

Some final, personal thoughts and perhaps some wisdom...

As I look back on my nine years here as pastor, I have many thoughts, mostly good ones. I certainly don't measure my tenure here in terms of successes and/or failures, because in God's wisdom, it's not possible to know what is a success or a failure. I think mostly of whether the Gospel has been preached. From my earliest days as a priest I was struck by a profound passage in the prophet Ezekiel where God calls Ezekiel to be a minister of God's word.

"...and you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God.' And whether they hear or refuse to hear...they will know that there has been a prophet among them."
Ezekiel 2:4-5

My sending as a priest is to be a minister of Word and Sacrament. So I fulfill my responsibilities before God and His people in terms of whether I have joyfully celebrated His sacraments for the good of God's people, and whether I have authentically proclaimed Christ's Word and communicated Christ's mind and heart to His people. Once the Word has been preached [my responsibility] then the people can respond or not [your responsibility]. But whether the people respond or not, they should know that a prophet was indeed among them.

Other thoughts I have as I prepare to depart mainly have to do with my involvement with the pastoral outreach to the sick and dying. As you know, this parish has an extensive pastoral outreach and responsibility to three major hospitals. I have learned a great deal in this aspect of my ministry. I would pass on to you a piece of wisdom about living and dying that I have tried to follow. It is a wisdom articulated by Dr. Bernie Siegel who has done a great deal to help humanize the health care profession and to empower patients to take spiritual responsibility for their own healing.

In 1986 his first book, **Love, Medicine & Miracles** was published. In 1989 **Peace, Love & Healing** and in 1993 **How To Live Between Office Visits** followed. Dr. Bernie's realization that we all need help dealing with the difficulties of life, not just the physical ones, led to Bernie [he likes to be called "Bernie"] writing his fourth book in 1998: **Prescriptions for Living**. This book hoped to communicate the eternal truths and wisdom of the great sages through stories and insights, so that we might be better prepared to deal with a personal disaster. He understands the wisdom of helping people fix their lives before they are broken. Other works are: **Help Me To Heal**, 2003, to empower patients and their caregivers; **365 Prescriptions For The Soul** in 2004; a children's book about how difficulties can become blessings, **Smudge Bunny**, in 2005; **101 Exercises For The Soul**; and in 2006, **Love, Magic & Mud Pies**. In 2008 he published **Buddy's Candle**, for children of all ages, helping them to deal with the loss of a loved one, be it a pet or parent. In 2009 **Faith, Hope & Healing**, a compendium of survivor stories and his reflections about what they teach. It's an extensive body of writing, but the story that touched me deeply and directed my own pastoral care outreach is this one: He writes:

"Frequently when I am in a hospital room with a "dying" patient, we are laughing. Out in the hallway, the other staff members often think that we are avoiding reality. We must realize that people are not living or dying. They are either alive or dead. As long as they are alive, we must treat them that way. For this reason I find the word terminal very upsetting. It means we have begun to treat that person as if he or she is already dead, incapable of laughter or joy."

From his first book: **Love, Medicine & Miracles**

Newman Center Notes

Penn Newman Center 3720 Chestnut Street
www.newman.upenn.edu

Drexel Newman Center 30 South 33rd Street
www.drexelnewman.org

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri 12:05pm Penn Newman St. Bede Chapel – Upper Level

Due to reconstruction, Drexel Newman Mass, Penance and Eucharistic Adoration have been temporarily suspended.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Fr. James McGuinn!

The Penn and Drexel Newman Centers welcome Fr. James McGuinn, new Pastor of St. Agatha-James Parish, who will also oversee both Newman Centers. Fr. Jim was ordained in 1988 as a priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and his assignments have included parish work – most recently as Pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Manayunk – and teaching high school. Fr. Jim enjoys going to the gym, horseback riding, reading and studying leadership and management.

DREXEL NEWMAN



Final Words of Congratulations to All Our Graduates: The Class of 2010

With joy you can exclaim: "Finally it's over!" With sadness you can sigh: "I shall never pass this way again!" Drexel does have a different way of counting time. But now it's time for you to share the wisdom and knowledge that you learned during college to a waiting world. First and foremost may you pursue your friendship with Jesus Christ who is your true companion along the journey of life. May you share your Catholic Christian faith which opens up new horizons and gives you an authentic lifestyle. Wherever you may go always remember the inspirational motto of Cardinal (and soon to be) Blessed John Henry Newman: "Cor ad cor loquitur; Heart speaks to heart." God is always speaking to our human hearts and we desperately need to be in dialogue with one another to advance this divine dialogue. Congratulations on your wonderful achievement in receiving your degree from Drexel. Prayerful best wishes for success in all your future endeavors. And please pray for me!

Father Vince Morabito
Departing Chaplain

Inaugural Mass and Summer Schedule

After months of construction and remodeling the **1:00 pm Mass** is finally returning on **Monday, June 21** at the brand new **Saint Katharine Drexel Chapel** located on the top floor of Drexel's Intercultural Center (formerly the Drexel Newman Center) on the NW corner of 33rd and Chestnut Streets. The Chapel is small and has seating for 22 persons. Drexel Newman's daily Mass schedule will be in effect throughout the summer term: Monday through Thursday at 1:00 pm. The 1:00 pm Mass on Fridays will be discontinued throughout the summer months.