

Most Precious Blood Church Bulletin

A Little Italy Newsletter

Sunday, September 14, 2008

Welcome To S. Gennaro Feast

Continues Until Next Sunday

We welcome all our friends from out of town to the 81st Annual Feast of San Gennaro. It is with great pride that we celebrate once again our Patron's Feast with great pomp and festivity. It supposedly is the greatest feast over a period of many days that is held in the United States of America and so many times we are asked "Just who is San Gennaro and why is this day celebrated so much in New York.

San Gennaro, very briefly was a Bishop of Benevento in the 4th century and during the persecution of Diocletian, he often visited those who were imprisoned because of their faith. Finally he himself was thrown into prison and was condemned to death. He along with three others were thrown into a fiery furnace but they were not consumed by the fire. Then orders were passed that he be beheaded. This occurred in Pozzuolo, and some pious woman collected his blood in vials. Naples was always plagued with eruptions from Mt. Vesuvius. The Neopolitans began to pray to S. Gennaro for protection against these eruptions. Twice yearly, it was noted that the blood in the vials which had always been in a solid state would liquify on the anniversary of S. Gennaro's death,

as well as on the anniversary of the transferral of his body to Naples from Pozzuolo.

The Neopolitans emigrating to New York took this devotion with them to "Little Italy" and still pray for protection for their homeland.

It might be noted that since the terrorist attack of New York on 9/11, San Gennaro has often been prayed to for protection against terrorism, especially by New Yorkers who were witnesses to that terrible attack.

St. Joseph's Seminary Collection

Next Sunday, there will be a special 2nd Collection for St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie. We ask that all of our people attending Mass be especially generous in this collection which will be devoted to those students who are too poor to pay for their own Seminary Education. Today, we need more priests than ever, and we have to give every young man who thinks he has a vocation the possibility of testing this in the proper atmosphere of a seminary and with exceptional training to be good and holy priests. Your gift to the seminary will help greatly sustain these young men through their studies.

Fund Raiser Raffle

We are having our own raffle to raise funds for necessary repairs to the Church of the Most Precious Blood. Tickets are for sale in the Church Courtyard during the Feast. Please support this effort. Tickets are only \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, or \$15.00 per book of ten tickets. Your cooperation will help us very much. Also, the sale of all religious articles in the courtyard will go towards the repairs of the church. 100% of the proceeds go to the Church of the Most Precious Blood.

Raffle of 2007

Those of our Visitors who were not aware of the winner of the Vespa Scooter held in our Courtyard on the last day of last year's Feast we submit the following information. The Vespa was won by Joe Trovini from Hackensack, NJ who picked it up about two weeks after the feast.

Feast Day Mass

The Feast Day Mass for S. Gennaro will be on Friday, January 19th at 6:00 pm. We hope that many of our devotees will be present for the Mass as well as for the procession which will be held immediately after the Mass. We welcome Fr. Antonio Riccio into our midst once again who came to us from the eternal city of Rome, Italy to celebrate the Feast. Fr. Antonio is the Superior and Guardian of the Convento S. Francesco located just a few feet from Vatican City.

Explanation of Death

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and

said: "Doctor, I am afraid to die! Tell me what's on the other side?"

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know? You, a Christian man do not know what is on the other side?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door. On the other side came a sound of scratching and whining. And as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said: "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here. And when the door opened, he sprang without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing: I know that my Master is there waiting for me, and that is enough!"

What a wonderful way to think about death! That it is our entry to spend an eternity with our Master in heaven!

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to Church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I am wasting my time and the Pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the Editor and it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time, my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals for me. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave

me all the strength that I needed to do my work and carry me through each of those days I lived with her. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, If I had not gone to church for spiritual nourishment, I would be a spiritually dead man today! When you are down to NOTHING, God is UP to something! Faith sees

the invisible, Believes the incredible, and receives the impossible.

I thank God daily for my spiritual nourishment just as I thank him for my physical nourishment! It is so very easy for us to give up the spiritual for something more tangible. But remember, just going to Church make you no more a Christian than standing in your garage makes you a car.”