

March 30, 2008

Bicentennial Moments

Did you know:

1. The Church Ministry Training Program began in 1981 as a response to Vatican II's call to assist the laity in their call to holiness and full participation in the mission of Jesus Christ. The two-year certificate program's goal was two fold: to serve those men discerning a vocation to the diaconate, and to prepare laity for ministry.
2. In 1999 the vision of the archdiocese for lay ministry deepened and the need for two distinct programs emerged; one to prepare men for the Diaconate, and the other to assist the laity in growing in their faith and serving the mission of the Church.
3. In 2007, CMI celebrated 25 years of assisting parishes in the education and formation of the laity with over 1600 graduates. Presently, the Church Ministry Institute, a three-year certificate program, is conveniently located in five sites through the Archdiocese: Roman Catholic High School, Bishop Shanahan High School, Lansdale Catholic High School, Archbishop Ryan High School, and St. Charles Seminary. Church Ministry Institute's school year begins each September and ends in May.

For more information, go to : <http://www.archphila.org/evangelization/formlaity/churchmin.htm>

April 6, 2008

Bicentennial Moments

Did you know:

1. That a 23 year old Sister of St. Joseph, Sr. Miriam de Lourdes, SSJ, jumped from a third floor window of the Catholic Home for Destitute Children at 29th & Allegheny Avenues to summon help for the children trapped in the building during a fire. Originally it was thought she would die from her injuries but survived thanks to many prayers.
2. That Tommy Loughran was the undefeated light heavy weight boxing champion of the world from 1927-1929. He was also a parishioner of St. Monica Parish in South Philadelphia where he attended Mass and received communion every day.
3. That ten parishes that Archbishop O'Hara founded during the 1954 Marian year were all named in honor of the Blessed Mother, under various titles and mysteries of her life.

All of this information and more is contained in "Our Faith Filled Heritage," a special history book prepared for our Bicentennial as a Diocese. Books are available in each parish or by contacting Loretta Colucci at 215-965-8190.

April 13, 2008

Bicentennial Moments

Did you know:

1. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is closing its year-long celebration of its founding as a Diocese at a special liturgy at Villanova University being celebrated by our Archbishop, Cardinal Justin Rigali. There will be hundreds of priests, deacons and religious taking part in this special Eucharistic celebration. Over 7,000 lay people from all over the Archdiocese will also participate in this Closing Mass.
2. Flags from many countries will greet those arriving at Villanova and remind us of the universal nature of the church and the diversity we possess here in our local church.
4. The theme of our year-long celebration has been ***Serving the People of God In the Beginning, Now and Always.*** Just as we look back over the great blessings of the last 200 years it is an opportunity for all of us to recommit ourselves to service in Christ Jesus now and in the years to come.
5. Next week, 3,000 people will travel to Yankee Stadium to represent the close to 1.5 million Catholics of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia at a special mass being celebrated by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI to commemorate our 200th Anniversary along with the Dioceses of Boston, New York and Bardstow (now Louisville) who are also celebrating their Bicentennials.

May 4, 2008

Bicentennial Moments

Before ascending, Jesus said to his disciples: "Go therefore and make disciples. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit who would assist them with this mission. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit filled the Apostles with a desire to share their faith. The disciples took to the streets and the church was born. All Catholics, through our baptism, are still sent on mission to share the message of Christ's love. Pentecost is the day that reminds us of our commission to share our faith.

Did you Know:

1. In 1808 the new Diocese of Philadelphia was born and included the entire states of Pennsylvania, Delaware and the western and southern parts of New Jersey.
2. The diocese included about 30,000 Catholics attended to by eleven priests. The Church in Philadelphia has now grown to 270 parishes and 1,458,462 Catholics.

Want to learn how to share your faith more effectively and how your parish can become a more vibrant, welcoming community? Contact the Coordinator for Parish Evangelization: SRLALFF@adphila.org.