



Stronica Proboszcza

The Pastor's Page

June 2nd, MMXIX

Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

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Month of the Sacred Heart

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

Once again today we are instructed to observe the Solemnity of Christ's ascending into heaven on a Sunday rather than on the 40th day after His glorious resurrection. The bishops of Michigan have made this decision in order to insure Mass attendance on this important commemoration of an event of our salvation history. The thought was, that asking the faithful to attend Mass on a Thursday was asking too much of them and that those who were not able to participate in Mass on Ascension Thursday would forget about this important tenet of our Catholic Faith. And so... for better or worse, we now observe the Ascension of Our Savior on the Seventh Sunday of the Easter Season.

After His resurrection Christ spent some quality time with His disciples and His mother. His teaching continued during this time and certainly their emotions ran high with excitement and joy having Him back again after His brutal crucifixion and death. In this world, however every good thing must come to an end. When Jesus judged that day had come, He went with the disciples and His mother to Mount Olivet, a little over a mile from Jerusalem, and from that place He ascended by His own power into heaven. He went back to that place where it had all begun 33 years earlier, when He left Heaven and was conceived in Mary's womb and then born in the stable of Bethlehem. There could not have been a grander exit!

So much of Christ's glory as the Son of God had been veiled during His life on earth. He was born in obscurity and died in poverty, but now His human followers were beginning to get a glimpse of the majesty of the Son of God. Peter, James and John had glimpsed it before on Mount Tabor during the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Now after enduring so much pain and suffering in this life, Jesus takes possession of the heavenly reward which is rightly His. But Jesus does not retire now to a heavenly throne removed from interaction with the people He loved so much, left behind on earth. No, He goes as to send the Holy Spirit down upon the infant Church He has left below, and He takes His place as THE Mediator between us and His Father. For these reasons, the Solemnity of the Ascension is a great celebration of the Victory of Christ and the Glory of God and it is good, very good and fitting that we should all be here in Church this Sunday to fervently celebrate it!

God has gone up amidst shouts of joy, the Lord to the sound of trumpets!

Wednesday, June 5th – the Feast of St. Boniface of Mainz, Patron of Germany

St. Boniface was born at Wessex in England in 673 during a frightening time. People didn't leave their houses any more than they had to. They were afraid of the Vandals, warrior tribes who were raiding villages. Boniface became a Benedictine monk at an early age, entering the abbey at Nursling. Later, he became a priest. He felt called by God to preach the gospel to the Vandals. At about age 46, he set off for Germany, where many of the warriors had settled.

What he found there concerned him greatly. Some people had heard the Christian message, but their Christianity was mixed with paganism. He realized that people needed education in their faith. Fortunately, many Benedictine nuns and monks from England were willing to follow Boniface and to help him teach people. He was ordained a bishop in 722 and given jurisdiction over all of Germany. He set up prayer-houses, churches and seminaries and held councils to help the bishops there feel more connected with the church far away in Rome. Later in 732 he was given a new missionary territory of Bavaria and was made an archbishop.

By the time Boniface was 73, he had accomplished a tremendous amount. But his missionary spirit wouldn't let him rest. He set off for Holland. Many people wanted to be baptized after Boniface and his team of missionaries began preaching there. On the eve of Pentecost, June 5th, 754, Boniface was preparing for the baptisms during a mission to the Frisians. Suddenly he and 53 companions were seized and murdered by bandits. He was buried at the famous monastery of Fulda in western Germany that he himself had established. St. Boniface is the patron of the German people. Because of the legend about his using an evergreen tree as a symbol of God's faithfulness, St. Boniface is credited with beginning the custom of the Christmas tree.

Thursday, June 6th – the Feast of St. Norbert

St. Norbert's parents were German nobles. He was born in Lorraine in about 1080. As a young man, Norbert held office in the emperor's court, where he lived a life of luxury and high status. He was horseback riding one day when a thunderstorm came up and he was struck by lightning. He lay on the ground unconscious for almost an hour. When he came to, he must have remembered the story about the apostle Paul being thrown to the ground, because his first words were the same. "Lord," he said, "what would you have me to do?" the answer seemed to be, "Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it.

Norbert's life took an about-face. He went home fast, to pray and to examine his life. Soon he sold everything he owned and gave the money to the poor. He wanted to warn people about the dangers and responsibilities of wealth and power, so he began to live on a very small income as a wandering preacher. Most people thought he had lost his mind. But others wanted to follow him. He was ordained a priest in 1115 and then in 1121 began an order of 40 white-robed priests, called canons, who followed his strict way of life.

Norbert's monasteries were built in remote places. His first was built at Premontre in France. Eventually his canons were called the Premonstratensian Order. Usually he provided a hospice for travelers and sick people nearby. Later Norbert took another challenge. He became archbishop of Magdeburg in southern Germany, where the local churches had many problems. He was able to bring about a number of needed reforms. He died at Magdeburg on June 6th in 1134. St. Norbert was canonized in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII and is the patron of Bohemia, where his relics are kept in Strahov. Bohemia is part of the Czech Republic.

The First Friday of June, Month of the Sacred Heart!

Friday of this week is the First Friday of the month. June is the month of June which is traditionally dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Every First Friday has traditionally been dedicated to devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Heart of the Jesus and the Holy Eucharist go hand in hand. Those who observe the First Fridays of each month with the reception of Holy Communion are promised by Christ Himself many graces in this life and in the next. What a wonderful devotion it would be to come to Mass this Friday. Masses are offered at 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM and at 7:00 PM. Have you ever made the nine First Fridays? If not, now is a wonderful time to start. Help us honor the Heart of the Savior who has loved us so much!

We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.

The Spinkling Rite * Ritus Aspersionis * Obrzęd Pokropienia

On Sundays the Penitential Act may take the form of a Rite of Sprinkling with Holy Water. Holy water is sprinkled on the faithful as a memorial of Baptism. This practice is very appropriate during the Easter Season but may take place on any Sunday of the liturgical year. In times past it was the custom to sprinkle the congregation every Sunday before the principal Mass in every parish church. This ceremony was called the Asperges. This word comes from the Latin word *aspergere* which means to sprinkle and was the first word of the hymn that was sung during the ceremony.

In some places, according to ancient custom, blessed salt is added to the holy water to be used when it is blessed. The prayer said as the salt is added explains the custom: We humbly ask you, almighty God: be pleased to bless this salt you have created, for it was you who commanded the prophet Elisha to cast salt into water, that impure water might be purified. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that wherever this mixture of salt and water is sprinkled, every attack of the enemy may be repulsed and your Holy Spirit may be present to keep us safe at all times.

The custom of sprinkling the faithful with holy water goes back to the tenth century in the church. In those days water was blessed each Sunday not only to be sprinkled on the people but for them to take with them to be used in their homes.

After blessing the water for the ceremony, the priest blesses the altar itself, then himself, then those present as ministers in the sanctuary and finally the choir and congregation. The bucket containing the holy water is called the aspersionarium and the instrument used to sprinkle the people is called the aspergillum. In Polish churches a small "broom-like" instrument may be used to sprinkle the people.

There is a definite theme of preparation for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and cleansing ourselves of our sinfulness in this beautiful rite. When the priest has sprinkled those present in the church for Mass he concludes the rite with the prayer: May almighty God cleanse us of our sins, and through the celebration of this Eucharist make us worthy to share at the table of his Kingdom.

Every Saint has a past and every Sinner has a future!

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!