

Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, July 20, 2008

Saturday Is Feast of Sts Joahim & Anne!

Parents of the BVM

This coming Saturday we celebrate the Feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Very little is known about them except that they were elderly and brought up their daughter in the love and fear of the Lord. At a young age, Mary did something that very few Jewish girls did, namely, she made a promise of virginity to the Lord and gave up her life to the service of the Temple.

This was a great sacrifice for her because it was considered a great honor for a Jewish girl to be given into marriage to a young Jewish man, and beget children and raise those children in the love and fear of God. Mary gave up that right for her entire life, and it was while she was in service to the temple that the Angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her that she was to become the mother of the Savior of all mankind, the great Messiah.

In order to preserve her good reputation, Mary was then given into marriage to Joseph, a Carpenter in the nearby village of Nazareth, and he became her guardian as well as the foster father of Jesus, the grandson of Joachim and Anne. And it was because of their close proximity to Jesus that Joachim and Anne have always been regarded as Saints in the early Church

We celebrate the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne each year on July 26th, which this year falls on this coming Saturday. It would be great if many of you could assist at Mass and receive Holy Communion on this, the feast of the grandparents of Jesus.

Week-end Mall

Last week-end, we had the first week since the Mall opened without rain on at least one of the three days of the Mall. Each week-end so far with the exception of last week, we had rain on at least one or two of the week-end days. And this week-end, it is supposed to rain on Sunday, with possible thunderstorms. We imagine that the rain is needed for the crops, but we hope that the rain might come once in a while during the night on week-end after the Mall closes.

Fund-Raiser Raffle

After each Mass, one of our volunteers will be at the back of the church selling raffle tickets for our Fund-Raiser to help us raise the money needed to offset the expenses of the many repairs that have to be made to safeguard the structure of the Church for years to come.

We believe that our Church is one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture and art in the City of New York. And it would be a crime to sit by and let it just rot away by the oncoming rains and bad weather of the northeast. If steps are not taken now to safeguard the Church Structure, we may lose it altogether, and that is what we are trying to preclude before it is not too late.

At this time we are expending our every ounce of energy towards raising the money for this. And we are not ashamed to beg, being the Franciscans that we are. We are not begging for ourselves because as we well know, we are not stationed in the parish for a lifetime but for a mere period of time during which we have to do all that we can to preserve what we have for the future. If this is not done, we are not doing our job. This is essential work that we are not choosing to do, but has been thrust upon us. We have resolved to do the best we can with the time allotted for us to remain among you. And we pray that you will help us accomplish that goal. We thank all those who are helping us in any way possible.

August Sanctuary Candle Available

The Sanctuary Candle can be dedicated to any of your deceased for the entire month. It is available and if you are interested, please get in touch with Fr. Fabian or Angela during the week.

Parish Sick & Deceased

Please pray for the sick and deceased of the Parish, especially your own relatives and friends who may be in need of those prayers.

Highway 109

A drunk man in an Oldsmobile
They said had run the light
That caused the six car pile-up
on 109 that night.
When broken bodies lay about
And blood was everywhere;
The sirens screamed out eulogies
For death was in the air.
A mother trapped inside her car
Was heard above the noise
Her plaintiff plea near split the air
"Oh God, please spare my boys!"
She brought to loose her pinned hands
She struggled to get free
But mangled metal held her fast
In grim captivity.

Her frightened eyes then focused
on where the back seat once had been
But all she saw was broken glass
And two children's seats crushed in.
Her twins were nowhere to be seen
She did not hear them cry.
And then she'd prayed they'd been thrown free
"Oh God, don't let them die!"
Then firemen came and cut her loose
But when they searched the back
They found therein no little boys
But the seat belts were in tact.
They thought the woman had gone mad
And was traveling alone.
But when they turned to question her
They discovered she was gone.
Policemen saw her running wild
And screaming above the noise
In beseeching supplication,
"Please help me find my boys!
They're four years old and wear blue shirts
Their jeans are blue to match."
One cop spoke up: "Their in my car.
And they don't have a scratch.
They said their daddy put them there
And gave them each a cone.
Then told them both to wait for mom
To come and take them home.
I've searched the area high and low
But I can't find their Dad
He must have fled the scene, I guess
And that is very bad.
The mother hugged her twins and said
While wiping at a tear.
He could not flee the scene, you see,
For he's been dead one year."
The cope just looked confused and asked
"Now how can that be true?"
The boys said, "Mommy, daddy came
And left a kiss for you.
He told us not to worry
And that you would be all right
And then he put us in this car
With the pretty flashing light.
We wanted him to stay with us
Because we miss him so
But Mommy, he just hugged us tight
And said he had to go.
He said someday we'd understand
And told us not to fuss
And said to tell you, Mommy

He's watching over us."
The mother knew without a doubt
That what they spoke was true
For she recalled their Dad's last words:
"I will watch over you!"
The firemen's notes could not explain
The twisted mangled car

But on the cops report was scribed
in print so very fine:

An Angel Walked the Beat Tonight

On Highway 109!