



BENEDICTION EVERY THURSDAY AT 6:30 P.M.



\$264,990.00

Debt on Fr. Luehrmann Hall

Happy Birthday!

October 5.....Denise Battistine, Amanda Hall, Blake Walters, Jo Allen, Max McGinnis

October 7.....Janice Gaston, Frank Huiet, Janelle Rockey

October 8.....Lori Leibreich



ST. FRANCIS PET BLESSING

Bring your furry little friends for the annual Pet Blessing Saturday, October 7th at 11:00 a.m. This will take place outside the Rectory. Pardon the mess, as construction for the new St. Mary School playground began on September 30th.

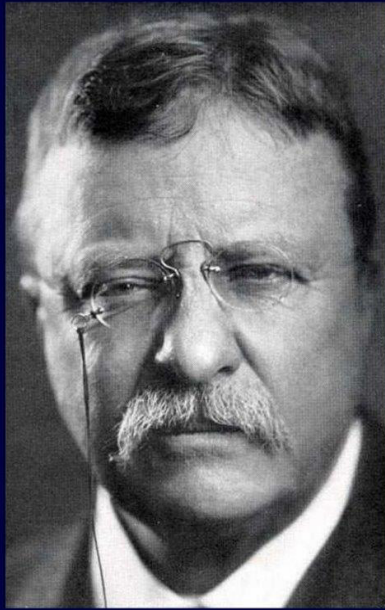


ROSARY RALLY

Rosary will be prayed Saturday, October 14th, at the front lawn of St. Mary. Go to the special 9:00 a.m. Mass to honor the appearance of Mary at Fatima, 100 years ago. The Rosary will follow after Mass.

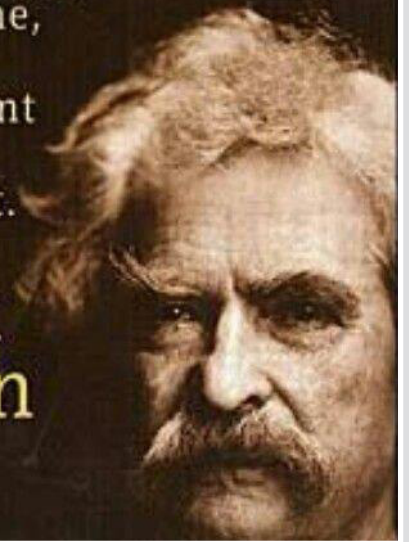
Patriotism means
to stand by
the country.
It does not mean
to stand by the
president or
any other
public official

~
Theodore Roosevelt



Patriotism
is supporting your country
all the time,
and your
government
when it
deserves it.

**Mark
Twain**



Those who would
disrespect our flag

Have never been handed
a folded one

MILLIE TOUPS CREATIONS



True Grit is making a decision and
standing by it, doing what must be
done. No moral man can have peace
of mind if he leaves undone what he
knows he should have done.

— John Wayne —

AZ QUOTES

**It may be Your Right to not
Stand for the Pledge, but
before you decide...**



**Let Me Introduce You
to Someone Who Can't
Stand Because He
Defended that Right...**



A STABLE RELATIONSHIP



SERMON FOR TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I received a very strange phone call last Wednesday. (Names have been changed). "This is a nurse from the Western Hills Nursing Home in Cincinnati. I am on a conference call with Mary H. who wants to see you." I replied, "I don't know any Mary H. at your nursing home. Does she have the right Fr. Mike? There are a lot of 'Fr. Mikes' out there." Mary then screamed out, "You're the one from 55 South Riverside in Batavia!" I said, "That's right. But I still don't know who you are." She replied, "I talked with you when you were a Deacon at St. Agnes in Bond Hill. We even bowled together in the church league." Then I remembered Mary. I had not seen her for 37 years. She said emphatically, "I need to talk with you." I said, "Mary I am 2 hours away from you. Can we talk on the phone?" She said, "No, I need to see you." I asked, "Are you dying." "No." "Do you want the sacraments?" "No." Exasperated I asked, "Then what do you want?" "You'll see when you get here." With such vague information from a woman I haven't seen in 37 years, who lives two hours away, I said, "No Mary. You are too far away. If you need a priest there is one right down the street." I could hear the disappointment in her voice as she said softly, "OK." She was crestfallen....

Afterwards, I started to feel guilt. My mind wrestled between the angel talking in one ear and the devil making excuses in the other. The angel would say, "But she really needs to see you. It could be very important. Go to her." The devil would counter, "She's probably a mentally challenged woman whom you haven't seen in 37 years and lives four counties away. Don't bother. Save your energies for more important things." I got very little sleep as I wrestled with this all night.

I called the nursing home early the next morning. I told the nurse, "I'll see Mary on Sunday afternoon but I really don't want to go." The nurse informed Mary. She described her as "elated." The nurse said, "I don't know what you did for her 37 years ago but she hasn't forgot."

Last Sunday, I entered Mary's room. There were holy pictures plastered all over her walls, even a complete set of all 14 stations. The years were not kind to her. She was 63 but looked years older. She lost a leg due to blood flow problems. Yet she had the same warm smile that I remember... from 1979. After talking about old memories, I finally asked, "Mary, I'm here. What is so important that you have to see me in person?" There were two plastic boxes each containing a rosary. "Would you please bless these rosaries?" I thought to myself, "I came all this way to bless rosaries? Could the devil be right that this was a complete waste of my time and energies?" But then the voice of the angel came through so clearly when Mary said the real reason for this visit. "Thirty seven years ago, I borrowed some money from you. It's bothered me all these years that I have not payed you back. I want to make this right before I die." She reached into her pocket and pulled out the money she owed me....two dollars.

I started to chuckle. I just spent 25 dollars in gas in a four hour round trip to get...two dollars. I didn't even remember giving it to her, but she did. Yet those two dollars were priceless because it healed her guilty conscience and brought her peace. Before leaving, I blessed her. She said, "Come back and see me sometime." You know I just might. I'm glad I listened to the angel...

Today, I feel like the first son who told his dad, "No", but he listened to his angel and went anyways, doing his father's will. I ask you is there something in your life that you're telling God, "No" when you should be saying, "Yes?" Are you saying "Yes" to God's will but not backing it up with action? Listen to your angel. Don't be fooled by the devil's excuses. The road to purgatory is traveled by so many people who told God "Yes" but did nothing. Thank God Jesus obediently said "Yes" to His death that paid back our debt, a debt worth far more than two dollars.