

**“THE GOOD... THE BAD... AND THE UGLY.”**

That’s the title of an old Clint Eastwood movie that, even today, is still popular. I’ve borrowed it as my introduction to this update on the situation here at our church for it describes it most accurately. Let’s start with a look at .....

**THE GOOD:** During the summer months, our normal weekly collection averages \$5,000. Thanks to you, the good people of our parish, last weekend’s collection amounted to \$5,933; gifts made during the week were \$13,150 – which makes for a weekly total of \$19,083. THAT’S GOOD! And from this beleaguered Pastor’s point of view, that’s VERY GOOD. From the bottom of my heart and with prayer, I thank God and I thank you, the caring, sharing, loving members of our church. Together, you are THE GOOD! Now, a look at.....

**THE BAD:** The economic recession is still with us and so is our parish indebtedness. It remains big and burdensome. As well as the current operational expenses, we owe the Archdiocese of Miami approximately \$500,000 for past and present unpaid assessments. I can assure you, that doesn’t make for having a nice day or a good night’s sleep! From whatever angle one looks at our parish debt, THAT’S BAD! But it hasn’t diminished my trust in God and in you, the good members of our parish. Now for a look at.....

**THE UGLY:** Notice that in my references to trust, I have stressed “the good members of our parish.” You’re not the only ones we’ve got! Since I first made you aware of our problem at the parish on the weekend of July 26, I have received by mail many kind and most generous donation for the church; and many expressions of support and encouragement. But I have also come in for what only I can describe as my share of “hate mail.” That doesn’t surprise me but it does disappoint me. I knew what I was letting myself in for, when I first went public with our parish problem, and I’m sure I’ll be getting some more, now that my massive mailing of a week ago has gone out to all our parishioners. Even though our Church is of divine origin, it is composed of humans and every parish has its share of malcontents. That saddens me, but not for myself; my sadness is for them. As you may have imagined, most of this “hate mail” is of the anonymous variety. No signature, a diatribe of invective against me, and, of course, no return address! It makes me wonder what kind of warped mentality would go to the

trouble of spewing out on paper their vitriolic comments and nasty names about me – and have neither the guts nor the decency to sign their name to it. To me that indicates only one thing – **A COWARD!** And that, my friends, **IS UGLY!!!** What else could one say of someone who would hide behind a cloak of anonymity and take potshots at anyone? It doesn’t say much for them as a person, and even less as a Christian. I’m only a simple priest. I’m a Pastor; I have been given a flock to shepherd. We’ve now got a problem. All I’ve got to offer to the Lord and to you is my best effort, and try to follow the way that has been laid out for me by the Almighty. Satan hates me – and he certainly hates you, as faithful followers of the Lord and good and loyal members of the flock at St. Pius X Church. He’s laughing gleefully at what is happening here and in so many of our Catholic churches. But, “HE WHO LAUGHS LAST LAUGHS BEST!” Our God is in control and the Victory will be His, when He leads us forth triumphant from our present plight. And **HE WILL PREVAIL!** Satan would like to stifle me, but I know that with God’s help, that’s not going to happen. If the writers of the nasty and anonymous think they’re doing a service for God and the church, they couldn’t be more wrong. There is nothing Christlike of Christian in what they are doing. That’s why I earlier said that my sadness is for them. They too are members of our flock. Somewhere, their idea of what it means to be a follower of Christ has taken a very wrong turn. It matters not how they feel about me personally. What really matters is how they follow the Lord’s twofold command of loving God and one’s neighbor. It would make a lot more sense and truly be more Christian, if, instead of taking the time and the effort to write and dump their invective on me, they would simply spend the time in praying for me and for our parish. I would welcome that. And, in return, I would ask you, our good and faithful parishioners, to join me in praying for them too. As a priest and as your Pastor, my mission is simple: to serve God and you, His people. My words are direct: if you won’t sign it, don’t write it. Don’t forget that old saying: “Shake hands with the devil and he’ll never let you go” Phew..... that’s **REALLY UGLY**, and scary too! **DON’T DO IT!** Together let us pray and work and sacrifice as a church, so that, whatever about THE BAD, we can soon get back to THE GOOD and be at one with God.

Father Pat Slevin  
Kindly Pastor

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION**



Registration for Religious Education of children kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be held **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**, after the 9:30AM Mass in the Parish Hall.

To register you must have a copy of their Baptismal Certificate.

**B I N G O**

**Every Thursday**

All parishioners and friends of St. Pius are invited to attend **every Thursday**.

**Doors open at 5:30PM**

**Progressive Game**

**Early bird starts at 6:30PM**

**Regular Bingo at 7:00PM**

Snack Bar serves coffee, tea, hot chocolate, popcorn, hot dogs and a variety of sweets.

**PARISH CRUISE....**scheduled 12/10/09 for 10

nights.- to support our Perpetual Memorial Program. Prices start at \$749.00 plus taxes and fees.

Contact **Paul Cunningham** at **732-854-7137** or [paulc@cruiseformycharity.com](mailto:paulc@cruiseformycharity.com) for more details.

**PERPETUAL MEMORIAL APPEAL**

Brochures for St. Pius X Perpetual Memorial Appeal are on the tables at the church entrance. For information, contact **Joe Scerbo 954-401-6428**.

*The Sanctuary Lamp* signals the Eucharistic presence of the Lord Jesus in the tabernacle and burns continuously for 7 days. You may have the sanctuary lamp memorialized for either a sick person, a deceased loved one, or a special intention, for a weekly donation of \$10.00. Please call the parish office to reserve a specific date.

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week in the Church in memory of: **Elizabeth Romano** and in the Chapel in memory of: **Timothy J. Mahoney**.

*Prayer Request for the sick....*

Helen Keating, Mary Fearon, Mary Reilly, Pat Zades, Elizabeth Santos, Gwen Chintala, Bess Malvarosa, Kate Norakawa, Gloria Wyers and Ron Veron.

**BRICK GARDEN**

Please consider ordering your bricks for Phase IX, which is now open, as soon as possible. (50 brick orders are needed to place an order).

Take some time from your busy day and come to the Garden. In these turbulent times, it can be a place of calm and quiet. The Garden is there for you and awaits your visit. Thank you for your continued support.

**Barbara C. Scerbo, Garden Chairman**

For more info...call 954: 563-3735-cell or 954: 610-5641 - [BSCERBO1935@AOL.COM](mailto:BSCERBO1935@AOL.COM).

**ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK**

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Many thanks to those who advertise  
In our Parish Bulletin.



**Mass Intentions**

**SATURDAY – AUGUST 15th**

4:00PM **Maddy Schaumburg**  
5:30PM **Juliana Gorenssek**

**SUNDAY – AUGUST 16th**

8:00AM **Joe Alleguez**  
9:30AM **DiMaggio & Giliberti Families**  
11:00AM **Dorothy & Jim Gill**  
12:30PM **Herta & Max Saurel**

**MONDAY – AUGUST 17th**

8:00AM **Patrick J. Brennan**  
9:00AM **Herta & Max Saurel**

**TUESDAY – AUGUST 18th**

8:00AM **Thomas A. McCann**  
9:00AM **Herta & Max Saurel**

**WEDNESDAY – AUGUST 19th**

8:00AM **Marian & Edward Stitzell**  
9:00AM **Herta & Max Saurel**

**THURSDAY – AUGUST 20th**

8:00AM **Robert Spivak**  
9:00AM **Herta & Max Saurel**

**FRIDAY – AUGUST 21st**

8:00AM **Mary Gillan**  
9:00AM **Herta & Max Saurel**

**SATURDAY – AUGUST 22nd**

8:00AM **Ma Jesus Bilbao**  
9:00AM **Herta & Max Saurel**