

17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 29th, 2012

M&M's

I write with "anxious, twitchy" fingers – see below.*

JOE BALOG expresses great gratitude for the support of the recent garage sale to assist in dismissing his college debt so he can enter a religious community this fall...become a monk (few possessions – our envy). \$4,000 was the figure that the initiative came close to with quality items donated and sold.

THE FAITH CONNECTION INSERT that was usually stuffed into the bulletin is now available in the back of church, on the shelf right next to the CATHOLIC WEEKLY news paper. We were not sure how many were using the commentary and this manner cuts back on printing and the labor to stuff the bulletin. It would be great to see interest in all that literature by taking it home.

IN MY ABSENCE next weekend, a visiting priest will celebrate mass and speak to the initiative of the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA or hopeforafamily.org). No collection will be taken up, but rather consideration of supporting the effort is offered. I am quite confident that you will give our visitor great hospitality and a welcome to his special message.

"IN MY ABSENCE" – TRANSLATES, "on vacation* for two weeks": I will be headed out toward the direction of the east coast after Masses today. I travel in odd fashions and in disrupted mile markers, but the eventual turnaround point is Stamford, CT . My niece and godchild, Sr. Virginia Joy, will be making her third year vows into the religious community of Sisters of Life (.org). A few other women will increase their commitment with the community at Mass ,on August 6th the Feast of Transfiguration, at the Basilica of St. John the Evangelist with Cardinal Timothy Dolan as celebrant. As a godparent, I am especially honored but I have become to view her as "godparent to me" within her strong faith fervor.

The Sisters of Life take the three evangelical counsels or vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They take a fourth vow of protecting Life at all Stages.

They are very blunt in their opposition to the impending threat, growing threat, against religious freedom in their STRONG opposition to the health care mandate. Keep in mind, they give their lives to Christ in the care of life, while politicians passing law, public "servants", take on the occasional photo opt in a ribbon cutting ceremony at a care facility. Do they even go inside? Maybe for coffee and a roll?

Fr. Ray

Fr. Ray Cotter

Sisters of LIFE: Taken from their response to the Mandate, February 16,2012

"We are faced with a government decision that is not only a grave affront to the religious liberty and rights of conscience of every citizen of the United States, but also an offense to each Sister of life in a particular way. Every professed member of our community takes a special vow to "protect and enhance the sacredness of human life." This new rule pays no heed to our right to live according to our vows. Since this HHS mandate will require every insurer to include abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and artificial contraception, we will not be able to obtain any coverage that is free from those 'services' and will be forced to pay for them directly. ...this mandate would coerce each and every Sister of Life to betray her religious vows....To us, it would be comparable to a law requiring a spouse to violate their marriage vows – an unthinkable intrusion upon a sacred promise".

St. Paul's Convent; 586 McLean Ave. ; Yonkers, NY 10705

A thought to ponder:

Do these Sisters of Life use the same version of the gospel that the politicians use in their swearing in to office? Have these Sisters grown up with and studied a different version of the Constitution that SOME lawmakers reference in their oath of office? (many of these women are coming from earlier professional careers...i.e. from engineers, Harvard grads, and just being holy.)

More presentations from other religious women communities will follow later so as to keep this sad topic before us. In addition, strong statements from the national Knights of Columbus office will also be given. And as always, be diligent with what the "wise, the clever" keep from you.