

## **BULLETIN -- MARCH 27**

**A blessed Easter to all!** No greater feast occurs in the Christian calendar than the solemnity of Easter. The promise of the Incarnation, which we celebrate at Christmas, is fulfilled in the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection. Everything Jesus did and taught is validated by his rising from the dead. As St. Paul puts it so bluntly, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins" (I Cor. 15:17). That's how critical this feast is to our whole life as Christians. We can try to cutesy it up with bunnies and eggs and chicks and candy and springtime nosegays, but these must never distract from the central mystery of our faith. The newscasters and newsmakers (often one and the same) can predict a "long, hot summer" of unrest and rabbleroxing as a leadup to what could be a truly dismal choice of candidates for president. Never mind. The message of Easter only magnifies what Jesus has told us throughout his public ministry: "Be not afraid!" What appeared to be the curse of defeat on the cross is the exhilaration of selfless victory in the Resurrection. Parishioners, family members, guests, friends: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!!

**Thank you to all** our staff members, our organist and choir, our altar servers, our sacristans and liturgical decorators, our catechists and hospitality specialists, and all who had any part in offering their time, talent, and energy to make our Holy Week and Easter celebrations occasions of fitting worship of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Thank you for helping us all re-commit ourselves to be renewed and faithful disciples and members of the Body of Christ during the year to come.

**Rice Bowl offerings.** If your household had a Lenten Rice Bowl as we suggested, you may bring the offerings to church in a container of any kind at the time of any service during Easter Week and on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3. We shall see to it that your generosity is combined with that of others throughout the Diocese to make a difference in the lives and bellies of those most in need throughout the world.

**Our burrito dinner** on March 6 was not only a great culinary success, it was one of the highlights of the winter social calendar for many of us. Great thanks go out to so many, but we do have to give special mention to Nick and Mary Ann Friar for their tireless work and entrepreneurial spirit in setting so many things in motion. Similarly, we must recognize Tim and Teresa Sobie of Sobie Meats for their generous donation of all the meat and spices for the preparation of the title feature. Thanks to staff members Dennis Vainavicz and Sally Augdahl for their consistent vigilance in making sure everything went smoothly, and to the whole team of faithful workers who put in hours and shifts long and short to see to it that every detail was attended to. Finally, we are grateful to all our patrons, who continue to tell us what a great time they had with us. The evening's doings were also financially profitable for the parish, with a net gain of **\$4,817.09**. None of this could have been done without *your* enthusiastic participation.

**We have added \$673.00** to our CSA rebates from the 2015 campaign, which is just about a wrap, as they say in medialand. In just a couple weeks, we shall be plunging headlong into our 2016 Catholic Services Appeal. Your generosity is what keeps the

Church flowing and growing in these 11 counties of West Michigan. We rejoice at the generosity of so many, which helps us meet and surpass our target year after year. As you know, once the target is met, anything more that we receive comes back to the parish as a rebate to be applied to our various parish apostolates. Your sense of Christian duty thus assists us in the local, regional, and global responsibilities we have as a parish. Together with our neighbor parishes, we provide spiritual, material, educational, and physical aid to all who depend on us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ in the midst of the world.

**Words We Wish We'd Heard Dept.:** “I want to thank President Castro for his hospitality during our visit to Cuba, and for taking the time to lecture us at great length about the poverty, discrimination, inequality, and racial prejudice that continue to beset the United States. I invite him to ponder one thing, as we all consider ways to solve the problems that afflict each of our countries: In over 55 years, not one boatload of poor victims of inequality and prejudice has ever been apprehended or lost at sea trying to escape from the U.S. to freedom and a better life in Cuba. Thank you.”

**Black Lives Matter.** But someone had better tell that to Planned Parenthood. African Americans make up approximately 13% of the U.S. population, but 37% of U.S. abortions result in the deaths of black children. That means that African American mothers are seeking or being urged to seek abortion at a rate five times greater than their white counterparts. If those same statistics applied to violence in schools, in workplaces, and in the criminal justice system, we would be truly astounded at the egregious bloodshed taking place around us. Presidential commissions would be established and calls for revolution would abound.

The fact is that there IS a disproportionate amount of injustice when it comes to race in our country, but those who point it out rarely refer to life at its very origins. Why is there no outrage on the part of “pro-choice” politicians at the horrible imbalance that the statistics show? Why do we hear nothing from the loudest voices in the social symphony about the millions of black children who have never been allowed to see the light of day? Could it be that these have all been co-opted by the original intent of an organization like Planned Parenthood, which was founded by the racist-eugenicist Margaret Sanger? She thought that the greatest favor poor families with “too many” children could do for everyone else was to kill their own children! And that applied, in her mind and in her writings, in a very special way to children of color.

Could it be that the callous attitude toward life that we associate with inner-city gang members begins in the clinic, where poor women are advised, over and over again, how quick and easy it will be to take care of their “problem”? Or might that callous attitude begin at home when all-too-knowing listening ears hear open and vulgar and all-too-casual conversation about how to go about eliminating little brothers and sisters? Could it be that the message that life is cheap and worthless is imparted right from the beginning?

Could it be that those who advocate for abortion are really so selfish that they will overlook any other injustice just to accommodate lust? Maybe we'd better ask the leaders of the National Organization for Women and other militant organizations who have blindly supported a flagrant philanderer and abuser of women and his enabler wife

for over two decades in national politics without a whisper of criticism. They can overlook any other crime, even the abuse of women, so long as nothing threatens their “sacrament” of abortion. How pathetic.

God bless you. Indeed, may God bless us all.

Fr. Den

**Thought for the week:** The fact that there is a “Highway to Hell” (AC/DC) and only a “Stairway to Heaven” (Led Zeppelin) says a lot about the anticipated traffic.