

September 8, 2013
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

M & M's

“And the LEAVES came tumbling down”. I try to recall that as a lyric in a rock and roll song in my youth? Regardless, our property saw six ash TREES come “tumbling down”. We are most grateful for two parishioners who engineered others and used their own brute strength to cut the diseased trees down: Dave Burke and Terry Hardwick

Bishop Edward Burns of the Juneau Alaska Diocese will be staying with me next weekend, Sept. 14 – 15. He will be conducting a combined convocation of our priests and those of the Kalamazoo Diocese that week. Bishop Hebda has urged him to make an appeal at a few parishes for operational expenses incurred by such a remote Diocese. He will be present at three Traverse City area Masses. You would catch him at our 11:00 Sunday Mass. Why not stop by for tips on best cruise line that travels the inside passage of and stops in Juneau? We will take up a second collection – bring a check for Diocese of Juneau? (yes, we took up a collection at the door on Labor Day wknd...this is just more of an initiative of welcome from our own parish – Thank You!)

Religious Education Registration will begin next weekend after all the Masses. As our norm, the classes will begin in early October. A recent meeting of catechists saw nearly all returning from last year. But, we always welcome more! They met with our interim and part time religious education director, Fred Robb.

Fred has taught at GTACS for ten years and continues in that roll. He has also been the DRE for four years at Immaculate Conception. As a bigger parish, I.C. chose to combine two jobs into one and Fred was unable to put together that much time. With his Alabama accent and enthusiastic faith as a convert, he seemed to truly impress our teachers at our first meeting with his gifts. In the strengths of our past programs, we will take some time and effort to return to the same caliber. We have been very open about our financial strains and this adjustment will save us about 50% in the same programs.

-please contact me if seeking sacrament of confirmation or consideration of our faith.

Finance Council has clearly stated we can “cut no more”. We are taking on a special initiative in Stewardship that will be unveiled in October. It will include so many avenues of engagement in the parish from cutting down trees to solid financial giving.

The backside information about other denominations is politely shared as both an education piece and a prompt for more. Our Protestant brothers and sisters can often be seen as better informed than Catholics!

Fr. Ray Cotter

Wednesday, September 11th, 8:00 Mass moved to 10:00 at Tendercare

HOW OLD IS YOUR CHURCH?

If you are a Lutheran, your religion was founded by Martin Luther, an ex-monk of the Catholic Church, in the year 1517.

If you belong to the Church of England, your religion was founded by King Henry VIII in the year 1534 because the Pope would not grant him a divorce with the right to re-marry.

If you are a Presbyterian, your religion was founded by John Knox in Scotland in the year 1560.

If you are a Protestant Episcopalian, your religion was an offshoot of the Church of England, founded by Samuel Seabury in the American colonies in the 17th century.

If you are a Congregationalist, your religion was originated by Robert Brown in Holland in 1582.

If you are a Methodist, your religion was launched by John & Charles Wesley in England in 1744.

If you are a Unitarian, Theophilus Lindley founded your church in London in 1774.

If you are a Mormon (Latter Day Saints), Joseph Smith started your religion in Palmyra, N.Y., in 1829.

If you are a Baptist, you owe the tenets of your religion the John Smyth, who launched it in Amsterdam in 1605.

If you are of the Dutch Reformed church, you recognize Michaelis Jones as founder, because he originated your religion in New York in 1628.

If you worship with the Salvation Army, your sect began with William Booth in London in 1865.

If you are a Christian Scientist, you look to 1879 as the year in which your religion was born and to Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy as it's founder.

If you belong to one of the religious organizations known as "Church of the Nazarene", "Pentecostal Gospel", "Holiness Church", "Pilgrim Holiness Church", "Jehovah's Witnesses", your religion is one of the hundreds of new sects founded by men within the past fifty years.

If you are Roman Catholic, you know that your religion was founded in the year 33 by Jesus Christ the Son of God!!

Even in these strange days, the above enumerated facts are still undeniable!