

TODAY IS THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 27, 2008

**Scripture Readings for Today****1st Reading:** 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12**2nd Reading:** Romans 8:28-30**Gospel:** Matthew 13:44-52**Scripture Readings for August 3rd****1st Reading:** Isaiah 55:1-3**2nd Reading:** Romans 8:35, 37-39**Gospel:** Matthew 14:13-21

Dear Parishioners,

Forty years ago this week Pope Paul VI released an encyclical "Humane Vitae". Although the title sounds benign – the Latin translates into On Human Life – this document led to a heated debate throughout the church, for it dealt with the transmission of human life, birth control, and married life.

Up until 1930 every Christian church taught that artificial birth control was immoral. Indeed, it was even illegal to sell artificial means in most of the United States because of laws passed by the Protestant majority on our country. However in 1930 at the Lambeth Conference in England, the Anglican Church decided artificial means could be used in some marriages depending on the circumstances. The pope at that time issued an encyclical repudiating that decision and upholding the Catholic position of the past 1900 years. Unfortunately, most of the Protestant churches quickly followed the Church of England.

What did Pope Paul VI say in Humane Vitae? Basically he said four things. First, he acknowledged the beauty and nobility of married love in which through the marital act the couple cooperates with God. Second, he acknowledges the problems encountered in married life. Third, he teaches that the marital act has two purposes – to procreate life for God and to unite and strengthen the couple's love for one another. That is God's plan. Therefore, the use of artificial contraception is a deliberate attempt to thwart God's plan and is immoral, because it separates the procreative and unitive aspects of the marital act. ("What God had joined together, let no man separate." MT 19:6). The pope went on to say that natural means could be used to regulate the size of the family.

Fourth, he went on to warn about the results of birth control. He predicted increased cases of

adultery, infidelity, fornication, and a loss of respect for women who will be seen more as objects for pleasure than persons with an innate dignity. He went on to warn of countries that will force women to have sterilization to solve problems. And he was right. All these predictions have come to pass and more as well. The divorce rate has risen sharply, and the birth rates have dropped so steeply that many countries are not able to replace the dying with new life. Many European countries are offering cash incentives for their citizens to have more babies.

Maybe Pope Paul VI had some divine assistance when he wrote Humane Vitae. Why not read it and see for yourself as we publish it in the bulletin the next several weeks.

Fr. Carl

THE COLLECTION FOR JULY 19-20TH

Envelopes.....	\$11,824.00
Loose.....	\$1,336.80
Poor Boxes.....	\$576.78
Children's.....	\$31.46

THE MASS COUNT FOR JULY 19-20TH

5 PM – 209	7:30 AM – 189	9 AM – 262
10:30 AM – 343	12 PM – 245	Total – 1248



"The law of Your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces," says the psalmist today. Does the amount of my offering suggest that I could honestly say the same?

If we accept the challenge of putting God first in our time and treasure, our attitudes, priorities and spiritual lives will definitely change.

Children's Stewardship

9-year old J C writes on his envelope:

Time: helping out

Talent: piano

Treasure: \$1.00

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL of Mary Gilley and Genevieve Lewis.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS, especially those in hospitals.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED for all those recovering from surgeries and illness and for: Edward Bubnis, Mr. and Mrs. William Lang, Tammy Randle, Noreen Newcomb, Christian Murray, Robert Nelson, Cathy Parsons, Reva Geppi, Melvin Marshalek, Nancy Baucom, Boyd Crotts, Milton Getka, and George Weinhold.

PRAYER FOR OUR SERVICE PEOPLE: We ask



you to remember the following parishioners, family & friends serving in the military: USMC: Pvt. Harry Harrison Bruns, Pfc. William O'Brien, LCpl. Joseph Bytella, LCpl. Sean Fitzpatrick, LCpl Alex Webb, LCpl.

John J. Cohee, Jr., Sgt. David Burton, USAF: Capt. Brian Gallagher, Navy: 2nd Class Petty Officer John Benjamin Maggio, National Guard: Pfc. Ryan Kamauff, David Parker; Army: Sgt. Joshua Callow, Specialist Stephen Grenfell, 1st Lt. Stephen Winter, 1st Lt. Sheldon Broedel, Recon Scout Matt Lambert, 101st Airborne.

Mass Intentions



MASSES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 28-AUG. 3RD

MONDAY 7/28	6:30 a.m. – Shirley Kelly 8:00 a.m. – Kenny Zeller
TUESDAY 7/29	6:30 a.m. – Emily Burke 8:00 a.m. – Rita Insley
WED. 7/30	6:30 a.m. – Lucy Nejfelt 8:00 a.m. – Nellie Maggio
THURSDAY 7/31	6:30 a.m. – Mary Pigan 8:00 a.m. – Margaret R. Beane
FRIDAY 8/1	6:30 a.m. – Mary D. Molner 8:00 a.m. – Justas Buivys
SAT. 8/2	8:00 a.m. – Int. of the Fisher Family 5:00 p.m. – Al Herrmann
SUNDAY 8/3	7:30 a.m. – Rose Mills 9:00 a.m. – For the Parishioners 10:30 a.m. – Tony Vinci 12:00 p.m. – Marian Cummings

DAILY READINGS

Monday 7/28	<i>Weekday</i> Reading: Jeremiah 13:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 13:31-35
Tuesday 7/29	<i>St. Martha</i> Reading: Jeremiah 14:17-22 Gospel: John 11:19-27
Wednesday 7/30	<i>St. Peter Chrysologus</i> Reading: Jeremiah 15:10, 16-21 Gospel: Matthew 13:44-46
Thursday 7/31	<i>St. Ignatius of Loyola</i> Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-6 Gospel: Matthew 13:47-53
Friday 8/1	<i>St. Alphonsus Liguori</i> Reading: Jeremiah 26:1-9 Gospel: Matthew 5:13-19
Saturday 8/2	<i>St. Eusebius of Vercelli</i> Reading: Jeremiah 26:11-16, 24 Gospel: Matthew 14:1-12

FLOWERS – Flowers on our Main Altar are for Tom, Lori & George's special intentions, requested by their family. Flowers on our Holy Family Altar are in celebration of the Kiszner family birthdays. To donate fresh flowers, call Doris Mellendick at 410-747-2751.



CONFESSIONS will be heard this Thursday, July 31st at 4:30 pm in preparation for First Friday.

FIRST FRIDAY MASSES will be held this Friday, August 1st at 6:30 and 8:00 a.m.

HOLY HOUR will be held this Friday, August 1st, from 7 to 8 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration follows until 8 a.m. Saturday. Besides our personal prayers, we are asking for everyone to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life from St. Agnes Parish and for peace in our country and in our world. Allow the *real* presence of Jesus to speak to your heart. Sign-up sheets can be found in the front of Church.



THE SECOND COLLECTION to be taken up at all the Masses next weekend will support the Catholic Communications Campaign. Your gift helps CCC and our diocese provide television, radio and print materials that spread the Good News of Christ's love. Please make checks payable to St. Agnes Church. Thank you.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS – The summer hours for the Parish office are as follows: Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS – The summer hours for St. Agnes School will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Tuition may be paid at the Parish Office Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

OUR 3rd ANNUAL PARISH CRAB FEAST will be held Friday, August 29th. Proceeds will benefit the building fund. For ticket information, please call Sue Bianco at 410.788.3537 or visit our parish website www.stagnescatholicchurch.org.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE to buy crab feast raffle chances from the MEN'S CLUB. Win 2 bushels of steamed crabs, 1 bushel of corn, beer and soda. \$1 per chance; 6 chances for \$5 and 15 chances for \$10. Winner drawn August 20th. Call Mike D. at 410-788-6822. Proceeds benefit the Parish Youth Athletic Programs.

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATES

Work Completed Past Two Weeks

- Metal siding continues
- Electrical panels to gym complete
- Block veneer continued to west wall
- Roof drains 90% complete
- Metal frame to north wall 75% complete



Scheduled Work for Next Two Weeks

- Metal siding to north side
- Sprinkler work to start
- Finish roof drains
- Rough-in for lighting
- Begin island work to parking lot

In the coming month, the large oak tree behind the church near the temporary playground will need to be removed. There have been several branches that have died and fallen, one striking a child. Recently the tree was evaluated by a tree preservation specialist. It was his opinion that the tree was dying and would pose a continued threat to the safety of parishioners and school children from falling limbs. Once the tree is removed and the new playground is installed, a new tree will be planted.

OFFERTORY GIFTS – Parishioners are needed to take up the gifts of Bread and Wine at Mass. Please see the ushers prior to Mass to volunteer.



DONATIONS NEEDED – A parishioner is accepting donations to send to Cameroon Africa to help needy people. Items requested include household items, clothing, and toys. Please no furniture. For more information call 410-814-1343 or 443-636-5499.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Oct. 17-19, 2008 at Loyola Retreat House in Faulkner, MD. Cost \$215. Since there are 4 parishes participating, St. Agnes is limited to 12-15 women at this time. Call Cathy Arini 410.747.7736 for more info

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER – Come and seek Christ's guidance and strength for your Marriage. The next Marriage Encounter weekend in Baltimore will be August 8-10th. For info call 1-877-558-5683 or visit www.wwme.net.



ST. AGNES YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, July 27 – Gathering canceled

There will be no youth night this week. Many, many, many of you will be away, and others of you have other commitments this weekend. Please pass this on verbally to friends of yours who may not check their email accounts .

RECEPTIONIST POSITION AVAILABLE: The Cardinal Gibbons School is presently looking for a receptionist from 8:00 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. – Monday through Friday beginning in September. If interested please call 410-644-1770 to request an application.

TRAVELING THIS SUMMER? For nationwide Mass times and locations, call 1.410.676.6000 or visit the web at www.masstimes.org.



MEMORY VERSE

ROMANS 8:28

We know that all things work for good for those who love God.