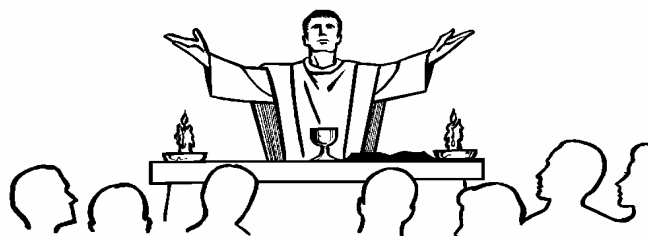


Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 2009



Announced Masses

Sat	02/14	4:00 pm	Laura Rocanella (Birthday)/ sister, Anne
Sun	02/15	10:30 am	Samuel B. Pelle, Jr./Barbara & Bobby Fanelle
		12:00 pm	Javier Moton/Fr. Ken Hallahan & The St. Joan of Arc Parish Family
Mon	02/16	8:00 am	People of the Parish/Fr. Ken
Tue	02/17	8:00 am	Lisa Kelly/Fr. Ken Hallahan & the St. Joan of Arc Parish Family
Wed	02/18	8:00 am	Open
Thu	02/19	8:00 am	Open
Fri	02/20	8:00 am	Edward Frazier, Jr./Fr. Ken Hallahan & the SJOA Parish Fam.
Sat	02/21	4:00 pm	Margaret Hallahan/ Helen Abramczyk
Sun	02/22	10:30 am	Margaret Hallahan/Bill & Mary Dolan
		12:00 pm	Open

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Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning this week
In Memory of Laura Rocanella
(Birthday)

Requested by her sister, Anne

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The People's Tithe

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: \$.00
Thank you for your continued generosity!

Sick List

Please pray for those who are ill and those
who care for them:

PLEASE NOTE: If your name or the name of a sick friend and/or family member has been removed from this sick list and you would like it put back on, please notify the rectory. Also, please notify the rectory when you or someone you know no longer needs to be on the sick list.

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What's Happening Around SJOA

Sunday, 02/15/09:

RCIA	9:15 am	School
Rel. Ed.—English	9:15 am	School
Rel. Ed.—Spanish	10:45 am	School

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The San Miguel School

Is your middle school aged son struggling academically and/or could benefit from small class sizes and individualized instruction? The San Miguel School is an independent Catholic Lasallian Middle School for young men of families in Camden whose educational needs will be met regardless of their financial status.

We are currently accepting fifteen 6th grade students and six 7th grade students for the upcoming 2009-10 school year. Please call Mr. James Hoban, the school Principal, at (856) 342-6707, ext. 202 for admissions and enrollment information.

The San Miguel School is administered by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the Church's largest male lay order of teachers since 1679.

Brother Joseph Juliano, Headmaster of the San Miguel School, will speak at all Masses next weekend (February 21-22, 2009). Brother Joseph is a Christian Brother of the same order of LaSalle University, where Fr. Hallahan teaches.

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A Family Perspective

The key words in today's Gospel were spoken to Jesus by the leper. "If You will do so, you can cure me!" How many people are waiting to be healed by your understanding, kind words and forgiveness?



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!! I hope that you received some affirming cards and notes on yesterday's saint's day.

The readings from Leviticus and Mark in today's liturgy show two different approaches to lepers. One is based on fear, the other on courage.

Each society has its "lepers," the people who are treated as outsiders, as a threat to the status quo. Sometimes the "leper" is so designated because of his/her race, or religion, or ethnic heritage, or political affiliation or sexual orientation.

The laws of Leviticus insist that the leper must be cut off from normal human contact. The leper must announce "unclean, unclean" as he/she walks along, so that no one can get too close. The fear is contagion [even though leprosy is not a contagious disease].

Jesus takes a different approach. He refuses to submit to the religion, or the politics, of fear. Instead, he steps toward the leper, reaches out to him and touches him.

All of us are faced with this kind of choice when we encounter the person who is "other." As individuals, we can be either fearful or courageous. The same choice is presented to us as a civil society and as a church.

Both the society of the USA and the Catholic Church have undergone long, slow and sometimes painful transitions from the fearful attitude of the book of Leviticus to the courageous attitude of Jesus.

In the opening chapters of his book, *Dreams of My Father*, Barack Obama tells the history of his family's interaction with the racism of the American culture. On one side, his relatives were white, although with some Native American blood, too. His grandfather was a salesman who came into contact with people of many races and cultures.

As a salesman and storyteller, his grandfather tried to treat everyone with respect. He was rewarded with invitations to the homes of Jews, Filipinos, Mexicans and Native Hawaiians.

While living in Texas, his white grandmother insisted on calling the African-American janitor "Mr." even though other whites criticized her for doing so.

President Obama's grandparents were examples of people who acted with courage in the midst of a racist society. All of us can learn, as the President did, from their example.

Jesus invites us to take courage, to walk up to the "lepers" and to touch them.

Peace,
Fr. Hallahan

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Stewardship Reflection *Steward's Freewill Gifts*

"In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts." (Sirach 35:7)

Stewardship teaches free will giving, where we come to understand our calling to be generous when giving of our time, talent and treasure. This Old Testament instruction has been lived out by many who have gone before us who we identify as Saints.

A Letter from The Catholic Diocesan Bishops of NJ

One of the greatest expressions of love is the Sacrament of Matrimony, a lifetime exclusive union of a man and a woman, in which they give and receive mutual help and love, commit to a lifetime of total fidelity, and from their union bring forth and raise children.

The self-giving love of husband and wife reflects the mutual love of Christ for the Church and the love of the Church for Christ. We must remember that without the help of God, man and woman cannot achieve the union of their lives to which God calls them. Truly, it is through the love and struggles of marriage that a couple attains holiness.

Marriage not only is a call to holiness, it also is the foundation of the family and society. Marriage as a union of one man and one woman has its roots not only in human tradition and history, but also in natural law, which transcends all man-made law. God is the author of marriage.

As Shepherds of our dioceses, we salute married couples who are persevering in their vocation and who truly are on the way to holiness.

Therefore, we, the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey, have designated February 15 and 22, 2009 as days of prayer for the strengthening and preservation of marriage.

We ask everyone to pray that the love of spouses for one another continues to grow steadfast and strong, for the strengthening marriage and families, we help to build up the Body of Christ, the Church.

May God bless you.

The Catholic Bishops of New Jersey

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Counseling and Support Services

Sexual abuse is a grave wrong that can never be tolerated. It is also a crime that must be reported, investigated and responded to so that victims are protected and those who commit abuse are removed from ministry.

A special toll-free number has been established by the Diocese of Camden to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, religious, employees and/or volunteers. Calls are handled by a licensed clinical social worker. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the NJ Division of Youth and Family Services and law enforcement.

For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, call 1-800-964-6588.

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Women's Housing Event in Cherry Hill, NJ

NJ Citizen Action has a message for women of New Jersey: home ownership is within your reach! Come to New Jersey Citizen Action's "A Home of Her Own: Women's Housing Initiative" Saturday, February 21, 2009, 2:00-4:00 pm, Cherry Hill Public Library, 1100 Kings Highway North, Cherry Hill, NJ. Men welcome too! To register, call NJ Citizen Action, (856) 966-3091, x 206, or complete the registration form located in the vestibule and mail to the address indicated on the form. Childcare available for children ages 2-10 with pre-registration.