

February 15, 2009

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint John Vianney

A Mission Church of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish serving you since August 10, 1997
1000 26th Ave NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144

www.sjvnm.org

Friends in Christ Jesus,

Greetings and Peace.

We had a very exciting opening of our new parish hall. Within one week the number of Mass attendees tripled. Last weekend's attendance fell just short of nine hundred. Wow! We have room for more, of course. This being said, I thank our ushers. I received several comments complimenting our ushers--how attentive they are, how friendly they are, how helpful they are. Thanks guys for the great work. And thanks too for springing into action when it came time to set up for religious education. You are appreciated much. Appreciated too are you who have donated your time and talent so that our new place will remain clean and tidy. Thanks for signing up.



Have a blessed week,

Fr. Scott Mansfield

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Holy Rosary

20 Minutes before every mass

Holy Masses

Saturday4:00PM

Sunday 8:00AM

Sunday 10:00AM

Confession

Saturday 3:00-3:45PM

Groundhog Day - by Carl E Beyer

I am not really sure how it happened but I missed Groundhog Day this year. The calendar I use from St. Thomas doesn't seem to have Groundhog Day marked. Can someone speak to Father about having this corrected next year?

For those of you that are now saying what is this crazy guy talking about, I want you to run down to your favorite video store and rent "Groundhog Day" featuring Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell produced in 1993. OK, are you back from watching the movie?

Now you have seen the movie we can start with the Groundhog itself. I know the movie centered around this little critter in all its glory but I am from the North East and spent many hours with the Groundhog. This pesky little critter is the spawn of all farmers. He tears up the fields ruining much of the farmers equipment. So as a youth the Groundhog was predestined target material. I have a very clear memory of our Beagles cornering one of these critters and spending time tiring it out. Our hunting dogs had dinner that day. Just a second I will be right back OK, I had to check and ensure this critter was not on the extinction list after I had written about it that manner. Nope the great Northeastern forests are too vast for this to ever happen.

As a kid I really did not think much of this holiday. This was because most years February 2nd saw the Groundhog cozy in its underground den. The Groundhog was way too smart to pop his head up to check his shadow on a likely cold and snowy day.

Oops better review the folklore before we go any further. *If a groundhog emerging from its burrow on this day fails to see its shadow, it will leave the burrow, signifying that winter will soon end. If on the other hand, the groundhog sees its shadow, the groundhog will retreat into its burrow, and winter will continue for six more weeks.*

Here in the desert we could substitute the Prairie Dog for the Groundhog I suppose. But I have not seen a Prairie Dog very often. I know where some burrows are but I most often walk with four dogs which I am sure keep the Prairie Dogs in hiding.

Last weekend I felt a little like the Groundhog. Friday I pop my head outside and felt the warmth and started dreaming of spring. I dug out and fix some of the garden irrigation lines. Garden plans started to stir in my head. But I forgot to check and therefore did not see my shadow. Saturday I worked all day at my computer on various projects so I would have Sunday to enjoy the warmth of spring. Sunday morning I went to the 10AM mass and all was fine but as we all know the weather took a turn for the worst later in the day. I stuck my head outside Sunday afternoon to be greeted by a very strong and cold wind. With that, my dream of an early spring went away. Sometimes with this great New Mexico weather, we forget what month we are in. February is still quite early.

I wonder how many of us have given thoughts to how great of a gift our God has given us with the seasons.

Each Spring we plant our seeds to see them grow. Some make it, some not, as in all life. We watch as the trees we plant give birth to new leafs. Flowers bloom to feed our eyes their beauty. Our garden plants and fruit trees blossom not for their beauty in the present but for the promise of the fruits and vegetables in the next season. We are reminded of our own birth and

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adolescent. Our blossoming, our struggles, our promise of a great future.

Summer comes with its long days and warmth. Those flowers, that are there for beauty, continue feeding our eyes. The flowers on the fruits and vegetables have been replaced with their produce growing bigger and bigger with each passing day, as we do in life, growing stronger and wiser with the passing years. These long days give us time to play after a full day of work. It reminds us that man is neither happy in all play nor in all work but needs to strike a healthy balance. I have often wondered how people can buy houses and pay landscapers to finish their backyards before they have even moved in. What a pity that they have forsaken the pleasure of sharing in God's creation of a flower patch, a row of fruit trees or a vegetable garden. Yes we can enjoy the pleasure and beauty of a perfectly created landscape by someone else but that is not the same as when it is done by one's own hands. Always progressing, never perfected; that is the greatest of the backyards.

Then comes Fall. Time to reap the rewards of the work of Summer. Time to store up for the coming of the next season. The turning of the leaves is God's final glorious brushstroke of color in the seasons. Days get shorter, colder and in some ways harder. As in life, we are still productive but things slow down and our thoughts drift toward taking things at a slower pace. Time to not be a bystander as life is so busy it passes away too quickly. This is the time to take pleasure in seeing the beauty of life. Time to remember the Spring and Summer that has brought us such pleasure.

And finally the last season of Winter comes upon us. In our city life we forget what this season should mean. This should be the time to put our feet up; to enjoy quiet time by the fireplace. Time to relax, reflect and gather our strength for the coming Spring. And yes traditionally time to bake and make those food dishes to be dreamt about in the other three seasons. This reminds each of us that in life we will hit our Winter; time when we will leave this earth for the eternal springtime of Heaven.

What a gift God gives us in the seasons. Each year we get to enjoy the distinct differences of the seasons. We get to reflect on what season of life we are in. And best of all, God gives us a chance to attempt to perfect what only God is able to perfect. We seek to live in God's shadow. Some years we do better than others, but on whole, we hope to be able to make progress for the greatest day of our life; our last day, the day we meet our maker.

I thought the movie "Groundhog Day" had a deep message, to wit, of learning to be unselfish, to only seek to help others, to find the simple pleasure of making someone else's day. And in doing so, find the deep inner peace we all seek. It was a simple message of Bill Murray's character who in the beginning tried to kill himself to no avail, then sought to pleasure himself in all vices and finding no pleasure in that. In the end, the perfect day was the day that was spent making other people happy. If only we could absorb this message into our own lives.

So go forth and dream of spring. Stare out the window and visualize those flowers to plant, vegetable gardens to plan and fruit to pick. But most of all go forth and thank God for the blessing of the seasons. God Bless you all.

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Letter used:

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Answer in next week bulletin. Some Hints on back page.

Send solution to bulletin@sjvnm.org and we will post your name next week.

8 Reason to Become Catholic (or Stay That Way) by Michael Matthews

In the last few decades, it has become commonplace for many Protestants to view Catholicism as a dead tradition, perhaps even as a cult. This may be your view of the Catholic Church. You may have had some bad experiences with Catholics in your past; or you may just find all that Catholic dogma a bit much to swallow.

At the same time, many Catholics have left the Church for what they perceive as greener spiritual pastures elsewhere. Perhaps you were raised Catholics, but find yourself experiencing the Lord's presence in a more powerful way in a church of a different tradition.

Whatever your reason for avoiding, leaving or considering leaving the Catholic Church, there are a few facts about the Church that you may interest you in your spiritual journey.

1. 2000 Years of Christian Tradition

Of all the various denominations in Christianity, only the Catholic Church, west and east (including the Orthodox), can trace itself back to the time of Christ.

All the core truths of Christianity, including the Canon of the New Testament, were defined by the Catholic Church. This is why St. Paul calls the Church "the pillar and foundation of truth". (1 Tim 3:15)

(Reason 2-8 coming in the following weeks)

One year, a husband decided to buy his mother-in-law a cemetery plot as a Christmas gift.

The next year, he didn't buy her a gift.

When she asked him why, he replied, "Well, you still haven't used the gift I bought you last year!"

And that's how the fight started.....

February 17 Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (13th century)

Can you imagine seven prominent men of Albuquerque or Santa Fe banding together, leaving their homes and professions, and going into solitude for a life directly given to God? That is what happened in the cultured and prosperous city of Florence in the middle of the thirteenth century. The city was torn with political strife as well as the heresy of the Cathari. Morals were low and religion seemed meaningless.

In 1240 seven noblemen of Florence mutually decided to withdraw from the city to a solitary place for prayer and direct service of God. Their initial difficulty was providing for their dependents, since two were still married and two were widowers.

Their aim was to lead a life of penance and prayer, but they soon found themselves disturbed by constant visitors from Florence. They next withdrew to the deserted slopes of Monte Senario.

In 1244, under the direction of St. Peter of Verona, O.P., this small group adopted a religious habit similar to the Dominican habit, choosing to live under the Rule of St. Augustine and adopting the name of the Servants of Mary. The new Order took a form more like that of the mendicant friars than that of the older monastic Orders.

Members of the community came to the United States from Austria in 1852 and settled in New York and later in Philadelphia. The two American provinces developed from the foundation made by Father Austin Morini in 1870 in Wisconsin.

Community members combined monastic life and active ministry. In the monastery, they led a life of prayer, work and silence while in the active apostolate they engaged in parochial work, teaching, preaching and other ministerial activities.

How many motorcyclists do we have in our parish? How about we start the new spring/summer, in our new parish, in our new church, with a new parish tradition. Let's have a motorcyclist and motorcycle blessing. I will have to get with Father Scott for time and arrangements, but if you support this email me at fjpmga@cableone.net.

— Martin Aragon

Upcoming Events

February 25, 2009 (Ash Wednesday) Wednesday 5PM, 7PM

Volunteer Schedule	Saturday February 14th	Sunday February 15th	
	4:00PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
Ushers	Ed Uhrich Tom Medrano	Tom Anderson Bill Deneen Jim Cutler	Frank Charles Aaron Quinones James Dory Eddie Crespín
EM of Holy Communion	David Crawford	Jose Guillen	John Jenkins Coz Madrid Carrie Jenkins
Rosary Leader	Ed Uhrich	Evelyn Romero	Peggy Riley
Altar Servers	James Uhrich	Albert Ibarra Shane Herrera	Angela Jenkins Jen Reynolds Victoria Perez Arianna Jenkins
Readers	Pam McCarty Annette Montoya	Petrita Lopez Annette Montoya	Michael Tafuro Rochelle Quinones

Volunteer Schedule	Saturday February 21st	Sunday February 22nd	
	4:00PM	8:00AM	10:00AM
Ushers	Ed Uhrich Phillip Griego	John Christensen James Dory David Schutten	Tony Quinones Aaron Quinones Ariana Eck Juan Serna
EM of Holy Communion	Pinky Bjornstad	Julie Burnside	Jeremy McClellan April McClellan Rosie Root
Rosary Leader	Ed Uhrich	Jose Guillen	Rochelle Quinones
Altar Servers	James Uhrich	Sergio Guillen Albert Ibarra	Amanda Vigil John Reynolds Kevin Savela Krista Savela
Readers	David Crawford Pinky Bjornstad	Julie Burnside David Crawford	Vicky Howell April McClellan

Be sure and check St. John Vianney website at:
www.sjvnm.org
 The web should always be the correct schedule.

Prayer Corner

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

- ◆ Narciso Aragon for his eternal soul as he passed on January 30th.
- ◆ Manuel Romero - For a liver transplant / recovery.
- ◆ Mary Q. Haygood – For her health.
- ◆ Healing and God's care for Ken and Sydney Mayer.
- ◆ For our country leaders to make the right decision for the well being of our country.
- ◆ For guidance to our leaders for the removal of the stain of abortion from our country.
- ◆ All our brave men and women of the world keeping their country free.

Thank you for your prayers.

Thank you for reading our bulletin. Any suggestions, comments, prayers 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.

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
Concerns / Questions (Leave a Message).....	974-1778

