



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

February 3rd, MMXIX

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Month of the Passion of the Lord

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

FmarkB@aol.com

Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Ordinary Time

We have now returned completely to the “green” season of Ordinary Time. All vestiges of the Christmas season will very soon be safely packed away by the hard working volunteers and members of our parish staff! Thanks to one and all! We will packed them away with the hope that we will all live to see them put up again for Christmas of 2018!

Ordinary time has its own special “flavor”. The word ordinary can be somewhat misleading. It definitely does NOT mean that nothing special is really going on at church liturgically and its no big deal if we just happen to miss Mass a couple of times during Ordinary time. NO! There is ALWAYS something special and extraordinary going on at church every Sunday! Sunday after Sunday, week after week, Mass after Mass. They are all so very special because of the presence of Christ in our liturgy and the opportunity to be made one with Him in the Holy Eucharist. Sunday is such a special day because it is the Lord's Day. Coming to His house to spend valuable and precious time with Him is THE most important thing to be done on Sunday. NOTHING is more important. When we use the term ordinary to describe the liturgical time period we have entered into it is in the sense of the countable Sundays of the church year. Today is the fourth of these wonderful, countable Sundays, the Lord's Day, another chance to spend some quality time with our God!

Sunday, February 3rd – the Feast of St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

St. Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. He was martyred during the persecution of Christians by the Roman emperor Lucinius. Blaise is said to have been a physician as well as a bishop. A legend tells that Blaise saved the life of a boy who was choking on a fish bone. Blaise is now the patron saint of all who have diseases of the throat. On his feast day in many parishes of the United States, people have their throats blessed. It's no surprise that this custom coincides with the peak of the sore throat and flu season. Years ago, wintertime illnesses were very dangerous. Before the discovery of penicillin, a person could die from complications of a sore throat. The tradition of blessing throats began at a time when the church's calendar was filled with blessings for the saints'

days. Many of these are no longer practiced, but somehow the custom of blessing throats survived. Two candles are tied in the shape of a cross, and the candles are touched to our necks. We can think of the blessing of our throats as a sign of God's care for every part of us.

*Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr,
may God deliver you from all disease of the throat, and from every other evil.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Tuesday, February 5th – the Feast of St. Agatha

St. Agatha died at Catania, on the island of Sicily, during the early Roman persecutions of the Emperor Decius. Her tomb can still be visited in a network of catacombs on another island, Malta. After her capture she is said to have told her torturers, "To be a servant of Christ is to be truly free."

Agatha is one of the patrons of Sicily. For many centuries, Sicilians have prayed to St. Agatha when Mount Etna, a volcano on their island, threatens to erupt.

Like many other early martyrs, Agatha is known to us only by her death. Stories about her life were not written down until several centuries later, so we have no way of knowing whether or not they are true. One says that in 251, the year of her death, she rejected the advances of a Roman senator, Quintianus. He spitefully accused her of following Christianity, and ordered her breasts cut off, but through the intercession of St. Peter they were miraculously restored. Another says that an attempt by the authorities to burn this beautiful maiden at the stake failed when it was interrupted by a volcanic eruption, so they cut off her head. What we do know about Agatha, though, is that she must have been a person of outstanding faith and courage. We can tell this because she was held in such high esteem by the other Christians of her own community. She was martyred for Christ, the one she loved before all others.

Agatha continues to be held in esteem. She is mentioned in the first Eucharistic Prayer, the Roman Canon of the Mass. In the sixth century two churches in Rome were given her name. Famous mosaics at Ravenna in Italy portray legendary scenes from her life.

JEST TO CNOTA NAD CNOTAMI, TRZYMAĆ JEZYK ZA ZEBAMI!

IT IS A VIRTUE ABOVE ALL VIRTUES, TO KEEP ONE'S TONGUE BEHIND ONE'S TEETH!

Thursday, February 7th – Feast of Blessed Pope Pius IX

Pope Pius IX was born on May 13th, 1792 in Senigallia, Italy. At that time this area was called the Papal States. He was baptized on the day of his birth with the name Giovanni(John) Maria(Mary). His family name was Mastai-Ferretti. He was the ninth child born in his family and suffered from epilepsy. While studying for the priesthood in Rome it was predicted of him by St. Vincent Palotti that he would be cured of his epilepsy by the Blessed Virgin of Loreto and that one day he would become Pope.

He was ordained a priest in 1819, and then consecrated a bishop in 1827. Pope Gregory XVI made him a cardinal in 1840 and in 1846 he was elected Pope after Gregory died. His reign of 32 years was the second longest, but perhaps the most troubled in history. The anti-Catholic revolution in Italy forced him into exile from 1847-1850. He referred to himself as the prisoner of the Vatican.

His astounding accomplishments include defining the dogma of the Immaculate Conception on December 8th, 1854. This dogma was the basis from which Pope Pius XII declared the dogma of the Assumption in 1950. He also published a Syllabus of Errors which condemned secret societies, freemasonry, communism and modernism, which teaches that one religion is as good as another. Finally in 1869 he convoked the First Vatican Council, which in 1870 defined Papal Infallibility.

Throughout his long papacy his health suffered greatly. He died on February 7th, 1878 at the age of 85 after suffering an epileptic seizure which caused a deadly heart attack. He was declared blessed on September 3rd, 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II.

The best vitamin for a Christian is.....B1

Church Humor!

After the baptism of his baby brother in church, little Johnny sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "The priest said he wanted us to be brought up in a Christian home, and I want to stay with you guys!"

A Catechism teacher asked one of her students, "Now Johnny, tell me honestly, do you say prayers before eating?" "No Mrs. Jones," little Johnny replied, "I don't have to. My mom is a good cook!"

"Has your diet changed?" an 87-year-old woman was asked as she was being admitted into the hospital. "Yes," she said. "For Lent, I gave up whipped cream on my Jell-O, hard candy and my two beers a night." She then paused and said, "And look where it's gotten me!"

A woman in a local diet club was lamenting that she had gained weight. She'd foolishly made her family's favorite cake, and they'd eaten half of it after dinner. The next day, she couldn't stop thinking of the other half until, finally, she cut a thin slice for herself. You know what happened next – one slice led to another and soon the whole cake was gone. The woman confessed to fellow members how disappointed she was with her lack of willpower. Worse yet, she dreaded her husband's reaction.

Everyone commiserated until someone inquired what her husband said when he had found out. The woman smiled mischievously. "He never found out. I made another cake and ate half!"

After giving birth, the mother could not lose the 40 pounds that she had gained. She dragged her husband off to the mall in search of more flattering clothes. They were delighted by a sign over a rack of suits: "Instantly hides ten pounds!" "Look," her husband quipped. "You just need to buy four of these!"

One night, a couple took their three young sons to an upscale restaurant for the first time. The husband ordered a bottle of wine. The server brought it over, began the ritual uncorking and poured a small amount for the mother to taste. Her six-year-old piped up, "Mom usually drinks a lot more than that!"

From Life's Little Instruction Book

Back in 1993, when I was a seminarian intern at St. Ladislaus Church in Hamtramck, I receive a gift from a good friend there. It was a small book entitled "Life's Little Instruction Book," by H. Jackson Brown, Jr. Every so often when I need a lift I pull out that book and read a few of the instructions that are written there. They are all numbered. So to fill a little bit of space here let me share with you a few that caught my eye this week and I think are classic and very helpful to me and perhaps also to you!

#669. Be original. If that means being a little eccentric, so be it!

#672. Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.

#649. Don't confuse comfort with happiness.

#650. Don't confuse wealth with success.

#651. Be the first to forgive.

#633. Do the right thing, regardless of what others think.

#637. Be open and accessible. The next person you meet could become your best friend!

#573. Don't overlook life's small joys while searching for the big ones.

#563. Remember that just the moment you say, "I give up," someone else seeing the same situation is saying, "My, what a great opportunity."

#552. Remember that everyone you meet is afraid of something, loves something, and has lost something

What to do if someone you love has stopped going to Mass

St. Monica had a son who scorned everything she taught him about the faith for years. If you have a similar problem, here is some advice:

Refrain from judgment: Jesus tells us not to judge another. This is God's prerogative. We cannot see deeply enough into another person's heart to judge wisely.

Trust in God: God is always at work in us. God never gives up but waits patiently for each one of us to respond to God's loving invitation. Be patient, and as compassionate as God is.

Speak on your own belief...but gently: Never be afraid to say what Jesus Christ, being a member of the Church, the Mass, and the sacraments mean to you.

Ask "Why?": Real feelings of injury can be a reason that someone has turned away from the Church. Saint Paul reminds us that we are "ambassadors for Christ." Listen without trying to justify.

Work for the Church: We are all conscious of the Church as a human as well as a divine institution. Helping our "pilgrim People" struggle toward perfection will be a sign to others.

Pray: Bring those you love into the Lord's presence with you and be persistent in your prayer for them. Pray for yourself as well, that you may act in a loving Christ like way.

Trusting in God can be hard advice to follow. But, remember that after years of prayer, St. Monica saw her son, Augustine, well on the path to becoming a saint and Doctor of the Church!

And don't give up! Remember! Moses himself was once a "basket case"!