

Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Conversation with Atheists who Profane God and His Church

If I were an atheist, I think I would be a quiet one. Not one who goes out of his way to denigrate and profane belief in God or ridicule church and faith. And many atheists are quiet and respectful. They realize that in their search for meaning and truth, they are not able to accept the faith that inspires and sustains others. But then there are those who go out of their way to profane. A dictionary definition of "profane" is: "showing disrespect for God, church, and/or faith." Of course, you don't have to be an atheist to profane; you can be a believer and profane, too. I guess I am responding to the release of Bill Maher's recent documentary "Reliculous," a combination of "Religion" and "Ridiculous," which is a profanation intended to be funny.

My guess is that this film is more concerned with making money. So-called author-atheists like Richard Dawkins [The God Delusion] and Christopher Hitchens [God is Not Great] have found writing atheistic books to be profitable even when their writing is unfaithful to their own scientific and basic inter-disciplinary epistemological principles.

Anyway – these kinds of people [Bill Maher, Richard Dawkins, the late George Carlin, etc] seem to be obsessed with the God they don't believe in. I find that humorous. Personally I have always enjoyed George Carlin's comedic point of view, but as he grew older his comic routines became less funny, more cynical, dark and brooding, and preoccupied, it seemed, with a God whom he thoroughly disliked even though he supposedly didn't believe.

To summarize, I am not bothered at all by such people. It is an enriching experience for me to discuss faith and belief with a true atheist. But these others, whom I consider pseudo-atheists [because it takes intelligence and integrity to be an authentic atheist], I regard them as I do the tourist who walked into the Sistine Chapel, and surrounded by all of this beauty and genius, remarked "Is this it?" "Is this what all the hype is about?" At which point one of the guards came up to him, and gesturing with open arms to encompass all the grandeur and magnificence, responded, "Sir, you do not judge this, it judges you."

Heritage of Faith – Vision of Hope

The Campaign's established goal for St. Agatha - St. James Parish has been set at \$155,000. Over the next 12 months, the total proceeds of the any second collection that is not already dedicated for a particular purpose will be earmarked as our parish's contribution.

World Mission Sunday: October 19, 2008

Next Sunday, the 2nd Collection is for World Mission Sunday. This is our opportunity to contribute to the worldwide work being done in the missions to make Jesus known and loved.

Centering Prayer Group - Rectory at 4:15pm before the first and third Saturday Vigil Mass of the month. For info, call Tom Connolly 484-995-4046 or tconnoll@comcast.net.

Reminder - Church is Open Wednesdays from 12:30-2pm. You are welcome to stop in to visit, pray or t our.

I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, October 11

9:00AM Mass Pro-Life Liturgy and Vigil
2:00PM Wedding Balsamo/Mirarchi (Fr.Zlock)
4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass Special Intentions of AER

Sunday, October 12 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

10:00AM Mass Rose, Joseph Candeloro & Maryann DeMarco
11:30AM Mass Tony Boyle
2:00PM Mass SHCJ - 150th Anniversary
5:00PM Mass Anthony Evangelista
10:00PM Mass Friends and Benefactors of St. AJ

Monday, October 13

7:30AM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory
1:00PM NO Mass Columbus Day Observance at Drexel
7:30PM Training Session Eucharistic Ministers

Tuesday, October 14

7:00PM Training Session Lectors

Wednesday, October 15

1:00PM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, October 16

1:00PM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory

Friday, October 17

7:30AM Mass Holy Souls in Purgatory

Saturday, October 18

4:00PM Confessions
5:30PM Vigil Mass Our Own Special Intentions

Daily Mass Reminder

Weekday Masses at 7:30am, 12:05pm Monday – Friday and Saturday at 9:00am are celebrated in St. Bede Chapel of Penn Newman Center. Weekday Masses at 1:00pm are celebrated in St. Katharine Drexel Chapel of Drexel Newman Center.

Do It Anyway

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered: Forgive them anyway!

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives: Be kind anyway!

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies: Succeed anyway!

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you: Be honest and sincere anyway!

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight: Create anyway!

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous: Be happy anyway!

The good you do today will often be forgotten: Do good anyway!

Give the best you have and it will never be enough: Give your best anyway!

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway!

St. AJ Ministry Training Sessions in Church

Lectors: Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 pm.

Eucharistic Ministers: Monday, October 13 at 7:30 pm.

Collections for Sunday 9/21/08

1st Collection: \$2150.00

2nd Collection: \$ 609.00 (Drexel & Penn Newman Centers)

Collections for Sunday 9/28/08

1st Collection: \$1996.00

2nd Collection: \$ 630.00 (Heritage of Faith-Vision of Hope)