

January 31, 2010

**Holy Dormition Friary
Sybertsville, Pa.**



St. Peter's Denial—Jerusalem, Israel

Divine Liturgy

Jan. 31—February 7, 2010

Sunday 31—8AM + Mary Gramata
Monday 01—8AM Franciscan Miss Union
Tuesday 02—12N +Deblasi/Denecola Fam.
Wednesday 03—12N +Ann/John Pazdrey
Thursday 04—12N +William Martin
Friday 05—12N B'day Michael Dzamko
Saturday 06—12N First All Souls Day
Saturday 06—5PM + John Soltis/ John Skislock
Sunday 07—8AM + Mary Dzamko

**Reconciliation
Thurs. & Fri. 3—4.30 & 7—8:00 PM**

Prayer for the People of Haiti

Lord, I just want to say Thank You. Thank you, because this morning I woke up and knew where my children were. I thank you, because this morning my home was still standing, because this morning I am not crying because my husband, my children, my brother or sister needs to be recovered from underneath a pile of concrete. Because this morning I was able to drink a glass of water, because this morning I am able to turn on the light, because this morning I was able to take a shower,, because this morning I was not planning a funeral, but most of all I thank you this morning, because I still have life and a voice to cry out for the people of Haiti.

Lord, I cry to You, the one who makes the impossible - possible, the one that turns darkness into light. I cry out that You give the mothers strength, that you give them peace that surpasses all understanding. I pray You may open the streets so that help can come, that You may provide doctors, nurses, food, water, and all needs in a blink of an eye. Father, for all those that have lost family members, give them peace, give them hope, give them courage to continue to go on! Protect the children and shield them with Your power. I pray all this in the name of Jesus. AMEN

Make a difference in the lives of others.

Sunday of the Two Sons

We think of today as the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, but there are two sons in this story, and neither one has a great relationship with the father. We pay attention to the Prodigal, because we are reminded of him every time we feel shame for the mistakes and transgressions of our lives. We remember God's mercy, and so we seek to return to God, to find reconciliation with God, and the strength to ask for mercy from our neighbor whom we have wronged.

But the elder son teaches us another lesson about God's mercy. While we sit in church and say our prayers, God is sitting out by the side of the road, waiting for so many prodigals to turn to him for mercy. When these people enter our churches, sometimes we ignore them, sometimes we find them different, and we shun them or speak ill of them. How often do we see the new person and welcome them back to their heavenly Father's banquet?

Today's parable asks us to reflect not only on our need for God's mercy but also on our need to accept that mercy in our hearts so that we might welcome yet others who unexpectedly "return" to us, even though we never realized they belonged in our Father's house.

Jerome Wolbert, OFM

Catholic Values on the Cusp of Health Care Reform

By Rev. Thomas A. Nairn, OFM, PhD.

Senior Director Ethics, Catholic Health Association USA - Continued

(1) Respect for life. Most discussion regarding the bills has focused on the issue of abortion and what Bishop Murphy characterized as “preserving the longstanding prohibition on federal funding for abortion.” Although both the Senate and the House bills ban direct federal funding of abortion, the bills differ regarding indirect funding. The House bill also bans any abortion coverage by any plan that is part of the new insurance exchanges that would be mandated. The Senate bill would allow private insurance sold by means of the exchanges to cover abortion, but the abortion coverage would need to be paid for separately. Furthermore, everyone who would buy an insurance plan that contains abortion coverage would have to pay for that coverage (in a separate payment).

(2) Access for all; priority concern for the poor; comprehensive benefits. Neither plan provides access for all or a priority concern for the poor. It is estimated that the House bill would cover 96% of all citizens by 2019, while the Senate bill would eventually cover 94%. Both of these figures cover a significantly higher percentage of the population than the status quo. Both bills would expand Medicaid coverage to help the poorest citizens. Undocumented immigrants would not be covered.

(3) Equitable financing. Both bills offer subsidies to those who cannot afford insurance, but at different levels. The House bill seems to offer better subsidies for lower-income families, the Senate bill seems to offer relatively better subsidies for the middle-income families. The taxes that would pay for these subsidies are different in both bills. According to the Congressional Budget Office, both bills would be deficit neutral over the next decade.

(4) Pluralism. Both plans seem to offer conscience protections.

(5) Quality. There seems to be a movement from fee-for-service payment to outcomes-based reimbursement. The House bill would use pilot projects to help determine best practices. The Senate bill would have an independent board within Medicare, which would also recommend changes to other programs.

As we review the values and consider how a reconciled bill might relate to them, it is easy to say that the bill will go –part-way to embodying most of the values that the bishops articulated but will not fully meet any of the eight criteria. It will therefore be an imperfect bill from the perspective of these values. What we need to consider is whether half a loaf regarding health care reform is better than nothing at all. I am sure that this debate will continue well after the bill has been voted on.

Tips for a Positive New Year

Believe that everything happens for a reason and expect good things to come out of challenging experiences.

Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, energy vampires, issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control.

Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.

Mentor someone and be mentored by someone.

Live with the 3 E's. *Energy, Enthusiasm, Empathy*

Zoom Focus each day when you wake up in the morning ask: “What are the three most important things I need to do today that will help me create the success I desire?” Then tune out all the distractions and focus on these actions.

Instead of complaining focus on solutions. It's the key to innovation.

Learn from mistakes and let them teach you to make positive changes.

Dear Friends,
Our Oil and Electricity costs are out of reach.
Please help us. **Thank You For Your Support:**
Week of January 17–24th: \$265.00