

Come One, Come All!

The **2010 Rural Life Celebration** will be held at 11 am on **Sunday, August 15** at Quaal Dairy located at 32462 250th St. in rural Underwood. All are invited to attend this FREE, family-friendly celebration that is sponsored by Catholic Charities and the Diocese of St. Cloud. The celebration will include an outdoor Mass with Bishop John F. Kinney, entertainment and a picnic lunch. Parishes hosting the annual celebration are St. James in Maine Township, Our Lady of Victory in Fergus Falls and Our Lady of the Lake in Battle Lake.

WHAT'S WHERE:

August 1 – Church of Seven Dolors, Albany. **Annual Church Bazaar.** Indoor Polka Mass at 10:30 am, music by the Country Polkateers. Chicken & Ham Dinner with dressing, mashed potatoes, coleslaw and much more including home-baked pie will be served beginning at 11:00 am in the new air-conditioned Parish Center and also in the school lunchroom. Takeouts available. Quilt Auction at 3:00 pm. Grand Raffle at 6:00 pm – \$1,000 grand prize + 237 other prizes. Bingo, Fancy Work/Craft stand, Furniture Raffle, Country Store, Ring Toss, Children's games, Cake Walk, Fet Kuchen, plus other food and beverages available. Gene Ostendorf Band will be playing all afternoon on the church grounds. Come and spend the day with us!

August 3 – St. Louis Church, Paynesville. **Daughters of Isabella & Knights of Coumbus.** Rosary at 6:45, followed by meetings and lunch.

August 7 – St. James Parish, Jacobs Prairie. **BBQ Pork Chop & Corn-On-The-Cob Feed.** 4:00 – 9:00 pm. The menu is fabulous: barbecue pork chops, all the corn-on-the-cob you can eat, baked potatoes, cabbage salad, etc. Adults, \$8.50; Children 5-12, \$5.00; kids under 5 free, served a hot dog.

August 14-15 – St. Boniface Church, Cold Spring. **Parish Festival.** **Saturday:** 5:00 pm Polka Mass, music by Country Polkateers; food & beverage stands open; Smokin' Guns preform 7:00-11:00 pm; Fireworks at 10:00 pm. **Sunday:** Parade at 10:00 am; Quilt Auction bidding starts at 2:00 pm; food, games & entertainment all afternoon. For preview of quilts, log onto www.stboniface.com.

August 22 – St. Francis of Assissi, Bowlus. 10 miles N of Albany on 238. **Fall Festival.** 10:00 am Mass in air-conditioned comfort. Homemade chicken & ham dinner with all the trimmings, served indoors and outdoors. Live music all day by *Waltzeteers*. Auction at 2:00 pm. Food Stand, Kids Games, Country Store, Bingo, Cake Walk. Grand Raffle at 7:30 pm – Grand Prize \$1000.

It's cool and dignified

8 a.m. Somewhere in Central Minnesota, a woman in her 70s comes in to one of Catholic Charities Senior Dining Sites. She pours herself a cup of coffee and sits down to read the newspaper that has been delivered to the building. She appreciates the cool air. Much nicer in the summer than the heat of her home – her four-door car a few parking lots away.

She waits till the meal is served and eats with other diners, treated with the same dignity and respect they all enjoy.

At around 2 in the afternoon, she tells the staff good-bye with a smile as they close for the day. She walks slowly home to her car to wait until tomorrow.

Today's First Reading, Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23. The word "vanity" usually refers to excessive love of one's appearance, but in the book of Ecclesiastes it has a different meaning. The English word means "emptiness" or "nothing," so a "vanity of vanities" could mean "a complete waste of time." The author of Ecclesiastes calls himself "*Qoheleth*," which is translated "one who assembles" or "teacher." He is cynical about life, having lived a long time and seen the futility of much of his work. His book ends with a simple truth: The only worthwhile thing about life is the knowledge of God.

"When the Sisters are exhausted, up to their eyes in work; when all seems to go awry, they spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This practice has never failed to bear fruit: they experience peace and strength."

~Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Eucharistic Adoration:

Have you really considered the benefits?

**One Hour in the Real Presence of Christ...
or Benediction at 5:45 pm at least.
Come on Friday and sign the book.**

Then call Fr. Corwin at 548-3550.

It could change your life.

Wow! WOMAN FEEDS DOG!

One of the Big Scandal stories last week was about an Anglican priest giving communion to a woman and her dog. Here's an excerpt as originally reported by Catholic World News:

A dog has received communion at an Anglican parish in Toronto. Pets are permitted in the church.

"The minister welcomed me and said come up and take communion, and Trapper [the dog] came up with me and the minister gave him communion as well," said Donald Keith, the dog's owner. "Then he bent his head and said a little prayer."

"I thought it was a nice way to welcome me into the church," said Mr. Keith, a new member. "99.9% of the people in the church love Trapper, and the kids play with him."

Following a parishioner's complaint, the local Anglican bishop decided that Trapper would not receive communion again, though he will continue to be welcome at church.

Well, first of all I had to wonder who bent his head and said the prayer — Trapper or the priest. Then I speculated in passing whether the priest was a woman as later versions of the story claimed.

Now high-church (Orthodox) Anglican liturgy makes ours look pale by comparison, but then there's "low-church" Anglicanism in which just about anything goes. A lot of orthodox Anglicans (the latest of them Canadian Anglicans, whose main remaining interfaith barrier has been in not recognizing the sacrament of Holy Orders) are reuniting *en masse* with the Roman Catholic Church through the Apostolic Constitution created by Pope Benedict XVI.

So this must have been a low-church pup, where they don't believe the communion wafer is anything but a snack anyway.

Then I recalled how the village hound at our little Mexican parish south of San Antonio would wander in and out of church — abided by all if not exactly welcomed — shaking mustard dust off his hide and sleeping through the Irish priest's sermons in 105° heat.

Not that different from the rest of us, though Fr. Larry Murtagh's bilingual (Irish - Spanish) homilies were pretty exciting when he got to describing Archbishop Lucey's latest curmudgeonly dictums. It was just the heat that made us drowsy, and if that friendly yellow cur preferred snoozing in the shade to slouching droop-tailed up to the communion railing it was no skin off our nose. Some of us doubted he'd ever been baptized in the first place, and in any case he mysteriously disappeared just before the annual parish fiesta one year while the parish women were cooking up those fabulous hot tamales in their great black-iron washpots.

Since I actually take the Catholic Church's teaching seriously concerning the invalidity of Anglican sacraments — High Church or Low — then all that happened in Toronto was that a woman pretending to be a priest gave a dog a treat she pretended was the body of Christ. "Woman feeds dog" is not something I'm inclined to waste energy getting upset about.

yr. obt. svt.



The "Curse" of Affluence – a small meditation

Heaven costs everything. This is made plain by the treasure-in-a-field parable spoken by the Lord in today's Gospel.

The most common interpretation of this parable is that we have to be willing to forsake everything to obtain heaven.

But more radically, the parable isn't saying we have to be willing to forsake everything, but that we **WILL** forsake, or at least lose, everything. The question is, will we do this willingly and even with a sublime final joy, or will we do so resentfully and die with a hardened heart?