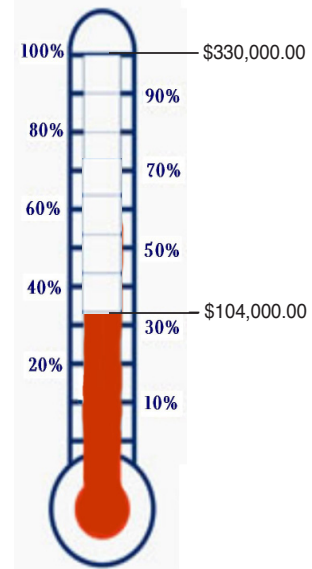




Summer R.C.I.A. Meeting

Summer R.C.I.A. will be meeting on this Tuesday, July 14, 2015. Our past participants and anyone who is interested in learning about the Catholic Church is welcome to join us at 6:00 p.m. The single Walnut Street door will be open and we will have R.C.I.A. signs with arrows directing you to our meeting place. Our weekly meetings for the preparation classes for the R.C.I.A. will begin Tuesday, August 11, 2015. (We are beginning in August because Easter is March 27 in 2016.) If you have any questions, please call Jim Hehl (937-364-6556 – Home, or 937-661-4835 – Cell) Joyce Combs (937-764-2030 – Home, or 937-403-6708 – Cell).



CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN... ONE FAITH, ONE HOPE, ONE LOVE

St. Mary Church Parishioners have now pledged \$104,000.00 dollars, which is 31.5% of reaching our \$330,000.00 goal. With your help we will make it.

Things to do at Wal-Mart while the significant other is taking his/her sweet time:

1. Get cans of cat food and randomly put them in people's carts when they don't realize it.
2. Set all the alarm clocks to go off at ten-minute intervals throughout the day.
3. Make a trail of orange juice on the floor leading to the rest rooms.
4. Walk up to an employee and tell him in an official tone, "I think we've got a Code 3 in house wares," and see what happens.
5. Tune all the radios to a polka station; then turn them all off and turn the volumes to "10."
6. Challenge other customers to duels with tubes of gift wrap.
7. Put M&M's on layaway.
8. Move "Caution: Wet Floor" signs to carpeted areas.
9. Set up a tent in the camping department; tell others you'll only invite them in if they bring pillows from Bed and Bath.
10. When someone asks if you need help, begin to cry and ask, "Why won't you people just leave me alone?"

Farmer picks up an American Indian hitchhiking. The Indian is a man of few words but eventually looks at the brown paper bag in between them and asks, "Mmm, What in bag?" The farmer says, "It's a bottle of wine that I got for my wife." Indian thinks for a second and say, "Mmm, good trade."

A border patrol officer is patrolling the border between the United States and Canada one night when a man drives up on a motorcycle. The officer stops the man and asks, "What do you have in that backpack there?" The man replies, "Sand." "Sand?" the officer says puzzled, "Please open the bag sir." The man opens the bag and there is sand. "Alright, you may go on your way then," the officer said with a puzzled look. The man then drives off into the darkness. The next week, the same man on his motorcycle drives up to the same station that he did before. He says that there is sand in the bag and, sure enough, there is. The man drives up on a motorcycle with sand in his bag every week for a couple of months. The next time the man drives up to the station, the officer says, "I promise, I'm not going to arrest you. But just tell me. Are you trying to smuggle something or not?" "Do you swear you won't take me in?" the man replies. "I promise," says the officer. "Well, I am ashamed to admit it but, I have been smuggling something," the man says. The officer asks curiously, "What have you been smuggling?" The man replies with a grin, "Motorcycles!"



At all times, day by day, we have to continue fighting for freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom from want — for these are things that must be gained in peace as well as in war.

(Eleanor Roosevelt)

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Let's proudly wave our American flags made in China.



someecards

Nothing says "Let's celebrate America!" quite like drinking beer and playing with explosives.



TELL ME ANOTHER STORY



ABOUT FREEDOM



HEROES COME IN MANY SHAPES.

Here are two of them.

HSAHOTDOG.COM BY 🐶 🍷 🍺

FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR FOURTEENTH SUNDAY

A lady would walk by a pet store every morning on her way to work where a parrot was sitting in its cage outside the door. As the lady walked by the parrot would yell out in a gravelly voice, "Hey Lady...you're UGLY." The woman was taken aback by this rudeness. On her way back home she passed the parrot again who yelled out again, "Hey Lady...YOU'RE UGLY." The next morning the parrot yelled even louder, "HEY LADY...YOU'RE UGLY." The woman would take no more of this offense. She went to the store owner and said, "If that bird yells at me one more time that I'm ugly, I will sue you for defamation of character and roast that parrot in my oven." The store owner was very apologetic. He assured her he would have a talk with the bird to make sure this never happened again.

As the lady passed by the store after work, sure enough, the parrot yelled out, "Hey LADY..." The lady turned around, looked the bird in the eye and said, "WHAT?" The bird yelled back, "YOU KNOW!"

Just like the offended lady, a lot of people took offense with the Supreme Court ruling allowing same sex marriage. A lot of people have vented their anger on radio and TV, denouncing the ruling as an offense to God Himself!

I simply ask everyone to calm down. Don't get drawn into all the anger, hyped-up by the media. Please consider these facts:

- 1) Archbishop Cupich of Chicago wisely stated that the Supreme Court only redefined civil marriage. Their ruling has no bearing on the Catholic understanding of marriage as a sacrament only between a man and woman. I, as a priest and your Pastor, uphold the Church teaching.
- 2) We can still worship God the way we believe. The First Amendment guarantees us the freedom to practice our beliefs. We remember this July 4th weekend the many men and women who died to protect this right. The right of a man to marry a woman has not been taken away. Someone who loves differently than you doesn't take away *your* right to love the way *you* do.
- 3) There is fear that the Church will be sued for discrimination or that our tax-exempt status will be removed or government funding will be denied to religious social services like Catholic Charities. I believe God will protect the Church. We have gone through far worse and yet here we are. No government can triumph over God and His Church. As Jesus said, "Don't be afraid...have faith."

What is most important to me is not this court decision but how do we treat these couples who come into our Church for worship? The answer is simple. Do what Jesus would do. You greet them warmly and welcome them into God's House. You show them the same compassion, kindness, hospitality and respect you would want for yourself.

You know what most offended people about Jesus? It was that He reached out and loved the very people that others considered unlovable, outcasts who were not worthy of respect. Unlike that parrot, Jesus never saw anyone as ugly. In Matthew 11:6 Jesus says, "And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me." I urge you never to be offended or ashamed to love like Jesus. When you do so, you are blessed.