

FROM FATHER BILL: WE CELEBRATE the 185th ANNIVERSARY of ST. PETER'S PARISH, TODAY, SUNDAY, April 26, 2009 at the special 4:00 PM Mass in honor of Father Thomas K. Flanigan. We are blessed by God to be alive to celebrate this MAGNIFICENT ANNIVERSARY of our wonderful Parish. At our ANNIVERSARY MASS, we remember all those who have gone before us, who did so much to build up St. Peter's Faith Community. We also pray for our present parishioners who have prayed, worshipped and worked so hard to make our Parish such a vibrant Faith Community. So many have received their Sacraments here and have been buried form here. We pause in silence and pray for them, remembering all they did for us and our Parish. May God bless every person, living and deceased, who stepped foot into the Mother Church of Troy, our BEAUTIFUL ST. PETER'S CHURCH. Best wishes from our St. Paul's Parishioners. THANK YOU, LORD for ALLOWING ST. PETER'S PARISH of TROY, NY TO BE in existence for 185 years. Through the intercession of ST. PETER, may Our Risen Lord take good care of US in the future. Alleluia! *HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!*

CONGRATULATIONS to E. STEWART JONES, PATRICIA FLANNERY WALSH, HOWARD REILLY, and Posthumously to MERTON and MARIE THAYER for their service to St. Peter's Church and the Community at large and who will receive the Father T. K. Flanigan Humanitarian Award, today, at the Reception and Dinner, following the ANNIVERSARY MASS, at Franklin Plaza.

PRAY: God grant me the SERENITY to accept the things I cannot change, the COURAGE to change the things I can and the WISDOM to know the difference. Grant me PATIENCE with the changes that take time, an APPRECIATION of all that I have, TOLERANCE of those with different struggles, and the STRENGTH to get up and try again, one at a time. AMEN!

REFLECT: 2Timothy 1:8b-10 "Bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our Savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel".

God Bless COLE DANIEL KING who was baptized at St. Paul's Church this weekend. God grant Cole a long, healthy, happy, holy life. Congratulations to his mom and dad, Eric and Kimberly and to his honored god – parents, Christopher and Cynthia.

CALLED TO BE CHURCH – IMPLEMENTATION PHASE PRAYER: Loving God, you who are present with us in all of life's moments, make yourself known in these challenging times of parish closure, merger and linkage. Comfort those who mourn. Receive and transform the anger of those who feel powerless. Ease the minds of the fearful. Give wisdom to our leaders and patience and insight to your people. Help us to appreciate the way you are re-creating your Church. Make us partners with you in this effort. We pray this in the name of Jesus, who is Lord and brother through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

WHAT DOES THE TERM "EASTER DUTY" mean: Because of the central importance of Easter to the Christian faith, the Catholic Church requires that all Catholics who have made their First Communion receive the Holy Eucharist sometime during the Easter season, which lasts through Pentecost Sunday, 50 days after Easter. (They should also take part in the Sacrament of Penance before receiving this Easter communion.) This reception of the Eucharist is a visible sign of our faith and our participation in the Kingdom of God. Of course, we should receive Communion as frequently as possible; this "Easter Duty" is simply the minimum requirement set by the Church.

LEGISLATION UNFAIRLY TARGETS CHURCH: The NYS Legislature is considering a bill that would allow individuals to file civil lawsuit claiming abuse at any time in the past. The bill does not apply evenly to all victims and institutions. It is selectively targeted at the Catholic Church and other private organizations. Significantly, it would not apply to public school or other public entities. The proposal would rescind the statute of limitation of abuse-related lawsuits for one year, rejecting a legal doctrine respected by generations of judges and legislatures that civil claims should be brought in a timely fashion to ensure a fair and just resolution based on the facts. The NYS Catholic Conference and other religious organizations have urged the Legislature to adopt alternative legislation that treats all victims and institutions fairly and evenly. The unfair legislation, if enacted, could imperil all the Church's missions and ministries in NY State. For more information and to contact your legislators about this important issue, please visit www.protectnychildren.com.

SPRING ENRICHMENT – The annual diocesan Spring Enrichment is Monday, May 11 – Thursday, May 14 at the College of St. Rose. Brochure, etc. were in the March 19th issue of *The Evangelist* and may also be downloaded from the diocesan website at http://www.rcda.org/spring_enrichment.html. This year's theme: "The Word of God in the Life & Mission of the Church."

COMMISSION on ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY-CLOTHES CLOSET. When you are doing your spring cleaning this year, remember that the CEO's "Clothes Closet" can take your unused items and get them to someone who is desperately in need of a wardrobe to wear in an office environment. Often one of the obstacles when people start a new job is having the proper wardrobe for the everyday work environment. The Clothes Closet offers these clothes at little or no cost. The Closet can use clothes for men and women, all sizes, as well as shoes, pocketbooks, attaché cases and jewelry. Call Clothes Closet at 272-6012.

ROARKE CENTER FOOD PANTRY: "I was hungry and you gave Me to eat." Blessings on each of you who so faithfully remember your less fortunate brethren again asking of your generosity to bring the following items, according to Sister Linda's advice, to make sure that the children get sufficient protein: canned meats like hash, beef stew, chicken Spam, turkey Spam, or canned fish like tuna. Also pasta products with meat or fish, like tomato sauce with clams. Always, the following can be used: pasta, spaghetti sauce (meat sauce), coffee, toilet paper, personal hygiene products of all types, laundry detergent, dish soap, canned vegetables, fruit and soups, in cans with pull tops. You may bring the foodstuffs directly to the Roarke Center.

MAY CROWNING of THE BLESSED VIRGIN: NEXT WEEKEND, May 2 and 3 at the 4 PM, 9 AM and 10:30 AM Masses. The entrance hymn at all English Masses will be Immaculate Mary.

FIRST COMMUNION at ST. PETER's will take place, Sunday, May 17th at the 10:30 am Mass.

CLOSING (FINAL) MASSES AT OUR PARISHES

St. Peter's – Sunday, May 17 – LAST TRIDENTINE MASS AT ST. PETER'S - NOON

St. Paul's – Saturday, May 30 - 4:00 pm Mass for all parishioners and former parishioners.

NO MASS at St. Paul's on Sunday, May 31, 2009.

St. Peter's -10:30 AM English Mass for all parishioners and former parishioners, Sunday, May 31.

Catholic Information: 1-800-MY FAITH
Pro-Life Pregnancy Hotline: 1-800-848-LOVE

THE PRAYER of ST. FRANCIS

*Lord, make me a channel of your peace;
that where there is hatred, I may bring love;
that where there is wrong, I may bring the spirit of forgiveness;
that where there is discord, I may bring harmony;
that where there is error, I may bring truth;
that where there is doubt, I may bring faith;
that where there is despair, I may bring hope;
that where there are shadows, I may bring light;
that where there is sadness, I may bring joy.
Lord, grant that I may seek rather to comfort than to be comforted;
to understand, than to be understood;
to love, than to be loved.
For it is by self-forgetting that one finds.
It is by forgiving that one is forgiven.
It is by dying that one awakens to eternal life. AMEN.*

PRAYER IN TIME OF CHANGE:

Beloved Jesus, anoint us to do your will.
May the joy of your dwelling in us draw us closer to each other,
Expand our vision to recognize your plan;
Warm our hearts by the flame of your love;
Open our lips so that we can embrace each other as your people; speak to us so we can discern the role you have for us,
Your body, your Church.
Fill us with your Holy Spirit,
Empowering us to become a vital expression of growth
In your changing Church.
Your Kingdom is now!
Help us to discover and live your will. AMEN.

VOCATIONS – “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.” Are you being called to proclaim the new life of the resurrected Christ to the world with His Spirit and His Power? Talk to your pastor or visit www.myvocation.net.

ANY COMMENTS?? “Studies have indicated that the largest Christian denomination in the US is Roman Catholicism and the second largest Christian denomination (approximately 18 million people) is made up of lapsed or non-practicing Catholics. How do we dray them back?”

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by BUD OZAR – Notice Jesus came into a house and said “Peace be with you.” Peace is not measured only by the noise levels in our home; it also depends on the levels of trust, acceptance, forgiveness and respect for one another.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS by SUSAN VOGT – How do you divide household chores? Neither males or females are inherently better suited to cleaning the bathroom. Consider dividing chores according to skill, interest, and time – not GENDER!!!!

PRAY for the SOULS of Father Robert Nugent and Father Laurence Rainville, OFM. God grant them Eternal Life.

EVANGELIZATION: “My Jesus is Alive.....Mi Jesus esta vivo.”