





## LAUGHTER IS GOOD

A man died and went to heaven. As he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him. He asked, "What are all those clocks?" St. Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone on Earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock will move." "Oh," said the man, "whose clock is that?" "That's Mother Teresa's. The hands have never moved, indicating that she never told a lie." "Incredible," said the man. "And whose clock is that one?" St. Peter responded, "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abe told only two lies in his entire Life."

"Where's my teenaged son's clock?" asked the man.

"It's in Jesus' office. He's using it as a ceiling fan..."



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL REQUEST

Our St. Mary St. Vincent de Paul Society needs more members. It does very good work for the poor and a very important ministry in our church. If interested, please attend the next meeting, which is October 15th, right after the 7:00 p.m. Thursday Mass. Some of the members have been there for decades and need new blood to continue the work. Though I must admit, Jerry Piezer looks years younger with his new teeth.



## SCHOOL NEWS

St. Mary School had a successful Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo night. Thanks to everyone who donated and supported this fund raiser.

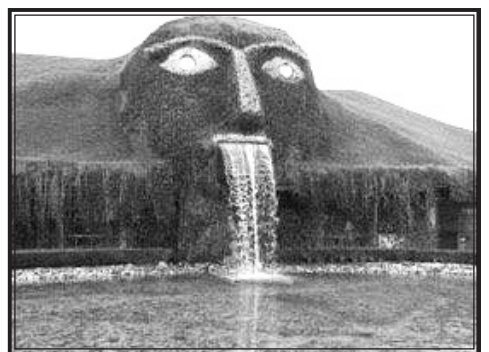
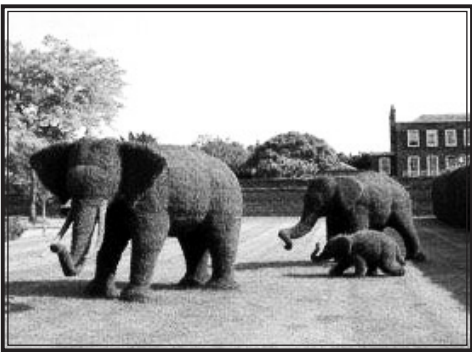
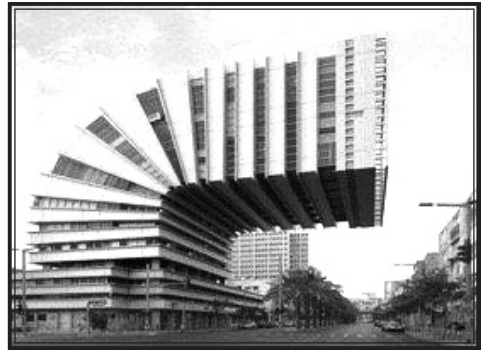
St. Mary School will be having a Bob Evans Community Fund Raiser on Thursday, October 8. Anytime on Thursday, when you present the flyer, the school will get 15% of sales. Extra flyers will be available in the Narthex.

October 12 – No school for grades K-5. The staff will be attending an in-service.

**PRESCHOOL WILL BE IN SESSION.**

October 22 – Fall Festival, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

# Pics You Won't Believe!





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## FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY

I can never imagine the pain of going through a divorce. Sadly, some priests only added more pain to the divorced by making them feel guilty, excommunicated and cut off from receiving Holy Communion once they took the risk of finding love again through remarriage. I never could understand how a murderer could go to confession and receive Holy Communion, but a spouse who gets out of an abusive marriage and then finds love again is now a second class Catholic unwelcome at the Altar of Christ's Body and Blood. To these Catholics, Pope Francis offers good news.

I quote now the Religious News Service, "(RNS) Speaking out on one of the most contentious issues of his papacy, Pope Francis on Wednesday (August 5) issued a powerful call for the church to embrace Catholics who have divorced and remarried, telling a gathering at the Vatican that such couples *"are not excommunicated, and they absolutely must not be treated that way! They always belong to the church,"* he added, *calling on pastors to welcome Catholics who have remarried without an annulment, even though such Catholics are currently barred in most cases from receiving the Eucharist, the central sacrament of the faith. The church is called to be always the open house of the Father. ... No closed doors! No closed doors!"* The pope's words were greeted with what was described as thunderous applause. In 1984, I gave a powerful sermon to divorced and remarried Catholics and told them "Jesus never denied anyone access to the Father. The Church must be open to the divorced and receive them with love."

Then the Pope did something new in which he extended mercy to those millions of Catholics barred from receiving the Eucharist. Here are the things you need to know:

- 1) An annulment is a ruling that a particular marriage was null from the beginning – that is, something was gravely wrong at the time the wedding vows were made and it prevented a valid marriage from happening.
- 2) Because of the teaching of Mark 10:11-12, the Church cannot simply give divorced people permission to remarry. To do so would be to give them permission to commit adultery.
- 3) Annulments as they are done now can be very lengthy, can open a lot of old wounds and cost a lot of money.
- 4) Pope Francis in September issued a document called "The Lord Jesus, a Gentle Judge." The first thing he did was to make all annulments free of charge. He said the people should not have to pay for justice from the Church. The second thing he did was to simplify the entire process. A simpler, shorter and easier process has been established in cases where the grounds for an annulment are clearly evident. Most of my annulment cases fall into this category. Some of the categories falling into the simpler annulment process are things like the marriage did not last long or an extra marital affair soon after the marriage or children born from a previous relationship or drug use or immaturity.
- 5) The short form also applies to physical violence and abuse. However, I take those cases to the internal forum where I and the divorced/remarried person go directly to God in the conscience of their heart. The annulment process could open the petitioner up to more violence which cannot ever be allowed...period.
- 6) I have read that these short form annulments could be granted in under 45 days.
- 7) This new annulment process begins on December 8, 2015.

I warmly welcome these changes. My only regret is that this should have happened years ago. So much pain could have been avoided. I am glad to have lived long enough to see it. Lord, you can now dismiss your servant in peace...but not right now. Blessings...Fr. Mike