

THE Journey

Volume I, Issue VI

February 2009

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It happens to many Christians every year. Following Christmas we have this short season of Ordinary Time. We are content for now because we know we will soon be preparing for Easter, soon the purple of Lent will fill the Church



Father Adam

Sanctuary. There is that excitement of Spring and Easter; the same feeling of excitement that we have during the Christmas Season. But then what?

I originally thought of discussing this issue

after we celebrate Easter, but the Easter Season is always a busy time, and as I said, we are in

this short Ordinary Time Season, so we can address this issue now. What is this issue? Boredom. Yes, being bored in Church.

I have talked with many Christians about this issue, and people usually become bored with Church a few weeks after Easter and remain bored until November when we enter the new Church Year, the Season of Advent. While there is no one solution to this problem, I can give you some advice in case you find yourself sitting in the pew in a few months, wondering, where is all the excitement?

Get involved in the life of the Church! Church is what you make of it, Church is you allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and inspire you! Sunday morning is our time to gather and give thanks to God for all of His blessings. But Church does not begin nor end on Sunday!

There are plenty of opportunities for everyone to make Church a daily experience.

If you take a look at the Church calendar, you will see that this month alone we have/had a Rosary Class offered by Kara Lira, a community Mass, youth group activities, daily prayers, fish fries, Stations of the Cross, and of course different organizational meetings. We here at BVMC are busy!

However, as I look around at those who do participate in the life of the Church on days other than Sunday, I see only a handful of parishioners who are doing all of the work! Thank God that we do have these dedicated people, but we need your help, your ideas and inspiration, the Church

needs you!

This is an exciting time for our Parish Family. We can say with confidence, following the An-

Making Church More Than Just Sunday Morning!

nual Parish Meeting, that we are on budget and we are accepting new members every month. Not many parishes in any denomination can say that! And it is because of the hard work and faith offered by you, the members of this parish family.

So please, think about giving some time to helping the Church and the mission of our Church. Think about Sunday morning and if you find yourself wanting more, if you find Church becoming a little boring, expand your faith! Share your talents! Make Church more than just Sunday morning! I promise you that by sharing, and working and praying, your faith will grow. I promise that by recalling the importance of Church during the week will make the weekends that more fulfilling. Faith is work, and those who work hard will be rewarded with a deeper understanding and relationship with our Lord and Savior. Till next month, Peace be with you!

Blessed Virgin Mary
Of Czestochowa
NATIONAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Adam Egan, Pastor

250 Maxwell Road
Latham, NY 12110

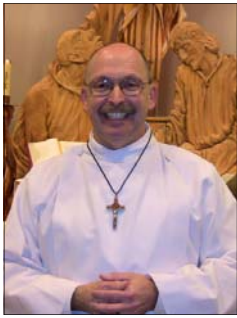
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Parish Office Hours:
Mon - Thu, 9am - 2pm

Sacristan's Corner: WHO?



I was born in a log cabin in Springfield, Illinois in the year.....oh, wait, that was Abraham Lincoln.

While a member of the New

York Yankees, I hit three home runs in a single World Series game in 19.....no, that was Reggie Jackson.

Now that I'm looking over my life story up to this point, it's not anything too exciting. But, for some reason, I've been asked to write a short biography of myself. To explain how I happened upon BVMC, how I became aware of a call to ministry; shoe size, those kind of things. And so I embark on my 15 minutes of fame, such as it is.

I'm kind of a home-grown guy, born in Troy in 1953, so if I start my sermons "When I was young....." I really have to dig deep. The oldest of four boys in a working-class family that seemed to be in financial straits most of the time, I attended four different elementary schools. I'm sure this developed both an extroverted streak and a sense of humor in my character, having to find my place in new environments every few years. As far as religious upbringing, the Roman Catholic Church was where I was baptized into the Body of Christ. I do remember being sent to church rather than being brought to church, but somehow the pull of ordained ministry began before my teens. Serving as an altar boy led to a strong interest in becoming a priest. Puberty sidetracked me somewhat (if only I had known that you could become a married clergyman in the PNCC!), but still I was fascinated by liturgy, theology, and the like. And by a young lady named Denise, (awwww.....high school sweethearts).

Upon starting college, I was dis-

tracted from things religious, focusing instead on more worldly things like politics and partying. Of financial necessity, (both of my parents had become ill), and lacking any sense of direction, I dropped out of college after one year. Denise and I got married pretty young, and became parents of teenagers shortly thereafter (her mother had died while we were in high school, and her father passed away suddenly three months after we married.) Our first child, daughter Jen, came along about a year later. Wishing to have some kind of spiritual base in our lives, we fumbled around and eventually hooked up with the Unitarian Universalist fellowship in Albany. The few years there turned out to be more of a part-time job/social group; not fulfilling any of the religious urges I was experiencing. Oddly enough, the minister there took me out to lunch to tell me that he felt I was called to ministry.

The pilgrimage continued. For the next twenty or so years, I immersed myself in the study of Buddhism and meditation. The study of both Zen and the Tibetan traditions were valuable in many respects. During this time, our son Eric was born. There was much to be gained from the standpoints of mindfulness, compassion, and awareness of the mo-

ment in which you live. But out of that Emptiness that I sought for hours on my meditation bench, came a longing, a stillness, a call. I now know that the Holy Spirit was calling me back. But where to answer that call?

The Episcopal Church seemed like the place to start.....I didn't feel comfortable going back to "Rome." The Anglican tradition provided an attractive blend of Catholic/Protestant, as well as practicing a familiar liturgy. After a few months, the rector of the parish asked me out to lunch. (Hmmm... sounds familiar.) He felt that I had a call to ministry as a priest or deacon, and encouraged me to involve myself in activities such as mission and outreach, and liturgical service to test that call. After a short time, and a couple of false starts, I entered the "process" to become a deacon. God had slapped me in the back of the head too many times to ignore Him any further. (Note: beware of lunch invitations from clergy.)

Fed intellectually and spiritually by the Deacons' School curriculum, and enjoying so many opportunities for outreach, prayer, and liturgy, my faith and determination grew ever stronger. But so too did my sense

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On January 18, 2009, Bishop Anthony Mikovsky conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on Ryan Maximillian Dross during Holy Mass. Ryan stands proudly in his faith, with Father Adam, Bob Shovah, Donald and Zofia Dross, and sponsor George Urciuoli. After Mass, the congregation enjoyed a breakfast in honor of the newly confirmed. Melannie Egan and Grace Alberti presented Bishop Anthony with a bouquet of roses and a song.

Journey of a Clergyman Part II

Now, if you had asked me when I sat in the pews of the Episcopal Church, whether or not I was a Catholic, I would have answered "most certainly, I am a Catholic."

When people first find out that I left the Episcopal Church, they automatically think it was because of the very reason that many people are leaving the Episcopal faith, and to the surprise of many, that is not why I left the Episcopal Church.

There comes a point in everyone's life where they find themselves at a crossroads, they will chose a direction and hope that it is the right one. For me, I had two options. Continue on in the Episcopal Church, in hopes that I would be ordained and by the Grace of God find myself in a like minded, like-Catholic parish, or I could take the other path, away from the safety and security of the Episcopal Church and venture into the world of National Catholicism.

Needless to say, I chose to be a Catholic. Now, I must apologize to all of my brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church who identify themselves as Catholics, my decision to leave does not diminish their role as Anglo-Catholics, nor their attempt to remain faithful Catholics in the Anglican Communion, but for me and the ministry that I have been called to, I had to make a life-long commitment, and I could not do this in the current Episcopal Church. But enough about that.

I think that you would be hard pressed to find a protestant Christian who does not feel the liturgy and spirituality of the Catholic faith is not appealing or beautiful. However, they struggle with the 'baggage' that comes with being a Catholic. Baggage, that thankfully, we as National Catholics do not have to

struggle with.

Clerical celibacy, papal infallibility, mandatory private confession, the shunning of divorced Christians, closing of church properties, etc.



Protestants watch the news, they know what is going on, and so did I. That is what intrigued me about the National Catholic movement.

I will admit that the decision was not easy. My initial thoughts were you had to be Polish to be a priest in the PNCC. Honestly, I figured you had to be Polish to even be a parishioner! I also struggled with the thought of the PNCC being one of those 'independent catholic movements', the kind of church where there are more bishops than laity. After some studying and reflection, I could say with great confidence that the Polish National Catholic Church was a Church with a treasured history and the potential for a great future.

So, I asked my wife, once again, to trust me, to trust the process, to trust God, and we set sail towards Scranton where I would finish my seminary studies.

It is a funny thing, but my time at Savonarola Seminary was a time of great struggle. I initially thought that being in a seminary of like minded men studying for the priesthood would be easier than the time I spent in the protestant seminary. However, I found that I missed being challenged. When I was in the protestant seminary, I was constantly questioning my faith, answering others as to why I was so 'Catholic', but in the end, this made me a better Catholic, the challenges strength-

ened my faith. My advice would be to any one discerning a call to holy orders, to put themselves in a positions where they will be tested, where they will face difficult questions and have to make support their beliefs and answers. I with everyone could go to seminary, not just clergy.

Okay...off of my soapbox. The rest is history or a work in progress as the Lord led me (with

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Newcomers Class

On March 3rd

At 6:00pm

Join us for the Newcomer's Class!

The class is open to ALL members of the parish.

Join us as we discuss the history, faith, ritual, and future of the

Polish National Catholic Church.

Prayer List

Irene Calka
Jean Egan
Alice Houser
Carl Layman
Shirley Molloy
Robert Nagle
Nancy Pascale
Elizabeth Peplowski
Veronica Pilitowski
Henry Radzyminski
Stanley & Edna Radzyminski
Michael Robochik
John Scarchilli
Jim Schmidbauer
Fr. Jim Stevenson
Jean Tomaski
Jane White

To add or remove a name from the parish prayer list please see Father Adam, thank you.

Who? Cont'd from pg 2

that something just wasn't "right". The very thing that had made Anglicanism so attractive to me, that liberality of thought and belief, was becoming more of a distraction to my spirituality. I could no longer stomach the growing disrespect for Scriptural authority that was growing in the national Episcopal denomination. After reading and re-reading the vows I would be required to take upon ordination, I knew that I couldn't in good conscience promise obedience to a church that largely failed to take those vows seriously. After much prayer and exploration, Denise and I resigned from our parish and by extension, the Episcopal church. We had made many, many friends.... good, holy people, that we miss and had relied upon me to minister to them, but perhaps I had been better to leave and let them examine what was happening to the church that had left them behind.

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the help of the Bishop) to BVMC. I would like to thank all of you for being such gracious and caring Christians. It has made the transition for my family and me much easier than we had expected. I pray that sharing my story will help others to recall their journey, to recall

God bless them.

That brings us to today. Once I walked into the doors of BVMC and the Polish National Catholic Church, I have never looked back. I pray that I am correct in believing that God has led me to you, to serve you and to bring His love and His healing to you. In the coming months, the face of my ministry will change a bit. My calling is evolving daily, and is both challenging and rewarding. Pray for me as I pray for all of you each day.

Gee, I guess my life has been pretty exciting after all. I have been blessed with a wonderful, loving, and supportive wife as well as two children who have made me proud and happy. Along with a grandson who can do no wrong, and two great kids-in-law, I am able to keep my feet on the ground while my head is often in the clouds. Thank you God.

But enough about me.

how every experience we have in our lives helps to shape who we are and who we will be. And I thank you for allowing me to share my journey with you! Thus ends the story of how a young Irish boy became a Polish National Catholic priest!

Lectors and Trustees

All of our new Trustees should have received a letter and schedule for the entire 2009 calendar year. If you did not receive a letter, please see Fr. Adam.

Lectors are invited to check out the link on our parish website (www.usccb.org/nab/), which has a calendar page where you can click on the Sunday you are scheduled to be the Lector to practice the readings and responsorial Psalm.

Of Note:

Hall Rental

The Parish Hall is a great venue for parties, receptions, showers, business meetings, family reunions, and for every other occasion. Call 453-2258 to inquire.

Bingo

Bingo is held every Thursday at 7:15pm. Come early and enjoy a fantastic meal prepared by the Czestochowa Polish Kitchen staff. Then try your luck at bingo. Another way to support our fundraising efforts.

Future Articles - Your Input

Articles for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent or given to Father Adam.



Saint of the Month Richard the King

Feast Day:
February 7th

Patron Saint of Sussex, England

Richard was the father of Saints Willibald, Winnebald, and Walburga. He was on a pilgrimage to Rome from his native Wessex, England, with his two sons when he was stricken and died at Lucca, Italy. Miracles were reported at his tomb and he became greatly venerated by the citizens of Lucca, who embellished accounts of his life by calling him "king of the English".

Saint Richard is best remembered today for the popular prayer ascribed to him as his last words on his deathbed where, surrounded by the clergy of his diocese, he prayed:

Thanks be to Thee, my Lord Jesus Christ

For all the benefits Thou hast given me,

For all the pains and insults Thou hast borne for me.

O most merciful Redeemer, friend and brother,

May I know Thee more clearly,

Love Thee more dearly,

Follow Thee more nearly,

Day by day.

Sunday Readings

Feb. 1: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 7:32-35, Mark 1:21-28

Feb. 8: Job 7:1-4, 6-7, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23, Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 15: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1, Mark 1:40-45

Feb 22: Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25, 2 Corinthians 1:18-22, Mark 2:1-12

FEBRUARY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM SOCL Class 10:30 AM ANS Meeting 11:30 AM Quiet Mass 12:00 PM Super Bowl Bingo	2 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 10:00 AM Solemnity of our Lord	3 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Blessing of throats	4 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:00 PM Mass for Health 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-2	6 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:30 PM PolishFest Meeting	7 5:00 PM Mass, Movie & Mac
8 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM PTO Meeting 10:30 AM SOCL Class 11:30 AM Quiet Mass	9 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	10 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 3:00 PM Parish picture night	11 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:00 PM Mass for Health 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-3	13 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	14 Valentine's Day 5:00 PM Faith Mass
15 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM SOCL Class 10:30 AM YMS of R Meeting 11:30 AM Quiet Mass	16 Presidents' Day 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM Jonah's Journey Gathering	17 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	18 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:00 PM Mass for Health	19 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-4	20 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	21 5:00 PM Faith Mass
22 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM SOCL Class 11:30 AM Quiet Mass	23 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	24 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 6:00 PM New Comers Gathering	25 Ash Wednesday 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Services 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-1	27 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 4:30 PM Fish Fry Dinners	28 5:00 PM Faith Mass
1 First Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM High Holy Mass 10:30 AM ANS Meeting 10:30 AM SOCL Class 11:30 AM Quiet Mass	2 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	3 9:00 AM Daily Prayers	4 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:00 PM Mass for Health 6:00 PM Stations of the Cross 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 5:30 PM BVMC Bingo T-2	6 World Day of Prayer 9:00 AM Daily Prayers 4:30 PM Fish Fry Dinners	7 5:00 PM Faith Mass

BVMC Artist's Work on Display

Aldo Lira will have his artwork on display on the following dates:

Art Center at Saratoga Springs

Solo exhibition

Opening Saturday March 7th, coincides with other "First Saturday" activities in Saratoga Springs

Runs through 31st

<http://www.saratoga-arts.org/>

Studio 7 Gallery

Group exhibition - two paintings - Bernardsville NJ

Opening reception Sunday February 8, 2-4pm .

<http://www.studio7artgallery.com/html/gallery.html>

Figureworks

Group show - two paintings - in Williamsburg (Brooklyn)

Opening: January 9th --- runs through end of February

<http://www.figureworks.com/>

Stone Canoe III

Group exhibition - one painting - Syracuse NY

Delevan Art Gallery

Opening Thursday January 22nd, 5:00 - 8:00pm

<http://www.delavanartgallery.com/upcoming.htm>

For more information, you can visit Aldo's website at: www.aldolira.com



- Plan for Easter -
BVMC Polish Food Sale
Scheduled for March 28th
Pierogi, Golabki, Bigos, Kapusta,
Chrusciki, Baranki

SAVE THE DATE

SpringSocial

Jonah's Journey will be sponsoring a
Basket Raffle & Children's Fashion Show

March 29th

In the Parish Hall

Wide variety of baskets
a Children's Fashion Show
sponsored by Lollipop Children's Shop
Come for a fun afternoon

Door open at 12:00
Great food available
Drawings begin at 2pm

