

Phase one of Sacred Heart Church reconstruction successfully completed

The first phase of the reconstruction of the Sacred Heart Church namely the laying of the foundation has been successfully completed according to the building committee. This part of the project which began soon after the turning of the sod ceremony in February was completed a few days ago.

This foundation now has to "rest" for three weeks. After this the erecting of

the steel frame of the new structure will begin.

The building committee currently has just enough funds for this frame and the roof. Meanwhile one member of the committee will be travelling to Canada at the end of the month to pursue some fund raising activities there.

Some Scarboro priests who have worked in Guyana but who have since returned to Canada will be organizing a special

Mass in Toronto area to which Guyanese and others would be invited to come and make a donation to the rebuilding effort. The committee member will also be hoping to meet with other Guyanese in different fora to discuss the various aspects of the re-construction project and hopefully get them involved in it in some way.

In the first phase the committee succeeded in raising \$30M of the estimated \$85M which is the estimated cost of the project. It comprises of the rebuilding of three structures namely the church, presbytery and parish hall.

The new church which will retain the façade to the one it replaces will be of concrete and will seat about 400 people. The remainder of the site which was occupied by the Sacred Heart School will be developed by the Diocese at a later date.

The wooden Sacred Heart Church was destroyed in a matter of minutes on December 25, 2004, mere hours after church-goers left the midnight Mass for Christmas Eve. Eyewitness accounts stated that the fire originated in the St Joseph Chapel located on the north side of the church when an electric bulb burst and its glowing filament fell on the combustible material in the nativity crib, made of branches and dry leaves. That happened just after 9.00am when those assembled were singing the final hymn for Christmas morning Mass. The building was not insured at the time.

Hundreds in Corpus Christi procession



Part of Sunday's Corpus Christi procession entering the Cathedral

All parishes in the Pastoral Area were well represented, some with their banners, at last Sunday's annual Corpus Christi procession through the streets of Georgetown from the starting point at Our Lady of Fatima Church to Brickdam Cathedral. Vicar General John Persaud,

carrying the Blessed Sacrament led the procession of hundreds who sang prayed the rosary and sang lustily as they walked.

This witness of the Church as the Body of Christ ended with Benediction at Brickdam Cathedral.

SVP Berbice Home gets facelift thanks to New Amsterdammers Int'l

Renovation work has begun on the Good Samaritan Home at Stanleytown, New Amsterdam compliments of the New Amsterdammers International Inc. This home for the elderly in Berbice is one of several across the country which is run by the Catholic charity the St Vincent DePaul Society.

New Amsterdammers International, which has over 1700 members sprinkled across the world, is made up of former and current residents of New Amsterdam, Berbice. The group is also on Facebook. Members exist in Canada, London, Germany, USA and other parts of the world.

According to the treasurer of the

organization, Keith Humphrey, the Good Samaritan senior citizens home for women, is going to be renovated to improve the living standards of the residents there.

The fence around the building will be reconstructed and general repairs will be done to the building itself especially those damaged or defective areas such as windows and doors which may pose some danger to those living there. The wood-ants which have infested the entire building will be exterminated. The entire building will be covered with a new coat of paint.

Local members of the group include

14th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

BISHOP'S ENGAGEMENTS

Sunday 3rd July: 07:30 hrs Mass at Bartica

Monday 4th July: Return from Bartica

Sunday 10th July: 07:00 hrs Mass at Cathedral

17:00 hrs Mass at Cathedral

+ **Francis Alleyne, OSB**

Pope's Missionary intention - July

The Holy Father's Missionary Prayer Intention for June 2011: "That the Holy Spirit may bring forth from our communities missionaries ready to be consecrated to spreading the Kingdom

BEATING THE TEACHERS

Reports of violence in schools among students and the possession of weapons and drugs on school premises have been increasing over the years. Particularly disturbing among those reports are the stories about teachers being attacked by students often right in their classrooms. However this phenomenon reached a disgusting new height at Charlestown Secondary last Thursday when teachers including one female were brutally attacked with cutlasses by relatives of a student who claimed he had been assaulted by the teacher.

According to the reports a teacher assaulted a pupil who related the matter to his father. His father and relatives armed with cutlasses subsequently returned to the school chopped at least one teacher who had to be taken to hospital and punched another female teacher in the stomach.

It is especially exasperating and worrying when violent confrontations are being perpetrated by parents and relatives since these are the very people who society expects would be encouraging discipline and good behavior among all young people particularly

when they are at school.

As we mentioned before it is well known that these attacks have been increasing in frequency. It is only when they become tragic that they make the news.

Teachers throughout this country have long complained that the disciplinary sanctions available to them are not effective enough and that the measures for dealing with aggressive pupils are far too bureaucratic. In addition many pupils, with skewed short-sightedness boast that

CATHOLIC STANDARD

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Colin Smith
222 South Rd & Wellington St.,
Georgetown

teachers can't hit them and they must be promoted to the next class at the end of the year and that this virtually gives them free reign.

At the same time teachers too have been pointing out that in recent years they are being called upon to do the work of professional social workers and psychiatrists. Increasingly our society

today for reasons which we have often spoken about has been producing a growing number of children who seem to be in need of help which schools and teachers simply are not competent to provide. Teachers should not be held responsible for parental and societal failure nor should teachers be the ones who are called upon to repair the damage caused by such failures.

We have always maintained that there is need to look at the wider picture. What is happening in our schools is simply a reflection of what is happening in many of our homes, our streets and in the political life of Guyana. Violence and the treat of violence is seen as the way to keep order and solve problems.

Perhaps too education officials, teachers, pupils, parents and others must be made to understand that the law of the land also applies inside the school gates in just the same way.

The violent teacher, spouse, parent, protestor and government minister is simply applying the same philosophy in different situations.

Institutional violence can only be overcome by promoting institutional discipline.

DIABETES

Medical teams visiting Guyana over the past years have observed a marked increase in the non-communicable disease "Diabetes."

A non-communicable disease is a medical condition which is non infectious. They include Heart Disease, Stroke, Cancer, Asthma and Diabetes. The World Health Organisation reports that non communicable diseases are the leading cause of mortality, representing sixty percent (60%) of all deaths.

In the last three decades there has been a significant rise in the incidents of Diabetes, wherein nearly 350 million people world wide now struggle with the disease. Over a thirty (30) year period, the number of adults with diabetes has more than doubled, increasing from 153 million in 1980 to 347 million in 2008. The levels of increase vary from one country to another.

By 2030 death due to non communicable diseases which include diabetes are expected to increase to 52 million per year.

Research workers examining diabetes observed that "Diabetes is one of the biggest causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide." A study has shown that "Diabetes is becoming more common almost every where in the world." This is in contrast to blood pressure and Cholesterol which have

both fallen in many Regions

The authors warned that diabetes can trigger the onset of heart disease and stroke while damaging the kidneys, nerves and eyes. Complications are predicted to raise the growing incidents of the disease.

The highest incidents of diabetes were found in the United States, Greenland, Malta, New Zeland and Spain. Countries with the lowest level are Netherlands, Austria and France. Diabetes prevalence was markedly lower in the United Kingdom than in the majority of other wealthy countries, even though the United Kingdom is experiencing obesity epidemic. Other nations where diabetes has exploded in recent years – include Pacific Island countries such as Marshall Island "Where one third of the women and one quarter of the men have diabetes."

Diabetes and Glucose levels in South and Central Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, North Africa and the Middle East are also especially high. In contrast the occurrence of diabetes in Eastern Europe appears to have remained stable over the last thirty years. While blood sugar levels appear to be lowest in South Saharan Africa, East and South East Asia.

Guyana is among the countries where the incidence of diabetes is on the increase. Some of the causative factors linked to diabetes are genetic associated with ethnic

Viewpoint By Vibert Parvatan

origin, Nutrition in the womb and early life, diet quality and physical activity may also affect these trends – the reports stated.

Given the peculiar circumstances, there is need for improved programmes to detect persons with elevated blood sugar and helping them to improve their diet, get more exercise and control their weight. Patient education, understanding and participation are vital since the complications of diabetes are far less common and less severe in people who have well managed blood sugar levels. One needs to be aware of typical symptoms, these include excessive thirst, increased urination, feeling fatigued, which can be caused by dehydration and the body's ability to function properly. Weight loss and blurred vision are possible symptoms of diabetes.

It is certainly in your interest with an appreciation that Health is the best wealth, to check with your doctor.

God's Billboard

Give those who ask more than they expect.. and do it cheerfully..

.GOD

Sunday



Scripture

14th Sunday in Ordinary time

Year A

FIRST READING:

Zachariah 9: 9-10

See now, your king comes humbly to you.

The Lord says this:

“Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion!

Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem!

See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished.

He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.”

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:
Psalm 144

I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing.

They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God.

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds.

The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down.

SECOND READING:

Romans 8:9, 11-13

If by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiri-tual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers and sisters, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The Word of the Lord.

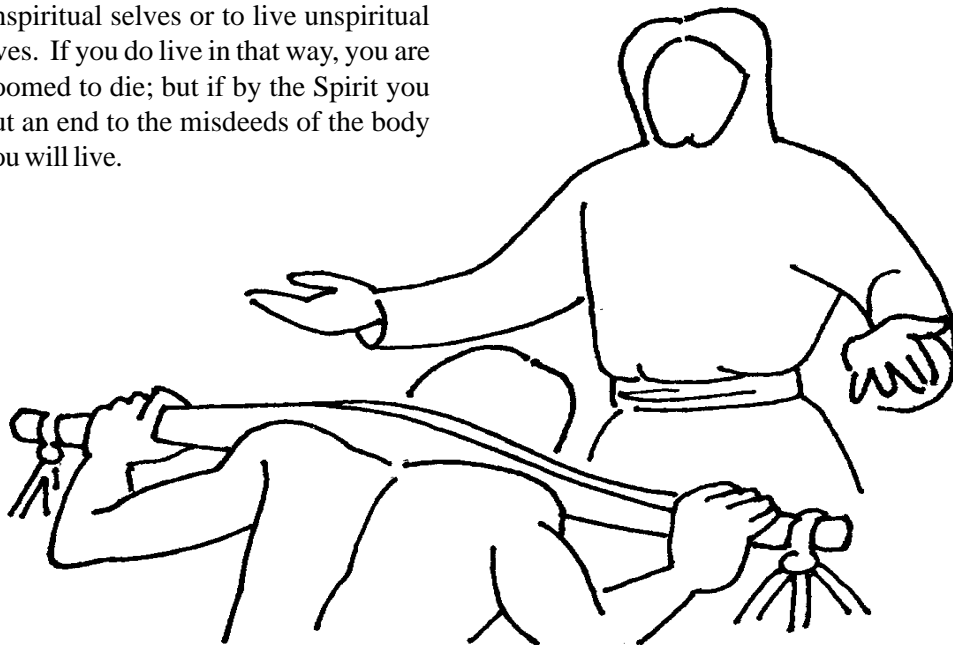
GOSPEL: Matthew 11: 25-30

I am gentle and humble in heart.

Jesus exclaimed, “I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



“Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Is God asking too much of me?

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." - Matthew 11:30

When we think of being good stewards, we may think that God asks too much of us by asking us to follow him and generously share our time, talent and treasure. However, the yoke of stewardship is not heavy. Good stewards learn that by turning away from our “sinful nature” and the materialism of the world, we can experience great joy in spending more time with God and sharing more of our gifts with others. When the “sinful nature” dies and we are given new

life in Jesus, our affections and desires undergo a radical change. Preoccupation with old interest cease (e.g. , accumulating wealth, power, prestige, popularity, material comforts, etc.), and our desires are relocated. We don’t want the same things anymore. We want the things that the Spirit wants (e.g. , the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). In a similar way, different things will begin to bother us. Sometimes they will bother us a lot (see Ro 12:9). For example, we will not be able to tolerate

the distress and mistreatment of the poor and oppressed. When our minds are “set on what the spirit desires” (Ro 8:5), we will feel compelled to act on behalf of the weak and needy.

The Christian who has been set free from “the law of sin and death” (Ro 8:2) and who is walking in the Spirit has a new and tender sense of conscience.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, help me to want what you want, to align my values with yours in every aspect. I ask for the courage and the will to “apply myself to the practice of godliness.” Help me to learn to see good stewardship as God’s light yoke that promises rich rewards and great joy for those who walk with you and generously share time, talent and treasure.

More buildings for fewer priests?

Dear Editor,

The Catholics in this country are often told that priests are becoming fewer and fewer and this is the reason why so many parishes are without priests and why you cannot see a priest when you would like to.

If there are really less priests around today why is the church spending so much money on new buildings and

repairing and extending those that they already have.

Just a few years ago we spent millions to repair and

extend the priest's house at Campbellville even though no priest has ever lived there since the death of Fr Rose.

Then the church spent even more millions, this time to for extensive repairs to the building in Oronoque

US's 'shadow army' in Iraq

Dear Editor,

Here is something I picked up from the Oprah Magazine of December 2007 that might be of interest to you and your readers.

"If you think the United States has only 169,000 troops in Iraq, think again. With almost no oversight, Washington has more than doubled the occupation through the use of almost 200,000 private contractors who do everything from cooking to

APNU against extending registration

Dear Editor,

The People's Progressive Party (PPP) presidential candidate, Mr. Donald Ramotar, has now found it necessary at this late stage, when the Claims and Objections period has come to a close, to request of the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to reopen its registration process for the upcoming general elections.

With presumably, tongue in cheek, as it is doubtful that he expects the Guyanese electorate to take him seriously, he opines that this new abuse of the process would not affect the holding of elections before the constitutionally due date of 28th December.

The obvious implication of the PPP's latest stratagem to delay the holding of general elections (during this year) is not lost on the population, especially young people who now comprise more than 65 % of the electorate.

Street in Queenstown to make new living accommodation for the priests.

A few weeks ago I was riding along Brickdam and I noticed more millions being spent again on another of the priests' houses in Brickdam.

Is parishioners hard earned money being wisely spent.

I think there should be some way of

Letters to the Editor

consulting with parishioners and others before decisions to spend large sums of money are made.

After all this is what the Catholic Standard often asks the civil authorities to do.

TONY SINGH

providing armed mercenary services. Their actions go largely unmonitored, their crimes (including shooting Iraqi civilians are virtually unpunished, and about 1,000 have been killed – but those numbers are not included in the official toll. The administration has created a shadow army that can be used to wage unpopular wars.... Ask (members of the US house) to stop funding mercenary forces in Iraq".

W.P GEORGE

At this hour, our partnership cannot in all good conscience support the hypocrisy of the PPP's devious attempt to manipulate the laws of this country because their erstwhile supporters who safely distanced themselves from the disruptive policies of Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, by their extended sojourn across the borders, and other distant places failed to be here to register themselves before the official period designated by GECOM. All others had to comply with the law. Now, as they have done before in other instances, they seek to use their power of incumbency to derail the election process.

We, as this partnership of the people, will continue to exercise maximum vigilance to stop in its tracks any attempt to undermine the expectation of a fair and free elections.

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St Anthony popular among Catholics in India

Dear Editor,

Many thanks to Leon Suseran for this write-up on St. Anthony's Bread.

Here, in Mumbai too, there is a lot of devotion to St. Anthony of Padua. Our small church in Kalwa, which is housed on the ground-floor of an apartment building where I am staying, is named St. Anthony of Padua Church.

Every Tuesday of the year, the novena prayer to the Saint is recited after the evening Mass. A basket-full of St. Anthony's bread is also

kept near the altar and is distributed after Mass.

In several other convents and churches too, in the city, St. Anthony's Bread is blessed and distributed to the poor on Tuesdays and during his feast.

St. Anthony is revered in most Catholic areas in India, especially in Goa where I was born. People instinctively invoke the help of St. Anthony when they have lost anything, small or big. In most cases their prayers are answered.

I too have experienced this on many occasions. Such devotions do enrich the life of the ordinary faithful and give them an experience of God in their lives, through the mediation of his saints.

FR. JOE M DIAS,S.J.

Corpus Christi holidays

Dear Editor,

In the children's page last week it was said that in the Caribbean the feast of Corpus Christi is a public holiday in Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia i. I am certain it is also a public holiday in Haiti and Grenada. It is a children's page and I think it is important that they in particular are given correct facts about the Caricom region.

ANITA SINGH

Don't abandon your vision!

Dear Friend in Christ:

Here is today's Thank You thought:

Do you have a vision of what you want to be? Although you may be going through difficulties at present **DO NOT ABANDON** this vision!

If it is built on a solid foundation – **TRUTH, SERVICE and JUSTICE** – the "storms" of bad times and disappointments will never shake it.

May the Lord grant you all the desires of your heart that are in line with His will!

Please do not forget to send us your prayer intentions.

Have a **THANKFUL** day and may God richly bless you and your loved ones.

In Christ,

Very Reverend Monsignor Gregory Ramkissoon and the Mustard Seed Communities Family

With God anything is possible *

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Family Meals

At the end of the Choice Weekend for young single adults last Sunday we had an opportunity to chat with some of the participants asking them about family life in their homes. From their answers it appears that family meals are a thing of the past. What a shame. We love family dinners. If we are going to do something counter-cultural, let it be dinner at home with the people we love. Unfortunately, now that our children are all adults, some are married and now live in their own homes, it has become difficult for us all to be together for family meals on a regular basis. But as often as we can we try to

and casual banter. We must come together for a time as often as possible to talk to each other, to be with each other, to give the priority of a quantity of quality time to family.

Memories are made around the family dining table. We remember the night we told the kids that another child was on the way. We remember the first time each child said grace all by himself. Many of our memories include visitors to our home. When dinner is planned, it's a simple thing to extend hospitality on the spur of the moment.

from work and school to sports and meetings. On the way, we grab something to eat and chase it down with an aerated drink.

We need to stop and look carefully at our lifestyle. There is a real need at this time for the security a close-knit family can offer. To that end, we must manage ourselves, lest we be swallowed up by activities that are relatively unimportant. We must make choices for those things that feed our souls and nourish loving families - things like Advent traditions and family vacations, and regular family dinners, and family Rosaries.



eat as a family, there is a meal on

the dining room table, there is grace before we eat, and there is lively conversation. No one in this family would have it any other way.

Research has shown that regular family meals have been positively linked to higher academic performance. It leads us to wonder: is it the meal or the concentrated attention of the people a child loves and the invaluable opportunity to share. With a regular family meal, children find a peg upon which to hang so many important things. Family meals are a habit worth cultivating.

At the dining table, children find the time and place to talk with their parents and to be heard by them every day. They can count on it. A seated parent, who is unhurried and unlikely to be interrupted by anything, is rare in a busy day. A parent with his mouth full is the ideal listener for a child who has something important to say. This is where a family culture is nurtured - around the table, day after day, for both serious conversation

By Chris & Noelma Lam

For a family which gathers to eat together, family prayer is natural. Nothing is simpler to say than a standard grace and then to add prayer intentions. We also say special graces for special occasions. We don't think it is just a coincidence that we read so often of Jesus' meals with his friends. Meal times are natural times for feeding souls as well as bodies.

One of our family traditions is the gathering of the family in the evening around the table to say special prayers for a birthday or anniversary before partaking of a 'family snack' (at times it may just be some biscuits and a drink). The emphasis is on the gathering of the family to celebrate the birthday, and not on the celebration itself. Healthy families don't just happen; they are nurtured. Nurturing is a slow, tender process. It is at odds with the frantic pace of everyday life. We always seem to be so busy, busy, busy. Our children are over scheduled to the breaking point. We rush

Family time doesn't just happen; it's planned.

In homes where family meals have disappeared, something other than the family culture has been given priority over the family. A choice was made. Was it a wise choice?

Mind Puzzler Corner

Our last Brain Teaser was:

It runs and runs but can never flee. It is often watched, yet never sees. When long it brings boredom. When short it brings fear. What is it?

The answer is: Time (it is often watched when you look at a clock)

Now here's this week's Brain Teaser:

I have no face, but everyone knows me.

I grow stronger and larger as I age, And I am impossible to track.

I feed off the innocent,

And my followers are weak.

I ruin friendships, relationships, and jobs.

What am I?

Look for the answer next week.

"Sure, I've heard of cows" finished Little Johnny excitedly, "there's a big bunch of 'em right over there."

- - A Card Hallmark Would Never Print:

I don't exercise, it makes my coffee spill.

- - Answer to Bible Question:

Spending time with a harlot. - See Judges 16:1

Now Samson went to Gaza and saw a harlot there, and went in to her.

- - Answer to Teaser:

Stop imagining!

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Spiritual Titbits

- - This Week's Reflection:

We need to reflect on our relationship with others. To ask ourselves if our words, actions and relationships result in healing or hurting? If our relationships are not life-giving and healing ones, why do we think this is so? What changes do we feel we need to make in our lives to make our relationships better?

God Bless You! Have a Great Week!

- - This Week's Bible Question:

Q. What was Samson doing in Gaza? (Answer below.)

- - This Week's Teaser:

Q. Lets imagine we're in a room with no windows and no doors, how do we get out?

(Answer below.)

- - Today's Bible Verse:

Take My yoke upon you and learn from

Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.- Matthew 11: 29 - 30

- - Today's Bits of Wisdom / Reflection:

* To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.

* A true friend is someone who reaches for your hand and touches your heart.

- - Humour:

Little Johnny was visiting a ranch and wanted to be appear macho, so he went out walking with one of the hired hands.

As they were walking through the barnyard, Johnny tried to begin a conversation, "Say, isn't that fine-looking bunch of cows over there."

The hired hand replied, "Not 'bunch,' it's 'herd.'"

"Heard what?"

"Herd of cows."

Expert Supports Israeli Ambassador's Praise For Pius XII

An expert on Pope Pius XII expressed support for an Israeli ambassador who faces controversy after publicly praising the World War II pontiff for helping save Jews during the Holocaust.

Israeli ambassador to the Vatican Mordechai Lewy said on June 27 that his positive comments about late Pope were historically "premature," after he was criticized by Jewish groups.

However, author William Doyno comended the ambassador for "opening up healthy and productive discussion" and supports his stance in favor of Pope Pius XII- who is often accused of turning a blind eye to the Holocaust.

Doyno recalled how the Nazis were "furious" about Pius XII's public addresses and conduct and denounced him as a "mouthpiece of the Jewish war criminals." He added that early in his pontificate, Pius XII approved a plot to overthrow Hitler and was commended by many leaders of the anti-Nazi Resistance.

Cardinal Newman Society Announces

Partnership With Mount St. Mary's

The Cardinal Newman Society announced on Monday that one of its divisions is partnering with Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland. Society leaders expressed hope that the move will foster a renewal in Catholic identity within universities across the nation.

"This is an exciting moment for Catholic colleges," president Patrick J. Reilly said. The society's Center for the Advancement of Catholic Higher Education will relocate to the Emmitsburg, Maryland university July 1 under the leadership of renowned scholar Monsignor Stuart Swetland.

Mount St. Mary's University president Thomas Powell said he is "honored" that the Cardinal Newman Society chose his university as the new home for the center. "The Center will provide valuable resources to aid Mount St. Mary's and other colleges and universities to strengthen their Catholic identity," Powell said.

Chinese Authorities Intervene In Vatican-approved Bishop Ordination

The ordination of a Vatican-approved Chinese bishop has been postponed because of government pressure, while a government-backed illicit ordination of another man who lacks the Pope's approval will go ahead.

Coadjutor Bishop-elect Joseph Sun Jigen of Handan in the northern Hebei province is presently being "looked after" by government officials in the provincial capital of Shijiazhuang.

The diocese has resisted Bishop Joseph Guo Jincai of Chengde, who was ordained without a papal mandate, being present at the ordination. Priests from the diocese have also insisted on reading out the papal

mandate during Bishop-elect Sun's ordination ceremony.

The news came as a conclusion of recent meetings of the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association and the Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church of China.

According to the report, Chinese bishops said that a lack of bishops has "seriously affected normal operations and church affairs at bishopless diocese(s)."

Papal Tweet Launches News Portal

On the vigil of the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, and his 60th anniversary of priestly ordination, Benedict XVI launched the Vatican's new Web portal, News.va.

"Dear Friends, I just launched www.news.va Praised be Jesus Christ! With my prayers and blessings, Benedictus XVI," the twitter feed reported at about 6 p.m., Rome time.

Archbishop Claudio Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, presented News.va on Monday.

Noting how the Vatican has already expanded its presence on the Internet with Facebook and YouTube pages, among others, Archbishop Celli explained the Holy Father's reasoning: "I want to be present where people come together," he has said.

News.va includes news from L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican Radio, the Fides agency, which reports on missions, and other media.

Cardinal Scola Named Archbishop of Milan

The patriarch of Venice has been named the archbishop of Milan.

Benedict XVI appointed Cardinal Angelo Scola, 69, to succeed Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, 77, who has retired for reasons of age.

Angelo Scola was born in Malgrate, Italy, within the Milan Archdiocese, in 1941.

Cardinal Scola affirmed his recognition of the "importance of the Ambrosian Church for the development of ecumenism and interreligious dialogue."

Angelo Scola was ordained a priest in 1970. He became a bishop in 1991, and served as the rector of the Pontifical Lateran University. He was named the patriarch of Venice in 2002 and the next year was made a cardinal.

Benedict XVI also named Monsignor Antonio Ferreira da Costa, official of the Section for General Affairs of the



Justice & Peace Desk

Secretariat of State, as bureau chief of the same section.

Corpus Christi Procession Returns to St. Petersburg

The streets of St. Petersburg became witness to the Real Presence of Christ on Sunday, after 93 years in which there had not been a Corpus Christi procession.

The Eucharist was processed along Nevski Avenue, carried under a canopy and followed by a series of banners with images of Our Lady and saints, and a group of Dominican religious and numerous priests, Vatican Radio reported.

Archbishop Paolo Pezzi, of the Archdiocese of the Mother of God in Moscow, carried the Eucharist. That archdiocese includes St. Petersburg.

According to the organizers, the historic procession was viewed with satisfaction by leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church, as a manifestation of love for the Eucharistic God.

Liturgy Official Backs Return of Corpus Christi to Thursday

The prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments says he thinks the feast of Corpus Christi should be returned to its traditional Thursday celebration, to better highlight the link with Holy Thursday and show how Christ is the center of everything.

Cardinal Antonio Cañizares Llovera spoke to Vatican Radio about the feast, celebrated in many countries last Sunday, but traditionally marked on the Thursday before, as it still is in Rome.

Corpus Christi is lived as an obligatory day to attend Mass in countries where it is celebrated on Thursday, such as Mexico.

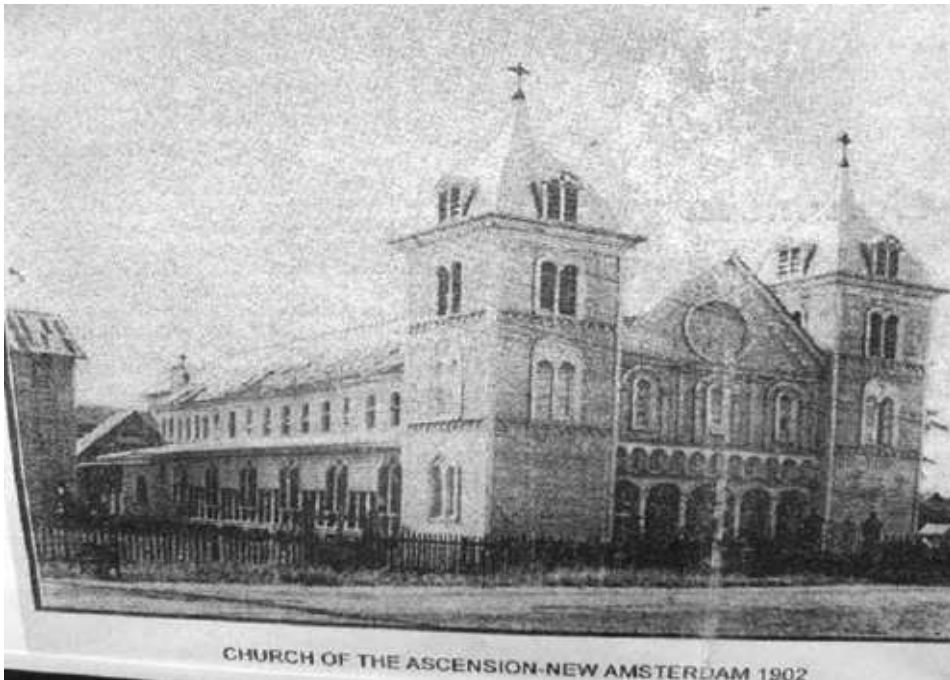
In countries where the feast is moved to the Sunday following, the celebration is combined with normal weekend Masses.

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Historic N/A Catholic Church marks 175 years



The Roman Catholic Church of the Ascension in New Amsterdam, Berbice celebrated its feast day of the Ascension on Sunday, June 5, 2011. That day the church also marked its 175th Anniversary of being in the town of New Amsterdam, serving the needs of the Catholic population there. The original Catholic Church at Pope Street was built just two years before African slaves gained their full freedom. Its first location was Lot 26 Harkman's Lane in New Amsterdam. After this it was moved to Lot 20 Main and Pope Streets, where it remains to the present day.

As the Catholic faith spread in Berbice another church was built in Glasgow, East Bank Berbice in 1877. The priest's quarters, referred to as the presbytery was built in 1885.

The Catholic Church in New Amsterdam is well known for having started educational facilities for boys and girls since the 19th century. Many would still remember the St Therese Girls' School and the St Aloysious Boys' School.

The convent schools were started by the Ursuline nuns in New Amsterdam. The convent and the schools were built in 1889, catering for the religious and academic needs of children in the town. The convent and school were built at a cost of \$8,000. In 1890 the Ursuline sisters came from Georgetown. They remained in New Amsterdam until 1958 and were replaced by the Corpus Christi Carmelites who had been working at Springlands, Corriverton. Guyanese Sister Rose Magdalene was among the first Carmelites to work in New Amsterdam.

The priest's house at the Church of the Ascension was built in 1885.

The Church of the Ascension provided two Masses on Sundays. One in the morning for the more affluent parishioners of the town who consisted of mostly Portuguese families and another Mass in the afternoon. There were two priests in the parish.

There is no documented information as

to who built the wooden church but the building was constructed in the finest Romanesque architectural style following the pattern of buildings of those days.

In 1902, the Church was rebuilt. It is interesting to note that some of the materials used on this reconstruction were taken from the Old Dutch chapel at Nemen Nescio. These materials would be around 362 years old.

A stained- glass window depicting the Ascension of Christ into heaven was unveiled on Christmas Eve of 1925. This window, which still exists, was donated

by Mr M. de Mendonca and Mrs P.J. Santos, his daughter.

In 1968, more repairs to the church were carried out. The two towers which were put up in 1902 were deemed unsafe and they were torn down. The front portion of the church was completely renewed and coloured glass replaced the wood.

In 1991, it was found that the church was again in need of major repairs. Wood ants had attacked and destroyed the main pillars. General renovations were done which included the demolition of the main altar. This altar was rebuilt and relocated on the north eastern section of the church. A few years later, a new main altar and baptismal font was donated to the church. These are at present in use and are located in the sanctuary.

The parishioners are working very hard to keep their church building beautiful. Over the years this monument has been visited by millions of foreign and local visitors who still express awe at the stained- glass windows. It is said to be the largest picture window in Guyana.

With its fine intricately designed wooden spindles, three- pronged posts and numerous glass windows that exist high atop the church walls and which can be directed to open and close, the building continues to be one of the few Roman- designed buildings in Guyana. Brickdam Cathedral in Georgetown is another fine example, of course.



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Catholic Memory

December 8, 1972 - Bishop Benedict Singh addresses the congregation in the Cathedral on the occasion of his installation as Bishop of Georgetown. Bishop Singh became the first Guyanese born Roman Catholic Bishop on April 18, 1971 when he was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Georgetown.



If readers have photos of historical Catholic interest and would like to share them, please contact Colin Smith on 226 2195 or Francis Canzius on 220 5989. Catholic Memory Lane is a fortnightly feature in the Standard.

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Two years have passed and they say
memories are golden,
Well maybe that's true
But we never wanted memories

We only wanted you.
A thousand times we've needed you
A thousand times we've cried
If love alone could have saved you
You never would have died.
In life we loved you dearly
In death we love you still
In our heart you hold a special place
No one could ever fill
If tears could build a staircase
And heartache build a lane
We'd walk the path to heaven and bring
you back again
Our family chain is broken
And nothing seems the same
But God calls us one by one
The chain will link again

NO NOISE NUISANCE FOR CORPUS CHRISTI

From Francis Quamina Farrier.

There has been a campaign against the noise nuisance for a number of years now in Guyana. Last Sunday the Corpus Christi procession proved that there are citizens who are guilty of noise pollution, but who can correct their ways.

As the Procession left the Fatima Church for the Brickdam Cathedral, a Music Cart was at the junction of Church and Oronoque Streets belting out some very loud vibes. A message was sent to the 'youth man' in charge, requesting that he lower the volume. He complied immediately, actually taking off the loud sounds completely. He caught up with the procession at the corner of Robb and Oronoque Streets. When thanked for his cooperation, he responded with a smile, "Due Respect".

There were a number of other "boom boom boxes" along the Corpus Christi Procession route, including those at the 'watering holes' on Orange Walk. They all turned off their loud music when requested to do so.

As the procession was on Brickdam nearing the Cathedral, there was the final challenge; a boom boom box blaring out a Mighty Sparrow classic. But no one was in sight. Deep inside the yard was a shirtless dread locks youngster. He was in charge of the noise. He too, complied when asked to reduce the volume of the music; in fact he too took it off. Shortly there-after, the bell on the Cathedral began to ring, as the procession with Fr. John Persaud carrying the Blessed Sacrament, entered the compound of the Cathedral. Noise Nuisance? Not for Corpus Christi. "Due Respect".

Remember to tune in to

CATHOLIC MAGAZINE

Sun 3, July

**Fr Edwin on the Feast of
the Sacred Heart &
Catholic News**

Chan 11 - NCN - 2.30pm;

Chan 2 (BTV) -6:00pm

The prog on Chan 8: N/A is at
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SVP home gets face lift

From front page

Stacy Correia, Ava Lindie and Project Advisor Shaundel Phillips. Joyce Anthon, a representative of the Good Samaritan Home, expressed thanks to the group. She pointed out that in the past the home used to be managed by all the churches in New Amsterdam. However, over the years, almost all of the churches have abandoned the project. Now the home is run entirely by the Roman Catholic Church.

There are 11 residents currently in the Good Samaritan Home. They do not pay to reside in the home

which is heavily dependent on the generosity of donors to keep going. Ms Anthon also made a call to other organizations to come on board and assist the home since funds are running low at the moment.

Meanwhile Me Humphrey said future projects which New Amsterdammers International is going to undertake include the rehabilitation of the Viola Nursery School and the installing of some road-lighting around New Amsterdam.

There is an Executive Committee and Steering Committee as well as representatives who are expected to mobilize others to come on board.



Members of the new Amsterdammers standing in front of the home with some of the materials to be used in its renovation

Same-sex marriage approval undermines families: New York bishops

By Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) -- Following passage of legislation to allow same-sex marriage in the state, the Catholic bishops of New York expressed concern "that both marriage and family will be undermined by this tragic presumption of government."

In a June 24 statement, the heads of the state's eight Catholic dioceses said they were "deeply disappointed and troubled" at approval of a bill that will "alter radically and forever humanity's historic understanding of marriage."

The state Senate passed the measure 33-29 in an evening vote June 24, and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat and a Catholic, signed it into law later that night. Unless it is delayed by legal challenges, it will take effect in late July.

New York would then become the sixth state to permit same-sex marriage. It currently is allowed in Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont, in addition to the District of Columbia. The bishops said the true definition of marriage as the union of one man and one woman "cannot change, though we realize that our beliefs about the nature of marriage will continue to be ridiculed, and that some will even now attempt to enact government sanctions against churches and religious organizations that preach these timeless truths."

The statement was signed by Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York and six other bishops.

But in a separate statement, Bishop DiMarzio said both Republicans and Democrats had "succumbed to powerful political elites" with their votes, and Cuomo had "opened a new front in the culture wars that are tearing at the fabric of our nation."

He directed Catholic schools in his diocese "to refuse any distinction or honors" bestowed by Cuomo or by any legislator that voted for same-sex marriage and told pastors and principals "not to invite any state legislator to speak or be present at any parish or school celebration."

Bishop DiMarzio said the request was intended "as a protest of the corrupt political process in New York state." "More than half of all New Yorkers oppose this legislation," he said. "Yet the governor and the state Legislature have demonized people of faith, whether they be Muslims, Jews or Christians, and identified them as bigots and prejudiced" if they opposed changing the fundamental definition of marriage, he added.

A last-minute amendment to the legislation exempts any clergy members who decline to perform same-sex weddings and protects any employee "being managed, directed or supervised by or in conjunction with a religious corporation, benevolent order or a not-for-profit corporation."

It also says failure to provide same-sex ceremonies would not "result in any state or local government action to penalize, withhold benefits, or discriminate against such religious corporation, benevolent order, a not-for-profit corporation operated, supervised or controlled by a religious corporation."

Bishop DiMarzio said the amendment showed that "our political leaders do not believe their own rhetoric." "If they did, how in good conscience could they carve out any exemption for institutions that would be proponents of bigotry and prejudice?" he asked.

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