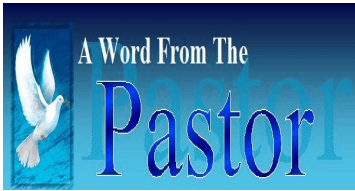


JANUARY 14 -15, 2012

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME



Greetings! We entered into Ordinary Time with the Feast of the LORD's Baptism this past Monday. But there should be nothing "ordinary" in our faith. Every day is a gift from God and every day has its share and a variety of blessings, challenges, and God's grace. Mother Teresa once said, "We can do no great things - only small things with great love." Even our daily activities could or should be done with love and not done mindlessly. As opposed to God's other creatures, humans are gifted with a rational soul to be able to reflect, consider, and weigh the factors, circumstances, and possible consequences of all of our actions. It is quite common to go on "automatic pilot" when we begin work that may seem trivial, run-of-the-mill, and we could do with our eyes closed. I imagine some air traffic controllers among other professions (not to pick on them) have at one time or another thought: "nothing important or critical will happen in the next few minutes" - even people driving their vehicles. Yet, how often do things go awry when we lower our guard. This is similar with Ordinary Time. This is not the Advent Season preparing for Christmas or the Lenten Season preparing for Easter; this Season follows the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ from His Baptism, to His calling the various Apostles, to healing and teaching the various peoples. Never did Jesus have the attitude of how ordinary today is; every day was significant to Him.

We have some not-so-ordinary times coming up, particularly our parish mission. We have not had one since shortly after my arrival almost four years ago. Fr. Hugh Burns was able to schedule us on an available week that was leading up to Lent. I thought we should take advantage of that. Shortly thereafter with the Lenten Season, we will resume our Disciples in Mission Program that many found beneficial last year. Hopefully, even more parishioners will embark upon this faith-sharing venue for fellowship and evangelization. Consider one if not both! Information is in this bulletin in the insert page.

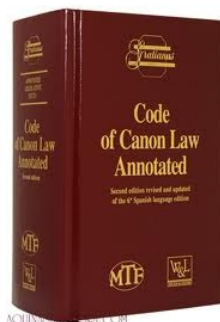
In Christ's Peace

Fr. John

CANON LAW COLUMN

Canon 1065 - #1 Catholics who have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation are to receive it before they are admitted to marriage if it can be done without grave inconvenience. #2 To receive the Sacrament of Marriage fruitfully, spouses are urged especially to approach the Sacrament of Penance and of the Most Holy Eucharist.

Both the Sacraments of Confirmation and Matrimony are sacraments for mature adults. As a result, if a baptized Catholic for some reason has not been confirmed prior to the Sacrament of Matrimony, this is something that they should have done already as part of their faith formation and maturing into adulthood. The question should be asked if they do not wish to confirm their faith; otherwise, why would they want this other Sacrament from the Church? Also as preparation for their marriage, whichever spouse(s) is/are Catholic should seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation and start their married life with a clean slate in a state of grace. This should remain part of their married life as they will also be expected to teach and help their children confess their sins when the time comes. Failing to obtain these sacraments prior to the Sacrament of Marriage will set a tone of how serious or not that they actually view their sacramental marriage and the teachings of the Church.



STEWARDSHIP

Greetings from The Office of Stewardship!

"With great appreciation I write to update you on the progress of the 2011 Bishop's Stewardship Appeal and offer a preview for the 2012 Appeal. As of December 12th we surpassed our \$2,500,000 Goal in \$2.75 million in contributions to the 2011 BSA. Thanks to the prayerful leadership of our parish priests, staff, and BSA volunteers, you made this year's appeal the most successful in the Diocese's history. This achievement represents the commitment of the Catholic faithful to sacrifice and support the mission of our Diocese and the many ministries throughout South Carolina. From the Upstate, to the Midlands, Coastal, Lowcountry, Pee Dee regions, the hard work of our religious and lay people is bringing Christ to those in need in a variety of ways.

On behalf of the Stewardship and Development staff and all those served by our diocesan ministries, THANK YOU again for your leadership and dedication to our local church here in South Carolina. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

- Matt Dwyer, Director of Stewardship and Development

Helping Hands

Please join us on Thursday, January 19, at 10:30 in Father Foley Hall. We will be making fleece shawls. Bring your scissors and a bag lunch. If you have questions, please call Sandy Kiessling at 843/601-5035 or SandyK@sc.rr.com.