

**Bulletin # 102656**

**Our Lady of Fatima  
2010 12th Avenue  
Altoona, PA 16601**

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**Attn: Carol Smith**

**MESSAGES:**

**CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL**

**January 24-25, 2009**

# **Fatima Mirror**

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***In a letter dated December 31, 2008 Bishop Adamec wrote the following:***

**Please be reminded That Sunday, January 25, 2009, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, may be celebrated as the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. The Prayers for this Mass are found in the Roman Missal for January 25.**

**Bishop Joseph**



## **From the Homily of His Holiness Benedict XVI at the Celebration of Vespers of the Solemnity of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul**

At the beginning of the Letter to the Romans, Saint Paul greeted the community of Rome (introducing himself as "a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle" (1:1). He uses the term "servant," in Greek, *doulos*, to indicate a relationship of total and unconditional belonging to the Lord Jesus; moreover, it is a translation of the Hebrew, *'ebed*, thus alluding to the great servants whom God chose and called for an important and specific mission.

Paul knew he was "called to be an apostle" that is, that he had not presented himself as candidate, nor was his a human appointment, but solely by a divine call and election.

The Apostle to the Gentiles repeats several times in his Letters that his whole life is a fruit of God's freely given and merciful grace (cf. 1 Cor 15:9-10; 2 Cor 4:1; Gal 1:15). He was chosen to proclaim "the Gospel of God" (Rom 1:1), to disseminate the announcement of divine Grace which in Christ reconciles man with God, himself and others.

From his Letters, we know that Paul was far from being a good speaker; on the contrary, he shared with Moses and Jeremiah a lack of oratory skill. "His bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account" (2 Cor 10:10), his adversaries said of him.

The extraordinary apostolic results that he was able to achieve cannot, therefore, be attributed to brilliant rhetoric or refined apologetic and missionary strategies.

The success of his apostolate depended above all on his personal involvement in proclaiming the Gospel with total dedication to Christ; a dedication that feared neither risk, difficulty nor persecution.

"Neither death, nor life," he wrote to the Romans, "nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in a creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (8:3k 39).

From this we can draw a particularly important lesson for every Christian. The Church's action is credible and effective only to the extent to which those who belong to her are prepared to pay in person for their fidelity to Christ in every circumstance. When the readiness is lacking, the crucial argument of truth on which the Church herself depends is also absent.



**MONEY MATTERS****Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 18)**

255 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 1,818.88 of which \$ 259.38 accounted for "loose".

# Envelopes In Circulation 231 # Used 92 # Unused 139

**Speaking of Conversion:**

Always a charming tablemate Bishop Hogan, of happy memory, tried to engage the newly ordained Father J.D. in a *Forty-Hours* dinner conversation. Seeing early on how Baseball discussion elicited embarrassingly meager response from me, he effortlessly switched tracks to less mundane matter. The Bishop asked. "Who's your favorite Catholic writer, Father J.D.?"



Fr. J.D. and Pastor Richard confer at Seton Hall University in 1987, four years before he became Father Richard.

Without hesitating I said: "Richard John Neuhaus – who at the time was Religion Editor at Bill Buckley's *National Review*." Again, not missing a beat, his Excellency, looking quizzically at me, comically quipped: "He's a Lutheran."

I smugly snarled back: "not for long!" And indeed, twenty years after that mutually revelatory dinner at which both of us thought the other would be pretty much in the dark concerning this rather obscure (soon to be famous) Lutheran Pastor who, displeasing more people than he pleased, entered the fullness of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church by converting (like Paul) to Catholicism. I guess, what with his having such a good start, Richard just couldn't stop, because he got himself ordained a Catholic priest a year after his conversion to the Faith.

Father Richard died January 8, 2009. Most fans will remember him from his *National Review* columns and his *First Things* essays. I will remember him best from private conversations with him about his book *The Catholic Moment* in which he revealed how it was that his Lutheranism led him into the Catholic Church.



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**MASS INTENTIONS FOR January 26 - February 1, 2009**

<b>Monday</b>	1/26	08:00 AM	Theresa Bruno, M/M Mike Byrne	<i>Timothy &amp; Titus, bishops</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	1/27	08:00 AM	Frances Casey	<i>Angela Merici, virgin</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	1/28	08:00 AM	Wally Jorkasky, Diane Hencherick	<i>Thomas Aquinas, priest &amp; doctor</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	1/29	08:00 AM	Anthony T. Conrad, Bill Conrad	<i>Weekday</i>
<b>Friday</b>	1/30	08:00 AM	Walter Bieniek, Joanna Tetanich	<i>Weekday</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	1/31	04:30 PM	Lorraine Warner, Connie Kowalski	<i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	2/1	09:00 AM	Pat Dennis, Bear & Patty McCloskey	<i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	2/1	11:00 AM	Liv/Dec Members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish	<i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>