

*Our Lady  
of*



*Fatima*

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2016

## WHAT IS A PRIEST?

**P**riests are mystery men. They come in assorted sizes, ages, weights and collars. They are found everywhere – speeding along, perspiring over, walking by, kneeling on, praying over, laughing with, preaching to, teaching about, pardoning for, and playing baseball with. Little children run to them; teenagers marvel at them, aged folk turn to them; lay people treasure them; non-Catholics stare at them; and Mary watches over them.

A priest is Prudence in a T-shirt; Fortitude with a breviary in his hand; Justice on a ball diamond; and Temperance at any party. He is Faith with a blueprint; Hope with a sense of humor; and Charity with a golf club in hand.

A priest may be anything from a contemplative monk in a monastery to a magazine editor on Wall Street, from a labor mediator to a TV personality, from a student to a professor. Formerly known as the boy-around-the-corner, he's a member of each family, yet belongs to none. He penetrates secrets, shares sorrows, heals wounds. He has the trust of a child, the kindness of a best friend, the sternness of a tight-rope walker, the authority of an encyclopedia, the versatility of a commando, and the salesmanship of a Fuller-Brush man.

A priest is a humble creature – a mystifying worker at all professions. His hours are the longest; his salary the smallest; his Boss the best! He likes good pastors, the smiles of children, a good sermon, a home-cooked meal, and the name "Father".

A priest is all things to all men in the sight of God. He may be misquoted, mistaken and misunderstood, but he'll always forgive – because he's a mediator; a peacemaker, a go-between heaven and earth. It's no wonder God loves him. He's a man standing at an altar, clothed in Holy clothes, who while being aware of his own nothingness speaks to God for us and to us for God. And although his greatest act is to offer sacrifice, his most consoling one is to say to me, "Go in peace – Your sins are forgiven."

By Father Thomas E. Langer

*~Originally published by Open Sunday Visitor, March 13, 1960.*

*Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.*

*1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (NIV)*

### **Prayer for Vocations**

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, bless all our parishes with numerous priests, deacons, men and women in religious life, consecrated laity and missionaries, according to the needs of the entire world, which you love and wish to save.

Assist our pastors and all who live a consecrated life. Guide the steps of those who have responded generously to your call and are preparing to receive Holy Orders or to profess vows.

Look with love on young people and call them to follow you. Help them to understand that in you alone can they attain complete fulfillment.

To this end we call on the powerful intercession of Mary, mother and model of all vocations. We beseech you to sustain our faith that the Father will grant what you command us to ask. Amen.

- St. John Paul II

“Pelea la buena batalla de la fe.” ¿Es tufe en Cristo que te lleva a crecer en santidad como un Sacerdote, Diácono o en la vida consagrada? Póngase en contacto con la Oficina de Vocaciones al 732-562-2457, o escribe a: [vocations@diometuchen.org](mailto:vocations@diometuchen.org).

“Fight the good fight of the faith.” Is your faith in Christ leading you to grow in holiness as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact the Vocation Office at 732-562-2457, or email: [vocations@diometuchen.org](mailto:vocations@diometuchen.org).

### **Stewardship Prayer for October**

**L**ord Jesus Christ,

We serve you in your name as you did your apostles before us. We live as they did, in anxious times, painfully aware of sin's presence in the world; a world in need of your Father's mercy.

As your disciples, we also live in hope, confident that your light is breaking through the changing moods of life; healing, embracing and transforming as your presence moves deep within us.

Help us see every hour of our lives as a moment of grace: A time when we open our hearts to you in prayer, discover your Truth in our work and leisure and live each moment as blessings to one another.

Make us good stewards of the great wealth of gifts you have bestowed upon us.

Show us how to teach others to open their hearts to those who hunger, thirst, or who are strangers.

Refresh our minds, renew our faith, and inspire us to proclaim your Gospel with a new energy in word and deed for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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The Newsletter will be published  
MONTHLY

## 2016 Celebration of the Birthday of our Blessed Mother Mary

The parish celebration of the birthday of Our Blessed Mother Mary was held on Sunday, September 11.

The Legion of Mary coordinated the event which hosted over one hundred adults and children. **Father Paul Da Silva** opened the celebration with a very inspirational talk about Our Blessed Mother. **Carl Cooper** led the faithful in singing Marian hymns. Fifty nine people, young and old participated in the “living Rosary” which was led by Legion of Mary President, **Kathy Skiba**. **Terry Culpepper** provided the slides for the presentation with the assistance of **Luis Lopez** in charge of logistics.

The “Uncle John Magic and Puppet Show” provided enjoyable entertainment for all. It was fun and amazing, especially for the children, some of whom were invited by the magician to assist him. Hot dogs were served compliments of the Skiba family, **Kathy and Ron**.

**Rochielle Guanlao** provided a very attractive and tasty “Candy Corner” which the children could not resist. After the singing of *Happy Birthday*, the children blew out the candles. The beautiful cake was provided by the Rosary Altar Society.

The parish family would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the celebration, along with the event underwriters for their generosity in sharing their time, talents and resources.



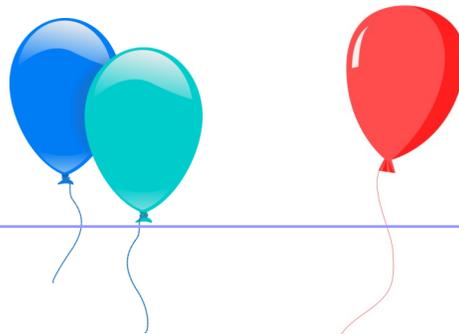
## Happy Birthday Father Paul!

**Father Paul Da Silva** celebrated his birthday with our parish family on September 9. Over two hundred people attended the party including **Rev. Sean Winter, Rev. Bert, Coruna, Rev. Alex Carles, Rev. David Chalackal** and **Deacon Larry Reilly**.

Father Sean welcomed everyone and opened the celebration with special sentiments about Father Paul and the great works he has done as pastor of the parish. He stated how important it was that the gift of Father's life be celebrated and that we must always thank the Lord for our blessings.

The beautiful cake, in the shape of a bible was lovingly donated by **Michel and Rose Aubourg**. The children present assisted Father Paul in blowing out the candles following a grand chorus of *Happy Birthday*.

The potluck dinner was enjoyed by all. The parish family is grateful to all who contributed food, beverages, and assisted with the planning, set up and cleanup of the auditorium as well. God bless you. Amen



## WHO WANTS TO BE A CATHOLIC MILLIONAIRE

**Fast Thinking question.** Place these holy days of obligation for the United States in the order in which they occur during the liturgical year:

- |                                     |                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. All Saints' Day                  | C. Immaculate Conception |
| B. Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God | D. Assumption            |

Answer: C, B, D, A

**100-virtue question.** If you were overheard making an Act of Contrition, what would you be doing?

- A. rehearsing for the school play
- B. reading the Bible
- C. celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation (also called Penance)
- D. practicing a magic trick

Answer: C *Tidbit:* The Act of Contrition is a prayer to God that asks forgiveness for the sins one has committed.

**1,000-virtue question.** What do Catholics get on Ash Wednesday?

- A. a burnt candle
- B. their hands blessed with oil
- C. forty days to return all overdue library books
- D. ashes on their forehead

**10,000-virtue question.** In which gospel does Jesus wash the apostles' feet during the Last Supper?

Answer: D *Tidbit:* Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. The season of Lent lasts forty days and invites the faithful to prayer, almsgiving, and abstinence from meat on Fridays, as a way of preparing for Easter.

- |            |         |         |         |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| A. Matthew | B. Mark | C. Luke | D. John |
|------------|---------|---------|---------|

Answer: D *Tidbit:* In John, chapter 13, Jesus washes the Apostles' feet to make the point that serving others is at the heart of being a follower of Jesus. We celebrate that passage every Holy Thursday during the Easter Triduum (Part of Holy Week).

**100,000-virtue question.** The seal of the confession prevents a priest from doing what?

- A. leaving the confessional until everyone's confession has been heard
- B. telling anyone about another's confession
- C. not giving the penitent absolution after a confession
- D. hearing more than one person's confession at a time

Answer: B. *Tidbit:* Every priest is bound by the seal of confession, which requires him to not share a confession with anyone else.

**1,000,000-virtue question.** What is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost each year?

- |                   |                           |                          |             |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| A. Trinity Sunday | B. Christ the King Sunday | C. Corpus Christi Sunday | D. Epiphany |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|

Answer: A *Tidbit:* Trinity Sunday celebrates the belief of God in three persons-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.