

Adult Faith Formation

Committee Members:

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To deepen our understanding of our Faith and increase our Love for God

November 2009

November Focus



November has arrived after a dreary, rainy October. May the arrival of our new pastor, Fr. Xavier Thelakkatt, bring brighter days not only in November but for many years to come. **Welcome Fr. Thelakkatt!!**

St. Albert's has been richly blessed throughout the year with faith-filled parishioners who donate their time, talent, and gifts in varied ways. With that in mind, come join other parishioners at the St. Albert Feast Day Celebration on Saturday, November 14th. See the flyer in back of church or call the parish office at 497-2474 for more information.

Last but not least, make it a priority this year to put God first on Thanksgiving Day and attend the Thanksgiving Mass at St. Albert's. Let's "pack the house" praising and thanking God for the country we live in and His abundant blessings.

"Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving, To God our Creator triumphantly raise; Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us, Who guideth us onto the end of our days. His banners are o'er us, His light goes before us, A pillar of fire shining forth in the night: Till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished, As forward we travel from light in to Light."

verse text — *Let All Things Now Living*, verse 1

Upcoming Events

- > St. Albert Feast Day Celebration—November 14th—see the flyer in back of church for more info.
- > Christmas Season Mission—In early January. Watch for more details in future newsletters and bulletins.
- > Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP), coming to St. Albert's. See the info. box below.

Parenting Tip of the Month

Does any one not want to hear someone say to them, "I love you"?

Children readily say that without any prompting, especially to their parents. Recently a broadcaster on Relevant Radio stated that when praying the Rosary, we are saying over and over to Jesus and Mary, "I love you." Some will say the Rosary is too repetitive. Keep in mind that the Rosary is a prayer of love. Jesus and Mary never tire of hearing you recite the Rosary. And when your child asks, "Don't you think God heard us already?!", gently remind them it is a prayer of love and Jesus and Mary want to hear us say "I love you" over and over, again and again!!

Dictionary for the Laity

With St. Albert's Feast day this month, below is a description of an item that will be displayed at the feast day celebration.

Reliquary—Any box, casket, or shrine destined for the reception of a relic. Ornate in nature, usually with a glass, or see-through opening, that displays a relic of a saint.

St. Albert's Catholic Church does have a relic of St. Albert the Great. The Reliquary with a bone fragment of St. Albert will be displayed for veneration on Saturday, November 14th, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in church.

A Point to Ponder

"Take heed, and beware of all covetousness, for a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Luke 12:15

Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP)

Are you looking for some time to get away to renew your relationship with God? Then a CRHP weekend might be for you.

St. Albert's will be hosting two retreats early next year. The women's retreat will be January 23rd and 24th, and men's will be January 30th and 31st.

The one-night, two-day (Saturday morning through Sunday afternoon) retreats will take place in the parish center. The weekend includes speakers, reflective time, confession, Mass, Adoration, and being pampered by those hosting the weekend.

Watch for sign-up sheets in the back of church. If you have any questions ask anyone on the Adult Faith Formation Committee.

Come join others in renewing and deepening your relationship with God.

Pope Benedict XVI

November Prayer Intentions

General: That all the men and women in the world, especially those who have responsibilities in the field of politics and economics, may never fail in their commitment to safeguard creation.

Mission: That believers in the different religions, through the testimony of their lives and fraternal dialogue, may clearly demonstrate that the name of God is a bearer of peace.

Friendly Defenders

Statues - Idol worship?

Question #1: The Bible forbids "graven images," so why do Catholics use statues?

Catholic Response: God himself instructed Moses to make two statues for the Ark of the Covenant.

Bible Verse: "Make two cherubim of beaten gold" Exodus 25:18

Description: God forbids the worship of images, not the mere use of them as aids to prayer.

Related Verses: 1 Kings 6:23-29, 7:25-45; Numbers 21:8-9

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini — November 13th



Frances Xavier Cabrini was born in Lombardy, Italy, in 1850, one of thirteen children. When she was eighteen years old, poor health kept her from entering religious life. She helped her mother and father until their death, and then worked on a farm with her brother and sister.

A priest asked her to teach in a girls' school. She stayed there for six years. Refused admission to the religious order which had educated her to be a teacher, she began charitable work at the House of Providence Orphanage in Cadogno, Italy. In September 1877 she made her vows there and took the religious habit.

When the bishop of the diocese of Lodi closed the orphanage in 1880, he named Frances prioress of the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. Seven young women from the orphanage joined with her to help poor children in hospitals and schools.

Since her early childhood, Frances had wanted to be a missionary in China. She wrote to Pope Leo XIII who told her, "Go to the United States, my child. There is much work awaiting you there."

Missionary in the United States

She came to the United States with six Sisters in 1889. She found disappointment and difficulties with every step. When she arrived in New York City, the house that was to be her first orphanage in the United States was not available. The archbishop advised her to return to Italy. But Frances left the archbishop's residence all the more determined to establish the orphanage. And she succeeded. She began working among the Italian people of New York and became an American citizen.

In thirty-five years Frances Xavier Cabrini founded sixty – seven institutions dedicated to caring for the poor, the abandoned, the

uneducated, and the sickly. Seeing great need among Italian immigrants who were losing their faith, she organized schools and adult education classes. As a child, she was unable to overcome her fear of water, yet despite this fear, she traveled across the seas more than thirty times.

Her missionary zeal also led her to Central and South America where she founded schools in Argentina, Brazil, and Nicaragua.

Laboring for God's Glory

After twenty-eight years of missionary work she died of malaria in her own Columbus Hospital in Chicago on December 22, 1917. On July 7, 1946, she became first United States citizen to be canonized. On that occasion Pope Pius XII said: "Although her constitution was very frail, her spirit was endowed with such singular strength that, knowing the will of God in her regard, she permitted nothing to impede her from accomplishing what seemed beyond the strength of a woman.

"Without doubt, all that Frances accomplished was the result of her faith, which always reigned fervently and vigorously in her heart. With human charity which inflamed her, and constant prayer, she obtained from God that which human weakness could not obtain.

"Even in the midst of the most assailing cares and anxieties of life, she strove and aimed toward this without permitting anything to turn her away—to please God and to work for His glory. To this end, nothing seemed for her laborious, nothing difficult, nothing beyond human strength aided by grace."

Source—Best-Loved Saints by Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.

She is now unique in New York as being the only saint whose entire body is on display for the faithful. Her body was laid to rest forever under the alter in the Chapel at Mother Cabrini High School. (The saint's head is at another location in Italy.)

For a more extensive biography of Mother Cabrini check out the website—<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/medny/mccabe.html>.

- the following is another excerpt to reflect on as we acknowledge Pope Benedict XVI's "Year of the Priest" -

Reflections on the Priesthood

If we had not the Sacrament of Orders, we should not have our Lord. Who placed Him there, in that tabernacle? It was the priest. Who was it that received your soul on its entrance into life? The priest. Who nourishes it, to give it strength to make its pilgrimage? The priest. Who will prepare it to appear before God, by washing that soul for the last time in the blood of Jesus Christ? The priest—always the priest. And if that soul comes to the point of death, who will raise it up, who will restore it to calmness and peace? Again the Priest. You cannot recall one single blessing from God without finding, side by side with this recollection, the image of the priest.

Source—The Little Catechism of the Cure of Ars

by St. John Vianney

A Prayer for Priests

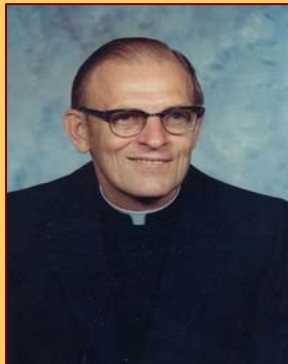
Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments.

Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom.

Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen

With Grateful Thanks!



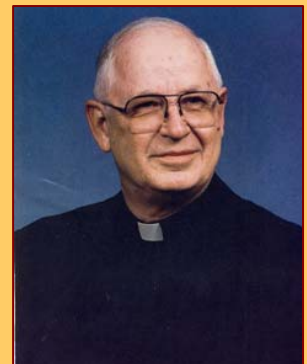
Fr. Jerome Datko, OMI

Born: 04/10/1930

Ordained: 1956—Died: 12/15/1998

Served St. Albert's from
1988 to 1990

With Grateful Thanks!



Fr. Frank Ryan, OMI

Born: 11/21/1926

Ordained: 1954

Served at St. Albert's from
1990 to 1997