

## ~From the Administrator~

Dear Parish Family,

February 6, 2010

On Tuesday we had a Funeral Mass for Marie Kelly. Marie served on the executive board of the Woodland Hospice and worked in the medical field for many years. She is survived by her husband, four children, nine grandchildren, and six siblings. *Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace.*

Next Sunday, February 14, will be the consecration of our new parish altar at a combined 9:30am Mass. We will provide additional seating in the gathering area so that as many people as possible can attend this event.

You may be wondering what is involved in the dedication and consecration of a new altar. The first thing you will notice is that there are no candles near the altar, and no altar cloth on it at the beginning of Mass.

Instead of green, which is the color for Ordinary Time, the vestments will be white for this special occasion. In the Entrance Procession, the relics of the saints which are to be deposited in the altar are carried in procession with candles.

When the ministers come to the Sanctuary, they will pause; but since the altar has not yet been consecrated, no bow is made nor does the bishop or priest kiss the altar. In place of the Penitential Rite, a Sprinkling Rite will occur.

After the Homily and the Profession of Faith, the Litany of the Saints will be sung. Next, the relics of the saints are placed in the altar, followed by the Prayer of Dedication.

Next, the bishop removes his chasuble and puts on a gremial, which is a liturgical apron. He does this because he is going to anoint the top of the altar with Sacred Chrism. Minimally, the four corners and middle are anointed; but the entire top can be anointed with Chrism.

Then, a brazier filled with incense is placed on the altar and lit. After a prayer, the thurible is also prepared with incense. Then the bishop and the congregation are incensed with the thurible.

Finally, the table of the altar is wiped off, the altar cloths are placed on the altar, and the altar candles are put in place. Then the bishop hands off a lighted taper which is used to light the candles on the altar.

The gifts are brought to the bishop, and the altar is prepared as at any Mass. When the bishop approaches the altar to begin the prayers over the gifts, he now kisses the newly consecrated altar.

Please pray that all goes well with installing the altar. During the transition this week, we may have to move liturgies into the gathering area or the old convent chapel. Keep our carpenters, workers, seamstresses, and helpers in your prayers! God bless you!

*Fr. David*

**The first Bishop of Saben vouched for by history is St. Ingenuin, mentioned about 580, who was under the Patriarch of Aquileia. The tribes that pushed into the territory during the great migratory movements accepted Christianity at an early date. In the alps, St. Ingenuin's feast day is celebrated on February 5th.**

— *Catholic Encyclopedia*

## February 6: St. Paul Miki & Companions

These twenty-six martyrs are sometimes called the martyrs of Nagasaki and the martyrs of Japan. St. Francis Xavier brought the Good News of Christianity to Japan in 1549. Many received the Word and were baptized by St. Francis himself. Although Francis moved on and eventually died near the shores of China, the faith had grown in Japan. By 1587 there were over two hundred thousand Catholics. Missionaries from various religious orders were there. Japanese priests, religious and lay people lived the faith joyfully. In 1597, forty-five years after the arrival of Francis Xavier, a powerful Japanese official, Hideyoshi, listened to the gossip of a Spanish merchant. The merchant whispered that the missionaries were traitors of Japan. He suggested that these traitors would cause Japan to be defeated by Spain and Portugal. The claim was false and absurd. But as an overreaction, Hideyoshi had twenty-six people arrested. The group included six Franciscans from Spain, Mexico and India; three Japanese Jesuit catechists, including St. Paul Miki; and seventeen Japanese Catholic lay people, including children.

The twenty-six were led to the place of execution outside Nagasaki. They were fastened to individual crosses with chains and cords and had iron collars clamped around their necks. Each cross was hoisted and the base was lowered into a hole dug for it. Spears were thrust into each of the victims. They died almost at the same moment. Their blood-stained clothes were treasured by the Christian community and miracles happened through their intercession.

Each martyr was a gift to the Church. St. Paul Miki, a Jesuit catechist, had been a great preacher. His last valiant homily came from the cross as he encouraged the Christian community to be faithful until death. It was February 5, 1597. St. Paul Miki and his companions were proclaimed saints by Pope Gregory XVI in 1862.

**Reflection:** *Stop for a moment today to pray for Christians who are persecuted throughout the world.*



## February 8: St. Jerome Emiliani

Jerome was born in 1486, the son of a noble family of Venice, Italy. He was a good soldier and was put in command of a fortress high in the mountains. While defending this post from an invasion by some troops of Maximilian I, he was taken prisoner and thrown into a dungeon. Chained in that miserable prison, he began to regret the careless way he had been living. He was sorry that he had thought so little about God. He was sorry for wasting several years in immoral living. Jerome promised the Blessed Mother that he would change his life if she would help him. His prayers were answered and he escaped to safety. It is said that Jerome, with a grateful heart, went straight to a church. He hung his prison chains in front of Mary's altar.

The young man eventually became a priest. He was devoted to works of charity. His special concern was for the many homeless orphan children he found in the streets. He rented a

house for them, and gave them clothes and food. He instructed them in the truths of the faith.

St. Jerome started a religious congregation of men called the Company of the Servants of the Poor. They would care for the poor, especially orphans, and would teach youth. He did all he could for the peasants, too. He would work with them in the fields. St. Jerome would talk to them of God's goodness while he worked by their side. He died while caring for plague victims in 1537. He was proclaimed a saint by Pope Benedict XIV in 1767.

St. Jerome Emiliani was a gift to the people of his time and to all the Church. By totally turning his life around, he became an image of the love of God. He gave hope to those who were poor and abandoned. In 1928, Pope Pius XI named him the patron saint of orphans and homeless children.

**Reflection:** *St. Jerome was truly an image of the love of God. How can we witness to our love for God?*



## February 11: Our Lady of Lourdes

It was on February 11, 1858, that a beautiful lady first appeared to Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes, France. Bernadette was a sickly girl. Her family was so poor they lived in a cellar that had once been a jail. Even though she was fourteen, Bernadette still could not read or write. She never could remember her catechism lessons, but she was a good girl. She loved God very much. Although her memory was poor, Bernadette kept trying hard to learn all she could about God. She was pure and obedient, too.

The beautiful lady Bernadette saw wore a white dress and a light blue sash. A white veil covered her head and fell over her shoulders to the ground. On her feet were two lovely golden roses. Her hands were joined and a rosary hung from her right arm. Its chain and cross shone like gold. The lovely lady encouraged Bernadette to say the Rosary. She appeared eighteen times to St. Bernadette. She asked her to tell the people to pray, to do penance and to recite the Rosary for sinners.

During the last apparition, Bernadette asked the beautiful lady who she was. The lady replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception." She was Mary, the Mother of God.

A large church called a basilica was built where Bernadette saw Our Lady. Although the apparitions took place over a hundred years ago, miracles still happen there. Many people are cured of sicknesses. Crippled people walk again. Blind people see again. Lonely, broken people find hope again. There, where she once appeared to St. Bernadette, Our Lady still shows her love for us.

**Reflection:** *As we celebrate this feast day of the Blessed Mother, we ask her prayers to "help us rise above our human weakness."*

