

July 19, 2009

Sixteen Sunday in Ordinary Time

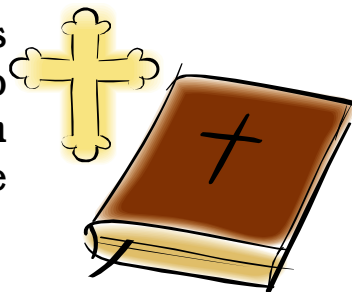
Saint John Vianney

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

www.stjohnvianneyparish.org

Friends in Christ,

This passed Thursday was the Church's feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. This feast recalls how the prophet Elijah, on Mount Carmel, defended the purity of Israel's faith, and how Elijah proved that the God he worshipped was the true God. Elijah warned the Israelites against abandoning worship of the true God, for such an act would lead to many distresses. The God Elijah worshipped is the same God we worship, and the same is true today as it was then--abandoning the worship of God will only lead to many distresses. Take away sunlight and water from a plant and death results. Cease worshipping the true God and spiritual death results.



Pray the rosary each day and have a blessed week.

Fr. Scott Mansfield

Baptism after the 8:00AM Mass

July 26th

Baby: Katelynn Elizabeth DeMarcus

Holy Rosary

20 Minutes before each mass

Holy Masses

Saturday4:00PM

Sunday8:00AM

Sunday..... 10:00AM

Sacrament of Confession

Saturday 3:00-3:45PM

Upcoming Events

July 21st, 7PM at St. John Vianney Welcoming Minister Meeting
1st Sunday of every month..... Food Collection for Charity

EMT / Doctor Wanted

If you are an EMT or Doctor and willing to assist with medical situations as they occur during mass please let the ushers at your mass know. Situations do not arise often but it is helpful to be able to get some professional diagnostics on the spot when it does. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Twinkies and Root Beer

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie.

The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at the boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

"He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen."

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season, or a lifetime. Embrace all equally!

KEEPER

Their marriage was good, their dreams focused. Their best friends lived barely a wave away. I can see them now, Dad in trousers, tee shirt and a hat and Mom in a house dress; lawn mower in his hand, and dish-towel in hers.

It was the time for fixing things. A curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep. It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, eating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there'd always be more.

But then my mother died, and on that clear summer's night, in the warmth of the hospital room, I was struck with the pain of learning that sometimes there isn't any more. Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away...never to return. So... While we have it... it's best we love it... And care for it.... And fix it when it's broken..... And heal it when it's sick. This is true.. For marriage.... And old cars.... And children with bad report cards..... Dogs and cats with bad hips.... And aging parents.... And grandparents. We keep them because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like a best friend that moved away or a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special.... And so, we keep them close!

Jesus loves a good party!

He performed His first miracle at a wedding reception in Cana, turning water into wine.

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus tells us that the overjoyed father threw a big party for his returning son.

“Then let us celebrate with a feast because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found’ Then the celebration began.” (Luke 15:23-24)

Apologetics and Evangelization

God Exists: The Problem of Relativism - The Conning of America, Part 2

Dear friends in Christ, today's discussion piece considers the problem of Relativism in our country. As background, relativism in our society may have its roots in 7th century B.C. Israel. The first reading of last week's Sunday Mass was taken from the Book of Amos 7:12-15. Amos discusses...“two opposing conceptions of religion. Amaziah, the priest of the sanctuary in Bethel (the Northern Kingdom of Israel), favors a religion that stands for the status quo, is loyal to patriotism, and is loath to rock the boat, which might upset the constituency. Amos, an “outside agitator” (from Judah, the Southern Kingdom), preaches the word of God and does not follow the line of *smooth talkers*. He blames the congregation for its social injustice, and is consequently expelled from the sanctuary”.(1) Fast forward 700 years to St. Paul's time-frame and his Epistle to the Ephesians, particularly Eph. 1:3-10. Paul outlines a picture of who we are as Christians. We should be grateful of our election as Catholics and God's adopted children to have understanding when our bishops, priests and deacons do not water down God's message just to avoid hurting someone's feelings.

These readings reflect the mission of the Catholic Church. St. Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians 1:3-10 paints “a beautiful picture of who we are as Christians. We should be grateful for our election as God's adopted children and have understanding when preachers of the Gospel constantly refer to it. *They are not allowed to water down the message in order to avoid hurt feelings!*” (2)

We are experiencing a similar though more ferocious attack on Catholic Christian truth and morality today. Pope Benedict XVI calls this phenomenon the Dictatorship of Relativism. Fr. John Farren, O.P. defines relativism as “a universal heresy because it dissolves all truth and eliminates all categories of good and evil. This deranges the mind and morals of modern man to a dangerous-indeed frightening-degree”.(3) Relativism is the idea that moral principles are based on one's culture and therefore subject to individual choice. However, Popes Benedict XVI and John Paul the Great see the alliance between democracy and relativism as disguised totalitarianism. In fact, John Paul The Great, in his letter entitled *The Gospel of Life* (1995), linked philosophical and moral relativism to the “culture of death”-the culture of death we see today.(4)

Relativism surrounds every aspect of our civil lives today, and may/will in the future determine if we Catholics are criminals subject to fines and/or imprisonment for expressing our faith to others. Laws supporting Hate Crimes Acts, now in the pipeline, may very well infringe on our First Amendment and God-given rights.

I noted in our July 5,2009 SJV bulletin that morality in our country has been eroded by our courts since the end of WWII. That erosion ultimately expressed itself into the relativism we have today.

Continued on next page

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HOW SO?

- ◆ 1947 - Everson v. Bd. Of Education created a wall between Church and State so that the non-believer might not “feel” somehow rejected.
- ◆ 1953 - Hugh Hefner’s *Playboy* happens. Now, pornography is protected as free speech.
- ◆ 1973 - Row v. Wade happens. Now a woman has the “right” to choose whether to kill her baby or not-a personal choice.
- ◆ 2008 - A bill entitled Freedom of Choice Act, a product initiated by this administration, dictates that government “must” guaranty the “right” to choice. To enforce this bill throughout our country, doctors and nurses must now participate in the murder of abortion or leave their profession. A previous “conscience clause” is eliminated.

We continue to see vivid extensions of this evil today. Relativism can cause people to take a good thing like matrimony and mutate it into something evil in order to contrive a selfish purpose. Marriage can now be extended to “same-sex” partnerships simply because objective truth and reason is denied. Relativists really believe there are **NO** rules governing right from wrong. We are truly in a battle to maintain the absoluteness of truth. So how can we confront the evil of relativism? One way may be Plato’s method: “Plato held that mathematics is the best place to begin in philosophical inquiry, for it establishes the unequivocal existence of absolute truth. Early Greek philosophers such as Pythagoras have proven certain mathematical formulas to be objective true. Two plus two equals four”... whether one is in the U.S., China, or Tim-Buck-Tu. Even so, there are many “thinkers who have concluded such truth is still relative because we have “limited mental resources” and therefore can not comprehend objective truth.(5) Phooey!

We Catholics have the entire truth revealed by God. Let us pray that closed minds will be opened to reason, especially those Catholic priests in so-called Catholic Colleges and Universities who teach otherwise. We can respond to their sophist claims by defending at least the *possibility* of truth.(6)

1. Introduction to Amos 7:12-15, St. Joseph Sunday Missal, p.908
2. Introduction to Ephesians 1: 3-10, St. Joseph Sunday Missal, p. 908
3. Letter from Dominican Foundation, July, 2009, by Fr. John Farren O.P.
4. What is ‘Relativism’? by Deborah Caldwell, @ www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Christianity/Catholic/2005/04/What-Is-Relativism
5. What Is an Elephant Like?-Relativism, Pluralism, and the Question of Truth, by Anthony E. Clark, (This Rock: November 2005)
6. Ibid.

Why Jesus Loves Children

A Sunday school teacher asked her little children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

	Sacristans	Ushers	EM of Holy	Rosary Leader	Altar Servers	Lectors
Sat Jul 18th 4:00PM	David Crawford	Phillip Griego Bill Deneen	Ana Marie Hartenhoff	Anna Sellman	Drew Garcia Josh Storms Victoria Perez	Annette Montoya Vicky Howell
Sun Jul 19th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	Tom Anderson David Schutten Karl Lucero Jim Cutler	Jeremy McClellan	Evelyn Romero	Charles Lucero Peter Lucero Albert Ibarra	April McClellan Racquel Torres
Sun Jul 19th 10:00AM	Margaret Chavez	Gary Vigil Frank Charles Juan Serna Ariana Eck	Loretta Tafuro Rosie Root Margaret Chavez	Pinky Bjornstad	Gary Vigil Amanda Vigil Jen Reynolds John Reynolds	Michael Tafuro Peggy Riley
Sat Jul 25th 4:00PM	David Crawford	Ed Uhrich Eddie Crespin	Janis Crespin	Mary McMillian	James Uhrich Emilio Crespin	David Crawford Rosie Root
Sun Jul 26th 8:00AM	Julie Burnside	Jim Cutler John Christensen Tom Anderson David Schutten	Laurie Storms	Jose Guillen	Sergio Guillen Josh Kast Albert Ibarra	Jose Guillen Annette Montoya
Sun Jul 26th 10:00AM	Geri Hoover	Ariana Eck Brian Padilla Juan Serna Gary Vigil	Carrie Jenkins John Jenkins Geri Hoover	Peggy Riley	Rocky Peyton Ariana Jenkins Angela Jenkins	Connie Dudon Ana Padilla

Prayer Corner

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

- ◆ For Healing and Peace for Nickolas (4 years old - broken femur) and his family. (6/28)
- ◆ For the soul of Idela C. Romero (June 8, 2009) mother and for the soul of Manuel A. Romero Jr. (April 11, 2009) son. (6/21)
- ◆ For Healing and Peace for Bill Rounds, and for his wife, Vickie (7/19)
- ◆ Prayers for the soul of Richard Fusco on the first anniversary of his passing on June 28th. (6/28)
- ◆ For Fr. Whorton on his deployment, and especially for his family, and for all those families in our community affected by this deployment, that they all remain under God's loving care. (Till he returns)
- ◆ For the strength and courage of the disabled, sick, elderly, and dying
- ◆ 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.

Prayers are kept on the list for a month then need to be resubmitted.

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.

Job Corner

Who	Skill Description	Phone	eMail
Marty Aragon	Will do yard work and light hauling. (6/21)	239-9553	fjpmga@cableone.net

Rules for posting

- ◆ Listing needs to resubmitted each month.
- ◆ Keep Skill Description to two short sentences.
- ◆ No business listing, that what the back page ads are for.
- ◆ Only for St. John Vianney Parish Member not a friend of a friend of a friend.
- ◆ Send your job needs to bulletin@sjvnm.org.

Parish Directory

Vicar.....	Rev. Scott Mansfield
Coordinator.....	Ed Urich
Communications.....	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair.....	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair.....	Ed Urich
Head Sacristan.....	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher.....	Carl E. Beyer
Head Altar Servers.....	Ed Urich
Head Lector.....	Peggy Riley
Head EM.....	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD.....	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker.....	Harlan Harrington
Head Window Cleaner.....	Coz Madrid
Head Welcoming Ministry.....	Loretta Tafuro
Parish Website.....	www.sjvnm.org

Concerns / Questions (Leave a Message)..... 974-1778
 Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals St Thomas Parish - 892-1511

Quit griping about
 the church; if it
 was perfect, you
 could not belong.

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

Debi Wendt - Realtor

Discovery I

263-7095 Cellular
898-4660 Direct
mariska564@aol.com

Send clean jokes to bulletin@sjvnm.org

Holy Family

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505-898-4659

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IN GOD WE TRUST