

Weekly Bulletin

January 31 to February 7, 2009

Of Excommunications and Anti-Semitism

There have been several major events in ecclesiastical circles in the past weeks. Some have made headlines in the news... which reminds me that very few journalists are good historians and even fewer are good theologians! They report current events but come up short when historical context and philosophical underpinnings are needed.

Last Sunday, Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, was the 50th anniversary of Blessed Pope John XXIII's announcement that he would convene the Second Vatican Council. Pope Pius XII had prepared for it by already implementing the new rites of Holy Week—building on the initiative of Pope Saint Pius X who had called for a liturgical reform just before World War I. These things take time to prepare and it was the 1960's before bishops from around the world gathered in Rome under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It has since taken half a century for some of the dust to settle from that event.

The Council's intention was not to change what Catholics believe but to assist us to live these beliefs and give witness to them in the modern world. Any change was disconcerting to some people as it seemed as though the Church was changing just at the moment that the whole world was in turmoil with the Cold War, Race for Space, Sexual Revolution—as well as the Civil Rights movement in the United States. Others embraced change for the sake of change... new must somehow imply “progress.” There were exaggerations and abuses which crept into the life of the Church justified in the name of “the spirit of the Council” despite being directly contrary to what the documents of the Council stated!

One sad result of the cycle of abuse and backlash was a schism in which an archbishop separated himself and his followers from the jurisdiction of the Holy Father. Their claim in essence was what had been a joke: “we are more Catholic than the Pope!” This archbishop consecrated four new bishops to assist him and carry on after his death. The Church recognized them as validly ordained bishops but excommunicated them for being ordained without papal approval. Pope John Paul II wanted to reconcile them and asked his chief assistant Cardinal Ratzinger to keep trying. Now as Pope, he has lifted the excommunication as the first step towards a full reconciliation.



St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

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CLERGY

- † Fr. Joseph Johnson,
Pastor
- † Fr. James Adams,
Associate Pastor
- † Fr. Andrew Cozzens,
Associate Pastor
- † Dc. Nao Kao Yang

SCHEDULES

Masses:

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM

Confession:

Sunday 8:00AM-8:45AM

Eucharistic Adoration:

Friday 7:00PM-8:00PM

Religious Education:

Sunday 10:30AM-
12:00PM

1st Sat. of Month:

- Mass at 8:30AM
- Altar & Rosary Society
Meeting

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 1/31
5:00 PM Tom Bates

Sunday 2/1
9:00 AM People of the Parish

Saturday 2/7
8:30 AM Ralph Mikel Family
5:00 PM Altar & Rosary Society

Sunday 2/8
9:00 AM People of the Parish

GOSPEL READING AT MASS

Saturday 1/31 (Vigil)
Mark 1: 21-28

Sunday 2/1
Mark 1: 21-28

Monday 2/2
Luke 2: 22-40

Tuesday 2/3
Mark 5: 21-43

Wednesday 2/4
Mark 6: 1-6

Thursday 2/5
Mark 6: 7-13

Friday 2/6
Mark 6: 14-29

Saturday 2/7 (AM)
Mark 6: 30-34

Saturday Confession
Saturday Confession will be at the **Cathedral of Saint Paul** from 3:30PM-5:00PM

Lus ceeb toom

Vim tsis muaj tus teb xov
tooj hauv peb lub Tsev teev
Ntuj lawm, mas yog nej hu
tuaj, tus yuav teb xov tooj
yog tus khiav hauj lwm nyob
pem lub niam Tsev teev Ntuj
(Cathedral). Tso nej npe
thiab xov tooj, Txiv Plig
mam li hu rov rau nej.

This should be happy news and it was timed not just with the Council’s anniversary but with the conclusion of the week of prayer for Christian unity. What made the headlines was the fact that one of these bishops denies the existence of the Holocaust. Thus, the move has been interpreted by some as anti-Semitic on the part of the Church. Pope Benedict XVI has in fact condemned these statements—who would know better than him who suffered as a youth in Germany under the Nazis? The crazy ideas of this one bishop probably mean that he will himself never be fully reconciled to the Church or, if so, certainly not given any active ministry. So, let’s ignore the media hype and be clear on the bottom line: the Pope has repudiated these offensive statements at the same time that he has reached out to reconcile a whole alienated group of Christians.

Father Joseph

Catholic Services Appeal-February 8

Every year, the Archbishop asks all parishes in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis to contribute as best they are able to the **Annual Catholic Appeal which has a new name this year – Catholic Services Appeal**. The Appeal supports 45 ministries and programs that help the spiritual, educational and social needs of the Archdiocesan community. Following Mass on February 8th , a short video will be shown in Wellisch Hall to educate the parish on the need for the appeal and its uses. Please plan to attend.

First Saturday Mass

Each first Saturday of the month we have an 8:30 AM Mass to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary. You are invited to join us next Saturday, February 7th, for this special Mass. Also each Friday evening, we have a Holy Hour of Eucharistic adoration from 7 -8 PM. These are opportunities to grow spiritually and deepen our relationship with God.

<p>St. Vincent de Paul, Pray for us!</p>	
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