



Beloved Fr. John and St. Joseph the Worker Family,

What incredible joy is flowing through me as I embark upon my entrance to Mt. Angel Seminary! Truly this is the “Jesus over you” type of joy! Part of that joy is because I can see the imprint of God’s hand all along my path starting right from the beginning of my life.

Being born into a family with a last name of Bronsema doesn’t exactly sound All-American! It is, because it reflects the small Frisian Dutch immigrants who came to America from Northern Holland in the mid to late 1800s to settle primarily in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois. They were devout Protestant Calvinistic people who believed in working hard and living a warm spiritual walk with our Lord.

Initially my parents followed the family church, Evergreen Park Illinois Christian Reformed Church, with all my many relatives. There was the regular pattern of meeting after Sunday church at one of the relative’s home for fellowship and possible “roasting the pastor’s sermon”! Shortly before we moved out West my parent’s left the family church to become Baptists.

Our family moved to Ashland, OR in my mid elementary school years. I have fond memories helping my dad, John, move the irrigation pipes on our six acres looking out over the Rogue Valley. My mom, Ruth, provided the daily evening devotions. My sisters, Rhonda and Michelle, would have their time with mom first and then me separately. I would read the Bible on my own, and then mom would come into my room to ask questions about the passage.

In sixth grade, our family moved to Portland, OR, and about a year later my parents separated and eventually divorced. Dad continued to take care of us and to insure that we completed our Christian high school education. Later in life I would reflect on this divorce in a different way.

After graduating from the University of Oregon, I became active at Portland Foursquare Church in the College and Career Sunday School class. Even though I was shy by nature, I was put in front of a class of 135 or more people to teach. Carl and Virginia Cadonau, the leaders of the class, encouraged me to pursue further studies in theology of which I completed at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

I ministered for a number of years at Portland Foursquare as an assisting minister. It was a rewarding and rich time. Many saw potential in me to further assist the denomination by applying for a position at the Bible College. I agonized over the application because it asked questions that I could not in all honesty answer the way I knew they wanted it answered. I was not accepted because of my answers.

Confused as to what church I really belonged to, I went to Calvin Theological Seminary for further studies and high hopes of finally finding my church home. While the year there was incredible, in the end I could not honestly be a member of the Christian Reformed Church either.

My grandmother had a stroke, and I was called home to Portland to care for her. Those years of caring for her gave me room to explore. Why are there so many churches when our Lord stressed so much of us being one? Rather than seeing the Reformation as glorious, I began to view it more like a bad divorce, and I happened to be the kid of the divorce with no say. Working at Christian Supply, I acquired books to delve deeper into the Early Church fathers. Those books showed me that the church right from the beginning believed and died martyrs’ deaths for their belief in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

I didn’t exactly come running to the Catholic Church. I had a lot of stereotypes and misconceptions about the Church that had to be broken down. Finally I got enough guts to enter into a Catholic Church all by myself for the first time. That was St. Joseph the Worker Church.

Fr. John, St. Joseph the Worker family, you are the rest of the story. You welcomed me home with open arms! You embraced me and brought me home to the Lamb’s Supper! A life time of thank yous won’t be enough...so let’s plan on an eternity!

Love,
Gregg Bronsema

P.S. Knights of Columbus—words can’t express how providential your lavish gift was for me! Thanks to you this picture and text were the very first items used on the laptop.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, August 24, 2009

Communion Service

Tuesday, August 25, 2009

+Bill Serdar

(Peggy Serdar)

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Pat Robison

(Mary Fromwiller)

Thursday, August 27, 2009

+Paul Tran

(The Tran Family)

Friday, August 28, 2009

Ray & Tessie Pliska

(Cecelia Halseth)

Saturday, August 29, 2009

5:00 PM++Paul Tran

(The Tran Family)

Sunday, August 30, 2009

8:30 AM- +Gloria Lux

(Rosemary Linhart)

10:30 AM-People of the Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, August 26, 2009

5:00 PM-WOWS Dinner at
Bumpers Grill in Troutdale

If you would like to write Gregg while he is in the seminary following is his address along with an email address:

Gregg Bronsema,
One Abbey Drive
St. Benedict, OR 97373

Email: gbronema@live.com or
web address:
greggbronsema.wordpress.com

Envelopes: Our counters have pointed out to us that parishioners are using the collection envelopes for contributions designated for Youth Ministry, St. Vincent de Paul etc. We ask you to please use the **blue envelopes** for these special donations.

Care Ministry

WOWS Dinner: This is a social activity open to all widows, widowers and those who are single for any reason. We will enjoy a 5:00 PM dinner on August 26th at Bumpers Grill at 21935 NE Halsey in Troutdale. We will have the bus, holding the first 14 callers, at the parish ready to leave at 4:30 PM. The bus ride is \$2.00. For reservations please call , Becky, at 761-8710x105 by Monday the 25th.

Prayer Group Returns!

On **Thursday, September 10th**, the Prayer Group is returning. We will meet in the **Social Room at 7:00 PM.** ALL are welcome to join us for prayer and fellowship! Hope to see you there!

Confirmation: We will be offering Confirmation for high school students this year. Meetings will start in September, so please call the Parish Office to register - 503-761-8710.

CAN/BOTTLE RECYCLING RETURNS

August 29th-30th

Recycling will return from summer vacation one week early since Labor Day falls the first weekend of September. Cans/Bottles recycling will be set up the weekend of August 29th-30th.

Website Facelift!

Our website has just been given a much needed facelift. If you haven't been there for a while go check it out!

www.stjosephtheworkerpx.org



Weekly Contributions

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 5,684.17

Over/Under: - 1,347.38

Welcome to Newcomers

Anyone who is new to St. Joseph the Worker Church, or who has never officially registered, is invited to stop by the Parish Center during the week (Monday thru Thursday) or call Carolyn at the Parish Center 503-761-8710 and request a registration form. Once completed it can be mailed back to the Parish Center or dropped in the collection basket.

Mark Your Calendar for the 3rd Annual Rosary Bowl NW, Pray 2009 coming Saturday, October 3rd from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM **INDOORS** at The Oregon State Fairgrounds Pavilion. The event features Confessions, Holy Mass at 10:30 AM; Rosary at 12:30 PM; Chapel at 3:00 PM plus special guests Michael Jean Poirier and Donna Cori Gibson. Free parking and Free Admission. Bring the entire family. A free will offering will be taken. Saturday, October 3rd at Salem Oregon—Save the Date!

“March for Purity”
sponsored by **Real Catholic Men.**
Saturday, September 12th
at 3:00 PM

Join men from around the Portland area in a march against pornography, abortion and crimes against women. We will meet at St. Cecilia Church (5150 SW Franklin Ave. 97005) in Beaverton in the Parish Center parking lot and process to Planned Parenthood, Stars Cabaret and Fantasy Adult Bookstore. Fr. Eric Andersen will open the march with a blessing, and a Rosary will be said at each location. **Please wear a plain white t-shirt** to show your “true colors” for purity.

