

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

Year of the Priest

Cardinal Justin Rigali formally opened the “Year of the Priest” with this announcement:

“With these words, holy priests for a holy people, I am pleased to announce the observance of the Year of the Priest in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has called for this year of grace for the whole Church as a new opportunity for priests to grow in holiness and to live more fully united to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and for all members of the Church to recall the essential role of priests among us in society.

As Archbishop of Philadelphia, I invite all priests and all the faithful, in solidarity with the Holy Father, to observe the Year of the Priest as a splendid opportunity to reflect on the gift of the Priesthood of Jesus shared with his priests. This gift belongs to the whole Church and is for the whole Church. I ask of you, sharers and benefactors of this gift from Jesus, to participate wholeheartedly in this Year of the Priest here in Philadelphia.”

I have two immediate responses to the *Year of the Priest* which I will share with you, one humorous, and the other very serious. An anti-clerical feminist friend of mine, [yes, I have those] said to me: “Father Steve, do you think there is any significance that this *Year of the Priest* follows with the *Year of the Rat* in the Chinese Zodiac? I chose not to respond. However, had I known more about the Zodiac animal sign of the Rat, I could have smartly retorted that the Holy Father planned it that way to take advantage of the good qualities of the Year of the Rat. Apparently, A Rat Year is a time of hard work, activity, and renewal. It is an inopportune time to launch a project or make a fresh start. In Chinese, a person born in a Rat Year is considered a courageous, enterprising person, bright, sociable and family-minded. They have broad interests and strong ability in adapting to the environment and are able to react adequately to any changes. They are gifted in many ways and have an easy-going manner. These are all good priestly qualities.

My second and more serious point – I believe that one of the most misunderstood and misplaced [even lost] concepts of the Second Vatican Council is its focus on the Priesthood of the Laity; that all who are baptized into Christ share in Jesus’ priesthood. My thought is that if people appreciated and appropriated what it means that they are sharers in Jesus’ priestly identity and mission, then the Church would be revolutionized. It is clear that to better understand the role of the ministerial, ordained priest, you must first understand the *Priesthood of all the Baptized* because there is a mutual relationship between these two priesthoods: the Ordained Priesthood is born out of the *Priesthood of the Laity* and each serves the other. The *Priesthood of the Baptized* and the *Ministerial Priesthood* are intrinsically ordered to each other. One of my goals in this Year of the Priest is to better educate the faithful on the role of the ministerial priest by focusing on the priesthood of the laity.

I will praise You, Lord, for You have rescued me.

This Week at St. AJ

Saturday, June 27

9:00AM Mass *Special Intention for Peace of Mind and Heart*

Sunday, June 28 The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:30AM Mass

5:00PM Mass *Intentions of Raymond Smith and Family*

Monday, June 29

No 7:30AM Mass until Tuesday, September 8

12:05PM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

Tuesday, June 30

12:05PM Mass *An End to Abortion*

Wednesday, July 1

12:05PM Mass *In Thanksgiving to St. Anthony*

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

Friday, July 3

9:00AM Mass *Fr. Chuck Pfeffer*

No 1:00PM Mass on Friday for the Summer

Saturday, July 4

9:00AM Mass *God’s Blessing on United States of America*

Independence Day - A Civic Holiday – One Mass

On Friday, July 3, the day the country will celebrate Independence Day, we will have one Mass in the Penn Newman Center at 9:00 am. On Saturday, July 4, there will also be one Mass in the Penn Newman Center at 9:00 am.

Peter’s Pence Collection – Today

The annual Peter’s Pence Collection, in support of the Holy Father’s spiritual and charitable works, will be taken up this Sunday, June 28. Through your generous participation in this special appeal, you share in the concern of the Successor of Peter to respond with emergency financial assistance to our brothers and sisters who suffer as a result of war, oppression, disease and natural disaster. Your generosity allows the Pope to respond to our suffering brothers and sisters with promptness, love, and compassion, so God’s people will not feel alone in their time of misfortune.

Please Note: Move to the Penn Newman Center for Summer Masses

It is our intention to move Sunday Masses to the Penn Newman Center next Sunday, July 5.

Marriage Preparation Retreat: To fulfill Pre-Cana requirements for Engaged Couples preparing to be married in the Catholic Church

The Weekend Retreat Program offers engaged couples a special opportunity to be together and to encounter Christ through prayer and reflection. The goal of the weekend is to more firmly establish their relationship “in the Lord.” This retreat satisfies the Marriage Preparation requirement for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Dates: August 21, 22, 23, 2009

Location: Malvern Retreat House (St. Joseph in the Hills)
Malvern, PA 19355

Cost: \$350 per couple

Registration is limited to the first 25 couples. To register call the Family Life Office at 215-587-5639, or email the Office: famlife@adphila.org.

Collections for Sunday 4/26/09

1st Collection: \$1751.00

2nd Collection: \$ 639.00 (Catholic Home Missions)