

THE PHILADELPHIA ORDINARIATE POST

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
AND THE BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

WWW.ORDINARIATEPHILADELPHIA.ORG

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Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Have you ever found yourself trying to be accommodating to your family and getting to the point where a voice inside says, “Enough is enough. What about me? Isn’t it time for them to take care of my needs and desires for a change?” Although we may tell ourselves that this is only fair, it is in fact pride, self-centeredness. Jesus never said, “What about me?” He gave, and kept giving, without counting the cost, from His temptations in the wilderness to His death on the Cross. His is the true humility. We are called to follow His example, and are given the grace to follow Him. We are called to imitate His humility: to be generous without counting the cost.

God gives us many opportunities to follow Christ's example. A wife may be vigilant about turning lights off because she knows her husband is concerned about the electric bill. A husband may put his dishes in the dishwasher because it will make life easier for his wife. The father comes home from work expecting his favorite liver and onions for supper, and finds that his wife has changed the menu to spaghetti – the kids like it better. Does he complain (what about me?), or accept out of love for his family? These are little ways of putting self aside, and thus of practicing humility. The little things are significant because so much of life is made up of “little” things.

Of course, we all have our ideas about how things should be done. One might think that the check-book *must* be balanced every month, while another might do it if he has time. People differ on whether it is important to keep the house picked up and tidy at all times. We naturally assume that our way is superior, and can give reasons for it. But often it is more pride than actual judgment behind our insistence of having things our way. This is especially true in family life, where insistence on our way can interfere with love and consideration. In the greater scheme of things, it is more important that my wife know that I love her than that I remind her that she should close the fridge quickly in hot weather (that she forgot to turn off the stove?). Recognizing this opens us to the possibility of changing our behavior and attitudes in order to be more loving. That is, we begin to give up insisting on our own way of doing things.

It is at this point that the backlash can set in: “What about me? Is there no limit? What if no one recognizes the sacrifices I am making?” This pushes us into Christ's arms. No one thanked Him on Good Friday. The standard that He gives us is His love for us: Love one another as I have loved you. As we ponder that love day by day (and when we receive Communion), we learn how humility is formed by love. And we learn to love as we are loved – putting the other before self, the self who says, What about me?

World Meeting of Families

The World Meeting of Families is upon us and has us thinking about our family life. The Meeting itself, September 21-25 at the Philadelphia Convention Center, will bring together families from all over the world for prayer, worship, speakers, discussions and fellowship. It already has more people registered than any previous World Meeting, twice as many as at Milan three years ago. There will also be a number of exhibitions and related programs around the city. Of particular note is the exhibition of Bibles and manuscripts from the Vatican Library, which will be on display at the Convention Center. I hope many of you will be able to participate in one way or another. The event only occurs once in three years, and it is not likely to be in the United States again any time soon. Details at world-meeting2015.org.

The World Meeting concludes with the Papal Visit on Saturday and Sunday, September 26th & 27th. Pope Francis will attend the Festival of Families on Saturday afternoon and evening (the Holy Father will appear at about 7:30) on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, and the Papal Mass on the Parkway at 4 on Sunday. The logistical arrangements for all this



Newest Newman addition: Damien Steven Nunziato

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are somewhat daunting (this is for Saturday and Sunday, not for the World Meeting): closing center city to traffic, closing the Schuylkill Expressway and the Ben Franklin Bridge, restricting SEPTA trains to a very limited number of stations, with inbound service in the morning and outbound later in the day – available only by a special \$10 pass now on sale. SEPTA is also limiting bus, trolley and subway service. To enter the Parkway for the Papal events will require going through a metal detector, and there are restrictions on what can be brought in. Much of this seems to be directed by Homeland Security. Notwithstanding the challenges, this is a unique opportunity for Christian witness, and for the strengthening of the Catholic Church in Philadelphia, and I hope that you will make the effort to be there in person. The Papal Mass will be televised and streamed on the Internet for those who cannot actually be present. But watching it on television is not the same as being there! Needless to say, watching the Mass on TV does not “count” for the Sunday obligation of assisting at Mass. I commend to you Archbishop Chaput's *Inquirer* column: <http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/think-tank/Be-not-afraid-to-visit-Philly-and-welcome-the-pope.html>. There will be a Mass at Holy Cross at 9 on the 27th, but no six o'clock Mass at Newman.

On Wednesday during the World Meeting, the Anglican Use Society will hold its annual meeting in Marian Hall at St Therese, at 11, following our usual Wednesday ten o'clock Mass upstairs at St Therese. Since a number of the members of the Society will already be in Philadelphia, they asked if we could provide meeting space for them, which, courtesy of Fr Grogan, we can do. The Society has been around for some thirty years, supporting Anglican Use within the Catholic Church even before the Ordinariate was established. They do a good and important work, and you are welcome to come and support them by your presence at the meeting. Also a good opportunity to find out where their efforts are currently being focused and bearing fruit.

With all the logistical details, it is important not to lose sight of the central point: a meeting of families. Families gather for this meeting, and the meeting focuses on what families are and how they can most perfectly conform to the ideal. It hardly needs saying that certain quarters of American culture (including five members of the Supreme Court) believe that “family” means whatever we want it to mean, that it has no objective and immutable content. This is wrong. The family is rooted in human nature: husband and wife, married for life, for the procreation and nurture of children as well as their mutual support and sanctification. Since this is no longer generally accepted or understood, it is the more important for Catholics to bear witness to its truth in our lives as well as our words. Any loss of vital family life has devastating consequences for individual lives (especially for children) as well as for society. This devastation is inevitable, since on the one hand family life is formative for children, and on the other, families are the basic building blocks of a healthy society. The Catechism prepared for the World Meeting, *Love is Our Mission*, is an excellent brief account of the church's teaching on families, and I commend it to you if you have not already read it. (I have a few copies available.) Likewise, I'm sure the sessions at the World Meeting will be most helpful and supportive in understanding and practicing Catholic family life.

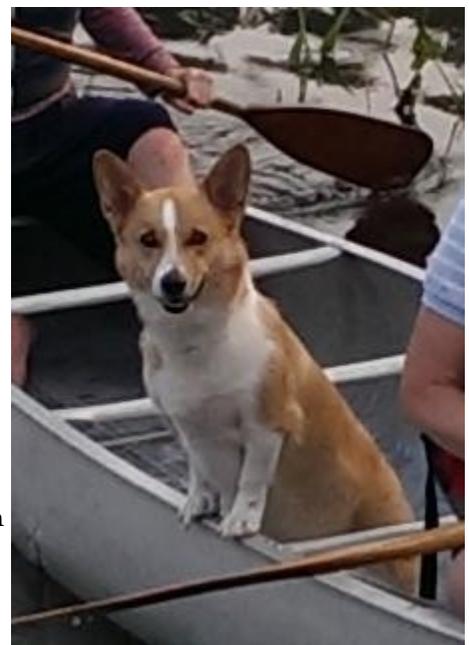
Because of my involvement with the World Meeting, there will be some alterations to the weekday Mass schedule that week. There will be no Mass on Thursday; I am not sure about Tuesday and Friday at this point. There will be no Saturday Mass, in order that I may participate in a Papal Mass that morning for priests and religious at the Cathedral. Thursday I have been invited to spread the word about the Ordinariate at the exhibition booth for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia Evangelization office. This booth will also carry flyers about the Ordinariates. I am grateful to Meagan Cokely for her kindness in giving us these unique opportunities to publicize the work of the Ordinariates. In addition, there will be no weekday Masses except Saturday the following week (September 28th to October 2nd), when I will be in Chicago for the annual gathering of the Ordinariate clergy.

St Francis Animal Blessing

We will again observe St Francis Day with a blessing for animals. We do this jointly with Holy Cross Parish, on the steps of Holy Cross on Mount Airy Avenue. It will be on Saturday, October 3rd at 11 a.m. Please be sure your pets are under control (we don't want to lose any!), and be prepared to cut us a little slack if we don't lay hands on snakes, piranhas, etc. There will be special prayers for any animals who are ill. Dewey (the new Corgi at the rectory) sends a special invitation, and says he is looking forward to it. It will be his first.

Next Steps

Next Sunday, September 13th, everyone from Newman and St Michael's is invited to a pot-luck brunch at the rectory (6611 Ardleigh Street) at about 10:30. This is a social event, to give the people from the two congregations an informal occasion to get to know one another. I hope you will all come. The personal relations are essential if a merger of the two is to go smoothly. If you can bring food, please let Beth Ousley know (that way we can make arrangements should there be any glaring holes in the menu). After brunch, I will take any who are interested over to St Madeleine Sophie for a tour of the church. St Madeleine's is a worship site of Holy Cross, and is “available” should we think it would work for us as a permanent location. The Sunday Masses on the 13th will be as usual: nine at



Dewey invites all pets to the Blessing

St Michael's and six at Newman.

The consensus after our visits to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Bridgeport and St Gertrude's in West Conshohocken was that both locations would be possible for us. Each has advantages and disadvantages. I have asked the pastors of Sacred Heart and St Matthew's to begin the process of coming up with some figures: financial considerations are of course a key piece of the puzzle. I have also asked Fr Grogan to do the same for St Madeleine's in case we decide that that too would be possible. Given the World Meeting this month, I do not expect anything before October.

While we await the numbers, I would like us to be thinking about the possible merger. In particular, I would ask you to make a list of what is most important in the current life of the congregation, St Michael's or Newman. We want to be sure that the things which are most important become part of the merged congregation. In order to be sure this happens, we need to be thinking about such things now.

Both congregations have been through many changes and challenges in recent years, and it is a testimony to their faithfulness that both are so solid in the faith and in their commitment to Catholic life. The merger, if it goes ahead, will be one more change: the merged congregation will be different from St Michael's and from Newman. Hopefully it will be better: greater than the sum of the parts. Merger makes sense in many ways, but it is still a change. Some of us are more averse to change than others. I want to be sensitive to all concerns, and hope that if you see anything that is not being addressed as we go along, you will bring it to my attention. This is something I hope we can approach with joyous anticipation, even if we are among those who temperamentally prefer everything to stay the same.

Faithfully,

Fr David Ousley