

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



### News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve Corporations as Persons: How Odd...How Frightening

I have been pondering the recent 5-4 Supreme Court decision expanding the rights and constitutional protections afforded corporations as legal persons. According to the Supreme Court, in their understanding and application of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment, in addition to the right of corporations to own property and enter into binding contracts, as do natural, i.e. human persons, they now have the right of free speech, as do human persons. Since I do not have legal expertise, much of the nuances and implications of this decision escape me, but it seems to me that essentially this decision means that multinational, prodigiously wealthy corporations, some of which are owned by stockholder majorities who are not even American, have exactly the same rights as I do to advocate for the "election or defeat of a candidate," save for actually casting a vote.

We all know that a corporation has many vested interests in the outcome of elections and congressional legislation which could impact significantly on their profit margins. Every citizen also has a vested interest as well on how elected officials care about our well being. But, the vast majority of Americans are not capable of enacting their free speech opinions in any palpable way because we are not rich. Few individuals can purchase 30 second TV spots to make our free speech opinions known. But the Exxon Mobil corporation, a legal person which [or should I say "who"] earned 37 billion dollars in profit in 2007, can easily express its free speech opinions in favor of or against any candidate of its choosing. What candidate would dare oppose corporate agenda knowing that the airways could be flooded with corporate free speech attacks against them? Most Americans have always had a well-grounded intuition that democracy, moral truth and the common good was for sale in the halls of Congress and on the benches of our justice system. Now it is no longer just an intuition.

Oh, and one more thing. What does it say to US Catholic Americans that the Supreme Court can find and defend the precious quality "personhood" in a corporate, financial entity and ignore the reality of personhood in the unborn? What does it say to local Philadelphia Catholics that the Philadelphia Inquirer, our local proponent and defender of free speech, can completely ignore a major Pro-life March on the nation's capital on January 22, the anniversary of Roe v Wade, involving hundreds or thousands of people, and pretend that it didn't happen or that it isn't newsworthy?

### Ongoing Faith Formation Opportunities at St. AJ

Want to learn more about your Catholic faith? Want to join with others seeking to face the challenges of living out our faith in the modern world? Our Parish is committed to providing you with ongoing faith formation opportunities. All are welcome anytime to join our Catholic Forum discussion group each Sunday downstairs in the Parish Hall after the 10 AM Mass. In addition, anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church should check the RCIA page of the parish web site or contact [saintsajrcia@hotmail.com](mailto:saintsajrcia@hotmail.com).

### Collections for Sunday 1/03/10

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: \$1105.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: \$ 294.00 (Church Building Maintenance Fund)

### This Week at St. AJ

#### Saturday, January 30

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Dominic Franklin*

#### Sunday, January 31

#### Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

10:00AM Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*

**Catholic Forum Today January 31 - after 10:00AM Mass**

11:30AM Mass *Michael A. Orlando*

5:00PM Mass *Intentions of David Taylor*

10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students at our Area Universities*

#### Monday, February 1

7:30AM and 12:05PM Weekday Masses (Penn Newman Center)

#### Tuesday, February 2

12:05PM Mass *Juan Chico*

#### Wednesday, February 3

12:05PM Mass *Lynne Falcone*

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church will be open today.

#### Friday, February 5

No 7:30AM Mass

12:05PM Mass *Members of the St. AJ Perpetual Memorial Society*

#### Saturday, February 6

4:00PM Confessions

5:30PM Vigil Mass *Intentions of St. AJ Parishioners & Benefactors*



### Anniversary Mass – In Honor of Fr. Chuck and His Legacy

There will be a 5th Anniversary Mass in memory of Father Chuck Pfeffer celebrated by Bishop Robert Maginnis on Sunday, February 7, 2010, at 2:00 PM in the Cathedral Chapel SS Peter and Paul. All priests are invited to concelebrate. Arrangements for this Mass are being made by the promoters of "Father Chuck's Challenge." Dedicated to his memory, this group has already built several villages in Nicaragua and Haiti.

### Next Weekend - 14<sup>th</sup> World Day for Consecrated Life

The Church in the United States joins with the Universal Church in marking the "Fourteenth World Day for Consecrated Life." Initiated by Pope John Paul II, this commemoration enables the entire body of Christ to rejoice in the gifts of vocation and ministry shared by so many who have committed their lives in unreserved consecration to the Lord.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Next Week - for the Care of Aging and Infirm Priests of Philadelphia

This collection will be taken up in all parishes throughout the Archdiocese next weekend, February 6 and 7, 2010. Many of the priests who responded to the Lord's call and labored in the vineyard are now retired and some are physically ill. They are being wonderfully cared for at Villa Saint Joseph, Regina Coeli Residence, Saint Francis Country House, and a number of other Catholic Health Care facilities throughout our Archdiocese. Their care and welfare, so well deserved after serving the Lord generously through the years, is the responsibility of us all. Once again, we call upon you to help these faithful servants through this Annual Collection for the Care of Aging and Infirm Priests of Philadelphia.

### Matching Gifts for Artistic Stained Glass Replacement Exterior Windows

A University of Pennsylvania Administrator has indicated that he will donate \$1,125.00 for each of the remaining four artistic stained glass replacement exterior windows on the 38<sup>th</sup> side of the Church, as a matching gift for anyone or any group of people who step up to donate the other half of a window – \$1,125.00.

*I will sing of Your salvation.*

Psalm 71