

BULLETIN -- AUGUST 1-2

Thank you!! To all who participated in any way in our Mom's funeral, my sister, Diane, and I and our whole family extend our sincere thanks. Many of you had participated in Mom's **life** as well, enjoying her company, visiting her, chatting with her at church when she was still able to be with us. It was a great sendoff on Monday, July 20. Our bishop and priests, the servers, the sacristans, Mrs. Saladino and the choir, the Knights as ushers and greeters, the Good Grief Girls and Chef Billy K. who served us our main meal of the week☺, our parish staff who so ably and deftly took care of innumerable details of setup and management, all who have had Masses offered, made memorial gifts, sent notes and words of hope and comfort -- to all of you, I extend our sincere thanks, appreciation, and promise of continuing prayer.

And thank you some more!! Your generosity to the CSA has been complemented by some major gifts, enabling the Diocese to send us an initial rebate check of **\$62,931.69**. Yes, dear parishioner, that is the amount over and above our target for this year which has already been donated by you and your fellow members. Now, if you've not yet fulfilled your pledge, or not yet made a CSA gift, don't think that this good news lets you off the hook. Can you imagine coming before God on judgment day and being able to say only, "I think I once had some generous fellow parishioners"? How far would that get you? The same thing is true here. The big difference is that now, any contribution you make to this year's CSA is guaranteed to wind up right back here at the parish to sustain the support of our students in Catholic schools, to help the schools themselves, to enable us to do lots of wonderful outreach with our Christian service funds, to attend to various repairs and improvements, and to ensure that we have quality educational opportunities in our Catholic faith here at the parish. These are all great forms of witness to Christ and his gospel for all those in this mission territory of ours. Your fellow parishioners have made the leap of faith and given far in excess of our diocesan target. Don't let them do the heavy lifting alone.

And some more . . . Sincere thanks to all who worked on our Vacation Bible School this year, to Barb King, our VBS chief, and to all her trusty band of volunteer workers, teachers, musicians, group leaders, aides, and chefs You have once again outdone yourselves, hosting as many as 100 children per day. Congratulations on another fine job! And thank you to ALL for your support.

Abortion: the diabolical business. Steven Ertelt reported on LifeNews.com on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, a stunning videotaped interview with Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior director of medical services for Planned Parenthood Federation of America. In it, she discusses the sale of the body parts of aborted children, and admits that she uses partial-birth abortions to supply intact organs. On the videotape, Nucatola admits that Planned Parenthood charges a per-specimen amount for baby body parts, uses illegal partial-birth abortion procedures in order to get intact parts to sell, and takes steps to cover up their own liability.

"I'd say a lot of people want liver," the doctor states matter-of-factly, while she munches on her lunch. "And for that reason, most providers will do this case under

ultrasound guidance, so they'll know where they're putting their forceps. The kind of rate-limiting step of the procedure [i.e., what can drive the monetary benefit down] is calvarium. Calvarium--the head--is basically the biggest part. . .

“We've been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not gonna crush that part, I'm gonna basically crush below [the pelvis and legs], I'm gonna crush above [the head], and I'm gonna see if I can get it all [the torso and internal organs] intact.”

Seeing and hearing this grisly interview recalled for me the chilling experience of reading a 1940's letter from the file of a German industrial firm found in the papers of one of the Nazis who engineered the Holocaust. The letter was obviously written by an efficient secretary on business stationery. It described how the ovens designed by the firm were perfect for cremating large numbers of corpses in a very short time, and how their product was vastly superior to that of any of their competitors. What were and are such people thinking? How easy would it be for them to do the same things to you or your family members?

Perhaps you object to having a parish bulletin contain such horrible accounts. As a pastor, I am compelled to present such information to you when I see it, because so many of us have become so casual about what some organizations are really about. Planned Parenthood pretends to be so genteel, so *caring*, so devoted to “women's health issues,” that many Catholics are lulled into complete moral complicity with the corporation's evil schemes. Politicians whom I shall not bother to name here -- you should be able to guess who they are -- are delighted when they are invited to address and encourage the membership. And on occasion, I read or hear of Catholics who, either because they have rejected their Catholic faith or are incredibly and culpably naïve, support and even work for Planned Parenthood.

The moral decline of our country will continue as long as good, religious people continue to turn a blind eye to the genuine evil being perpetrated in our midst, often with the help of our tax dollars. It DOES matter for whom you vote, it DOES matter what party platforms are, and it DOES matter when you don't exercise your responsibility as a witness to Christ to participate in any and every election. Too many people are in office today because too many other people said it wouldn't matter. So, if you have an election coming up on August 4, get out and vote. If you don't think that a primary vote for mayor matters, remember the remark our incumbent mayor made on May 10, 2012, when he referred to pro-life believers as “the forces of darkness.” Oh, did I mention that the mayor is the former local board chairman for Planned Parenthood, and that his words were spoken to much applause while he gave the keynote address at the organization's fundraising lunch? He later apologized to people who were offended, but it's easy to see what power a local politician has to either reform or to reinforce the moral climate of a community. VOTE!!! VOTE!!! VOTE!!! God bless you!

Fr. Den

Thought for the week: “Get the idea out of your head that after you cross the half-century mark, the days of your life are declining, or that your steps are becoming shorter and slower. Just think about how little you have done and about how much more

you can do, because no one else is going to do it” (Balys Buračas, 1897-1972, Lithuanian ethnographic photographer).