

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions August 22 – 30, 2009

Saturday

5:00 PM Dorothy Rooney

Sunday

8:00 AM Charles Boulton

9:30 AM Ana LaFrazia

11:15 AM Elizabeth Earley Wright

Monday

9:00 AM For the intentions of our wailing wall

Tuesday

9:00 AM For the intentions of our wailing wall

Wednesday

9:00 AM Agrippina Sturzo

Thursday

9:00 AM For the intentions of our wailing wall

Saturday

5:00PM Orginia Amaro

Sunday

8:00AM For the People of the Parish

9:30 AM Charlie Cosgrove

11:15 AM Edward White

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

During the summer you encounter a lot of reruns on television. In the spirit of the summer reruns, this column is a rerun from last week. I will rerun it during August because many people are away. Someone told me that the first two weeks of August are the most popular vacation times. I thought it was around the fourth of July.

As you may have read in the newspaper or heard on television, Cardinal Sean has raised the retirement age for priests in Boston from 70 to 75. It did not come as a total surprise. All you had to do was the math. By that I mean he has to cover 292 parishes plus other ministries such as hospital chaplains, college chaplains, etc. He does not have enough priests to cover those. So from a human resource perspective, I knew something had to give. Secondly, it benefits the Clergy Benefit Trust. He will not be paying out a retirement stipend for an additional five years and at the same time the parish or institution where the priest is assigned will be paying into the trust. This is just another temporary stop gap measure. The Church needs to develop a long term strategy to deal with the clergy shortage issue. Prayer alone is not the solution.

The religious education is in need of teachers and aides. The needs are listed elsewhere in the bulletin.

As part of the celebration of the Year of the Priest, the Archdiocese is having a priest appreciation dinner at the Seaport Hotel in Boston on September 16. The tables are \$5,000.00 each. Since there are 10 people at a table, tickets

are \$500.00. They would like each parish to sponsor a table. If anyone is interested in purchasing a ticket, please call the rectory. All proceeds will benefit the Clergy Benefit Trust.

Over the past several weeks I have been writing about a new proposed model for the financial relationship between the parishes of the Archdiocese of Boston and central ministries. This week I am repeating what I wrote last week since many people were away. I will also tell you what the new model is. The goal of the model is to streamline the relationship, make it more transparent and fairer. What is the current relationship? Currently each parish has a Catholic Appeal target. There are no consequences if you do not reach the target... Each parish also pays a school tax (6% of offertory and monthly), a hospital tax (2.5% of offertory and monthly), Cathedratricum (1-2% of offertory and monthly), 50% of the Communication collection and various fees (audit, real estate, etc.). They want to simplify this approach.

The new proposed model will consist of a parish tithe and a Catholic Appeal assessment. The parish tithe will be 10% of offertory (including the monthly), the Grand Annual collection and net rental income. Net rental income is generated when a parish leases a building or parking lot to an outside entity. We do not have any net rental income. The parish tithe replaces all current taxes and fees. Each parish will have a Catholic Appeal assessment. The assessment will be 7-8% of offertory (including the monthly), the Grand Annual collection and net rental income. The difference between the current goal for the Catholic Appeal and an assessment for the Catholic Appeal is that an assessment requires us to pay the assessment even if the money collected for the Catholic Appeal does not equal the assessment. Any shortage would have to come out of the parish operating revenue. Let's assume that this year's goal is an assessment. Our assessment is \$29,500.00. Thus far we collected \$27,297.00. Under the new model, I would have to write a check from the parish to cover the \$2,203.00 shortfall. Under the new model the Catholic Appeal assessment will be much greater than the current goal of \$29,500.00 because the assessment will be 7-8% of offertory (including the monthly), the Grand Annual collection and net rental income.

Under the new model, more money will be going out of the parish than under the old model. Since we are not running a huge surplus, more money going out of the parish means one of two things, either we make cuts here at the parish in order to meet our obligation to the diocese or we increase our revenue to meet our obligation to the diocese.

In the coming weeks, I will present a comparison between the old model and the new model from a dollars and cents perspective.

In fairness to the Archdiocese of Boston, this is the model that I was familiar with when I was stationed in New Jersey. I would venture that most dioceses use this model. Since

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they have not used it in Boston, it may seem to be draconian to some. I will continue to keep you informed.

Finally, the latest update from the Catholic Appeal's office states that 216 parishioners have pledged \$27,667.00 towards our goal of \$29,500.00. Thanks to all who gave. If you would like to give, it's not too late to give!!

Well I guess that is it for now. Until next time, take care and pray for some sun (the orange ball that used to be up in the sky.)

Fr. Earley

THANKYOU

Dear Parishioners:

I would like to thank you for your most generous response to our ministry Cross International Catholic Outreach during my weekend visit on May 23/24. Your donations of \$2,106.00 will have a direct impact in lives of the poorest of poor.

May the Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support!

Sincerely Rev. Thomas Poisson

MY BROTHER'S TABLE

The Parish Outreach will be cooking and serving a meal at My Brother's Table on Saturday, August 29th. Anyone interested in donating time & cooking talents contact Pat Archfield @ 978-250-1710.

FOOD COLLECTION

All donations may be dropped off in Villanova Hall This weekend. Wilmington Food Pantry is especially in need of : **instant potatoes, syrup, grape jelly, cake mixes or brownies, Side Dishes Rice or Pasta, canned fruit, mustard, ketchup, relish and mayo.**

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

School supplies will be distributed to needy families through Catholic Charities in Lowell. Boxes are at the entrances to the church through the middle of August. They are most in need of backpacks, for High school students, notebooks, paper, pens, pencils, markers, glue, pencil boxes, rulers, scissors, etc. Thank you for your continued generosity to this project.

FAMILY FUN DAY

Once again St. Thomas Parish will have a Family Fun Day with games, food and fun for all ages. Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 27th.

If you would like to help out planning or volunteer for the day please call Pat Archfield at 978-250-1710 or the rectory.

SUMMER HOURS

Rectory Office hours Tues., Wed., Thurs., 10am to 2pm
CCD Office hours Mon, Tuesday, Wednesday 10am to 3pm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The CCD Office is in need of volunteers

Grade 4	3 teachers
Grade 5	2 teachers
Grade 6	3 teachers
Grade 7	2 teachers
Grade 8	4 teachers
Grade 9	1 teacher

Office Help is always needed for all grades!

The requirements for teaching in the Religious Education Program are that you are a confirmed practicing catholic and in good standing in the Church.

CCD Classes will Begin the week of September 14

A MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT FOR TEACHERS TEACHING

GRADES 1-6 AT 6:30

MONDAY AUGUST 24

GRADES 7-10 AT 6:30

TUESDAY AUGUST 25

This meeting is also for anyone who may be interested in teaching this year.

NEW CORI'S FORMS FOR 2009-2010

We ask all volunteers in the Parish to please fill out a new cori. This includes all CCD Teachers and all ministries. The Forms are in the Sacristy. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE

EACH VOLUNTEER MUST PROVIDE A GOVERNMENT ISSUED PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION TO VERIFY HIS OR HER IDENTITY- MA LICENSE, US PASSPORT ETC.

GREECE & THE GREEK ISLES

In the Steps of Saint Paul Nov. 10-20, 2009

Fr Augustine Anda, Parochial Vicar at St. Columbkille, Brighton is leading a group to Greece and the Greek Isles on Nov 10, 2009. Fr Anda has led other groups to the Holy Land, Italy and Lourdes. We will visit Athens and Corinth prior to boarding our ship for a three-day Aegean Sea cruise where we will see the Greek Isles and Turkey. We will visit numerous archaeological sites throughout this trip. If interested, contact Carolyn Kenney at 978-852-7852 or email cmk44@comcast.net. A flyer is available upon request. Price for the trip is \$2399, plus tax and \$200 additional for outside cabin on the cruise.

AUGUST 23, 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 23 7pm Prayer group	Aug 24 Grade 1-6 TEACHERS MEETING 6:30pm	Aug 25 Grade 7-10 TEACHERS MEETING 6:30pm	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Aug 29 COOKING & SERVING @ MY BROTHER'S TABLE
Aug 30 Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer group	Aug 31	Sept 1	Sept 2	Sept 3	Sept 4 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 5
Sept 6 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer group	Sept 7 Labor Day	Sept 8	Sept 9	Sept 10	Sept 11 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 12
Sept 13 7pm Prayer group	Sept 14 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm Women's Club Mass 6:30pm	Sept 15 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Sept 16 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Sept 17	Sept 18 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 19 FOOD & CLOTHING COLLECTION
Sept 20 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer group	Sept 21 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	Sept 22 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	Sept 23 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Sept 24	Sept 25 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Sept 26
Sept 27 FAMILY FUN DAY 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer group	Sept 28 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	Sept 29 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Sept 30 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Oct 1	Oct 2 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 3
Oct 4 Gr 10 Mass 1pm Baptism 7pm Prayer group	Oct 5 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	Oct 6 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	Oct 7 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Oct 8	Oct 9 6-7:30 Eucharistic Adoration	Oct 10
Oct 11 7pm Prayer group	Oct 12 No CCD Class Columbus Day	Oct 13 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Oct 14 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Oct 15	Oct 16	Oct 17 Food & Clothing Collection
Oct 18 7pm Prayer group	Oct 19 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 9 6:45-8pm	Oct 20 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 7 6:45-8:00	Oct 21 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Oct 22	Oct 23	Oct 24
Oct 25 1pm Baptismal Instruction 7pm Prayer group	Oct 26 Gr1 4-5pm 4 5:30-6:30 10 6:45-8pm	Oct 27 Gr 2 4- 5pm Gr 5 5:30 -6:30 Gr 8 6:45-8:00	Oct 28 Gr 3 4-5pm Gr 6 5:30-6:30	Oct 29	Oct 30	Oct 31