

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 28, 2012
YEAR OF FAITH – NOW AND TO COME

M&M,

COMMUNICATION: You have made it to the first sentence of my musings. Thanks. It is no longer an assurance that our attention span allows such a “reach” in reading. Our parish needs a complete revamp, review, of all communication means. Catholic parishes have taken to review little amidst massive changes of communication in our culture, “the age of information”. We are saturated and competition is fierce for our attention and reaction. We need to critique announcements, bulletin boards, inserts, and mailings. We must review effectiveness

Yes, I seek a badly needed standing committee to help keep a constant tweaking of our efforts. Committee work may not be that extensive and can be quite informal. Quality communication is critical and not simply placing an overdue burden of “stuff” on parishioners.

1. Complete website reconstruction; signage; telephone staff phone boxes and general info boxes; newspaper or motel info on our schedules; bulletin outlay and value of bulletin inserts (gee. will my M&M make the cut); and an awareness that all these matters effect how hospitality is viewed, etc.
2. Informal membership...pro's in the arena of communication and common citizen needed...e mails, phones calls considered ideal means to catch me (at least we concede, Morse Code is outdated)
3. I am aware that this appeal has limited ability to illicit a response. I will have to do some face to face. The most effective, once cell phone is set aside. Ahh. clutter!

ONE WHO PAID ATTENTION: It has been noted before that we recently benefited from an estate. Edward Pirek died in 2009 and left in his estate about \$65,000 to the parish (still being fine tuned by taxes). Ed and his wife Sophie (died in 2005) were active parishioners here since our conception. He served as a Marine in WW II, signing up a week after Pearl Harbor. He moved north from Detroit area after retirement in 1982.

The timing was right in receiving the funds as about a third went to badly needed work on the rectory exterior. The remainder may help kick start our church roof campaign next year. The Year of Faith salutes the couple for a generous sense of valuing their faith.

YEAR OF FAITH – Now and to Come: Programs will soon be publicized in the area to be conducted by the Diocese. However, the individual will be the key aspect as success of the undertaking, One invitation is offered for more daily Mass attendance and certainly church visits. To enhance visits, that little antique kneeler, chair, and lamp near the tabernacle awaits anyone. When I'm in town (usually), I will see that the church is open from 7:00 am till 8:00 pm.

DELEGATION – “preferably candles that burn”

A pastor can be asked the most routine of questions on “how to proceed”. And the questions can vary as in “what type of candle to buy? Or, there was that time that I drove 30 miles to cover a Sunday Mass, only to be greeted with minutes to spare: “Father, the women’s toilet is stopped up – what should we do?” (that really happened) “Hmmm..have the ushers been surveyed for a response in advance of my opinion? No.”

Pastors have to step away from calendar salesmen to deciding on the best ice melt choice. Our very capable staff can handle so much in solo fashion. If people view us as the most educated and solemnly in charge, follow through and mistakes will quickly occur. Still, love to visit – but not so as to always force a minor DECISION into our visits.

You have read to the final line! Thanks and bravo to our precarious communication.

Fr. Ray Cotter

Abbreviated reflections I wrote years ago before an election – forming a conscience?

We are called to be different Luke 12:49-51

Our baptism defines us differently in radical ways. Recall the vows made at the ritual and renewed at Easter Vigil.

Simeon prophecy, “this child to be a sign of contradiction to the world”

Abortion was the mainstay of non-Christian or near pagan nations: i.e. Soviet Union, China, Japan. How can a Christian nation adopt as moral the same? Christ’s words: “Even they do that, you must do differently” (and he was merely referring to prayer!)

Religious freedom disappeared in the Soviet Union, China, and strong persecutions of Catholics in periods within France, Mexico, Germany, and England. Any erosion here?

Government mandates us to offer artificial birth control? (until 1930, all U.S. churches taught against it). “its usage is the ONLY natural healthy body process we attempt to alter”. (as a doctor, is she right about that?) Maybe better left to cats and dogs? Did God design a flawed means for HUMANS? (chaotic results...too much to comment on here)

When asked and later penned a book with the name, “**What is wrong with the World?** “. The noted G.K Chesterton, convert to Catholicism, commented: “I am”. He was referring to any time he steps away from his faith.

We are to be different so that Christ may continue to make a difference in this world.

“What you do matters – but not much. What you are matters tremendously.”

Catherine Doherty / Madonna House