

Christ in Exile

Agitated by a dream
 Risking all in desperate search of safety
 The FAMILY
 Dares to cross foreign borders

Uninvited.

Fleeing Bethlehem in ancient Palestine or new
 Seeking shelter for his wife and newborn child
 What father would refuse to scale a wall
 If it meant they might live in peace some day?

And yet, can anything good come from Darfur or Juarez?

Can the Messiah be red or yellow or brown or black
 Or even white?

Christ daily risks his life to enter unwelcome, unwanted
 Undocumented, yes even uninvited,
 into our complacent midst.

His presence deeply disturbs our illusion of peace.

Faithful followers look for a cross without cost
 Or discipleship without pain.

He asks for sacrifice;
 We offer our reasons why not.

Each time "one of them" dies trying
 He dies again
 who came to destroy the divisions between us.

He comes to challenge our right to call ourselves
 "Christian."

Christ the Exile, the Outsider, the Unemployed, the Alien
 Dares to defy our laws with his demand

For Sanctuary

Joseph R. Veneroso, M.M.
 MARYKNOLL MAGAZINE
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Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

I was speaking to several people about Sacred Heart Parish recently and said to them that I was deeply and humbly moved by the faithfulness of those who have remained loyal to the parish through thick and thin. This Christmas has reaffirmed my sentiments. You are the greatest!

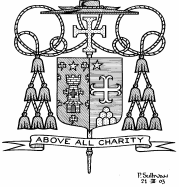
I would like to thank all those who made Christmas so beautiful; first of all, to all of you who generously contributed to the support of our parish. Around \$11,000.00 was collected during the Christmas weekend. A complete figure will be in next week's bulletin. How generous you have been. Secondly, I wish to thank Colleen Golnik for the beautifully decorated Church. Your flower donations were phenomenal. With only 3 and one half hours to reset the Church from the Advent environment to the Christmas environment, she did yeoman's work at nearly the speed of light. Thirdly, I wish to thank all of the liturgical ministers who volunteered to help during the Christmas Masses. Fourthly, I wish to thank Ernie Golnik and all the cantors (and in a special way, Helena Daly) for leading us in song for Christmas. Fifthly, I offer a great big thank you to those who spent time stuffing envelopes for mailing. We had fun and accomplished a lot in a short time. Finally, I wish to thank those who donated the chalices which I will have inscribed and hopefully they will be used for the Feast of Epiphany.

You are wonderful people. I appreciate all you do for the parish and for the ministries of the parish. May the Lord bless you 100-fold.

I pray that you have a very happy, healthy and holy 2007!

Father Spau

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



Office of the Bishop
201 Broadway
Norwich, Connecticut 06360
(860) 887-9294

MOST REVEREND
MICHAEL R. COTE, D.D.

Dear Father Szczapa:

I wish to thank you and the parishioners of Sacred Heart for **surpassing your Parish Goal** for the 2006 Annual Bishop's Appeal. Your response to Our Lord's call to stewardship reflects the deep faith and love of your parish community.

Through Sacred Heart's support of the 2006 Annual Bishop's Appeal, the Diocese of Norwich lightens the burden of those who are greatly in need of our assistance. It is through acts of charity such as these that we bring the compassion of Jesus and hope of a brighter future to those who suffer most.

I have great pride in the people of this Diocese for their continued support of the Annual Bishop's Appeal and I acknowledge again your commitment to the Family of God by embracing your brothers and sisters in need.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Bishop of Norwich

readings for the week

Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/ Jn 1:29-34
Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Jn 1:35-42
Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Jn 1:43-51
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

**attention:
all faith formation classes & youth group**

Because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, Faith Formation classes and Youth Group will not meet on:

Sunday, December 31 Wednesday, January 3

Classes and Youth Group will meet again on Sunday, January 7 or Wednesday, January 10 at their regularly scheduled times.

youth group

Some members of the Youth Group will help to prepare and serve lunch at Cornerstone on Saturday, December 30th. We will leave the church parking lot at 9:50am. Questions? Please contact Rella.

interested in a vocation in the church?

Anyone interested in discerning a vocation in the Church is welcome to attend a gathering that will be held in Bishop Hines Conference Room at the Chancery (201 Broadway, Norwich) on Friday, January 12, 2007 at 6:00pm. The gathering will begin with an informal dinner, prayer, and discussion on topics related to the Church.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Annette in the Vocation Office (860-887-9294) for more information and/or to make a reservation. You may also contact her by e-mail at voc.sec@norwichdiocese.net

echs make-up exam

East Catholic High School's Make-up Entrance Exam will be given on Saturday, January 20 at 8 a.m. to eighth graders who were unable to take the Dec 2 exam. No pre-registration is required. Students may bring to the exam the non-refundable fee of \$20 in cash, check or money order made payable to ECHS to cover the cost of the exam. For questions please call Ms. Gryphon in Admissions at 649-5336 x238

thank you

Sacred Heart Parish Family and Vernon Manor Ministry Team,

Your kind expression of sympathy
and friendship will
always remain in our memories
Thank you for your thoughtfulness

The Dang Family
Van Nguyen
74 Neill Rd, Vernon

the work of the church

SATURDAY 5:00pm	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Mass: <i>Anthony Lumbruno</i> , requested by his family
SUNDAY 8:00am	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Mass: <i>For All Those In Whose Memory Christmas Flowers Were Given</i>
10:30am	Mass: <i>Henry Jakielo</i> , requested by Sophie & Frank Scarlato (Babysitting is available during 10:30am Mass)
SUNDAY - 5:00pm	THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE Mass: <i>John J. Daly, 2nd Anniversary</i>
MONDAY 10:30am	THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE Mass: <i>Mitchell Szapa</i> , requested by his aunt, Helen Jakielo
TUESDAY 9:00am	BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN Mass: <i>Peter Pozzato</i> , requested by his wife, Angie Pozzato
WEDNESDAY 9:00am	HOLY NAME OF JESUS Mass: <i>Angela Fornabi</i> , requested by Marie Whitham
THURSDAY 4:30 – 6pm 7:00pm	ELIZABETH ANN SETON Sacrament of Reconciliation. Living Room Mass: <i>Gaspere Davia</i> , requested by his wife, Maria
FIRST FRIDAY 9:00am	JOHN NEUMANN Mass: <i>For the People of the Parish</i> , Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows all day until
5:00pm	Close of Adoration
SATURDAY 5:00pm	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Mass: <i>Kostas Stojos</i> , requested by the Sacred Heart Parish Family
SUNDAY 8:00am	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Mass: <i>For All Those In Whose Memory Christmas Flowers Were Given</i>
10:30am	Mass: <i>Edward Simcoe</i> , requested by Art Martineau (Babysitting is available during 10:30am Mass)

meetings

SATURDAY 7:00pm	Youth Group at Cornerstone Narcotics Anonymous* , Northeast Rooms
SUNDAY NO	Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass Faith Formation – Lev 1 – Conf Prep or Youth Group
MONDAY	Offices Closed
TUESDAY	Offices Closed
WEDNESDAY NO	Offices Closed Faith Formation
8:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous* , South Community Rooms
THURSDAY 10:00am	Bible Study , South Community Rooms
4:30 – 6pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation. Living Room
7:45pm	Intercessory Prayer , Eucharistic Chapel
8:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book* , South Community Rooms
SATURDAY 7:00pm	Narcotics Anonymous* , Northeast Rooms
SUNDAY 9:10am	Good Fellowship & Tasty Goodies after Mass Faith Formation – Levels 1 – 5
6:30pm	Faith Formation Level 6 – Confirmation Prep
7:45pm	Youth Group

* Note: *Alcoholics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book and Narcotics Anonymous* are not part of and not acting on behalf of the parish or Diocese