



My Day of Inspiration

By Kevin Blute

On Saturday, March 5th I had the opportunity to attend the Catholic Men's Conference at Seton Hall University. This one-day gathering was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark.

Upon arriving at Seton Hall I was astonished to see the number of cars flowing into the University's main entrance. For some reason, I was expecting a crowd of no more than a couple of hundred people to attend this conference. The numbers were much larger. The Walsh gymnasium was to house over 2,000 men this day from all different age groups and ethnicities. It was a crowd comprised of single men, married men, and grandfathers. Looking at the vast numbers of attendees made me realize that I was not alone in my desire to re-energize my faith.

The day began with a music performance by Tony Melendez, a Nicaraguan American guitar player. This was no ordinary performance. Melendez was born without arms. He played his guitar effortlessly with his feet while praising God with several songs. He captivated the audience and me with his inspirational words and music just as he did in 1987 when he performed for Pope John Paul II.

As a sports enthusiast, I was largely drawn to this conference because of two guest speakers: former New York Giants right guard, Chris Godfrey and former MLB outfielder, Darrell Miller. Godfrey played for the 1986 Giants Super Bowl team. He talked about his path to the Super bowl. It was filled with disappointment and rejection prior to his signing with the Giants. He also spoke about his life after football and his focus on educating and informing young people about the importance of sexual abstinence before marriage.

Despite being relegated to a utility player for most of his baseball career, Darrell Miller is a winner. That's

what I call him after watching him in the baseball film edition of "Champions of Faith". Miller is the brother of former Indiana Pacer basketball great, Reggie Miller and former USA Olympic athlete and Gold Medalist of the 1984 Women's basketball team, Cheryl Miller. Playing largely "second fiddle" throughout his life to his more famous siblings and to his California Angel teammates (he substituted for the likes of Rod Carew and Reggie Jackson); Miller spoke about his conversion to Roman Catholicism after being raised as a Baptist. I had the opportunity to speak to both athletes during the day. Godfrey looked at me bewildered when I told him that I was a Seattle Seahawk fan. Miller gave me his business card and offered to autograph my DVD copy of "Champions of Faith". The DVD is in the mail.



The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament was one of the highlights of the day. I have not witnessed this holy ritual since I was a child. Led by a procession of priests, we were brought to our knees in reverence of the presence of God through the Eucharist that was displayed in a gold-plated monstrance.

My faith was further enriched this day when Fr. Benedict Groeschel was announced as a surprised guest speaker. A standing ovation was given to this holy man from Jersey City.

I know about Fr. Groschel through my devotion to Fr. Solanus Casey. Fr. Groeschel knew Fr. Solanus. They worked together. At the end of the day, as I was leaving, I approached the frail friar seated in his wheelchair. I told Fr. Groeschel about my affinity for Fr. Solanus. In his soft but distinct voice he remarked to me that Solanus was perhaps "the greatest person I ever met".

The Archdiocese pulled it off. I felt no pressure or obligation to attend this conference. Bible thumping and preaching took a back seat to motivational speakers and inspirational music. The Adoration was great. It was a day well spent in South Orange.

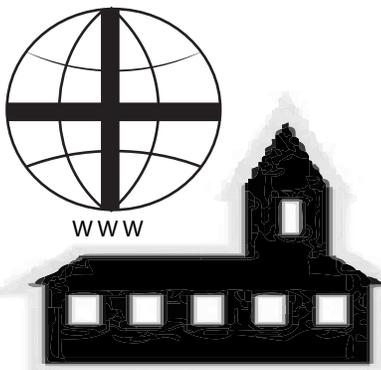
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WWW.SAINT-PETER.ORG

Information and Inspiration

By Pam Lobley

Have you visited the St. Peter's website? These days, all walks of our lives are web-assisted, and our parish is certainly no exception. The site can provide you with information, daily gospel readings, and even give you sign-up forms for many events.

As the webmaster, Rosemarie Jasko is responsible for updating the content on the website, but she does not create content. Each ministry sends in the information for their section. Of all of the ministries, the Office of Faith Formation, Cornerstone, Music Ministry, and Small Christian Communities use the website the most – especially for online sign-ups for events and programs. Sometimes these forms will collect the sign-up information for 100 or more parishioners who are attending something at St. Peter's, saving both the ministry leaders and the parishioners themselves a lot of time, not to mention paper!

The prayer chain page alone gets at least 30-40 requests per month from all over the world. If you would like to request prayers for someone, please know the requests are anonymous. The requests are forwarded to Eleanor Grybowski via email, and she then relays the information to the prayer chain by phone.

Recently, a prayer request was received from someone who said they were thinking about suicide. This was unfortunately a time when it may have been helpful to know who sent the request, but keeping the form private encourages people to request prayers. Perhaps if it were not anonymous, less people would request, and therefore receive, the healing power of prayer.

About a week later, a second request came from the same person, worded similarly, but less severely -- it had changed from "I am feeling suicidal" to "I'm still having some suicidal thoughts..." Perhaps the prayers are working; certainly, this person found comfort in being able to request prayers for herself. In fact, there have been many occasions when, after receiving a prayer request for someone who is seriously ill, we'll get a "thank you" via the same prayer request form letting us know that person is doing well and thanking St. Peter's prayer chain for the prayers.

On the site you can find photographs and slide shows of events, and those photos are always supplied by individuals in the parish. A photo is never identified with the name of a parishioner, so anyone concerned that they can be "found" online because their picture ends up on the website after attending an event need not worry.

The website has become a great way to keep in touch with far-flung people. Unexpectedly, staff members have received emails from lost friends and relatives who stumbled upon their names via an internet search, putting them back in touch after years.

Past parishioners who have moved away find our website and reconnect with the parish community. Doug Garofalo, when he was a missionary in Brazil, used the site to share his stories and photos of his work with us, and to stay connected with the happenings at St. Peter's during his time away.

When Fr. George Klybus left St. Peter's to be relocated to the Turks and Caicos Islands, the website was again the vehicle to keep him connected to our parish, and for all of us who missed him, to see what he was up to in his new assignment.

Fun Facts about www.saint-peter.org



1. It is updated it often, sometimes several times a day, so it's very current.
2. There are two Site Maps available -- alphabetical listing, and a picture site map, which help parishioners navigate the site. Both are available on the home page to the left and right of the church image. The left and right hand columns of the website contain links to everything available on our website. The center column of the home page is reserved for current events.
3. The current bulletin is always available in its entirety, as well as the previous week's. Past issues are available by request by simply clicking on the email link on the bulletin page.
4. Online forms are available for the convenience of parishioners who need to change or update their address, request offering envelopes or sign up for ParishPay, request a hospital visit, request a visit to the homebound, and to sign up for various events and/or ministries.
5. New parishioners can open, print and fill out a parish registration form to send or drop off at the rectory if they want to register at St. Peter's.
6. Also across the top of the page you'll find a link called "Daily Gospel Reading." It features the day's gospel reading, and for Sunday readings, a meditation is also included. Some parishioners click on this link every morning when they arrive at their desk, cup of coffee in hand, and spend 5 minutes reading the gospel before starting their work day.

Our parish is relying more and more on the website for information, and there will undoubtedly be improvements and upgrades in the future. A future website could have a search feature, making it even easier to find information on the site, and the better the website is, the more it will appeal to new parishioners, especially younger families, and could be used effectively with teens and college age parishioners in mind as well.

At a recent meeting of ministry leaders, Donna Cirino suggested that maybe St. Peter's should be on Facebook. The idea was well-received: we all understand that Facebook is the primary way that so many people connect with each other. It's still just an idea at this point, but an interesting one. How many "friends" would we get?



It is appropriate to introduce this book to you in the Easter edition of The Net Worker.

Like Easter, this book is uplifting and filled with "love".

The Easter God

The late author is former bishop of Winchester, England (1972 - 1985).

John Taylor had written two books. This book draws on his unpublished sermons from his time in Winchester to a year or two before his death in 2001.

THE EASTER GOD is suitable for all Christians. There is reference to the Gospels, the Holy Spirit, the Saints, Pope John Paul II, Mother Theresa and C.S. Lewis.

He is quoted as saying "Recognition is the special gift of the Holy Spirit. He works always by opening people's eyes to see what they have not seen before".

The author emphasizes that aliveness is in Jesus of Nazareth. He encourages us to come alive to God, alive in our faith, alive to the world and alive to every human being.

This is a joyful book, filled with examples of God's love for us. You cannot help being moved and changed.

THE EASTER GOD is 142 pages long.

Funnies from *the Editor*

Pam Lobley

I received these jokes from my mother-in-law via email. They are too funny to keep to myself.

The Picnic • • • • •

A Jewish Rabbi and a Catholic Priest met at the town's annual 4th of July picnic. Old friends, they began their usual banter. "This baked ham is really delicious," the priest teased the rabbi. "You really ought to try it. I know it's against your religion, but I can't understand why such a wonderful food should be forbidden! You don't know what you're missing. You just haven't lived until you've tried Mrs. Hall's prized Virginia Baked Ham. Tell me, Rabbi, when are you going to break down and try it?" The rabbi looked at the priest with a big grin, and said, "At your wedding."

The Usher • • • • •

An elderly woman walked into the local country church. The friendly usher greeted her at the door and helped her up the flight of steps. "Where would you like to sit?" he asked politely. "The front row, please," she answered. "You really don't want to do that," the usher said. "The pastor is really boring." "Do you happen to know who I am?" the woman inquired. "No," he said. "I'm the pastor's mother," she replied indignantly. "Do you know who I am?" he asked. "No," she said. "Good," he answered.

Show and Tell • • • • •

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment. Each student was instructed to bring in an object that represented their religion to share with the class. The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David." The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary." The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Methodist, and this is a casserole."

The Twenty and the One • • • • •

A well-worn one-dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty-dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation. The twenty-dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the country. "I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean." "Wow!" said the one-dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!" "So, tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?" The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church." The twenty-dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

Happy Easter!

From the Staff of The Net Worker

