

**Wedding anniversary? Plan ahead:** Bishop Walkowiak invites all couples who are celebrating 25, 30, 40, 50, and 60+ years of marriage to join him for the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at St. Andrew's on Sunday, October 2, 2016, at 10 a.m. Family members and friends are of course welcome. A simple reception will follow. If you plan to go, please call the parish office at 454-6000 with the approximate number in your party. We shall advise the diocesan office for planning purposes. Congratulations!

**The 2016 Pray and Spray game** took place at Holy Spirit field on August 11. It was a real cliffhanger. With the score tied at 11-11 going into the bottom of the ninth the fire fighters couldn't muster the defense to send the game into extra innings. A couple of well-timed miscues on the field allowed a run to score, and the priests' team won with a walkoff hit by newly-ordained Father Colin Mulhall, **12-11**. Proceeds from this charity game go to the Michigan Burn Camp near Mattawan, which operates to allow both adult and child burn victims the opportunity of going to summer camp with others who share their afflictions.

**Fluid drive.** The next time you're at the gas pump and you're ticked because the price jumped up before you got there, be grateful that your car doesn't run on Evian water (\$21.19 a gallon), Whiteout (\$25.42 a gallon), Scope (\$84.48 a gallon), Pepto Bismol (\$123.20 a gallon), Nyquil (\$178.13 a gallon), or printer ink (\$5,200 a gallon!!). I worked with a secretary many years ago whom I always used to tease about having to buy Whiteout by the 55-gallon drum. Now I don't feel so bad. At least she didn't need *mouthwash* by the barrel!

**This 'n' that:**

Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

Life is sexually transmitted.

Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Men have two motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eye, make him a sandwich.

Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and the grandchildren of people from the 60's take Prozac to make it normal.

Forget the box of chocolates, Forrest. Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

**We depend on each other,** whether we know it or not. A baker in a small town used to buy his butter from a local dairyman. He had had the feeling for some time that he was getting shorted when he bought a pound of butter, so one day, as soon as he got the butter back to his shop, he carefully weighed it. Sure enough, only 14 ounces! He did it twice more. First, 12 ounces; the next time, 13.5! The baker took his figures to the sheriff, who arrested the dairyman.

When the case came to court, the dairyman pled not guilty. The judge asked him how he could make such a plea when the baker had the figures showing the evidence. "Your honor," the dairyman explained, "I don't have a scale. I use a balance. I put the pound of butter on the balance, and use a counterbalance to get them even. It always measures one pound."

"What exactly do you use for a counterbalance?" the judge inquired.

"A one-pound loaf of bread that I buy from the baker!" replied the dairyman. Case dismissed.

**There's change, but is there hope?** "We haven't had a huge surge in innovation in more than 100 years, when electricity, plumbing, automobiles and communications came together in a 10- to 15-year period and changed the way we live. It took advantage of technological innovation, and we're headed into another period like that where people are going to solve the problem" (Bruce Thompson, founder of Urbaneer Spaces, 625 First N.W., in the *Grand Rapids Business Journal*, Vol. 34, No. 9, February 29, 2016, p. 1). If you think your head is spinning trying to keep up with the technology these days, think of all those builders back about 1900 who didn't know whether to wire a house for electricity or install piping for gas lights--so they often did both! Anyone remember having to choose between VHS and Beta? Then DVD's made that *all* obsolete, only to be overtaken by live-streaming on the Internet. Who needs records, tapes, or discs when you can find and save any music you can think of on YouTube? Don't quiz me too hard. I'm still trying to sort out I-pods, I-pads, I-beams, and I-brows!

**But hands off** those infernal electronic devices while they're supposed to be on the wheel! One of our fire fighters recently happened to be assigned to a post with a state trooper up on the freeway at an accident scene, monitoring and guiding the traffic flow at a major accident scene while others were involved in rescue work at the crash itself. Both the fire fighter and the trooper, exchanging notes afterwards, estimated that AT LEAST one out of three DRIVERS passing through the dangerously narrow bottleneck ON THE FREEWAY were talking, texting, or taking

photos of the accident with their cell phones as they went by! Folks, if you have found that you cannot fight the temptation to communicate with the rest of the world while your hands should be on the wheel, do the rest of us a favor and PUT IT OUT OF REACH before you start the car. Your emergency personnel, other drivers, your family, and your insurance company will all be very grateful. May your Creator reward your virtuous restraint with his abundant graces! God bless you!

Fr. Den