

February 22, 2009

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997
1000 26th Ave NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144

www.sjvnm.org

Greetings in Christ Jesus.

The season of Lent is quickly approaching. The season of Lent, of course, commences with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Although not a Holy Day of Obligation, Ash Wednesday Masses are very well attended. Two Ash Wednesday Masses will be celebrated at St. John Vianney: 5PM and 7PM. Do not forget that Ash Wednesday is a day Catholics must fast and abstain from eating meat. Some Catholics, however, are exempt from this discipline. The St. Thomas bulletin contains exemption details. Finally, the Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday night during Lent starting at 7PM. Please join us.

Have a blessed week.

Fr. Scott Mansfield



Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

5PM & 7PM

Receive our bulletin via eMail

Visit our website at www.sjvnm.org
and click on **Subscribe**
to be added to the eMailing list.

Holy Rosary

20 Minutes before every mass

Holy Masses

Saturday4:00PM

Sunday 8:00AM

Sunday 10:00AM

Confession

Saturday 3:00-3:45PM

Defending Our Faith - A Series on Apologetics by John Lombardo

Catholicism and Homosexuality

I am starting this new series with some trepidation. In most parts of our world, speaking out against the immorality of homosexuality is a crime. For example, Christian schools in England are legally outlawed from teaching that homosexuality is morally wrong and sinful. Here in New Mexico, a Christian photographer had to defend herself before the New Mexico Human Rights Commission because she refused to photograph a lesbian commitment ceremony. I have lists of similar and more horrific stories to tell but later. Today's monograph concerns itself with the Churches' stand on homosexual unions. My research located an excellent article written by our Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan five years ago this month in the Archdiocese publication *People Of God*. I re-print it here as the stepping stone to specific problems I will cover later.

Where Does the Church Stand Regarding Same-sex Marriages?

By Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan

The Catholic Church believes that marriage is a faithful, exclusive, lifelong union between one man and one woman joined as husband and wife in an intimate partnership of life and love. We believe God established this union and that He gave it to us as a great gift for the continuation of the human race. We must use marriage as God intended it, according to the plan shown to us in the Bible, and in Christian tradition or we run into trouble.

Jesus brought marriage to the level of a sacrament for Christian people. Marriage exists for the mutual love and support of the spouses and for the procreation and education of children. The Church teaches that the institution of marriage, as the union of a man and a woman, must be protected and promoted in both the private and public realm. Recent statements of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops note the opposition of the Church to attempts to grant legal status of marriage to same sex unions.

Dignity of all persons

Our opposition to same sex marriages is in no way an instance of unjust discrimination or animosity toward homosexual persons. The Church teaches that individuals and society must respect the basic dignity of all persons, including those with homosexual orientation. Homosexual persons have a right to and deserve our respect, compassion and defense against bigotry, attacks and abuse.

The Church has always taught that the sexual act belongs in a marriage of a man and a woman. Homosexual acts are taught to be sinful, based on the Bible and on tradition. There are many texts from the Bible that deal with this matter. (Gen. 19:1-29, Rom. 1:24, 1 Cor. 6:9, for example). There are some proponents of a homosexual lifestyle who try to explain away these and other texts, but serious Scripture scholars do not agree with them. They would like to change the meanings of the text to suit their own agenda. The Teaching of the Church is stated in a

Continued on next page

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fresh way in the Church's new Catechism (paragraph 2357 and following).* Some will choose to disagree with this teaching.

Our teaching makes a distinction between homosexual orientation, which is not immoral, and homosexual acting out, which is immoral.

There are same-sex couples who live together as more than roommates. There are many heterosexual couples who are living together without marriage as well. Both situations would be seen as sinful by the Church. The Church's sexual teaching can be difficult, especially for those who are struggling with homosexual orientations. I am well aware that there are many persons, who sincerely wish to live lives of Catholic Christianity, who struggle with their homosexual orientation, and who might well have deep affection for their partner of many years. I know the pain and anguish of your heart as you struggle to be in obedience to God and yet deal with the demands of your affections. You are called to do the best you can to live a life of chastity. By the support of Christian friends, by prayer, and by the grace of the sacraments, you can obtain the peace, which the world cannot give. If you fail along the way, do not despair, but return to Christ who is ever ready to receive you.

Support of traditional marriage

Many of our sexual problems are due to the breakdown of marriage and the family. Traditional marriage needs all the support it can get. Same-sex marriage would be harmful for the institution of marriage, and it would also be placing approval on activity that the Church considers morally wrong. Although this truth may be a difficult one for some, there is no way that as a bishop in the Church, I can refrain from teaching it if I am to be honest with myself. The Church seeks to teach the truth but always with compassion and so do I. Gay people are welcomed and appreciated in the Church as we all struggle to live the life that Christ has called us to live.

*I believe it is important for all Catholics to know what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches. CCC 2357 Homosexuality refers to relations between men or between women who experience an exclusive or predominant sexual attraction toward persons of the same sex....Its psychological genesis remains largely unexplained. Basing itself on Sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered." They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life....

CCC 2358 explains that homosexuality is a trial for many of these people. Thus, we must accept them with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. We must avoid unjust discrimination.

Much of Europe and Canada have anti-bias/discrimination laws which, if applied in the USA today, would open me up to prosecution, imprisonment, and a probable fine. That is why I began this topic "with some trepidation". I will flesh this out in later monographs. The Peace of Christ be with you.

BIBLE-CRYPTOVERSE (Scripture verse in code)No.2

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L M F H O	K F W L	L M	W P W F T ;
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L Z O	O W E F	P W N M	Z J T O W E F
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G F E G Q	Z P B Z O Y	A F W G M H G	L M
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Letter used:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Last week solution submitted by: James Cutler, Tom Medrano & Manuel Cruz.

"The Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.
He holds victory in store for the upright"

Answer in
next week
bulletin.

Some
Hints on
back
page.

Send
solution
to
[bulletin@
sjvnm.org](mailto:bulletin@sjvnm.org)
and we
will post
your
name next
week.

8 Reason to Become Catholic (or Stay That Way) by Michael Matthews

In the last few decades, it has become commonplace for many Protestants to view Catholicism as a dead tradition, perhaps even as a cult. This may be your view of the Catholic Church. You may have had some bad experiences with Catholics in your past; or you may just find all that Catholic dogma a bit much to swallow.

At the same time, many Catholics have left the Church for what they perceive as greener spiritual pastures elsewhere. Perhaps you were raised Catholics, but find yourself experiencing the Lord's presence in a more powerful way in a church of a different tradition.

Whatever your reason for avoiding, leaving or considering leaving the Catholic Church, there are a few facts about the Church that you may interest you in your spiritual journey.

1. In January 15th Bulletin

2. A Positive View of Creation

The Catholic Church does not view the physical creation as something expendable; nor is humankind viewed as lost. Jesus Christ died and rose to redeem the entire world (John:3:16); so either all has been redeemed, or He was a failure. Likewise, people without Christ are not viewed as criminals condemned to death, but as prodigal children that need to return home.

(Reason 3-8 coming in the following weeks)



**HELPERS
OF
GOD'S
PRECIOUS
INFANTS**

COME PRAY AND SACRIFICE FOR THE UNBORN

Saturday, March 14th, 2009

Monthly Mass and Procession

Father Bennett J. Voorhies celebrant

Mass at 8:00 a.m. at San Ignacio Church

Our Lady of the Annunciation Parish, co- sponsor

My wife was hinting about what she wanted for our upcoming anniversary. She said,
'I want something shiny that goes from 0 to 200 in about 3 seconds.'

I bought her a scale. And that's how the fight started.....

How many motorcyclists do we have in our parish? How about we start the new spring/summer, in our new parish, in our new church, with a new parish tradition. Let's have a motorcyclist and motorcycle blessing. I will have to get with Father Scott for time and arrangements, but if you support this email me at fjpmga@cableone.net.
— Martin Aragon

Upcoming Events

Ash Wednesday Feb 25th, Wednesday 5PM, 7PM
Altar Server MeetingMarch 1st, 9:15AM

	Sacristans	Ushers	EM of Holy Communion	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors
Sat Feb 21st 4:00PM		Ed Uhrich Phillip Griego	Pinky Bjornstad	Ed Uhrich	James Uhrich	David Crawford Pinky Bjornstad
Sun Feb 22nd 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	John Christensen James E Dory David Schutten	Jose Guillen	Jose Guillen	Sergio Guillen Albert Ibarra	Julie Burnside David Schutten
Sun Feb 22nd 10:00AM		Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Ariana Eck Juan Serna	Jeremy McClellan April McClellan Rosie Root	Rochelle Quinones	Gary (Jr) Vigil John (Jr) Reynolds Kevin Savela Krista Savela	Vicky Howell April McClellan
Wed Feb 25th 5:00PM	Julie Burnside	Tom Anderson Bill Deneen Juan Serna Jim Cutler	Ana Marie Hartenhoff John Lombardo Pinky Bjornstad	MaryAnn Padilla	Jamie VLS Jessica VLS Rocky Peyton Sergio Guillen	Jose Guillen Michael Tafuro
Wed Feb 25th 7:00PM		Tony Quinones James E Dory Gary Vigil Aaron Quinones	Carl Beyer Margaret Chavez Harlan Harrington	Catherine Uhrich	Gary (Jr) Vigil John (Jr) Reynolds Amanda Vigil Drew Garcia	Bill McCarty Pam McCarty
Sat Feb 28th 4:00PM		Ed Uhrich Tom Medrano Nick Coca	Rosie Root	Ed Uhrich	James Uhrich Jordan Juarez	Rosie Root Rosie Root
Sun Mar 1st 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	Tom Anderson Juan Serna John Christensen	Harlan Harrington	Sheila Howard	Shane Herrera Charles Lucero	Jose Guillen Geneva Torres
Sun Mar 1st 10:00AM	Donna Madrid	Aaron Quinones Gary Vigil Frank Charles Bill Deneen	John Lombardo Loretta Tafuro Margaret Chavez	Pinky Bjornstad	Jessica VLS Jamie VLS Drew Garcia Kevin Savela	Lillian Ortiz Michael Tafuro

Prayer Corner

Let us join as a community in prayer for our fellow parishioners and/or their family members.

- ◆ Narciso Aragon for his eternal soul as he passed on January 30th.
- ◆ Manuel Romero - For a liver transplant / recovery.
- ◆ Healing and God's care for Ken Mayer, Sydney Mayer, and Mary Q. Haygood.
- ◆ For our country leaders to make the right decision for the well being of our country.
- ◆ For guidance to our leaders for the removal of the stain of abortion from our country.
- ◆ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.

Thank you for your prayers.

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments, prayers or articles can be sent to bulletin@sjvnm.org

We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members.

What is the Church's official position concerning penance and abstinence from meat during Lent?

In 1966 Pope Paul VI reorganized the Church's practice of public penance in his "Apostolic Constitution on Penance" (Poenitemini). The 1983 revision of the Code of Canon Law incorporated the changes made by Pope Paul. Not long after that, the U.S. bishops applied the canonical requirements to the practice of public penance in our country.

To sum up those requirements, Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting as explained by the U.S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal. Some food (not equaling another full meal) is permitted at breakfast and around midday or in the evening depending on when a person chooses to eat the main or full meal.

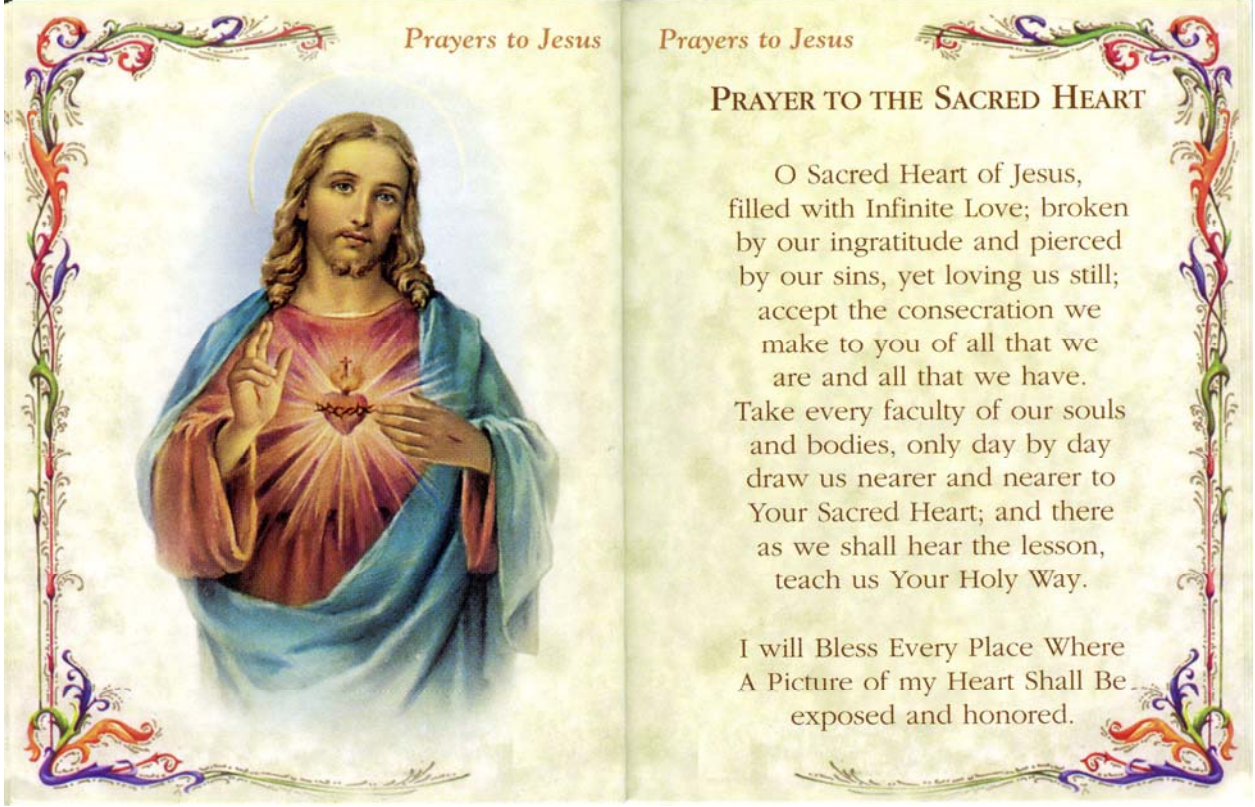
Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.

According to Father John Huels in The Pastoral Companion (Franciscan Herald Press), abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Thus, such foods as chicken broth, consomme, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are not forbidden. So it is permissible to use margarine and lard.

Parish Directory

Vicar.....	Rev. Scott Mansfield
Coordinator	Ed Uhrich
Communications	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair	Ed Uhrich
Head Sacristan.....	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher & Altar Servers.....	Ed Uhrich
Head Lector.....	Peggy Riley
Head EM	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker	Harlan Harrington
Parish Website.....	www.sjvnm.org
Concerns / Questions (Leave a Message).....	974-1778

<p>Debi Wendt - Realtor Discovery I 263-7095 Cellular 898-4660 Direct mariska564@aol.com</p>		<p>Q: Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? A: Samson. He brought the house down.</p>
<p>Holy Family Catholic Religious Supplies 9469 Coors Blvd NW, Albuquerque 87114 505-898-4659</p>		<p>Crypto Hints: T=d J=n B=w</p>
<p>Five-O-Five Computer Service Maint / repair / consult parish mbr 891-9718</p>	<p>Harris Jewelers & Gemologists Casa de Oro / Custom Design 909 36th Place SE, Rio Rancho, 87124 (505) 892-3841 www.harriscasadeoro.com</p>	<p>Support our advertisers and</p>
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