

EPIPHANY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Liturgical Season of Easter

April 2014

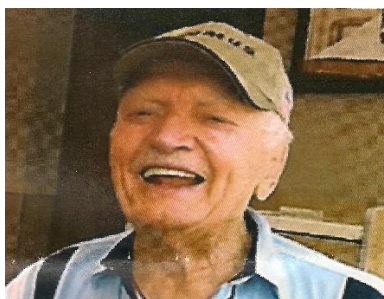


LITURGICAL SEASON OF EASTER

The Church's Easter season which extends from Easter to Pentecost is known as "the great 50 days" or "the great Sunday" to underline the prolongation of Easter Sunday (Liturgical Ministry 18, Summer 2009, p. 133, Mark R. Francis). Liturgists are careful to strike a balance between the glorious exaltation of Easter and the very important six spiritual weeks that follow. One author expressed concern about the rush to take home the church's Easter lilies after the last Mass and the obligation to continue to celebrate the Resurrection, even after all the lilies have been grabbed. During the weeks that follow the Resurrection we read the familiar scriptural scenes of humble people who recognized the Risen Lord. The theologian, Hans Urs von Balthasar, put it nicely:

"There is neither brilliant light nor overwhelming impact in the Gospel recognition scenes...only a few witnesses are given to experience the Risen Lord....and what they experience is not his majesty and might but his intimacy and love..".

A well-known scriptural passage about the surprise of finding Christ's presence is Luke 24:13-35 where two disciples realize it is Christ among them when he breaks bread with them. We are reminded that we find Jesus in our everyday experiences at work, at play, with our families and friends, in suffering, and certainly here at Epiphany.



Many people here at Epiphany attest to the experience of God's Trinitarian hospitality and generosity in Joe's always friendly greetings over the years, his legendary homemade soups for every Epiphany gathering, and the tomatoes from his ever abundant garden that he shared with us. Joe and his wife, Sue, were vital and active members of the Epiphany family. When Sue's mobility was reduced by a

stroke, they continued to provide scriptural-like teachings about sacrifice and courage. Mary and Hugh Eckert, who were already close friends of Joe and Sue, took a course in how to manage Sue's wheelchair and the "handicapped" van and were devoted in bringing Sue and Joe to Epiphany week after week. When Sue and Joe's grandson died in Wisconsin, the Eckerts accompanied them to the funeral. Many in the community felt that this devotion was evidence of a post-Easter experience of Christ with us.

Joe's funeral, held on January 17, 2014 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Kass's church), was a joyous occasion, attended by many family members and Epiphany friends. Illustrative of the power of friendship among followers of Christ was the presence of Mary Eckert, her daughter Tiffany, and her two children, Kayden Hugh, and Alora who drove up from North Carolina for the funeral.

EPIPHANY'S COMING AND GOINGS

Photographic memory of the very successful Day of Recollection with Fr. Joe McCloskey, S.J., at the Franciscan Friary in Ellicott City on September 28, 2013. Thanks to Marie Cushing and Mario Vieira for "behind the scenes" work.



The annual Epiphany Community Meeting and Brunch was held at the Clubhouse on January 5, 2014 with much fun, food, and serious reflection on the meaning of our community. Do you know any of these people?



The new Board has been elected as follows:

President Suzanne Etgen, vice president Mary Ellen Mulvaney, Secretary Renee Barney and Treasurer Mike DeLucia.

Thanks to all who served us on the previous Board.

Next Board meeting will be at the clubhouse on May 18th.

Next membership meeting will be off-site on June 8th.



Our last after-Mass Speaker was Fr. Innocent on March 16th who educated us about the tragic genocide in Rwanda 20 years ago. He gave a complete history of the country's origin, including the three different groups of peoples, the Twa, the Hutu, and the Tutsi. Rwanda officially became a colony of Germany in 1890, then eventually a Belgian "possession". There was much eventual intrigue involving the Rwandan monarchy, the Belgians, and the Hutus which led to violence and displaced persons. Independence came in 1962. A "politics of exclusion", special status for members of the ruling group's ethnic brothers (and sisters) and a military coup set the stage for the murder of more than 1 million people in 3 months,

with an estimate that 10,000 people were killed each day from April to July 1, 1994. (Some of us remember Fr. Julius who came to Epiphany about 12 years ago after having been tortured and having witnessed the killing of some of his parishioners in Rwanda). Fr. Innocent is involved in a Jesuit sponsored group, PICO, to support the people in resolving their differences through discussion, forgiveness, and constructive projects that give the participants a chance to work together to improve their lives. For more information, talk to Fr. Innocent or look at www.picorwanda.org This is a real opportunity here at Epiphany to learn more about this horrific genocide and this Jesuit healing project.

Marie Cushing provided an article from the fall2013/winter2014 Call to Action newsletter with reference to "intentional Eucharistic communities", like Epiphany, who come together to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Many have the same challenge we did last summer of "priestless Sundays" and have had lay led prayer services as well as using pre-consecrated Hosts for Communion services. The thrust of the article was that "lay" people are more and more active in a variety of ministries and are critical to the survival of the Church. Think of Sr. Kass as the parish administrator at Our Lady of Perpetual Help. We were encouraged to remember that "the Church" is the Body of Christ and that is Us!.

Fr. Tony Pogorelc, SS, is back in our midst after his year sabbatical at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. He was kind enough to send us this reflection on his year there. We are thrilled that he is one of our celebrants again.

My Sabbatical at Yale

During the 2012-13 school year I spent a wonderful sabbatical year at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, residing at the St. Thomas More Chapel and Center at Yale, the finest campus ministry in the Ivy League. At the Chaplains' Residence, I lived with Fr. Bob Beloin, a priest of the Archdiocese of Hartford, who has been the chief Catholic chaplain at Yale for nearly 20 years and Claretian Fr. Eddie Deleon, the assistant chaplain. During a portion of the year, we were joined by Oblate Fr. Ron Rohlheiser, a noted spiritual theologian and President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio.

It was fun to be in a rectory setting again and to share in community life on a smaller scale than I am accustomed to in the much larger seminary setting. We had socials and cooked together and shared in ministry to the students, faculty and staff at Yale. Sunday Masses were at 10:00 a.m. which was attended mostly by faculty and some graduate students and members of the local community. Five o'clock p.m. Mass was attended mainly by graduate students and a few undergrads. Ten o'clock p.m. Mass was all undergrads. I took my turn at all the Masses and I really enjoyed presiding at 10:00 p.m. I thought of it as a chance to speak to the future leaders of the world. The students were from all over and some of them even knew seminarians and priests who were associated with TC. One quarter of the approximately 14,000 students at Yale is Catholic. St. Thomas More also has a large staff including lay ministers and support staff. I really enjoyed getting to know the students and faculty. They were most warm and welcoming I bear a great fondness for them. I particularly enjoyed giving a talk on Vatican II in the Theology on Tap series.

I was also invited to give a number of talks. At the Yale Divinity School I made a presentation entitled “Emerging Adults: Social Forces and Pastoral Responses” and I also addressed a meeting of the Yale University Chaplains with a presentation entitled “What are they Saying about Young Adults? Pastoral Responses”

I did not enroll in any classes, but regularly participated in a Religion and Politics Colloquium that brought in interesting speakers from all over the world. St. Thomas More also brought in a number of renowned speakers for their lecture series. I got to interact with persons such as former English Prime Minister Tony Blair, William Cardinal Leveda, journalists E.J. Dionne and David Brooks, scholars such as Louis Henry Gates and the highly esteemed sociologist Robert Bellah. In his lecture, Bellah cited the great spiritual writer Msgr. Romano Guardini. At the reception afterward, I praised him for citing Guardini and he laughed and said “You and I are probably the only ones in this room who remember Guardini.” I remember that interaction very fondly, because shortly thereafter Professor Bellah passed away.

The evening I arrived at Yale, I sat in the chair in my room and thought to myself “This year will really pass quickly.” And it did.

OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

The International Thomas Merton Society announces upcoming celebrations and conferences for the 100th birthday of this famous Trappist monk. If you are interested, you can consider the June, 2015 meeting in Louisville, Kentucky and/or a monthly Merton reading group at St. Anselm’s Abbey in D.C. Contact tmsociety@fastmail.fm



Around the world many Carmelite groups are preparing to celebrate in 2015 the 500th anniversary of St. Teresa of Avila’s birth and to honor her contributions to the Church, to the reform of the Carmelite order, and her writings on prayer. A recent special guest of the Baltimore Carmelite Monastery was Rowan Williams, the former Archbishop of Canterbury. His talk on how Teresa’s “marginality” (as a woman from a family of “converted” Jews who were always suspected of heresy and as a teacher of prayer) made her particularly responsive to Christ’s intense and personal need of her. He further stressed the hypocrisy of 15th c. Spain or any era where rank, wealth, or power is lorded over others. He suggested that only our Lord can give true validation of our rank and value and that Teresa understood this in her bones. She knew, he said, that “the Kingdom of Heaven is different, it’s like being turned inside out by grace, like an old sock”.

For other events to celebrate St. Teresa’s anniversary, see www.baltimorecarmel.org or call 410-823-7415.

A GOOD FRIDAY TRADITION – THE WAY OF THE CROSS

For many years the Epiphany Community has been part of a larger group of Christian churches that have "walked the way of the Cross" at Manresa on the Severn, now Atria. Since our group had its genesis at Manresa it is particularly significant that we continue to participate in this Good Friday tradition. Each church maintains its own "station of the Cross" and does the reading there. Epiphany people have been a regular and big part of this tradition and we particularly thank Barbara Wise and Joan Kelly for their efforts this year!!!

Remember the Risen Christ is among us! Welcome Him!

Special thanks to the photographer, Laura McIntyre, and the liturgist, Nancy LeCourt.

Jane E. Lytle-Vieira