

## BULLETIN -- OCTOBER 25

**Reformation Day.** On October 31, many of our Christian friends mark Reformation Day in commemoration of the event that has divided western Christianity for the past 500 years. There were multiple sound reasons for reform to take place in the Church. Every institution, and most notably the Church, is in constant need of reform in order to clean up regulations and practices that creep in over time. When that doesn't happen, you wind up with the mess that confronted the Church in the late middle ages. Councils were convoked, exhortations were written and proclaimed, everyone saw clearly that the Church needed reform. But the attitude known today as NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) set in, and every attempt at reform failed because no one wanted to start with himself.

What happened during the Reformation was more than reform. Quickly swirling out of control, the Reformation was quickly coopted by politicians and rulers and used for their own earthly purposes. Once the principle of the primacy of individual interpretation of Scripture was accepted, the unraveling of the unity so desired by Christ for his disciples was assured. Tens of thousands of Christian denominations came about and are still coming about as a result. Don't like this or that practice or teaching? Just start your own church! And countless millions have given up on "church" altogether, disgusted with the endless bickering among fellow believers and not seeing any reason to associate with the body which the New Testament clearly takes for granted and identifies with Christ himself.

It is disheartening to hear anti-Catholic arguments tossed around as though we were still in the 1500's. So many of the chief objections and protests have been rationally answered and attended to long ago. More than one Protestant theologian has admitted that if the Church had done in the mid-1400's what it did at the Council of Trent (1545-63), the Reformation would have never taken place. There would have been no need. So while the Reformers are not solely to blame for the current disarray in the Christian world, their spiritual descendants also need, out of respect for the truth, to act responsibly and lay down the hurtful words and false accusations about the Catholic Church. And we of course need to act with charity and concern toward those who are not one with us in the unity of the Church. With God, all things are possible.

**Sister Sara Butler, M.S.B.T.,** will be with us next Sunday, November 1, All Saints Day, at 5 p.m. for the fourth and final 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary lecture. You will find advertising for this event all around the church and parish property. We have tried to schedule speakers and topics which would be timely and valuable for the growth in knowledge and understanding of all the faithful. Please invite a friend or relative from outside the parish to come along and enjoy the occasion. We begin at 5 p.m. in the church; and at about 6 or 6:15 p.m. we'll adjourn to the parish center for light refreshments and the opportunity to meet Sister Sara personally and engage her for questions and comments.

**"I was in prison, and you came to visit."** Well, perhaps that's not your particular call or gift as a member of the Body of Christ. (If it is, though, get busy!) Whatever the case, there are many ways to carry out the command of Christ outlined for

his disciples in Matthew 25. Our Diocesan Prison/Jail Ministry invites our donations to the annual Christmas Drive. This year they are collecting **NEW (PACKAGED) white tube socks and NEW reading glasses with PLASTIC frames in +1.00 to +1.75 strengths**. Your donated items will be used at the various jails, shelters, and juvenile detention centers within our diocese. We must have the donations in our box at the back of church by December 15 for inclusion in the inmates' Christmas packages. Thank you!

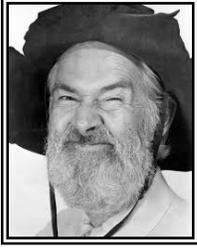
**“Father, when are you leaving?”** I've heard the question many times since the Fall Festival. To maintain some semblance of self-esteem, I've assumed that the question was spoken out of interest rather than eagerness. Thanks to the magnificent generosity of so many of you, I am looking forward to enjoying some time away and some travel. The fine travel opportunities outlined by the literature in the beautiful luggage had not been purchased, but were suggestions of possibilities. Travels, like shoes, have to fit the traveler to be both comfortable and useful for rest and relaxation.

That being said, all I can add is that I'm looking forward to spending lots of time driving around my favorite fair-weather state (Michigan), looking up Catholic history and archives details that I haven't had time to uncover or sort out. That, I hope, will benefit both me and future researchers in the archives who will not have to look up all that information themselves, since someone has done it for them -- with your gracious help and support! I'm also looking forward to spending a generous amount of time with my friends in my favorite *cold*-weather state (Florida), where I can relax on the beach, do further work on the archives files on my laptop in air-conditioned comfort, and not adhere to a schedule of any kind. The beautiful parish of Holy Name of Jesus in Indialantic (between Melbourne and the Ocean) has welcomed me with open arms, and the priests have been very kind in inviting me to worship and concelebrate with them. Your sacramental and spiritual needs continue in my absence, of course, and the gifts you have given will help to provide substitute priests on weekdays and occasional weekends.

My service as your pastor greatly enriches my own life and prayer. It thrills me to see people growing in the Spirit, taking initiatives I hadn't even thought of in witnessing to Christ in many-faceted ways. I hope that I help in some small way to stir up something of that in many of you. I am also humbled at those who seem to be beyond my limited reach as a servant of the Good Shepherd -- those who have left the parish or even the Church and the practice of the faith because of some lack of zeal or other obstacle which this earthen vessel places in the way of their meeting Christ. I pray for them especially, a lot! I feel a great responsibility for them, as any pastor should.

So again, thank you to you all for joining and helping me to make our time together here at SS. Peter & Paul both delightful and fruitful. And sincere thanks for all your kindnesses and expressions of love and care. Mom and Dad were no longer here to experience the joy of our Fall Festival, but I have a hunch they have some of the best seats in the house every time we get together, whether for worship or frolic. ☺ God bless you!

Fr. Den



**Thought for the week:** “I ain’t had so much fuss over me since a mule kicked my teeth out!” (George “Gabby” Hayes, American actor, 1885-1969).