



The Word

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A Blessing To Me
Fr. Steve Neff



Fr. Steve Neff
Pastor

Saint Paul Church has been a distinctive part of the city of Butler. While the surroundings of the church may have changed in the past 100 years, the 200-foot steeple and bell tower have remained a steadfast symbol of tradition and of hope. Saint Paul Church was dedicated on September 10, 1911, not to be a monument to honor the parishioners but to honor someone greater than themselves - GOD.

As a parish family, we thank God for the gift of Saint Paul Church and Parish! God has truly blessed this parish over the years. As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the construction of Saint Paul Church, it is a good time for all of us to take some quiet time to reflect on all of the blessings each of us enjoy. A question I ask all of us to reflect upon would be: "Why is Saint Paul Church and Parish a blessing to me?"

Personally, since I arrived at Saint Paul Church, it has been for me an incredible place for offering my prayers. It is a holy site where I can carry all of your special intentions, all of your joys and sorrows and truly place them before the Lord. The building, the windows, and architecture simply help all of us to enter quickly into prayer.

Saint Paul Parish has also been a huge source of prayers for me. All of you have allowed me to be a part of your families and have surrounded me in so many prayers. Your prayers helped me when I came here as a Parochial Vicar, and they also encouraged me when Bishop Zubik later asked me to assume the duties of Pastor at St. Paul. Even more recently, your prayers surrounded me with tremendous peace when I embraced prostate cancer. For all of these prayers, I say, "Thanks a million, Saint Paul Parish, for being a blessing to me!"

In closing, I look forward to reading your responses to the question "Why is Saint Paul Church and Parish a blessing to me?" Please send your answers to me in an email to frsteve@stpaulbutler.org or drop them in the good old-fashioned mail box or collection basket. On September 11, therefore, when we celebrated the centennial of Saint Paul Church, our beautiful memories of prayer, support, tradition, and community helped to make this occasion a very personal expression of our love.



NO STRANGER TO WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Georgene Natali



There must be a reason that Father Lutz keeps returning to Butler. It's lucky for us that his path has led him here.

Father Lutz was born to George & Mathilda Yester Lutz on July 4, 1929, in Etna, PA, where he attended All Saints grade school. After graduating from North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh in 1947, Father enrolled in the Minor Seminary, St. Fidelis in Herman, PA, and attended there until 1950 when he was assigned to St. Vincent College to study Philosophy. In 1952 he was sent to study Theology at St. Mary in Baltimore, MD. He graduated in 1956 with a STL degree and was ordained at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh by Bishop John Dearden.

During the next several decades, Father Lutz has held many different assignments. He has served as a parish priest, guidance counselor, headmaster, organizer of a Spanish ministry, initiator of a Catholic high school in Pennsylvania. He has served in various capacities in the Pittsburgh area, as well as in Alabama, Alaska, South Carolina and Peru.

In 2010 Father Lutz returned to Western Pennsylvania to serve us at St. Paul Church.

**St. Paul's Oldest Parishioner:
A Visit with Delma Mellinger
Patty & Dan Coyle**

Recently we had the privilege of spending an afternoon with Mrs. Delma Mellinger. Delma will be 100 years old on February 13, 2012, which renders her St. Paul Parish's oldest member. Delma is a truly amazing woman. She enjoyed reminiscing with us about her childhood and her life as a wife, mother, and nurse.

Delma grew up on a farm in West Middlesex in Mercer County, the youngest of 6 children, 4 boys and 2 girls. There was always work to be done, she recalled, from feeding the chickens to walking behind the potato digger, picking up the potatoes by hand as they went. Everything required more work then. For instance, Delma said, instead of turning on a faucet for water, she had to carry the water they needed all the way from the springhouse.

One of her favorite memories of her life on the farm was going with her mother to watch as the baby chicks were hatching from their eggs. She said you could hear them "cheeping" inside the eggs even before they hatched.

Delma's education started in a one room schoolhouse. She had to walk about 4 miles each way to attend grade school, and even farther for high school – about 5 miles. After graduating from high school, she and a friend did something unusual for their time. They decided to continue their formal education. They applied to three different nursing schools and lucky for us, the first to accept them was Butler Hospital School of Nursing.

As a student nurse Delma was required to help care for the hospital patients. One of these patients happened to be George Mellinger. When he was well and released from the hospital, George invited Delma to accompany him to a square dance. That was the beginning of their romance. Delma and George were married on August 26, 1936.

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The Word

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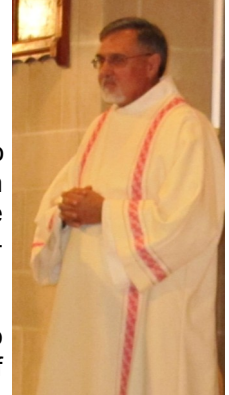
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Changes AGAIN!?!

Deacon Mitch Natali



We are not used to things being changed – at least not frequently – in the Church. We tend to move slowly, sometimes it seems, too slowly. So when we get informed that the Roman Missal is going to be revised again, after we have become comfortable with it and used to the language, we naturally become upset and wonder why. What is the hurry? This article attempts to clarify and explain what is happening.

Out of Vatican Council II came the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (1963). As liturgy is to be seen as a foretaste of heaven, this led to radical changes in the format of the celebration of Mass. To become more aware of the richness of Sacred Scripture, there was now a three-year cycle of Sunday Readings. Further there was a reemphasis on the homily, prayers of the faithful and Communion under both species.

An interim Order of Mass in Latin developed in 1965 with an English translation following in 1966. The New Order of Mass was promulgated in Latin in 1969 with an English translation following in 1970. Then in 1975 the 2nd Edition of the Roman Missal was published in Latin with a translation into English following ten years later (1985). Pope John Paul II in 2000 promulgated the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal which was then issued in Latin in 2002. We are getting better. It only took 9 years to have the 3rd Edition ready in English.

You may ask, “Why a Third Edition? We were comfortable and used to the Second Edition of the Roman Missal!” There are many reasons. The Second Edition translated giving a dynamic equivalence not a literal. While this is all well and good, it really caused confusion in the English speaking world. There was no one set English translation that all English speaking people could rally around and embrace. The Third Edition does that. It is the same throughout the English speaking world. (The same has been done for all the other languages.)

Further, Pope John Paul II recognized so many new saints that a new Sacramentary needed to be developed to include them. Also, there are many new prefaces (all of which are newly translated); proper of saints; proper of time. There are new Masses for various needs. For example, there is a special Pro-Life Mass for January 22, a Mass for Thanksgiving; and a special Mass for the Fourth of July.

That’s nice, but why did they have to change the wording? Well, let’s look at some of that. We will now respond, “And with your spirit” when the priest or deacon says, “The Lord be with you.” It doesn’t seem like much and, frankly, I was wondering about that myself. However, I began to reflect on this and found myself getting excited about the opportunity to say “And with your spirit”. This response is much more dynamic. It goes beyond the person standing there. It enters into who they are - the presence of God within them and flows out through their actions and effect.

It is true that this new translation will focus more on keeping the nuances found in the original Latin. Without a doubt, the result will be the use of some phrases and words that are not normally a part of our everyday conversations. For example, how often have you used the word ‘ineffable’? Probably not very often, if at all. However, it captures the power of God through its use. According to Webster, “ineffable” means *anything incapable of being expressed in words*. One word so succinctly covers so many. Other words that can be a stumbling block are “consubstantial” and “incarnate”. Briefly, “consubstantial” goes beyond the words ‘one in being’ that we currently use. It reflects having the same substance, when you see one you see the other, a unique relationship between Jesus and the Father. When we hear the word ‘incarnate’, we often think of Jesus’ birth. However, ‘incarnate’ goes beyond that to emphasize that at Jesus’ conception the divine was present.

Change is difficult. It is natural to resist it. And yet change is necessary if we want to grow. The Third Edition of the Roman Missal provides just that - an opportunity to grow. May we look at it as the challenge that it is, calling us forward to grow closer to Christ and one another as we continue our journey.



St. Paul Catholic Women and Christian Mothers

Sarah E. Edwards, Co-President / Ellen S. Romett, Co-President

For nearly 46 years, women from Saint Paul Parish have joined in the mission of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers. The primary focus of this worldwide organization is the Christian education of children by the efforts of the Christian Mothers and Christian women of the organization. By aiding in the children's development in a number of roles, the members of the St. Paul Catholic Women and Christian Mothers (CW/CM) Guild have not only undertaken the important task of training and sanctifying the children entrusted to their care, but they also strived to edify one another by word and deed. The support they provide one another by fervent prayer and their commitment to individuals in need in the Greater Butler area are examples of their dedication to the community.

Since 1966 the St. Paul Catholic Women and Christian Mothers Guild has consistently structured the program for their fiscal year around spiritual events such as retreats, invited speakers, and other activities that facilitate in the furtherance of ascertaining an in-depth understanding of the tenets of our Roman Catholic faith. We have always opened our meetings with Mass, and in recent years we have also offered the opportunity to pray the Rosary before Mass.

Through our continuing efforts to engage in an assortment of social activities and programs upon request, the members of CW/CM have diligently developed positive relationships with the clients and administrative employees of several different human service organizations and programs in our community. For many years, the CW/CM have sponsored community dinners, have collected food and cash for the Meals on Wheels program, and have taken up collections of clothing, diapers, and occasionally certain types of equipment for the Lifeline program. Our group of women have journeyed to Torrance State Hospital bearing gifts, necessities, food, and planned games; additionally, a caroling program presented annually to the hospital's volunteers and the patients/clients from Butler County never fails to be the highlight of the day-long visit.

Each year we hold fundraising events to sustain the scholarships offered to students attending Butler Catholic School, as well as to provide monetary

assistance to the church for both the unexpected expenses requiring immediate funding and to purchase specifically designated equipment to benefit the church.

In the recent past, the St. Paul Christian Women's Guild has seen a gradual decline in membership. While this is upsetting, we are not alone in feeling the impact of this societal trend which has resulted in a lack of attendance at weekly worship services and decreased engagement in the assorted outreach activities offered by most religious organizations.

A core value of the Christian Women's Guild is being charitable within our families and the larger community. We have been exploring ways to "Live to Give" through projects that provide us with the opportunity to have personal interactions with members of the community. About six months ago a small group of CW/CM started the Yarn Spinners Circle. Yarn Spinners is open to anyone in the parish, gathering on a bi-weekly basis to make lap robes, prayer shawls and infant caps that are later delivered during visits to the infirmed, infants, and new mothers in the community. The items have a note attached indicating that the item has been lovingly made for them by a member of our Yarn Spinners group and has been blessed by a priest from St. Paul Parish. This project has been an overwhelming success, which has been expressed by the number of members who have joined and voiced appreciation of the gift recipients.

St. Paul Catholic Women and Christian Mothers Guild has been an extremely vibrant organization since 1966. The foundation has been active - holding four business meetings each year, a major fundraiser, bake sales, the birthday party for Jesus, funeral rosary, roses to new mothers, and cards offering get well wishes and expressions of sympathy. While we will continue our involvement in these defining activities, we recognize that our society is ever-changing, and therefore, that we too must adapt and change with it. Our organization invites all Catholic women of St. Paul Church to join us in serving our parishioners and our community of Butler and in initiating the changes necessary to carry out God's work for his kingdom here on Earth.



As I celebrated the 50th anniversary of my birth this summer, I was reflecting on how communication has changed in my lifetime. Growing up, if I wanted to communicate with someone outside my home, I had to use a telephone party line, write a letter and mail it, or go to the person's house - no cell phone, email, or Internet. This led me to also think of how St. Paul Church has changed the ways used to communicate with it's parishioners over the years. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our beautiful church building, let us look at some of the ways used to reach out and spread the Good News to our parish and the Butler community.

St. Paul Church Spreads the Good News

Patricia M. Brody



ways used to reach out and spread the Good News to our parish and the Butler community.

Monsignor Glenn had great vision when he began a televised Mass in 1978. The first televised service was the Good Friday Service that year. The first TV camera used broadcast in black and white and was borrowed from the Capuchins in Herman. In July of that same year, a camera that broadcast in color was purchased and put into use. Now every Monday through Saturday, the Mass is broadcast on Armstrong Cable Services at 8:00 AM and on Sunday at 10:00 AM. This Mass reaches more than just the shut-ins. This avenue of spreading our faith reaches even those who might not have any connection to any church at all. We are blessed to have such a dedicated group of

camera operators who make this all possible. They are Ed Sulkoske, Tom Sherman, and Carl "Skip" Hesidenz. We are also blessed to have the technology available to record Mass daily, so if your schedule prevents you from watching or attending Mass, you can watch it at a time convenient to you. What a great way to relax and thank God for all his blessings before going to bed each night.

In addition to television communication, St. Paul Church also makes use of radio to reach out to the community. Since January 5, 2003, the Saturday 6:30 PM Mass is recorded and then aired on WISR (680 AM) Sunday morning from 9:15 – 10:00 AM. Again our Parish is blessed to have such a dedicated group of volunteers, led by Deacon Mitch, who take care of recording the Mass and taking the tape to the radio station. They are Dan Coyle, Martha McClure, Mary Vandersyde, and Patricia Brody.

The use of telephones is also an important part of parish life here at St. Paul Church. As a parish, we pray for the needs of those around us. We are blessed to have such a devoted group of volunteers who use their telephones to communicate the prayer requests of those in our parish and community. The power of prayer can produce miracles, so if you know of someone with a prayer need, please call one of our contacts on the St. Paul Parish Telephone Prayer Tree. The contacts are - Gloria Hollock 724-287-7121, Mary Cherry 724-287-2893, and Joyce Collins 724-285-4497.

Another current and just as vitally important form of communication is the Internet. Have you checked out the St. Paul Parish Website? Go to www.stpaulbutler.org and see the vast wealth of information available. There are copies of the weekly church bulletins, church and diocesan contact information, parish calendar, pictures, and much, much more. The latest addition to the website is the posting of the minutes from the Pastoral Council Meetings to keep the parish informed as to what is discussed at the meetings.



The latest means used to communicate with our parish community is through Facebook. Like many organizations today, St. Paul Church can be found on Facebook. Our St. Paul Facebook page was started the first Sunday of Advent 2010. Each day there is a posting related to an event at our Parish, a prayer, or even pictures from a church event. Why not check out St. Paul Church – Butler, PA and "Like" our page.

By using the contemporary communication of their time, the St. Paul parishioners of 100 years ago shared their love of their Catholic faith with the Butler community. We continue their great tradition of sharing the love of our faith by using the means of communication available to us today. As we embark on our next centennial, the world around us will continue to change but one thing that will remain constant is the faith and love demonstrated by the parishioners of St. Paul Parish to those around us. The Good News will continue to spread.





Did You Know?

Mary Ellen Lewis

»The cornerstone of St. Paul Church was laid on September 19, 1909, and the building was dedicated 2 years later on September 10, 1911. The stone was of beautiful colored local sandstone from the stone quarry on East Jefferson Street in Butler, Pennsylvania, that was owned by the congregation. John Hobaugh of Butler did all the stone work. The bell tower is 180 feet high. The



total cost to build the church without the furnishings was \$90,000. The stained glass windows, altars, marble work, pews, fixtures and all other furnishings cost about \$50,000.

»Did you know all the statues in St. Paul's Church are carved from designs by the architect, John T. Comes, and made to fit particular niches in the church?

»Did you know the seating capacity of St. Paul Church is 1,000.

»Did you know there is a walkway between the ceiling of the church and the roof? This is to facilitate the changing of light bulbs in the light fixtures.

»Did you know the impressive large pulpit and the canopy over it are constructed of massive carved oak and the chain above the canopy over the pulpit is carved from a single piece of oak?

»Did you know the original floor in the vestibule,

center and side aisles, is cork tile, chosen to obtain a noiseless floor? The floor of the main sanctuary is of marble of various shades.



»Did you know the original baptismal font, located in the tower on the South rear of the church was cut of pure white Italian marble having a cover of oak picked out in gold and suspended by means of a counter weight to facilitate its raising and lowering? The baptismal font is now located on the right side of the sanctuary.

»Did you know the stained glass windows were made by the firm of George Boos of Munich and his nephew Leo Thomas?

»Did you know the tabernacle door was made from gold jewelry and trinkets donated by parishioners and melted down and formed into a solid gold crucifix decorated with grape and vine motif?

»Did you know there is a sacrarium (sink) that drains directly into the earth in the walkway behind the altar? Water used at mass is emptied into the sacrarium.

»Did you know there is also a door that opens into the tabernacle in the walkway behind the altar ?



St. Paul's Oldest Parishioner (continued from page 2)

Father Patrick K. Collins performed the ceremony in the parish house at St. Paul's because Delma was not yet a Catholic and parish house weddings were the norm for mixed marriages at that time. After the birth of her second son in 1942, Delma converted to Catholicism.

George Jr. was born in 1940 and Edward, now deceased, was born in 1942. They both attended St. Paul School. When the new school was built in 1950, Msgr. William Spiegel, St. Paul pastor, knowing that Delma was a registered nurse, called upon her when one of the students became ill. This led her to being the school nurse for all three of the Catholic schools in Butler for 30 years. During that time she also went to night school and received a de-

gree so that she could teach Health classes at the schools.

One of the perks of her job, Delma fondly remembers, was driving Monsignor Spiegel's "Big Lincoln". He would ask Delma to drive him around, on occasion, to Pittsburgh which, she added, for her was very frightening. Monsignor knew his way around but Delma said the car was so big, it really didn't cooperate well in all the traffic.

Delma has always had an active spiritual life. She recalled a time around 1982 when a Charismatic Renewal movement was starting in Butler and Pittsburgh. Delma began going to prayer meetings with the movement where she became acquainted with a group of people who were forming a Secular Franciscan

Fraternity. Under the guidance of Fr. Lester Knoll O.F.M. Cap., Delma was professed a Secular Franciscan in 1992 and still attends SFO meetings at St. Mary Parish in Herman, PA once a week to this day.

One thing Delma attributes her long life to is always being a very active person. In spite of losing her eyesight a few years ago, she continues a life-long love of walking by walking every evening, outside if the weather permits, with her son, George Jr.

Delma lost her husband George Sr. on Sept. 23, 1964, and her son Edward in 2004. Her son George and her three grandchildren now complete her family circle.



Ask Father Steve

Fr. Steve Neff

As Catholics we all do things or say things that have been handed down to us from our parents and grandparents. Often times we do not fully know why we do something. The following questions are ones that I have been asked several times. If you have a specific question you would like to see answered in future editions of *The Word*, you may submit your question either by dropping a note in the collection basket or you may email me at frsteve@stpaulbutler.org.

Question – Recently, a parish in the Diocese was closed and quickly demolished. I know churches are consecrated, but how does a church become unconsecrated or unblessed allowing it to be destroyed? How can churches be taken down so easily?

Answer – When something is ritually blessed, normally what you say is true. The blessing remains. A time usually comes, however, when it is no longer possible to use a blessed or consecrated object for its original purpose. As you experienced, that can happen with churches. Because of deterioration of the structure, lack of money, or lack of sufficient numbers of Catholics in the area a parish may decide a church should no longer be used.

Church law provides for that situation. When a serious reason suggests that the church building not be used for divine worship, the bishop can, as the law says, “relegate it to profane but not

sordid (repugnant or disreputable) use” (Canon No. 1222). The word “profane” (from a Latin word that means outside the temple) has acquired a more negative, disrespectful implication than this canon law intends. In this case, it means merely that the particular church building is from now on not a place where official Catholic worship and liturgy will be celebrated.



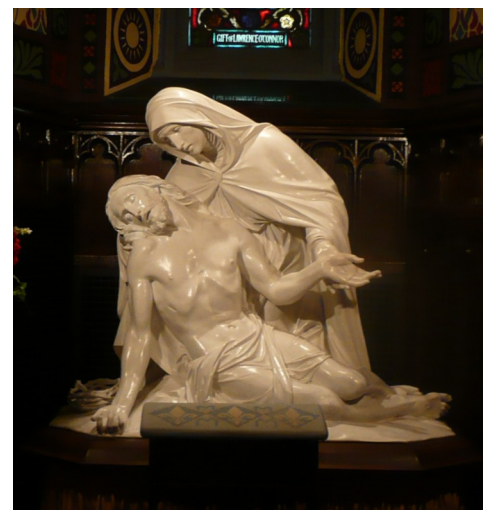
According to interpretation by the Canon Law Society of America, “unblessing” a church, as you put it, is simple. After advice from many different councils, the bishop may decree that the building is no longer dedicated or blessed and is thus no longer a Catholic church. The structure may then be sold for worship by another religious denomination or other appropriate uses, or taken down.

On a similar note, sometimes blessed items such as books, candles, pictures, statues or palms may eventually become unusable. Unless one has a warehouse, there’s a limit to how many blessed items one can accumulate. So what to do? When a blessed article is taken apart, burned or otherwise destroyed so its identity changes, it is no longer considered blessed. One proper way to dispose of these items is simply to burn them. Another way would be to bury these items.

Nothing material lasts forever, even churches. Holy cards, scapulars, rosaries and so on may be broken so they lose the identity for which they were blessed. When they have served their spiritual purpose and have become worn out or replaced, there is no irreverence in disposing of them properly.

~ Congratulations ~

Tom and Donna Sherman for receiving the “Manifesting the Kingdom” award. The award was presented at St. Paul Cathedral in Oakland to individuals who exemplify our Christian faith by their love and service to the parish.





The Word

**St. Paul Parish Newsletter
St. Paul Roman Catholic Church
128 North McKean Street
Butler, PA 16001-4972**

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“Thanks a Million” Capital Campaign

Mary Salony

Imagine the sacrifice that the parishioners of St. Paul Church made in 1911 to build our beautiful church. Now it is our turn to make sure that St. Paul Church is preserved for the next 100 years. St. Paul Church has started a much needed capital campaign called “Thanks a Million” to raise \$1,000,000 to restore the stained glass windows of the church as well as to do some much needed repairs to the organ and to completely renovate all the church’s restrooms. Work has already started on the stained glass windows and will continue in stages as funds are available. The window repairs are crucial to maintain the building that is our spiritual home and will be a tribute to God for generations to come.

Parishioners are being asked to make a commitment of at least \$1,000 over the next three years which works out to only \$28 a month. There will be a monthly “Thanks a Million” envelope in order to make the campaign successful. Please give what you can afford each month. Donations may be made in memory of a loved one, for a special occasion or in honor of a friend or family member. For more information, please contact Father Steve at 724.287.1759. To keep up with the progress on the project, please go to the St. Paul Church website (www.stpaulbutler.org) and click on Stained Glass Window Restoration Project Update on the left hand side of the page or check the Church Bulletin. “Thanks a Million” for everything you do for St. Paul Church!

