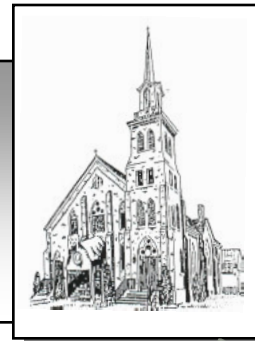


Saint Mary's Parish

A Welcoming Oasis of Love, Peace, and Outreach



Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 19, 2007

Our Parish Office

32 East Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Other times by appointment
Office: 607-776-3327
Fax: 607-776-3409
Email: bstmaryc@dor.org

Our Parish Staff

Deacon Ray Defendorf

Pastoral Administrator
E-mail: RDefendorf@DOR.org

Rev. Peter Anglaere

Regional Parish Priest
E-mail: peteranglae@yahoo.com

Fr. John Wydeven

Weekend Assistance

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Parish Deacon - 776-3258

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E-Mail: BBailey@DOR.org

Elie Boutwell/Brent Franklin

Summer Organist/Keyboard

Michele Ferrara

Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor
E-Mail: MFerrara@DOR.org

Karen Grimmer

Parish Life/Social Ministry Coord.
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George Hoffman

Custodian

Mary Carol Wall

Youth Ministry/Faith Formation
Coordinator - 776-6944

E-Mail: Avocawalls@usadatanet.net

Our Parish Council

William MacNamara

Chairperson - 556-3690

Rosemary States

Vice-Chairperson - 776-7520

Mary McConnell

Secretary - 776-3265

Jim Gallagher

Stewardship Chairperson - 776-6810

Sean McKinley - 329-4436

Barbara Perry - 776-6920

Kathy Warren - 776-4074

The Basics of Islam

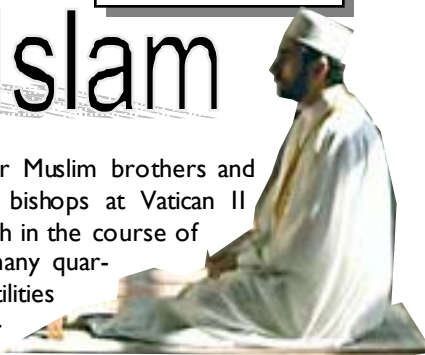
A few weeks ago in this column, I mentioned the importance of obtaining knowledge of the beliefs of others. To often, we form opinions and beliefs about others based on stereotypes. Since 9/11, many have stereotyped those who practice Islam, based on the actions of the most fanatical of its followers.

But just as it would be erroneous to paint all Roman Catholics or all Protestants with the same brush, we must not fall into the erroneous belief that ALL Moslems are alike. Hopefully, the more we know, the less we stereotype. The less we stereotype, the better shot we have at understanding and the mutual respect that leads to cooperation and peace. For, it is likely that you already know several people who practice Islam - perhaps your physician, the owner of a store where you shop or a hotel where your guests stay when visiting our area.

In preparing this series of articles, I've pulled together information from several sources to provide some basic information about Islam. Each week, for the next several weeks, these articles will cover the history, leadership, and tenets of Islam including information about the Qu'ran and the Five Pillars of Islam—the essential duties that every Muslim must perform. My desire is that you will undertake some reading and exploration of your own.

While most of us know little about beliefs other than our own, there are 1.2 billion Muslims in the world, compared to about 1.5 billion Christians, one billion of whom are Catholic. The Muslims we hear most about in the news are fundamentalists who in no way represent the Muslims living in our communities. Our challenge as Catholics is to get to know

more about our Muslim brothers and sisters. As the bishops at Vatican II wrote, "Although in the course of the centuries many quarrels and hostilities have arisen between Christians and Muslims, this sacred Synod urges all to forget the past and to strive sincerely for mutual understanding."



Deacon Ray

The Prophet Mohammed

Unlike Christians, who believe in the Trinity and that Jesus was the Son of God, Muslims believe that the Holy Prophet Mohammad (570-632) was not Divine, but a man like Adam, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon and Jesus. Muslims believe that Mohammed was the last of the great prophets to receive divine revelation. Muslims believe that the revelation given to Mohammed in the Quran (sometimes spelled Koran) is God's Word.

Mohammad was born in Mecca (in what is now Saudi Arabia) in 570. When Mohammad grew up he became a merchant, traveling as far as Yemen and Syria. On these long journeys, Mohammad mixed with Christians and Jews and was attracted to the notion of One God. He believed that Arabians, who at the time worshiped many gods should know that there was in fact, only one true God, who was revealed to him as Allah.

Social injustices within the Arabic tribes were a source of great concern to Mohammed who witnessed the unjust distribution of wealth and the plight of the masses of people who had no access to food, clothing and shelter in the harsh climate of the desert.

Continued on Page Three

Summer Mass/Communion/Reconciliation

Parish Celebrations of the Lord's Day

Saturday - 4:00 p.m. ♦ Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday ♦ Wednesday ♦ Thursday - 5:00 p.m.

♦ Friday 9:00 a.m.

Scripture/Communion Services

Monday - 9:00 a.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

1st and 3rd Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.



A member of the
**Central Steuben
Catholic Parishes**



LITURGICAL CALENDAR

SUNDAY August 26, 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Diane Hafek
By Rita Dwyer

MONDAY August 27, Monica
9:00 a.m. Communion Service

TUESDAY August 28, Augustine, bishop, doctor
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Ema Ilk
By Hilda Volz

WEDNESDAY August 29, Martyrdom of John the Baptist
5:00 p.m. In Memory, Phyllis Sharlow
By Edna Freidland

THURSDAY August 30, Weekday
5:00 p.m. For the People of the Parish

FRIDAY August 31, Weekday
9:00 a.m. In Thanksgiving for the Youth of our Parish

SATURDAY September 1, Weekday
3:30 p.m. Reconciliation
4:00 p.m. In Memory, Dr. Julius Ogden
By Mr. & Mrs. Ted Stellwag

SUNDAY September 2, 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:30 a.m. In Memory, Jeannine Henderson
By Nancy Jones

There are many Mass intentions available.
(Stipend \$10). Please call the office to schedule.
Weekday Mass/Communion in our New Visitation Chapel



SAINT MARY'S PARISH
"A Parish of Very Good Stewards"
Thank you for - Making Parish a Priority!
August 18/19

Sacrificial Gifts totaled: \$ 1,949.50 THANK YOU!
2nd Collection for Can and Quarter: \$317.20
Holy Day Collection: \$496.00
This week's second collection: Maintenance
Next weeks second collection: Ghanian Scholarship Fund

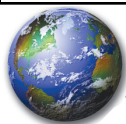


Assembly Schedule

August 25- Sat. 4:00 p.m. - Lake Country Disciples
August 26- Sun. 9:30 a.m. - Willing Hearts

To form or join an assembly, call 776-3327

Assembly Information Meeting Today (Sunday) at 11 a.m.



Our Bishops Speak on Global Warming

The most profound and serious indication of the moral implications underlying the ecological problem is the lack of respect for life evident in many of the patterns of environmental pollution. (Pope John Paul II, 1990 World Day of Peace Message, no. 7, on www.vatican.va)



PARISH LIFE CALENDAR

SUNDAY August 26
9:00 a.m. Willing Hearts Summer Choir Practice, Chapel
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101

MONDAY August 27
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall

TUESDAY August 28

WEDNESDAY August 29
6:00 p.m. Tae Kwon Do, O'Malley Hall

THURSDAY August 30
5:30 p.m. Weight Watchers, O'Malley Hall

FRIDAY August 31
8:00 a.m. Youth Group Rummage Sale

SATURDAY September 1
8:00 a.m. Youth Group Rummage Sale
1:00 p.m. NA, Room 101

SUNDAY September 2
7:00 p.m. AA, Room 101



Happy Birthday To You

08/26 Mitchel Alger	08/31 Henry Cullen
08/28 Sheri Neu	08/31 Grace Carter
08/28 Sean McLaughlin	09/01 Robert Shaner
08/29 Carey Muller	09/01 Dominic Venuti
08/29 Robert Watches	09/01 Florence McBride
08/31 Amy Marling	

STEWARDSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Your Gifts of Time and Talent are Needed



Liturgical Assemblies

Three new Liturgical Assemblies have been formed to serve at our Saturday and Sunday Masses and a fourth is in the works. Each team includes people to serve as greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, cross bearers, and ushers. Both individuals and family groups are needed. You may either form your own group with family and friends or let us assign you to a new or existing Assembly. Organizational help and training will be provided in September. If you missed last weekends information sessions but would like to be placed in an Assembly, please call the office, 776-3327.

R.C.I.A. Team

A team is forming to journey with prospective Catholic Christians as they prepare for Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. The team will meet on Tuesday, September 5 at 7 p.m. in Deacon Ray's Office for prayer and planning, then meet weekly with Catechumens and Candidates for full membership in the Catholic Church. Team members will fill a variety of roles including, teaching, faith sharing and hospitality. This is not only a great way to share your faith, but also grow in your knowledge of the faith. People who have recently joined our parish family through the R.C.I.A. process are especially encouraged to participate. For information or to join this team, please contact Deacon Ray 776-3327.



SENT TO SERVE

Notes from Deacon Ray Defendorf

Stress Management

A lecturer, when explaining stress management to an audience, raised a glass of water and asked, "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 20g to 500g.

The lecturer replied,

"The absolute weight doesn't matter.

It depends on how long you try to hold it.

If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem.

If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm.

If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance.

In each case, it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

He continued,

"And that's the way it is with stress management. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden."

In spite of our great faith, and even though we know that God is always close by to help us carry our burdens, we humans cannot escape occasional periods of stress and anxiety. If we are fortunate enough to be able to let down the burdens of job and responsibility for even a brief time, we need to do so. Summertime is the time when the pace of things perhaps allows us to lay down the burdens of work and take some time to just relax. As you read this, that is what I am trying to do - relax.

As I take this week off to spend time with Pat and enjoy the blessings of family, I'll try to lay down any the burdens that have weighed down my spirit over the past months. When I return, the challenges will likely still be right where I left them. But refreshed, I'll approach them with renewed energy and optimism.

My prayer for each of you is one of gratitude for the way you have lifted me over the past months. Thank you for your great faith in God's providence which has so inspired me. Thank you for your prayers and consoling words when my brokenness has been especially visible. And thank you for remaining with me and St. Mary's when my decisions have not been to your liking.

In September, we'll begin again. It will be a time of renewed energy and spirit. I'm ready for some NEW LIFE! Isn't the cycle of life (birth, death and resurrection) what Christianity is all about?

Have a blessed week. Serve one another well.

Been waiting for an Invitation to Become a Roman Catholic?

THIS IS IT!

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 18 ✧ 7 - 8 PM

St. Mary's Visitation Chapel

The Basics of Islam

Continued from Page One

At age 40, Mohammed experienced a profoundly life-changing mystical experience. Through the mediation of the angel Gabriel, Mohammad received the first in a series of revelations, which came to him over 23 years.

Mohammad tested the authenticity of his revelations with prayer and fasting before going public with his profound religious experience. When he did, he prophesied enthusiastically using poetic Arabic chants that many believed were beyond his personal capacity to compose or contrive.

In the last years of Mohammad's life and shortly after his death in 632, Islam spread with lightning speed throughout the Middle East. By the end of the eighth century, Islam had reached central Asia and India and had spread across Mediterranean Africa and into Spain and France.

Mohammad's death brought about instability in the Islamic community which resulted in struggle and dissension among his followers that continues even today between those who followed Mohammad's son-in-law Ali (known as Shiites) and those who wished another follower, Abu Bakr, to be leader (a branch of Islam that became known as Sunni).

Next week: The Quran, a revelation of God

Building Peace with Justice

A Reflection for August 26, 2007



"I come to gather nations of every language..."

"People will come from the east and the west, the north and the south, and will take their place at the feast in the kingdom of God."

These words in today's readings are both challenging and reassuring. Challenging, in that we can not presume to have a place at the table, as Jesus told his contemporaries: "There will be wailing and grinding of teeth when - you yourselves are rejected." Reassuring, in that God's mercy reaches out to all people.

Reflection: How can we take small steps in our thinking and behavior to bring us closer to the vision of today's readings where all nationalities are welcome to the table?



Wedding Jubilee Mass

Bishop Matthew Clark will preside at the annual Wedding Jubilee Mass on Sunday, September 23, at 2:00PM at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, to honor couples who have been married 25, 30, 40, 50 or more years. A reception will follow the Mass. Contact Sylvia Mancuso 1-800-388-7177, ext. 1295 or e-mail smancuso@dor.org. Registration ends Friday, August 31.

ALICE'S REST COMFORT HOME
Annual Pig Roast and Hunting Raffle

September 29, 4-7 PM O'Malley Hall

Raffle Tickets \$10 each including Buffet



Church Name: St. Mary's Church

City, State: Bath, NY

File Name: 06-0323

Phone: 607-776-3327

Contact/Editor: Michele Ferrara or Deacon Ray Defendorf