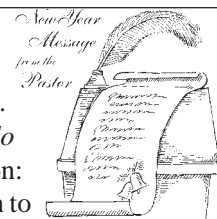


My Brothers, My Sisters,

May 2005 be for all of you a year of family love, family strength, family forgiveness, and family understanding. May 2005 be a year for family members to realize deeply their responsibility to contribute to family growth. May it never be *what my family can and should do for me*; may it always be *what can I, young or old as I am, do for the happiness of my family life!* This will be a theme for 2005 for Assumption and Immaculate Conception: the strengthening of family bonds. Remember it is far better to serve family love by acts of thoughtfulness than to be served.



Today is the Solemnity of the Epiphany of Jesus Christ. There remains one solid week to the Christmas season. Have you paused by outdoor crèche and looked at the wretched conditions into which our God *chose* to enter our world? Some welcome! Have you knelt by the crèche at the altar and did you mediate there? Does your reflection help you to understand a theme of Sacred Scripture: ***The Lord hears the cry of the poor!*** Allow me to remind you that, as a parishioner, you join with Jesus Christ in ***hearing the cry of the poor!*** Three of our most active ministries focus predominantly and exclusively on the poor: 1) Jesse Tree (just concluded); 2) H.O.P.E. (Help Other People Eat) which brings healthy prepared meals (5 courses) to the Church of St. Gabriel's where the homeless truly enjoy a home cooked meal; 3) Midnight Run – an effort (every three months) of going to where the poor are and attending to their needs. Those opportunities are part of our Parish daily life.

Reflecting on the reality of Epiphany, bear in mind that the first people of the covenant were the Jewish tribes beginning with Abraham (1800 years before the first Christmas). In those early centuries, the fact of non-Jews and their place in relationship to God was not considered. It was resolved historically speaking by the fact that the Infant was acknowledged and received by three non-Jews who in a broad sense represented all of the non-Jews. It was a factual way of acknowledging that the circle of the eternal God's embrace included the people of the First Covenant; however, we have in Epiphany the historical fact: the embrace of Jesus Christ leaves no one out! The saving fact of Redemption is ***Universal!*** This reality is the source of our celebration. We can try to have our young children appreciate its beauty. The fact is that they are engrossed in their world where the focus is on ***Christmas joy.*** It is for us adults to profoundly express our gratitude for God's Universal love and salvation.

Cheer up! The days are getting longer. You will start noticing the difference about the middle of this month. It can be a very consoling thought as the weather deteriorates - signs of better times are upon us. So cheer up, everyone!

The parishes' plans for a celebration of gratitude for Father Walsh's priestly ministry at Immaculate Conception these past 32 years have been worked out with the direction and approval of Father Walsh himself. On Sunday, January 9, Assumption will host a reception at Father Fata Hall from 1 PM to 4PM. On Saturday, January 15th, there will be a reception in the Lower Church of Immaculate Conception following the 5:30 PM Mass; on Sunday, January 16th, there will be a second reception in the Lower Church following the 12 Noon Mass. Father Walsh was consulted and gave his final approval. He rejected the possibility of a dinner dance at Lake Isle. He intends to spend some time with his family in Ireland. His new assignment, as of this writing, is still not known.

A word of profound gratitude is extended to both parishes. The Flower Committees of Assumption and Immaculate Conception presented Churches beautifully decorated to do for the Lord's birth what the world did not do those first Christmases. Both Churches excelled in assisting us to celebrate the fruition of Incarnation, the birth of Jesus Christ!

We are making successful strides in finding a replacement for the Immaculate Conception Music Director.

The Immaculate Conception Jesse Tree benefited many poor parishes of the Archdiocese. During the week before Christmas, their clergy were here to receive the bags of gifts that were destined for the poor of their parishes. Their priests were joyfully thankful to the parishioners for their never ending care for the needy.

The Assumption Altar Rosary Society again sponsored the Jesse Tree for the children of the McCloskey Home. The administrators at McCloskey, too, are grateful to the Assumption parishioners for their generous response to the needs of their children.

Father Emmanuel needs to be recognized for planning and shopping for the decorations seen and enjoyed on the Immaculate Conception property. Robert Raffaele and the maintenance staff are never to be overlooked for all they do to make our parish grounds the object of praise which is often given to the pastor.

Finally, Cheri Lian and her committee gave the parish a very successful effort for the Silent Bazaar, netting almost \$44,000. On a lighter note, my friend, who gave me the two tickets for the football game, was the winner of those same two tickets!

For 2005, let each of us resolve to make family life a very happy, peaceful, fun-loving experience because of our love for our families. Much love!

One with you in the Holy Spirit,

James Frank



Mark Your Calendars

Epiphany - Sunday, January 2
 Ash Wednesday - February 9
 Passion (Palm) Sunday - March 20
 Easter Sunday - March 27
 Ascension of the Lord - Thursday, May 5
 Pentecost Sunday - May 15
 Corpus Christi Sunday - May 29

Confirmation Class



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION
 Adults and teenagers who are baptized and who have received First Communion may have missed Confirmation for one reason or another. Special classes will begin in

March. It is not too soon to plan! Please call Sr. Rose Vermette 961-3643 ASAP for further information

Who Is Waiting By The Phone? - Tom and Kathy McAteer, 961-8952 are hoping to hear from any one who is thinking about becoming a Catholic. Why not call them today? Or, call Sr. Rose Vermette 961-3643. "No strings attached!"

Both Churches Choirs are looking for new members. The choirs sing at the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass. Practice for the Immaculate Conception Choir is on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. New members for the adult choir should contact Jim Murtaugh at 337-0342. Practice for the Assumption Choir is on Thursdays at 7:30 PM.



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS



A Reflection on the Scriptures

By Glenn CJ Byer, MA SLD

The claim of the first reading, that everyone who had been put into exile would come home to Israel, was filled with such an exuberant hope that not only would the children of Israel come back, but also that the

whole world would come to see Jerusalem as their home. They would come bringing their wealth, and as we sing the Psalm we see that it would be a glorious day. The visit of the Magi recounted in the Gospel makes this dream a reality, but the true treasure comes in the second reading, where Paul recounts how God revealed to him that the Gentiles could be saved, that they could come home too. No more do we speak of 'us' and 'them' there are no longer nations, gentiles, Jews, Israelites, all take on that marvelous name of 'coheir' 'co-partner' and members, truly sisters and brothers of Christ and in Christ and through Christ. It is a great day indeed, but also a great challenge. For if all of this is true, no Christian can discriminate on the basis of race or nation - we are all called to share in the one destiny. © 2003, OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Readings for Next Sunday, Jan. 29 - Baptism of the Lord: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, 21; Acts 10:34-38; and Matthew 3:13-17

HELP US CELEBRATE FATHER WALSH'S TIME WITH US!

Father Walsh will soon be leaving us. Please join us in celebrating the time we've had together. Both parishes are offering receptions, please feel free to join us at any of them: Assumption: Sunday, January 9 at Father Fata Hall 1PM-4PM; Immaculate Conception: Saturday, January 15 in the Lower Church after 5:30 PM Mass and Sunday, January 15 in the Lower Church after the noon Mass.

The **Moms & Tots** program will resume on Friday, January 7th at 9:30 AM at Father Fata Hall. Meetings last for about an hour and a half. For more information, call Christine Rogliano at 961-7673.



Moms & Tots

Men's Cornerstone Weekend is soon approaching. The dates are February 25th through February 26th, 2005. If you are interested in participating in this unique fraternal experience, please call Tony Longo: 337-0214, Mark Nello: 961-7366, or David Gutierrez: 664-7604 for details.

Restaurant Vouchers to benefit ICS

Immaculate Conception School is selling vouchers for Joe's Quarry Inn on Marbledale Road as a fund-raiser for the school. The vouchers cost \$20 and a portion of the proceeds will be used for the school's Technology Program. Restaurant vouchers make great gifts for family and friends!



ICS Basketball - upcoming home games, played at Trinity Greek Orthodox Church's Gym on North Avenue or the Chapel School's Gym, include the following:

Saturday, January 8

5:30 PM Holy Innocents Trinity 8th grade Boys

Friday, January 14

6:00 PM St. Pat Armonk Green Chapel 5th grade Boys

7:15 PM Holy Name Valhalla Chapel 7th grade Boys

Parish School of Religion

PSR classes resume this week, beginning Monday, January 3rd for K-1st graders.

REMINDER FOR PARENTS OF 2ND GRADERS (ICS AND PSR)

Communion Rite Masses are scheduled for next weekend. Students and parents need to attend one of the following Masses:

Saturday, January 8th at 5:30pm or
 Sunday, January 9th at 9:00am or Noon

An Important Parent Meeting for parents of children in our First Eucharist program is scheduled for Monday, January 10th at 7:30pm in the lower church. The topic is your child's First Penance. Attendance is mandatory.

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENT ON SEXUAL ABUSE

If you believe that you have suffered sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or anyone acting in the name of the Church, recently or in the past, the Archdiocese would like to assist you in reporting the abuse and in getting you the help you might need. If you wish to report sexual abuse by a priest or a deacon, you may do so by telephoning Sister Eileen Clifford at 212-371-1011, ext. 2949 or Monsignor Desmond O'Connor at 212-371-1011, ext. 2931. Both can be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. In addition, visitors to the Archdiocesan website, <http://www.ny-archdiocese.org> will find information for making a complaint online, by e-mail or by U.S. mail. The website also has valuable information on the Archdiocesan Safe Environment Program as well as tips for parents. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse, we provide this information to assure that all, especially our children, are safe and secure.

Si usted cree que recientemente o en el pasado ha sufrido abuso deshonesto por parte de un miembro de la clerecía o otros cometidos en la actuación en el nombre de la Iglesia, la Arquidiócesis ansía ayudarlo a denunciar el abuso y a obtener la asistencia que usted pueda necesitar. Si usted desea denunciar abuso deshonesto por parte de un sacerdote o un diácono, puede hacerlo telefoneando a la Hna. Eileen Clifford, al 212-371-1011, ext. 2949, o a Monseñor Desmond O'Connor, al 212-371-1011, ext. 2931. Ambos pueden ser contactados por correo electrónico en victimassistance@archny.org. Además, quienes visitan la página Web de la Arquidiócesis, <http://www.ny-archdiocese.org>, encontrarán información para hacer una denuncia online, por medio de un correo electrónico o por el correo de los Estados Unidos. La página Web también tiene información valiosa sobre el Programa arquidiocesano por un Ambiente Seguro, así como también avisos confidenciales para los padres. Al compartir la política de la Arquidiócesis respecto al abuso deshonesto, proporcionamos esta información para asegurar que todos, en especial nuestros niños, están a salvo y seguros.

Parish Evaluation - This year, Monsignor Oliverio will be completing a six-year term as Pastor of Assumption and Immaculate Conception parishes. In keeping with Archdiocesan policy, an evaluation of the parish has begun. Members of the parish staff and parishioners who exercise leadership roles have received an evaluation form from the Priest Personnel Board. They will return the forms directly to the Office of Priest Personnel. In addition, parishioners who wish to do so may write letters with their own comments about our parish and the pastoral leadership of the parish. Please address your letters to:

Reverend Msgr. Desmond O'Connor
The Office of Priest Personnel
1011 First Avenue, 20th Floor
New York, NY 10022

Letters should be received no later than January 25, 2005.

WHAT IS "THE NEW EVANGELIZATION"?

The "Good News" (which is what "evangelization" means) is truly meant to address the heart and soul of all of us. Though the call to evangelization comes from the Pope, the head of the Catholic Church, it is intended to be a call to men and women of all religions, all cultures, in all parts of the world. What is "New" is the emphasis that all of us are on a journey from God and towards God, and that each of us at once has a part to play in the world's journey and needs guidance on the way.

The call to the New Evangelization takes place in the face of many divisions in the world, especially religious divisions. There are active Catholics and there are Catholics, who for a host of reasons find themselves apart from active life in the Church. There are literally hosts of other Christian and non-Christian religions throughout the world, and there are those who, by choice or by chance, do not participate in any particular religious tradition. To all of these, the Catholic Church extends herself with the offer of God Himself: the depth of His love, the depth of His compassion, the depth of His mystery.



Month's Mind Mass

January 8 at Noon

Carmela Pagano	John Varricchio
Martha Boyd	Celia Coogan
Anita Ruzza	John Betti
Maria Birchelli	Alecia Gillman
Frank Campanaro	Frieda Salvo
Kathryn Stanley	Mary R. Benizio
Alfonsina Ciero	Anthony Romano
Anthony Grossi	Carolina Sundberg
Raymond A. Palma, Sr.	Anna Guillou

The January 8th Month's Mind Mass is celebrated in memory of parishioners that have died during November and December. Coffee and refreshments are served in the Lower Church after Mass, during which time the family members have the opportunity to share their experiences and enjoy the presence of others.

FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd like better.

I'd really like for you to know about hand me down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meatloaf sandwiches. I really would. I hope you learn humility by being humiliated, and that you learn honesty by being cheated. I hope you learn to make your own bed and mow the lawn and wash the car. And I really hope nobody gives you a brand new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see puppies born and your old dog put to sleep. I hope you get a black eye fighting for something you believe in.

I hope you have to share a bedroom with your younger brother/sister. And it's all right if you have to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you let him.

When you want to see a movie and your little brother/sister wants to tag along, I hope you'll let him/her. I hope you have to walk uphill to school with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely.

On rainy days when you have to catch a ride, I hope you don't ask your driver to drop you two blocks away so you won't be seen riding with someone as uncool as your Mom. If you want a slingshot, I hope your Dad teaches you how to make one instead of buying one. I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books. When you learn to use computers, I hope you also learn to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get teased by your friends when you have your first crush on a boy/girl, and when you talk back to your mother that you learn what ivory soap tastes like. May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on a stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.

I don't care if you try a beer once, but I hope you don't like it. And if a friend offers you dope or a joint, I hope you realize he is not your friend.

I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your Grandma/Grandpa and go fishing with your Uncle. May you feel sorrow at a funeral and joy during the holidays!

I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through your neighbor's window and that she hugs you and kisses you at Christmas time when you give her a plaster mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you - tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. To me, it's the only way to appreciate life. Written with a pen. Sealed with a kiss. I'm here for you. And if I die before you do, I'll go to heaven and wait for you.

Paul Harvey

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

Be patient with your kids. Growing up takes time ... but they will grow up.

Learn to trust your kids more. The more trust you give them, the more opportunities they will have to prove themselves trustworthy.

Keep your sense of humor. Healthy families are laughing families!

Pray daily for your kids. Remember, God loves them even more than you do!

LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN EDUCATION FOR PARENTING

Parents, do you have support, discipline skills and information you could have for living out your calling from God to raise children? Leadership Training in Education for Parenting promotes the important nurturing your sacred vocation deserves. In 2005, Saturdays 1/22, 2/5 and 3/12 are dates at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. The registration deadline is January 13. Call the Family Life Office at (212) 371-1011 extension 3191 and ask for Eileen Murphy for a brochure or more information.

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY - FEBRUARY 6, 2005

LONGEST MARRIED COUPLE SEARCH

World Marriage Day honors the vocation of marriage and family life. It is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the largest pro-marriage and family movement in the world.

The search is on for the longest married couple in the Archdiocese of New York. The winning couple and their family will be honored during the annual World Marriage Day 10:15 AM Mass with Edward Cardinal Egan on February 6th at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Immediately following the Mass, a reception will be held at Holy Family Parish Hall, 315 East 47th Street.

Send entries to Bill and Jean Cavizzini, 6 Plainview Ct., Congers, NY 10950. The deadline for entries is January 20. For further information on the contest or reservations, contact the Family Life Office at (212) 371-1000 ext. 3190.

Is God Calling You? - Wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The gift of self is far more precious than these. If you think God is calling you to His priesthood or religious life, call Fr. Ed Cipot at 968-1340.



Centering Prayer Resumes January 12 - The parish Centering Prayer group meets Wednesdays, 7:30 PM in the lower rectory. All are invited who have any experience with Christian meditation. Newcomers are welcome to come at 7:00 PM for a brief orientation. Please call Sr. Rose Vermette for information.

SURGICAL ADVANCES FOR UNBORN PATIENTS

Dr. William R. Lile, Jr., FACOG

"I see something on the ultrasound that we need to talk about." The very words immediately alter an atmosphere filled with elation and expectation to one of fear and anxiety. All couples yearn for and even expect to deliver a "perfect" baby, yet in reality approximately 2% of all babies will be born with some type of birth defect. Most are non-life threatening and if need be, can be corrected after the baby is born. Others, however, can result in the growing baby's death if not corrected.

Decades ago it was not unusual for the obstetrician and parents to be surprised at delivering a previously unknown twin. Today, given developments in modern medicine, we can see and count the number of heartbeats 28 days after conception. Today's ultrasounds are safe for mom and baby, and have opened a window into the womb thought to be impossible just 10 years ago. We all remember seeing ultrasound images of a friend's baby and having trouble differentiating a head from a foot. Today's three-dimensional images more closely resemble portraits and elicit comments such as, "Oh my goodness, he has his daddy's nose."

With the development of new laparoscopic tools and techniques, surgeries such as gallbladder removal have changed from a ten-inch abdominal incision and a prolonged recovery period, to same-day surgery and four small bandages on the abdomen. Abdominal surgery, joint repair, and even cardiac bypass procedures are now routinely being performed through tiny incisions. As amazing as these techniques are, we have now added another new tool, fetoscopy, allowing us to have real-time video of the baby in the womb.

New instruments are giving us unprecedented views of the developing baby. The images are so clear and full of vibrant color that even my three-year-old daughter can see a video of a pregnancy 5 weeks after conception and say, "Daddy, look at the baby." Arms, legs, fingers and toes come to life in the ultimate "womb with a view." As fascinating as the images are, this is not only a diagnostic tool. Advanced centers across the country are now using this technology to correct problems in developing babies before they are even able to survive outside the womb.

Maternal Fetal Medicine specialists are treating both mother and baby as individual patients in amazing ways. While dependent on the mother for nutrition, oxygenation, and waste elimination, the developing baby has his or her own blood supply and circulatory system. Communication with the mother is accomplished via the placenta. The pediatrician is no longer the baby's first physician. The obstetrician is. Blood tests and ultrasounds evaluate the health of both the mother and the baby. If the mother is diagnosed with hypertension or diabetes, therapy is initiated and the condition is controlled.

There are several conditions that cause the baby's blood count to become very low (anemia). If this is not corrected, the baby, just like an adult, will go into heart failure and die. Using ultrasound as a guide, a long, fine needle is passed through the mother's abdomen, uterus, and directly into the vein of the baby's umbilical cord. A tiny blood sample is obtained and tested, and the appropriate amount of donated adult blood is transfused to the baby. This process often needs to be repeated several times during a pregnancy. The reward for such efforts is a healthy, well-developed baby with no long-term consequences.

More recent advances now go far beyond mere blood transfusions. Spina bifida is a condition affecting approximately one in every thousand babies. During the earliest stages of development, the bones and tissues of the spine fail to fully cover the delicate nerves of the spinal cord. The exposure of these delicate nerves to the amniotic fluid can result in paralysis from that point, downward. This defect is traditionally treated shortly after birth, with mixed results.

Surgeons at Vanderbilt University and elsewhere, have developed a technique for performing a type of Cesarean section that allows for exposure of the affected portion of the baby's spine. The defect can then be surgically corrected, amniotic fluid returned, and the incision on the uterus closed. The baby is then allowed to continue gestation and is delivered months later. The outcomes have been promising, and randomized trials are now comparing outcomes of surgeries in the womb and those performed after delivery. These surgeries have been performed as early as 19 weeks' gestation, less than halfway through a normal pregnancy. This is well before a baby can generally be expected to survive on the outside.

Many of us recall the photo of the hand of Samuel Armas, extending through the uterine incision as he was having this surgery performed four years ago. Samuel was 21 weeks' gestation at the time. On September 25, 2003, three-year-old Samuel testified before the U.S. Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Science, Technology, and Space. Samuel, who is healthy and walks with the assistance of leg braces, stole the show with his testimony: "They fixed my boo-boo."

Many other conditions are now being treated surgically in the womb. Blocked bladders (obstructive uropathy) prevent the normal flow of urine from the kidneys and out through the urethra. The resulting backpressure on the kidneys causes renal failure. If this is not corrected, the baby will die shortly after birth. But a shunt can now be surgically placed in the bladder, allowing it to drain normally, and a healthy baby is born months later. Shunts can also be inserted to drain excess fluid from around the brain, a potentially lethal condition known as hydrocephalus.

Sacroccygeal Teratoma is the most common tumor found in newborns. Although usually benign, it can be large and cause the baby to go into heart failure. Using a technique similar to that used to repair spina bifida, the tumor can be removed at a gestational age of only 26 weeks.

A diaphragmatic hernia is a defect in the muscle that separates the lungs from the abdomen. It can result in the bowel and/or the liver protruding into the chest cavity. The lungs never have enough room to develop. University of California San Francisco surgeons surgically place a balloon into the windpipe of the developing baby. Normal fluids build up in the lungs, thus pushing the bowel and liver back into

the abdomen where they belong. At birth the balloon and fluid are removed, the lungs function, and the baby can undergo corrective surgery. While still in its infancy, fetal surgery is rapidly changing how we treat these tiny patients. Yet despite the advances in both equipment and technique, there are still conditions, diseases, and injuries in both adults and children that we just can't fix. Should we confront parents and inform them that they or their child have suffered an injury or have developed a condition that we can't fix, and advise them that life is no longer worth living? Because Christopher Reeve is now paralyzed from the neck down, does he have less right to life or less human dignity than before he was thrown from his horse? God forbid.

The psalmist David writes in Psalm 139:13, 14, "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, so wonderfully you made me; wonderful are your works! My very self you knew..." Life is a gift from God. It is He that weaves us in the womb. To stop that life is an act of defiance against God and His will.

We still have very little insight into how, in a span of forty weeks, a single cell can grow into a precious baby of many trillions of cells. Any surgical corrections that we attempt are primitive compared to the normal development that takes place every day.

Do these unborn babies qualify as human lives? We have just described how we can give the unborn blood transfusions, excise tumors, and repair defects to the bladder, spine, and diaphragm in the womb. If they are not human lives, what are they? Does God see a difference between born and unborn babies?

Medical liability law recognizes the value of unborn life. Medical liability law deals with morbidity and mortality of human life, not property. A physician is held liable if he or she had a duty, breached that duty, and caused harm to an individual. Failure of a physician or hospital system to diagnose and appropriately manage an ailing unborn child can result in the awarding of damages to the family in the tens of millions of dollars, even if no damage or injury occurred to the mother. Our courts have even recognized the inherent value of the earliest of pregnancies, when errors result in a miscarriage secondary to a procedure or medication. Does this inherent worth of the unborn baby disappear merely because the mother "chooses" not to continue her pregnancy?

In Luke 1:44 God uses the Greek word "brephos" to describe how the as-yet unborn John the Baptist "leaped in the womb for joy" while in the presence of the unborn Christ. In the very next chapter the same word "brephos" is used to describe the already born baby Jesus (Luke 2:12). God sees them as babies, whether born or unborn, with all the God-given human dignity and the same right to life afforded to adults.

Part of my personal ministry is speaking to groups around the country and allowing them to see the amazing detail of the human being present within the womb. Ultrasound and fetoscopic images allow the unborn to communicate to the audience with minimal narration from me. We see and hear a heart beating 28 days after conception, and my eldest daughter jumping and sliding in my wife's womb 6 weeks later. The goal is not merely to demonstrate that there is life in the womb, but to allow the personalities of the unborn to dramatize their personhood.

After the audience realizes the personhood present within the womb, we then demonstrate the tools of abortion used in all three trimesters. The realization then is that a person has been lost. Without exception, abortion is fatal. A genetically unique person with his or her own heartbeat, blood supply and personality is now dead. Until we realize that abortion is always fatal to the most innocent and defenseless of patients, we will not be able to win the battle for these children. If we can develop surgical techniques that correct physical ailments of the unborn, surely we can ban surgical techniques that always result in the deaths of these same unborn children.

Location does not confer or deny one's God-given rights. During my residency, I remember a case of a patient with twins visiting the Pensacola area. She presented to our hospital in pre-term labor, and rapidly progressed and delivered the first twin, who was admitted to the intensive care nursery. The second twin remained intact and her labor stopped. We then had two babies, conceived at the same moment, in the same womb, being cared for in two very different ways: The first in an intensive care nursery with ventilatory support, IV fluids, and all the rights that any of us would expect if we were in an adult intensive care unit. The second twin remained in the womb, with none of the rights guaranteed to his sibling. He could have been legally aborted based solely on the "choice" of his mother. A partial-birth abortion could have been used to terminate this second twin's life.

So what do we do when we diagnose abnormalities that we can't correct? The same thing we do for adults or children who develop incurable conditions, or suffer severe injury – we treat them with love, compassion, and dignity. That is what makes us human. Unless there is another condition that poses a direct threat to the life of the mother, an abnormality is never an indication for terminating a pregnancy. Our duty as physicians and parents is to preserve life when we can, and provide compassion and comfort when we can't.

The lives of the most innocent lie in the balance, and are relying on our faithfulness to continue to defend them. Now that we can see their personalities, and heal their afflictions in the womb, we must continue our quest to protect their lives.

We have all heard the public service announcements that heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women in the United States. I agree. Only a disease of the heart would allow for over a million babies to be aborted in this country every year. Until the hearts of the nation are changed, abortion will continue. We need to tell the truth to our friends, vote for those who value life, and hear about God's gift of life from our pulpits. The tens of millions of women who have had an abortion need to know that we serve a loving and forgiving God, and through that forgiveness true healing begins.

"I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Source: <http://www.nccbuscc.org/prolife/programs/rfp/04lile.htm>

Community Notes

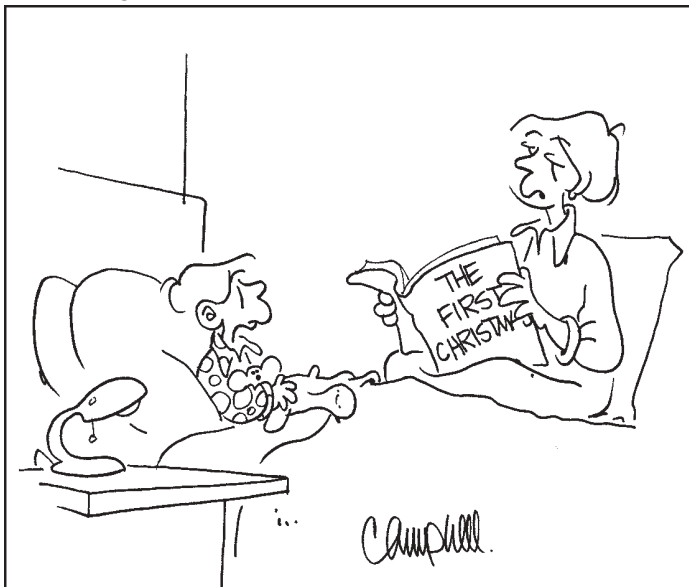
Alumni of St. Joseph's School in Bronxville - we are seeking former students and staff members for a Friends of St. Joseph Alumni celebration in **February 2005**. Please call the school office at 337-0261 with your contact information
Senior Cruise - The Senior Citizen Center is planning a Caribbean cruise on the Queen Mary 2 in **March 2005**. If you are interested, call Norah Rossi at 337-0390.

Griffin House Applications - St. Joseph's Medial Center Senior Housing Development (Griffin House) will soon be accepting applications for occupancy on completion of construction in March 2005. An inquiry list is being maintained for anyone interested in receiving an application when available. For further information, please call Richard O'Neill at 969-6159 between 9AM and 4PM, Monday through Friday.

Foster Grandparent Program - looking for low-income adults 60 years and older to serve 20 hrs./wk as volunteers serving children close to home. Receive a non-taxable, bi-weekly stipend. For more information, call 592-5600.

Scholarship - Green Mountain College is looking for ten students who have made a significant contribution to a fellow human or to society. It wants to reward them with a full scholarship to Green Mountain. Nomination forms and applications can be found at www.greenmtn.edu or call (800) 776-6675 for more information. The application deadline is February 15, 2005.

Lend a Hand - Eastchester's Nutrition Center is looking for caring volunteers to deliver meals to the homebound elderly. The commitment is one or two hours, once a week. If you are interested, please call the Eastchester Senior Citizen Nutrition Program at Lake Isle: 337-0390.



"That's right, son - just gold, frankincense and myrrh. No video games."

Dear Monsignor Oliverio,

We are very grateful for the Thanksgiving basket. It really touched our hearts.

We want to say "thank you very much!" for the potatoes, onions, cranberry sauce, sweet corn, sweet potatoes, bread, string beans, turkey, flour, apple juice and dessert.

We felt very happy and excited. Our families enjoyed the food and they want to express their gratitude to you.

God Bless you!

Name(s) withheld

HELP WANTED

Community Outreach Coordinator - for HOPE Community Services, serving the immigrant population of New Rochelle. Responsibilities include outreach, needs assessment, information/referral, crisis intervention, advocacy and record keeping. Qualifications include bilingual English/Spanish, excellent oral and written communication skills, experience working with target population. Some computer skills required. Salary negotiable. Submit resume and cover letter to Brother J. Kevin Devlin, CFC, EdD, Search Committee Chair - via fax to 632-6991 or send e-mail to careycolorado@aol.com.

House Cleaner - Woman looking for house cleaner who is able to do all chores in an apartment. Needed every 2 or 3 weeks in Yonkers. Please call 968-1465.

POSITIONS WANTED

Cleaning and Shopping - Available in the mornings to do laundry, ironing, cooking and more. Can also take anyone shopping. Call Flor at 337-4553.

Babysitter, Companion, Cook and/or Housekeeper - Young Spanish-speaking woman willing to work evenings, afternoons, and/or weekends. Excellent references. Call Maria at 771-6294.

Certified Home Health Care Worker - looking to care for elderly at night. Call Gloria at 961-1423 or 274-0724 (cell).

Certified Nurse's Aide, with over 20 years experience, seeks job taking care of elderly or special needs children. Clean driving record with own car and excellent references. Call Ruth (718) 993-6521

Child Care - Experienced Mom will care for your toddler in my Eastchester home. Call 961-7872.

Companion Position Wanted PT/FT - Experienced lady to bathe, to prepare a meal, will drive to medical appointments and shopping. Excellent references. Call 961-6440.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Mass Intentions

Sunday, January 2 3rd Epiphany of the Lord
 7:45 AM Jerry Cesarini (JE) Mem.
 9:00 AM Jerry Cesarini (FO) Mem.
 10:30 AM Rose & William Brindisi (JF) Mem.
 12:00 PM Rocco Sarni (JF) Mem.
 5:30 PM Odette Chamie (FO) Mem.
Monday, January 3 Holy Name of Jesus
 6:45 AM Margaethe and James Fillis Mem.
 8:00 AM Concetta Di Gioia 47th Ann.
 12:00 PM Joseph Hillen, Sr. Mem.
 7:30 PM For the Sanctity of Life Mem.
Tuesday, January 4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
 6:45 AM For the Sanctity of Marriage Mem.
 8:00 AM Anna Di Gioia Mem.
 12:00 PM Jo Brandi Mem.
Wednesday, January 5 St. John Neumann
 6:45 AM Andrew Mc Ardle Mem.
 8:00 AM Stella Piechota 12th Ann.
 12:00 PM Teresa di Paolo Mem.
Thursday, January 6 Blessed Andre Bessette
 6:45 AM Philip Fusco Mem.
 8:00 AM Leon Tome Mem.
 12:00 PM Lucian Conte Mem.
Friday, January 7 St. Raymond of Penyafort
 6:45 AM For the Welfare of the Parish Mem.
 8:00 AM Dorothea Ferrick 1st Ann.
 12:00 PM Maher Family Mem.
Saturday, January 8 Weekday
 8:00 AM Gaetano Di Leo Mem.
 9:00 AM Dec'd Members of O'Grady & Di Giovanna Families Mem.
 12:00 PM Month's Mind Mass - November & December Mem.
Saturday, January 8 Vigil: Baptism of the Lord
 5:30 PM Bob Simonetti Mem.
Sunday, January 9 Baptism of the Lord
 7:45 AM Our Parishioners and their Loved Ones (*) Mem.
 9:00 AM Rose D'Onofrio (*) Mem.
 10:30 AM Michael Falotico (*) Mem.
 12:00 PM Donald De Ieso (*) Mem.
 5:30 PM Michael Russo (*) Mem.

Schedule for the Week

Sunday, January 2
 English Class 8:00 AM Lower Rectory
Monday, January 3
 Exposition & Benediction 12:30 PM-7:15 PM Church
 Liturgy 7:30 PM Lower Rectory
 English Class 8:00 PM ICS Teacher's Room
Tuesday January 4
 RCIA 7:30 PM Lower Rectory
Wednesday, January 5
 Centering Prayer 7:30 PM Lower Rectory
 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Church
 Evangelization 7:30 PM Rectory
 Legion of Mary 7:30 PM Lower Rectory
Thursday, January 6
 Men's Cornerstone 7:30 PM Rectory
Friday, January 7
 Moms & Tots 9:30 AM Fr. Fata Hall
 Exposition & Benediction 12:30 - 7:00 PM Church
 Women's Cornerstone 8:00 PM Lower Rectory
Saturday, January 8
 Month's Mind Mass & Reception 12:30 PM Church/Lower Church
 Communion Rite Mass 5:30 PM Church
Sunday, January 9
 English Class 8:00 AM Lower Rectory
 Communion Rite Mass 9:00 AM Church
 Altar Rosary Sunday 10:30 AM Church
 Communion Rite Mass 12:00 PM Church
 CYO 6:30 PM Lower Church
Monday, January 10
 Exposition & Benediction 12:30 PM-7:15 PM Church
 Convivencia 7:30 PM ICS Cafeteria
Tuesday, January 11
 Finance 7:30 PM Rectory
 RCIA 7:30 PM Lower Rectory

December 19, 2004

Attendance: Adults 1183 Children 382 Total 1565
Collection: \$11,754 Last Year: \$19,529

Christmas Collection to date:
 \$74,077 Christmas 2003: \$77,850

Thank you, dear parishioners, for your generous love for the Church.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

Mass Intentions

Fri 12/31 7:30 PM Vigil: The Solemnity of Mary
 Sat 1/1 7:45 AM Solemnity of Mary
 Sun 1/2 8:30 AM Our Parishioners & their Loved Ones (PW)
 10:30 AM Louis Luicci (PW)
 Mon 1/3 7:45 AM Carol Basso
 Tues 1/4 7:45 AM For the Welfare of the Parish
 Wed 1/5 7:45 AM For the Sanctity of Life
 Thur 1/6 7:45 AM Carmine Ranellone
 Fri 1/7 7:45 AM Onofrio Di Marzo
 Sat 1/8 7:45 AM Philomena & Luigi Marcoccia
 Sat 7:30 PM Marco DelNero
 Sun 1/9 8:30 AM Giuseppe & Maria Marcoccia (*)
 10:30 AM For the People of our Parish & their Loved Ones (*)

* Due to the holidays, this bulletin was due at the printer earlier than normal. Priest Mass assignments were not yet determined.



December 19, 2004

Attendance: Adults 345 Children 57 Total 402
Collection: \$1,522 Last Year: \$1,071

Christmas Collection to date:
 \$12,217 Christmas 2003: \$15,251

Thank you, dear parishioners, for your generous love for the Church.