

Ask

Father



Why do We Pray for the Dead?

Dear Father,

A lady friend of mine said that she believes it is ridiculous to pray to the saints and to pray for the dead. She reasons that since the saints are happy in heaven already, why would they want to bother with us on earth anymore, and as for the others who died and who aren't saints, well, they're beyond help now.

That just doesn't sound right to me. I was raised to believe we should pray for the dead (souls in purgatory) to help them get to heaven one day, and that we should pray to the saints to help us also get to heaven. Am I on the right track or not? What does the Church have to say about this?

Signed,

Pamela S.

Dear Pamela S.,

Yours is a very important question, especially these days when praying, going to Mass, receiving communion, and going to confession don't seem to rate very high on many people's "lists" of things to be concerned about.

The Church in the "Catechism of the Catholic Church" states: "The Christian who seeks to purify himself (or herself) from sin and to become holy with the

help of God's grace is not alone. The life of each of God's children is joined in Christ and through Christ in a wonderful way to the life of all the other Christian brethren in the supernatural unity of the Mystical Body of Christ..." A simpler way of saying all that is: We all belong to the "Communion of Saints."

In the communion of saints, a perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating their sins in purgatory and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things. In this wonder exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others. Thus, recourse to the communion of saints lets the contrite sinner be more promptly and efficaciously purified of the punishments for sin."

"Since the faithful departed now being purified are members of this same communion of saints, one way we can help them is to obtain indulgences for them [through our prayers and good works], so that the temporal punishment due for their sins may be remitted."

Pamela, you just keep praying for the dead. Love does not stop at the threshold of the grave!

**Send your "Ask Father"
letters to:
Ask Father
5424 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI 53208**

If you wish, you can also write to us and receive a reply without your letter being published.

Sloppy Josephines

A Healthier Holiday Food

by The Pallotti House Chef

Now here's a new look at an old holiday favorite, the Sloppy Joe. When company comes over for the holidays, we usually want to serve a quick, yet not too expensive, meal that will satisfy the "hunger hoards". Sloppy Joes are great at doing the job, but sometimes the red meat, fat, salt and cholesterol can panic the more health conscious ones among us. Well, it's Sloppy Josephines to the rescue!

Lean ground turkey instead of ground beef helps make this meal a much healthier one to consume. I personally enjoyed the taste, and I'm not one who likes ground turkey.

Try this recipe on your family before the holidays get here. If they like it, you know you'll probably have a hit with you serve it to your guests.

Here's What You'll Need:

- 2 teaspoons Canola oil
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1 cup diced sweet red peppers
- 16 oz. lean ground turkey
- 2 teaspoons all-purpose salt-free seasoning (Mrs. Dash's)
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 1 cup reduced sodium ketchup
- 2 Tablespoons Chile sauce or mild salsa
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons dark brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper



Here's What You Do:

In a 3 quart saucepan, heat Canola oil.

Add onions and red pepper and cook until onions are translucent (about 3 minutes). Add turkey and salt-free seasoning. Cook until turkey loses its raw look (about 5-10 minutes)

Add tomato sauce, ketchup, chili sauce, vinegar, brown sugar and black pepper. Mix well and simmer 15 minutes.

Serves 4

Nutritional info:
per serving 193 cal
8.8g fat



Pallottine Gift Memorials: from July 1, 2004 thru Sept. 21, 2005

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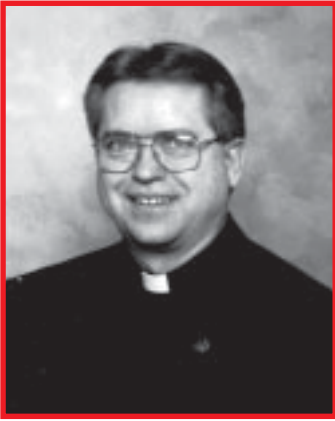
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Carmen Torres Aguior
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Claire & Rosemary Martin
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Charles Smith
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Jeanette E. Schwarz
Xmas:
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From Summer to Fall

by Fr. Leon Martin, SAC

Provincial, Mother of God Province



Looking back at the last few months has brought to mind many things for which I am grateful. One in particular is the leadership of Fr. Joseph Dominic, SAC at St. Lawrence Parish near Slinger, WI.

During the annual feastday celebration at the parish, Fr. Joseph and I paused for a moment for a picture with Archbishop Dolan (see below). With the special liturgy,

Eucharistic procession through the cemetery and the delicious lunch that followed the ceremonies, the parishioners remembered the faith which is the glue that holds the past, present and future in the Lord. It was a joyous day indeed!

In August we Pallottines were fortunate to help some of our area young people attend the World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany. Representatives from St. Lawrence Parish, Slinger, Holy Rosary Parish in Kenosha and St. Vincent Pallotti parish flew with Fr. Joe Koyichal and Fr. Steve Varghese to the grand event. All of them returned with many good experiences and stories



Photo by Barbara Gato

to tell. Later in October Fr. Joe and Fr. Steve will be sharing their adventure with the rest of our community at a special supper and community get-together at Pallotti House. I'm looking forward to hearing their views and stories.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our Pallottine Priests and Brothers in Germany for hosting the Pallottine youth from many countries for two weeks. We are grateful for all their efforts to make the time spent in Germany enjoyable and exciting.

With so many disasters and tragic events to shock us into an awareness of how many people are

going without food, housing and other bare necessities, I find that it isn't difficult to reflect upon the many blessings we all have received and shouldn't take for granted. With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, current events could be a great source for food for thought over the coming months.

To all of you whose time, talents and treasures have helped us Pallottines to serve God's family this past year, let me express my gratitude for your support. I (we) look forward to collaborating with you in the coming year. May God bless and protect you always. Peace,

Fr. Leo Martin, SAC

Dates and Times of Interest



You are invited to pray with us.

Christmas Novena

December 16th - 24th

at

St. Vincent Pallotti Shrine
inside

St. Vincent Pallotti Church East
5424 W. Bluemound Rd.

Weekdays at 5:00 pm
Sat. & Sun at 1:00 pm

To Germany! For World Youth Day!

by Jeff Montoya



The Milwaukee Pallottine Pilgrims to the World Youth Day in Germany

Venimus adorare eum - Latin for “we have come to worship him”- was the theme of the XX World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany in August. It was a very appropriate theme as it rang out in a contemporary song composed for the event at which a million people celebrated the Eucharist with Pope Benedict XVI.

We did come and we did worship! Twenty-four Milwaukee Pallottine pilgrims traveled to Germany for the event. The group included youth/young adults from St. Vincent Pallotti Parish in Milwaukee, Holy Rosary Parish in Kenosha and St. Lawrence Parish in Slinger. Fr. Joe Koyickal, Fr. Steve Varghese and I participated as well.

Our pilgrimage began long before our actual travel started with fund-raising and other preparations for the trip. Our actual travel began August 9 with a simple prayer service at St. Vincent Pallotti Parish. After the prayer we boarded a bus and drove to Chicago O’Hare airport for our eight hour flight to Germany. For some this was their first time on an airplane; for others, their first time on an international flight!

We arrived safely in Germany and were

transported by bus to the town of Olpe. We were met at the Pallottihaus by our host families for the first week of our trip. This was a delightful opportunity for us to get a close up look at daily living in Germany. Our entire group experienced wonderful hospitality, though it took some time to get through language barriers in some households. Each

day we prayed and celebrated Mass at the Pallottihaus, participated in culture-sharing activities, and went site-seeing.

After our time in Olpe, we went to Rheinbach. There we stayed at a Pallottine college, sleeping on classroom floors. Also staying at the college were groups from many other countries including those from Canada and Poland who we had already gotten to know in Olpe. During this, our second week, we participated in catechetical sessions and culture-sharing activities with other English-speaking pilgrims, and attended prayer and Mass.

Some of the aspects of the planning for this part of the trip on the part of the World Youth Day planners left much to be desired, particularly with transportation and food. We faced distant food sites and long lines. The trains were often literally overflowing with pilgrims. As one newspaper put it, people were “keeling over” in the Cologne train station. However, everyone from our group remained fed and safe.

We also traveled to the Cathedral in Cologne. This ancient Cathedral, dating back to the twelfth century, houses what

tradition holds are the relics of the three Holy Magi. We were able to relate to these Holy Magi who traveled from distant lands to find Christ and pay him homage. Unfortunately the day we were scheduled to visit to the Cathedral was also the day that the Pope arrived in Cologne, so we were unable to go.

The morning before leaving to Marienfeld we had one last Mass at the Pallotti College Chapel. We were very fortunate to have Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy Dolan come to join us and to preside at the Mass. The Vicar General of the Pallottines, Fr. Zenon Hanas, preached a wonderful homily speaking in English, German, and Polish and, with the assistance of a translator, Spanish.

The Papal Mass at Marienfeld was the highlight of the trip. We arrived on Saturday afternoon after walking about 22 kilometers from the train station. We had a bit of difficulty finding a place to set up “camp” but finally got situated next to one of the pathways. Then an amazing thing

happened. Security and volunteers began to line the pathway where we were sitting. The pope in the pope-mobile was going to enter right along our path. He rode by only eight feet from us and we all excitedly took pictures – many of the back of his head.

We celebrated evening prayer and had adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that night as part of the vigil and participated in the Mass the next morning. It is an indescribable experience to be at Mass with a million other Catholics from around the world. The sense of our Catholicity and the unity of the church was inspiring—all of us gathered around the altar with the Holy Father worshipping Christ.

We returned to the Pallottine college in Rheinbach for one last night before returning to the United States on Monday. This experience would not have been possible without the Pallottines both in Milwaukee and Germany. Their generosity in supporting the trip both with energy and finances shows the commitment of the Pallottines to youth and young people.

(Cut here)

(Cut here)

Loving Vigil Lights for the Holidays

For centuries, a candle burning brightly in a window has been a symbol of welcome to travelers, a sign of hope in the darkness and a way to show concern for the safe return home of loved ones. During the holidays you will see many such window lights. For some, they will be no more than nice decorations. For others the meaning of the symbol will always hold true. This holiday season you can continue this loving tradition by lighting a vigil light for someone you love. Just fill out this slip and send it to us in the envelope included in this newsletter, and we will light a **7 day vigil light for you and your intentions** at the statue of St. Joseph in our house chapel.

Please light a vigil light for me for the following holiday intentions:

(circle a month and a Monday you would like us to start the 7 day vigil light for you.)

Nov.	07	14	21	28
Dec.	05	12	19	26
Jan.	02	09	16	23 30
Feb.	06	13	20	27

I would like to make a donation of: \$3 \$5 \$7 \$10 other \$ _____