



It will truly be historic when Pope Benedict XVI comes to America for his first Papal visit. It looks like he will be here from Tuesday until Sunday. There are going to be some very powerful

moments during those days to be sure. I would believe that his visit with the Jewish rabbi and Holocaust survivor will bring great emotion, as well as his visit to Ground Zero in Manhattan. I remember how much Pope John Paul II loved his gatherings with young people, and I would think that the same is of Pope Benedict. He will be meeting with several thousand young people in Yonkers at St. Joseph Seminary. The Holy Father is an absolutely brilliant theologian, who truly does not “talk above” people’s heads. He does have a gift of bringing great theology and spirituality right to our levels, where some theologians can be very “academic”, and very difficult to understand. I am looking forward to hearing his address to the United Nations. President Bush will be hosting the Holy Father at the White House on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> . . . which happens to be his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. I didn’t realize it, but I understand that this will be only the 2<sup>nd</sup> visit to the White House of a pope. I think the first visit was in the first year of the papacy of John Paul II, when he was hosted by President Carter. This is going to be a very exciting week, and I hope we can all spend some time watching the news and hearing the reports. The Catholic station, “Eternal Word Television Network” (EWTN) does a fantastic job of covering these historic moments. Personally, I plan to be glued to it all week. This will be some great family television this week. I do hope young people truly understand how historic it is when the Vicar of Christ comes to our “home”.

Last Saturday, our new Youth Minister, Jesse Spanogle, took a busload of young people (28) from here, St. Andrew’s, and Blessed Sacrament to a youth conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville. I understand that it was a fantastic conference, with young people from all over Pennsylvania and Ohio. They had great talks, and music, and worship. I am so glad that there are these opportunities for our young people. Jesse is doing such a great job leading our youth efforts, and he is very excited how our kids are taking to this new ministry. I also wanted to thank Bill Flanigan, the Athletic Director for Cathedral Prep, for allowing us to use the Prep bus for this trip. Bill saved us about \$600 by letting us use “The Great Pumpkin”!

The “Win-a-Stang” campaign is up and running. We will raffle off this very special and rare machine on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> . . . the 2008 Mustang Roush “Blackjack”. The car is #40 of only 100 built, but one of only 16 convertibles in existence! Make sure you send out our website to everyone in your address book: [www.winastang.com](http://www.winastang.com). We have a lot of work to do, and a long way to go! Let’s get busy!

I hope to be mowing soon, which would make more sense of my world. I need that lawn to keep my sanity! Have a great week!

Fr. D.

**SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNER**

- Complete with salad and dessert will be held on Sunday, April 20th from 12:00 Noon until 5:00PM in St. Paul’s Center, 453 West 16th Street. Adult tickets are \$6.00 and children are \$4.00 and may be purchased at the door. Take-outs are available. For more information, call 476-1065 or 825-7288.



**WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT:**

	April 6, 2008	April 7, 2007
Repairs & Improvements	\$679.00	\$265.00
Sister Parish - Haiti	\$186.00	\$163.00
Sacrificial Giving	<b>\$8,665.70</b>	\$10,417.84
Amount Needed	<b>\$7,250.00</b>	
Over/(Short)	<b>\$1,415.70</b>	

(\*includes loose money). Last week, out of 701 families of the parish, 355 envelopes (51%) were used, with an **average** Sacrificial Giving donation of **\$24.41**. Your parish depends on you for your weekly donation. **Thanks for your sacrifice.**



**Catholic Services Appeal!**

As of this writing, we have pledges of \$88,528!! Again, this truly shows the dedication of so many of our parishioners. Now, if everyone that pledged *does fulfill* that pledge, we should realize almost \$45,000 towards the maintenance of our stained-glass windows, assuming nothing else goes . . . Like the boiler did a few months ago. However, this great feat was achieved by . . . again . . . *only 35% of the parish!!* I just can’t seem to get to the other 65%. This parish belongs to ALL OF US! And, the maintenance and upkeep of this parish is the responsibility of ALL OF US! If there is a reason why the majority of this parish is ignoring their responsibilities, I wish someone would tell me, because I just can’t figure it out. I do know that people don’t contribute because, *“I don’t want the Bishop to get my money!”* How is he supposed to pay for our Adoption Agency? And, Marriage Tribunal? And, Catholic Charities? And, the Chancery? And, the Catholic Schools Office? And, the Youth Office? And, the Religious Education Office? And, the Office of Child Protection? This appeal is vital and necessary. We should ALL contribute . . . *something . . . anything!*

**Why Catholic? Adult Faith Formation Workshop on Prayer**

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, April 23rd from 7:00-9:00PM at our Lady of Peace Church. This event is open to all parishioners regardless of whether or not you were part of a “Why Catholic?” group this past Lent.



Come and learn more about prayer, and experience praying alone and with others. Everyone of us can grow in our relationship with God by deepening our understanding of communicating with Him.

If you have any questions, please call Rebecca Flynn at the rectory at 456-6256, x110. No registration is necessary.

Please remember in your prayers our departed:

†Audrey Rettger.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

HIGHMARK Caring Place is a center for grieving children, adolescents and their families. Volunteers are needed to serve food, greet families, and work with children and families in support groups. Training for volunteers is provided. Call Tami Petrucci at 871-6934 for more information.

