



*John baptizes Jesus in the river Jordan
And the Old and New Testaments come together*

What was it, two or three weeks ago when I went on the following rant?

OLF joins other parishes in making adjustments to new PA Lottery Rules

You can't fight City Hall is an old and perpetually valid dictum. It's a long and convoluted story but the bottom line is that legally we can no longer practically use the Lotto Daily Numbers as the index for our private small games of chance fund raising activities. Personally, I think this should be a "Catholic" wedge issue for the next election. Why can't they just leave us alone? Gambling laws, rules, and regulations are (or should be) made to control the big money gangster types, not struggling (mostly Catholic) Churches. (And please - let's leave *the "scandal"* out of this.) It's not my role to do the politics thing ... but it is yours. I don't view myself as a "Tea Partier" but I do like the sound of their rally cry - "Let's take back our government ."

Well, apparently, a little pressure applied in the right places (and sometimes in the Left places as well, actually pays off. This week our State Senator - JOHN H. EICHELBERGER, JR. of PA 's 30TH DISTRICT - released an e-mail stating in part :

"We've had many calls in the office about this issue." "We're pleased to see the extension from the Department of Revenue to help our local social clubs." "There will be no annual report required for social clubs in 2014. Those that have a liquor license and record small games of chance proceeds of \$20,000 or more will be required to follow the new requirements starting in February 2015.

"The annual report requirement has been permanently eliminated for all organizations that do not have liquor licenses."

For us at O.L.F. all this legalese simply means that we can return to our previous way of doing business with regard to the parish co-op. We will in fact be back in business selling for March drawings during the month of February. Tickets are being printed as we read!

Thanks to all those who "put pressure" on our legislators and on the regulatory system in the Commonwealth.

Thanks to the bureaucrats who retain a listening ear to their constituencies.

Now, if only we could get similar effects in dealing with the Government in regard to preserving the lives of the unborn. We've been marching around Washington for one day annually for forty years with little effect beyond keeping alive a presence and an awareness that the people are concerned, sort of, about the issue of abortion, and then it's back to business as usual. We need new approaches to *really* pressure the governing classes. I'll pray. You strategize.



After several weeks at sea our statue of Saint Peregrine has finely arrived at the shores of Altoona. You will see it displayed in church as soon as the Christmas decorations are stored in their proper places following the 11:00 Mass this weekend.

The window bases as a permanent home for the statue (making it a shrine) will be in place by next Sunday.

So far we have collected about one third of the cost of the statue. Contributions will be accepted from anyone at all although we hoping that the bulk of funding would come from persons who have had or are having a Cancer situation them selves or are suffering through a situation of a loved one.

PRAYER TO ST PEREGRINE

O great St. Peregrine, ° you who have been called `The Mighty," "The Wonder-Worker" * because of the numerous, miracles which you have obtained from God * for those who have had recourse to you, * you who for so many years bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease * that destroys the very heart of our being, * and who had recourse to the source of all grace ° when the power of man could do no more; O you who were favored with the vision of Jesus * coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction, * ask of God and Our Lady, ° the cure of these sick persons whom we entrust to you. °

(Pause here and silently recall the names of the sick persons for whom you are praying.)

Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, * we shall sing to God; ° now and for all eternity, * a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen.

*Thanks for making this Christmas one of the best ever!
Thanks to all those who contributed time, talent, and treasure*

For choir work and congregational singing

For all Liturgical Ministries

For decorating and maintaining the Church

For financial contributions, and

For unprecedented cooperation

Allow me, Father Zatalava, to extend my personal thanks to those many parishioners who were so very generous, sometimes excessively so, in contributing to my very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year commemorations. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you.

Just one more thing ... a special request!

Would as many of you as possible return following the 11:00 Mass this weekend to help lovingly dismantle the Church Decorations so lovingly assembled for this year's Holiday celebrations.

We welcome your assistance!

Thank you.

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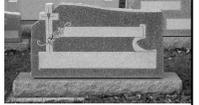
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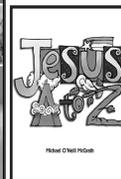
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