





**IN OUR PARISH**

- April 20 .....6:45 p.m..... Rosary
- April 22 .....6:45 p.m..... Rosary
- April 24 .....9:00 a.m..... Rosary



St. Vincent de Paul Society is open for business at these times:

- 1st Thursday from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- 3rd Thursday from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
- If an emergency, call Fr. Mike at 937-403-2510.

**NEWS AROUND THE PARISH**

1. On May 1st at the 3:30 p.m. Mass, St. Benignus Ladies Auxiliary will sponsor a May Crowning of Mary. All members are encouraged to attend.



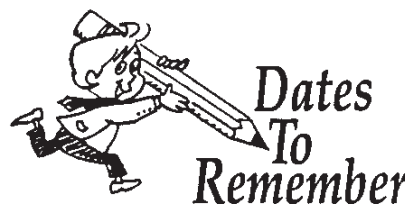
2. **RUMMAGE SALE** will take place Friday, June 4th and Saturday, June 5th at 9:00 a.m. If you still have items to drop off and need to get into the Religious Ed Building, call Barb Hidy at 937-546-0511.



3. St. Benignus Ladies Auxiliary is sponsoring a Ladies Nite Out on Tuesday, April 20th at Dakota Steak House on Harry Sauner Road in Hillsboro. Meet between 5:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. RSVP to Frances Detwiller at 937-981-3193 or JoAnne Fitchpatrick at 937-780-8119.



His Excellency, Archbishop Dennis Schnurr, will be celebrating Mass for all parishioners of St. Mary Hillsboro and St. Benignus Greenfield on Saturday, June 12th at 4:30 p.m. at the Richard Blankenship Farm, 9460 SR 124 in Hillsboro. Richard is a new member of St. Benignus Church. I really want a large crowd there to greet the Archbishop of Cincinnati as he visits his flock in Highland County for the very first time. **HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO DO: BRING A LAWN CHAIR AND A SIDE DISH OF EITHER A DESSERT OR CASSEROLE OR VEGETABLE.** Meat and Drinks will be provided. This is the first time an Archbishop has ever said a Farm Mass for Highland County's two greatest Catholic Churches. This is historic and truly a media event. Don't miss it!



1. SVdP meetings: Second Sundays, 1:00 p.m.
2. Parish Council meetings: Second Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.
3. St. Benignus K of C meetings: First Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
4. Ladies Auxiliary meeting, 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

**TODAY IN HISTORY**

50 YEARS AGO, APRIL 17TH....Fr. Lawler was thrilled with The Easter collection of a whopping \$502.60. He thanked the fine job of the organist who played during Easter celebrations – Ann Marie Hays. (She still plays pretty good in 2010 as Ann Marie Gunderman).

25 YEARS AGO, APRIL 14TH....Fr. Minic thanked the parishioners for a generous Easter Collection of \$1,037.85.

10 YEARS AGO, APRIL 16TH...This was Palm Sunday in 2000. On Holy Thursday Night the new St. Benignus Bell Tower Carillon was dedicated right after the 7:30 p.m. Rosary. The Ladies Auxiliary gave \$5,000.00 towards this project.



## THE SNEEZE

They walked in tandem, each of the ninety-two students  
filing into the already crowded auditorium. With their rich  
maroon gowns flowing and the traditional caps, they looked almost as  
grown up as they felt.

Dads swallowed hard behind broad smiles, and  
Moms freely brushed away tears.

This class would NOT pray during the commencements,  
not by choice,  
but because of a recent court ruling prohibiting it.

The principal and several students were careful  
to stay within the guidelines allowed by the ruling.  
They gave inspirational and challenging speeches,  
but no one mentioned divine  
guidance and no one asked for blessings on the  
graduates or their families.

The speeches were nice, but they were routine  
until the final speech received a standing ovation.

A solitary student walked proudly to the  
microphone.  
He stood still and silent for just a moment,  
and then,  
it happened.

All 92 students,  
every single one of them,  
suddenly SNEEZED!!!!

The student on stage simply looked at the  
audience and said,

"GOD BLESS YOU"

And he walked off the stage...

The audience exploded into applause.  
This graduating class had found a unique way to invoke  
God's blessing on  
their future with or without the court's approval.

Isn't this a wonderful story?  
Pass it on to all  
your friends.....and

GOD BLESS YOU!!!!

This is a true story; it happened at the  
University of Maryland.

## FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR APRIL 18TH

My heart sank when I went to our St. Mary cemetery. The 120-year-old Corpus of Jesus lay in pieces on the ground. The Body of Christ still breaks today in so many ways. People can be cruel to each other. Family members who should love can also be so mean. Sometimes I lack the gentle spirit of patience, kindness, acceptance, and tolerance of Jesus. When Jesus hung on the Cross He saw all the ways His people would continue to hurt Him long after He left that Cross – even to the very vandals who destroyed the bodily sign of His Love in the cemetery.

The most wonderful thing about Jesus is that He never returned injury for injury or hatred with hatred. The more we hurt Him, the more He loved. He used His Supreme Power not for Divine revenge but for Divine Mercy.

There was a holy monk who saw a scorpion floundering around in the water. He decided to save it by stretching out his finger, but the scorpion stung him. The man still tried to get the scorpion out of the water, but the scorpion stung him again.

A man nearby told him to stop saving the scorpion that kept stinging him. But the monk said: "It is the nature of the scorpion to sting. It is my nature to love. Why should I give up my nature to love just because it is the nature of the scorpion to sting?" Jesus says even when people around you sting you, don't give up your loving. Don't give up your goodness.

Never underestimate the power of love. Love can soften the hardest heart and warm the coldest soul for God.

Most of you remember John Wayne as an actor. You may not know what happened to him before he died. Wayne was battling lung cancer which sorely tested his faith in God. He was weakening in faith as the cancer strengthened its grip.

Evangelist Robert Schuller's teenage daughter, Cindy, was in a motorcycle accident and had to have her leg amputated. John Wayne was a big fan of Robert Schuller.

John Wayne wrote a note to her saying: "Dear Cindy, sorry to hear about your accident. Hope you will be all right." Signed, John Wayne

The note was delivered to her and she decided she wanted to write John Wayne a note in reply. She wrote: "Dear Mr. Wayne, I got your note. Thanks for writing to me. I like you very much. I am going to be all right because Jesus is going to help me. Mr. Wayne, do you know Jesus? I sure hope you know Jesus, Mr. Wayne, because I cannot imagine Heaven being complete without John Wayne being there. I hope, if you don't know Jesus, that you will give your heart to Jesus. See you in Heaven." And she signed her name. She had just put that letter in an envelope, sealed it, and written across the front of it "John Wayne" when a visitor came into her room to see her.

He said to her, "What are you doing?"

She said, "I just wrote a letter to John Wayne, but I don't know how to get it to him."

He said, "That's funny, I am going to have dinner with John Wayne tonight at the Newport Club down at Newport Beach. Give it to me and I will give it to him."

She gave him the letter and he put it in his coat pocket.

There were twelve of them that night sitting around the table for dinner. They were laughing and cutting up and the guy happened to reach in his pocket and felt that letter and remembered. John Wayne was seated at the end of the table and the guy took the letter out and said, "Hey, Duke, I was in Schuller's daughter's room today and she wrote you a letter and wanted me to give it to you. Here it is."

They passed it down to John Wayne and he opened it. They kept on laughing and cutting up and someone happened to look down at John Wayne. He was crying. One of them said, "Hey, Duke, what is the matter?"

He said, "I want to read you this letter." He read the letter. Then he began to weep. He folded it, put it in his pocket, and he pointed to the man who delivered it to him and said, "You go tell that little girl that right now, in this restaurant, right here, John Wayne gives his heart to Jesus Christ and I will see her in heaven."

The loving courage of that young girl who lost a leg restored his faith. Three weeks later, John Wayne died.

May we all have the courage to keep loving in spite of the stings....

