

December 16, 2012
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

M & M's

TRYING TO RELOCATE: I am saying this a bit premature, but I thought yesterday I was not? Our completely revamped Christ the King website is coming on very soon (thought it was already until I checked?). It will be seen as one of the best in the Diocese. I am so excited that I mention it now, and do keep looking, yet for now I regretfully have to keep you in suspense! I can relocate this from an insert in the bulletin to a website for the nation to read!

UP AND RUNNING – COMMUNICATION OF HEARING: The parish's sound system has had a special offering since 2007 that is just now being much better promoted and upgraded on equipment. We thank parishioner Tom Reid, a passion for promoting hearing assistance, and his endeavors with parishioner, Dr. Sandra Leahy. Hearing specialists have greatly contributed to position us to serve a critical need.

Folks with any level of hearing impairment can pick up a receiver through an usher before mass that are kept in the front office. The receiver brings in a direct feed from sound system into the person's ear. Parishioners are calling it "stunning" for the improved hearing. Simple operation. Personal and private. PLEASE check it out.

NEVER TAKEN FOR GRANTED: Parishioners are to be commended for those "routine" special second collections. The second collections are only used in special cases (recall years back – seemed to be one every week – now most covered through your CSA contribution). A few figures: \$1,946.63 for the Propagation of the Faith (Mission Sunday) and the impromptu relief collection for hurricane Sandy, \$2,642.70. I am confident that the Retired Religious collection will be as impressive. MOST GRATEFUL from the stranger who benefits from that quick gesture from your pocket or purse!

THE WORD PROCESSOR, PEN, PENCIL, AND PAPER can not touch the art put forth by the recent Christmas Carol presentation by Music Director Mark Tafelsky and ensemble (strings, brass and all!) We salute the choir but I have to single out Mark. He shows up in those famous "Mr. Roger's or President Jimmy Carter's" sweaters, but matches accomplishments of directors in tuxedos. Bravo to all!

YEAR OF FAITH: You will never see me stop hawking the catechism books. I have them in different sizes and covers in back of church. A signed one, your signature with a faith statement, would be an ideal gift to a family member. It can become like a family bible and WILL somehow be opened up! And a copy for yourself! It has numerous references to our long standing faith and clear references to scripture. And like the Bible, do not start at the front! One should start reading the bible from New Testament and I can highly recommend starting the catechism at part four, Christian prayer.

OUR TURN FOR HOSPITALITY – YEAR OF FAITH: The second presentation of “Hidden Treasure” will be hosted by us among the area churches. January 22, afternoon sessions and evening, will welcome another opportunity to probe the catechism . Mark that date! Anyone want to take on a little extra hospitality for our visiting brethren?

YES, WE ALL KNOW IT- CHRISTMAS WILL SEE THE CROWDS: You will likely see that neighbor or friend surface as a rare visitor at Mass. Why not make it a much richer experience for both of you, by INVITING them YOURSELF! You can even tell them where you usually sit ...if the crowds keep the spot open?

AND KEEPING IT SIMPLE: You know my exacting standards for gifts to me.* Nothing. I am not inferring you were contemplating anything anyways! My needs are well met, oh, but wait. You and I recall that donations of jams and jellies welcomed (or Baileys for the guests). I comfortably remark about our parish native son, Msgr. Dan Gallagher, for a possible monetary gift. He certainly would never make mention of this, but I am aware that working in the Vatican is a significant pay cut from his wage back here. Spaghetti might be cheaper so close to the farm, but his noble work in the Secretary of State’s office has other living expenses. I place his address below.

“What should we do?”, was the most significant question placed at the feet of John the Baptist by believers at the Jordan River in today’s gospel. His response was direct and clear. I paraphrase it: “Do things differently! – as followers of Christ”. Christmas must be DONE differently if we are to experience that difference in our lives! How badly do you wish to unwrap the difference?

In a joy and light on the horizon,

Fr. Ray Cotter

.....
Msgr. Dan Gallagher
English Section, Vatican
VILLA STRITCH
Via della Nocetta 63,
00164 Rome Italy \$1.05 postage

*checks made out to my favorite charities welcomed:
Sisters of Life
Madonna House