

Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, February 17, 2008

Holiday Monday - President's Day

President's Day

The Parish Friary Office will be closed on Monday, February 18 due to the holiday celebration, the birthdays of President Washington and Lincoln.

No scheduled Masses will be celebrated in the morning.

Because of the Holiday, the laws of Lenten Fasting are NOT suspended. We have received some calls asking if Lenten Fasting would be suspended on the Holiday. To our knowledge, it has not been suspended as of this writing. About the only days that Lenten Fasting will be suspended are the Feast of St. Patrick, which is the titular Feast of the Archdiocese and possibly the Feast of St. Joseph, namely March 17th and March 19 respectively.

Way of the Cross

We remind our Parishioners that the Stations of the Cross are made in our Church each Friday evening at 7:30 pm. It is a congregation-participated ceremony with the people also taking part in the prayers throughout the Stations. We think that the people will enter into the spirit of this devotion more readily by doing this and hopefully we will have more people participating in this. Not too many of our parishioners have been showing up.

We exhort more of our people to try their best to attend these devotions and thus derive more from this great Lenten practice. It is held each Friday evening in the Church at 7:30pm and it is usually completed no later than 8 pm. Or at the very latest by 8:10 in the evening.

Cardinal's 2008 Appeal

Due to the forthcoming visit to the United States by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI in April, the Cardinal's Appeal for the present year will be cut short and they hope to end it before the end of March. Hopefully, all of our people will have received their mail by now and will give the Appeal their prompt attention so that we can put this behind us and get on with the preparations for the Papal visit.

Please fill out your pledge cards to the best of your ability, trying to match your gift of at least two years ago (remember, we had no formal campaign last year) and drop it in our collection basket or at least mail it in yourselves.

As for the Papal visit, we do not have particulars yet, and they will NOT be available to anyone until the end of February. The amount of tickets allotted to each of the Parishes as well as to the various surrounding diocese is as yet undetermined, so if you have heard anything on the grapevine, it is mere gossip and idle talk and nothing more. Do not give credence to it. And please do not call in for tickets for the Mass as yet until we hear what is happening ourselves. As soon as we hear something, we will let you know. Total strangers are calling us from all parts of the city and beyond for tickets that we do not have and even if we did have them, we would think that the primary obligation on us would be to supply our own parish with the tickets that are given us and have others apply to their own parishes. That will be our policy.

And generally, we would ask you not to petition us for tickets for your married children living in other parts of the tri-state area. We do not think that would be available.

Atlantic City Bus

The Next Bus trip to Atlantic City will be on March 19 (which also happens to be the Feast of St. Joseph). If there is anyone interested in going that day, please get in touch with Mary Frattini at 212 242- 0195 and she will give you a seat number and give you particulars on departure and arrival times.

Parish Sick & Deceased

Remember to pray for the sick and deceased in among your own relatives and friends who might need it the most and depend on you for those prayers.

What Goes Around ...

One day, a man saw an old lady stranded on the side of a highway, but even in the dim light of the day, he could see she needed help. So he pulled up in front of her Mercedes, got out of his car and approached her. Even with a smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help her for the last hour or so. Was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe, he looked poor and hungry.

He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold. He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you.

He said: "I'm here to help you ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it is warm? By the way, my name is Bryan Anderson,"

Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt.

As he was lightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from St. Louis and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid.

Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. The lady asked how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened to her had he not stopped. Bryan never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job to him. This was helping someone who was in need, and God knows there were plenty, who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way.

He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give

that person the assistance they needed, and, Bryan added, "And think of me."

He waited until she started her car and drive off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road, the lady saw a small café. She decided to stop and go in to grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was totally unfamiliar to her. The waitress came over to her and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude. The little old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, she paid with a hundred dollar bill. The waitress quickly went to get change for her hundred dollar bill, but the old lady slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back. The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something when on the napkin.

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady had written. "You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody helped me out once, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you."

Under the napkin were four more \$100.00 bills.

Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard

She knew how worried her husband was, and as she lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, "Everything's going to be all right. I love you, Bryan Anderson."

There is an old saying that what goes around comes around. Today, we told you this story to let you know about love being in the world. Please allow that love to spread to every creature YOU come across.

Make an honest effort to exert that love to all of God's creatures, and if we but follow that, can we just begin to

imagine the love that will begin to spread through our land and throughout the world?

God is Love, and when we love, we spread God to our fellow man. Under His fatherhood, we can begin to succeed in making this a better world.