

August 17, 2008

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997
1100 Hood Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

Friends in Christ Jesus,

We hope to be celebrating Mass in our new building by November. However so that we can celebrate Mass we will need an altar and pulpit. If you are talented in wood working and you would like to make an altar and pulpit for the new building, please let me know as soon as possible. We will be needing several other items soon too. Stay tuned for more information.

Have a blessed week,

Fr. Scott Mansfield.

Upcoming Events

August 24, 3PM..... Annual St. Thomas Picnic
October 3 Bob and Gerri Hover awards at St. Francis



Holy Rosary

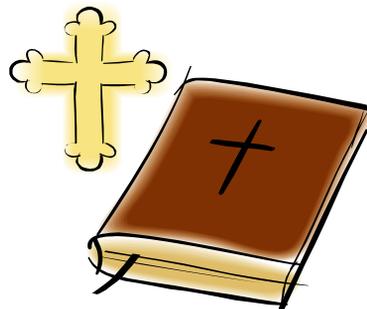
Sunday 7:40AM

Sunday 10:40AM

Holy Mass

Sunday 8:00AM

Sunday 11:00AM



Noah's Ark - 1999

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I'm going to make it rain until the whole earth is covered with water and all the evil people are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people, and two of every kind of living thing on the planet. I am commanding you to build an Ark." And in a flash of lightning, He delivered the specifications for an Ark, "Okay," said Noah, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints. "Six months and it starts to rain," thundered the Lord. "You'd better have the Ark completed, or learn to swim for a very long time."

Six months passed, the skies clouded up and rain began to fall. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard, weeping. And there was no Ark. "Noah!" shouted the Lord, "Where is the Ark?" "Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best. But there were big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the Ark construction project, and your plans didn't meet code. I had to hire an engineer to redraw the plans. Then I got into a big fight over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system.

"Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning by building the Ark in my front yard. I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. Then I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the spotted owl. I had to convince the US Fish and Wildlife that I needed the wood to save the owls. But they wouldn't let me catch any owls. So, no owls.

"The carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or hammer. Now we have sixteen carpenters going on the boat, and still no owls. Then I started gathering up animals, and got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me taking only two of each kind.

"Just when I got that suit dismissed, the EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of a Supreme Being. Then the Army Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed new flood plain. So I sent them a globe. Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over how many Croatians I'm supposed to hire.

"The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to avoid paying taxes by leaving the country. And I just got a notice from the state about owing them some kind of use tax. I really don't think I can finish the Ark for at least another five years," Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear. The sun began to shine. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled, "You mean you're not going to destroy the earth?" Noah asked hopefully. "No," said the Lord sadly, "The government already has!"

To be Seen but not Heard by Carl E. Beyer

As a child my “so called” parents reminded us often that kids were “To be Seen but not Heard”. That ranked right up there with the telling us they wished they hadn’t had any kids. These statement really was just a reflection of their selflessness for their own pursuit of happiness with total disregard for anyone else’s happiness. What a contrast to our Blessed Mother Mary who gave her body and soul to our Lord.

It has been my experience that those who seek happiness are the most unhappy of us all. Only by trying to make others happy do we achieve happiness in our lives. If someone tells me they are unhappy, I never advise them on how to seek happiness. I say help others and you will help yourself.

The mother that doesn’t want to be bothered by their kids problems is not going to be happy. The mother that takes the time to assist, to console, to love their children will be paid back with immeasurable joy from their family.

Parents, while we need to provide for our family let us remember that while we need material things to survive, ultimately what the family needs most is time, time together to share their love. What good is that new sports car when the parents are divorce, the kids are neglected and the religion is far in the background.

As a religious community our measurement of success should not be our bank accounts but by our measure of family and friend we have. Talk with your children regardless of their age because you may well find them wise beyond their age. Take the time to pass down the stories of your childhood and stories of your parents’ childhood to enforce the strong family bonds. What most people desire is to belong and to belong to a family is the greatest treasure of all.

So let us kick up the barbeques and invite our family and friends and share our love for each other.

On a final note THANK YOU all for making our pot luck a great success.

St. Abraham of Smolensk, Abbot (A.D. 1221) August 21

This Abraham has a place apart among the saints of per-Tartar Russia. He was born at Smolensk during the later part of the twelfth century. While a youth he lost his parents, whereupon he gave away his goods to the needy and became a monk and priest of the Bogoroditskaya monastery at his birthplace. He was like St. Theodosius Pechersky in his reverence for St. Sabas and the early monks of Palestine, in his insistence on personal poverty, and in his combining the active with the contemplative life, not only doing much manual work within the monastery but preaching and helping the poor and sick outside as well. But Abraham took no part in secular affairs, and further differed from Theodosius in his studiousness. He copied manuscripts, and became a learned and industrious interpreter of the Holy Scriptures and an energetic and vigorous preacher; he was full of zeal for God's house and the beauty of divine workshop, and "strictly forbade talking in church", especially during the Holy Sacrifice. More remarkable still, for that time and place, he celebrated the Eucharistic Liturgy every day.

What distinguished St. Abraham from his contemporaries was his sternness and austerity, both in precept and practice: "he slept but little; kneeling and weeping abundant tears, he beat his breast and called upon God, imploring the Lord to have mercy on His people and to turn away His wrath." His preaching was marked by prophetic solemnity and concern with the "last things"; he was tireless in his calls to repentance and his warnings of the end of the world and its judgment. The influence St. Abraham exerted was very great especially among lay people, but his teaching aroused the opposition of some among the clergy and monks; and, after his abbot had forbidden him to teach and he suffered "many annoyance", Abraham migrated to the Holy Cross monastery in Smolensk.

But things got worse, and the whole city began to turn against him. There is no doubt that the more ignorant of the clergy were jealous of his learning and popularity as a spiritual director, and they stirred up others. Charges were made against St. Abraham "on account of women", of heresy, of claiming to be a prophet, of reading impious books. Eventually he was arrested, dragged through a jeering mob, and on successive days brought before two different tribunals: the first, composed of laymen, acquitted him, it does not seem certain that the second, of clerics, found him guilty either. But the bishop of Smolensk, Ignatius, sent him back to his first monastery and he was inhibited from celebrating the Holy Mysteries.

There were not wanting those who foretold disaster for Smolensk because of its mistreatment of an innocent and holy man; and when the city was afflicted with a serious drought Bishop Ignatius decided to re-examine the case of Abraham. The result of deliberations was to decide that the accusations were all false, and St. Abraham was

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reinstated, with the request that he should pray for the city. “He had not even reached his cell”, writes Ephrem, “before God sent rain.” The persecution had lasted for five years, during which he was “insulted and vilified as if he were a felon”. The bishop ask Abraham’s forgiveness for the injustice to which he had been a party, and after a time made him abbot of the small monastery of the Mother of God. It was not a very desirable charge, for the monks were few and old and of poor repute; but St. Abraham gladly accepted it, and there spent the rest of his life in peace. He again took up his former work of the ministry of the word and of spiritual wisdom, and died in the year 1221, loved and respected by all. He had been a monk for fifty years, and was stern and uncompromising to the last as he “in great humility and sorrow of heart reminded himself with sighs and groans of the separation of soul from body”.

The contemporary biographer Ephrem says that at St. Abraham’s trial “God softened the hearts of the prince and the rulers, but the abbots and priests would gladly have eaten him alive”. The less ignorant and malicious among there clergy were probably disturbed by some of St. Abraham’s biblical exegesis, for that was his great interest, especially as regards, the “last things” and their practical significance for human souls. Ephrem repeatedly refers to the divine grace that was given Abraham “not only to read but to interpret, so that nothing in the sacred writings could be hidden from him”. It is not known what challenged speculations were, nor the nature of the unorthodox books St. Abraham was accused of studying, for little of his teaching has come down to us, except one sermon, on the Heavenly Powers, and it is not certain that is his, though with doubt it reflects his spiritual background accurately, a background wherein mercilessness is regarded as almost the worst of sins and consummation of the Last Judgment is the transfiguration of the physical earth. What remains certain is that “Many came to St. Abraham from the city, and passed from sin to repentance”.

Come, Pray and Sacrifice
for The Unborn
The Helpers of God's Precious Infants
Monthly Mass and Procession
with Father Stephen Imbarrato
Saturday, September 13,2008
San Ignacio Church
1300 Walter St. NE, Albuquerque

Mass Begins: 8:00 A.M. followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a procession to a nearby abortion mill. Then, return to church for Benediction. Invite your family and friends to join you at this peaceful and prayerful event. Join us for the second anniversary of Helpers. For more information contact Yolanda at Helpers@Defendinglife.Org or 220-8891.

Prayer Corner

Let us join as a community in prayer for our fellow parishioners and/or their family members.

- ♦ John Lombardo - For his continued recovery from surgery.
- ♦ Gerry Hoover - For her recovery from her recent illness.
- ♦ Ally Sanxay - Recovery from Stage IV breast cancer.
- ♦ David Arbuckle - For a firm diagnostic of his illness.
- ♦ Manuel Romero - For a liver transplant.
- ♦ Anna L. Medina - Recently diagnosed with a MSD.
- ♦ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.

To add someone you wish us to pray for please eMail bulletin@sjvnm.org.

Thank you for your prayers.

Parish Directory

Vicar	Rev. Scott Mansfield
Coordinator.....	Ed Uhrich
Communications.....	Carl E. Beyer
Finance Building Chair	James Sandoval
Pastoral Chair	Ed Uhrich
Head Sacristan.....	Gerry Hoover
Head Usher & Altar Servers.....	Ed Uhrich
Head Lector	Peggy Riley
Head EM.....	Pinky Bjornstad
Head CCD	Edwinna Herrera
Head Snacker.....	Harlan Harrington
Parish Website	www.sjvnm.org

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments or articles can be sent to bulletin@sjvnm.org. We also like to hear about births, baptisms, marriages or other news about our church members.

Thank you all for your contribution of food and companionship at our latest Pot Luck. 😊

Receive our bulletin via eMail

Visit our website at www.sjvnm.org and click on **Subscribe** to be added to the eMailing list. to receive the bulletin electronically.

Volunteer Schedule	August 17, 2008		August 24, 2008	
	8:00AM	11:00AM	8:00AM	11:00AM
Ushers	John Christensen James Dory	Ed Uhrich Tony Quinones	Tom Anderson John Christensen	Tony Quinones Frank Charles
EM of Holy Communion	Jose Guillen	Rosie Root	David Crawford	Pinky Bjornstad
Rosary Leader	Rochelle Quinones	Pink Bjornstad	Frank Perko	Rochelle Quinones
Altar Servers	Peter Lucero Rocky Peyton	Angela Jenkins Ariana Jenkins	Charles Lucero Fernando Lucero	Jordan Juarez Kevin Savela
Readers	David Crawford James Dory	Vicky Howell Michael Tafuro	Petrita Lopez Peggy Riley	Bill McCarty Pam McCarty
Sacristan	Julie Burnside	Margaret Chavez	Julie Burnside	Margaret Chavez

<p>Debi Wendt - Realtor Coldwell Banker 263-7095 Cellular 891-6431 Direct mariska564@aol.com</p>		<p>Ad \$ Raised for the Building Fund \$700</p>
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<p>Rio Rancho Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Laurence J. Rogel, D.D.S., P.C. Providing oral surgical care for N.M since 1984 994-4772 - www.rioranchooms.com</p>		
		
<p>Did anyone find Tony's picture in this Bulletin?</p>		
<p>New Mexico Net Your NM information resource www.nmnet.org</p>		