



Stronica Proboszcza



The Pastor's Page

November 4th, MMXVIII

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Month of the Holy Souls

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!
Praised be Jesus Christ!

Thursday, November 9th –

Feast of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome

This day we observe the feast of *the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome*. A basilica is a special kind of church built in an ancient long rectangular style. The term basilica applies to churches of particular religious and historical significance. Literally the word basilica means a building fit for a king. There are four major basilicas in the world, all in Rome and the Lateran is one. Actually it is called St. John the Lateran Basilica and is under the patronage of St. John the Baptist. Lateran refers to the name of the hill on which it is built. It is also the name of the wealthy Roman family who once owned the land where the basilica is built. There are by the way, seven hills in the city of Rome.

The three other major basilicas are St. Peter, St. Mary Major and St. Paul. St. John Lateran is the Cathedral of the diocese of Rome. The Pope is the Bishop of Rome. A cathedral is the church in a diocese where the bishop has his official chair or throne, called a *cathedra* in Latin.

Most Blessed Sacrament is the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Archbishop Vigneron's throne is located there, but our cathedral is also not a basilica since it is built in a different architectural style (gothic), and is not famous enough.

This feast celebrates that day, November 9th, 324 AD when this important church was dedicated by Pope St. Sylvester I. It must be remembered that in the early days of the Church, Christianity was an outlawed religion. There were no churches as we know them but rather believers worshipped in chapels located in the catacombs underground. Finally with the Edict of Milan in 321 AD, the Roman Emperor Constantine legalized Christianity and made it the official religion of the Roman Empire. He gave the "royal" building or basilica located on the Lateran Hill to the Church to be used as a house of worship, Rome's first and the first and still official home of the pope! On the façade of the basilica of St. John the words "*omnium ecclesiarum Urbis et Orbis mater et caput*," are inscribed, which is translated, "mother and head of all churches of Rome and the world." The present basilica was built in the year 1646 on the site of previous structures. It is said that under the high altar of the church rests the remains of a small wooden table on which, according to tradition, St. Peter celebrated Mass.

When we celebrate the feast of the dedication of this important church we reaffirm our connection to the universal Church whose Head on earth is in Rome. We as Catholics cannot exist separately from the Church in Rome and our sister churches throughout the world. Since the anniversary of the dedication of this church is so special and worthy of remembrance we also should take time to recall that our own church was once solemnly dedicated, on June 4th, 1916, by Bishop Edward Kelly, auxiliary bishop of the diocese of Detroit. The important thing is to remember that our beautiful church like the Lateran Basilica was dedicated to the Lord's service and for that reason alone we take good and loving care of it. We pray that our church will serve the Lord for many more years and we reflect on how many people have been brought to the Lord through our church over the last 101 years of its existence!

Do not resent growing old. Many are denied the privilege.

**Friday, November 10th – Feast of St. Leo the Great,
Pope and Doctor of the Church**

There have only been three popes in the history of the Church to have been called "Great." Leo achieved this title for a number of reasons. He was a famous doctor of the Church who defended the faith against many early heresies and who consolidated basic Christian doctrine in his writings. He also became an authority in the fields of liturgy, politics and preaching and without a doubt was the most influential personage of the fifth century.

But one of the most remembered moments of Pope Leo the Great's life and one of the most powerful scenes in history would have to be the gentle scholarly Pope going forth unarmed and alone to meet Attila the Hun and his huge army. In 452 the invaders had come through northern Italy, leaving destruction in their wake. They were heading straight for Rome. The emperor and his generals were terrified as were the rest of the citizens. But Pope Leo trusted in God's providence. His courage and faith somehow convinced the warlord to turn his troops away from Rome.

Leo was probably born in Tuscany, Italy, between 390 and 400, but he was Roman in education and in mentality. In the year 440 he was in France in order to reconcile warring factions and from there he was called by the people and the clergy to succeed Pope Sixtus III.

Leo the Great was pope for twenty years. In those days that was an unusually long time to remain in office. Only two years after he had convinced Attila's armies to turn back towards the Danube river, another tribe called the Vandals threatened Rome. Again Pope Leo pleaded for mercy. He was unable to prevent these new invaders from taking the city, but they did agree not to loot it, burn its buildings or murder its people.

His growth to sainthood had its basis in the spiritual depth with which he approached the pastoral care of his people. He was known for his spiritually profound sermons in which he had the ability to reach the everyday needs and interests of his people.

Live a Good Life

And in the end, its not the years in a life, it's the life in the years.

Abraham Lincoln

The Polish All Souls/Dzien Zaduszny Procession (part II)

The month of November is a good time to go to the cemetery as we pray for our beloved deceased throughout the month. As we gaze upon their final resting places here on earth, we recall the many wonderful moments we had with them in this life and look forward to seeing them again in the next life. Last week some of the prayers that were offered during the Polish All Saints' Day procession to the cemetery were presented here. This week we continue with more prayers, those said at the second station of the procession where parents, relatives and friends are remembered. The priest begins:

Beloved, many of you stand here at the graves of your deceased parents. The fact that you have come to this cemetery, is the result of your faith that your parents still do live, that they continue to think of us, and that in Christ they pray for us. Let us thank them for everything they did for us, for the gift of life, especially for the gift of faith they gave us, and for the good example they set for us in their lives. Together we thank them with our prayers. Here at this station, let us remember also our relatives; more than one of us stands at the grave of a brother or sister, or maybe even a son or a daughter, whom God has called to himself much earlier than we would have wished. Together for all of them we join our voices in this common prayer: Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Those gathered are invited to pray first for their deceased parents and then for all the other immediate members of their family's; brothers, sisters, children and grandparents. Finally prayers are offered for other relatives, friends and benefactors, that God the Father would forgive them all their sins and grant them eternal joy and life in His glorious kingdom.

"O God, who grants forgiveness and lovingly offers salvation to the human race, we beseech your grace, that our parents, brothers and sisters, our relative friends and benefactors, who have already departed from this life, may with the help of the most holy Virgin Mary and all the saints, be permitted to come to share in Your eternal happiness. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Holy water is sprinkled and then that place is incensed and the procession then moves on to the third station, which will be presented here next week.

We loved them in life, we shall not abandon them in death!

Niech odpoczywaja w pokoju. Amen. May they rest in peace. Amen.



A New Christian Service Project in Our Parish

At the last Parish Pastoral Council Meeting the members present had a fine presentation by Mrs. Barbara McMahon on the crocheting of sleeping mats for the poor using the plastic bags that we all receive when shopping these days. Have you often thought of what a waste it is to bring home all those plastic bags when shopping and then to just throw them away? We all know they are just filling land fill after land fill. What an ingenious idea to use them for something that is not only practical but something that is charitable. There are many, many homeless people in our metro Detroit area. Some ingenious person figured out that by cutting these plastic bags into strips it was possible to create something similar to crocheting yarn. Then to crochet this plentiful and totally inexpensive material into small blankets to keep the homeless warm and give them something to lie on.

We hope to begin a group of crocheters soon, but first we must begin collecting the bags. This is something EVERYONE in the parish can do. A box will be set up in the vestibule to collect these bags. If you are interested in becoming a member of this group that is being formed, please call Mrs. McMahon at 734-306-2191. The plan will be to meet in the Parish Social Room to do the crocheting. What a fine opportunity to socialize with your fellow parishioners, to practice responsible recycling and most of all to serve the needs of the poor as Our Lord has commanded us to do.

A New Parish Group Forming and First Friday Masses

This weekend, as the Archdiocese "rolls out" the "Unleash the Gospel" program in all parishes, I am happy to announce that something along the same lines is developing in our parish. A spiritual and social group for the younger crowd (18-35) is being organized under the Italian name of "Verso l'Alto" which is translated: "To the Heights". The plan for the group is to meet on First Friday evenings for Mass followed by a social to be held in the parish hall. The formators of the group made two requests of me at the time the group was proposed. They would like that the Mass that they attend to be "ad orientem," which means both priest and people face the tabernacle on the altar during the Mass and they would like the Mass to be in Latin. It was agreed that the Mass offered would be the "new" Mass, officially known as the Ordinary Form instead of the "old" Mass officially known now as the Extraordinary Form or Tridentine Mass. Readings for the Mass will be in English and follow the standard daily lectionary. Music and singing, if there will be any, will be in both the Latin and English languages. It is my feeling that this Mass would have a broader appeal to the general parish than the strictly Polish Mass that is currently being offered on First Friday's at 7:00 PM. Also I do believe we must try to serve the needs of the younger generation especially when they themselves come forward with a request and a plan of action.

The first Mass to be offered for the new group will take place on Friday, December 7th at 7:00 PM. It will be the vigil Mass for the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception. It goes without saying that these Masses will be open to everyone and this particular Mass will fulfill the obligation of the Holy Day, so it may very well be of greater convenience to many instead of attending Mass on Saturday morning, December 8th.

We cordially invite the younger generation, ages 18-35 to this event. Food and drink will follow the Mass in the Social Room in the Hall. What a fine opportunity for young people of faith to get together and strengthen each other's faith with truly Christian fellowship.