

Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, January 4th, 2009

Collection for Catholic Communications

And Catholic University

The Catholic University of America is the NATIONAL University of the Catholic Church in the United States located in our nation's capital. It provides an academically rigorous education guided by Catholic intellectual tradition to 6000 students every year. Next, we shall take one collection which will be split up between the Catholic University and Catholic Communications. Catholic Communications Office is likewise important inasmuch as it supports Catholic Radio, Catholic TV and the Catholic Press. All of this, lined up with the Catholic University of America deserves our full support. We ask you to please be generous in that second collection next week.

We Thank the Figli S. Gennaro

Just shortly before we left for our short rest on Christmas Day and returned on January 3rd from our short winter rest. The Secretary/Treasurer of the Figli San Gennaro handed us a check for \$40,000.00 which represented their largest check made out to any of the Charities they support, but at the same time they noted that the check was less than the last couple of years by \$10,000.00

due to heavy expenses which befell them in operating the feast. It seems that every year, they raise the rates on the rental stands & spaces to make additional monies for their charities, and in the end, the electric company jumps in, the city jumps in, and sanitation jumps in and whatever little extra they made is not even enough to take care of their increases in rates which are already astronomical and out of space. I think it's about time the City of New York begins to investigate itself (some of the Commissioners & departments, and then perhaps send some straight investigators into the electrical companies and find out where all that money is going, and to the Sanitation companies and see where all that money is going. Because before you know it, they will become the CHARITIES that we are working for.

Our Church this year got \$10,000.00 less only because there was no more money left in the pot, so to speak. We needed that money - a lot more than the City of New York or the Electric Company or even the Sanitation Company. And the City of New York is itself to blame for this because there are other electric companies that would like to bid, but are not allowed. And we are not supposed to ask WHY? Other companies are taking advantage of the situation. Open your eyes!

But in any event, let us thank the Figli San Gennaro publicly for their donation. It does go a

long way in helping us. It just hurts when we are cut down a sizeable 1/5th of our usual donation, and many churches and schools had to be cut out entirely. Only because the City, the Electric Company, the Sanitation and a few others wanted

to increase their cut of the pie. And next year probably the owners of the stands will get another increase. And the reason for the increase? To help the Charities??????

St. Theresa & St. Anne Groups

Will meet on Wednesday Evening in the Church at 7:30 for a half hour of prayers and meditation, followed at 8 pm with a formal meeting of the St. Anne Society in the Rectory. All members are exhorted to make the meetings.

Bus Ride To Atlantic City

If you want to get rid of the winter doldrums, think Atlantic City, and get yourself a ticket to ride that bus that goes down on January 19 and just have a good time and forget all your troubles for the day.

Announcement on Child Protection

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, a deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O>P> at 212 371-1000 ext. 2949 or Deacon Lawrence O'Toole at 914-594-4646. Both may also be reached by E-Mail at victim assistance @archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website: <http://ny-archdiocese.org>. In keeping with the archdiocesan policy regarding the sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

A Simple White Envelope

The following is a true story, passed along to me just before Christmas, and I thought it more than worthwhile to repeat it here, even though it is now well past Christmas. It just might give one or another of us food for thought for the future.

"It all began because my husband, Mike, hated Christmas - oh not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it - the overspending, the frantic rushing around, the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma - the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

"Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual sweaters, shirts, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way. Our son Kevin who was just 12 that year was wrestling at the Junior level at the school he attended. And shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner city church. These youngsters were dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings were needed to hold them together and they presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue & gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes. As the match began, I was alarmed to see that they did not even have protective headgear. In the end, we walloped them. Mike seated beside me shook his head sadly for the losers and said sadly "I wish just one of them could have won. They have a lot of potential. Like this could take the heart right out of them."

You see, Mike loved kids, all kids, and he knew them, having coached little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when I got the idea to go to the local sporting good store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes and sent them anonymously to that inner city Church and on Christmas Eve I placed a little white envelope on the tree with Mike's name on it, telling him exactly what I did in his name. No need to say that his smile was

the greatest thing that we ever saw on that Christmas Eve. And so each Christmas we repeated

exactly the same thing. We found something charitable to do in his name and gave him that for Christmas and he was more than happy with that.

“And the practice spread to the children. Gradually they lost their interest in toys and wanted to start the same thing and before you know it, the tree had several envelopes on it with various names of charitable acts done in the names of others. Well, Mike dies last year from cancer, but that did not stop us from putting up the tree and the envelopes. The tradition keeps on growing and someday will expand to our grandchildren and perhaps even our great grandchildren, all watching as their fathers take down the envelopes and reading all about charitable acts done at Christmas in their father’s name. And Mike’s Spirit, like the Christmas Spirit will always be with us, because that is how we recall Jesus.