

CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS MORE
JUNE 22, 2008
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Theme/Call To Worship

Despite the terror that Jeremiah sensed “on every side” he declares with faultless faith, “The Lord is with me; my persecutors will stumble; he has rescued the life of the poor.” Jesus Christ commands, “Fear no one; do not be afraid of those who kill the body.” Through our embrace of the overflowing “gracious gift of Jesus Christ” we can live unafraid.

Introduction To The Word

- I. **Jeremiah 20:10-13** Because the prophet Jeremiah foretold disaster for Jerusalem, he was denounced. But Jeremiah trusted in the Lord and overcame his persecutors.
- II. **Romans 5:12-15** Paul explains to the Romans that Adam’s sin brought death to all, but Christ’s gift of himself brought grace and life..

Gospel Matthew 10:26-33 In authoritative and encouraging words, Jesus urges the apostles to fear nothing – only him who can destroy the soul. Telling them “every hair of your head has been counted,” he promises that “Whoever acknowledges me before men I will acknowledge before my Father in heaven.”

At St. Thomas More This Week:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
06/22	Group Baptism	1:30 p.m.
06/24	<i>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i>	
	AA Meeting	6:30 p.m.
06/25	Christian Meditation	5:45 p.m.
06/26	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.
06/27	A.A. Meeting	6:30 p.m.

SUMMER SCHEDULE (July & August) AT ST. THOMAS MORE

Sunday Masses

5:45 p.m. (Saturdays), 8:30, 10:00 a.m. and 12:30, 5:45 p.m. (Sundays)

NO 11:15 a.m. mass July and August

(St. Ignatius Loyola has an 11:00 a.m. mass; Our Lady of Good Counsel has an 11:15 a.m. mass)

Weekday Masses

7:00 & 8:00 a.m.; 12:15 p.m.

First Friday Holy Hour suspended July 6, August 3 and September 5. The Church will be open for private adoration and prayer. (When the Church doors are locked entry is always possible through the Parish House.)

CELEBRANT SCHEDULE

<i>Mass</i>	<i>June 22</i>	<i>June 29</i>
Sat. 5:45 p.m.	Fr. Joy	Fr. Boehning
Sun. 8:30 a.m.	Fr. Boehning	Fr. Diaz
Sun. 10:00 a.m.	Fr. Diaz	Msgr. Shelley
Sun. 11:15 a.m.	Fr. Boehning	Msgr. Shelley
Sun. 12:30 p.m.	Msgr. Shelley	Fr. Joy
Sun. 5:45 p.m.	Fr. Diaz	Fr. Joy

ST. THOMAS MORE CHOIR CD AVAILABLE

A new CD has been released featuring members of the St. Thomas More Choir, Jeanne Ommerlé, Melissa Fogarty, Michael Brown and Aaron James singing sacred vocal compositions by our Director of Music and Composer-in-Residence, Harvey Burgett. It is available for purchase in the Parish Office.

“Harvey Burgett sets the poems with a sure feeling for declamation, for the emotional force behind the words, and for the superlative vocal and musical characteristics of the singer.”

-- Richard Dyer, Boston Globe

WEEKDAY BIBLE READING

- 06/23 2 Kings 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13; Mt 7:1-5
- 06/24 Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15; Acts 13:22-26; Luke 1:57-66, 80
- 06/25 2 Kings 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Ps 119:33, 24, 35, 36, 37, 40; Mt 7:15-20
- 06/26 2 Kings 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9; Mt 7:21-29
- 06/27 2 Kings 25:1-12; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Mt 8:1-4
- 06/28 2 Tm 2:22b-26; Ps 37; John 17:20-26 or Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19; Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21; Mt 8:5-17

MASS INTENTIONS AT ST. THOMAS MORE
FOR WEEK OF JUNE 22 – JUNE 28, 2008

Monday, June 23

- 7:00 Josephine Matteo (d)
8:00 Carmela Canape (d)
12:15 Elia Miranda (d)

Tuesday, June 24

- 7:00 Frank Turowski (d)
8:00 Brendan O'Shea (d)
12:15 Irma Navarro (d)

Wednesday, June 25

- 7:00 Margaux Powers (d)
8:00 Holy Souls in Purgatory
12:15 Mary Lane (d)

Thursday, June 26

- 7:00 Gaspare Saliva (d)
8:00 Brendan O'Shea (d)
12:15 Mary Johnson (d)

Friday, June 27

- 7:00 The Parishioners at St. Thomas More
8:00 Mary Catherine Sculthorpe (d)
12:15 Eileen O'Connor (d)

Saturday, June 28

- 8:00 Christopher Begley (d)
12:15 Patricia & Wolfgang Demisch (l)
5:45 No Intention

***WINNING THE CATHOLIC VOTE:
VOTERS, POLITICIANS, AND
ALIGNMENTS***

Thursday, June 26, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
Museum of the City of New York
1220 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street

Catholic voters have long made up an important voting bloc in New York City. How have they been courted by politicians? What are the issues and new political alignments among Catholics that politicians need to understand? Peter Quinn, author of *Looking for Jimmy*; Mitchell Moss, Henry Hart Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at NYU Wagner; Paul A. Crotty, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York; and Sal F. Albanese, former New York City Councilman (Brooklyn).

For reservations, please call (212) 534-1672, ext 3395, or visit www.mcnny.org.

THE PAULINE YEAR
AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION

On Sunday, June 29, the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer will open the "Year of St. Paul" with a special afternoon of reflection. Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P., editor-in-chief of *Magnificat*, will offer a spiritual conference at 4:00 p.m. entitled "How St. Paul Prayed the Our Father." Following the conference, the parish choir will offer a short program of sacred music inspired by the scriptural texts of St. Paul. Then Fr. Cameron will offer a short program of sacred music inspired by the scriptural texts of St. Paul. He will then celebrate and preach the 5:30 p.m. Mass. For more information please call 212-744-2080.

"O glorious St. Paul, after persecuting the Church you became by God's grace its most zealous Apostle. To carry the knowledge of Jesus, our Divine Savior, to the uttermost parts of the earth you joyfully endured prison, scourgings, stonings, and shipwreck, as well as all manner of persecutions culminating in the shedding of the last drop of your blood for our Lord, Jesus Christ. Obtain for us the grace to labor strenuously to bring the faith to others and to accept any trials and tribulations that may come our way. Help us to be inspired by your Epistles and to partake of your indomitable love for Jesus, so that after we have finished our course we may join you in praising Him in heaven for all eternity. Amen."

THE WORLD NEEDS HEROES

This week is the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, a man who lost his head for speaking the Truth, who is Jesus Christ. Zechariah, his father, prophesized that John would be the one "who would go before the Lord to prepare his way." Every age needs those who go before Jesus to turn the hearts of men and women back to God. If you would like to be a priest or have questions about the priesthood please contact Fr. Luke Sweeney or Fr. Luis Saldana at 914-969-1340 or www.NYPRIEST.COM "The World Needs Heroes."

**STATEMENT ON “SAME-SEX MARRIAGE”
By the Catholic Bishops of New York State**

Recently, proposals have been put forth in our state to recognize so-called “same-sex marriage,” a radical step that would remove from marriage its most basic, fundamental characteristic, thereby altering its very nature.

Our Governor has ordered recognition of such unions from other states as “marriages” in New York. This redefinition defies reason. Additionally, the state Assembly last year approved a measure to permit such “marriages” here, though to date the Senate has not.

Such actions, whether the legal union is called “marriage” or “civil union,” represent a destructive development for our state.

The joining of man and woman in the bond of marriage is a constant and visible reminder of God’s goodness and the beauty of the Divine plan for humankind. The Catholic Church teaches that Jesus Christ himself raised marriage to the dignity of a sacrament. And, indeed, all of the world’s great religions rightfully recognize marriage as a holy union of a man and a woman.

Numerous theological and religious arguments could be advanced as to why same-sex unions should be rejected. However, this not simply a matter of theology, and religious values are not the sole source of opposition to this plan.

Marriage always has been, is now and always will be a union of one man and one woman in an enduring bond. This is consistent with biology and natural law, and should be obvious to all, no matter what their religion, or even if they have no religion at all. It is a mutual personal gift between the two that serves the individual couple in many ways, allowing them to grow in love and, through that love, to bring forth children.

Just as importantly, this union also serves the larger society. Marriage provides a stable family structure for the rearing of children and is the ultimate safeguard so that civil society can exist and flourish. That is why civil society through the ages has recognized its duty to foster and respect marriage between a man and a woman.

To be clear, the state’s historic recognition of marriage is based on the biological fact that the physical union of a man and a woman tends to lead to children. Common sense and empirical evidence tell us that children’s welfare is best served in most cases by their being reared in a stable home with their mother and father. This fact has been recognized and intuited by societies for millennia. Encouraging marriage between a man and a woman, therefore, serves the state’s interests, as well-reared children who live with their mother and father are much more likely to grow to be good citizens, thereby, creating wealth, stability and security for the members of the society.

On the other hand, there is no compelling state interest in granting legal recognition to same-sex relationships. The simple fact that two people have a committed relationship is not a reason for the state to confer upon it the status of marriage. If affection and commitment were the only prerequisites for a marital relationship, then it is conceivable that any two or more individuals could claim the right to a civil union, no matter what their relationship.

Recognizing same sex unions will only serve to devalue marriage even more than what has already occurred in recent years. Numerous scholars have written exhaustively of the negative impact on children and society resulting from our nation’s growing rates of divorce and out-of-wedlock births over the last four decades.

Societal acceptance of casual divorce and single parenting was initially viewed by many as the natural progression of an enlightened society, just as “same-sex marriage” is viewed by some today.

Warnings from leaders such as the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan of the consequences of family breakdown were once considered alarmist. Today they are seen as truly prophetic, as there is largely consensus among sociologists that children often suffer from divorce and single parenting. Research tells us that such children, in general, are not as well educated and earn less money as adults than children who live with a married mother and father and are more likely to engage in undesirable behaviors in their youth that may have long-term implications on their lives.

Marriage and family have worked well throughout history to promote the common good. “Same-sex marriage” furthers a societal disconnect between procreation and marriage while promoting the notion that a nontraditional family structure serves a child as well as a traditional one. We are confident that history will judge this notion harshly.

But what about the argument of proponents of “same-sex marriage” that traditional marriage is a form of unjust discrimination against homosexual persons? This not the case, as marriage by definition is a union of physically and emotionally complementary male and female partners. However, it is true that homosexual persons sometimes face unjust discrimination in certain areas. This is wrong and must be opposed by everyone. But the state need not ignore the realities of natural law or discard thousands of years of human tradition to address such issues.

Clearly, the state can review whatever benefits or privileges that it has through the years conferred on married couples and, in cases where true discrimination may be at play, fashion legislative remedies. In reality, many benefits sometimes considered unique to married persons are open to all already. For example, New York State allows an individual to designate whomever he or she chooses as a health-care proxy. Homes may be owned jointly by unmarried persons and a person can bequeath property to survivors in a will as he or she sees fit.

The question of such benefits should not be allowed to cloud the discussion because, in truth, the movement for “same-sex marriage” is less about such benefits as it is about societal acceptance and approval of homosexual relationships. But it is not the business of the state to attempt to legislate such approval.

While sensitive to the pastoral needs of homosexual persons in our communities, families and churches, our role is to speak the truth in charity. As Catholic bishops, we want to make absolutely clear that our firm beliefs about marriage and against the governor’s proposal must not be misconstrued to be in any way a condemnation of homosexual people or an attack on their human dignity. Our Church teaches, and we affirm, that we must treat our homosexual sisters and brothers with dignity and love, as we would all God’s children. Indeed, the Catechism of the Catholic Church warns that any form of prejudice and hatred – “every sign of unjust discrimination” – against homosexual people should be avoided. (CCC 2358)

But we must state that the most elementary study of history, sociology, biology or theology points to the certain truth that marriage is the union of one man and one woman, which the state should not and must not attempt to alter.

We call on our state government to reject attempts to alter the sacred institution of marriage. We strongly encourage all Catholic New Yorkers and everyone who believes in the sanctity of marriage to make their voices heard on this compelling moral and social issue.

+Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York; +Most Rev. Howard J. Hubbard, Bishop of Albany; +Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of Brooklyn; +Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec, Bishop of Buffalo; +Most Rev. Robert J. Cunningham, Bishop of Ogdensburg; +Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, Bishop of Rockville Centre; +Most Rev. James . Moynihan, Bishop of Syracuse