

<h1 style="text-align: center;">The Catholic Cantor</h1>	<p>Prayer Chain: Always available! 788-4342</p>
<p>We are devoted to Our Lord in His Sacred Heart!</p> <p>Southwick First Friday: Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Southwick, Mass. <i>Friday, February 4th, 2010 for Mass at 11 AM.</i> Arrive at 10:45 am please. Bring a brownbag lunch. Karen Ford Readings/altar servers (642-4623), Christine Hebert (315-9999)</p>	<p>Happy Birthday February 3rd Stephen O'Brien 4 Megan Frame 4th Simon Yetts 4th Marcus Yetts 5 Andrew Yetts 9 Michael Reed</p>
<p>The Vatican has released the prayer intentions of Pope Benedict XVI for February 2011.</p> <p>February 2011</p> <p>General Intention: That the family may be respected by all in its identity and that its irreplaceable contribution to all of society be recognized.</p> <p>Missionary Intention: That in the mission territories where the struggle against disease is most urgent, Christian communities may witness to the presence of Christ to those who suffer.</p>	<p>22 Juliette Cook</p> <p>On Fridays: 10 AM Moms Bible Study. We do not meet the week of First Friday call for location as we are rotating homes: Patrice MacArthur 782+4093</p> <p>Bethlehem House</p> <p>A Great Alms opportunity: Clothing is earned not gifted and must be logged in and out, so do not wrap. Used is fine if not stained. Just wash before bringing. Smoke Free clothing please. There are volunteer and fundraising opportunities. Call Pam 527-2861</p>
<p>Prayer for the Help of the Holy Spirit O God, send forth your Holy Spirit into my heart that I may perceive, into my mind that I may remember, and into my soul that I may meditate. Inspire me to speak with piety, holiness, tenderness and mercy. Teach, guide and direct my thoughts and senses from beginning to end. May your grace ever help and correct me, and may I be strengthened now with wisdom from on high, for the sake of your infinite mercy. Amen.</p> <p>Prayer for Enlightenment O Holy Spirit, divine Spirit of light and love, I consecrate to Thee my understanding, my heart and my will, my whole being for time and for eternity. May my understanding be always obedient to Thy heavenly inspirations and the teachings of the holy Catholic Church, of which Thou art the infallible Guide; may my heart be ever inflamed with love of God and of my neighbor; may my will be ever conformed to the divine will, and may my whole life be a faithful following of the life and virtues of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father and Thee be honor and glory forever. Amen.</p>	<p>A Pro Life Rosary is prayed every second Thursday for an end to Abortion and for all babies and mothers visiting Planned Parenthood that day. Meet at St. Michael's Cathedral at 10 AM to carpool to Planned Parenthood. Return for 12:10 PM Mass. Contact Marilyn Stearns 567-6085.</p> <p>St. Gerard and St. Joseph's Corner:</p> <p>Please pray for those who are pregnant, adopting, fostering, selling or buying a home, suffering job loss, etc. Jen, Melissa Send names or initials</p>

Western Massachusetts Catholic Homeschoolers Statement of Purpose

Our families come together in order to support each other, as obedient Roman Catholics, and to bring the Catholic way of life to greater fruition and brilliance in our homes.

We have as our foundation, and the guiding principle of all our activities, fidelity to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, especially to our pope, Benedict XVI, Vicar of Christ.

Thus we affirm the Magisterium on contraception and other life issues as central to our mission as families. As emphasized in the Second Vatican Council, we parents have a most solemn obligation to educate our offspring. Therefore we are the primary educators of our children. As lay faithful, we are dedicated to promoting home education among Catholic families and to support those families who are engaged in providing their children's primary education at home.

To receive our newsletter please email nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org

we also have a Facebook Page and a Yahoo Email loop—we are trying to move all email addresses here please! Go to Yahoo Groups and search New England Catholic Homeschooler.

To submit an article for publication please contact Mary Brazeau 74 Pearl St. Holyoke, MA 01040 (413) 533-0045 or send to nehc@ourladyqueenofsaints.org

The Priest's Corner-

Lord Bless those ordained so that we might have access to the Sacraments!

Pope Benedict XVI has declared a Year of the Priest to inspire the search for spiritual perfection in our priests.

Please send us the name of priests in need of prayer: your pastor, confessor, relative, a missionary you support. And include seminarians! By email: wmch@crossfire.org

We begin of course with our Bishop Timothy McDonnell and retired Bishop Joseph F. Maguire.

Fr. Victor Carrier is the pastor of Holy Cross in Springfield (Perkins and Henle families) Towsley's, Ford's Laverdiere's Kelly's etc. attend St. Stan's Priests

at St. Stan's are Fr. Michael Zielke, Fr. Mieczyslaw Wit, Fr. Marek Stybor, Fr. Pedro De Oliveira, Fr. Noel Danielewicz Fr. Bill Tourigny is at Ste. Rose in Chicopee; MacArthur's are at Holy Name Springfield: Fr. Mark Mengel, SSC, and Msgr. David Joyce

Fr. Henry Dorsch is at Our Lady of the Lake in Southwick. Mary has a brother Fr. James F. Murphy CSB in Toronto who will be moved to Huston in May. Please pray as this will be his 13th address in 16 years.

and Brazeau's are at Holy Cross Holyoke with Fr. Roland Galipeau, Fr. Francis X. Sullivan (retired) and seminarian Matt Guidi.

Fr Don Lapointe of SPF will be going on a mission trip to Kenya—please keep him and his safety in your prayers.

Our friends at Western Mass Homeschoolers will be holding a History Fair this year on Saturday January 29th in the morning. Several Ski trips are planned, swim and gyms are operating, Science fair is coming in April, Parent meetings are monthly on the second Thursday and there are great Mother's Meet ups on various nights at Paneras or Dunkin Donuts around the area. Great way to get to know other moms!!!!

go to <http://www.wmhomeschoolers.org/>

14-January-2011 -- Catholic World News Brief

Beatification Of John Paul Is Set: May 1

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints has released a decree, formally approved by Pope Benedict XVI, confirming the authenticity of a miracle through the intercession of the late Polish Pontiff. The approval of that miracle fulfilled the final requirement for his beatification.

The Vatican immediately announced that the beatification ceremony will be held on May 1, the feast of Divine Mercy, in Rome. The ceremony is expected to draw a huge throng to St. Peter's Square.

The beatification will take place just a bit more than 6 years after the death of John Paul II. Ordinarily the Vatican imposes a 5-year waiting period after death before even opening the investigation that can lead to beatification. But Pope Benedict XVI waived that requirement for his predecessor. During the funeral of John Paul II in April 2005, thousands of people in the congregation had joined in the chant: "Santo subito!" calling for quick action to raise the beloved Pontiff to the altars.

The miracle that was formally announced on January 14 was the cure of a French nun, Sister Marie Simon Pierre, from Parkinson's disease. The sudden cure came on June 3, 2005—just a few weeks after the Pope's death—after the nun's superior had instructed her to seek the intercession of the late Pontiff. Teams of theologians and medical experts had examined the case thoroughly and testified that the cure was miraculous.

The enormous worldwide popularity of Pope John Paul II had produced a groundswell of support for his beatification. But as rumors circulated about the impending Vatican announcement, some critics questioned whether the investigation had been rushed. Cardinal Angelo Amato, the prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, dismissed those concerns in a talk with Vatican Radio.

Cardinal Amato acknowledged that the cause of John Paul II had been hastened by Pope Benedict's decision to waive the usual waiting period, and by the decision to give the cause "fast track" status, so that the investigation took precedence over other pending cases on the Congregation's docket. "There were, however, no corners cut with regard to the rigor and accuracy of procedure," Cardinal Amato assured. He elaborated:

The case was treated like any other, following all the steps prescribed by the law of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. On the contrary, if I may speak further to one of my first observations: precisely in order to honor the dignity and the memory of this great Pope, to avoid any doubt and overcome any difficulties, the case was subjected to particularly careful scrutiny.

The "fast-track" status of the case also influenced the scheduling of the beatification ceremony. Ordinarily the Vatican allows some time to elapse between the certification of a miracle, which clears the way for beatification, and the announcement of a date for the beatification ceremony. In this case the two announcements were made simultaneously, reflecting the determination of Vatican officials to leave adequate time for preparations for the event. The formal decree issued by the Vatican observed that: "John Paul II's pontificate was an eloquent and clear sign, not only for Catholics, but also for world public opinion, for people of all color and creed." The decree noted the chants of "Santo subito," and concluded: "The faithful have felt, have experienced that he is 'God's man.'"

The Vatican decree drew special attention to several facets of the life of John Paul II. Some involved his personal interior life: his intense but simple prayer, his deep Marian devotion. Others included his contributions to the life of the Church: his influence during the Second Vatican Council, his involvement with youth and especially with World Youth Day, and his extraordinary work for the Jubilee Year 2000.

The decree also makes special note of John Paul II's decision to establish a new feast on the Church's liturgical calendar: the feast of Divine Mercy, devotion popularized by the Polish nun, St. Faustina Kowalska. This year the feast of Divine Mercy will fall on May 1, making it a suitable occasion for the late Pope's beatification.

Haiti from Last years' article—Let us pray for them continually

Sunday's newspaper had a Tom Shea interview with Fr. Hoar of Hands Together and his reaction to the tragedy in Haiti of a 7.1 Earthquake followed by many aftershocks—one measuring 6.0. Fr. Hoar had once said Haiti was 2 inches from hell in describing the severe poverty. Now he was shocked that they had to endure yet another blow.

Other articles have noted that they were still recovering from 2 hurricanes and have been the poorest nation in this hemisphere throughout modern times. Over 80% of the population lives below the poverty line, many on \$1 a day, while the vast majority of those who are middle class or wealthy still to this day, are white.

Humanitarian efforts in medicine, education and housing over the years have kept the island stable but industry has not developed to the point where families have jobs that can lift them from poverty. Now they have no functioning government and the Church they have relied on has lost its shepherd, its cathedral and many churches, priests, seminarians and hard working Lay people.

Others:

<http://www.handstogether.org/help/> <http://www.hopeforhaiti.com/> <http://www.foodforthepeople.org/>

There is a lot of information on The Coffee House about places Jack, Jane, Donna and others saw and visited in Haiti on their Mission Trip, what has survived and what has not.

Venerable Pierre Touissant,

We ask for your intercession for the land of your birth, Haiti, during this tragedy.

Assist the helpless,

Comfort the people as they mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Give hope to the hopeless

Protect those who unselfishly have gone there on the rescue mission;

and above all, remind everyone, God has not abandoned them.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,

Amen.

A year later people still live in tents and a preventable cholera epidemic has killed many. Many NGO's (Non-governmental organizations) are being accused of spending our donations poorly, not spending the money in Haiti, not helping create jobs etc. Despite sending 2 previous presidents the Haitian government itself has accomplished little in creating stability.

Please keep all these things in your heart.

New England Catholic Homeschool Conference
June 25, 2011
St Stanislaus, Chicopee, MA

Prayer is needed!

Several conferences simultaneously changed to the date of June 25th. This is putting strain on vendors that try to be at all conferences. Please pray for them to find the means to come and PLEASE consider registering to volunteer today. Please tell us about materials you are familiar with and if you have any experience in retail. We may have several vendors in need of volunteers to run their booth. Often this is very advantageous—it makes you the vendor so you will not be paying to attend (we would return your check.) There is often a stipend involved. Returning the unsold merchandise to the vendor is simple.

Costs before May 5th:
1st Person \$35, Couple \$40,
Add a grandparent for \$10 (Non- homeschooling)
Add your High School Student Volunteers for FREE
but Parent MUST be in Attendance and responsible
Nursing babies welcome and Free!

Volunteer Registration:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Web Site: _____

Nursing baby (Y/N): _____

Attending with Spouse: _____

or Grandparent: _____

**Check can be made payable to WMCH.
Mail to: 36 Arlmont St Chicopee, MA 01013**

Questions? Call Mary Brazeau 413-533-0045 or Christine Hebert at 413-315-9999

My expertise: _____

Mary's Top Ten Article from last February

In 2010 I'm going to focus on sharing the great information I've received from my professors, fellow students and new teacher-friends. While we all learned that we need to be different from a public school to make homeschooling work, some of us have been unexposed to public schools for a very long time! There are still ideas there we can learn from and adjust to suite our needs. February will be ways to create a classroom climate that facilitates student sharing and learning.

It's simple. Have you ever been in a situation where sharing what you think is too risky? Have you ever had to spend a year in a dry classroom lecture where you never mattered to the teacher or the class? Have you ever spent years studying with the same group of people only to drift away and never care what happened to them? We may think of these as problems only public schools face but any learning environment can become tepid, boring, useless or even unsafe.

1. Start every class with a greeting. In education this does not mean simply saying hello to your students. It means taking a moment to know them better, let them know each other better and set a positive tone for the day. Perhaps you can make morning prayer personal.
2. Have Rules! Start the year slightly strict because you can more easily loosen rules than tighten. It is very important however to have as few rules as possible. Choosing a silent signal to indicate it's time for quiet is a simple way to begin gaining more control.
3. Have a bigger goal for the class than a list of facts memorized or a new set of skills. Maybe you hope the students will be able to carry on a discussion, think more logically or understand how your particular class will help the entire educational process for them.
4. Responsibility is a big lesson to be learned over a long period of time. Have a way for the student to save face as they make the inevitable mistakes. Perhaps taking turns with providing notes to absent students or a way to check if they copied homework assignments correctly *Before* missing them; like having them on the chalkboard, or on the computer. Gradually reduce the amount of help given in remembering the assignment.
5. Respect is another big lesson. Students new to group experiences, or with certain personalities, may feel a deep need to be the jokester to feel validated but not know the limits. Every opportunity to show the connections students have increases their ability to show respect.
6. Be the example! Be prepared for class, on time, respectful, funny without teasing.
7. Offer feedback that is positive! There is nothing worse than being creative and having the teacher correct the spelling without a mention of the creativity—the student will not feel safe being creative in that class again. They must have done something right—tell them!
8. Assessments should vary! Having an English Language Learner show their scientific understanding in an essay would be useless so at Urban schools many other tools are used to see if the underlying principle is understood. Essays are taught and developed in ELL class. On the other hand, students strong in language may struggle with experiments or may be able to guess on a multiple choice without showing actual knowledge. (More on this in an upcoming newsletter.) We can learn from this principle but remember: homeschool parents may be doing this intuitively. What we may forget is to *record* our observations of the students progress. One year my kids begged for Report Cards. I despise them but respected their need to see their progress in a more orderly, visual manner.
9. Understand your students' interests and strengths. Where you can use them in the lessons –do! Maybe they think they don't like history but love music. Connect each date with a composer (or artist or author.)
10. Understand your students' weaknesses and be sure to note growth and effort as well as achievement.

NB—These Top Ten's are intended to start the discussion rather than be the solution. Please feel free to send other ideas, even and especially dissenting opinions! What works for some will not work for all and your insight may help a struggling family!

The Sacraments We Celebrate: A Catholic Guide to the Seven Mysteries of Faith

by Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi

Notre Dame: Ave Maria Press, 2010

Reviewed by Patrice Fagnant-MacArthur

In the introduction to “The Sacraments We Celebrate: A Catholic Guide to the Seven Mysteries of Faith,” Archbishop Timothy Dolan writes that Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi “has baptized hundreds of babies, heard thousands of confessions, celebrated Mass daily, married countless couples, and anointed thousands of infirm and elderly. In other words, he’s been on the front lines of the battle for souls, armed with water, bread, wine, oil stock, purple stole, words, and gesture.” The sacraments are “the front lines of the battle for souls,” yet we Catholics often take them for granted. Msgr. Vaghi’s book is designed both to educate readers about the mysteries of the sacraments and their role in our spiritual lives, as well as to encourage Catholics to make greater use of them.

The book is the second of a four part series examining the four pillars of the “Catechism of the Catholic Church.” As such, Msgr. Vaghi quotes heavily from the recently published “United States Catholic Catechism for Adults.” This is designed as a companion volume to that Catechism, but it functions equally well as a stand-alone study.

“In the sacraments, each of us encounters God.” Msgr. Vaghi explores in great detail how we encounter God in Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. Each chapter includes questions for personal or group reflection as well as a prayer. There is so much to learn about the mystery and gift that is the seven sacraments. Readers of “The Sacraments We Celebrate” will come away with a much greater appreciation for the sacraments and will hopefully seek to integrate them more fully in their lives.

Recently EWTN has acquired the National Catholic Register newspaper. Its sister publication Faith and Family magazine will also be making changes soon—more information to come.

My daily dose of adult Catholic companionship often comes from a visit to Faith and Family Live. Each week a different article is posted from their magazine. Each day there are thought provoking or fun posts. One a day is particularly aimed at discussion creation.

This past snow day we had a very interesting discussion. One young mom was struggling to keep her home under control and if one more person told her this was ‘just a season’ she was really going to lose it! Several moms found it helpful when I mentioned my ‘season’ lasted from 88 til 2005 by the time I was done with pregnancy, nursing and potty training. It is not just a season –it’s your life!

My ah—ha moment was a realization that frustration is a God Given gift to make us aware that something either must change or must be accepted. It’s a call to pray for discernment, talk with the other half of our Sacrament-our spouse, and make a decision. Some of these were buying a freezer, building pantry, changing chores, fencing the yard, tossing annoying toys, cutting trips out of the house, going for a walk or retreat.

This newsletter is an attempt to help homeschool parents make active decisions in providing the education their children need. That includes ways to manage our homes and our personal health so we are capable and able to focus on the important task of home education. We need your contribution. What has made your life better? What has allowed you to teach about the church well? What has improved your marriage?

Send articles to brazeaus@comcast.net

Western Mass. Catholic Homeschoolers
74 Pearl St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
nehc.wordpress.com

Fathers or Fathers-at-Heart and Daughters Valentine Dance

Saturday February 5, 2011

7 PM-10 PM

**Mater Dolorosa
John Paul II Center
Holyoke, Mass**

Tickets \$5 and Not Available at the door!

**Purchase at Highland Hardware 917 Hamden St
and Holyoke Sporting Goods 1584 Dwight St**

**Soft Drinks and Snacks! DJ!
Photo for \$5!**

**Please bring a tray of snacks.
Volunteers needed!
Call Louis at 534-0724**