

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 26-27, 2008

# Fatima Mirror

A weekly publication for the education and edification of parishioners and friends of Our Lady of Fatima Parish of the Catholic Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Most Reverend Joseph V. Adamec, D.D. is the diocesan bishop. Father J.D. Zatalava, M.Div. is the pastor. Parishioners worship in the church building named after Saint Leo the Great, 2000 12th Ave. 16601. 814-942-0371.

**To be, or not to be?  
That is the question.**



# To keep O.L.F. open, or to close it? That is the dilemma.

Reflections of the Pastor concerning if or how it makes a difference.

A couple of weeks ago three parishioners called in quick succession to ask me if I had been watching the local T.V. news account of the closing of a parish over in Johnstown. Since for a variety of reasons I had the Cable disconnected at the Rectory about a year ago, I answered: "No, I wasn't." In each instance I barely had the words out of my mouth when each asked the same second question: "Are we next?"

I'm not proud of the (what my brother would call) typically smart-alecky J.D. answer I gave to each caller. I said: "You are in a much better position to answer that than I am." My message was accurate, but it should have been phrased more delicately. No matter how much finger pointing any of us may do we must all eventually admit the truth of what Cassius said: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves, that we are underlings." Shakespeare is telling us that we are in the fix we're in because of what we are or aren't doing, ourselves. In sixteen words the Bard summarizes Saint Paul's ten versus: *"Romans 7:15 What I do, I do not understand. For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I concur that the law is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 18 For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh. The willing is ready at hand, but doing the good is not. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. 20 Now if (I) do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. 21 So, then, I discover the principle that when I want to do right, evil is at hand. 22 For I take delight in the law of God, in my inner self, 23 but I see in my members another principle at war with the law of my mind, taking me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Miserable one that I am! Who will deliver me from this mortal body? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, I myself, with my mind, serve the law of God but, with my flesh, the law of sin."*

Given that most of the individual Catholic people currently served by Our Lady of Fatima will continue to have relatively ready access to the basic package the culture of Catholicism has to offer, I thought, in the biggest picture possible it didn't much matter whether O.L.F. survived or not. However, after several hours of Eucharistic Adoration a new and different image began developing in my soul. It became clearer and clearer that Jesus wants his Real Presence, as the Eucharist, really present in the Fifth Ward of Altoona. OLF is not just a meeting place where subscribers to an ill-defined notion of some generic deity gather to kowtow to an impersonal projection of some psychopath's fertile imagination. OLF is where the divinely revealed Son of God, Jesus Christ, Body and Blood - Soul and Divinity, really lives in the Fifth Ward. It's not our hall in the Fifth Ward. It's His house in the Fifth Ward.

It's pretty obvious that I want OLF to not only survive but to thrive. In fact (*inside back page*)

STEWARDSHIP PAGE

## Time, Talent, and TREASURE

## MONEY MATTERS

**Epiphany of the Lord (January 20)**

269 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F.

Contributing \$1,880.25 of which

\$273.00 accounted for "loose" cash \ checks (no envelope)

<b>Envelopes in Circulation</b>	<b>233</b>
<b>Number of Envelopes used</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Envelopes unused</b>	<b>129</b>



*"Support your fellow parishioners' efforts to generate income and thus "Save Our Parish."*

*(continued from page 2)*

I think letting O.L.F. close would be a sin. It is saying NO to God. Isn't that how we define sin?

Further, I think letting O.L.F. close would also be a crime. When the Real Presence of Jesus is gone so are Law and Order. If you think we are struggling now, with His Presence, imagine how it would be and how this neighborhood would look without His Presence.

**POP QUIZ**

1. Who said: "Without me you can do nothing?"
2. Who said: "You are Rock and upon this Rock I will build MY CHURCH?"
3. Who said: "I am the way, the truth and the life." and "I am with you always, even to the end?"
4. Who said: "This is my body, take and eat it, and this is my blood, take and drink it."
5. Who said: "If you do not eat my body and drink my blood, you have no life within you?"
6. Who said: "No one comes to the Father except through me?"

ANSWERS: 1. Jesus Christ, 2. Jesus Christ, 3. Jesus Christ, 4. Jesus Christ, 5. Jesus Christ, 6. Jesus Christ.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR January 28 - February 3, 2008**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>01/28 08:00 AM</b>	<b>John Highdunch, Ed &amp; Monica Jarkiewicz, Jr.</b>	<i>Thomas Aquinas, priest-doctor</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>01/29 08:00 AM</b>	<b>Anthony J. Conrad, Bill Conrad</b>	<i>Weekday</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>01/30 08:00 AM</b>	<b>Mirian (De Stefano) Schirf, M/M Paul Rose</b>	<i>Weekday</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>01/31 08:00 AM</b>	<b>Walter Bieniek, Steven Lawruk Family</b>	<i>John Bosco, priest</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>02/01 08:00 AM</b>	<b>Debra Shuma, M/M Mike Byrne</b>	<i>Weekday</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>02/02 04:30 PM</b>	<b>Ronald Keagy, Charlotte McCall</b>	<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>02/03 09:00 AM</b>	<b>Carol Smith, Shirley Smithmyer</b>	<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>02/03 11:00 AM</b>	<b>L/D of Our Lady of Fatima Parish</b>	<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>