

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Why I Like the Gulf Oil Disaster

Hopefully, I have gotten your attention. Of course, I hate what is happening in the Gulf. It brings tears to my eyes and heart and, at times, preoccupies me even from praying, when I know it cries out for prayer and supplication. The part that I like, however, is that this disaster has succeeded in bringing home a truth to a part of humanity that is thinking and caring - a part of humanity that the Catholic teaching Church has never been able to reach successfully. Sin is real. It is a destructive force that ripples out to contaminate all that is good and holy, and sin, even my tiny inconsequential sin, matters.

The default "moral" mindset of most people is: "What I do, so long as it doesn't hurt anyone else, is OK." So the oil profiteers can justify their "extra earnings," even as they rape the environment and squander natural resources. Our senators and congressmen - leaders who prostitute themselves with some tidbit of compensation for allowing Big Oil to drill where it shouldn't - can feel good because they are freeing this country from dependence on foreign oil. We, too, can feel good because our careless, wasteful, selfish consumption is such a tiny addition and doesn't really hurt anyone. But this big, ugly, relentless, disgusting, and deadly geyser of monumental toxic proportions is the unavoidable symbol of another truth we can't ignore anymore: the earth which God created and provided for us can support our need but not our greed. This gushing corrupting toxic wound deep down is also a symbol of what the Church has been teaching from the beginning: there is original sin; there is a wound deep down in the human psyche that needs grace and redemption. What I LIKE [getting back to my title] is that now, finally, many more people see it. I like the anger and outrage of marine biologists, environmental specialists, bird watchers and bird lovers, fishermen – commercial and recreational - parents who can't take their children to gooey black beaches, children who ask simple questions about why this is happening, nature lovers, climatologists, pray-ers and worshippers, creationists and Darwinists together, people who see creation as God's playground and the place where God reveals Himself, and all people of goodwill and common sense, who now see more clearly a truth that has been taught and ignored for millennia. Can we ever read the incredible words of the Prophet Hosea [Chapter 4, Verses 1-3] again and not see the warning? Hosea, Prophet of God, called to castigate the people for their superficial faith and worship and their ignoring of God's moral laws, proclaims:

"Hear the word of the LORD, you children of Israel, for the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. By swearing and lying, killing and stealing and committing adultery, they break all restraint, with bloodshed upon bloodshed. Therefore the land will mourn; and everyone who dwells there will waste away with the beasts of the field and the birds of the air; even the fish of the sea will be taken away."
Hosea 4:1-3

Yes, Hosea got it right – even down to the birds of the air and the fish of sea. We have pictures on our front pages and evening news to prove it. Our sin is destroying God's

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, June 19

9:00AM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory
NO 4:00PM Confessions for Summer – By Request or Appointment
NO 5:30PM Vigil Mass for Summer – Resumes Saturday, Sept. 4

The Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 20

10:00AM Mass All Fathers of St. AJ – Living and Deceased
No Catholic Forum in June – Resumes in July in Newman Center
11:30AM Mass Dolph Tokarczyk
5:00PM Mass Intentions of all Anthony Evangelista
NO 10:00PM Mass for Summer – Resumes Sunday, September 5

Monday, June 21

NO 7:30 AM Mass for Summer – Resumes Tuesday, September 7

Wednesday, June 23

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church is open today. Please ring Rectory bell

Friday, June 25

6:00PM Wedding Rehearsal Black / Kotz GLS

Saturday, June 26

9:00AM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory
3:00PM Wedding Black / Kotz GLS

Gulf Oil Disaster continued

creation and diminishing ourselves in the process. Maybe this disaster and the inescapable truth that flows with it will "contaminate" our minds and hearts with an ancient truth that is vitally in need of resurrection - that we are made in God's image, to be stewards of creation and not despoilers of it.



CATHOLIC FORUM

has completed its first year at Saints AJ with marked success. A small but enthusiastic group of parishioners gathers regularly after the 10 AM Mass to reflect on the day's Liturgy of the Word and how to make it real in our lives. We are not Bible scholars but just earnest Catholics engaging the Word of God. Catholic Forum is now taking a brief respite during the month of June, and will resume meeting at the Newman Center in July after the 10 AM Mass. All are welcome to join our motley group of Biblical explorers. Please join us in July!



Reminder: Summer Schedule 2010

5:30 PM Saturday Vigil Mass - discontinued for Summer. Resumes September 4.

10 PM Sunday Mass - discontinued for Summer Resumes September 5

Saturday Confessions at 4:00 pm - discontinued for Summer. Confessions - available by request or appointment. Resumes September 4.

We Welcome Our New Priests

REVEREND JAMES T. MCGUINN, Ordained 1988
Pastor, Saint Agatha/Saint James Parish, and Director of Newman Apostolates at the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University

REVEREND AUGUSTO CONCHA, Ordained 1972
Parochial Vicar with the status of Senior Priest, Saint Agatha/Saint James Parish with responsibility for hospital ministry within the parish

REVEREND JAEHWA JOHN LEE, ORDAINED 2007
Parochial Vicar, Saint Agatha/Saint James Parish, and Chaplain for the Drexel University Newman Apostolate