilli, Josefina Rodriguez, Joseph Hinkley, Toni Sorrentino, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Susan Upton, Chris Marion III, and Loretta Olenick.

Upcoming Respect Life Events in Port Jervis:

Saturday, October 13th Rosary Rally

Sunday, October 14th 1-2:30 Life Chain

Contact: Nancy Smith 856-4610

**Banns of Marriage
Michael Edward Nolan &
Gladys Ann Adams**

The collection for August 4th/5th was \$5,502.
Thank you for your continued generosity.