

FROM THE Dear Friends,



When I first heard of the new book with the letters of Mother Theresa, I was surprised at the description of the content. The impression was of some weakness in her being. Later on treading more I understood that her spiritual journey was similar to many saints and to us ordinary folks.

**Priest** In 1946 she had a series of intense spiritual experiences of the presence of Christ. She heard a call to undertake the work that is so well known. Her experience came after twenty years as a dedicated religious whose days were grounded in prayer. These years appear to be the preparation for her spiritual experience. While most of us have no visions, many of us have those rare moments when we experience profoundly the nearness of God. It is common that those baptized at the Easter Vigil speak of a deep awareness of the presence of God. Many of us remember our First Communion as a special moment and an awareness of God. When one has the privilege of witnessing the birth of a child, one knows wonder at the mystery of life. We see this as coming from God. I have had the good fortune to meet a number of people who speak of a moment perhaps in church or perhaps in the wonder of nature when they sensed the presence of God. Some with such experiences don't speak of them or pursue them due to our secular culture; there is a fear of being thought odd. Whatever the experience may be, we want to hold on to it.

From what I have read so far, Mother Theresa's darkness came from her loss of the intense experiences of the late 1940's. As I noted a couple of weeks ago in the homily, she laughed when a seminarian desired to have her clarity. She told him she had never had clarity, but she did trust. More next week on the darkness.

Father Joe Ford

email: [jjford67@maine.rr.com](mailto:jjford67@maine.rr.com)

### MASS INTENTIONS

<u>September 1</u>	4:00 PM Helen F. McGauley, by Her Sister Joan Banks
<u>September 2</u>	8:30 AM Vincent Abbatti, by the Lattanzi Family
	5:30 PM The Parishioners
<u>September 3</u>	7:30 AM Donald MacVane, by the Family
<u>September 5</u>	7:30 AM Intention of Faith & Works, by the Stewardship Committee
<u>September 6</u>	7:30 AM Communion Service

### Next Weekend Masses

<u>September 8</u>	4:00 PM
<u>September 9</u>	10:30 AM Mary Cyr, Marlene, Anne & Philip, by Carlita Brown
	5:30 PM The Parishioners

**Last Weekend's Offering:** Your contributions for August 25 & 26, 2007 amounted to **\$5,621.07**. **\$3,796.00** was in 140 envelopes and **\$1,825.0700** was loose.

The first two months of our fiscal year brought \$48,637 in the offertory as compared to \$50,695 last year. Offertory income is down in the amount of \$2,058. Pledge payments in the amount of \$10,000 were received.

**Blue Mass** – Sunday, September 16, 2007 at 10:00 AM at the Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul, in Lewiston. Bishop Richard J. Malone invites your department to a special commemorative Mass to thank you for your service to the common good and to bestow his blessings upon all who contribute to public health and safety in Maine. All members of EMS, Fire, Law Enforcement and other Public Safety agencies and their families are invited to attend this celebratory event. Those planning to attend please do so in uniform. Reception to follow in the lower level of the Basilica.

**Red Mass** – Red Mass to be celebrated on October 26, 2007 at 11:00 AM at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Luncheon to follow at the Portland Country Club with guest speaker Judge Edith Brown Clement of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal in New Orleans.

\*\*\*\*\* **Religious Education** \*\*\*\*\*

**Religious Education Classes** will begin Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.

If you need to register, please call Deacon Dennis at 781-2847.

We are still in need of catechists and assistants in all grade levels. Please come forward to share your faith.

**Protecting God's Children:** For new catechists and those working with children on a regular basis, there will be a "Protecting God's Children" session on Thursday September 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00 PM at St. Peter Church, 72 Federal Street, Portland.

**Volunteers Need for the Taping of the TV Mass** – If you attend Mass and can spend about 30 extra minutes (total) setting up and putting away equipment before and after, you can help us bring the Mass to those that are unable to join use each week. This is a great way for teens to earn **Community Service Hours**. FMI: Please contact: Dave Daniels at 899-1768.



**ADULT CHOIR:** After a long summer break, the Adult Choir will resume rehearsals this Thursday, September 6, at 7 pm. Please call or e-mail Cecile if you need further information.

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR:** There will be a Children's Choir Festival on September 22, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM in the music room at Church. We will review some music selections from last year, learn a couple new ones, do some bell ringing and have a snack. Those who are able can stay and sing at the 4 PM Mass. The children will also sing at the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass on September 30. I am hoping that children who are unable to practice weekly can still participate on Sunday morning.

**Friendship House** - Friendship House is a residence in South Portland for formerly homeless men recovering from substance abuse. The first Wednesday of every month, members of our parish contribute prepare hot or cold dishes (which can be frozen) and grocery items such as fresh produce, paper products or toiletries, which I take to the men at FH. If you would like to contribute something this Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, please call Deborah Nicklas @ 781-4362.

**Preble Street Thank You** - "Thank you for your July 7, 2007 donation of 50 bags of groceries and for supporting Preble Street's mission to provide services to the homeless and low-income members of our community. Many struggle to find a daily meal or to provide nutritious food for their families, and every bit of support makes a huge difference. Our Breakfast Program and Food Pantry provide nutritious food to hundreds of people each day-365 days a year-and we depend entirely on the generosity of donors like you. Again, we thank you for your kindness and support; you make it possible to do the work that we do!"

Sincerely, Joe Conroy, Volunteer Program Coordinator

**Rummage Sale** – Our fall rummage sale is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to volunteer, please call Mary T. Honan at 781-2705.

**Holy Martyrs Golf Tournament - Monday September 10th** at the Falmouth Country Club. Join us for fun filled day of golf, food and fellowship as we raise money for our Stewardship Fund. Entry forms are located in the Narthex. FMI: call Willie Audet @797-7777 x 21 or email [audetland@aol.com](mailto:audetland@aol.com).

**49th International Eucharistic Congress, Quebec City, June 19-22, 2008.** Bishop Malone will lead a pilgrimage to Quebec. It is expected that Pope Benedict will be present. FMI: Please see brochures on the bulletin board. FMI: [www.dubetravel.com](http://www.dubetravel.com) or call Dube Travel at 784-2916.

**Connected Catholics:** **CCME: General Meeting:** Sunday, September 9, 2007, Holy Martyrs Parish Hall - Route 88, Falmouth. 5:00 PM Social Hour - Pot Luck Supper; 5:45 PM Business Meeting: 6:00 PM Linda Madsen, Topic: Beginning Experience. A presentation based on a retreat weekend for those who have experienced loss of partners through death or divorce.

## Teachers Needed



## Holy Martyrs Weekly Calender

Sunday September 2	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM <i>Readings Begin at # 1013; Communion Hymn #832</i> <i>126: Sir 3:17-18,2028-29; Ps 68; Heb 12:18-19,22-24a; Lk 14:1,7-14</i>
Monday September 3 Labor Day	Mass at 7:30 AM <i>431: 1 Thes 4:13-18; Ps 96; Lk 4:16-30 ; see 635: 2 Cor 4:1-2,5-7,Lk 22:24-30</i> Office Closed
Tuesday September 4	Mass at 8:00 AM at St. Gregory's <i>432: 1 Thes 5:1-6,9-11; Ps 27; Lk 4:31-37</i>
Wednesday September 5	Mass at 7:30 AM <i>433: Col 1:1-8; Ps 52; Lk 4:38-44</i> Friendship House
Thursday September 6	Communion Service at 7:30 AM <i>Protecting God's Children Session, St. Peter Church 6:00-9:00 PM</i> <i>434: Col 1:9-14; Ps 98; Lk 5:1-11</i> Adult Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM
Friday September 7	Mass at 8:00 AM – St. Gregory's <i>435: Col 1:15-20; Ps 100; Lk 5:33-39</i>
Saturday September 8	Mass at 4:00 PM <i>636: Mi 5:1-4a; or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6; Mt 1:1-16,18-23 or 1:18-23</i>
Sunday September 9	Mass at 8:30 AM & 5:30 PM <i>Connected Catholics General Meeting 5:00 PM</i> <i>129: Wis 9:13-18b; Ps 90; Phlm 9-10,12-17; Lk 14:25-33</i>

**Harvest Ball** - Bishop Malone is inviting parishioners to the *Harvest Ball*, an evening of dining, dancing and socializing! This fundraiser will benefit *Harvest Magazine*, our Catholic publication which is distributed free to 40 thousand households in Maine. The evening will include a social hour, dinner, and dancing to the Tony Boffa Band!! The cost is \$100/ couple or \$60/individual. (Keep in mind, a couple can be you and your friend, family member, etc.). There will also be an auction of a select number of fabulous items including New England Patriots football tickets, get-aways, art and other surprises. The Ball is scheduled for **Friday, September 28** from 7 p.m. to midnight at the **Italian Heritage Center** located at 40 Westland Avenue (just off Congress Street) in Portland.

**Called and Gifted Small Group Process** - "Called and Gifted" is a five-session workshop that will be offered Saturday mornings from September to November in Lisbon Falls. Discover your gift from God and how to use it to serve your brothers and sisters in Christ. With the clustering of our parishes, NOW would be a great time to find out! The inventory that each participant takes identifies 24 common charisms. Once a person has identified his or her charisms, s/he can learn how these translate into concrete Christian service. Some of the charisms are administration, craftsmanship, discernment of spirits, encouragement, mercy, healing, teaching, and hospitality. Cost: \$25 covers all materials. Deadline for registration: Sept. 3, 2007. For an informational brochure or to register, contact Marlene Laurendeau of Brunswick (725-4196), or Denise Mailhot of Lewiston (786-3380). Sponsored by the Lay Dominicans, Bl. Margaret of Castello Chapter in Lewiston.

**Retrouvaille...a Lifeline** – Rediscover a loving marriage with Retrouvaille weekend. If your marriage is tearing the two of you apart, if there is little or no meaningful communication, if you are considering separation or divorce, we believe Retrouvaille can help you. Look us up on the web at [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) or call 1-800-470-2230. The next Retrouvaille weekend will be held September 21-23, 2007.

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

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## PARISH OF THE HOLY MARTYRS OF NORTH AMERICA

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266 Foreside Road, Falmouth, Maine 04105  
[www.holymartyrs.org](http://www.holymartyrs.org)

**PARISH DIRECTORY:**

Parish Office: 781-4573  
 Religious Education: 781-2847  
 Fax: 781-3961  
 Email: [rectory@holymartyrs.org](mailto:rectory@holymartyrs.org)

**ADMINISTRATION:**

Administrator: Rev. J. Joseph Ford  
 Catechetical Leader: Deacon Dennis Popadak

**PARISH STAFF:**

Christian Initiation: Judy Dominick  
 Youth Ministry: Margaret Colford, Scott Ross & Chris Rogers  
 Music Ministry: Cecile DeRoche-Cain  
 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.