

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time —January 31, 2010 A.D.

After 55+ Years, Still in Love with Priesthood
Former Anglican Recounts Joy of Celebrating Mass
(Part One)

By Father John Jay Hughes

The son and grandson of priests in the Episcopal Church, I grew up in a world in which public worship and private prayer were as much a part of daily life as eating and sleeping. From age nine I was a choirboy at New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine.... We sang the psalms at daily Evensong (Vespers), and on Sundays anthems and the musical portions of the Eucharistic liturgy. I loved it.

From age 12 I knew that I wanted to be a priest.... Every time I served Mass I thought: "One day I'll stand there. I'll wear those vestments. I'll say those words."... I went straight toward that goal, like a steel needle to a magnet, until, 12 years later, I achieved it. Following my first Mass on April 4, 1954, I was so happy that I recited the whole of the "Te Deum" aloud in the sacristy.

During six happy years of parish ministry, I found priesthood all that I had hoped for, and more. My personal religion was "Catholicism without the Pope." My studies had taught me that the modern papal claims to universal jurisdiction and infallibility were illegitimate additions to the faith of the ancient Catholic Church.... During those years I visited countless Catholic churches on both sides of the Atlantic. I found the silent and rushed Masses, the Latin (when you could hear it) so gabbled and garbled that it might have been Chinese, an off-putting comedown from the reverent Anglican liturgy which I loved, with full congregational participation, including fervent hymn singing which I continue to miss to this day.

I always realized that Anglicanism was a theological house of cards. But it was my house. It was where the Lord had put me. You don't leave the place God has assigned you without very serious reasons. Doing so became a possibility only when I discovered, during a lengthy European trip in 1959, that the Catholic Church had a different face from the one familiar to me in the United States. This launched me on a period of agonized study and reflection, accompanied by lengthy daily prayer. For close to a year the questions of the Church, and of my conscientious duty, were not out of my mind for two waking hours together.

My final decision, at Easter 1960, to leave the Anglican Church, which I loved (it had taken me from the font to the altar), and enter an alien world, which still had little outward appeal to me, was the hardest thing I have ever done. Looking back years later (but only then), I recognized that it was the best thing I have ever done.

(To be continued next week)

BLESSING OF THROATS

For the Feast of St. Blaise we will have the blessing of throats at the 9 a.m. Mass on Wed., Feb. 3.

RECONCILIATION

Next Sat., Feb. 6, the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available from 4 -4:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCIETY

All ladies of the parish are invited to attend the meeting of the Women's Society on Mon., Feb. 8: Mass at 9 a.m., then meeting in the Religious Ed. Room at 10 a.m., then lunch at the Old Cayucos Bakery & Deli. Please call Dinah at 995-aaaa for lunch reservations.

FIRST TUESDAY BUNCO

Bunco will be Tues., Feb. 2, at 1:30 p.m. in the hall. Please call Carol at 995-aaaa and let her know who your substitute will be if you are not able to attend.

ANNUAL MINISTRIES APPEAL

It's that time of year when we are asked to support the ministries of the Diocese. Whatever we pledge over \$7,700 will come back to the parish for our ongoing renovation projects.

MARRIAGE & ANNULMENT TALK

Are you divorced or know someone who is divorced? If you would like to know more about the annulment process, a representative from the Diocesan Tribunal will give a talk at St. Patrick's in AG on Wed., Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

HELP WANTED

Part-time Office Manager for St. Timothy's Parish in Morro Bay. Must be bi-lingual in English and Spanish. Knowledge of Microsoft Office products or equivalent required. Quick Books experience a plus. Salary dependent on experience. Call Sharyn at 772-2840.

TRIP TO LAUGHLIN

Fr. Charles would like you to join him for a trip to Laughlin, NV, on May 3—6. Tour Includes: deluxe transportation on Silver Bay Tours new motorcoach, 3 nights lodging at Riverside Resort & Casino, 2 breakfasts & 1 choice buffet. Single, double, & triple occupancy rates at \$210, \$189, & \$179 per person. A \$50 deposit will hold your place. Final payment due by Mar. 22. For reservations & more info., please call the office at 995-3243.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Tickets go on sale this weekend for our 5th Annual St. Patrick's Dinner (Sat., Mar. 13). For \$15 you get corned beef with all the trimmings and live music. Enjoy the Silent Auction and the 50/50 Raffle.

Let us Pray For the Sick: May our prayers be a comfort to those who are sick or chronically ill: Oscar & Kate Linscott, Bill Coyle, Gloria Aulbach, Evelyn Menn, Jeanne Lowe, Bill, Danny & Kelly Wade; Mayre Marcollo, Denise Clark, Amelia Casaletti, Onnie Midiri, Jill Kelly, Don Monson, Margaret Jung, Tricia Scot, Joseph Henderson, Mark Sigmund, Jenna Franklin, Jennifer Pasa, Katy Wilson, Benjamin Kafman, Jim James, Shalom Tinsley White, Kelly Pittner, Elizabeth English Porter, Maria Howe, Jacqueline Durazo, Bobbie Planansky, Richard Lyons, Barbara Gray, Jack McGilvray, Larry Stayton, John Dias, Jim Sohler, Jim Greene Sr. & Jr., Jack Sable, & Dennis Domaille.

Next Sunday's readings: Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8; Psalm 138:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11.

MASS INTENTIONS (Jan. 30-Feb. 2)

- Sat. 5 †Alice Fortini by Glen & Anne Bennett
Sun. 9 †Rhonda Bartulski by mother & father
Sun. 11 St. Joseph's parishioners
Mon. †Ester O'Brien by Judy & Dick O'Brien
Tues. †John Perry by Mary Perry
Wed. Donald O'Brien by Judy & Dick O'Brien
Thurs. †Henry Curti by Evaline Curti
Fri. †Joseph Perry by Mary Perry & Family
Sat. 5 †David Shelton by Mary Miller
Sun. 9 †Frank Mello by Mary Perry
Sun. 11 St. Joseph's parishioners

While every effort will be made to offer Mass for your special intention on the requested date, please understand that circumstances occasionally make this impossible. Mass Intention Envelopes are available in the church.

For further information call Mary at 995-aaaa.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE (Feb. 6-7)

1st Saturday & Sunday

- Sat: 5 pm: Lector: Bill Mazzacane
EMs: Elizabeth Sigmund, Eleanore Molnar, Sue Rindge
Ushers: Carolyn Tucker, Jeanne Edwards
Server: Red Harris
Cantor: _____
Sun: 9 am: Lector: Elizabeth Sigmund
EMs: Sam Ayoob, Sallee Detomaso, Ski Planansky
Ushers: Dinah Piwowarski, Carol Lowry
Servers: Stan Piwowarski, Quinnten Thomas
Cantor: _____
Hospitality: Anita Ayoob
Sun: 11 am: Lector: Evaline Curti
EMs: J. Monson, I. Starckenburg, S. DeCicco
Ushers: Sandy & Helen Hull
Server: Walter Terrio
Music: Terry & Judy Ann Cross
Hospitality: Sylvia Moriarty