

BULLETIN – SEPTEMBER 4

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!

Thank you to all who donated so spontaneously and generously in a previously unannounced collection taken up on the spot last weekend for the flood victims in Louisiana. Our Bishop contacted us at the very end of the week to let us know that all the parishes in the country were taking up this collection. Our participation is announced elsewhere in the bulletin, and if you did not have the chance to donate but wish to do so, just make your check out to SS. Peter & Paul with the memo "Flood Victims," and we'll get it to the proper office within the week. Donating through your parish, the Diocese, and the Catholic Relief Services guarantees that the vast majority of your contribution ends up "in the trenches." The CRS overhead is impressively low, wherever they are called on to operate. **As a thank-you bonus**, since we've had our Indian mission collection and this emergency flood relief collection just two weeks apart, we shall **NOT** have a Christian Service collection this first weekend of September. Even charity needs a break in this Jubilee Year of Mercy!

Labor Day Mass is in church, Monday morning at 8 a.m. As important as we profess the Mass to be, we can only assume that the principal reason we do not customarily have more people at weekday Mass is that they have to work. What an opportunity Monday presents, then, to come to Mass in the morning and pray for your work, your employer, your fellow employees, and all who in any way benefit from your work. Make this Labor Day powerful in spirit as well as in increased awareness of the value and dignity of work: sharing in the Spirit's task of renewing the face of the earth.

Justifiable anger, or just being contrary? Colin Kaepernick, aiming at being starting quarterback for the 49ers, sat out the National Anthem at a game with the Packers on Friday night, August 26. He's hung up on the racial injustices in our country, and says he takes no pride in the flag or in the anthem for that reason. Hey, he's got the right in this country to express his opinion, informed or not, in any way he wants. Someone should point out to this multi-millionaire, though, that thousands and thousands of young men, black and white, have died, not only to defend that flag and country, but to defend his right to express his disrespect for all that they stand for. Kaepernick has no doubt overcome numerous obstacles in his quest for athletic stardom. He's probably had people who have been envious of him, fellow players who have tried to beat him out for a position, insensitive jerks who have called him names. Excuse me, who *hasn't* had obstacles to overcome? Perhaps when he's not training or playing, he volunteers hours pushing wheelchairs for or playing games with adults and children who have lost limbs or been horribly disfigured in accidents or fires, but who would be so, so gratefully thrilled for a moment of his attention. If he *does* do these or similar acts of charity, what a pity

that he hasn't caught just a bit of that spirit of gratitude that one can find on the faces and in the hearts of so many in those crippling circumstances of hardship and suffering. Colin can cash whopping paychecks, thanks to the freedom he enjoys in this "oppressive" nation, and thanks to those who have shed their blood so he could disrespect their sacrifices in his personal snit. I wonder what Walter Payton or Jackie Robinson would have to say to him. Wouldn't you love to have Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., give him a history lesson?

"The Catholic Church had better change if it's going to keep *me* on board!" That seems to be the attitude of so many correspondents in their letters to the editors of so many Catholic publications and blogs these days. I never cease to be amazed at how people who have been raised in the Catholic faith have become so hostile, experiencing as only a loathsome burden the very doctrines and practices that enable many of us to try to live in a spirit of faithfulness to the gospel. This nitpicking and cafeteria-style approach to religion makes me wonder if these believers see no difference between belonging to the Church and being a member, say, of the American Legion or the Casino Club. We should all get a voice in how things go, they seem to think, and if we say there should be four persons in the Trinity, well then, God better listen up.

Some of our more senior members will fondly remember the Our Gang (Little Rascals) movie shorts produced by Hal Roach from the 1920's through the 1940's. The



characters typically had nicknames like Spanky, Alfalfa, Stymie, Buckwheat, and Froggy. Hal Roach's genius was that he did not film actors playing children; he filmed children *playing*! He got the gang together, gave them a basic idea and a whole movie set and all the "toys" any kid could want, and told them to go to it. It broke lots of social barriers, in that the gang was made up of boys and girls, black and white, who were all equals in their status as kids. Years later, Matthew

"Stymie" Beard recalled, "We were just a group of kids who were having *fun*."

In that respect, reading the Fathers of the Church (Clement, Ignatius of Antioch, Justin, Irenaeus, Ambrose, Augustine, John Chrysostom, etc.) is similar to watching the Our Gang comedies. Reading the writings of these early Christians is highly edifying, inasmuch as it is not reading historians of a later age writing what they *think* the Church was like; it's reading authors who are writing about the Church they are *living* in! For that reason, many, many of those who comment on the way things are in the Church would do very well to keep still for a couple years. They should spend the time they waste being angry and fretful and put it to use reading extensively in the Fathers of the Church (and the Mothers as well, Teresa of Avila, Catherine of Siena, Gertrude the Great, Thérèse of Lisieux, etc.). They might just emerge from their cocoon as butterflies with a new vision and a new flight pattern. God bless you!

Thought for the week: Encyclopaedia Britannica started in 1768, and a current set has 32 volumes. Wikipedia started in 2001. If all of its information were printed in books, minus the images, it would currently take 2,053 volumes the size of those of the Encyclopaedia.