

Sacraments: Weekend Masses: Sat. 7:00 PM; Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 AM; Holidays: 8:30 AM & 7:00 PM; Mondays-Fridays 8:30 AM. Confession: Before and after any Mass or any other time at the Rectory by appointment. Baptism of infants at Mass, the 2nd weekend of the month, inform the Pastor 6 months in advance & visit/be visited by both the Pastor & the Baptismal Couple [724-865-2966] before the reception of the Sacrament, for Baptism & Confirmation of teenagers & adults attend our RCIC/RCIA; for Marriage, meet the Pastor 6 months before the wedding; *Contact the Pastor for:* annulments, validations, blessings, counseling, spiritual direction, home Masses, registration of parishioners, sponsorship, letters of recommendation, Anointing & when you or a relative are ill or hospitalized.; *Movies Review.* 800-311-4222. *Bulletin Deadline:* Thurs. at noon. For time & location of Mass anywhere in US: www.massimes.org; or 1-410-676-6000; Catholic Network www.catholic.net; Pope: mc6778@mclink.it; Movies: uscbb.org/movies/index.h

Today's Readings: A prophet is rejected & we are hurting.

Ezekiel 2:2-5. The prophet confronts a humiliated, obstinate & rebellious Israel now enduring the Babylonian exile. He reminds his audience that God has not abandoned his people. He, Ezekiel, is Israel's living proof of God's concern, constancy & faithfulness to his people since He has sent him to them as his mouthpiece and has endowed him with the prophetic spirit. It's up to them now to either obey or resist God & his messenger.

Psalm 123. The author [he could stand for the collective Israel] has been the object of mockery, humiliation & contempt, yet he, standing around the temple, lifts up his gaze to heaven & relies on God's help like those servants who keep constant watch on any clue of their masters' kindness and generosity.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Paul has been privileged to experience 'private revelations'. But, to assure that his privileged treatment would not go to his head, Paul has also met with continuous afflictions & oppositions. Exhausted, Paul repeatedly petitioned God to spare him those aches. In reply, God has reminded him that his help will suffice. God seems to intervene best when we have nowhere else to go & when we cannot brag any more about our accomplishments. That's why Paul will readily accept persecutions, difficulties, afflictions, distress, set backs, disappointments & failures. At Gethsemane Jesus passed through a similar experience of total set-back & received from God a similar tough reply.

Mark 6:1-6. Jesus experiences disappointment & hostility from his relatives, co-villagers & from the leaders of Israel. Since none of them has faith in him, Jesus finds himself powerless. Religious indifference, skepticism & prejudice are religion's worst enemies. Whenever those characteristics are present, successful evangelization becomes hard. The early church met with plenty of religious prejudice, agnosticism and indifference among both the Jews & the Romans, yet they eventually converted the Roman Empire. During the next several years our parish, vicariate & diocese aim to re-evangelize themselves. Let's pray that ours may never be an attitude of neglect, indifference, put-down and prejudice.

Themes: What is our Christian reaction to being by-passed, disliked, put down, rejected, opposed? Discouragement, sense of failure, loss of self-esteem? We too encounter difficulties in working as God's prophets in a suspicious, indifferent, negative and cynical society. Hostility breeds endless roadblocks. Like Paul, we too experience various forms of 'thorn in the flesh.' 'When, who & what form do they take in our life & how do we handle them?' Our reaction should be: do our best, accept our weaknesses and failures and let God do the rest. God writes straight with our crooked lines.

Set me on my feet. The Scriptures are studded with lines easily converted into good one-line, carry-along prayers.

One such line appears today in the words of the prophet: "The spirit entered into me and set me on my feet" (1st reading). We turn it around and address it to the Holy Spirit: "Enter into me, Holy Spirit, and set me on my feet." How many times we could use such a prayer!

Recap of the town hall meeting held July 1, 2009. [from e-mail sent to the Rectory] In attendance were Pat & Barb Whalen, Janice Stahl, Marvin & Judy Grossman, Lois Basham, Jim Strange, Nicole Wilson, Tom & Mary Lou Kirin, Deacon Dave, Mike Visconti

The Pastoral Council has not operated properly for the last 3-4 years. There has been no quorum at the Pastoral Council meetings since January. As witnessed by recent events at St. Michael's and St. Peter's churches, change is inevitable. At this time of change, we need to have strong leadership if we are to remain a viable parish community. We need parishioners to stand forward and lead us through all the upcoming changes within the Diocese. One benefit we have is that a number of our parishioners have been involved in the pastoral council in the past. Their past experiences could certainly help in this process. At the next town hall meeting, we encourage anyone who is interested in being a potential pastoral member, to come to the meeting and understand what is involved. Job description of the members of Parish Pastoral Councils:

1. Actively seek information from the pastor, parish staff, and the parish at large regarding the pastoral needs of the parish community.
2. Assist in developing or reviewing the parish mission statement.
3. Advise the pastor in integrating the parish's goals and priorities into an ongoing pastoral plan.
4. Recommends flexible strategies which support the parish's goals and priorities.
5. Contributes to evaluate the progress in achieving parish's pastoral plan. Purpose of the Parish Pastoral Council is the welfare of the entire parish. This adds to the main purpose of earlier visions of "parish and parish committees' councils" which were mainly "activity" driven and functioned as a scheduling or coordinating body. At the core of the Parish Pastoral Council are each one's baptismal call and a sense of stewardship that challenges each person to use their gifts wisely and for others. The diocesan Lay Ministries Handbook focuses its work specifically on our "pastoral plan." The Parish Pastoral Council has a specific responsibility for the development of such a plan. Pastoral plans enable the members of the Parish Pastoral Council to share their views in a way that not only brings problems or concerns to the surface but also commits the parish to a plan to address them. Such a plan involves our commitment to the future of our parish. The pastoral plan provides a direction for the work of the parish in a time when pastoral leadership may change. Together with the pastor, the Parish Pastoral Council develops a pastoral, strategic plan. Some requirements are to play an active role in the Parish

plan, attend regular monthly scheduled pastoral council meetings and a monthly committee meeting. The goal would be to have this leadership in position for the start of the CCD year. Time shall be allotted to discuss this issue at the next town hall meeting. The second part of the meeting was to draft the following letter to be finalized at the next town hall meeting.

To the Reverend Vicar Philip N. Farrell: We, parishioners of St. Christopher Parish, wish our sincere congratulations on your recent appointment as Vicariate of our region. We pray that the Holy Spirit guide you as you face many difficult decisions ahead of you. The results of those decisions will require everyone in the region to change, adapt, be strong, forthright and committed to the success of the Universal church. Our Parish over the years has exhibited those same characteristics. Our stewardship has made our Parish vibrant, financially sound and appreciative of the hard work others have contributed towards the good of all our Parishioners. Because we have invested so much of our time and talents, we wish to convey to you our extreme want to remain an independent parish. We would embrace the opportunity to share with another parish certain ministries that we are weak in or vice versa. We hear rumors that some parishes may become mere worship sites. Though we are only a community of three hundred families, we are in fact a Parish family. Our location also is a factor in a closeness that we feel amongst one another. Though it would be our wish to have a dedicated pastor stay at our rectory, we realize this is selfish and not realistic given the scenarios at surrounding parishes. We would certainly welcome the idea of a retired Father Matthew maintaining his residence at the Rectory. He has led us for the past 25 years and is a significant member of both the Parish and individual families. We would have to maintain the Rectory regardless and would feel a lot more at ease if someone was living in residence for security reasons as well as a caretaker of the property. It certainly could accommodate another retired priest or visiting missionary. Besides, we all need our friends around in difficult times, to talk through crisis or share a laugh or good story. We welcome you to visit us and share your vision for the region and let us know how we assist you in moving the Diocese forward for years to come. May God grant you the wisdom to do what's right for the future of our Parishes in the region. Sincerely, The Parishioners of St. Christopher.
The next Town Hall meeting will be held Wednesday, July 29, 7 pm in the church hall."

+++

A prayer. When uncertain about the direction our lives are taking, about decisions we must make, pray, "Enter into me, Holy Spirit, set me on my feet." Point me in the right direction, help me read the signs. As the psalmist puts it, "Show me the way I should walk." When afraid, beset with anxiety and uncertainty, fearful for myself or for those I love, pray, "Enter into me, Spirit, prop me up, strengthen my weak knees, give me courage. Be my strengthener. When I lack confidence, doubt my ability, question my faith, pray, "Come, Spirit, enter into me, let me know that I am not alone, that you are with me, building me up where I am faltering. When I'm just plain lazy, repeat, "Enter into me, Holy Spirit, and give me a good shove. Light a fire in me and get me moving."

+++

Next Weekend's Readings: Am 7:12-15, Ps 85, Eph: 1:3-14, Mk 6:7-13.



+++

Bones found in Rome Tomb of Apostle Paul believed to contain remains of the Apostle Paul beneath the floor of Rome's Basilica of St. Paul outside-the-Walls (2006)

+++

Evidence points to authenticity of St. Paul's tomb ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)). The tomb of St. Paul may indeed contain the remains of the Apostle of the Gentiles. "A scientific analysis" conducted on the sarcophagus conserved in the basilica, seems to confirm the unanimous tradition that these are the mortal remains of the Apostle Paul." "A tiny hole was drilled into the sarcophagus -- which over many centuries had never been opened -- in order to insert a special probe, which revealed traces of costly purple colored linen fabric, laminated with pure gold and a blue fabric with linen filaments. Grains of red incense and protein and chalk substances were also discovered". "There were also tiny bone fragments, which were sent for carbon-14 testing by experts who were unaware of their origin. These belonged to a person who had lived between the first and second centuries." St. Paul is said to have been beheaded at Aquas Salvias -- where the Church of Tre Fontane was then erected -- while he was buried at the place where the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls now stands, and where two basilicas -- one ordered by Emperor Constantine and the other the so-called basilica of Emperors Theodosius, Valentinian II and Arcadius were constructed during the fourth century. During the reconstruction of the basilica, which had been destroyed by a fire in 1823, two marble plaques dating from the time of Pope Leo the Great (440-461), which contained the barely visible inscription "Paul the Apostle Martyr", were discovered beneath the altar. Between May 2 and Nov. 17, 2006 excavations were carried out that brought to light a marble sarcophagus 2.5 meters long and about 1.2 meters long, which rested on layer of clay floor dating from 390, the time during which the Constantinian basilica was expanded. The 'carbon dating'

tests run on the bone fragments found inside a stone sarcophagus discovered beneath the floor of the basilica, are from first or second century.

Daily Mass, our spiritual heartbeat. [By Rita Klarer for NCR]

Before the sun is up, a group of men and women start their day with rituals they have treasured for years. For some, their first cup of coffee is preceded by meditating on the scripture readings assigned for the day in the Roman Lectionary. For others it is just quiet time or a set routine of prayers. But this is preliminary to the main event, coming together at the local parish church for morning Mass. Some of them are at or beyond retirement age, so there is no need to watch the clock or worry about being somewhere else. Younger members of the group have come to accept this slower pace and say they find it restful, conducive to prayer. This group of people and this time of day are spiritual home base for the Pastor. His day also begins with personal prayer and reflection on the day's readings he will share with his small prayer community at Mass. When he was a seminarian at Missouri's Conception Abbey, Waris said he grew to love the morning Mass. It gave focus and meaning to everything else that happened that day. Over the years, the Mass became his communal prayer, on Sundays with the whole parish and with the small circle of faithful who attend Mass during the week. Though small in numbers, when they gather this group represents the entire parish. Personal needs and intentions give way to the prayer of the whole church, joined to the celebration of the Mass all around the world. After 47 years in the priesthood, the pastor is at home with this praying community. As pastor, he has shared every intimate aspect of their lives. He knows the common experience of aging and limitation as he stands at the altar. He has helped open his parishes to the larger world of concern for links to churches in China, Africa, Latin America and Europe. It all begins here, at the altar, where Word and Eucharist blend personal prayers with the needs of the world and where the death and resurrection of Christ are woven into the patterns of daily life. The community prays for loved ones, for those who are ill, in the hospital, for those absorbing the death of a spouse, a brother or sister. They share joys -- a birthday, a new grandchild, recovery from illness, good test results. No one in this faith community need face a crisis alone. If someone is having surgery, the group surrounds them with prayer and the Anointing. Daily Mass has become the quiet, steady spiritual heartbeat for everyone. As new parishioners or visitors discover this, they are welcomed warmly. On certain days, children come with their mom, an added bump in energy and joy for everyone. The future is here. If anyone is absent, others will check to find out why. When traveling or on vacation, members stay in touch by attending Mass elsewhere but admit that "it's not the same." The same Mass, but not the same sense of community. They return saying, "It's good to be home." One Mass-goer echoes the experience of so many others: "It's the best way to start my day."

Ps 118:5 *In my anguish I cried to the LORD, and he answered by setting me free.*
Ps 119:32 *I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free.*

Ps 119:45 *I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your precepts.*

Lk4:18-19 *The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

Jn 8:32 *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

Jn 8:36 *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

2 Cor 3:17 *Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

Galat 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.*

Ephesians 3:12 *In him [Christ] and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.*

Prayer on Independence Day: Dear Lord and Father. There is no greater feeling of liberation than to experience this freedom from sin that you have provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this I am deeply thankful. On this Independence Day I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that my freedom was purchased with a very high price. My freedom cost others their very lives. Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom. With favor and bounty meet their needs and watch over their families. Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today, and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing and loving you. Amen

Check if this list is of interest to you:

- * I have settled recently into this area and I am exploring this church.
- * I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- * I want to validate my marriage, get my annulment, be Baptized, receive Confirmation,...
- * I cannot register for the time being but send me the parish bulletin.
- * Some members of my family want-need to receive the Sacraments.
- * I want to prepare my children for the sacraments & Sunday school.
- * I need help in tutoring my children in the Faith.
- * I spend the winter away from....until....
- * I am a shut-in.
- * I am going to the hospital.
- * I have a special prayer request. Please, come to bless my house...
- * Other [describe].....

My name [print].....

Address.....

E-Mail.....

Phone:.....Cellular.....

Bring your friends e relatives back home to Jesus!

Our 'Capital Increase' P. Sh. un- assessed count ends 10/2009

Fiscal year's Offertory Budgeted for 2008-9 [July 1-June 30]	\$125,000
What we need weekly to match our offertory budget 2008-9	\$ 2,404
Total Offertory donation by envelopes of last weekend	\$ 1,653
Difference with our expected weekly budget 2008-9	\$ -751
# of pledges for Capital Campaign thus far [\$0.00 included]	141
# of adult Offertory envelopes received last weekend	59
Our 'Capital recoup' campaign aims by x/09 to reach	\$180,000
'Capital Recoup' down-payment received thus far	\$ 92,387
Increase in 'Capital Recoup' campaign from last weekend	\$ 125
Parish Share, Parish School, Cathedral assessments 2009	\$ 34,022
Parish Share 2009 down-payment thus far	\$ 24,151
# of pledges for Parish Share 2009 thus far	117

Last week's tithing: 59 Offertory envelopes: 2 \$150, 2 \$100, 1 \$80, 2 \$50, 4 \$40, 2 \$35, 6 \$25, 1 \$22, 12 \$20, 1 \$17, 7 \$15, 9 \$10, 2 \$7, 19 \$5, 2 \$3, 1 \$2, 1 \$1; donations: \$226; 20 env. Parish Share: \$1230; 5 env. Capital Campaign: \$125, Candles: \$14; Ladies Guild Bakeless Bake Sale: \$7; 42 env. Peter's Pence: \$449; donations: \$106; Campground: \$117.

Help us prepare our Parish calendar 2009-10: All parish coordinators, Councils, Guild, Men' Club, RCIA, Scouts, Associations, CCD Teachers, Parents' program, Ministries, coordinators of Social events, fundraisers, adult education, etc., as soon as possible, please, provide the rectory with your group's calendar of events for the year 2009-2010. We will merge your data, resolve scheduling conflicts of dates and places, contradictions, duplications, errors, etc. formulate and re-distribute through the Bulletin & web christophermoraine.org our new parish calendar.

Our Ladies Guild members convey their grateful thanks to everyone who donated to their "Bakeless Bakesale." The total collected now is \$591. Thanks so much for your support.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh is planning its annual Golden Wedding Celebration for the couples who have been married for 50 years. The celebration will begin with a mass at **St. Paul Cathedral on November 8, 2009 at 3:00 p.m.** Bishop Zubik will be the celebrant. A reception will follow in the lower hall at the Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 50th anniversary any time during 2009 and would be interested in attending this joyous event, please call the rectory or drop a note in the collection basket no later than August 23, 2009. Invitations will be sent out after responses have been received.

Local news: Social: **1)** Catholic Youth Day at Kennywood 7/7 (Tu) \$21.50, starts with Mass with Bishop Zubik at 11AM at Pavilion #5; call 724-935-4343 or email catholicyouthday@gmail.com. **2)** K of C, Spaghetti Dinner, 7/15 (W) 4-6:30P, \$7/adults & takeouts, \$3.50/youth 6-12, 724-287-5454. **Education:** **1)** St. Paul's, Glenn Hall, Unemployed Jobseekers Workshop Series, FREE, Starting 7/9 (Th) 7 sessions, Thursdays from 9-11AM, for questions & more info, call 412-861-0013 or email: info@c4ioe.com or go to www.c4ioe.com. **2)** Retrouvaille has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage, for confidential info or to register for the July program 7/10-12, call 412-277-3434 or 3041@retrouvaille.org **Health:** **1)** The 2009 Farmers Market Nutrition Program, provides eligible seniors with vouchers to purchase fresh

PA grown fruits and vegetables from participating farm markets, eligible consumers must: be aged 60 or older during 2009, live independently in Butler Co., have an income of less than \$20,036/single, and a combined income of \$26,955/married, for more info call 724-282-3008 or toll free at 1-888-367-2434. **2)** Spiritan Center in Bethel Park, A Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreat for post-abortion healing, 8/21-23(F-Su), to register or more info visit: www.ccpgh.org or call Catholic Charities at 412-456-6999. **3)** St. Vincent DePaul: plant an extra plant in your garden, and when your produce is ready, food bank volunteers will be available at St. Michael, school hall 432 Center Ave, Butler, donations will be accepted beginning 7/18 (Sa)-10/17(Sa) 8A-Noon, for additional info call Lew at 724-991-6094 **4)** St. Vincent DePaul in the Greater Butler Mart is accepting donations of your gently-used clothing, toys, household items etc.. M-Sa, 9A-8P, furniture and appliance pickup is available. **Worship:** St. Paul, Holy Hour for Peace, 7/13 (M) 7P, Rosary, Novena, and Benediction. .

Meetings: **1)** We run the Fireman's Food Stand at the Butler County Fair, 7/8 (W) 5-9P. **2) Men's** 7/14 (Tu) 6P.

Once again we are out of Mass Intentions; if you can help, drop your intentions in the collection basket or call the rectory. Can you thing of a more precious gift than a Mass?

Festival raffle tickets. Please, return the filled up stubs. Thus far, **822** paying tickets have been returned.

You can help our Festival by reporting to the Rectory if there are sales of the items we need and perhaps, by donating or by buying with your coupon one or more items on sale. We need a total of 16 cases [generally 4 regular of Coke & Pepsi; 2 Mountain-Dew & Sprite; 4 diet of either Coke or Pepsi or Mountain-Dew, 2 de-caffeinated, etc.], 2 cases of water. Also helpful are Festival cash donations, gifts of 15 large cans of applesauce, 2 regular and 4 decaf coffees. Needed for the festival's country store.-- any useful items that are serviceable and in good condition; home canned goods; gift baskets; hand-made crafts; fresh vegetables from your garden (picked up on the day of the festival). No books or used clothing please. Drop items off at the Rectory & mark them for the store.-- questions, call Stephen at 865-3283. Right now, we need volunteers to post Festival signs & sell raffle tickets. Please, drop your donations at the rectory. **Thank You** for donating 3 regular, 1 free Pepsi, 1 Sierra, 1 Mountain Dew cubes, and two cases of water for our Festival.

Our upcoming Festival: You don't want to be left out. Make sure there are no other projects on July 19 so you can attend. The more people, the more fun. Did you return the payment for the raffle tickets? Contact and bring along your entire family, neighbors and friends. Come hungry, thirsty, happy and ready to have and make others have fun. This year most prizes are Steelers' items. Look forward to having your family photographed with Ronald Mc Donald himself. Prepare in advance [Sat. & Sun. AM] your booth, have enough helpers for the 6 hours display, for the dismounting and storing of your items. We will see you there.

Select your days- hours to help: Festival preparation-Running-dismounting: July 17-19.

We have a vested interest in the success of our Festival. This success requires that we complete several tasks over the course of three days. Are you available & able to choose & complete any job from the list below next week?

+++

Pizza Festival Preparatory Jobs:

- Please, set the days & hours when you are available & able to attend to any job listed below.
- **July 17 Friday** 5 PM [*tents set-up*]
- **July 18, Sat.** [*Pizza Day x campus preparation*]
- **July 19, Sun AM** [*coordinators set-up their own booth*]
- **July 19, Sun.,** 11-5 [*run Festival booths & kitchen*]
- **July 19, Sun.** after 5PM [*dismount-clean-up*]
- **July 3-16:** Come to help with the preparations at any time or day if you are not available on 17-19 weekend.

+++

Other Festival jobs. *Most jobs can be attended by the entire family: kids & adults, men & women, friends, visitors. CCD students can count this as one of their sacrament-related 'parish projects'.*

1. Weed the flower-beds and around our bushes & trees.
2. Mow grass.
3. Drain daily the 4 CCD humidifiers
4. Set on the altar the large logo banner from the hall
5. Prepare the PFC & PPC text of commissioning
6. Decorate the sanctuary with evergreen pots.
7. Set order in our church storage areas and ministers' vestments.
8. Straighten up all the coat/alb hanging sets.
9. Make yourself available to shop for Pizza Day items.
10. Check all the exit/emergency lights/batteries.

Other Festival related jobs.

11. **Festival Coordinators** take responsibility for your set-up items & operation: recruit your helpers, substitutes, the condition of & the content of your area of work, number & cost of prizes, tables, chairs, tarp, electric extension cords, posters, signs, permits, etc. gross & net income, opening cash deposit, mounting & dismantling.
12. On Festival Day, cars of workers are parked at the Rectory & Mr. White Motors.
13. Distribute to workers chart on Festival detailed layout.
14. Set-up the remaining Festival/Feast highway signs.
15. Set-up booth/stands, platforms, canopies umbrellas, games, trash containers, posters, prizes, food & parking signs.
16. The Guild orders & attends to the pizza & sets out lunch for all our Sat. workers.
17. Test the conditions of festival equipment: motors, refrigerators, bingo, bathrooms, equipment for, hot dog machine, hot food ovens, the fans in loft, any burned out light bulbs.
18. Set up 16 cases of pop in refrigerators of the pole building.
19. Refill the Pop machine in the hall.
20. Set appropriate size trash bags for the hall, various food stands, near games, etc.,
21. Display the permit for bingo.
22. Set-up twenty 8-foot tables and 180 chairs needed,
23. Check our A) Festival signs, B) Content of prizes,
24. Set up PA systems for Bingo [from J. Strange].
25. Rope off 1) the Moore & Raisley's property line, 2) some games, 3) muddy areas 4) the sewage & water line

grassy area along the northern border; 5) entrance driveway along CCD-Church. If the ground is dry & hard, people can also park on the grass nearer the bingo.

26. Periodically remove trash bags & re-line the containers with new bags, secured them around the rims so they won't fall into the containers; avoid dragging full garbage bags along the CCD carpeted areas.
27. Trim the wild growth in front & around our four 8-by-4-foot signs: at Schaefer Trucks, at Lake Arthur Estate, at South shore underpass of #422.
28. Guild sets up the hall and starts cooking the dinner.
29. Umbrellas and tables needed for 1) face painting, 2) for snow cone machine,
30. Check the inside of refrigerators in hall & pole building.
31. Make with computer new price signs for games, refreshments, etc.
32. Maintenance coordinator checks assigned areas, for plumbing, electric, collect trash, parking, lift, the condition of the restrooms: paper towels and toilet paper receptacles.
33. Play the bell tower carillon regularly.

Festival Dismount.

34. Update Festival 2009 results & comments/suggestions
35. Clean the inside of the refrigerators in hall & pole building.
36. Wed. after Festival – the trash is dumped by us in trash collector truck. Provide \$10 tip
37. At the end of Festival coordinators reports on the remaining inventory of supplies & write comments.
38. Disassemble tents, canopies store in CCD attic & in the shipping container.
39. Mop the tiled areas like hall & bathrooms.
40. Dismantle/store PA systems, bingo machine [Container]
41. Remove/store highway signs attached on Penn-DOT sign posts of the parish (Rt. 488, 422, 19, 528, etc.)
42. Remove & store fluorescent sign at Rectory.
43. Store Festival ropes & extension cords, trash cans, folding tables, chairs [Container].
44. Our picnic tables are pushed to the center of pavilion
45. Transcribe, call & reimburse winners of prizes [Rectory]
46. Calculate results for our next bulletin [Rectory]
47. E-mail/mail/call to thank coordinators, workers, donors, entertainers [clowns], etc. [Rectory]
48. Return unused prizes to Distributor [Rectory garage].
49. Store in CCD attic, posters, mugs & key holder.
- Mail large Festival, maps & Mass schedule posters to the campgrounds.

+++

Our Fourth of July, commemorates the 1776 adoption of the Declaration of Independence from the King of Great Britain. By Jefferson's own admission, the Declaration contained no original ideas. These probably derived from the 1689 text of the British abdication of their King, by the writings of the English political theorist John Locke, by the Scottish Declaration of 1320 and the Dutch Act of Abjuration (1581). Pennsylvania and South Carolina voted against declaring independence. The New York delegation, lacking permission to vote for independence, abstained. Delaware cast no vote. The remaining nine delegations voted in favor of independence. John Adams wrote to his wife: "This day of July, 1776, ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It

ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more." In 1777, Philadelphia celebrated the 4th of July with an official dinner, toasts, 13-gun salutes, speeches, prayers, music, parades, troop reviews, and fireworks. Ships were decked with red, white, and blue bunting, a double ration of rum for the soldiers. It started as an unpaid holiday for federal employees. Independence Day is now associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, picnics, concerts, games, political speeches, ceremonies, celebrations of the history, government, and traditions of the United States. On that day, politicians appear at public events to praise the nation's heritage, laws, history, society, and people. Families host or attend picnic or barbecue and take advantage of the day off and the long weekend to gather with relatives, and sing patriotic songs. Every year at the beginning of July, the Rainbow Family gathers for prayer for World Peace and the event is referred to as *Interdependence Day* because its members go to live in primitive conditions by choice, in State Forests and rely upon one another. These participants pray, meditate, or are silent. Rainbow Gatherings are typically held in outdoor settings, and espousing and practicing ideals of peace, love, harmony, freedom and community, as a consciously expressed alternative to mainstream popular culture, consumerism, capitalism and mass media. Rainbow Gatherings are an expression of a Utopian impulse, with roots clearly traceable to the 1960s counterculture. Mainstream society is viewed as "Babylon," connoting the participants' widely held belief that modern lifestyles and systems of government are unhealthy and out of harmony with the natural systems of the Earth. The Gatherings have proven durable phenomena for 38 years.

+++



Earliest draft of Declaration in Jefferson's handwriting

+++

Will radical innovation save the Dutch church? [by ROBERT J. McCLORY for National Catholic Reporter]. On Sundays, a number of churches in Holland are packed with worshipers, elderly, middle-aged, a substantial representation of younger people, and families with children. So powerful is their music and singing and so involved the congregation, it is impossible not to be moved. Those Eucharistic Services do not look like something dying, as Catholicism in Holland is reputed to be. But in those churches the locally, lay appointed presider is not an ordained priest, he/ she does not consecrate. These churches of Holland are the places where some of the most dramatic innovations in Catholic practice in the past half-century have occurred simultaneously with one of the most precipitous drops in church membership in the Western world. This phenomenon is linked to four elderly Dominicans who have

mailed a 34-page booklet on "Church and Ministry" to all 1,425 parishes in the country. This booklet proposes that because of a serious shortage of priests, the time is at hand for parish communities to designate laypersons to preside at the Eucharist in place of priests. It declares that current church law, which bars women and married men from priestly service, stems from a "historically outdated philosophy of humankind and an antiquated view of sexuality." Similar declarations have come from reform-minded Catholics for years, but this latest booklet is particularly bold. Yet, no one can prove that the reformers' policies will reverse the decline of the Catholic church of Holland. The only faith that appears to be growing in that part of the world is Islam, whose immigrant adherents are approaching a million. The generation of those interested in changing the ministerial structures of the church is now dying; young people aren't interested." In the 1960s and '70s hopes were high. Those were the years when "the bishops went along with the rhetoric of renewal and modernization." But in 2003 the reformist Eighth Day Movement, which had once drawn thousands to its rallies and conferences, shut down for lack of interest. The enthusiasm is gone. The Dutch Dominicans who wrote the booklet on ordination of the laity are old and frail. Their booklet is their swan song. The priest shortage has brought into the light Schillebeeckx's theology "from grass-roots." The Dominican booklet is linked to that reformist approach an attempts to respond to the continually increasing number of parishes without priests. The proliferation of so-called "Word and Communion" services -- using pre-consecrated hosts and led by a lay pastoral worker -- has been growing throughout the Netherlands (630 such services in 2004 compared to 1,900 Sunday Masses that year). As it turns out, this compromise rituals are satisfactory neither to the hierarchy, who believe Catholics increasingly see these Eucharistic services as an actual Mass, nor for reformers. These would prefer laity to be empowered to be Eucharistic presiders. The hierarchy is aiming to reduce the number of these Word and Communion services, so that priests presides at every Eucharist. The price of course will be an increasing number of already exhausted circuit-rider priests, increased import of foreign priests and a steady trend of closed or merged parishes. Lack of changes will not be able to preserve Eucharist as the central act of the church. The Vatican has not approved the Dutch Dominican booklet.

+++

In search of the emerging Church in Cleveland [by Tom Roberts for the National Catholic Reporter] Anxiety has hung thick in the air around some Catholic leaders and groups who were either grieving or making plans to adjust to the news they had received: Of the diocese's 224 parishes, 29 would close, 41 would merge, 18 would be new parishes and a net loss of 52. The situation in Cleveland is an indications of the seismic shifts in demographics, structure, ministry and other fundamental elements operating in the local Catholic church. Here the church grew up with different expectations, fewer priests and a long legacy of having to improvise. When dioceses downsize and parishes are closed, members often compare the feeling to the loss of a loved one. People have emotional, historic, spiritual, connections for their parishes. The process used to determine which parishes were closed involved 69 clusters of parishes over the entire range of the diocese, with 753,255 Catholics spread over 4,414 square miles, eight counties and several urban areas including Cleveland and Akron. Of those 69 clusters 27 were given a mandate to close or merge a

certain number of parishes. Ten years from now, if the numbers of priests keep falling as is expected, will yet another reorganization be in order? The bishop wants every parish to have a resident priest, so in Cleveland, sharing a

priest/pastor or use of Pastoral Life Coordinators, or lay people given responsibility for a parish under commission by the bishop, apparently are not options at this point.

St. Christopher at the Lake, Prospect.

229 N. Franklin St, ph 724-865-2430; fx 724-865-1120; cuni@zoominternet.net; <http://users.zoominternet.net/~cuni> .

Next to Moraine State Park & Butler Fair Ground: at the crossroads of Rt. 422 & 528.

PARISH FESTIVAL

Sunday, July 19, 2009

Blessing of cars, trucks, bikes, boats, etc. after every Mass.

from 11 AM to 5 PM

Luxury **Dinner** [A/C]: Adults: \$ 8.50, Kids: \$ 4.00, [Under 5 free]
Chicken, Potatoes, Vegetables, Rolls, Dessert, Beverages.....

Country Store & Games

Games, Fast food, Refreshment Stand, Snow Cones, Raffle [permit #1959] **Prizes:** 1st) \$500.00 - 2nd) \$200.00 - 3rd) \$100.00, Bingo [permit # A980], Instant Bingo, Face Painting, Pick-A-Ticket, Baked-Goods, Plants, Flowers, Pittsburgh Sport Team Prize Items & Much More, Ample Parking, Shady Trees & Shelter.

Live Entertainment: Dances by Cloggers (2-3pm) - Ronald McDonald (3-5pm)

Welcome: parishioners, visitors, friends, neighbors !

{Everyone knows we offer the absolutely very best food anywhere, & assured sunny skies!}

We have elevator, are handicapped-friendly & air-conditioned !

Honor our 25th Festival with your presence !!!

100% of profit invested in St. Christopher's repair and improvement projects!

\$ 1.00 OFF (Limit 6 adult meals)

(\$8.50 regular price)

St. Christopher's - 229 N. Franklin St., Prospect, PA

Dinner - Sunday, July 19, 2009 - 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Call Steve 724-865-3283

