

FROM THE
 Dear Friends,

This weekend we are being asked to become involved in an effort to block a new Freedom of Choice Act in the U.S. Congress. It is expected that this legislation soon may be brought before the Congress. Unlike his predecessor the new president has pledged to sign such legislation. We have been told that FOCA would eliminate regulations that offer protection from unsafe clinics and unscrupulous abortionists; force taxpayers to fund abortions; reintroduce partial birth abortions; reduce or eliminate the conscience rights of physicians, nurses and hospitals who oppose abortion on religious, moral or ethical grounds; and reduce or eliminate the right and responsibility of parents to be involved in a minor's abortion decision. We are being asked to send a post card to Senators Snowe and Collins and to Representative Pingree asking them to inform the sender of their position. A post card campaign on partial birth abortion initiatives was very successful. Please take a few moments after Mass to complete the cards. There will be baskets on the tables for contributions to help meet the parishes' cost of postage. Please also feel free to take some cards for friends and others to participate.

Father Joe Ford; email: jjford67@maine.rr.com

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS SCHEDULE

January 31	4:00 PM	Roland E. Foster, by Maureen & Jim McGowan
February 1	8:30 AM	Herbert Moore, by Nancy Miller
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners
February 2	7:30 AM	Patrick Conley, by Beatrice Harrington
February 4	7:30 AM	Jacqueline Bousquet, by Mary T. & Jim Honan
February 5	7:30 AM	Communion Service

Next Weekend Masses

February 7	4:00 PM	Donna Duddy, by Terry Duddy
February 8	8:30 AM	Arthur Curran, by Don & Missy Gove
	5:30 PM	The Parishioners

Last Weekend's Offering: Thank you for your offerings of **\$4,694.00** for last weekend. Our weekly operating expense is \$6,318.00. The second collection for The Church in Latin America totaled \$2,265.00.

White Mass – Sunday, February, 8th at 10:00 AM at the Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul in Lewiston. Invitations for members of the medical professions and pastoral care ministers can be found at the back of the church.

Awake in Faith - Bishop Richard Malone has embarked on a new television ministry, designed to reach Catholics and non-Catholics in their home every weekday morning. Thanks to the initiative and support of the Knights of Columbus and generous business donors, the bishop is sharing a word of hope and spiritual wisdom Monday through Friday between 5:55 and 6:00 AM on WGME-TV Channel 13, Portland.

We hope you'll tune in to **Awake in Faith** for daily inspiration and let the station know how much you appreciate this new programming. Also please consider supporting this important ministry by sending your tax-deductible donation to:

Awake in Faith
 Diocese of Portland
 510 Ocean Avenue
 Portland, Maine 04103-4936



Lent – Today is Sign-Up Sunday for Disciples in Mission. For the six weeks of Lent, we invite you to join a small faith-sharing group, a teen group, and/or participate with your family. More brochures, along with sign-up cards, are in the pews at all the Masses today. For more information, please call Judy Dominick, our Small Group Coordinator at 781-2847. Please join us!

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS: On Feb. 22 at the 5:30 Mass the Sacred Heart Praise Band will be providing the music during this celebration. We look forward to our musical guests that day and thank them for their ministry!

Friendship House -Friendship House is a residence in South Portland for formerly homeless men recovering from substance abuse. The first Wednesday of each month, members of our parish contribute prepared hot or cold (may be frozen) dishes and grocery items such as fresh produce, paper products or toiletries, which I then take to the men at FH. If you would like to contribute something this Wednesday, please call Deborah Nicklas @ 781-4362.

New parent baptismal preparation program: At Holy Martyrs and St. Gregory, baptismal preparation for your first child includes attending a parent preparation session. Bethany and/or James Hanley (829-4568) will offer a baptismal session for new parents on **Sunday February 8th from 9:30-10:30 A.M. at Holy Martyrs**. Please notify Deacon Dennis at 781-2847 or email at dennis@holymartyrs.org if you plan to attend.

Tax Information – If you would like a copy of your 2008 weekly offering to Holy Martyrs Parish for income tax purposes, please print your name, mailing address, phone number, envelope number on the tax sign-up sheet in the narthex. A copy of the amount of your contribution will be mailed to you in a timely fashion.

Connected Catholics - General Meeting: **Sunday, February 8, 2009** at Holy Martyrs Parish Hall. 2:00PM: Business Meeting; 2:30PM: Program: Scott Glocke, Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine: "How to get Healthy in An Unhealthy World". Social hour-Pot Luck to follow. FMI: Call Mary Jane @ 318-6032

Community Crossroads Church in Gray – **Free** Chili Dinner every Tuesday from 6:00-7:00 PM. This is not a fundraiser and there will be no preaching. Route 100, Gray.

Child Care Substitutes Needed! - Catholic Charities Maine owns and operates 3 nationally accredited child care centers: St. Joseph's in Auburn (782-2711), St. Elizabeth's in Portland (871-7444) and St. Louis in Biddeford (282-3790). We are seeking individuals who want to work as on-call substitutes at our centers. If you have the passion and love to work with children, please call the appropriate center to see how you can utilize your talents and compassion for serving toddlers through preschoolers.

Want to Share in Jesus' Healing Ministry? If you are compassionate, non-judgmental, hospitable, and comfortable reaching out to those experiencing broken relationships or major losses like divorce, God may be calling you to minister to the divorced in our Church. Catholic Charities Maine Family Life Institute will host a 2 day training program for this spring for new Divorce and Beyond group facilitators. To explore if this might be a ministry for you, please contact Bill Wood at 1-800-CARE-002, ext. 2672, or e-mail bwood@ccmaine.org.

World Wide Marriage Encounter in Maine – Invest in your Marriage and reap the benefits...

You'll get more from spending just 44 hours together on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend than you would from a 10 day romantic cruise. Sign up now to join us for the weekend of March 20-22 in Lewiston or April 24-26 in Presque Isle. The weekend is designed as a private experience between husband and wife that develops deeper communication, restores hopes and dreams, renews passion, affirms the uniqueness of each couple and inspires good marriages to grow into even better marriages. The registration fee is \$50.00 and a freewill donation will be accepted at the end of the weekend. For more information or to register contact Dave & Ellie at 207-933-4237 or go to www.wwmeNewEngland.org.

Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Sunday February 1	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM	Religious Education Classes Readings Begin at #958 71: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28
Monday February 2	Mass at 7:30 AM	Religious Education Classes 524: Mal 3;1-4; Ps 24; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Tuesday February 3	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM	Contemplative Prayer Group 9:30-11:00 AM 324; Heb 12;1-4; Ps 22; Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday February 4	Mass at 7:30 AM	325: Heb 12:4-7,11-15; Ps 103; Mk 6:1-6
Thursday February 5	Communion Service 7:30 AM 326: Heb 12;18-19,21-24; Ps 48; Mk 6:7-13 see 527; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Lk 9:23-26	
Friday February 6	Mass at St. Gregory's at 8:00 AM 327: Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27; Mk 6;14-29 see 528: Gal 2:19-20; Mt 28:16-20	
Saturday February 7	Mass at 4:00 PM	328: Heb 13:15-17,20-21; Ps 23; Mk 6:30-34
Donut Sunday February 8	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM Religious Education	Readings Begin at #961 74L Jb 7:1-4,6-7; Ps 147; 1 Cor 9;16-19,22-23I Mk 1:29-39 2:00 PM Connected Catholics

Women Gathered Together in Prayer

What: Women's monthly spiritual program: to listen, question, reflect, pray and share.

Theme: "Who Is the God to Whom I Pray?"

When: **February 11**, from 10:30 to 2:30 P.M.,

Where: Marie Joseph Spiritual Center, 10 Evans Road (Rt 9/208) Biddeford Pool. Participants are asked to bring their Bible and a bag lunch. The suggested fee is \$10.00. FMI and to register: Call (207)284-5671.

A Rachel's Vineyard Weekend, sponsored by Project Rachel, is an invitation to *men, women, couples, and relatives* who grieve the loss of a child from abortion to experience the loving compassion of Jesus, and begin a journey toward healing. For weekend information, call 871-7464, Ext. 2670; toll-free at 1-800-CARE-002; or e-mail: familylifeinstitute@ccmaine.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Discernment Retreat for Priesthood is being held February 14-15 at the Christian Life Center in Frenchville. If you are a single man between the ages of 18 and 45 and feel that God may be calling you to serve His holy people as a priest, please consider attending this retreat. This weekend will help you in the process of discerning if priesthood could be your vocation. FMI: please contact Fr. Ford or Fr. Bob Vaillancourt 773-6471 or vocations@portlanddiocese.org

College-Age Retreat will be held February 27-28, March 1 at the Christian Life Center in Frenchville. This retreat is entitled "**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE?**" "**SEARCH YOUR HEART**"

It will be a time for meeting other young adults, do some soul searching and get in touch with the God Who Lives within you! The retreat is FREE and sponsored by Maine Councils of Knights of Columbus and Maine Councils of the Daughters of Isabella. Topics to be discussed: 7 Basic Needs of the Human Person, "Who Am I?", "Where is God in All This Mess?", "What Am I Suppose To Do When I Grow Up?" Presenters are Fr. Bob Vaillancourt, Priest of the Dioceses of Portland, Joe Mailhot, Campus Minister at USM & UNE and Josh Houde, Campus Minister at UMFK. FMI: Contact the parish office or call Fr. Bob at 773-6471.

MASSSES:

Saturday Mass: 4:00 PM
Sunday Masses: 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM
Daily Mass: Mon. & Wed. at 7:30 AM
Communion Service: Thurs. at 7:30 AM
Confession: Sat. 3:15-3:45 & by appointment

OFFICE HOURS: 8:30-3:00 PM, Monday – Friday

PARISH OF THE HOLY MARTYRS OF NORTH AMERICA

266 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105
www.holymartyrs.org

PARISH DIRECTORY:

Parish Office: 781-4573
 Religious Education: 781-2847
 Fax: 781-3961
 Email: rectory@holymartyrs.org

ADMINISTRATION:

Administrator: Rev. J. Joseph Ford
 Catechetical Leaders: Deacon Dennis Popadak
 Judy Dominick

PARISH STAFF:

Christian Initiation: Judy Dominick
 Youth Ministry: Scott Ross
 Music Ministry: Diane Beaton
 Parish Secretary: Debra J. Coppinger

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Notices for the bulletin must be at the rectory office by 12:30 PM on Tuesdays.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! We invite you to join in our parish community. Please register by contacting the rectory office.

DEPARTING PARISHIONERS: Please inform the rectory office when you move from the parish.

HOMEBOUND & HOSPITALIZED: Please contact the rectory office to arrange for a visit.

BAPTISMS: By appointment – please contact the rectory.

MARRIAGES: Couples should contact the rectory at least six months in advance.