



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

May 26th, MMXIX
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Month of Our Lady

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

FmarkB@aol.com

Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

Sunday, May 26th – the Feast of St. Philip Neri

St. Philip Neri was born in 1515 in Florence, Italy, into a family of modest income. As a young man Philip Neri came to Rome in 1536, where he went out to the squares, shops and banks. There he challenged the other young men he met, asking them when they meant to begin doing good. Many of them, rich and poor alike, soon joined him. They volunteered in the hospitals of the city to care for patients. They did the dirtiest jobs. In the afternoon, they met with Philip for prayer, song and study at a place called the Oratory.

Philip was good at guiding those who wanted to grow in their prayer. Pilgrims who came to Rome to visit its holy places attended his teachings in such great numbers that a large room had to be built to hold them all. This room was called the Oratory. People in trouble felt calmed just by being in the same room with him.

He was ordained a priest at age 36 in 1551. Many people came to him for spiritual direction. Some of them also became famous saints, including Ignatius of Loyola, Francis de Sales and Camillus de Lellis. Palestrina was one of Philip's followers and composed music for services at the Oratory. Through his apostolate in the confessional and his spiritual conferences, he attracted a group of followers who ultimately formed the Congregation of the Oratory in 1575.

Yet Philip never took himself seriously. He wore old clothes and once shaved off half his beard just because people were saying how saintly he looked. When the pope wanted to honor Philip by appointing him a cardinal, the pope hung a cardinal's hat on Philip's door. A cardinal's hat is flat, so Philip tossed it in the air like a Frisbee. One of the people Philip guided, Francis de Sales, said that "a sad saint would be a sorry saint." Philip's joy was convincing to so many people that he would come to be called the second apostle to Rome. By the time he died at age 80, the whole city had been transformed by the spirit of the Oratory.

Jest to cnota nad cnotami, trzymać język za zębami!

It is a virtue above all virtues, to keep one's tongue behind one's teeth!

Monday, May 27th – Memorial Day

In 1868, a national day was held to remember the dead of the Civil War and to pray for reconciliation. The idea had come from Southern women who visited battlefields in late spring to decorate the graves. Some people still call Memorial Day by its original name, "Decoration Day."

Memorial Day now honors all United States citizens who died in war. Every city and town has its war dead. Often they are remembered with a parade to a cemetery or war memorial. With bouquets strewn over the waters, coastal cities honor those who died at sea.

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, is the site of a Civil War battle where many thousands died. On Memorial Day schoolchildren in that town will decorate the tombs of soldiers who could not be identified after their deaths. A service will be held at the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C.

In recent years Congress has proclaimed this as a day when the nation should strive for peace. As we honor those who have died, we look forward to the day when we will be willing to settle our disagreements without war.

As Christians, we also pray today for all the innocent victims of war. Across the world, millions of people are homeless because their countries are ravaged by fighting. Those people are called refugees. Many of them are orphaned children. Some are hungry. All are suffering.

A day of sorrow and mourning is hard to keep. We probably would rather celebrate the beginning of summer. But Memorial Day can bring with it much needed sorrow and forgiveness and peacemaking. Enjoy this national holiday with family and friends but keep in mind the dear price that has been paid for the gift of freedom. Jesus has said there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for another. Remember also that, peace on earth and good will to men, was the message God's angels proclaimed on the night of Christ's birth!

Mass in Mount Carmel Cemetery

Mass in the Catholic Cemetery of Wyandotte

Monday, May 27th – Memorial Day – 10:00 o'clock AM

Once again Mass will be offered in the Mount Carmel Cemetery on Memorial Day at 10:00 o'clock in the morning. Please bring a lawn chair to sit on! The location for the Mass (weather permitting) is in front of the Calvary Scene. After Mass as you tidy the graves of your beloved deceased, I will be only too happy to bless graves and say a short prayer for your dead with you. This will be a beautiful, quiet and peaceful setting. Come and honor the dead in the best way possible.

Monday, May 27th – the Feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury

St. Augustine was an Italian monk of the Benedictine Order, who was living a quiet life as the prior or head of the monastery of St. Andrew in Rome. All that changed when in 596 his friend, Pope Gregory the Great, decided that Augustine was just the person to take leadership of the Christian faith in Britain.

Augustine and his missionary team of thirty monks started from Rome on their journey. When they got as far as Provence, in southern France, they heard some frightening tales. Britain, they were told, was still a place of uncivilized tribes and the English Channel was said to be treacherous. The monks convinced Augustine to tell Pope Gregory the trip was a bad idea. But the Pope said he wished he could join them himself, and he was sure that the time was right.

It turned out that Pope Gregory was correct. In 597 King Ethelbert of Kent in England was baptized. He had already married a Christian. The king set up a residence for Augustine and his missionaries in Canterbury. After being consecrated a bishop in France, Augustine returned to Canterbury and set up the first diocese in

England. He constructed a cathedral church and a monastery and many of the British people were baptized. As the faith spread, additional dioceses were established at London and Rochester. In 601 Augustine became the first archbishop of England. Before long the English people would themselves be sending out missionaries. St. Augustine worked among the English for eight years before he died in 605. He is honored as the apostle of England. Because the Archdiocese of Canterbury is the oldest diocese in England, the Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury is the religious head of the Church of England, while the Archbishop of Westminster in London is the Primate or head of the Roman Catholic Church in England.

Friday, May 31st – Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Our mission on earth is to bear Christ to others. The first chapter of the gospel of St. Luke describes a missionary journey. Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visits her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with St. John the Baptist. Mary has just learned amazing news. Angel Gabriel has told her that she will bear a child by the power of the Holy Spirit. This child will be called the Son of God. The angel has said that Elizabeth also is pregnant. This is wonderful, because Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah are an elderly couple who have wanted a child all their lives.

St. Luke says that, in response to this news, Mary sets out “with haste.” Elizabeth and Zechariah live a distance away. Mary chooses to make this journey because she is concerned for her cousin. She also wants to share her joy with someone who will understand. Her own pregnancy is still a secret. Elizabeth greets her cousin with words that will be repeated by generations of Christians at prayer: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” In paintings of the Visit of Mary and Elizabeth, the two women are shown embracing. Elizabeth in her old age and Mary in her youthfulness together hold fast to each other. Mary sings a song that begins with the words “My soul magnifies the Lord...” This song weaves together the words of the prophets to proclaim God’s goodness and care for the poor. *Magnificat* is the first word of this song in Latin.

The visit of the cousins is also the first meeting of their unborn children. Elizabeth tells Mary that, at the sound of her voice, “the child within my womb leaped for joy.” Luke reminds us of the words of the Bible’s Song of Songs, “The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. We celebrated the Annunciation in March. Now it is the end of May. In the Song of Songs we read, “The winter is past. The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.” Soon John will be born, and spring will have passed over into summer.

Saturday, June 1st – Feast of St. Justin Martyr

St. Justin was born in Palestine around the beginning of the second century. His pagan parents gave him the best education available. He became a professor of philosophy. In his work, Justin dealt with educated people. Among his friends, Christians were thought of as uncivilized. Other philosophers had studied the new religion and had decided it was ridiculous. Who could believe that God would come to die for love of humankind? There existed at the time all sorts of rumors about Christians. People said that their gatherings were just an excuse to get drunk. But Justin saw some of the Christians martyred. He decided their courage was so great that “it was impossible that they should be living in evil.” Finally, when Justin was about thirty years old, someone told him that the only place he would find real truth was in the writings of the Jews and Christians. From then on it became his life’s work to explain Christianity to the educated people of this world. To do this better, he opened a school of Christian studies in Rome. There he taught, wrote and debated with other philosophers. Justin wrote letters to explain the new faith to the emperor and other officials. To dispel the rumors about Christian liturgies, he described what really went on. The letters of St. Justin are treasured records of how Christians worshipped in those times. Because of his work, St. Justin was very visible as a Christian. After winning a public debate with an opponent of the faith in Rome in 165, he was put on trial with several of his pupils. St. Justin was convicted of being a traitor and he was beheaded at the order of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. St. Justin is known as an apologist, one who defends in writing the Christian religion against attacks and misunderstandings.

NOMINATION FORM FOR OUR LADY OF THE SCAPULAR PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

There is one open position available on the Council at this time.

The terms of office run for three years from September of 2019 to May of 2022.

Any registered member of the parish 16 years of age and over will be eligible to nominate.

Those nominated must be 18 years old or older and a registered member of the parish who is a practicing catholic.

All nominees will be contacted to determine their acceptance of the nomination.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, June 7th, 2019.

The duties of Council members include:

- * Attend all meetings of the Council unless excused.*
- * Serve on at least one commission or committee of the Council or one other parish organization. .*
- * Participate actively and express ideas freely.*
- * Contribute ideas to the decision making process.*
- * Prepare adequately for each meeting by reading all agenda materials.*
- * Support decisions and foster communication among the parish at large.*

I would like to nominate the following parishioner/s for the Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Pastoral Council:

Your Name: _____

Your Telephone Number: _____

Please mail this nomination to the parish office, place it in the collection basket or give it to the pastor before June 7th, 2019. Thank You!