



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

July 28th, MMXIX

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

Month of the Precious Blood

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

Monday, July 29th – Feast of St. Martha

Martha, her sister Mary and their brother Lazarus lived in the town of Bethany, near Jerusalem. The Gospel of John records that Jesus loved all three of them. They were important to him. In that time and culture, women were treated as inferior to men. But Jesus treated women as equals. He called Martha, Mary and Lazarus his friends. The gospel tells us that he laughed and cried with them.

Martha's conversations with Jesus show that she was able to say just what she thought without any pious nonsense. When she gave a dinner in Jesus' honor, Martha asked his support in getting her sister to pitch in and help. In reply, Jesus gave both sisters permission to sit at his feet as disciples. Women weren't permitted to study with a rabbi, so Jesus was taking a bold stand in treating his two friends that way.

Even when her brother Lazarus died, Martha did not give up her faith. She told Jesus, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus. And then Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.

Martha developed a reputation over the centuries as the practical and active Christian, so she is often pictured with a cooking ladle or a set of household keys. She is a patron saint of cooks and hospitality. Today we celebrate that we, like Martha and Mary and Lazarus, can be ourselves with Jesus. We can say what we really think. We can welcome Christ into our homes through hospitality to family, friends and strangers alike.

Wednesday, July 31st – Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Ignatius was born in 1491 in Guipuzcoa in the Basque region of Spain. He was the youngest of eleven children. As a boy he had little interest in schooling. He wanted only to be a military officer like his father and grandfather. In 1521, when he was thirty years old, he reached a turning point in his life. While defending the Spanish castle of Pamplona against a French siege, he was struck by a cannonball. Both his legs were injured.

Knowing he would be unable to move around for a long time, Ignatius asked for some

entertaining novels about romance, knights and soldiers. But all that could be found for him were books about Christ and the lives of the saints. In reading them, he began to believe that the saints showed greater courage than soldiers.

The next year, when Ignatius had recovered, he visited a nearby shrine at the Benedictine Monastery at Montserrat. There he hung his sword before the miraculous statue of Mary, gave away his uniform to a beggar, and promised to dedicate his life to God's service. He spent almost a year in prayer, living in a cave at Manresa near the shrine. The former warrior then went to school with children for the next two years until he was ready to enter a university.

At the University of Paris, Ignatius was still much older than his classmates. But he met six talented young men who wanted to share his new way of life, a way of prayer and service. One was the future St. Francis Xavier. They studied theology, served the poor and gathered often for prayer. To help them, Ignatius wrote his *Spiritual Exercises*, a guidebook for closer union with God, which is still in wide use today. They learned to do all, as Ignatius said, "*Ad majorem Dei gloriam* - for the greater glory of God."

Ignatius hoped that these young people would become a kind of army of God's servants. He challenged them to live as the poorest of the poor, teaching children and uneducated adults, working in hospitals and prisons.

As more and more people came to share in this vision, Ignatius showed a gift for organization. He combined this talent with his love of deep prayer. By the time he died at age 65 in 1556, over a thousand people had committed their lives to this new kind of service. They were called the Society of Jesus, or the "Jesuits" for short. Some of them became missionaries. Others began schools. St. Ignatius was canonized in 1622.

In inspiring others to work for God all over the world, Ignatius's own youthful love for adventure was satisfied. Today he is considered the patron saint of the Basque people.

Thursday, August 1st – Feast of St. Alphonsus Liguori, Doctor of the Church

In modern times we would call Alphonsus Liguori a "child prodigy." He was born at Marianella, near Naples in 1696. He earned a doctoral degree in both civil and canon law when he was sixteen years old. At his graduation ceremony, the audience chuckled when they saw him in his doctoral robes, which were much too big for him. But by the time he was twenty, he was already the leading lawyer in his home town of Naples in Italy. He had many highborn friends and a fine social life. He was known for his talent at playing the harpsichord.

Things continued to go well for Alphonsus until he was 27. It was said that he never lost a case. Then one day in court, he made a serious error. His reputation as a lawyer was damaged. At first he felt so ashamed that he refused to eat or to leave his house. But then he realized that God was speaking to him through this blunder, telling him to take himself less seriously and to change his life. He studied for the priesthood and was ordained in 1726 at age thirty.

Alphonsus became a preacher, and for the next several years he gave retreats for the poor in the slums of Naples. Although he was a brilliant and sophisticated man, his homilies were written so that the least educated person in the assembly could enjoy and understand them. In 1748 Alphonsus published his first book on moral theology, to be followed by others that were translated into many different languages. Because of his extensive writing he has been named a Doctor of the Church and patron of moral theologians. He spent a lot of time counseling people, and he encouraged them to form small groups for prayer. In 1732 he founded an order of priests and

brothers to work with laborers. The order is called the Redemptorists.

After thirteen years of administration of the Congregation of the Redemptorists, Alphonsus was named a bishop at the age of 66, much against his will. He resigned from his episcopal duties at the age of 79 and after a period of deep interior suffering he died in 1787 at the age of 91 in Campagna, Italy. He was canonized in 1839 and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1871.

Alphonsus wrote many books and hymns. He worked toward correcting a mistaken idea called "Jansenism." Jansenists thought people were so sinful that almost no one would be saved. Because of this attitude, people thought no one was worthy to receive communion. But Alphonsus said that celebrating the Eucharist was a way to become holy, not a reward for being holy.

First Friday of the Month, August 2nd

Are you committed to growing in holiness? Do you really love Christ who has ALWAYS loved you in spite of your many sins against Him? Do you realize that you can NEVER get closer to Christ in this world than to meet Him in the Blessed Sacrament and receive Him devoutly in Holy Communion? If you understand all of this, then why not take advantage of the great spiritual opportunity that is offered to you every First Friday of the Month in your own parish church, by attending Mass at 6:30 AM, 8:00 AM or 7:00 PM and spending some time adoring the Holy Eucharist exposed on our altar from 8:30 AM to 10:00 AM or from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM. Why not try to please His Most Sacred Heart by welcoming Him into your own humble heart and receive Holy Communion on that day which He, Himself has said is so special and helpful to our salvation?

Friends, life is short. No one knows just how many days he or she will have on this earth. The goal of this life is to prepare for the next. Are you ready? Are you at least trying to get ready? PLEASE! Come to Mass this Friday. Please don't leave your Lord abandoned in the monstrance on the altar of our church this First Friday. Commit some of your precious time to adoration before or after Mass and fervent prayer during Mass!

Are You Planning on Offering Some of Your Time by Working at the Festival?

As was mentioned in last week's bulletin, there is a great need for parishioners to be generous in donating their time by working at the parish festival in August. Usually when we think of donating to the church we think of money and the Sunday collection, but giving of one's time is also a very real donation. The old saying goes, "time is money." Actually I think time is more valuable than money, because it is limited. We all only have so much of it and there is no way possible to get any more of it when God decides our time here on earth has run out. Your time is precious, and precious things are the kind of things that we make gifts to God of. So.....are you planning to make a gift of your valuable time to your parish by working at the parish festival? Keep in mind that the ultimate purpose of the festival is to keep the church, "God's House," open. So are you planning to make a gift of your time to God?

Our festival is a big one! And we all know that in order for it to run smoothly many hands are needed to do the work. We must all face the reality that our parish is smaller in membership than it once was. Perhaps in times gone by it was possible for a number of parishioners to say, "Well, they have plenty of workers, I just want to go and enjoy the festival and have a good time." This is not the case today. We have a great many parishioners who have faithfully worked every

festival since #1! Most of these folks are so much older now that they simply cannot really do all that they once did and all they would still like to do. I see them out there still giving it their all! I want to appeal now to another crowd, a younger one. Those that live a very hectic and busy lifestyle today and perhaps do not consider service to their parish all that important. WE NEED YOU! We need people who love their parish dearly and express that love in faithful service, even when it's not particularly fun or convenient. Doing this is what it means to be a real parishioner and member of this community. Of course it is much easier to just come to Mass on Sunday and that's it. These are part time parishioners and this mind set jeopardizes the health of the parish.

Once again I do want to make a special appeal for workers in the main outside food booths, known as the "chuck wagons." It would seem to me that these could be rather enjoyable places to work IF there was an adequate number of people working there and that no one was made to carry the burden of this work alone. After all, after beer at most festivals, food is THE most desired item to be obtained and most folks are delighted when they get the Polish food they are craving at our chuck wagons! Once again I ask parishioners who have not yet committed themselves to working the festival to consider working in one of our two very important chuck wagons. If you think you might be willing to make this gift of service to your parish during the festival I would ask you to call one of the two chair persons of the chuck wagons and volunteer yourself. They will be delighted to hear from you! Mr. Mark Zielman at 734-444-5098, and Mr. Mike Genaw at 734-771-4691.

Sponsoring the Parish Festival

Putting on a parish festival as big as ours is quite a task! We all know how much sweat and labor is involved. It also requires a great deal of money "up front" to put on the festival. Expenses are tremendous and quite numerous. While it is true that the return we get on most of the money put out is good, the fact of the matter is at the end, all the bills have to be paid before we can turn a profit. And so, I would like to inform you of just how much some of the expenses of the festival cost us, and to ask you to consider donating toward different aspects of the festival. Here's what we spent last year:

Newspaper advertising - \$1531

Printed materials

(not raffle tickets) - \$690

Tent rental - \$8435

Beer - \$25,607

Wine - \$3276

Portable toilettes - \$1750

Candy - \$6603

Ice - \$1086

**Games & prizes for the big tent -
\$3455**

Pop - \$2688

Water - \$2500

Trailers - \$1895

**Merchandise for Polish Booth -
\$9920**

Ice Cream - \$901

Polish Food - \$16,145

Pizza - \$1298

Bread - \$915

Renting tables & chairs - \$2305

Clean-up of grounds - \$2900

Police protection - \$3301

Live Music: \$9250