



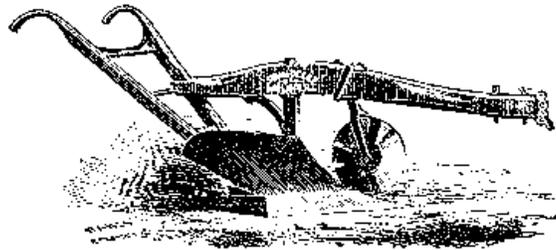
The Bells of Saint Mary

October 2014

Flu Shots

I got my flu shot on Monday of this week. It was part of my regular check-up/in with my doctor and it always features a flu shot this time of year. It is a critical part of my ministry. I go to the hospital a lot. Like, a whole lot. And CCC and The Lodge (I know it has a new name, but I can never remember it and I like The Lodge more anyway) and on occasion, Skilled Nursing and Rehab. All of these care facilities are places where I am exposed to lots of germs, and where there are lots of sick people who I might spread the flu to if I did not get a shot. It protects me in my ministry and my health, generally. It usually is mildly discomforting for a day or so and then I forget about it and don't get the flu. This year, it is more than a little discomforting, and I think I got a very mild version of the flu that I am struggling with right now. My arm is very sore, I am coughing lots and my nose feels like it has stopped working altogether. Lethargic does not even begin to say how drug out I feel. I have never had a reaction to a flu shot like this one, so I am thinking to myself, this is going to be a bad flu season and the flu this year must be a bad one...since the prevention this year is so uncomfortable.

In the readings for the first Sunday in October, the lesson from Exodus begins with "GOD SPOKE ALL THESE WORDS:" and it goes on to be narrative version of the giving of the Law...aka, the Ten Commandments. Some are short..."you shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery"...and some are longer..."You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name." And there is this one that seems in many ways to be a terribly difficult challenge for us..." You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth." I say that because we are a people of conspicuous consumption. We drive big fast cars, have giant televisions, even bigger homes, and go to football or baseball games with thousands of other people and think nothing of paying \$25.00 for a hot dog and a beer. We have bumper stickers that say "The One who dies with the most toys wins" and there is a part of us that understands



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Chapel of the battleship USS Wisconsin (now a museum in Norfolk, Virginia).

that...we understand idol making and idol worship.

And it occurs to me that the Ten Commandments are like a flu shot offered by God. Some times our reaction to them is mild and vaguely uncomfortable and sometimes it is painful and even debilitating. The Ten Commandment Shot does not change the truth of the words, or the logic of how it will prevent disease...but it also never says it will be easy or unremarkable...but really, it is both. It is easy and unremarkable at the same time that it challenges us and gets right where we live.

We know the difference between right and wrong. What most of us do is try to fudge that a little bit here and there. We take the Lord's name in vain, and then "catch" ourselves and say, "Oh, I shouldn't have said that." We then resolve to not do it again, until we do...and then make the same promise with the same results. But the point to the giving of the Law, is **pre-vention**...not continuation. Same as the flu shot.

Only a couple of times in the Bible does God actually say something we are supposed to live by. It happens in the Old Testament with this Exodus passage, and it happens with Jesus a couple of times when he answers the question put to him by the rich young ruler by answering with the "add-on" to the recitation of the Law, "love the Lord your God with all your heart....*and your neighbor as yourself. On these two hang all the law and the prophets*" And when asked directly, "how should we pray?" he gives us the Lord's prayer. This coupled with the gift of the Eucharist. . . "do this to remember me" and much of the rest is instruction that comes under the heading of "if you listen and choose wisely, you will do this" and we gather together in the Lord's name on every Sunday to take a look at what those choices are and what we should be choosing.



Memorial at Jamestown, Virginia, to the Rev. Robert Hunt, who held the first Church of England services in America in 1607.

So...like the flu shot, you can choose to get one and be relatively safe from getting a flu this season that could make you terribly ill, or even kill you...or you can take your chances that you won't get sick...or give it to anyone else who might not be as lucky as you are.

So...like when God says this is something I expect you to do in order to be in a right relationship with me...you can choose to do that, to the best of your ability...or you can ignore the ones you find too difficult, or rationalize your way out of obedience, or you can choose to do what is expected of you and understand that you already have been given the gift of eternal life by the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross...and you can live a life of gratitude and service to others...who are counting on you to be the bearer of the Good News...that the flu shot that God offers is sometimes uncomfortable, most times easily bearable, and always preventative. It will cause you to live a life devoted to the good of others and surrender to the will of God in your life. And you will be surrounded by people seeking to live the same way, so you will have support for your journey...and you will never be alone.

The flu shot offered at the doctor's office can't offer any of those things...but the one offered at church surely can. So...get your flu shot and don't delay. You don't want to be sick this winter. And come to church and live with others folks just like you who are struggling to get it right, often make mistakes, are always forgiven when they seek forgiveness, and live their lives inside a Grace Margin that is designed, built and maintained by God the Father who made us, Jesus the Son who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit of God who sustains us as we go forward on the Way.

With my hand on the plow,
Fr. Michael+

St. Francis Day

Don't Forget!!! The Blessing of the Animals is this Sunday, the 5th of October at the ten o'clock service. Bring your pets, fuzzy, scaly or feathered and I will be most honored to bless them. The service will be on the plaza of the church so dress accordingly. You may want to bring an umbrella for some shade, since the sun can be a bit much to sit under for the service.

See you there!
Fr. Michael+

The “2014” Fund

We are very close to realizing the goal of raising \$15,000 for this year’s budget by October 12th. If you have not given, please do. If you cannot give, continue to pray for those of us who can. I am absolutely confident that we will reach our goal as we are a good and generous people and when we see a need, we always respond to it.

At 5:00 pm (1700 hours) on October 12th, we will gather at Fitch Hall for an all-parish meal to celebrate the end of the campaign and the realization of our goal. Leah Olsson is organizing this supper and has sign-up sheets on the Kiosk in Fitch Hall. Please do let us know you are coming, so we will have enough room and spaghetti for all!

May God continue to bless you as you have blessed us,

Fr. Michael+

Senior Saints Luncheon

Wednesday, October
22nd, 10:30am – 1pm,
Fitch Hall

The annual fall Senior Saints Luncheon is scheduled Wednesday, October 22nd in Fitch Hall. Seniors living in care facilities, senior housing, and in homes are invited to enjoy entertainment by Junior Garcia’s band and a hearty, delicious lunch. But the most important part of the luncheon may be getting personal attention from members of our parish who set aside time to visit with our honored guests.



Senior Saints Luncheon archives

Facilities begin delivering their residents at 10:30AM, and as they are settling in at tables, entertainment starts and lasts until lunch is served at noon.

A sign-up sheet for parish attendees is posted on the kiosk in Fitch Hall. If you can spare time to attend the Senior Saints event, even for a little while, please sign your name on the list and join us in welcoming and hosting our guests. For more information, please call Ron Pace, Outreach Chair, 733-1150 or Molly Gerald, 737-1809.

Thank you, the Outreach Ministry Team.

All Saints & All Souls Day

Sunday, November 2 will be our observation of All Saints and All Souls Day. In past years, we have celebrated All Souls Day on the 1 of November, (which is All Souls Day) but this year, since the next day is a Sunday, I thought we should do them together. I think the reading of the names of those who have gone before us will be that much more meaningful with so many people at the service. This means that about three weeks in advance Elizabeth will put out the lists of those names to be read at the service. Please check the names to make sure they are there and spelled correctly, and add to the lists any names you wish to have read who are members of your families who have died in the year past; or add new names to the list for those of you who are new to the church.

WE will have the lists available on the 12th, 19th and 26th of October. After that, we will not be able to add names to the printed list, as we will have to put them into form for the service.



Contrary to longstanding theory, most of the land Jamestown stood on was not washed away by the James River in the 18th century. The foundations of the first church building were found here. The statue in the background is of John Smith.

Fr. Michael+

Miss Ella and The World Series

I am not a sentimental person. I am not given to fits of nostalgia. Neither was Miss Ella, my Grandma. She did like most traditions. Christmas and Easter were considered untouchable. Birthdays were always celebrated, and there were other holiday traditions that were up for at least a slight change or two. But there were other traditions that were celebrated and one is coming up as I write this.

The men of The Big House could hardly wait for October and the World Series. Grandma called it the World "Serious." (Grandma had a way of mangling words and no matter how many times she was told that the word was "Series", she persisted and, as was the usual reaction to her stubborn belief that the word was "Serious", everyone threw up their hands and left her to it.) In many ways, Grandma was right. It WAS serious, at least to the men of The Big House. Now Irish Auntie loved it, too, and, in time, I came to love it.

There were "serious" preparations for this yearly event. Shopping had to be done. Food had to be prepared. The house must be rearranged so that there was room for everyone to be seated. The Greeks always came over and, even though they didn't understand the game no matter how many times The Uncles explained it, they loved the food and the cheering and that it made everyone so happy. They would turn to one of The Uncles when Grandpa cheered and say, "Is good thing?" and The Uncle would say it was and all the Greeks would cheer.

All the ladies of the neighborhood would come over to help Grandma and Irish Auntie prepare for the many days that the celebration went on. Mrs. Wong, who worked all day in their laundry, came at night to help Grandma make sandwiches. The "beautiful Greek maidens" made cookies and candy and, of course, there would be Grandma's Bundt Cakes and her melt-in-your-mouth divinity. Grandpa brought in beer and was assured by Grandma that there would be smoking allowed in the living room. (She hated it, but it was only once a year, so she guessed it was okay as long as they didn't flick their ashes on her rug.)

And so the great day arrived and all up and down the block you could hear radios turned up to blaring, although nobody was at home. They were all at The Big House eating. The only house that didn't have any sound was the Greek house across the street. They never bought a radio. Grandpa said it was because they just liked to come over to be with us. I think he was right. We sort of became their family and they loved us as their own. I liked that.

I sat on Grandpa's lap as usual and everyone else sat in chairs or on big pillows or lounged on the floor. The Uncles sat with "the beautiful Greek maidens" and Irish Auntie ran back and forth between the living room and the kitchen with platters of sandwiches and glasses of beer and ashtrays (Grandma's plan was to save her rug) and we all leaned forward and listened intently. The voice from the big Zenith

radio said, "And it's strike three and he goes down looking." Looking at what I wondered and what was he striking three times? I asked Grandpa and he said, "Shhhh!" Later he explained to me and the Greeks what the man was talking about. Once in awhile, Grandpa and The Uncles would cheer and the Greeks would ask The Uncles, "Is good to cheer?" and The Uncles would say it was and so the Greeks would all cheer because it seemed to make Grandpa so happy and they loved and admired Grandpa. I think this was in 1934, because I couldn't have been more than about three or four years old and as nearly as I recall, either the Cardinals or the Tigers won. I hoped the birds would win because it didn't seem fair to me that poor little birdies were being set upon by Tigers.

By 1936, I was a hardened case. I knew more about baseball than I knew about Dick and Jane and their adventures. A few years after that, Mama's Daddy taught me arithmetic by teaching me how to compute batting averages and when I first started dating my husband-to-be, our dates were mostly at baseball games. I wowed him by showing him how to compute batting averages. It's why he married me. Thank you, Mama's Daddy.

I also became a dyed-in-the-wool New York Yankees fan. I loved Babe Ruth, but I worshiped Lou Gehrig. He is still my number one hero. But as all women do so well, I changed my mind and fell in love with the Boston Red Sox and my second place hero became Ted Williams. He was arrogant, edgy, caustic, refused to tip his cap in the traditional way when crossing home plate after a home run. I adored him and still do. The only thing that clouded that lovely memory was that the Red Sox never seemed to win the World Series. But miracles do happen and when I had moved back to Texas to take care of my mother, I was rewarded by an amazing Red Sox win. I was stunned and thought I was dreaming until my son called and my brother called and there were emails from friends who knew how much it meant to me.

And so, here we are again. It's World "Serious" time and I admit to being overcome with nostalgia. Everyone who gathered in the living room of The Big House is gone. But they are as real to me as they ever were. I hear them when there is a good play and I can see The Uncles explaining the game to the Greeks. I see Irish Auntie and her platters of sandwiches, lingering to hear the game until Grandma yells for her to come back to the kitchen. I see my two Grandpa's happiness and I am back to another time of radios and Yankees and Giants and Cardinals and Tigers and all the rest. I still love my Red Sox and hope to see them win just one more.

I love this American tradition. It's one thing that binds us together as Americans. Little else seems to do it as well. Ready for the next game and I'm still saying, "Well, we won at least one, even if we never win another one." I love this game. You might say that I'm "serious" about it. Okay, America. PLAY BALL!

Dede Dunn

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 8:00 AM and 10:00AM

Church Office Hours
 Monday - Thursday 10 AM - 4 PM

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www.stmaryslompoc.org



Gethin Hughes	10/01
Francheska Hapil	10/02
Dee Lonnon	10/08
Joe Gonzales	10/14
Peggy Fields	10/15
Sonia Culmer	10/16
William Brennan	10/17
Leah Olsson	10/18
Stephen Straight	10/18
Stuart Twells	10/18
Heather Quinn	10/21
Frank Longley	10/29
Kristina Failing	10/30



**Many Hands Make
 Light Work**

**Please join us for a Work
 Party on Saturday, October
 11th, at 8:30 AM.** You can
 help with the gardening, vacu-
 uming the sanctuary, changing
 light bulbs, or many other
 things that help keep the
 church going!

Financial Statement As of August 31, 2014

Undesignated checking & savings \$76,204
Designated Checking \$47,091

	Actual Aug '14	Actual Jan - Aug '14	Budget Jan - Aug '14
Income	\$27,342	\$195,913	\$211,368
Expenses	\$24,826	\$205,691	\$212,810
Net income/(loss)	\$2,516	(\$9,778)	(\$1,442)

Prayers of the People

We ask that you hold these persons in your Daily Prayers.

Lord, open our hearts to your perfect will, that we may faithfully intercede on behalf of those we bring to you now in prayer:

**Beverly Anderson, Julia Anderson, George Bowman, Gisele Boyd-Snee,
Don and Irene Cunningham, Helen Down, Isla Hill, Sheila Holley,
Sally Jones, Shelie Jackson, Stan Sheldon, Richard Newcomb,
Gerry Pittenger,**

And those serving in the armed forces remembered by our parishioners:
**Alana, Allan, Bill, Carl, Carlos, Eddie, Ericka, Gustavo, James, Jason,
John. Josh, Kevin, Kimberly, Matthew, Michael, Nicholas, Paige,
Patrick, Robert, Ryan, Virginia, and Whitney.**

AMEN.

Please Note:

Prayers of the People will be updated monthly. If you would like to add or continue a name to the POP, please fill out a Prayer Request slip or Pew card, submit via our website www.stmaryslompoc.org call any of our Prayer Ring members, or email Stephanie Bastian at jeffnsteph95@msn.com. Thank you!

*“Whenever two of you on earth agree in prayer,
it will be done by My Father in Heaven.”*
Matthew 18:19