

Why The Child Kept Coming Back

Thanasis, a Catholic in Greece, shares about what his pastor shared at their church in Ano Liosia, Athens, Greece just a few years ago:

Since the borders opened, in '92, a lot of immigrants came to Greece, mainly from Albania. They settled here making a living with their families. Consequently, there came the next generation and it had to go to school. So, elementary schools began to have more and more of the immigrants children. Most of them little Albanians. It is well known that Albania was under a communist regime, thus an atheistic state. Most of the Albanians are atheists, or, better, non-religious people. So they are not baptized Christians.

So, the local elementary school has a lot of little Albanians.

One of the teachers, had the habit of taking her class to the church to attend the Mass. Of course, she would take all the children with her. Among them was a little Albanian child. Not baptized of course.

When it was time for the Holy Communion all children were getting in line to receive the Holy Eucharist. Together with them was this little Albanian kid. I suppose, the first time, he saw what the other children were doing and he just followed.

The teacher did not notice that this child went to receive Communion. I think she was not really paying attention.

So, the child, reaching the priest, received the Holy Communion.

The strange thing is that instead of going back to sit, HE WOULD GET IN LINE AGAIN, AND RECEIVE THE EUCHARIST ONCE MORE!!, resulting in the kid receiving Holy Communion two, three, four or more times during the same Mass!!

The priest had not noticed this from the beginning. But, after several Masses, he realized what was happening. And, naturally, he got suspicious about why! Especially when he found that the boy was a not baptized Albanian, meaning he had no catechism at all, and he would never know what is actually happening during the Mass (at least that is what the priest thought).

So one day, he decided to speak to the little boy after the Mass.

He isolated the boy in a corner, and asked him:

- "My child, do you love Christ?"

- "Yes, I love Him!", the little boy replied.

- "So, tell me, why are you coming to receive communion again and again and again during each Mass?"

- "I love THIS LIGHT COMING OUT OF THIS THING YOU HOLD, I FEEL VERY NICE AND I LIKE THOSE LUMINOUS PEOPLE THAT FLY AROUND YOU AND SING"!!!!

The priest went speechless!! The little, not baptized, Albanian was seeing Christ Himself as a Light in the Holy Eucharist, in the Chalice, and the angels of God flitting about Him and Praising Him!! This little boy, who never heard from anybody that Christ is truly present in the little piece of bread and wine, with all His Divinity, Soul, Body and Blood, was seeing with the eyes of his soul all these things the Church is teaching us about the Holy Eucharist!

The priest informed the boy's parents, who, when they heard about it, they instantly converted and got baptized together with the child!

The Lord is performing many wonders and miracles throughout the Albanian people. God is finding His children and He takes them one by one back to Him! These peoples who were raised in godless regimes, I believe, they will become the most fervent Christians in the years to come.

Fr. John's Lenten Dailies- If you would like to receive a daily reflection from Fr. John each day during Lent, let him know ASAP at urldvfj@aol.com .

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 1, 2010

Communion Service

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

+Pat Wersen

(Becky Fletcher)

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

+Lourdes Saligumba

(Monina Catabay)

Thursday, February 4, 2010

+Pat Sabrowski

(Frances Wenner)

Friday, February 5, 2010

Patty Rubich

(Frances Wenner)

Saturday, February 6, 2010

5:00 PM-Mari Jean Schiele

(Mom)

Sunday, February 7, 2010

8:30 AM- +Helen Kessel

(Julian Paluck)

10:30 AM-People of the Parish

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 31, 2010

9:00 AM-Faith Formation

9:00 AM-Jr Hi Yth Grp mtg

10:30 AM-Baptisms

7:00 PM-Sr Hi Yth Grp mtg

Monday, February 1, 2010

7:00 PM-KOC Officers mtg-SR

Tuesday, February 2, 2009

8:45 AM-SVDP mtg-SR

7:00 PM-Family Rosary Night

7:30 PM-Choir practice

7:30 PM-LOOP mtg-SR

Wednesday, February 3, 2010

7:00 PM-RCIA-SR

Thursday, February 4, 2010

7:00 PM-Confirmation

7:00 PM-Bible Study-Rm. 4

Friday, February 5, 2010

8:30 AM-Fatima Prayer Cell

Lenten Dinners with Fr. John

One of Fr. John's Lenten penances for 2010 is to have dinner with you (just kidding about the penances). If you would like to do that, please gather your family and maybe two-three other couples/families to join in a meal together. Just call into the office to reserve the date NOW. Possible dates: **February 18, 23, 27; March 2, 11, 13, 18, 21 or 30.**

Care Ministry

WOWS Luncheon-February 9th at 1:00 PM

Prayer Chain mtg- February 16th at 9:00 AM

Serving the Community Through Justice

If you are available to volunteer for night shifts to staff warming shelters, please give Deacon Mike a call. I will give you information to have your name added to a database, which is used to call for volunteers for warming shelters at St. Henry's and others close to their location. You must be 18 years old or older. Call Deacon Mike at 503-761-8710 x160.

Valentine Salad Luncheon

Reservations for the 31st Annual Valentine Luncheon at the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist Villa in Bridal Veil are underway. The Valentine Salad Luncheon is February 13, 2010 with two seatings 11:00 AM or 1:00 PM. Reservations are required. Call 503-760-8220 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM Limited to 130 per seating; free will donation benefits the Sister's works and projects.

Altar Guild News: You're Invited!!!

February 9th will be the next Altar Guild meeting at 10:00 AM. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Bring something Valentine's, candy or a decoration. Put it in a pretty bag or wrapping. There will be a silent auction for these items at the end of the meeting. The proceeds from this will go to St. Vincent de Paul. After this we will go to Heidi's and have lunch together. Any women in the parish are invited. We have a lot of fun together, and even more, laughs. See you February 9th!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Super Bowl Party: Have a Super fun time with Super friends and a Super steak dinner at the Knights of Columbus Super Bowl Party, February 7th, at 12:00 Noon in the Social Room. You can purchase tickets before and after the weekend Masses. Ticket prices are \$20 each or 2 for \$35.00.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS

Amount Needed: \$ 7,032.00

Amount Collected: 6,759.44

Over/Under: - 272.56

Youth Group Schedule Change:

Jr High

Jan 31 Mtg. 9 am

Sr High

Jan 31 Mtg. 7 pm



Rebuilding the Lives of Katrina Survivors, Family by Family

This July high school & college age students (16 & up) from SJTW will travel to New Orleans to work with The St. Bernard Project's Rebuilding Program. The program rebuilds homes for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and families with children who cannot afford to have their homes rebuilt by contractors. If you would like to put your faith into action & make a difference, come join the team. Contact Janet at 503-761-8710. Come to the Information Meeting Sunday, January 31st at Noon in Rm. 6.

Souper Bowl of Caring Can Food Collection February 6th -7th

While stocking up on items for your Super Bowl Party the Jr High Youth Group invites you to pick up some canned food for those in need. All donations will go to St. Vincent de Paul. Thank You!

Pictorial Directories are available at the Parish Center. Stop by Monday through Thursday to pick up a copy.

Coffee and Donuts are served in the Social Room on Sunday morning after the Masses.