

## FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

June 20/21, 2014

### M & M's

Our nation's flag is one of the most identifiable and utilized SYMBOLS of our country. You will find one in our church (how observant – where?). It can be a bit overdone as imaged on t-shirts, ties, and “over kill” by a business. The desecration of a flag of any size can incur a fine and up to one year in jail. It does not incur loss of citizenship.

The feast of Corpus Christ is a central truth of our faith, NOT a symbol, and desecration of it incurs automatic excommunication for the Catholic. Nine other grave errors can cause excommunication by the individual's action...i.e. priest violating the seal of confession, physical attack on the pope, an abortion. The severity can affect who can lift the excommunication...i.e. only the Pope in a few of the cases, Bishop, or a delegate of Bishop (priest) in others. In most cases, the Sacrament of Reconciliation can restore as its sacramental name entails!

AS ALWAYS, a sin is determined in part by knowledge and conscience of an individual. AS ALWAYS, salvation is in the hands of God. One might ask if a Catholic did not believe in REAL PRESENCE would desecration of a consecrated host carry the same weight? TRAGICALLY, 50% of U.S. Catholics see the Eucharist as a symbol. Not any more significant than an American flag!

I offer the above as an attention getter and obviously in brevity. Look for more detail in Canon Law, CATHOLIC ANSWERS, or in YOUR copy of the Universal Catechism of the Catholic Church. Surely you have one? You have a car manual...parish office has the Catechism... a spare copy of car manual is available at the dealership.

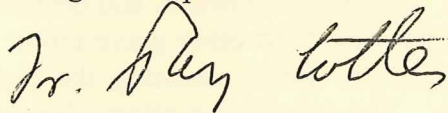
St. Thomas speaks of the Eucharist: “O precious and wonderful banquet that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness!...here Christ himself, the true God, is set before as our food. What can be more wonderful than this?...instituted for the salvation of all be a benefit for all. Yet, in the end, no one can fully express the sweetness of this sacrament...” Symbols are not spoken of in that manner.

The rich symbol of the flag can be understood by fabric, stitching, and dyes used for the cloth. After the consecration, the priest proclaims the “MYSTERY of Faith”. The faithful affirms by responding: “We proclaim your death...your resurrection....eat this Bread and drink this Cup...save us, Savior of the world...you have set us free”.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE PASTORAL COUNCIL: The nomination of four candidates went very well with about 20 nominations ( a few had to withdraw). The required three were taken “from the hat”: John Erhardt; Jen Gorman, and Annette Andres. We congratulate them on the beginning of their three year terms and thank others who were willing to serve. ALL parishioners are invited to meetings to give input.

CSA: A truly historical triumph has been achieved with CSA. Two hundred and fifty one people have offered up \$112,379, \$9,761 over target. FANTASTIC and thank you! A mailing of 169 went out with a postage paid envelope seeking the courtesy of a simple response or donation from remainder of parish. All members of the parish team are asked to sign on in any manner. One returned and said: "this year we will only be able to give prayer". Superb! Please help close out the campaign with mailing in a similar response or donation.

Continuing in the spirit of Pentecost



Fr. Ray Cotter

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John and Sue Newberry's generous gift to the parish was mentioned a few weeks ago. The parish was informed in May, completely unaware, of our significant portion of the estate. We recently were sent a check for \$110,000 in the initial disbursement to beneficiaries of the estate. With no children, it appears that nieces and nephews are the other participants within the estate. Despite efforts, I have been unable to make a contact. The closure of the estate will take place after the sale of a modest home in Traverse City. We may get up to \$50,000 more.

John died at age 72 on May 23, 2002 in Traverse City. Mary Sue died at age 82 in North Augusta, S.C. on Oct. 14, 2013. We have learned very little about the couple. John was a career Navy man that allowed the two, amidst fifty years of marriage, to live in places around the world. Mary Sue was not Catholic and she had moved to S.C. for the last six years. Their remains are entombed at the Oakwood Cemetery mausoleum in Traverse. His obituary noted that contributions could be made to the Parkinson's Support Group.

This unanticipated gift of monies could not have come at a better time for our parish. The parish, totally cash strapped, can now carefully prioritize some needs. The Finance Council has directed our first project be our roof (was already under study). The Council will decide on any further keen priorities and welcome input from others.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ARE ALWAYS UNDERWAY, KNOWN AND UNKNOWN.  
"Eternal rest grant on them O Lord, and perpetual light shine on them, as it will shine on us!" Properly so, the news and reception of monies came during the Easter Season.