

Fr. Ken's Korner



Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope it has been a better week for you than for the people in San Diego as the Patriots moved to 18-0 for the season by defeating the San Diego Chargers. It should be an interesting Super Bowl with a decided interest in the Northeast part of the country as the other Manning gives it a try. I recall that for many of us post World War II "baby boomers" who grew up around here that a good number of us were New York Giants fans, until the then Boston Patriots came along.



As was mentioned at the beginning of the Advent season, this year the Archdiocese of Boston is celebrating its bicentennial. Perhaps you may never have seen a picture and explanation of our coat of arms. So here is a "Boston Bicentennial Blurbs", as written by the Archdiocese "Azure, a cross fleurette or, in base Barry-wavy of five azure and argent, issuing from a mount of three coupeaux of the second." (The crest is blue and gold, but it can only be printed in black and white for the bulletin).

"In the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Boston, the 'trimount' (or 'mount of three coupeaux') is symbolic of Boston, the original name of which was trimountaine, in reference to the three hills on which the city is said to have been built. In the early chancery documents, Boston was called 'Tremontinensis'. The cross fleurette is in honor of the Cathedral's name: The Holy Cross, and a reminder that the first bishop of Boston and other early ecclesiastics were natives of France. At the base the 'Barry-wavy' is an allusion to the fact that Boston is one of the most important seaports of the country and was populated by people arriving here from across the sea." (source 2004-2006 Archdiocese of Boston). Next "blurbs" will be about the first bishop of Boston: a Frenchman by the name of Jean Louis Anne Madeleine Lefebvre de Cheverus.

Speaking about bishops of Boston, we ask you to please remember in your prayers Bishop Daniel Hart, who died on January 14. He was the bishop of the diocese of Norwich, Ct. from 1995 - 2003, and bishop emeritus of Norwich until his death. Bishop Hart was a man with Boston roots, being ordained as a priest for the archdiocese of Boston in 1953. He became an auxiliary bishop of Boston in 1976 and served as the Regional bishop for us here in the South Region for nineteen years. He was well liked and respected by people in all walks of life. May he rest in peace having served God's people for more than half a century!



We offer wishes for a happy birthday to Hanna Jaeger who recently celebrated her fifteenth birthday. Likewise, happy "jour de naissance" to Fr. Roger Cormier whose birthday was Tuesday, January 22. Fr. Cormier shares this day with Vince Kasetta to whom we offer birthday greetings on the occasion of a milestone birthday. Vince played, if I remember correctly, wide receiver in football. He played for the University of Tennessee when they were National Champions (I think it was 1950 or '51) His football experiences included playing in both the Sugar Bowl and either the

Cotton or Orange Bowl (Cotton, I think). He and his wife, Marie, are volunteers at our Sunday afternoon parish soup kitchen. Last Sunday at the 10:30 AM Mass, Fr. Joe announced that Patrick Gregory has now been ministering as an altar server for twenty-one years! We thank him for his faithful and devoted service that he continues to offer to our parish.

We have been asked to pray for a man by the name of Paul Alberts who is ill. We ask you to also keep "Sonny" Provenzano in your prayers as well. He underwent some major surgery last week and is making progress and hopefully will be returning home after ten days of hospitalization.

This week, we celebrate the feast days of two saints, both of whom have an influence even in our times. Today, the 27<sup>th</sup> of January, is in the calendar church year the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas. He was born in Rocca Secca, Italy (in the Kingdom of Naples) and lived from about 1225 to 1274. He was of noble lineage, his parents being a count and countess as well as being



related to kings and emperors. His family opposed his entering the Dominicans and even kept him in confinement in order to try and dissuade him from his decision to become a Dominican. However, they were not successful. Following his basic studies at the University of Naples, he attended the University of Paris to obtain his doctorate degree, as well as spending time there as a professor. Thomas became well known as a theologian and philosopher. Much of his thought process was influenced by Aristotelian thought. Thomas is one of the most important people in the Scholastic theology movement. He is also known as the father of Thomism. His most famous work is the Summa Theologica. His influence upon Catholic theology and the thought process involving faith and reason is one of the most significant in Church history and profoundly influenced the Church for centuries. Thursday, January 31, we celebrate the feast of an Italian saint who has had a tremendous impact in the area of education and helping youth. It is the feast of St. John Bosco (also referred to as Don Bosco). He was born August 16, 1815. His father died when he was only two years old. He worked as a shepherd as a young boy. While attending college and seminary he worked as a baker, a tailor, a shoemaker and a carpenter to earn a living and help his family.

Ordained in 1841, he began his priestly work and established the Salesian order in 1959. Its purpose was to educate young boys, give them a home and help to prepare them to make their way in the world. The work of the Salesians continues today. John Bosco died January 31, 1888. He was canonized as a saint on April 1, 1934. The city of Turin is where the order was founded in the area that is known as Valdocca. I was privileged to have prayed Mass in his chapel where he would pray and celebrate the Mass. His is an example of helping others to discover God's love for them and to realize that kindness can help others to discover the good that God has created in each of us. I cannot help but think that he must have had an influence upon Fr. Flanagan who established Boys' Town in Nebraska as a haven for youth. I recall when visiting Boys Town seeing a statue of a young boy carrying a younger boy "piggyback." The inscription read: "He ain't heavy, he's my brother." This work continues to be a source of hope for the youth of our times in what has now come to be known as Boys and Girls Town enabling God's love to reach out to more of youth who are in need of roots, love and hope.



May the Lord's blessings smile kindly upon you and yours in the coming week. Your brother in faith, Fr. Ken.