



Archdiocese of St. Mary

OLD ENGLISH CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Newsletter - Christmas, 2008



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It is continued blessings that our small Archdiocese continues to grow. Our Administrative offices continue at 880 Grand Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511; and on June 1, 2008 Archbishop John moved into a beautiful home on the New Haven/East Haven line. It is blessed with space enough for a small oratory (Chapel) where Mass may be celebrated, the Holy Eucharist kept in reserve as well as the Holy Oils.

Our web-site continues under construction, but has added some pictures of interest and each month or season; Archbishop John updates a message for thought and meditation. As before, this may be viewed at www.archdioceseofstmary.net.



The Most Rev. John P. Walzer D.D.

We have opened a new parish in Wallingford, CT., *Our Lady of Sorrows*, with Bishop Robert J. Burke, the Vicar. It is located at 107 South Cherry Street in Wallingford, CT. Bishop Robert may be reached at (203) 314-7545. The Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated each Sunday at 12:00 noon.

Through our prison Outreach Program, we continue to help those coming out of Connecticut's prisons in seeking employment, a place to live and sometimes, things as basic as clothes. We have, thanks to the generosity of SSGII, a "community" computer where the men may come in and search the internet for employment, making applications and setting up their own e-mail account while they get on their feet.



Archbishop John and Bishop Robert J. Burke were guests of Father Tom at St. Luke's in Ellington, CT for their seventh annual golf outing. Although some strong prayer was necessary in the morning to move the heavy rains on through, approximately 144 participants got to play eighteen holes at the beautiful Rolling Meadows Golf Course. A dinner followed that evening with prizes and awards resulting in a very successful day.

Catholic Radio International with its host and CEO, Jeff Gardner is working with Archbishop John for the production of a bi-monthly half-hour internet radio show called "On the Inside". As our Outreach program seeks to help and educate many of the disenfranchised, it is important that the public learns some of the myths of life behind the walls. Subjects such as "Abandon all hope ye who enter" to "Adopt a Prison" will be amongst the early shows.

We have added "Halo-Works" a California based ministry to our Web-Site and we encourage everyone to review their site at <http://halo-works.com> and shop their traditional Catholic gifts – many not found anywhere else. We ask your prayers as well for their support and success.

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DIOCESE OF OUR SAVIOUR—
SEDE VACANTE

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Our Lady of Sorrows—Wallingford, CT



Archbishop John
Sanctuary of Our Lady of Sorrows



Bishop Robert
Sanctuary of Our Lady of Sorrows

Christmas Thoughts

On November 30, 2008 we will begin the Catholic Church's New Year. This is the liturgical season of Advent. This is one of the most joyful seasons of the church calendar. However, with this season we find many who are alone, with not only fond memories but with not so fond memories of times past relating to Christmas. Perhaps you have lost a loved one through death, or experienced a family feud at this time in the past, and this shrouds the season for you with ill will towards others and feelings of guilt on your own behalf. Many have bad memories of a church related experience, and during this season it is compounded by feelings of anxiety from not being able to see dear family and friends, and the possibility of having to see those we see only at this time of the year. Many of us run up high credit card bills to impress family and friends and this adds to our psychological turmoil. Perhaps your heart and mind are being tossed like the winds of a storm with all the concerns that normally accompany this season. What you need is peace in your heart and mind, and closure to old hurts. Prayer and meditation will help to calm these storms you are experiencing if only you ask the Holy Spirit into your life. Remember how Jesus calmed the fear and trepidation that the Apostles were experiencing on the raging sea in Matthew 8.28

-34. Jesus said to the Apostles why are you fearful, you of little faith. Then Jesus ordered the sea to be calm and it became completely calm. Do you not think one who could control all of creation even a raging storm at sea, could not calm and control the storms in your life? Ask Jesus back into your life, end the past feuds bury the past and start anew. Come home to a catholic church that will not judge you. The only question we at Our Lady of Sorrows will ask you is how we can help you. Make this truly a Merry Christmas, call a loved one you haven't seen in a long time and tell them you are sorry for whatever it is that has separated you from one another. Accept an apology from someone you believe has hurt you irreparably. Jesus is incapable of hate and forgives infinitely. With Jesus in your heart you too will be incapable of hate, and will always be willing to forgive.

Merry Christmas,
The Most Rev. Robert J. Burke
Vicar, Our Lady of Sorrows

ARCHBISHOP'S MESSAGE

Sinful Humanity: The starting point for God's action.

Through the years of our Prison Outreach Program, I have learned that certain promoters of human justice see the "sinner" as a stubborn, unredeemable brute, someone to be punished. Period! I use the biblical word "sinner" for the one who is often called "delinquent" both because of its actual meaning of "one who deviates or skids" and also because it is a definition of humanity in which all of us recognize ourselves.

It is time that each of us may experience an instinctive and primal sense of rejection when confronted with people who have, for example, killed, who are salespersons of death, who use violence against innocent people, who have robbed an older person. How are we going to be able to see in those individuals the sacred image of divinity? Evil has stained and disfigured and lacerated them.

However, it is here that we are called to a more correct understanding of the scriptural message and not simply to an initial, optimistic acceptance of it. Time and time again, the impiety and injustice of this individual is described in the human drama narrated in the bible: from Adam to David, from Solomon to Herod to Pilate.

There is no crime committed by human beings who is not described in the Bible, and described not as a final, irreparable stage of human degradation but as a starting point for God's rehabilitative action.

This is so because God "does not desire the death of a sinner but that he be converted and live." The reality is, that Christ took our human nature so as to be able to come to the aid of those who are tempted (Heb 2:18). Christ can feel just compassion for those in ignorance and error. Most importantly, Jesus said openly and often in the Gospel that He came into the world not for the just, but for the sinners, not for the healthy, but for the sick and those needing a doctor. He said that He had come to seek out and save the lost (Mt 9:12-13; Lk 19:10; 1 Tim 1:15).

Finally, Jesus founded His church to be a Mother and a refuge for sinners!

Come back to prayer – come back to the sacraments – come back to Church!

The Most Rev. John P. Walzer, D.D.



WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Church attendee wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor.

It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: I've been married for 30 years now. In that time, my

wife has cooked some 2000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals, But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing....God is UP to something!
Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

VISIT OUR WEB SITE
WWW.ARCHDIOCESEOFSTMARY.NET




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