

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RITE OF ENROLLMENT Confirmation II students, with their sponsors, will participate in the Rite of Enrollment this Sunday during Mass at St. Matthew Church and Our Lady of Grace Chapel. They will declare before their parish family that they desire to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please keep these candidates in your prayers as they journey to reception of the sacrament: Mackenzie Adams, Brandon Allard, Gabriella Alvino, Michael Bancroft, Ashley Boule, Alejandra Chapman, Nicholas D'Ambruoso, Rebecca D'Ambruoso, Annie D'Elia, Joy Edwards, Matthew Haskell, William Horan, Brittany Irish, Emily McArthur, Amanda Morrison, Byron O'Donnell, Mariah Prince, Jacob Quinn, Nicholas Reisert, Michael Sampson, Victoria Ann Santry, Brittany Silva, Maryanna Swanson, Kathleen Towne, Shannon Tucker, Jr., and Haley Lynn Turmel.



ANNUAL ST. AGNES FEAST DAY DINNER

Please join us on Saturday, January 23, after the 5:45 Mass in St. Agnes Parish Hall for our Annual St. Agnes Feast Day Dinner. The Women of St. Agnes will be preparing the dinner, but if anyone would like to contribute a dessert that would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up on the sheet at the entrance of the church. Hope to see you there!! Any questions, please call Elena Worrall 744-0105.



Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, (wouldn't it be more fun if the Pats were playing?!) to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and

canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice. Since this idea began in 1990, \$10,373,401 has been collected nationwide. Our Confirmation students will participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring the weekend of February 6-7. They will be asking you to put \$1 (or more!) into a soup pot after each Mass. Students will also collect nonperishable food items. All proceeds and food items will go directly to Bristol Community Services and Plymouth Area Community Council (both local food pantries) for the ongoing needs of our communities.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

begins Monday, January 18, and continues through Monday, January 25. The theme for 2010 is "You Are Witnesses of These Things" (Luke 24:48). Begun in 1908, these days have been set aside each year so that Christians the world over may share the prayer of Jesus: "that all may be one... that the world may believe" (John 17:21).

Newfound Area Churches will celebrate with a special prayer service this Sunday, January 17 2010 at Hebron Union Congregational Church at 3:00 PM. All are invited to attend.

Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform! Protect Conscience Ensure Affordable Health Coverage Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic Bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.
- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.
- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.
- These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants' access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed.

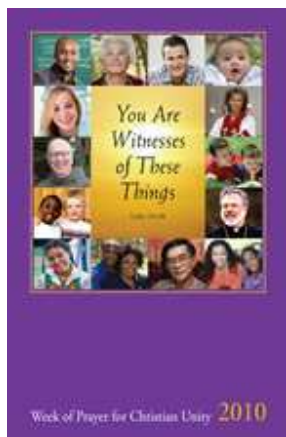
ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress, go to www.usccb.org/action.
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

To stay informed about public issues of concern to NH Catholics, visit: www.catholicnh.org/fcnews.

PARISHIONERS GIVE GENEROUSLY TO CLERGY RETIREMENT FUND

The second annual collection in the Diocese of Manchester to support diocesan retired priests has raised \$293,284 since it was held in parishes the weekend of September 26, 2009. This compares to \$304,681 raised through the same period a year ago. The trust fund is also funded by an assessment to each parish in the diocese. Given the state of our local economy, and the fact that there are many parishioners unemployed or underemployed, the success of this year's collection speaks loudly to the deep giving spirit of New Hampshire Catholics. The clergy and laity continue to offer strong support for our beloved retired priests. Bishop McCormack and the Fund trustees are truly grateful for your generosity.





FROM THE PASTOR'S DESKTOP PARISH SURVEY

I would like to express my appreciation and that of the parish leadership for your thoughtful, affirming, and helpful comments in response to the recent parish survey. About 135 parishioners/families took the survey. That percentage of participation is rather good, statistically speaking. We realize the timing was not the best, but we wanted to get the planning process rolling.

The leadership has reviewed the data and is taking the input into account as we move forward. In fact we spent all day last Saturday organizing a plan of action. So stay tuned.

LENTEN PROGRAM – DISCIPLES IN MISSION

This Lenten season, Holy Trinity Parish is initiating **Disciples in Mission**, a three-year Lenten community experience, designed to draw us closer to Jesus, to carry His message of love into the world by our deeds as well as words, and to strengthen our commitment of service to both our God and each other. Additionally, through our prayerful participation, we can grow in holiness: grow closer to Jesus and to each other as we renew our faith. **Disciples in Mission** is an opportunity to bring Christ's presence consciously into all parts of our lives and to learn more about our rich Catholic faith.

Over the next few weeks you will hear and read more about **Disciples in Mission**. Briefly, it is a Gospel-based program designed by the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PCNEA). Over 2000 Parishes in 34 Dioceses have shared this inspirational spiritual growth experience, to learn about God's Word and be more comfortable sharing it.

Disciples in Mission participants share in six, weekly, ninety-minute-long, small group meetings through Lent. Groups of from seven to 10 people will meet at various times and in different locations throughout the Parish area and will be facilitated by parishioners who have received special training to do so. In addition, participants will receive **Disciples in Mission** guide booklets to assist them on their journey.

The small group meetings are based on the Lenten Sunday readings. They offer thanksgiving and praise to God, they help us to share our faith, and they provide a time of fellowship with other Christian brothers and sisters.

Everyone in the Parish – people of all ages – are invited to be part of the Disciples in Mission program. Small groups for teenagers are already being formed in the Faith Formation classes at the Ashland campus. **Disciples in Mission** will also provide fun activities for families to share at home. As you become more informed about the program, please prayerfully consider your participation in this special way to observe the Lenten season.

So, how do you get involved? **On the weekends of January 24 and 31, "Sign up Sundays"** will be held at all Masses at each campus. When you register for **Disciples in Mission** you will be invited to specify times and locations most convenient for you, and every effort will be made to direct you to a group meeting at a time and a location in the Parish area that is convenient to you. Members of the **Disciples in Mission** Parish Leadership Team will be on hand to answer questions and assist you in signing up. If you have questions, or want additional information, please do not hesitate to approach me, or

members of the Leadership Team. Members of this team are Alan and Ginny Arsenault, Ken and Joan Bergstrom, Peter and Kathryn Drexel, Tony Fitzherbert, Dave Gravel, Elena Worrall and myself.

I look forward to your active participation in **Disciples in Mission**.

ESTATE PLANNING & WILLS

If you have a will, don't forget to update it. Our lives change and our financial circumstances alter. Frequently, all you need to do is add an inexpensive codicil. You may also choose to leave a gift to support Holy Trinity Parish.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What can you do this week to help make someone's job a little easier, as Mary did at Cana?

BULLETIN CONNECTION

The vineyards of California, Chile, and Australia, as well as those of France, Italy, Spain, and Germany vie with one another for the designation of the best wines. Thousands, even millions, of dollars are at stake for the winning appellations. Of course Jesus wasn't interested in gold medals or marketing opportunities when he changed water into wine at Cana in Galilee, no matter how good the headwaiter may have thought the wine. The purpose of the first sign (miracle) that Jesus performed was to reveal his glory to his disciples, who then began to believe in him. Jesus reveals himself today as well. He doesn't show up at a wedding feast with some water jugs ready to do a miracle. Instead, he shows up in the actions of Christians, through what we do and say each day. Jesus will continue to reveal himself when we act like him.



St. Agnes

On Thursday, January 21, we will celebrate the feast of St. Agnes with morning Mass at St. Agnes Church in Ashland. The martyrdom of this noble teenage girl took place in Rome around 305, toward the end of Diocletian's persecution. Agnes proclaimed her faith and was condemned to death, first by burning, then by decapitation. Her courage has been an inspiration ever since her death. St. Agnes is one of the first women venerated in the Church's hierarchy of saints, and in the decades after her death, Agnes's tomb became a place of pilgrimage.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Many men and women have been honored with titles, monuments, celebrations, and speeches. The people we honor with national holidays speak to the character of our country and the values we hold. Our founding president, George Washington, and the great "Emancipator," Abraham Lincoln, share a holiday. Those who served their country in the armed forces share another. And in January, we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. whose life was characterized by the struggle for equality for all citizens of this nation. That we honor those who preserved our freedom—our veterans—and one who worked to ensure that everyone could enjoy the benefits of a free society shows the strength of our commitment to the principals of life and liberty that our founders sought to ensure for all citizens of our land.