

St. Ann WATCH News – Fall 2009

Important Dates:

Fanning the Flames - October 17th

St. Ann Fall Festival - Nov. 15th @ Kof C Hall on Hill St.

WATCH # 12 – Spring 2010

President's Corner...

Recently my friend Lynn retired from 30 plus years of teaching, and gave all her friends, at her retirement party, a bookmark with the following - I thought it was appropriate to share with all of you.

"I want to say something to all of you who have become a part of the fabric of my life.

The color and texture which you have brought into my being have become a song, and I want to sing it forever.

There is an energy within us which makes things happen when the paths of other persons touch ours, and we have to be there and let it happen.

When the time of our particular sunset comes, our thing, our accomplishment won't really matter a great deal.

But the clarity and care with which we have loved others will speak with vitality of the great gift of life we have been for each other."
Gregory Norbet

I was so struck by this passage because it says best what WATCH is all about. We know that the energy Norbet speaks of is the Christ within each of us, seeking relationship with one another. And as Fr. Terry always reminds us when our time here is finished all that will really matter is how well we loved - and let ourselves be loved. Accomplishments will fade away. What truly matters is the life we share with each other in the community of Love. Come fall in love once again at Fanning the Flames. October 17th.

In Christ,
Sherry Killian

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The Deacon's Corner

By Deacon Steve Genek

Now that the Football Season is here, I would like to start with a passage that is seen almost every week in the stadiums...John 3:16; "For God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish, but might have eternal life."

Who is this person God? He is master of the universe and one to which we owe our lives to. If we owe our lives to God we are required to follow His guidelines to gain eternal life. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus was asked, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus replied, "What is written in the law, and how do you read it?" The man answered, "you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength. With all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Jesus replied by saying, "You have answered correctly, do this and you will live."

While we are loving God unconditionally with our whole being, we cannot forget to love our neighbor as well as our enemies. This IS hard to do, but we need to see Jesus in everyone around us. We are not the ones who are to judge, because God tells us to love them no matter what they do. Many times over I have said we are to love the terrorist, but not the actions he or she engage in. This is true of love of neighbor. We may not like our neighbor because they don't cut their grass often enough, or they tend to leave trash out all week before garbage pick-up instead of the night before. These things are insignificant, because no matter who we are, we are all children of God.

At the same time we are loving our neighbor we should be looking out for their well being. If they have no food, clothing, or place to reside, we need to be aware of this and help to provide these things for them or show them how to attain these necessities. For if we do these things to the least or neediest of our world we are doing it to God. Jesus wants us to take care of the poor and neglected for that is a way to eternal life. When we do this we are truly loving God with our whole heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Recently, from the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time through the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time the Gospel of John has been proclaimed. These

Gospels tell us how to attain eternal life, by feeding us, and then our receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus under the auspices of Bread and Wine. There is not a better way to get to know Jesus than to receive Him into our bodies. The Eucharist is comprised of the Word, Sacrifice of the Mass, and Community. A lot to digest and think about, so my suggestion to all of you is to read the "whole" Chapter 6 of John's Gospel and then take time to reflect.

God bless all of you.
The Good Deac

Fanning the Flames

October 17, 2009

Theme:

Loving and Forgiving

Talks/Speakers:

Burden be Gone – Lisa Wanless

In the Box – Fr. Terry Cassidy

Love 'em like Jesus – David Lavalley

Lectio Divina – Sr. Judith Ann Croegaert



"Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty than the person who has nothing to eat."

---Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Book Reviews

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

Hungering For God In An Affluent Culture

by Arthur Simon

Arthur Simon is founder and president emeritus of Bread for the World and author of *The Politics of World Hunger*, *Bread for the World*, and *Grace at the Table: Ending Hunger in God's World*.

In this book, *How Much is Enough?*, Simon educated, inspired, and challenged me. The book is an easy read but difficult to forget.

In Simon's own words. "This book looks at both the cost and the joy of discipleship." Chapters 1 - 7 focus on ways in which our hearts are turned toward fleeting satisfactions and away from God in our affluent culture. Chapter 8 explains why following Jesus today is not so easy for us. Chapter 9 and 10 ask the question, "How much is enough?" Chapter 11 deals with the theme of justice for the oppressed from the Bible. Chapters 12 - 14 describe the benefits of discipleship. The book ends with some practical suggestions for living more simply.

This book was one of the books we read during our year of study for JustFaith. It evoked great discussions for our group and was very personally challenging for me. I would recommend this book to all of you.

Review by Sister Judith Ann Croegaert, OSB

**"The purpose of life is a life of purpose."
--Robert Byrne**



90 Minutes in Heaven
A True Story of Death and Life
by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey

donpiperministries@yahoo.com

The Prologue to this true story begins "I DIED ON JANUARY 18, 1989." That would get one's attention without a doubt!

Don Piper died in a horrible accident as he was returning home from the Baptist General Conference in Texas. He died instantly, and entered Heaven. Paramedics found no pulse. Even if they could, they were not allowed to move his body. They knew he was dead. Attention went to the offending trucker and other vehicles occupants, none of whom were badly injured. Don immediately found himself in Heaven. During the 90 minutes that Don spent in Heaven, a Baptist Preacher asked and was given permission to go where Don's body lay under a tarp to pray for him. He prayed and then sang. As he sang he became aware that another voice was singing...Don was alive! As the Preacher begged for Don to live, God granted his prayer.

The minutes, hours, and, yes, years it took for repair work on his human body were agonizing for him as well as for his family and friends. His spirits were broken as well, but by the Grace of God through many prayers of family and friends, he made it through one day - sometimes one minute - at a time. He told no one about his 90 minutes in Heaven until one day, he alluded to it to his dear friend, Cecil Murphey. It was Cecil who convinced him, and assisted him, to tell his story...and what a story it is! I am grateful to the person who suggested my reading it, and I hope you will feel the same.

Review by Sister Roberta Houlihan, C.S.J.



Music Review

O-ta, here we go.

Lets switch gears from my normal fare. The CD I will be reviewing is "Rodrigo: Complete Orchestral Works, Vol. 2," a classical piece by the Hispanic composer Joaquin Rodrigo (1901-1999). Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez* was the first truly successful modern work for solo guitar and orchestra. Its classical three-movement form is rooted in an atmosphere of traditional Spanish music and its famous *Adagio*

has undergone numerous arrangements. Rodrigo's *Fantasia para un gentleman*, written for Andres Segovia, the most influential guitarist of the twentieth century, is based on 17th century Spanish dances. The *Concierto Andaluz* was inspired by Andalusian folk-music written in 1967 (one of my favorite years for music) in response to a request from the Los Romeros guitar quartet. The performers are; Ricardo Gallen, guitar, the EntreQuatre Guitar Quartet & the Asturias Symphony Orchestra (conducted by Maximiano Valdes). This CD was recorded in Spain in 2001. Wow, really sounds like I know my stuff, doesn't it? The bottom line is, if you like classical guitar (with a Spanish flare) and classical music in general and you like your classical music a little on the adventurous side, I think you will like this one. It's very soothing music, without putting you to sleep (unless you want to go to sleep). Anyway, have some fun, take a chance, come on, go out and buy a copy of it. Remember, music is safe for the soul.

Your stuffy friend,
Don Kumpf

(I, your ever-curious publisher, found a website that allows one to listen to snippets of each selection on the CD...I really enjoyed all that I heard, however, I confess a couple selections were just a little too adventurous [for me] to use the aforementioned CD as background music while reading scripture. That said, I really liked what I heard and just might add the CD to my Christmas Wish List! ☺)

This-n-That

Handy links to use...

RBC Ministries <http://www.rbc.org/index.aspx>

FM 91.5 WCIC <http://www.wcicfm.org/>

WATCH <http://wearethechurch.com/index.html>

Relevant Radio www.relevantradio.com

EWTN www.ewtn.com/radio

Catholic Home Study Service
<http://www.amm.org/chss.htm>

St. Ann Church

<http://stannpeoria.com/index.cfm?active=1>

To submit something for consideration to be published in the newsletter, please e-mail it to St.Ann.WATCH@gmail.com or snail mail to:

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C/o St. Ann Catholic Church
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Never Too Busy for a Friend...

One day a teacher asked her students to list the names of the other students in the room on two sheets of paper, leaving a space between each name. Then she told them to think of the nicest thing they could say about each of their classmates and write it down. It took the remainder of the class period to finish their assignment, and as the students left the room, each one handed in the papers. That Saturday, the teacher wrote down the name of each student on a separate sheet of paper, and listed what everyone else had said about that individual.

On Monday she gave each student his or her list. Before long, the entire class was smiling.



"Really?" she heard whispered. "I never knew that I meant anything to anyone!" and, "I didn't know others liked me so much." were most of the comments.

No one ever mentioned those papers in class again. She never knew if they discussed them after class or with their parents, but it didn't matter. The exercise had accomplished its purpose. The students were happy with themselves and one another. That group of students moved on.

Several years later, one of the students was killed in Viet Nam and his teacher attended the funeral of that special student. She had never seen a serviceman in a military coffin before. He looked so handsome, so mature. The church was packed with his friends. One by one those who loved him took a last walk by the coffin. The teacher was the last one to bless the coffin. As she stood there, one of the soldiers who acted as pallbearer came up to her. "Were you Mark's math teacher?" he asked. She nodded: "yes." Then he said: "Mark talked about you a lot." After the funeral, most of Mark's former classmates went together to a luncheon. Mark's mother and father were there, obviously waiting to speak with his teacher. "We want to show you something," his father said, taking a wallet out of his pocket. "They found this on Mark when he was killed. We thought you might recognize it."

Opening the billfold, he carefully removed two worn pieces of notebook paper that had obviously been taped, folded and refolded many

times. The teacher knew without looking that the papers were the ones on which she had listed all the good things each of Mark's classmates had said about him. "Thank you so much for doing that," Mark's mother said. "As you can see, Mark treasured it." All of Mark's former classmates started to gather around. Charlie smiled rather sheepishly and said, "I still have my list. It's in the top drawer of my desk at home."

Chuck's wife said, "Chuck asked me to put his in our wedding album." "I have mine too," Marilyn said. "It's in my diary." Then Vicki, another classmate, reached into her pocketbook, took

out her wallet and showed her worn and frazzled list to the group "I carry this with me at all times," Vicki said and without batting an eyelash, she continued: "I think we all saved our lists."

That's when the teacher finally sat down and cried. She cried for Mark and for all his friends who would never see him again.

This is a true story that you can read more about at the link below.

<http://www.snopes.com/glurge/allgood.asp>

Someone e-mailed this story to me. It so touched me that I wanted to share it, especially during a period of time when so many people are hurting because of the enormous fallout from the economic downturn.

In a similar fashion, my challenge to each of you is to reach out to a friend or acquaintance with a note or e-mail to tell them the nicest thing you can say about them...your sentiments could very well be something treasured and saved by their recipient to be read and re-read during tough times as a reminder of their value and importance in the eyes of others.

May Your Day Be As Blessed As You Are Special...

Sheryl Vinovich

