



Newsletter

"Service of and witness to the faith are necessary for salvation"

-CCC § 1816

Vol. 3, Issue 11, © November 2008

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Thanksgiving in America

Presented by the Pope John Paul II Society of Evangelists and School of Evangelization.

According to tradition, the first American Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 by the English Pilgrims who had founded the Plymouth Colony, now in the state of Massachusetts. The Pilgrims marked the occasion by feasting with their Native American guests—members of the Wampanoag tribe—who brought gifts of food as a gesture of goodwill. Although this event was an important part of American colonial history, there is no evidence that any of the participants thought of the feast as a thanksgiving celebration. Two years later, during a period of drought, a day of fasting and prayer was changed to one of thanksgiving because rains came during the prayers. Gradually, it became the custom, in the original thirteen colonies to celebrate a day of thanksgiving after the harvest. But the day varied from community to community and colony to colony.

From 1777, when the Continental Congress declared the first national day of Thanksgiving, until the time of the American Civil War, the celebration of Thanksgiving was a hit or miss thing. Some years there was no celebration, and some years there were two or three. Then, in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln - under the influence of the poet and author Sarah Josepha Hale - proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day for the last Thursday in November, and Thanksgiving has been an annual celebration since.

Finally, in 1941, the U.S. Congress passed a bill requiring that Thanksgiving be observed annually on the fourth Thursday of November, and President Roosevelt signed this bill. Thus, the celebration of Thanksgiving Day became a matter of federal law.

In our secular world; thanksgiving has a strictly material meaning, for, more and more, America turns a deaf ear to the spiritual, as we have seen in this election, just past. This nation voted into office the most liberal of men and women to head our government. I pray that none of our members put the material before the spiritual.

For, did not Our Lord, in Luke, chapter 12, verses 22-38, speak to his disciples and tell them not to worry about the things of the world? He told them not to worry about what

they would eat, or what they would wear. He told them to seek His kingdom, and all these other things would be given to them. He told them not to accumulate wealth in this world but, instead, to store up treasure in heaven "that no thief can reach nor moth destroy." He also told them to be vigilant, "like servants who await their master's return." He was also talking to us!

We are in the world but not of the world. We are a kingdom and Jesus Christ is our King. This is He, to whom we are obedient. Our Lord teaches us through his teaching Church, not the Supreme Court justices who pass laws contrary to the His natural Law.

We say we believe in Jesus; is this true? If so why do we not trust Him? Instead 53% of Catholics cast their votes in support of the material aspects of life, such as welfare, health care, the economy, and against high taxes, high gas prices, the war in Iraq. Without regard for the fact that they by doing so they were also supporting abortion on demand, and same-sex unions on a par with the marriage of a man and a woman, and other morally questionable agendas.

There is only one thing that matters and that is the salvation of your soul and those entrusted into your care. I pray that from this day on, my dear brothers and sisters, that the salvation of souls will be your driving force.

Pope Benedict XVI'S November Prayer Intentions 2008

- **Love of God and Neighbor.** That the testimony of love offered by the saints may fortify Christians in their devotion to God and neighbor, imitating Christ who came to serve and not to be served.
- **Church in Asia.** That the Christian communities of Asia, contemplating the face of Christ, may find the most suitable ways to announce Him, in full faithfulness to the Gospel.

The Shy Evangelist

Presented by the Pope John Paul II Society of Evangelists and School of Evangelization

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, He didn't create an evangelist for quite some time. I have heard it said that evangelists are born, not made. But is that really true? Let's look at the first evangelist. Who was he?

Some say it was Peter. Some say it was Paul. If you ask me, it was Peter. Just read Acts, chapter 2, verses 1 through 41. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, Peter spoke boldly on the day of Pentecost and three thousand were converted and saved. So we know that evangelists are made not born.

With that in mind let's ask ourselves: are we shy? If the answer is yes, then you can make a difference for God. Because, shyness is a wonderful attribute. It means that you are kind, caring, and considerate. These are gifts of the spirit. When you act upon them they are the fruit that Christ spoke about in the parable of the sower of seeds in Matthew, chapter 13, verses 4 through 23. Be this as it may, how do we overcome the fact that most people with these attributes would rather wrestle a bear than speak to a stranger?

In principal you can achieve this with just a little practice. The first thing you need to do is start looking for people that have signs of the spirit. What are they? Kindness, caring, and compassion - the same attributes you have. Look for people that do nice things without having to be asked. One example may be opening a door for you, or letting you go through the door first when you both get there at the same time. Another might be putting a divider up so you can place your items on the check out line. These are all acts of kindness.

It's easy to spot these people after awhile. All of us have experience in noticing things that we never noticed before, when we were motivated. If you are asking yourself: when did I do such a thing? One example is when you bought a new car, and for the first few weeks of driving it you noticed every car like yours and you had no idea how many of them there were. Start looking for people just like you, and within a short time you will find these kinds of people are very approachable and receptive. It's rejection that you hate and the fear of that rejection that stops you dead in your tracks. This is why the bear doesn't look so bad. Because the worst the bear can do is eat you, but rejection really hurts!

The secret to overcoming this problem is narrowing your search field. Only approach people that exhibit these traits. Now that you know how to find them, what do you say to them? That's easy. I will tell you a story of the first time I realized that kindness was an indicator of the presence of God.

About 15 years ago I had an appointment with an accountant at his office and it was raining and cold. His office was in a strip mall and there was no one there when I arrived. As I knocked on the door over and over, because I wanted to get out of the rain, a gentleman came from the next office and asked if I would like to come in out of the rain and wait for my appointment in his office. I said yes indeed! As I walked into his office, I said, "That was very kind of you. You must be a man of God." He said, "I am", and I replied, "It shows." We spent a pleasant 10 minutes waiting for my appointment. I never forgot that man, and I never will. The kind person is just one type of personality to approach. There are many others, but for the first time evangelist - so you don't become a one

time evangelist - just stick with this one. So until our work is done,

Brothers & Sisters in God's Service,
The Board of Directors
Pope John Paul II Society of Evangelists
Look for future notes from the Shy Evangelist.

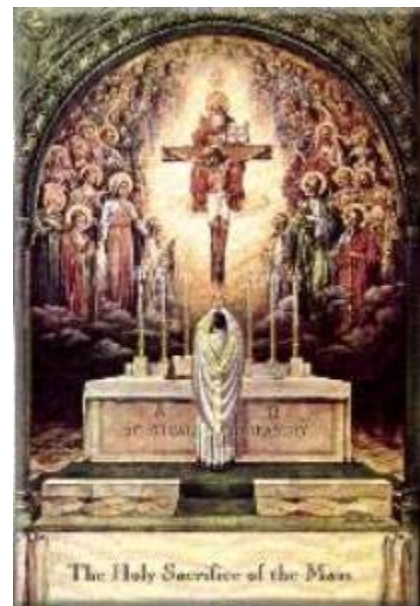
Word of the Month

Beatitude – (*bē at' i tōōd'*), *n.* **1.** supreme blessedness, exalted happiness. **2.** (*often cap.*) any of the declarations of blessedness pronounced by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. [1375-1425; late ME < L *beātītūdō* perfect happiness, equiv. to *beāti-* (see BEATIFIC) + *tūdō* – TUDE]
[from Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language, 1996, Random House Value Publishing, Inc.]

Attention Society Members:

- We are establishing a central office in the Ontario, California area. We will, in the near future, be needing help in the office with compiling and organizing material for the website, computer data entry, filing, preparing pamphlets, and etc.
- We are interested in what you would like to see on the website and in the newsletter. Please, share your ideas with us. Your input is important!

If you can contribute in any way, please e-mail John Leach, the Society President, at pjpiisoe@netzero.net or call him at (909) 980-3794. We look forward to hearing from you. God Bless You!



The Domestic Church

Advent is almost upon us! Advent is the beginning of the Liturgical year and a season of preparation for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. Advent has been called the "Little Lent" because it is a time of repentance, and was for centuries also a time of fasting and prayer. In more recent years the requirement for fasting has been relaxed in the Roman Rite but it is still observed in the Eastern Rites.

For Catholics of the Roman Rite this season begins, this year, on Sunday, the 30th of November. For Eastern Catholics, those of the Byzantine, Alexandrian, Antiochene, Chaldean, and Armenian Rites it begins on the 15th of November. This period of fasting is called Philip's fast, because it begins on the day after the feast of the Apostle Philip in the Eastern calendar, and it runs through December 24th, Christmas Eve.

This is a fairly strict fast. That means no eating from midnight to noon and only one meal a day on weekdays. No meat, dairy, or animal products are allowed at all during this time, and fish, wine, and olive oil may be consumed only on Saturday and Sunday. (*This is according to a Melkite Catholic Church information website – www.mliles.com/melkite/fastingguidelines.shtml.)*

As Roman Catholics we are no longer bound to fast during Advent, but fasting – along with prayer, and charitable works – is a spiritual discipline that can help us better prepare for and appreciate our Christmas celebration. Besides, Pope John Paul II, in his Apostolic Letter *Orientalis Lumen* - "The Light of the East," called all members of the Catholic Church to an increased awareness of the rich spiritual traditions of the Eastern Catholic Churches. What better way, for us to do that, than to join with them in this season of fasting and prayer, in preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

So, along with preparing my Advent Wreath and Jesse Tree - with the Advent Fast in mind, I have been looking for recipes to share with you. I hope you like this one.

Millet Butternut Soup

(Adapted from *Lean, Luscious, and Meatless: Volume 3*, by Bobbie Hinman and Millie Snyder)

4 pounds butternut squash	2 teaspoons vegetable oil
3 cloves garlic, coarsely chopped	1 cup chopped onions
2 cups carrots, diced	1 cup celery, diced
5 cups vegetable broth	½ teaspoon dried thyme
1 bay leaf	2 teaspoons salt
1 pinch white pepper	½ cup millet, uncooked
2 teaspoons parsley, finely chopped	¼ teaspoon paprika

1. Cut the butternut squash in half lengthwise and remove seeds.
2. Place squash cut side down on a parchment lined sheet pan and roast in a 350 degree oven for 30 to 40 minutes or until squash is soft to the touch, and the skin begins to pull away from the flesh.
3. Remove from the oven and let cool.
4. Spoon the roasted squash out of the skin and pass it through a ricer to remove the stringy fibers.
5. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add garlic, onions, carrots, and celery. Cook 5 minutes, or until the onions and carrots start to caramelize -

stirring frequently. Add small amounts of broth if needed to prevent sticking.

6. Add the remaining broth, salt, pepper, and bay leaf. Bring to a boil.
7. Add the millet and the squash, cover and reduce heat to low, and simmer 40 minutes.
8. Remove the bay leaf, and puree the soup in the pot with an immersion blender (or blend in batches in a regular blender) until it reaches a smooth, creamy consistency.
9. Taste, and add salt and pepper if needed.
10. Garnish with chopped parsley and paprika and serve.

November 2008 Calendar

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| 1 | All Saints |
| 2 | 31 st Sunday of Ordinary Time; All Souls |
| 3 | St. Martin de Porres |
| 4 | St. Charles Borromeo |
| 5 | St. Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist |
| 6 | St. Theophane Venard |
| 7 | St. Hyacinth Castaneda |
| 8 | Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity |
| 9 | 32 nd Sunday of Ordinary Time |
| 10 | St. Leo the Great, Pope |
| 11 | St. Martin of Tours |
| 12 | St. Josaphat |
| 13 | St. Frances Xavier Cabrini |
| 14 | St. Joseph Pignatelli |
| 15 | St. Albert the Great |
| 16 | 33 rd Sunday of Ordinary Time; St. Agnes of Assisi |
| 17 | St. Elizabeth of Hungary |
| 18 | St. Rose Philippine Duchesne |
| 19 | St. Raphael Kalonowski |
| 20 | Blessed Maria Forunata Viti |
| 21 | Presentation of the Virgin Mary |
| 22 | St. Cecilia |
| 23 | 34 th Sunday of Ordinary Time; Solemnity of Christ the King; St. Felicity |
| 24 | St. Andrew Dung-Lac |
| 25 | St. Catherine Laboure |
| 26 | St. John Berchmans |
| 27 | St. Francesco Antonio Fasani; Thanksgiving |
| 28 | St. Stephen the Younger |
| 29 | Blessed Denis of the Nativity |
| 30 | 1 st Sunday of Advent; St. Andrew the Apostle |



The Libera Me

Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death in that awful day:
When the heavens and the earth shall be moved.
When You shall come to judge the world by fire.
Dread and trembling have laid hold on me, and I fear
exceedingly because of the judgment and the wrath to
come.
When the heavens and the earth shall be shaken.
On that day, that day of wrath, of sore distress and of all
wretchedness, that great and exceeding bitter day,
When You shall come to judge the world by fire.
Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

Thanksgiving Prayer

This Thanksgiving let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord. At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve on another and to walk together in God's gracious world. With thankful hearts we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing.

Today and every day, it pleases God for us to sit as brothers and sisters as we share the bounty of the earth and the grace God has placed in each blessed soul. For this we all give thanks and praise to our loving and gracious God.

From [*Songs of Our Hearts, Meditations of Our Souls: Prayers for Black Catholics*](#), edited by Cecilia A. Moor, Ph.D., C. Vanessa White, D.Min., and Paul M. Marshall, S.M.

