

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Greetings and blessings of the week,

I hope that the week was a good one for you. It is hard to believe that we are already into the month of May! This past Tuesday was an eventful day attracting people to Memorial Hall for a viewing. The Red Sox World Series trophies from 2004 and 2007 were on exhibit at the hall. The Sox organization had someone on site taking digital pictures of individuals with the trophies. People were given a website to access so that they could download the picture at no charge. There were people of all ages from toddlers to elderly people in wheelchairs. I went over after the 9:00 AM Mass for a few minutes and saw several people who left after Mass and made a detour to the hall before going to their cars. Actually, I plan to download the picture of me with the trophies and email it to some of my college friends in the Chicago area who happen to be Cubs fans! Hopefully, they will soon break the curse of "Billy" the goat.

Did you know we had a runway in the Parish Center? Actually, it was a "runway" of other sorts on April 26th as the St. Peter's Women's League held a tea and fashion show. A goodly crowd (over a hundred people) gathered at 1:00 PM for a few hours as some of our parishioners wore various fashions from the Dress Barn from Shops at Five. Light lunch and desserts were served. Thank you to those who organized, attended, modeled, or in any other way helped to make the afternoon a success. And... speaking of the Parish Center, I was told an interested piece of parish and Plymouth historical trivia. While speaking with someone who worked as a nurse since the 1970's, I was told that the Jordan Hospital, before they had developed the facility at the hospital, had early stages of cardiac rehab in the parish center gym. Cones would be put out, people would do their walking, and then heart rates, pulses, etc. would be checked for each person undergoing rehab. This is the first time that I have ever heard this. Does anyone else recall this, or have other interesting pieces of parish history and trivia that might be worth sharing?

Times are getting tough, as is evidenced by the rising cost of gas, heating and food. We are very grateful for your generosity in helping to feed others who may not be as fortunate as we. As the weather moves into a warmer season, it is a good respite from heating costs. Unfortunately, hunger, on the other hand, knows no season. Any assistance in the form of foodstuffs to help our St. Vincent de Paul parish food pantry is most appreciated. Actually, at present, if you remember the story of old Mother Hubbard, it describes the state of the cupboard. We thank those who also put the Shaws food receipts in the receptacles at the church. Redeeming those receipts enables us to also acquire additional food for the larder.

We have been asked to pray for Mary Graham who died on April 23rd. This week, we had two funerals here at St. Peter's. Both gentlemen were World War Two veterans (one being a torpedoman and the other a radio operator in a B-24 bomber.) Please pray for the repose of the soul of Albert Jacques whose funeral was on Friday, May 2nd. Also kindly pray for the repose of a long time faithful parishioner, Ruez Gallerani, whose funeral was Saturday, May 3. A member of the Lions, he was involved in many goings on here in Plymouth. We thank him, and his family, as they (Cape Auto) have been major sponsors in our parish golf tournament since every year since its inception in 2005. We pray

for the families of Mr. Gallerani and Mr. Jacques that they may find strength in their faith, families, friend, and memories during this sad and difficult time in their lives. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace – and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Kindly remember in your prayers, several parishioners who are undergoing tests and procedures at this time. Please keep Chris LaVache in your prayers. She was hospitalized, and hopefully now is on the mend. Terry Curley is still recuperating from her shoulder surgery. She has been out of the parish office since March 23rd. She is in rehab and still has a ways to go before is back to being able to return to work here at the Parish Center. We are grateful to all those "Horatio at the gate" volunteers who are picking up the slack in her absence. I don't know what we would do without their help! Would you also please remember a gentleman to whom I administered the Sacrament of the Sick at the Life Care Center this past week? It appears that he is in the final stages of his earthly life.

This Saturday, May 10th, we celebrate the feast of a person who gave his entire life in service to those rejected, ill, and forced to live in the shadowlands of isolation. He is one of the most important people who lived gave his life for others in a spirit of selfless self-sacrifice. As a matter of fact, there is a bust of his likeness at the state buildings in Hawaii. Blessed Damien de Veuster ministered to the lepers in Moloka'i. He died on April 15, 1889 at age forty-nine. He was a Belgian who joined the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He arrived in Honolulu on March 19, 1864. Nine years later, in 1873, he began his work on Moloka'i. This island, known as "Devil's Island", was used as a colony for over eight hundred lepers. After years of ministering to the lepers, he himself was diagnosed with the disease in 1885. He was known to be a man of "...intense interior life and deep simplicity..." Fr. Damien was beatified in 1995. The title, "Blessed" is the next to the last step in the process of being officially declared a saint, with the final step being canonization.

Happy Belated twenty-first birthday to one of our parishioners. Actively involved in the parish with the altar servers for Holy Week, being a member of the Parish Pastoral Council, and as a minister at weekend liturgies, Cathy Girard celebrated this "milestone birthday" on Wednesday, the 23rd of April. Happy birthday to John and Charlie Sidoti who celebrate their eighteenth birthday on Thursday, May 8th. The following day, May 9th we extend Happy "Sweet Sixteen" wishes to Alex Post. Sharing the same day with Alex, we also send birthday greetings to "Sonny" Provenzano.

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



As the sufferings
of Christ
abound in us +
so also through
Christ
does our
comfort abound

