



### CHURCH OF SAINT MARY

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### MOUNT SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH

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Dear Parish Family,

October 10, 2010

Thank you to everyone who has been helping Marcia, our new parish business manager get settled; especially those who have helped with cleaning and re-organizing things.

The noon Mass on Wednesday, October 13 will be the Funeral Mass for Anthony 'Tony' Nelson. Please pray for the repose of his soul, and the consolation of his family.

In a little under two weeks, we will have our next meeting to plan for this year's Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. This year's host is St. Paul the Apostle in Ithaca. Anyone with past experience in helping with the Novena or its events should contact our parish office or St. Paul the Apostle parish in Ithaca.

Thank you to those who were able to participate in Sabina's retirement party on Saturday at St. Mary. The food was delicious and everyone had a great time!

We continue our October counts of Mass attendance. Please help us update our records by taking some time to fill out one of the parish re-registration cards and returning it to the parish office, or in the collection basket.

October 22 at 7:00 pm at St. Mary, there will be a live Praise and Worship concert led by Jim and Mary Cowan. A free-will offering will be taken at the end. Please plan on attending to give glory to God for all He has done for us!

This last week, we had a pet blessing at St. Mary in the school parking lot. Thank you, to the parents and individuals who brought their pets; and thank you to the school students who were very attentive to the liturgy. I'm not sure if this qualifies as obedience training, but hopefully those pets who received blessings are a bit holier.

Also, last week, I was able to head down to Uncle John's Cider Mill with the Kindergarten class from St. Mary. Thank you to the adults who drove and chaperoned. And thank you to the students for showing me around their favorite parts of the Kid's Corral.

Finally, I read for, and was given the part of Dr. Pierce in the play "Miracle on 34th Street." It has been 25 years since I was in a local production. It looks like it will be a lot of fun. I hope to see some of you when we begin the shows in December

Thank you for all of your prayers. See you around town, at church, at school, or on the playground. Please keep praying! God bless you.

*Fr. David*

## *The Faith Explained*

### **PRAYER TO ST. MICHAEL**

The Prayer to Saint Michael is a prayer, which calls upon the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel.

Pope Leo XIII added it in 1886 to the prayers which he had directed to be said after Low Mass two years earlier. The obligation of reciting these prayers after Mass ceased in 1964. However, Pope John Paul II referred to the St Michael prayer in his *Regina Coeli* address of 24 April 1994:



"May prayer strengthen us for the spiritual battle that the Letter to the Ephesians speaks of: 'Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might' (*Ephesians 6:10*). The Book of Revelation refers to this same battle, recalling before our eyes the image of St Michael the Archangel (cf. *Revelation 12:7*). Pope Leo XIII certainly had this picture in mind when, at the end of the last century, he brought in, throughout the Church, a special prayer . . .

**Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray: and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.**

Although this prayer is no longer required at the end of Mass, I ask everyone not to forget it and to recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world."

*the*  
**Psalm**  
Psalm 98

**"The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power."**



# The Eucharistic Mystery Calls For Our Response

Many events in the Church in the last [several] years have in a special way oriented our attention to the Holy Eucharist. In April 2003, the Servant of God, Pope John Paul II, gave to the Church the beautiful Encyclical Letter, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*. At his direction, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments issued the Instruction, *Redemptionis Sacramentum* in March 2004. A special Eucharistic Year declared by Pope John Paul was celebrated by the whole Church from October 2004 to October 2005. The October 2005 Synod of Bishops [had] the Eucharistic mystery as its theme. In this specially Eucharistic climate, it is fitting that we now reflect on what the Lord Jesus asks of us in this mystery of the Holy Eucharist. The Eucharistic mystery calls for our response.

## Observance of Liturgical Norms

In the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the observance of liturgical norms is one of the ways in which we show our Eucharistic faith. To a person who asks why there should be liturgical norms at all, we answer that the Church has the right and duty to promote and protect the Eucharistic celebration with appropriate norms. Christ gave the Church the essentials of the Eucharistic celebration. As the centuries rolled by, the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, developed details on how the mysteries of Christ are to be celebrated. Being an hierarchical society, the Church also manifests her nature and structure in the celebration of the Holy Mass.

The Mass is the most solemn action of the sacred liturgy, which is itself the public worship of the Church.

“Liturgy”, says Pope John Paul II, “is never anyone’s private property, be it of the celebrant or of the community in which the mysteries are celebrated. Priests who faithfully celebrate Mass according to the liturgical norms, and communities which conform to those norms, quietly but eloquently demon-

strate their love for the Church” (*Eccl. de Euch.*, 52). At the direction of Pope John Paul II, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, in collaboration with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, issued the Instruction *Redemptionis Sacramentum* in March 2004 “precisely to bring out more clearly this deeper meaning of liturgical norms” (*Eccl. de Euch.*, 52).

It follows that individuals, whether they be priests or lay faithful, are not free to add or subtract any details in the approved rites of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (*cf Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 22). A do-it-yourself mentality, an attitude of nobody-will-tell-me-what-to-do, or a defiant sting of if-you-do-not-like-my-Mass-you-can-go-to-another-parish, is not only against sound theology and ecclesiology, but also offends against common sense. Unfortunately, sometimes common sense is not very common, when we see a priest ignoring liturgical rules and installing creativity — in his case personal idiosyncrasy — as the guide to the celebration of Holy Mass. Our faith guides us and our love of Jesus and of his Church safeguards us from taking such unwholesome liberties. Aware that we are only ministers, not masters of the mysteries of Christ (*cf I Cor 4:1*), we follow the approved liturgical books so that the people of God are respected and their faith nourished, and so that God is honored and the Church is gradually being built up.

## Eucharist and Mission

At the end of the Mass the deacon, or in his absence the priest, says to us [“The Mass is ended. Go in peace.”] Our celebration is over. Go now to live and share with other people what we have received, heard, sung, meditated and prayed. The Mass sends us on mission.

The first duty which the Eucharistic celebration enjoins on us is to live the faith and share it with other people. Evangelization in the express form of proclamation of salvation in Jesus

Christ is a priority (*cf Paul VI: Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 22). We must share with other people “the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus” (*Phil. 3:8*). Every Catholic — priest, consecrated person or lay faithful — will do this according to that person’s vocation and mission in the Church and in the world.

At the Eucharistic celebration Jesus is also sending us to show Christian solidarity with the poor, the hungry, the sick, the imprisoned, and the needy in general. At the Last Supper he himself washed the feet of his Apostles, thereby teaching us mutual love and service as an injunction of the Holy Eucharist (*cf Jn 13: 1-15*). He taught us that the last judgement will be based on whether we have shown love and solidarity towards the needy (*cf Mt 25: 31-46*). Pope John Paul II says that the authenticity of our Eucharistic celebration can be judged from how we love the poor and people in difficulty (*cf Mane Nobiscum Domine*, 28).

In his first Encyclical Letter, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI illustrates beautifully how love of God necessarily carries with it love of neighbor. The Holy Eucharist promotes both in a magnificent way. The Holy Father says: “The saints — consider the example of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta — constantly renewed their capacity for love of neighbor from their encounter with the Eucharistic Lord, and conversely this encounter acquired its realism and depth in the service to others” (*Deus Caritas Est*, 18).

Brother and Sisters in Christ, in the Eucharistic mystery our beloved Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is giving us the inestimable gift of himself. He asks for our response. Shall we refuse to pay him back with love? May the Most Blessed Virgin Mary obtain for us the grace to respond with generosity, with constant faith, with heartfelt adoration and with apostolic dynamism.



by Francis Cardinal Arinze  
Excerpt from “Archbishop’s House,” 2006