





## The Pope's Corner

### JOHN PAUL II Homily Given to the University Students of Rome, (Tuesday, 11 December 2001)



Do not keep quiet about Christ's truth: cry it out loudly! Let me repeat once again, especially to you: "**Do not be afraid!**". "**Put out into the deep**", and go to meet Jesus confidently, since in him you will be free and safe, even when the paths of life become steep and threatening. Trust in him, young university students from various European nations. Welcoming him means that you open to him the treasures of each culture and nation, with its originality, in the dynamic process of a dialogue enriched by a peaceful exchange of the rich cultural multiplicity you represent.

"*A voice says, "Cry"*" (Is 40,6). The Prophet's exhortation rings out strongly in our congregation. It is addressed to you, who make up the university and cultural world. You too must cry out, dear friends. Indeed, it is impossible to keep quiet about Christ's truth. It asks to be announced, not arrogantly but firmly and proudly. This is the parrhesia of which the New Testament speaks; the cultural allegiance of Christians must bear its mark.

Cry out, young university students, by witnessing to your faith! Do not be satisfied with a mediocre life without spiritual enthusiasm that is bent only upon achieving your own immediate personal advantage.

## Scripture Reflection for Today

### Mary said, Yes!

How does Mary respond to the word of God delivered by the angel Gabriel? She knows she is hearing something beyond human capability. It will surely take a miracle which surpasses all that God has done previously. Her question, "*how shall this be, since I have no husband*" is not prompted by doubt or skepticism, but by wonderment! She is a true hearer of the Word and she immediately responds with faith and trust. Mary's prompt response of "yes" to the divine message is a model of faith for all believers. Mary believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. She was full of grace because she trusted that what God said was true and would be fulfilled. She was willing and eager to do God's will, even if it seemed difficult or costly. Mary is the "*mother of God*" because God becomes incarnate when he takes on flesh in her womb. Jesus, whom the Father sent from heaven, is true God and true man.

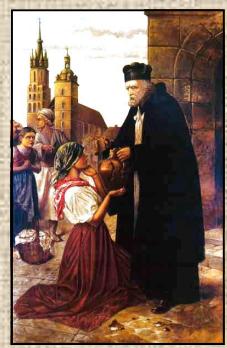
## Saint of the Week

### St. John of Kanty, December 23

John Cantius was born in the year 1397 in the Polish town of Kanty (whence his surname). One day, after robbers had deprived him of all his effects, they asked him whether he had anything more.

The saint said no, but hardly had they gone when he remembered having sewn some gold pieces inside his clothing; immediately he followed and overtook them. The robbers, astonished at the man's sense of truthfulness, refused to accept the money and returned to him the stolen luggage.

To guard himself and his household from evil gossip he wrote upon the wall of his room (after the example of St. Augustine): "*Guard against causing trouble and slandering others, for it is difficult to right the evil done.*" His love of neighbor was most edifying. Often he gave away his own clothing and shoes; then, not to appear barefoot, he lowered his cassock so as to have it drag along the ground. Sensing that his death was near at hand, he distributed whatever he still had to the poor and died peacefully in the Lord at an advanced age.



## Year of Consecrated Life

*What is the difference between secular (diocesan) priests and religious (consecrated) priests?*

Answer

**Secular**—or better, diocesan—priests are priests who are ordained for a particular diocese and who serve ordinarily in parishes. This is their main work, although some are engaged in other ministries as well. At their ordination as deacons they incardinate (affiliate) with a particular diocese or archdiocese. At this time they make a promise to obey their bishop and, in the Western Church, to remain celibate.

**Religious** (consecrated) priests are not necessarily more spiritual than diocesan priests. The word refers in this case to the form of life these priests live. All men and women who make public vows in a religious order are called religious. It means that by their vows of poverty, celibate chastity, and obedience, their lives are oriented in a special way to the virtue of religion so that all they do becomes a continual act of the worship of God.

This is true of all religious, sisters and brothers as well as priests. Ordinarily they live and pray in community. Many of them wear a religious habit. Often they are engaged in a specialized form of ministry.

**We, the Eucharistic communities of Sacred Heart and St. Gerard, being faithful to the Mission of the Church as expressed by the Redemptorist way of life, seek and invite others into an ever deepening relationship with Jesus and with one another. Seeking to build up the Kingdom of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, nourished by the Sacraments and Prayer, we commit to reaching out to everyone through evangelization, especially to those most in need.**

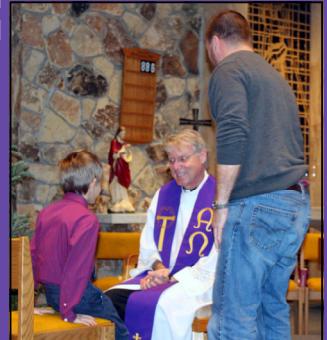
**Mission Statement**

## Reconciliation, Penance Service and Mass on Third Sunday of Advent



More than 20 Second Grade students received their Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The celebration is doubly special because father & son Johnny and Jack Svajko both received the sacrament at the same time. The Penance Service was presided by our pastor, Fr. John Murray, C.Ss.R. and Father Gray.

Below is Confession with Fr. Gray



The Herbig Family and Father Murray lighting the 3rd Advent Candle on Gaudete Sunday, Dec. 14th, 2014



The celebration was doubly special for the Svajko Family.. both father & son, Johnny and Jack Svajko received their Sacrament of First Reconciliation together.



The children made pink candles to celebrate Gaudete Sunday during the Children's Liturgy of the Word .



We had music to enjoy by both our Sacred Heart Students choir and our 9:00am Choir.



Our wonderful Sacred Heart School Teachers and Staff celebrating Christmas together!



## Sacred Heart School Students Advent Program



**THE MISSION OF SACRED HEART SCHOOL**  
is to integrate CATHOLIC FAITH and VALUES with learning and life, treating each student as a unique child of God  
in a safe, supportive and challenging academic environment.







# PARISH MISSION

Conducted by Rev. Eugene "Red" O'Reilly, CSsR  
at St. Gerard Mission Church

Sun. Jan. 11—Wed. Jan 14, 2015 AT 7:00 p.m.



For the kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit;

Romans 14:17

Jesus revealed to his followers the secrets of God's Kingdom. In a Mission he does the same for you. He reveals that His kingdom is here and now and that it spells happiness and fullness of life for those who share in it. Happiness often seems to elude us. We would like to change our lives, become "new people", more alive. The Mission offers us this possibility. Can you make this Mission? Decide today to put off anything that may interfere. You deserve this rich new life God offers you.



## Music Fest II



On behalf of those we serve, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul would like to thank all who came out to support Music Fest II on December 14. The free will offering raised over \$2,000. Our gratitude goes to Ellen Graf for putting the program together, Roberta Lambert and her volunteers for providing refreshments, and the talented musicians and singers who made this fundraiser a great success.



*May the birth of  
Our Savior  
Fill you with joy this  
Christmas  
And be your Support  
Throughout the  
New Year*

St. Vincent  
de Paul  
Society

Begging at the Door  
Saturday  
and Sunday  
December 20 & 21  
*Jesus working through  
us in our community*



## Society of St. Vincent de Paul Sponsors Angel Tree

This is our last chance to bring Christmas joy to families in the area who are going through financial difficulties. The **deadline** to bring in your gift for the Angel Tree is this **Sunday, December 21**. If you have a gift but are unable to bring it in by the deadline, give Mary Kish a call at 386-402-8217 to arrange for pick up. Thank you to all who participated. *May your spirit be refreshed and renewed this glorious season by the love of our precious Savior.*

## The Catholic Tour Greece: *In the Footsteps of St. Paul the Apostle*

Paul the Apostle, the prolific writer of the New Testament letters, was one of the first Christian missionaries. Trace his journey through the ancient cities and pastoral countryside of Greece and Turkey.

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Or email: [jimadair@thecatholictour.com](mailto:jimadair@thecatholictour.com)

## BELONG

Christian Women's Community Outreach Group  
[www.nsbbelong.blogspot.com](http://www.nsbbelong.blogspot.com)

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ELKS LODGE

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