

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

— February 7, 2010 A.D.

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

(Part Two)

By Father John Jay Hughes

I became a priest for one simple reason: so that I could celebrate Mass. Doing so was wonderful the first time I did it, almost 56 years ago. It is, if possible, even more wonderful today. Celebrating Mass and feeding God's holy people with the bread of life is a privilege beyond any man's deserving. To prepare, it has been my practice for years to spend a half-hour waiting in silence on the Lord who told Moses at the burning bush: "Put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5).

Priesthood has other rewards as well. There is the joy of preaching the Gospel: feeding God's people from the table of his word. An evangelical hymn defines the preacher's task thus: "Tell me the old, old, story / Of Jesus and his love." John's Gospel says it more briefly, in words once posted inside pulpits for the preacher to see: "Sir, we would like to see Jesus" (John 12:21). His story, and Jesus' words, uphold us when we are down, rebuke us when we go astray, and fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with joy (to use the Psalmist's words) when the sunshine of God's love shines upon us.

There is also the joy of pastoral ministry. Like priests everywhere, I have witnessed miracles of God's grace in the people we serve. Not 10 years ago a man came into my confessional bruised and bloodied from a failed marriage. Then one of our CEO Catholics (Christmas-and-Easter only), he is today a daily communicant, and a frequent penitent. Every priest has stories like that, many of them more dramatic. Have every one of my almost 56 years of priesthood been happy? Of course not. That does not happen in any life. A widow spoke for married people when she told me: "Father, when you walk up to the altar on your wedding day, you don't see the Stations of the Cross." ... To anyone who asks, however, whether I have ever regretted my decision for priesthood, I answer honestly and at once: Never, not one single day.

Writing in April 2005 to my former teacher during my doctoral studies in Münster/Germany, Joseph Ratzinger, to express my joy at his election as Pope, and assure him of my prayers, I closed the letter, "In the joy of our common priesthood." What more can one say than that? From age 12, priesthood has been all I ever wanted. If I were to die tonight, I would die a happy man.

(A priest of the St. Louis Archdiocese and a Church historian, Father John Jay Hughes is the author of 12 books and hundreds of articles. This article is an excerpt from his memoir, *No Ordinary Fool: a Testimony to Grace* (Tate Publishing), quoted from *Zenit*, Dec. 18, 2009.)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

All children of the parish are invited to participate in Children's Lenten Liturgies on the Sundays of Lent at the 9 a.m. Mass starting Sun., Feb. 21.

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.

COOKIE SALE

Please support the Women's Society's annual Valentine's Weekend Cookie Sale next week. The proceeds support an orphanage in Mexico.

ANNUAL MINISTRIES APPEAL

As we support the ministries of the Diocese, whatever we pledge over the \$7,700 goal will come back to the parish for our ongoing renovation projects.

ST. PATRICK'S DINNER

Please join us for our 5th Annual St. Patrick's Dinner on Sat., Mar. 13 (social hour at 5:30 p.m. & dinner at 6 p.m.). Tickets are \$15 for corned beef with all the trimmings and live music. Enjoy the Silent Auction and the 50/50 Raffle.

SILENT AUCTION

Donations are now being collected for the silent auction to be held at the St. Patrick's Dinner. We would appreciate donation items that can bring a \$30. bid or more. All donations are tax deductible and need to be made by Mar. 6. Please call 772-4653 or 927-4292.

Let us Pray For the Sick: May our prayers be a comfort to those who are sick or chronically ill: Don Fontaine, Oscar & Kate Linscott, Bill Coyle, Dennis Domaille, 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.

TRIP TO LAUGHLIN

Time is running out so please join us 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.

Next Sunday's readings: Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 1:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20; Luke 6:17, 20-26.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

2nd Saturday & Sunday (Feb. 13-14)

Sat. 5 pm: Lector: Frank Hlavaty

EMs: B. Mazzacane, J. Edwards, E. Molnar

Ushers: Ron & Sue Rindge

Server: Red Harris

Cantor: _____

Sun. 9 am: Lector: Ski Planansky

EMs: Sam & Anita Ayoob, Dinah Piwowarski

Ushers: Kay Ash, Evelyn Pellaton

Servers: Stan Piwowarski, Quinnten Thomas

Cantor: _____

Hospitality: Lena Minetti

Sun. 11 am: Lector: Evaline Curti

EMs: E. Curti, S. DeCicco, E. Sigmund

Ushers: Glen & Anne Bennett

Server: Walter Terrio

Music: Terry & Judy Ann Cross

Hospitality: the Wades and the Terrios

MASS INTENTIONS (FEB. 6-14)

Sat. 5 †David Shelton by Mary Miller

Sun. 9 †Frank Mello by Mary Perry

Sun. 11 St. Joseph's Parishioners

Mon. Helen O'Brien by Dick & Judy O'Brien

Tues. Bill Wade by the Starkenburgs

Wed. †Jane Reyna by Jose & Belinda Gonzalez

Thurs. †George Crowther

Fri. †Dorris Kneier by Mary Miller

Sat. 5 †Innes MacKenzie

Sun. 9 St. Joseph's Parishioners

Sun. 11 †Jimmie Cross by the Starkenburgs

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.