A MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN NEW YORK

VOL. XLVIII OCTOBER, 1979 NO. 7
My dear People:

As this issue of AVE goes to press, I find myself thanking God from a full heart for the blessings of the past several months in our corporate life together. It has been a wonderful summer, with excellent attendance at our Sunday Masses (helped, I am sure, by the increased number of tourists in New York this summer), and fine weekday attendance as well, and I am glad to have been able to spend the greater part of these past three months right here at Saint Mary’s. Although we have had some seasonal heat and humidity, New York for the most part has been relatively comfortable this year. From that point of view we certainly were blessed in the keeping of Our Lady’s Assumption on the 15th of August. Everything worked to our benefit that day, and, with over four hundred people in attendance at Solemn Mass that night, I’m told it was one of the finest Assumption days in recent years. Father George Monroe not only preached a beautiful sermon that night, but he brought carloads of young people with him from Christ Church, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for each of whom the worship of St. Mary’s was an unforgettable experience. And how our people sang! We are proud of the Catholic Faith on West 46th Street.
As we move into October, and as we prepare once again to keep our Feast of Dedication, this year on October 7th, the clergy and people of this parish thank God for the decades upon decades of Catholic witness which have brought us to this day. We rejoice in the examples of holy priests and religious who by selfless caring have ministered Christ’s love to more souls than we will ever know, and we hold in thankful remembrance the men and women of earlier generations who saw the vision of what St. Mary’s was meant to be, and who by their lives in this place gave that vision breath. St. Mary’s is venerable yet ever new, and in this parish today there is a spirit of renewal which we believe must be nurtured if we are to pass on our heritage to those who will follow us. At the heart of our renewal there is the matter of our worship, our ascribing of worth to our Creator.

Behind The outward and visible, beyond the perfection of our liturgical worship in this parish, there is a spiritual dimension of Christian living into which we as God’s people must now move as we have never moved before. At a time when the Church around us is running after causes and issues of the day, and at a time when Episcopalians are asking anew for a Christianity which will teach them about Jesus, the deepening of our spiritual life in this parish must be of quality which will bring us to Him. This is where is all begins. Catholic worship has as its first purpose the joining of earth with heaven. To help us see this more clearly, we have already experienced some significant attempts at renewal during these summer months. Our first Holy Hour in August was wonderfully attended, on one of the hottest and most humid night of the summer. So, too, was our August Day of Recollection. Holy Hours will continue to be held on the first Friday of every month, and Days of Recollection will occur at various times throughout the year. A highpoint of renewal this year will be our Lenten Mission, to be conducted by the Bishop of Springfield. It will be the heart of our Lenten experience this year. In this as in everything else we will be recalling ourselves to the Lord of the Church, Who in fact is the only reason for our existence, and Who alone can make St. Mary’s what for the Church she ought to be. Christian worship is indeed at the heart of the matter.

Beyond this, and really because of it, St. Mary’s this year will be beginning a new commitment to Christian stewardship in a most tangible and fundamental way. The financial condition of our parish is nothing less than critical. The causes are the usual ones of living beyond one’s means, of wrongly assuming that bequests and legacies will pull us through, and that somehow we are absolved of any deep and personal stewardship of our money where the support of our parish is concerned. The truth of the matter is that, were we to continue as we have in the past, in a very few years St. Mary’s would cease to exist. Through a renewed sense of our own responsibility in this matter, and beginning with our day to day existence here in this parish, I hope within the next two years that we will indeed live within our means, and that we will begin, in a way which will take many years to perfect, a conscious and deepening commitment to the financial support of this parish. It has been done in other parishes across the country; it can and will be done here. The days of noblesse oblige are over and gone. As the twentieth century comes to an end, it is the people of God in every community who alone can and will ensure the continuing witness of the Catholic Faith. That is where things are at St. Mary’s today. I ask your prayers and sacrificial commitment to ensure that St. Mary’s will still be here tomorrow.

Some other evidences of Catholic renewal already exist in our life this Fall. St. Mary’s has once again entered into an arrangement with the General Seminary by which we will share in the field training of various theological students. One seminarian, Mr. John
Kevern, will be working in the parish this year. His first work will be liturgical, as subdeacon and lector at Solemn Mass, and he will also be involved in our newly re-formed Church School, and in our parish effort to form a 46th Street block association, as well as in other attempts by the parish to reach out to our immediate neighborhood. John is a Candidate for Holy Orders from the Diocese of Chicago, is a senior at the GTS, and will be a gift to our parish life this year. In addition, the Holy Cross Fathers are sharing in our parish life by sitting for Confessions every Friday from 5 until 6 PM, thus enabling people from the parish and beyond to use as confessors priests other than our parish clergy. Father Scott and I hear Confessions on Saturdays, and Father Ousley will be sharing in this ministry after his Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood during October.

And that of course is the other news from St. Mary’s at this time. Father Ousley’s Ordination Announcement appears elsewhere in this issue of AVE. He will be ordained to the Priesthood by the Bishop of Chicago during a Solemn Pontifical Mass here at St. Mary’s on the Feast of St. James of Jerusalem, October 23rd. The time of the Ordination Mass is 6:00 PM, and my hope is that many of our parishioners and friends will join this fine young man in this joyous event. Father came to us just before Ascension Day, and has captured our respect and affection by his quiet dignity, by his obvious piety and learning, and by the care which he has taken to become a real member of St. Mary’s family. I am personally delighted that he is here, and we all hope and pray that his ministry here will be richly blessed. Please come and share in his ordination if you can.

With this letter go my love and prayers, and the hope that you who read this AVE will be moved to identify your own spiritual life ever more deeply with that of this parish.

God bless you all.

Faithfully yours,

EDGAR F. WELLS

― "My house shall be called the house of prayer, saith the Lord: and therein whosoever asketh, shall receive: and he that seeketh shall find, and unto him that knocketh, it shall be opened."

(Communion Proper for the Dedication)
Christina education is learning to love God. It begins with Grace and ends with grace. It begins with God's gift of a revelation of Himself, and it ends when He brings us to the fullness of communion with Him in heaven.

Christian education, in the narrow sense of the term, refers to some formal instruction in the faith, such as a confirmation class or "Sunday School." There are a number of such classes at St. Mary's, ranging from the periodic classes for preparing confirmands, to the adult classes on Scripture and theology, to the recently re-formed classes for children on Sunday mornings. There are two purposes to these classes, two ways in which they help in the Christian life.

The first is the element of "content." Whatever the particular content of the course, its aim is to deepen our personal relationship with God. For such is the essence of Christian life.

In studying Scripture, for example, we learn about God's revelation to mankind. We learn what He has to say about Himself and about us: His nature, and ours. This helps us to understand His nature better, and thus to know Him better and love Him more deeply. Or again, when we study the spiritual teachings of the Fathers, we learn in practical ways about loving God and each other. The Fathers give us insights into the nature of temptation and sin, how our lives are to be based in Christ, what to do in certain situations to continue to grow in the Christian life.

In general, whatever the specific content of the course, we learn about God and ourselves. This supports Christian life because Christian life is a relationship between us and God. It is a personal relationship, so that to learn about either of the persons is something which deepens the relationship. We learn about ourselves: that we are created in God's image, that we depend upon Him for our very existence, that we have sinned and failed to be what He created us to...
be, that we are nevertheless loved without qualification, and that through Christ we can be restored and perfected in loving God and being what we are intended to be. We learn about God: His creativity, the great acts of our salvation history, the manifestation of His love in the Incarnation, the wonders of His Trinitarian nature: three persons in unity. By learning who God is—who He has revealed Himself to be—we learn to know Him better personally, and so are enabled to love Him more deeply.

The second aim of Christian education is more subtle: it has to do with the development of the power of attention which is essential to the life of prayer. In any study, but especially in Christian study, we strive to focus our attention on some particular object so as to comprehend truly and fully the nature of the object. By attending to it, we are receptive towards its character. When we study a passage of Scripture, a parable, for example, we focus our attention on the passage so that God can speak to us through the text. It is a matter of hearing the particular thing which He is trying to say in this instance.

This power of attention is developed by practice. It is very hard at first, because of the myriad distractions which beset the mind. We tend to concentrate with only a very small portion of the mind: the rest is thinking about how long the lesson will take, what I am going to cook for supper, whether the Giants will win, and that I must remember to water the begonia downstairs when I get up. In learning to pay attention to a text, we gently learn to put such distractions aside, and use more and more of the mind for the task at hand. Attention is learned by practice, by making the effort to attend and concentrate on the text. For this reason no effort of attention is ever wasted, even if we fail to understand that which we are studying.

The focusing of attention which is learned in Christian study is equally central in the Christian spiritual life. Prayer is based on attention. By attending to God, we are able to be open to Him, to be receptive of His love and thus enter into a deeply personal relationship with Him. Distraction is for many the chronic condition of prayer: the antidote is the development of attention. This is developed during the times of prayer, to be sure, but it is also developed whenever we make the effort to pay attention, especially in study. By paying attention we become more "attentive": more receptive to the reality around us, and better able to do what we have to do with all our being at every moment.

D.A.O.

PARISH NOTES

Summer activities at Saint Mary's included a parish picnic in July on the grounds of the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. In August the practice of "First Friday" Devotions was begun with Holy Hour. Father Wells gave a meditation and Holy Hour concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. These devotions are continuing each month. A parish Day of Recollection was held on the 18th of August at the Church. It provided an opportunity for people to pause for a while, and be quiet, and reflect on their Christian life as individuals and as a parish family. Thanks to some hardworking parishioners, the Sacristy has a new coat of paint. These volunteers are also cleaning, plastering, and painting a room in the Rectory for use as an auxiliary sacristy, for the possible future storage of vestments now in the damp of the Church basement.

Among the summer's guest preachers were the Rev'd George Monroe of Christ Church, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on the Feast of the Assumption; the Rev'd William Crary of Saint Vincent's Church, Euless, Texas; and the Rev'd Canon Douglas Webster of Saint Paul's Cathedral, London. The Right Rev'd James Montgomery, Bishop of Chicago, was here to sing Solemn Mass on Pentecost X. This fall, Saint Mary's is undertaking a new stewardship program. Our parishioners will hopefully be involved in an all-parish attempt at deepening our commitment to and understanding of Christian stewardship. Preparations have begun for the Preaching Mission to be held at Saint Mary's in Lent of next year. The Right Rev'd Albert Hillestad, Bishop of Springfield, will be here to preach and direct the mission.

The parish choir and orchestra held several recording sessions early in the summer, which will result in two records. The first re-
cord, Alessandro Scarlatti’s *Messa di Sancta Cecilia* (1720) for soloists, chorus, and string orchestra is due for release in October and will be available from the St. Francis de Sales Bookshop. -- On the initiative of the Parish Council, Saint Mary’s is helping to organize a block association of the residents and merchants on Forty-sixth Street. -- Fr. Wells conducted the Long Retreat for the Eastern Province of the Community of St. Mary in August and has been asked by the sisters to serve as their Provincial Chaplain for the next three years. -- A Sunday School is being formed for the children of the parish. It will complement the Adult Class, which also meets between the nine and eleven o’clock masses. -- The national meeting of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament and the Guild of All Souls is to be held at Saint Mary’s on November 11th. The highlight will be a Solemn Mass celebrated in the presence of the Bishop of Fond du Lac, the Right Rev’d William Brady.

**ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS**

October 7 – Dedication, Rufus McIntosh, R.I.P.
October 14 – Pentecost XIX
October 18 – St. Luke the Evangelist, Wallace and Florence Brackett, R.I.P.
October 21 – Pentecost XX, Edgar and Hallie Wilson, R.I.P.
October 28 – Pentecost XXI, Frances Nash, R.I.P.

**ALTAR FLOWER MEMORIALS** may be given by anyone who desires to do so, and at any time except the seasons of Advent (save for Advent III) and Lent (save for Lent IV). It is perfectly permissible to give flowers on the same Sunday or weekday when other commemorations are being made. Should you care to share in this work, please phone our parish secretary on any weekday between 9 and 4: 757-6750.

**MUSIC FOR OCTOBER**

October 7 – DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH
Missa Choralis ........................................ Franz Liszt (1811-1886)
5:30 p.m. Donald George, organ

On Thursday, October 18, 1979, McNeil Robinson will play an organ recital at the Covington Presbyterian Church in Covington, Virginia.
CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

1. M. St. Remigius, Bishop of Rheims, c. 530
2. Tu. Holy Guardian Angels
3. W. St. Teresa of Lisieux, 1897
4. Th. St. Francis of Assisi, Friar, 1226
5. F. REQUIEM

7. Su. THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH
   SOLEMN MASS WITH PROCESSION, 11 a.m.

8. M.
10. W. St. Paulinus, First Archbishop of York, 709
11. Th. REQUIEM
12. F. St. Wilfrid, Archbishop of York, 709

14. Su. PENTECOST XIX
15. M. St. Teresa of Avila, 1582
16. Tu. REQUIEM
17. W. St. Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch & Martyr, c. 115
18. Th. SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST
19. F. Henry Martyn, Priest, 1812
20. Sa. OF OUR LADY

21. Su. PENTECOST XX
22. M.
23. Tu. SAINT JAMES OF JERUSALEM
   Solemn Pontifical Mass & Ordination, 6 p.m.
24. W. St. Raphael the Archangel
25. Th. REQUIEM
26. F. St. Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons, 899
27. Sa. OF OUR LADY

28. Su. PENTECOST XXI
29. M. SAINT SIMON & SAINT JUDE, APOSTLES (Transferred)
30. Tu.
31. W. Vigil of All Saints

SUNDAYS

Morning Prayer ........................................ 7:10 a.m.
Mass ........................................ 7:30, 10:00 a.m., and 5 p.m.
Family Mass & Church School .......................... 9:00 a.m.
Solemn Mass with Sermon .............................. 11:00 a.m.
Evensong and Benediction .............................. 6:00 p.m.
   (preceded by an organ recital at 5:30 p.m.)

WEEKDAYS

Morning Prayer ........................................ 7:10 a.m. (11:40 a.m. Saturdays)
Mass daily ........................................ 7:30 a.m.,* 12:10 and 6:20 p.m.
   *Except Saturdays
Evening Prayer .......................................... 6:00 p.m.

FIRST FRIDAY

Holy Hour ............................................... 7 p.m.

Other services during the week and on festivals
   as announced on the preceding Sunday

CONFESSIONS
   DAILY, 12:40 - 1 p.m.
   FRIDAY, 5-6 p.m.
   SATURDAY, 2-3 and 5-6 p.m.
   SUNDAY, 8:40 - 9 a.m.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the cost of AVE are gratefully acknowledged:
The Rev'd William Wetherell, $5; The Rev’d Wayne L. Smith, $10;
Mrs. V. H. K. Moorhouse, $10; The Rev’d Edward Garrigan, $10;
Mr. Larry C. Lewis, $25; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond McClary, $6; Mr.
John T. Putnam, $5; Mr. & Mrs. Jack Ousley, $10; The Rev’d Warren
C. Platt, $5; The Rev’d Fred W. Trumbore, $15; Mr. John Sully, $5;
Mr. John L. McCausland, $500; Dr. & Mrs. Roger A. Rovelstad, $25;
Dr. Ruth Meyer, $5; Mr. James B. Robinson, $20; The Rev’d Frederick
Hill, $5; The Rev’d Harry E. Rahming, $20; Miss Dorothy Hahn,
$10; Mr. Robert W. Saracena, $25; Mrs. W. K. Earle, $50.
New Friends
Dr. & Mrs. Roger Rovelstad  Mr. John L. McCauslanc
St. Cloud, Minnesota  Chicago, Illinois
Friends will be remembered at the altar on the patronal feast and on the first Friday of every Month. Be with us in spirit!

SAINT MARY’S PARISH COUNCIL
AN ELECTED COUNCIL of parishioners whose purpose is to aid in implementing various parish projects both within the congregation and the community. Meetings, announced beforehand, are open to all parishioners and friends.

***

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
CLASSES are held for study and discussion. Sunday mornings at 9:45 and during the week as announced. All are welcome. Individual instruction can be arranged with the clergy.

***

SAINT VINCENT’S GUILD
ACOLYTES at the high altar on Sundays and feasts, and those who serve on weekdays. Communicants who wish to serve should speak to the Clergy.

***

SAINT RAPHAEL’S GUILD
USHERS at parish services, Sunday mornings and evenings, and on feasts. Communicants who can help should speak to the Head Usher.

***

SAINT MARTIN’S GUILD
TOURS of the church are conducted after Sunday Solemn Mass. Volunteers will be trained for this mission of welcome.

***

BROTHER LAURENCE GUILD
KITCHEN helpers for refreshments after Solemn Mass and for occasions when meals are served. Volunteers are needed for this mission of fellowship.

***

SAINT MARY’S GUILD
SACRED VESSELS AND VESTMENTS are cared for by communicants working together on Saturday afternoons. Speak to the Clergy.

DEVO TIONAL SOCIETIES
SAINT MARY’S WAR DS of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, the Guild of All Souls, and the Society of Mary are open to all communicants.

***

PARISH LIBRARY

***

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES SHOP
BOOKS MAY BE BOUGHT at the shop next to the parish hall after Sunday Solemn Mass. There are also crucifixes, rosaries, medals, and other aids to devotion. Orders may be placed by mail.

***

SAINT MARY’S PUBLICATIONS
A tribute to Saint Mary’s, Dr. John Macquarrie’s articles on Benediction, Stations and Saint Mary’s: $0.50 (mailing 15¢)
Music at Saint Mary’s, James L. Palsgroves’s historical review with music lists today: $0.50 (mailing 25¢)
Worship in Spirit and Truth, papers at the 1970 liturgical conference on the Proposed Prayer Book: $2.95 (Mailings 60¢)
Vêpres du Commun, Marcel Dupré’s organ antiphons played at Saint Mary’s by McNeil Robinson: stereophonic: $6.95 (Mailings 80¢)
A Walk around Saint Mary’s, self-guided tour of the church and chapels, with plan: 25¢ (mailing 15¢)
Picture postcards: interior and exterior in color: 15¢ each
New York State residents, add state/local tax
Order from the Saint Francis de Sales Shop

***

REMEMBER SAINT MARY’S IN YOUR WILL
BEQUESTS may be made in the following form:
“I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Society of the Free Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, and having its principal office at 145 West Forty-sixth Street, New York City, [here state the nature or amount of the gift].”
THE CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
New York City

CLERGY

THE REVEREND EDGAR F. WELLS, Rector
THE REVEREND DAVID A. OUSLEY
THE REVEREND JOHN L. SCOTT
THE REVEREND DONALD L. GARFIELD, Rector Emeritus

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE REVEREND EDGAR F. WELLS, President
G. EDWARD MUELLER, Vice President
PHILIP W. CALLANAN, Secretary
IRVING P. GRAEB, JR., Treasurer
JAMES P. GREGORY
RAY KIRBY
CHARLES ARTHUR SCHAEFER
JOHN Z. HEADLEY

Parish founded 1868 Church built 1894

DIRECTORY

CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN
139 West 46th Street, New York
(East of Times Square, between 6th and 7th Avenues)
Church open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
except Saturday, open from 11 a.m.

RECTORY
144 West 47th Street, New York
THE REVEREND EDGAR F. WELLS, Rector
THE REVEREND DAVID A. OUSLEY, Curate
(212) 757-6750

PARISH OFFICE
145 West 46th Street, New York, New York 10036
Office hours from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday - Friday, except legal holidays
(212) 757-6750

MISSION HOUSE
133 West 46th Street, New York
Mr. Otto Meyn, Sexton
(212) 757-3962
The Evangelical and Catholic Mission
The Reverend James Wattley
(212) 398-9745

The Rev'd John L. Scott ......................... 575-9214
Mr. Irving P. Graeb, Treasurer .................. 757-6750
Mr. McNeil Robinson, Director of Music ........ 921-2939
Mr. G. Morris Dolby, Head Usher .............. 533-2234
Mr. George H. Blackshire, Hospitality .......... 858-5797
Mr. Martin Moore, Tours ....................... 834-1565
Miss Virginia O. Greene, Bookshop ........... 673-0159
Mr. Ralph M. Morehead, Funeral Director ...... 744-2500

The Church of Saint Mary the Virgin depends on the offerings of parishioners and friends. Pledge envelopes may be obtained from the Parish Secretary. Your support is appreciated.