

June 10, 2012

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI – BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

M & M's,

An attention getter is a normative way to gather readers to an insert in a bulletin. How could I do better this wknd, on the sacred feast of our faith, than saluting His gift of life and how it is shared by special individuals in our parish. I found this thank you note in the sacristy minutes before I began writing. It was placed neatly near the drawer of pixies used to carry the Sacred Body to the hospital every Sunday morning by our people. "Eucharistic Ministers: I was a patient at Munson Medical Center – Cardiac Unit February 8th to February 19th and you came to visit me and I thank God for you. I'm doing good and I just wanted to 'thank you' very much. Sharon Edmondson, St. Joseph Parish, Manistee".

Yes, she is doing better and we are also with such service from parishioners.

TIM MOEGGENBERG has recently taken over as executive director of our local St. Vincent de Paul Chapter. We feel special as he is one of our parishioners. He takes on a challenging reorganization effort after a painful embezzlement. He tells me that the operation should be fully functioning in August. I have urged the Knights of Columbus and yourselves to give special consideration for donations as they recover their losses and need a boost in spirit from the community.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS recently took on a whole new annual slate of officers in a recent meeting. I witnessed a great deal of commitment in that meeting as selfless individuals stepped forward to take on often thankless tasks. A full listing of officers will appear in bulletin shortly. In the moment, I cannot express enough appreciation for Joe Kane as outgoing Grand Knight. In my arrival here last summer, I begin to see THIS guy "showing up all over the church, at all times, and in every doorway... 'who is this guy'?" I discovered his name and came to realize that he was one GRAND guy!

CATHOLIC SERVICE APPEAL (CSA) moves along well. We have reached \$89,000 with a mere 200 donations, but averaging \$400+! The committee is confident

that our target of \$102,000 can be reached with so many left to respond (700 letters went out – yes, obviously CSA records and others will be used to reduce our already understood inflated registry). Per instructions, I felt reassured when a few put \$0 on cards as their inability to contribute this year. Cards filled out are a big help to our volunteers in morale and limits our need to contact individuals whose cards go unresponded to. You can stop after Masses in June or stop by the office to catch up on your card. In the truth of this weekend's feast, THANKS!

WHOSE CELEBRATION IS IT ANYWAYS? The Friday, June 22nd, celebration of a 5:00 pm Mass and a Pig Roast to follow reaches well beyond my celebrating 25 years as a priest. I view it as a celebration of parish, faith, family, and yes, throw in RELIGIOUS LIBERTY *. I can assure you of two things: the pig will "go out" in supreme glory under the knife of Dave Tiffany and that the kids will be jumping in the grass with the music of the Sneaky Pete band. Call Georgia Stoeber at 938-5846. (as always, no gifts for me...ok, JUST homemade jam)

*June 21 to the 4th is being designated as a special time for attention to our current attack on Religious Freedom by our government.

OUR CARRIAGE HOUSE APPARTMENT. I am taking on the cleaning task of putting our modest garage apartment ready for modest use during the warm months. Housing a visiting seminarian, priest, short term charitable use, or a quiet retreat spot for anyone with ease of access to church?. A brother of mine, relocating, donated some quality furniture. I would welcome efforts at "fine tuning" the setting and procuring some window coverings (any used drapes, blinds out there?). HELP! I can handle dusting and brooms, but no gift for special touches.

DID I SAY BLINDS? Read those quality ads on the back of bulletin. I did and stumbled onto Budget Blinds, owned by parishioners Jim and Karen Stanton. The rectory had no window coverings in the three upstairs bedrooms. But wait, their donation went on to cover windows in hall and baths – 16 windows! The few thousand dollar full donation is so appreciated by the parish. Lead on!

