



## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

### OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA ICON COMING TO ST. MARY FROM POLAND

WHERE: Fr. Luehrmann Hall

WHEN: Thursday, May 8th

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

Procession leads into Church for Mass at 7:00 p.m. Church open till Midnight

### The Best Way To Pray

A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby. "Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the priest said.

"No," said the minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor."

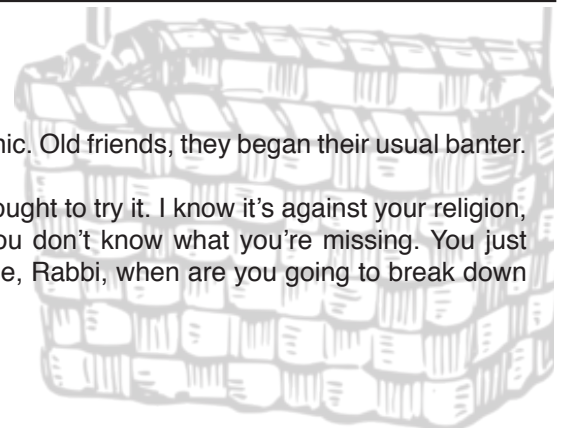
The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

### The Picnic

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter.

"This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?"

The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."



### ***I FISH...***

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife came for counseling.

When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade listing every problem they had ever had in the years they had been married.

On and on and on: neglect, lack of intimacy, emptiness, loneliness, feeling unloved and unlovable, an entire laundry list of unmet needs she had endured.

Finally, after allowing this for a sufficient length of time, the therapist got up, walked around the desk and after asking the wife to stand, he embraced and kissed her passionately as her husband watched – with a raised eyebrow.

The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze.

The therapist turned to the husband and said, "This is what your wife needs at least 3 times a week. Can you do this?"

"Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, But on Fridays, *I go fishing.*"





# SERMON FOR THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

I know a man from Hillsboro who is so smart I consider him a genius. He can build things, all types of things. But what he does best is to build big heaters used in industrial plants. He is so good at building heaters, he started his own company at 27 with only a few hundred dollars.

One day he got a call from a powerful, older rich man who owned 36 plants. In these plants, aluminum wheels were made for cars. The owner was not used to taking "no" for an answer. He demanded that our resident genius design a heater that could heat the molds used to form the melted aluminum into wheels. The boss gave him three weeks to complete the project. The genius protested, "It will take a good ten weeks to get this done." The boss said, "You got three weeks. Get to work."

And work he did... around the clock. Burner parts were sent to the factory. The employees of the plant were told to install the burners on the heater frame. But when our genius got there not only were the burners not installed, but there they sat on the floor in unopened boxes. He was furious at their laziness, but he had no time to think about it. He and his engineer installed all the burners themselves.

After hours and hours of continual work, they got the heater ready for the big test. The deadline was met. They were ecstatic to get so much done in so short a time. Right before blast-off, the big boss came to our genius and said, "Well boys, we need the heater to do some other things we forgot to tell you about." The heater needed to be reprogrammed to do things it was not made to do. He was forced to rebuild it from scratch.

He was so upset. He had to get out of there and take a walk to calm down. He walked out into the factory floor, along a 150-foot brown tile wall that had no windows nor doors. Halfway down he met a huge, chubby, middle-aged black woman who was pushing her bucket with a mop. She asked him, "How are you?" He answered, "I'm doing fine." It's polite to say that even if you're not fine. She answered emphatically, "I'm fine every day!" He continued to walk six more steps, very slowly. The genius thought to himself, "Here I am, upset over a problem that can be fixed, making more money in a week than this woman makes in a month. Yet she is happy. I should be more grateful for my blessings." Then the thought hit him like a ton of bricks, "That was Jesus!"

The genius quickly turned around to thank her. When he did so, she was gone. He was shocked. "Where did she go? I just saw her ten seconds ago. This obese woman could not have run or ducked through a door that doesn't exist. There was nowhere for her to hide in an open factory floor." This woman simply vanished. To this day he does not know where she went. He wonders if that really was Jesus.

Like those two guys walking down the road, we too can get discouraged and downcast as we walk the road of life. But in the Emmaus Bible story we learn, "Jesus Himself drew near and walked with them." It's amazing how Jesus inserts Himself into your life when your journey takes you into the darkness. Jesus comes to you in the caring touch of a loved one, the comforting words of a friend, a cat purring on your lap, a dog lying by your feet, or even a chubby woman praising God while mopping floors. *Or was she Jesus in disguise?*

(Fr. Mike News...we report...you decide.)