

# The Ameliorator

St. Amelia Church

May-June 2011

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Tonawanda, NY

## ***Changes in Mass Prayers Coming in November***

*by Brian Ruh*

Benjamin Franklin once remarked, "When you're finished changing, you're finished".

After some four decades of praying the familiar Mass prayers in English, Catholics will soon begin learning some new wording. The Mass, of course, will remain the same. The change in some of the prayers reflects a newer translation of the Latin text.



*Changes will effect Catholics throughout the English-speaking world.*

The Roman Missal will appear in a third edition. The first and second editions, introduced in 1974 and 1985, were marked by a style of English that was immediately accessible and easy to understand. The language was not however always an accurate translation of the original Latin. The new wording is intended to be more vivid, symbolic, engaging, and poetic.

For instance, we now respond to the priest's "The Lord be with you!" with "And also with you". In the future we will respond "And with your spirit". This is a more accurate translation of the Latin, "Et cum spiritu tuo". The newer wording alludes to the spiritual nature of the priest's ministry, and in a poetic way points to the presence of the Holy Spirit in the priest.

The changes will take effect in late November, on the first Sunday of Advent. We plan to have cards in the seats, so people can refer to them until they become accustomed to the new terminology. Meantime, the Sunday bulletin will provide more information about the changes.

## ***Lenten Retreat Days Help Young Catholics to Re-focus***

Lent is a time to go away, into the desert, to think about what really matters in life, to encounter the living Christ, to hear again his word. In that spirit, our school conducted full-day retreats for our 127 junior high pupils in grades 7 and 8. Kathy Waite, our Youth Minister, conducted the sessions, accompanied by Father Ryszard and principal Jim Mulé. Each grade had their own retreat day, at the new Catholic center on the UB North Campus.

Nick Stoetzel, a seventh grader, said, "It was fun and exciting because we learned about Jesus' crucifixion and we made the Stations of the Cross". His classmate Brianna Constantino observed that "We did different activities and learned to work as a team. It was fun". Leah Coleman, an eighth grader said, "It was an awesome experience. We really bonded with one another in our small groups."

## ***Fall Trip Will Take Pilgrims To Rome, Assisi, and Florence***

Imagine seeing the romantic canals and bridges of Venice, the artistic glories of the Renaissance capital of Florence, the famous statue of David by Michelangelo, the birthplace and shrine of Francis of Assisi, the Rome Colosseum and early catacombs, the Vatican art collection, Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel ceiling, and attending a papal audience in St. Peter's Square. This year's trip – the 11<sup>th</sup> planned by Father Tom and Mike and Marilyn Collins – begins on October 31 and returns November 10. Father Ryszard Biernat will be the trip chaplain.



*Venice is renowned for its picturesque canals and charming bridges.*

This trip features multiple-night stays in major cities, cutting down on the usual nightly unpacking and packing: two nights in both Venice and Florence, four nights in Rome, and a single night in Assisi. There will be free time for shopping and personal exploration in each of the three major cities.

A chartered bus will take us to Toronto, then we will fly overnight to Venice. Built on a number of islands, the city uses canals as its principal streets. The canals, the picturesque bridges, the gondoliers and vaporettos (water buses) are sights long remembered. From Venice we travel to Padua to visit the shrine of St. Anthony, then move on to Florence, capital of the Italian Renaissance, and home to the Medici family, Galileo, Michelangelo, and DaVinci.

Highlights include the Cathedral and its famous baptistry, with doors designed by Ghiberti, and the Academia Gallery, where we'll view Michelangelo's famous statue of David.

Our next stop is Assisi, where St. Francis was born. We celebrate Mass here, visit the shrine Church, and see the chapel where Francis was called by God to rebuild his church.

Rome the Eternal City is our final destination. In Vatican City – the city within a city that is the center of the Catholic Church – we'll see the art collected over many centuries; the restored Sistine Chapel, historic location of papal elections, and its famous ceiling by Michelangelo; and St. Peter's Basilica. Beyond the Vatican we'll visit the cathedral of Rome, St. John Lateran, and two other major basilicas – St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls – as well as the Colosseum, the Trevi Fountain, and the early catacombs. The highlight will be an audience with Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square. Our stay in Rome includes ample time for pilgrims to explore the Spanish Steps, the Forum, the Pantheon, and a host of other sites.

Finally, after nine glorious fall days in Italy, when crowds and temperatures have declined from their summer highs, we'll fly back to Toronto where our bus will return us to St. Amelia's.

The trip is priced at \$2599 per person, double occupancy – almost \$200 less than last year! Airline and government fees and taxes, and a small church administrative charge, totaling about \$800 will be billed separately. The cost includes airfare, nine nights in select and first-class hotels, all breakfasts, most dinners, admission to all listed attractions, and our own tour bus and escort.

Both veteran and novice travelers have joined our trips, over the years, as have many friends from outside the parish. Call Mike and Marilyn Collins at 832 7085 for a brochure and more information.

## *Six Receive Sacraments at Easter Vigil*

Most parishes, ours included, have a learning process for adults who wish to become Catholics, and another process for children who are preparing for sacraments of initiation. But some people – ages 12 to 17 – don't readily fit into these programs. So we started a new initiative – a program for teens and pre-teens. Father Tom formed a team of six young people to work with their peers who want to become Catholics, and asked Father Ryszard to lead the effort.

As a result, Robert McClellan, a 14-year old eighth grader at St. Amelia School, was baptized at the Easter Vigil. Robert was one of six who received Easter sacraments at the Vigil. Recipients are, from left, James Vanschoonhoven, Elisha Bryne, Terry Burns, Robert McClellan, Daniel Nowinski, and Emma Tomaka.



## **St. Amelia School** *Inspiring Excellence Every Day*

### **2011 Summer Opportunities**

#### **Summer Fun Camp**

**Five-Week Camp**  
Ages 3-12

**June 27 - July 29**  
**9:00 am - 4:00 pm**  
Lunch plus morning and  
afternoon snack included  
Cost: \$160 per week

#### **Summer Learning Camp**

**Three-Week Program**  
July 5 - July 22

Early Bird Learners — Pre-K  
Grades 1-2 — Phonic Awareness  
Grades 3-6 — NYS Assessment Prep

Cost: \$75

#### **Vacation Bible School**

**PANDA-MANIA**

August 1 - 5  
9:00 am - noon

Cost: \$15 per child

Visit us online at [www.stameliaschool.org](http://www.stameliaschool.org)  
or call **836-2230** for more information.

St. Amelia School is located at  
2999 Eggert Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150

## *Thanks for Bereavement Ministry*



Dear Father Tom:

I want to express my gratitude, and that of my family, for the parish's wonderful services at the time of my father's death and burial. Father Ryszard came for the last rites, and his words brought great comfort to my father, and to us. At the funeral, his manner touched our family, and those attending the funeral, many of whom were not Catholic. Outreach took care of minding our house during the calling hours at the funeral home. Thank you for what you have done for us.

**LETTERS**

Sincerely,  
Bereaved Parishioner  
Tonawanda, NY

## *Father Hahn Reports From Japan*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers for the people of Japan. The news reports – from CBB and BBC – that you see are the ones we see too, and they are accurate, though no one can imagine the scale of the destruction, no matter how much a “picture is worth a thousand words”.



*Japanese families flee the devastation caused by natural disasters.*

We are about 450 miles southwest of the Fukushima area, and so far there has been no direct adverse influence on us. We have gas and electric. Some items are scarce: batteries, toilet paper, rice, and bread sell out quickly in the stores.

The disaster mainly killed, or destroyed the lives of, mostly simple people, hard-working folks, farmers and fishermen, mainly older people. The young of these areas had left the farms and small villages to pursue the “good life” in the big cities, so the dead and the homeless are mostly middle-aged and elderly people. It will be years before we are back to normal.

I am amazed and delighted to see how many people are praying for us. It is like 9-11, when the whole world felt the pain of America. Please continue to pray for us.

Rev. Frank J. Hahn, OMI  
21-3-5 Umenoki  
Itams hi – Kyogo-ken  
664-0856 Japan

**LETTERS *continued...***

Dear Kathy:

I want to say a word of appreciation for the great work you are doing with our teenagers in the “Zero Hour” program. After a recent meeting, my daughter came home and told us about the presentation on sexual abstinence for teens. We had a great conversation, and it never would have happened if you had not had talked about this at “Zero Hour”.

Thanks for the great work you are doing with our teens.

Grateful Parent  
Tonawanda, NY

***Tea Party Movement  
Comes to St. Amelia's***

What do you do on a “snow day”, when everything is cancelled? With time on his hands, Father Ryszard decided to do some exploring in the Rectory on a recent snow day. Deep in the basement, he found a silver tea set – quite tarnished and long unused – and set to polish and renovate it. With the help of Yvonne Coric, the Rectory cook, the set was soon restored to its pristine luster. But for what purpose?



*Father Ryszard and Yvonne Coric polish the newly-found silver tea set.*

“I want to have tea parties”, Father Richard explained. “Just invite some people into the Rectory for a cup of tea, and some conversation – maybe invite some people who work for the parish but are not always recognized.”

For his first party, Father invited the people who clean the church. They were astonished, and very grateful. Next he had in the Ladies of Charity. Leona Prinzbach, a member of the Ladies of Charity, said, “We were amazed to be invited for tea and scones! It was so nice to see the old tea service that had been used in previous years by the St. Amelia Guild all shined up and once again being used. Father Ryszard told us about his bee-keeping, and showed us pictures of his ordination and first Mass – just a delightful time.”



280 paisani took part in our first Italian Festival on Saturday evening, March 26, in Don Miller Hall, enjoying a full course chicken parmesan dinner and delightful music by, "The Formula". *Mille grazie* to all who made it possible, especially Chelsea Adamski; Kathy, Dan, and Kaylee Andolsek; Sarah Barth; Jaclyn Bellanti; Pat Carroll; Megan Crawford; Rachel Deguire; Chuck Giles; Kim and Anna Grande; Christian and Katie Kyles; Josephine, Gino, Annamaria and Nino Monti; Jim Mulé; Dolores Rocco; Ashley Rszepka; P.J. Sarafin; Pat and Kelly Ann Swartz; Elaine Volker; Colleen Wagner; and Kathy Waite.





Lent is the traditional season for second graders to make their First Confession. Madelyn Arcara prepares for Reconciliation with Father Tom.



150 pupils performed in the school's spring musical, "Aladdin", at the Riviera Theater in North Tonawanda, on April 8.



*Thru the Lens*



Friday night fish dinners are a Lenten tradition. Ellen and Gary Giunta are regulars at the dinners served in the St. Amelia Cafeteria.



Grade 8 pupils are preparing for their graduation on June 21 by inviting back alumni who graduated 25 and 50 years ago. Mackenzie Klaiber, Katie Czerwinski, and Anthony Taboni prepare the invitations.



Workers install a concrete base, conduit, and cables for a new electrical transformer adjacent to the gymnasium, which will ensure the parish has adequate electrical capacity for future needs.

# The Ameliorator

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The Ameliorator is the bi-monthly publication of Saint Amelia Church. We mail it to members of our Saint Amelia Family, that is, registered parishioners, adult alumni of our school, and parents of children who attend our school. We also send it to people who live in the geographical area served by our Church, in order to keep them informed about who we are and what we are doing. If you do not wish to receive The Ameliorator, you can have your name deleted from our mailing list by simply calling (716) 836-0011.

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## ***Men's Group to Hear About the Church's Newest Saint***

The Emmaus Mens Spirituality Group will welcome Father Tom as guest speaker at their June meeting, set for June 7 at 8:30 a.m. His topic is Saint André Bessette, the Church's newest saint.



"I gave a talk on St. André for this year's Lenten Lecture Series in our vicariate, and did a bit of research in preparation", Father Tom said. "I am eager to share what I learned. He was a very simple man, yet had a powerful ministry, and in some ways remains an enigma".

St. André is perhaps better known as Brother André, of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal. He was baptized at birth, because he was not expected to survive. He died at age 92 in 1937. He was canonized last October 15 by Pope Benedict XVI.

The Emmaus group, now in its seventh year, meets usually on the second Saturday of the month, following the 8 o'clock Mass. Breakfast is served in the Rectory meeting room, followed by a speaker. There are no fees, and no registration is required. All men are welcome.