

Most Precious Blood Church

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Happy Father's Day!

A Tribute To Our Fathers

Once a year, just like Mother's Day, our Nation honors the fathers of our land for all that they do for their families.

Most of our fathers work hard at their jobs to bring home their weekly salaries so that their wives and children will have a decent roof over their heads and food to place on their table. They do not ask for much in return, but once each year, WE feel that we MUST give them something in return for all that they do for us. And we try to honor them the best we know how by setting aside a day for them especially.

We want the fathers of our Parish to know that we appreciate them and all that they do. We will give them a special Memento in all of our Masses and ask the Lord to bless them so that their families will always be a source of great joy and pride for them.

A triduum of Masses is being said in our Church for the intention of our Fathers. Have YOUR father enrolled in this triduum of Masses by filling out an envelope in their Memory or for their intention immediately and drop it in any offering box. Again, a very Happy Fathers' Day!

In appreciation for our fathers, the Parish is giving our a little gift in remembrance to all the Fathers of the Parish who attend Mass today.

Our Lady's Statue

While a good representation of our Parish were on hand to welcome the Statue of Our Lady of Fatima this past Tuesday, It is too bad that we were not able to have a filled Church. Such an important event in our Parish should have been witnessed by ALL our families and ALL our Parishioners. Those that did attend received many graces, and hopefully all will live by the principles laid out by the Blessed Mother for our families and many blessings will come upon them.

Church Raffle

Once again, we ask all our Parish to support the fund-raiser - the Church Raffle and purchase or at least sell a book of tickets for us. Anyone interested should see Fr. Fatbrian. The tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00 or \$15.00 for the entire book. The raffle will be drawn on the last day of the Feast in our Courtyard.

Summer Is Here

This past week-end, we ushered in our summer season. Many of us, no doubt, will be planning to take a summer vacation. Remember that your church is still here on Mulberry St. while you are on vacation, and our expenses remain just about the

It seems that our collection offerings have dropped during this economic setback being experienced by our contemporaries. If they continue to drop like they have we fear for the future. We realize that everyone has obligations to fulfill to their families, and we hope that this financial crisis does not last much longer. But the Church is in even greater danger when it lacks basic support. Our collections do NOT support us. Our support comes mostly from the funds we realize during the S. Gennaro Feast and the Mall. Last year, we were cut down \$10,000.00 from the previous year. We tried over and over again to make that up in other ways, but we could not. We are barely making enough to take care of our bare necessities. Yes, as we see it, some extensive work which is quite costly has to be done in the Church for it to survive. And it has to be taken care of soon before the repairs get out of hand.

Parish Sick & Deceased

Please pray for the sick & deceased of the Parish, especially remember in your prayers the soul of Margaret Esposito, perhaps the formerly oldest active parishioner of Most Precious Blood Church, who passed away on June 9th at St. Vincent's Hospital and was buried from our Church on June 13th, the Feast of St. Anthony, to whom she was greatly devoted. May her soul rest in peace!

Six Boys & 13 Hands!

While visiting the IwoJima Memorial, the largest bronze statue in the world that depicts six brave soldiers raising the American Flag on a rocky hill on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan during World War II, we came upon James Bradley, who happened to be in Washington DC to be at the Memorial the following day. He said:

same. We have the obligation to support the Church even while we are away, so please remember to take care of this obligation wither before you depart or on your return.

"My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin. My dad is on that statue and I just wrote a book called "Flags of our Fathers, which is #4 on the New York Times Best Seller List. It's about the six boys you see behind me.

"Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the ground is Harlon Block was an all-state foot-ball player. He died at the age of 21 with his intestines in his hands. Most of the boys in Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years of age, and it was so hard that the ones who did make it home never wuld talk to their families about it. The next guy is Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire. If you took Tene's helmet off, you would find a picture of his girlfriend He put it in their for protection. He was 18 years old. It was just boys who won the battle of Iwo Jima. Not old men.

The next guy was Sergeant Mike Strank. He was called the "old man" because he was already 24. He would say, "You do what I saw, and I'll get you home to your mothers."

The last guy on this side of the statue of Ita Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona. Ita was one who walked off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my Dad. President Truman told him. 'You're a here.' He told reporters, 'how can I feel like a here when 250 ofmy buddies hit the island with me and only 27 of us walk off alive?' Ira Hayes carried the pain home with him and eventually died dead drunk, face down at the age of 32.

The next guy going around the statue is Franklin sously from Hilltop Kentucky. Franklin died at age 19 on Iwo Jima.

The next guy is my dad, John Bradley from Antigo Wisconsin. He lived until 1994, but he never would give an interview. Whenever the press would call and ask for him, we were to say "he is in Canada fishing and there is no phone there and we don't know when he is coming back. The truth is my dad never fished, never went to Canada and was always right there at the table eating his Campbell's Vegetable Soup. He refused to talk to the Press. He did not consider himself a hero but a caregiver. When I was a little boy. My third grade teacher told me that my

dad was a here. When I went home and told me Dad that, he looked at me and said, "I want you to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not return Did NOT come back".

So that's the story about six nice young boys. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7,000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. Thank you for your time. Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big old piece of bronze with a flag sticking out of the top. It was a monument!.

And another thing I learned is that if you look at the statue very closely and count the number of hands raising the flag, there are 13. When the man who made the statue was asked why there were 13 hands, he simply said that the 13th hand was the hand of God.

Great Story, Worth your Time !