

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

I wanted to share this article from the Wall Street Journal with you by William McGurn:

*In the Bing Crosby classic “The Bells of St. Mary’s,” a nun teaches a bullied boy to fight back, even though she herself believes in turning the other cheek. This coming Saturday, the Little Sisters of the Poor have an opportunity to do the same. Two weeks ago, the Sisters were in the Supreme Court battling the Obama administration’s contraceptive mandate. This weekend, they will be at Notre Dame to accept an award from the Center for Ethics and Culture for their work upholding the worth and dignity of every human life. Perhaps while on campus, the Little Sisters could take a page from Hollywood—and put some fight back into the Fighting Irish.*

*The Little Sisters are front and center in the challenge to the Affordable Care Act mandate that requires them to change their health-care plan to offer employees contraceptives, sterilization procedures and abortion-inducing drugs—all contrary to Catholic teaching. The Little Sisters argue the administration is forcing them to choose between their faith and the loving care they provide men and women too old or too poor to care for themselves. Notre Dame faces the same mandate. There, alas, the similarities end.*

*At the heart of the government’s case is a phony accommodation for objecting nonprofits. All it wants from the Little Sisters or Notre Dame, it says, is a signed “opt-out.” In fact, the notice the Obama administration demands is not an opt-out (which the Little Sisters would happily sign) but the legal authorization to have their health plan commandeered. Remember, if the federal government wanted to distribute contraceptives on its own, there would be no Supreme Court fight. The fight has been joined for two reasons. First, the Obama administration insists on having these contraceptives distributed through the Little Sisters’ own plan. Second, it has at the same time underestimated the pluck and mettle of these women. For even with courts ruling against them and the threat of fines of \$70 million a year, the Little Sisters consistently refused to bend. And Notre Dame? Big ol’ shake-down-the-thunder Notre Dame, with its \$10 billion endowment? Under pressure, the Irish signed. It wasn’t the only mixed signal. In July 2013, when the White House announced its final rules for its fake accommodation, most objectors who had their earlier suits dismissed because they were not ripe simply refiled. But Notre Dame dithered, and didn’t refile until just three weeks before the mandate’s requirements were to take effect. When they lost on appeal they signed the form to avoid the fines while the litigation proceeded. Is it any wonder that some observers, such as the trial judge who heard the case, say Notre Dame’s actions suggest it doesn’t really believe what it claims it believes? Cue to the more recent announcement from Notre Dame that it will bestow on Joe Biden its Laetare Medal, the oldest award in American Catholicism. Not only does Vice President Biden have a long and loud public record in opposition to Catholic teaching on abortion and marriage, he is the second-highest official in an administration that Notre Dame has accused in court of forcing it to “violate its own conscience.”*

*Mr. Biden will receive the Laetare at commencement alongside former House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican. In choosing the duo, Notre Dame’s president, Father John Jenkins, says the school is striking a blow against the “toxic political environment.” Presumably contributors to our toxic environment include the local bishop, who has spoken out against the award. For Notre Dame is doing the one thing the bishops have asked Catholic institutions not to do: give those who act in defiance of the church’s fundamental moral principles “awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions.”*

*How thoroughly Obamalike Notre Dame has been here, coupling an in-your-face award with the suggestion that anyone who has an argument to the contrary must be uncivil. On top of this, the university gets a prince of the church—Washington’s Cardinal Donald Wuerl—to come out for an honorary degree, providing an imprimatur that effectively big-foots the local bishop and, as the National Catholic Reporter gleefully notes, undermines the bishops’ own 2004 statement on Catholics in public life.*

*And the intellectual defense of the claim that Mr. Biden’s “genius,” as the Laetare news release puts it, has “illustrated the ideals of the Church”? That there is no connection between a politician and his policy record. All in all, it’s a sad message Notre Dame sends: **Principles are a fine thing—just don’t let them get in the way of a comfortable place in society.***

*The good news is, the Little Sisters do not punt. And if freedom does prevail over this mandate, it will be in good part because these women put it all on the line when others—far wealthier and better connected—took the road more timid.*

Please keep in your prayers the Little Sisters of the Poor. They are an order of courageous sisters for Christ. May God continue to bless them as they beautifully follow the virtues of fortitude and justice.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Father Newcomb

*Join us next Sunday, April 24th for the **All You Can Eat Breakfast** from 8am until 11:30am*

Tea Time is Spring Time



Step back in time & join **Court Madonna's Garden** for an afternoon of tea and conversation.  
**Date:** Saturday, April 16th  
**Time:** 12pm 2:30pm  
**Donation:** \$10 Ladies \$5 young ladies  
 Please RSVP by April 10th to Joyce 856-8875 or Barbara 856-2624

**St. Anthony's Parish** Center in Yulan, NY, is hosting a Roast Pork Dinner on Sunday, April 17th from 1pm to 5pm. Adults \$10.00, Children \$6.00. For additional information contact Father George LaGrutta (845)557-8512.

A Healing Mass will take place at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY on Thursday evening, April 28th at 7:00pm. There is a designated Holy Door for the Year of Mercy at the shrine and all are invited to visit soon. Call Carol Bezak, Director at 845-343-1879 Ext. 22 for further information.

This year's **St. Gianna Mass** for couples suffering infertility and recurrent miscarriage will be on the feast of St. Gianna, Thursday, April 28th at 6:30pm at the Church of St. Catherine of Siena, 411 E. 68th St. Couples suffering infertility, as well as their families and friends, are cordially invited to attend. Following the Mass there will be veneration of the relics of St. Gianna, an opportunity to meet with Creighton physicians and practioners who specialize in assisting couples with infertility, and a light reception. For more information call Sr. Shirley Ann at the Family Life Respect office 212-371-1011 ext 3195 or email sr.shirleyann@archny.org

The Annual Golden Wedding Mass Celebration will be on Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Couples that would like to be in attendance are asked to contact the parish office to register.



**Our Parish Goal is \$36,500**

To date our parish has received **\$24,390.58** in pledges/gifts toward the **2016 Cardinal's Appeal**, from **92 families**. For this **Appeal** to be truly successful, we must have support from all of our families. The **Appeal** is a vital source of funding for the programs and ministries that sustain the parishes across our Archdiocese. It is not too late to make your gift.

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**

**Monday, April 18**  
 9:00am Alfred Andreano, by Helen and Ed Eckes  
 Margaret Cordisco, by Rayola McLaughlin

**Tuesday, April 19**  
 9:00am Al Andreano, by Bob and Sue Dennington

**Wednesday, April 20**  
 9:00am Luann McCarthy, by Barbara Glynn

**Thursday, April 21**  
 9:00am Terry Mooney, by Margie Curabba

**Saturday, April 23**  
 4:00pm Clarence Wilcox, by Joanne and Jim Wilcox

**Sunday, April 24**  
 8:30am Kathleen Galligan, by Vince and family  
 11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's



*The Sanctuary lamp will burn brightly this week in memory of Jon Stierle, by the Stierle family.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Ida Lissner, Joann Wilcox, Jonathan Saletto, Nick Moscatiello, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Allan Van Starrex, Donald Wolff, Walter Szpakowicz, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Joe Brennan, Betty Brennan, Richard Samek, Andrea Fedoruk, Sandy Osbourne, John McKean, Lisa Donahue, Angela Portella, Pauline Portella, Florence Marino, Maureen Hildebrandt, Vada Glass, Mary Ellen Piper, Jeannine Lincoln, Mary Platania, Tonya Addy, Gloria Hicks, Thomas Gumaer, Jr., Ashley Avella, Amelia Quinn, Leon Logan, Angela Grillo, Grace Maillet, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Mary E. Smith, Fontano family, Sally Hanstine, Diana Kuhn, Dennis Simmons, Rachael Gaesser, Anthony Medaglia, Bob Ritchie, Jose Maldonado, Raquel Maldonado, James Roach, Fr. Joel Usman, Scott Baker, Frances Brennan, Lincoln Trimble, Pat Christer, Julius Tenke, Joseph Carter, Maureen Cadena, John Little, Jr., Michael Ellet, Joseph Cox, Gladys Wells, Ruth Lewis, and Steve Wilkinson.

The collection for April 9/10 was \$5,852.50  
 Thank you for your continued generosity.

**Liturgical Ministers for April 23/24**

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	D. COTUGNO	W. PONDS, H. ECKES, D. SIMMONS	Q. KRENTZ, J. LEGATO, J. LEGATO
8:30AM	P. CAL	N. ARROYO, W. CARMODY	T. LAMOREAUX, A. COLLADO, R. COLLADO
11:30AM	M. ESLING	N. SMITH, J. SNELLINGER, T. MARION, M. ADAMCIK	A. EPPS, S. MASCI, Z. ADAMCIK