



2012 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

**As of this date 29 parishioners have pledged \$4,705
176 parishioners needed to pledge \$10,786 to reach goal**



PENNSYLVANIA
CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE

**The Catholic Bishops of Pennsylvania
have called for Friday, March 30, 2012,
to be a day of prayer, fasting and ab-
stinence for religious liberty.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The assault by the federal government on constitutionally guaranteed religious liberty continues. Our concern and alarm flows from a mandate of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which punishes the Church for its firmly held beliefs and consistent teaching. This mandate – published in the federal register without change, despite claims of “accommodations” – would force Catholic employers to pay for abortion-causing drugs, sterilization and contraception.

Some falsely suggest that the HHS mandate is about contraception. This is primarily about religious liberty and our First Amendment rights to the free exercise of our religion. Make no mistake about it – this government mandate is a step which will inevitably lead to other mandates that continue to strike at the heart of our Faith and the constitutional liberties we have been guaranteed. The mandate cannot stand – it must not stand!

This same mandate also, alarmingly, purports to tell churches what type of activities the government thinks are religious. Catholic schools, hospitals, nursing homes and Catholic charities do not qualify for a religious exemption. Why? Because they serve non-Catholics. Under the government's view, Jesus and his disciples would have been deemed not religious enough. We have entered dangerous territory – the government is defining religion and limiting its practice. This is an unprecedented and gross infringement on our religious freedom. We did not pick this fight, but neither will we run from it.



Religious liberty does not belong to the Democrats or Republicans, it belongs to all Americans. Long before these mandates were issued, the bishops in the United States worked for health care reform and universal coverage that respects all human life from conception to natural death and includes language to protect religious conscience and practice of all citizens. Our fervent entreaties were answered with promises that we had nothing to fear. We cannot now sit idly by and let this happen. We cannot, as a Church, be silent because some have sought to politicize our plight. Please visit www.pacatholic.org to send a message to your legislators in support of conscience rights. Our voices and yours must be heard. The mandate must be rescinded. Our freedom and liberty must be preserved. And in this effort, we must remain steadfast.

Throughout history, Catholics in times of need have turned to God through prayer and fasting, as these practices allow us to grow closer to the Lord, inspire us to do His will and invoke His protection in answer to our prayers. During the Fridays of Lent, the faithful are obliged to abstain from eating meat. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, Catholics are also asked to fast - eating only one full meal, and, if necessary, two much smaller meals – to aid our spiritual life. Recognizing the efficacy of prayer and fasting as well as the challenges we face in overcoming the recent attack on our religious freedom, we, the Bishops of Pennsylvania, request that all Catholics dedicate the regular Lenten Friday practice of prayer and abstinence as well as the additional practice of fasting on **Friday, March 30**, to the preservation of religious liberty. On that day, offer your sacrifice for the cause of religious liberty, that the Church may be granted the basic right to practice what she preaches, and for our political leaders, that their eyes may be opened to the rights of all Americans, including those of faith. We will join with the over 3 million Catholics in Pennsylvania to mark this day of prayer, fasting and abstinence for religious liberty.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, we know the Lord walks with us during times of trial and concern. Let us do all that we are able – prayer, fasting, abstinence and the exercise of faithful citizenship – to uphold the freedoms of Christ's Church and to grow closer to Him.

In Christ,
The Bishops of Pennsylvania

Throughout this day The Holy Eucharist will be Exposed in the Monstrance on Our Lady of Fatima's main altar from dawn to dusk. Every age appropriate parishioner is enjoined to visit and adore the Blessed Sacrament (*several different times if possible*) during the day, while engaging in some serious (medically approved) **FASTING throughout the 18 hour period. It should be noted that Fridays in Lent are already days of **AB-STAINING** from meat.**

The Trouble With Angels

No, this isn't a review of the movie featuring everybody's favorite Mother Superior, Rosalind Russell, in which she tries to stay one step ahead of a hyper-hormonal Hayley Mills and her band of worldly High School seraphim. It is, rather, a brief reflection on why it is that we have so much trouble making them a part of our daily spiritual lives. Most of us act as though they don't even exist, apart from some fractured theological notions like a friend of mine who says when she dies she doesn't want to be a Saint, she wants instead to be an Angel. I'm sort of grateful that she isn't too easily disappointed, because it isn't going to happen. People don't become Angels; and vice versa. Let's look at a short description/definition of Angels from our friends at Catholic online:



What are angels?

An **angel** is a pure spirit created by God. The Old Testament theology included the belief in angels: the name applied to certain spiritual beings or intelligences of heavenly residence, employed by God as the ministers of His will.

The English word "angel" comes from the Greek *angelos*, which means 'messenger'. In the Old Testament, with two exceptions, the Hebrew word for "angel" is *malak*, also meaning 'messenger'. The prophet Malachi took his name from this word. He was himself a messenger, and he prophesied about the coming of "the messenger of the covenant", Jesus Christ (Malachi 3:1).

Although the word "angel" in the Bible, meaning a messenger, nearly always applies to heavenly beings, it can occasionally apply to human messengers. But when we meet messengers doing supernatural things, there is no doubt they are heavenly.

How do we know angels exist?

The Scriptures give us no indication of the precise time of the creation of angels; their existence is assumed at the earliest times. Our Lord often spoke of angels; in the New Testament they are numerous and seven orders are mentioned: Angels, Powers, Principalities, Dominions (ations), Thrones and Archangels the Old Testament specifically mentions two others Seraph(im) and Cherub(im). God bestowed upon angels great wisdom, freedom, and power, and their many appearances in the New Testament are indication of the lead role assigned to them. Both the New Testament and Old Testament refer also to the fallen angels. The Temptation of Adam and Eve presupposes the existence of bad spirits or demons who were cast into hell from which they have no hope of redemption. Angels are purely spiritual or bodiless persons (Mt 11:30), some of whom behold the face of God and thus are in bliss (Mt 18:10). These spiritual beings comprise the celestial court and are called angels (from the Greek for "messenger") because, according to the Bible, they carry out missions at God's command. In order to complete these missions, they

can at times assume bodily form. According to the Bible, their missions are sometimes of great importance - eg, the Annunciation (Lk 1:26; 2:9-14). Like us, the angels are the objects of God's grace and love. But because, unlike us they are non-bodily creatures, their response to God's love did not require time and reflection to grow and mature. As soon as they were created and received grace, they had the opportunity to respond to God's love and thus be welcomed into bliss. While many did so, some did not. Perhaps the most significant continuing activity of the good angels is to be the agents of God's particular providence for mankind. **Thus, the Church teaches that everyone has a guardian angel, based on references to them throughout the Bible.**



Why did God Create Angels?

The Creator Himself is so powerful and glorious that He cannot be approached in person by human beings. He alone "hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto: whom no man hath seen, nor can see (1 Timothy 6:16). Angels do not have man's shortcomings, and can therefore act for God and represent Him when communicating with men and women. They bridge the huge gap between the holiness and perfection of God in heaven and the shortcomings of dying people on this planet. Angels were made immortal (that is, never to die). Their eternal quality was spoken of by Jesus when he said: "They which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God. being the children of the resurrection." (Luke 20:35.36) Jesus was saying that, in the same way as the angels (the children or "sons" of God) live for ever and are of one gender, so those who will be called the "sons" and "daughters" of God when Jesus returns will also live for ever and will not marry.

This brings us to a consideration of our (OLF) angels. Of course, all who know the complete story of Our Lady of Fatima know that before Our Lady appeared to the three children for the first time, an angel appeared to them on two separate occasions. The Shea and Keagy families have provided us a constant reminder of that piece of history by memorializing their wife, mother and daughter with the large angel which greets us on the veranda of the church building.

When the pastor consulted with several artist and theologian friends concerning how to best flank the large Crucifix (the pastor was pushing for large stone flower pots) they unanimously insisted on adoring angels. When our building manager, Chris Keagy, heard that he immediately offered to purchase them as memorials, one for his and wife Kelly's deceased son, Tucker M. Keagy and the other for the living and deceased members of the Keagy, Kawtoski, Shea, and Sipes families.

We are continuing our research into the exact origin of the two ceramic angels flanking the Tabernacle door. We do know they were part of the treasures of Saints Peter and Paul Church but as to when and by whom they were acquired we are still in the dark. At any rate, angels are number three in the OLF hierarchy, Jesus and Mary preceding them.

Mon. 03/26 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer**
Feast The Annunciation of the Lord
 8:00 AM Mass Marguerite Weakland-Frederick, Mary Ann Wood

Tues. 03/27 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases**
Feast Lenten Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Thomas Gibbons, Alan R. Campbell

Wed. 03/28 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis**
Feast Lenten Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Fr. Anthony Pollack, Tom & Patricia Foor
6:00 PM “ Theresa McCall, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Heasley, Jr.

Thur. 03/29 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders**
Feast Lenten Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Health and Recovery of Regina Noonan, Carol Smith

Fri. 03/30 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders**
Feast Lenten Weekday
 8:00 AM Mass Thomas Byrne, Paul & Adaline Cassarly

Sat. 03/31 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes**
Feast Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 4:30 PM Mass Charles E. Lumadue, Ann., Ellen & Ray Kelly

Sun. 04/01 **A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions**
Feast Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
 10:00 AM Mass Living and Deceased members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish

*Lord
 Jesus
 Christ
 Son
 Of
 God
 Have
 Mercy
 On
 Me
 A
 Sinner*

Happy Birthday:

3/26 Helen Watters
 3/27 Bernie Fabian
 Catherine Mincin
 3/28 Nicole Wall
 3/29 Tom Levine
 3/30 Joan Hirt
 Fran Moses
 3/31 Megan Sral
 4/01 Taylor Britton

If there is one mystery of our Faith that is being widely challenged today it is the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Pope John Paul II was deeply concerned about this weakening of belief in the cardinal truth of Catholic Christianity.

For the first time in history there is now Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome during every weekday of the year. One of the hopes of the Holy Father is that Eucharistic Adoration outside of the Mass be promoted throughout the world.

In his own language, the Pope identifies the Eucharist as the Presence Sacrament. Christ is on earth. He wants to perform miracles of His grace, especially miracles of conversion in what is becoming a Christ-less age. The key to tapping the resources of His grace is our deep faith in Christ's living presence among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

MONEY MATTERS

Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 18, 2012)

193 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 2,262.05 of which \$ 111.05 accounted for visitor contributions.

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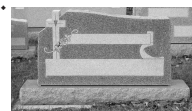
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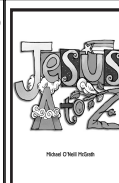


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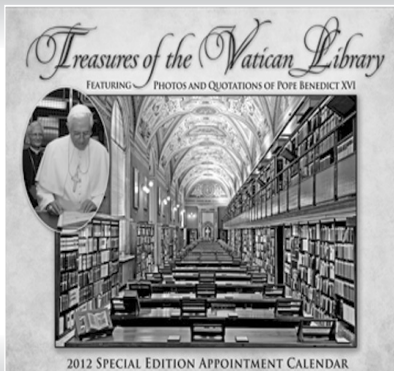
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