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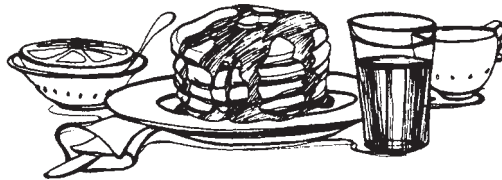
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NEWS AROUND THE PARISH



- **St. Mary Graduation Breakfast** will be held on June 5, 2016, after the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Please email or call the PSR office with names of students graduating from High School or College. Please RSVP with numbers attending in your family to stmarycre@cinci.rr.com or 937-840-9932, ext. 2.
- **Open House for Principal Mary Stanforth:** St. Mary School and Church will be hosting an Open House in the Fr. Luehrmann Hall to celebrate Mary Stanforth's retirement from St. Mary School. Come celebrate with us and thank Mary for all her accomplishments at the school on Saturday, May 14, following the 5:30 p.m. Mass. Refreshments and cake will be served.
- **The St. Mary K of C Council 10149** would like to thank all in the parish that supported the Friday night Fish Fry events. The Fish Fry(s) were a great success! A very special thank-you goes out to the Fayetteville K of C members who made the Fish Fry possible. Thanks to the kitchen servers, dessert makers, and Knights who prepped and cooked the meals. A very special thank-you belongs to the Barber Family members: Debbie, Dan, Cody, Tiffany, Travis and Kristen. This year's Fish Fry events benefited St. Mary School and made it possible for our Council to purchase fryers, which will allow us to, independently, put on food events to support many charities. Thank you again to all who made these events a success.

RUMMAGE SALE

- **St. Vincent de Paul Rummage Sale, May 6th and 7th.** Drop off items at Fr. Luehrman Hall Wednesday, May 4th and Thursday, May 5th, from 4:00-8:00 p.m., only. All volunteers welcome! Wednesday and Thursday after 3:30 p.m. to set up, and dates of the sale. Questions? Please call 937-365-1774.



LAUGHTER IS GOOD

At a wedding ceremony, the pastor asked if anyone had anything to say concerning the union of the bride and groom. Everything quickly turned to chaos when a woman carrying a child started walking towards the front.

Everybody was surprised, shocked, and the bride even fainted. The pastor asked the woman if she had anything to say.

The woman replied, "We can't hear in the back."

The young man comes running into the store and says to his buddy, "Tommy, somebody just stole your pickup truck from the parking lot!"

Tommy reacts, "Did you see who it was?"

The young man answers, "No, I couldn't tell... but I did get his license plate number!"

During a sixth grade human anatomy class, the young professor asked, "What happens to a young woman's body as she matures?"

One girl raised her hand and answered, "She starts carrying a purse."

SERMON FOR SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

A woman boldly proclaimed to me in counselling, "I come from a dysfunctional family!" I looked at her, smiled and just as boldly proclaimed to her, "We *all* come from a dysfunctional family!" (I'll ask the congregation for an "Amen" on this.) Before Jesus was born there was a big problem within the Holy Family even before Jesus, Mary and Joseph became a Holy Family. God the Father willed that Jesus be conceived out of wedlock, before Mary was married to Joseph. The Father had to show that this child was from Heaven and not from Joseph. But this created a big problem for Mary. I always wondered what Mary thought right after Angel Gabriel left her. "How I am going to explain this to mom and dad? Oh no! I have to tell Joseph! Will he even believe me?" And Joseph did not believe her. He decided to divorce Mary. In the midst of this family crisis God stepped in to fix this problem. He healed Joseph's feelings of betrayal by sending an angel to tell him this Child is from Heaven. God said, "Joseph, Mary told the truth. She was faithful. Take her as your wife."

God had to fix a big problem within the Church just 16 years after Jesus founded it. We hear about it in this reading from the Acts of the Apostles. James and his followers said unless you follow all the Jewish laws taught by Moses, you can't be saved. Paul and Barnabas raised "holy heaven" when they heard that. They taught Christians are saved not by Jewish law but by Jesus' love on the Cross. This fight could have ripped the Church family apart. God fixed this problem by inspiring the first pope, St. Peter and the elders, to pronounce it is Jesus who saves not the old Jewish laws. New people joining the Church who were not Jewish did not have to follow those old laws. This was an important decision because it enabled the Church to open its doors and welcome all types of people who were not Jews. We now have over one billion Catholic Christians from all peoples of the world thanks to what St. Peter decided that day with the help of God.

All of us have family problems. Pray to God who has the answer to those problems. Have faith that he can fix them. I am so comforted by Jesus who said that both He and the Father will love you, come to you and dwell with you. It's like Jesus telling you, "I will love your family. I will make my home within your home. Whatever is important to your family is important to Me."

I saw something on TV that showed me how God makes you His priority, especially when things are not going well. I watched the final hole of the Texas Open Golf tournament. Charley Hoffman had to make a ten-foot birdie putt to win it all. A miss and he goes to a play-off where he could lose. Millions of viewers wondered if he would make it or choke. Charley sinks the ball into the hole. He fist pumped to the sky. The crowd went wild with cheers. His caddy gave him a big hug. Others high fived him as he walked to the club house. But along the way, he sees his little blond haired daughter. He picks her up. She is crying, not happy. I imagine he asks her what's wrong. Reading lips she says, "I got a boo-boo." She then points to her foot. Now oblivious to the roaring crowd, the cameras, the reporters, the well-wishers and other adoring fans, Charley gently lifts her leg and kisses her boo-boo. Then he embraces her. She smiles. He may have just won 1.1 million dollars, but all that mattered was putting a smile back on his daughter's face. His daughter's happiness was more important than the glory of winning.

God wants your family to be happy. That is important to Him. Trust God to fix your problems whatever they be. Jesus said, "Don't let your hearts be troubled or afraid." God wants to kiss your boo-boos and make it all better.

Blessings...Fr. Mike