

FROM FATHER BILL: We are definitely half-way through Winter – God is good! The daylight hours are increasing, especially in the afternoon. I jump into my car at 5:15 pm and it is still bright out! A GREAT feeling! I hope and pray that all of us are helping each other to deal with the “Called to be Church” decisions regarding our beloved St. Paul’s and St. Peter’s. We don’t have to be happy but we need to deal with our feelings and always remember that Jesus is present in every Catholic Church, especially after May 31, 2009. Those words I preached at Christmas keep blaring out in my head, “GOD IS HERE FOREVER. DO NOT BE AFRAID.” Our Blessed Lord will always take very good care of us. ALWAYS TRUST GOD.

DOMINICAN RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER, 1945 Union St., Niskayuna, NY 12309 is offering the following programs. For information/reservations, please call the Center, Mon.-Fri., 8M-4:30 PM at 518 393-4169, or e-mail dsleny.org@nycap.rr.com or visit www.dsleny.org:

February 10, 2009. 6:30-8:30 PM, *Evening of Reflection, “Chicken Soup for the Soul”*

February 12, 6:30-9:00 PM, *Evening of Reflection for married Couples*

February 13 – 18, 2009, *5 Day Centering Prayer Retreat*

February 19, 10:00 AM – 12 Noon and

February 20, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM, *Abraham Lincoln Presentation*

February 20-22, 2009, *Woman to Woman Retreat*

“And know that I am with you always...” (Matt: 28:20)!

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can;
and wisdom to know the difference.

NEXT SUNDAY - A RENEWAL of MARRIAGE VOWS CEREMONY will take place on Sunday, February 15, 2009 at the end of the 10:30 AM Mass (after Holy Communion) at St. Peter’s Church. This ceremony is part of our 185th Anniversary as St. Peter’s Parish. Everyone is invited and a light reception will follow. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO HAVE BEEN MARRIED AT ST. PETER’S CHURCH. SOME OF OUR PARISHIONERS WERE NOT MARRIED HERE. YOU JUST NEED TO BE MARRIED!!**

BLESS OUR CONGRESS

Lord, instill in them knowledge & understanding to enact laws that protect the sanctity of life-from the unborn to the elderly; promote the good of all people. AMEN!

BLESS THE PEOPLE of the UNITED STATES

Lord, make us aware of our responsibility as citizens to uphold the principles of life, liberty, justice, & equality. Send your Holy Spirit upon our beloved country. Make us people of faith in time of uncertainty. Make us people of compassion with those who are less fortunate. Make us people of peace in our homes, our communities, our country, and our world. AMEN!

ON A POSITIVE NOTE: Remember those who built St. Peter’s and St. Paul’s Churches; pray for those who have kept the Church going; and recall the beautiful Sacraments celebrated at our Churches.

FROM THE MANUAL for CLOSING and MERGING of PARISHES:

“It is important to note that the sacramental registers should never be displayed in such a way that people may have direct access to them. These are PRIVATE records that are not meant for public viewing or inspection”.

“ Church property such as, but not limited to, items of historical significance, some liturgical vestments, church records, religious relics, some chalices, crucifixes, statues, altars stations of the cross are the property of the parish/Diocese, which will determine their disposition. They will be stored in a location designated by the Diocese.

“The repository of the sacramental records of a parish that is closing is to be designated by the Diocese.”

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.*

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PRIEST or A RELIGIOUS??? Our Diocese of Albany needs single young men and women to consider such a Vocation. CONTACT Father James J. Walsh, Discernment for Diocesan Priesthood, jjwalshie@aol.com or 518-312-9397; or CONTACT Sister Rosemary Cuneo, CR, Parish Liason/Discernment for Religious Life, RosemaryCuneo@rcda.org or 518-674-3818. Please contact Father or Sister ASAP. Or, speak with Father Bill! The Church needs you badly. *Decide TODAY!*

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.**

IMPORTANT PRAYER SERVICES FOR OUR PARISHES

THIS WEEK – PLAN ON ATTENDING

**Monday, February 9, 6:30 PM at St. Paul's Church – Prayer service for our parishioners:
Scripture, prayers, petitions, sharing, anointing with holy water, sign of peace.**
**Tuesday, February 10, 6:30 PM at St. Peter's Church– Prayer service for our parishioners;
Scripture, prayers, petitions, sharing, anointing with holy water, sign of peace.
Father Bill will conduct the services. You may attend either or both.**

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

EVANGELIZATION: An expert.....Perito.