

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

A Great Loss & a Great Debate

One of the great losses we have experienced in this society is the loss of authentic debate for the purpose of reaching a higher viewpoint. It seems that people no longer feel the need to struggle for truth beyond their own opinions because they feel their own opinions are all the truth that matters. Debate is a waste of time if you really do not believe in or accept truth that might differ from what you want or need truth to be. For whatever values the presidential debates might have served, the format is hardly a debate format. True debate is truth seeking where two people put forth their opinions with an openness that the other person or position might have a piece of the truth that will expand and clarify my own position.

The unfortunate development where everybody's opinion and point of view is given equal weight and credibility, whether it is right or true or good or practical, has spawned a serious public crisis. If all I care about is my "truth" that serves only my good, then the public or common good always takes a back seat. The greatest example of this erosion of truth is the current economic crisis, where the privatized goals of personal and corporate profit shredded any concern for what was the right thing or the beneficial thing to do for all. Truth has become a commodity that can be bought and sold, manipulated and falsified for self-serving purposes, while the common good is ignored.

I see a similar sacrificing of truth and the public good in the so-called "debate" about same sex marriage. Gay couples have needs like every couple; they deserve rights and dignity in our society. But this quest to overturn and corrupt the traditional understanding of marriage and make it into something other than what it is and has been in virtually every known human society - *the legally sanctioned union between one man and one woman* - is blatantly self-serving and destructive of the public good.

My opposition to same sex marriage is neither discriminatory nor homophobic; it is an attempt to uphold the truth and the good that are being ignored to the detriment of the common good. That truth is this: marriage, while exceedingly personal, is not a private affair - it is a specific partnership and contract that is public as well as personal and as a social institution directly influences health and vitality of human society. Marriage is NOT a ratification of a previously existing relationship - it is the beginning of a new relationship that is based on gender sexual complementarity consistent with procreative potential and sustained parental nurturance and support of children. A man and a woman pledge fidelity and permanence for their own enhancement but also for the promotion and protection of family and children. This basis of marriage has a crucial public purpose that goes way beyond giving credibility to private relationships of love and affection between two people - whether they are hetero or homo sexual. The health of marriage is necessary to sustain a free and stable society.

Reminder – St. AJ Church is Open Wednesdays from 12:30pm - 2pm. *You are invited to stop in to visit, pray or tour. All are welcome.*

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, November 8

9:00AM Mass *God's Blessing on Fr. George L. Strausser*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Jan Bot*

Sunday, Nov. 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

10:00AM Mass *Rose & Joseph Candeloro & Maryann DeMarco*
11:30AM Mass *Basil Mihu*
5:00PM Mass *Jan Dubrowin*
10:00PM Mass *Deceased Alums of All Our Area Universities*

Tuesday, November 11

7:30AM Mass *Maria Nguyen*
12:05PM Mass *Michael Zielinski*

Saturday, November 15

9:00AM Mass *Pavel Zielinski*
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Eleanor DePalma*

November: Month of the Holy Souls

November is traditionally the time when Christians remember their deceased loved ones in special and various ways. Visiting the cemetery and graves of family and friends, if possible, is an important and recommended way of commemorating the deceased. November is also a time to attend Mass on a weekday as well as Sunday and offer your Masses in memory of someone who has passed. You can also arrange to have Mass celebrated in memory of your deceased loved ones or for a special intention. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements for your Mass.

Book of the Names of the Dead

You can remember your deceased loved ones by inscribing their names in the "Book of the Names of the Dead." This Book will be available in Church on weekends throughout November. The Book will be placed at the Baptistry next to the Paschal Candle. The people whose names are inscribed in this Book will also be remembered during the weekend Masses throughout November. At the weekend Masses we light the Paschal Candle and include special intercessory prayers for those names inscribed in the Book. There is also an offering book if you wish to make a contribution.

VOCATION HOUR

Join Fr. Chris Rogers and special guests for a live radio talk-show on WISP 1570 AM. The program is VOCATION HOUR which features exciting stories from priests, seminarians and families. Listen and learn from the witness of those serving our local church and those responding to the call. The program airs 4:00-5:00 PM the first Friday of each month. You can call the station to speak to Fr. Rogers at 215-345-1570 or email your questions to: 1570AM@holyspirit.org. You can listen on the internet: www.holyspiritradio.org. For more information and to register for all discernment programs, contact Fr. Chris Rogers, Vocation Director for Diocesan Priesthood (610-667-5778) or email fcrogers@adphila.org. Visit our web page www.heedthecall.org.

St. Charles Seminary Annual Fall Appeal

We give thanks to Almighty God for St. Charles Seminary within our Archdiocesan Community. The 2nd collection this weekend is for our Seminary. Please be generous.

Think About It...

"Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be for you. But what will happen in all the other days that ever come to be in your life can depend on what you chose today."