

Strona Proboszcza

The Pastor's Page

June 17th, 2007

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time & Fathers' Day

Rev. Mark A. Borkowski

Month of the Sacred Heart

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Niech będzie pochwalony Jezus Chrystus!

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Dear Parishioners & Friends of Sweetest Heart of Mary,

Happy Fathers' Day to all readers of our bulletin! In a certain way I feel as if I too might participate in this national observance though I have not brought new life into the world in the natural way. I am too young to be a grandfather. I am not a step-father, or a father-in-law. I am not even a god-father! And yet in the English language Catholic priests are called father. It is interesting to note that this is not so in all other languages. In Polish for example a priest is always referred to as *ksiądz* which is translated priest. Even monsignors, bishops and cardinals are still referred to as priests in their titles; *ksiądz prałat* – monsignor, *ksiądz biskup* – bishop, *ksiądz kardynał* – cardinal.

In order to be a father there must be children. You are my children although at this point most of you are still older than I am but I see this ratio is changing! I good father always tries to do what is best for his children even if this is not what is easiest or most convenient for himself. Sacrifices must be made for the family and fathers and mothers are the ones who make the greater part of them. This is part of the vocation to be a parent, to be a father!

When babies are baptized parents and god parents are asked "are you ready to do everything necessary to make certain this child grows up knowing and practicing the faith?" In my opinion this is THE most intense part of the ceremony of baptism. Of course the pouring of water is the most dramatic, but what an awesome thing it is to ask a man and a woman to promise before God and all present that they will literally exhaust themselves to the end of their human strength to insure this religious education and formation in the faith takes place. This is the noble vocation of being a father or a mother. It is not a job. There is no pay. In fact there is not enough money in the world to buy what is freely given in parenthood. God calls one to be a father or a mother. It is a vocation. For most of society this is the most important task that you will undertake in this life. Being a parent continues until one dies. And because this is a vocation, something God calls a person to, as their mission in life, this is the most important work of one's life to be concerned about. We will all be judged by how well we lived out the vocation God has given us.

And so... being your father, in a spiritual way, is what my life is all about. I am trying hard to do what's best for you not only because I care deeply about each one of you but because the salvation of my immortal soul depends on it! Happy Fathers' Day to all of us Fathers. May we NEVER stop trying to do the absolute best for our children!

***Thursday, June 21st – Feast of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga – Jesuit Novice
Patron saint of youth and those dying from AIDS***

“Poland in September Y’goin?”

In September a group from Sweetest Heart of Mary and anyone else who is interested will be visiting Poland for nine days. We will leave Detroit on Wednesday, September 19th and be staying in the cities of Warsaw, Częstochowa and Kraków, but will also be visiting the cities of Toruń, Zakopane and Wadowice. Poland is **THE** perfect vacation place because anything a person could want is there, natural beauty, historic cities, palaces, cathedrals museums, mountains, sandy beaches, amazing forests and so much culture, tradition and history. If you are of Polish descent and remember your ancestors speaking lovingly of their homeland Poland and you have never been to this wonderful place, **NOW IS YOUR CHANCE** to get in touch with your roots! Two groups have visited Poland from our church in recent years. These visits were unforgettable. The highlight of both trips has been Masses that were celebrated for our group at Częstochowa before the icon of the Black Madonna. Most folks who went remarked they never dreamed Poland would be such a wonderful country and learned so much about authentic Polish culture. They returned home even prouder of being Polish. If you do not speak the Polish language, do not fear in the slightest. A translator will be with you all the time. You will learn so much on this trip and authentic Polish cuisine will surprise and delight you! Going on this trip will enrich your life in so many ways I cannot list them all, but I assume you it will be an experience you will never forget. More information can be found elsewhere in this bulletin.

Note: The deadline for booking this trip is the end of June!!

Never Miss Sunday Mass Wherever You May Travel! Go to

<http://www.masstimes.org>

Congratulations on Your First Holy Communion

Last Sunday on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Miss Zoey Nokomis Kuśpa received her first Holy Communion in our church at the 10:30 AM Mass. Zoey is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Kimberly Kuśpa (Romanski). Zoey is eight years old and was baptized in 1999 at Sacred Heart Church in Detroit by Fr. Norman Thomas. Zoey has been very helpful by participating in the life of the parish by crowning our statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in May and in carrying the figure of the infant Jesus in the Christmas procession. Her family has been very generous in running the kid's games booth during the festival for the last two years. Mr. Kuśpa is the Vice President of Meyto Produce, Inc. located in the Eastern Market. His company has generously devoted almost all of the produce used for the dinners during our annual pierogi festival in August. The Kuśpa family joined our parish in 2005 and resides in Southgate. We all rejoice with Zoey, Kim and Joe on this important and happy occasion and we express our sincere thanks for their very active and generous involvement in our parish!