

✠ **Divine Mercy Parish** ✠

(Founded 2010)

Saints Peter & Paul Church
Est. 1903

St. Anne Church
Est. 1882

St. Adalbert Church
Est. 2910

Three Rivers, Massachusetts

Rev. Stefan J. Niemczyk, Pastor

Rectory: 2267 Main Street (413) 283-6030

Office Hours: Mon. & Fri. 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.; Tues., Wed., Thursday 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.

Divine Mercy Religious School & Parish Hall – 283-4320

Email: stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com ~~~ Website: www.churchofdivinemercury.org

July 18, 2010



Vigil of Sunday – 4:00 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. - **Sunday** – 8:00 a.m.(Polish) and 9:30 a.m.

Daily Masses – 7:00 a.m. (except Tuesday) - Tuesday – Novena & Mass 5:30 p.m.

Holy Day Masses – Refer to Mass Schedule

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**SACRAMENT OF PENANCE** – Saturday 3:00 p.m. First Friday at 6:30 p.m.

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM & HOLY MATRIMONY** – Contact Rectory to make arrangements

**SACRAMENT OF THE SICK (ANOINTING)** – Contact Rectory when the need arises

**SICK CALLS** – Anytime

All items for the bulletin should be submitted no later than Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in order for it to be printed in the upcoming weekend bulletin (please include your name & phone #). You may email your item, drop it off at the Rectory or mail it. Note there is editorial discretion on all items. Email: [stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com](mailto:stspeterpaulanne@gmail.com).

Co-Directors of Religious Education: Jean Brigham (283-4232) & Michael Wostena  
Parish Secretaries: Lydia McKee & Debra Ingalls  
Choir Director & Organist: Mark Narreau (583-8541)  
Organist: Mary Besko & Barbara Kelleher (596-2727)

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

#### **SATURDAY, July 17<sup>th</sup>**

- Confessions at 3:00 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

- Chalice of Strength – Prayers for Priests & Vocations – 4:00 p.m. in the church

#### **MONDAY, July 19<sup>th</sup>**

- **Picnic Set-up** starting at 6:00 p.m. on the Parish grounds

#### **TUESDAY, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

- Choir Rehearsal – check with Mark Narreau, Director  
- **Picnic Set-up** starting at 6:00 p.m. on the Parish grounds

#### **WEDNESDAY, July 21<sup>st</sup>**

- Alcoholic Anonymous – 7:00 p.m. – St. Maximilian Kolbe Room  
- **Picnic Set-up** starting at 6:00 p.m. on the Parish grounds

#### **THURSDAY, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- **Picnic Set-up** starting at 6:00 p.m. on the Parish grounds

#### **FRIDAY, July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

- **Picnic Set-up** starting at 6:00 p.m. on the Parish grounds

#### **SATURDAY, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

- **Picnic Set-up** starting at 6:00 p.m. on the Parish grounds  
- Confessions at 3:00 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

Divine Mercy Annual Parish Picnic on the Parish grounds. 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday July 17<sup>th</sup> Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 a.m. - +Marjorie Foushee - Lynne Riendeau

4:00 p.m. - +Charles Olejarz - His Wife & Family  
+Emily & William Farrell - Their Family

5:15 p.m. - +Florence Holt - Pat, Lynn, Laurie & Anjelina  
+Michael Szwed - Jack & Sandra Gilbert

### Sunday - July 18<sup>th</sup> Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. - +Sister Mary Klaus - Robert & Janet Brown

9:30 a.m. - +Stephen Lebida - His Wife & Family

### Monday - July 19<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. - All Parishioners of Divine Mercy

### Tuesday - July 20<sup>th</sup> St. Apollinaris, bishop and martyr

5:30 p.m. - +Frank Pobieglo - Barbara Miskiewicz  
+William & Wanda Barry - Their daughter Charlotte

### Wednesday - July 21<sup>st</sup> St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest and doctor of the Church

7:00 a.m. - +Constance Pelczarski - Her Husband Charles and Son Michael

### Thursday - July 22<sup>nd</sup> St. Mary Magdalena

7:00 a.m. - +Peter & Virginia Stolar - Their Family

### Friday - July 23<sup>rd</sup> St. Bridget of Sweden, religious

7:00 a.m. - +Deceased members of the Marhelewicz Family

### Saturday - July 24<sup>th</sup> St. Sharbel Makhlef, priest; Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 a.m. - +Chester Marhelewicz - His Son Stephen and Family

### **1:00 p.m. WEDDING: Brian Edward Rumsey & Chepina Witkowski Witkowski**

4:00 p.m. - +John Nowakowski - A. Pietrewicz  
+Sophie Jacek - Her Son Fred and Daughter-in-law Joyce

5:15 p.m. - +Elizabeth Blickens Sister of Richard McCormick - The Putz Family

### Sunday - July 25<sup>th</sup> Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. - +Julie Ciejka - Mr. & Mrs. John Lukaskiewicz

9:30 a.m. - +Viola Benoit 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniv. - Her Family

~~ **DIVINE MERCY SCHOOL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS** ~~

**VACATION TIME**

It is our hope that our students and their families enjoy a wonderful vacation time. Vacations are beneficial. They help us change our routine, permit us to experience new places and people while continuing to grow and appreciate the natural beauty of God. WE CAN BE VERY GRATEFUL THAT THE ONE WHO NEVER GOES ON VACATION IS GOD! He never has a "busy signal" or transfers us to voice mail. In appreciation, it's only right that we should not forget God during vacation time. We must go to Mass each Sunday, and that includes when we are away from home. The Holy Eucharist is what makes us Catholic, and gives us the spiritual strength we need. Let's be proud of, and always want to live our Catholic faith!

~~ **ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT** ~~

Wednesday – 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday – 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*If you can give one hour, or substitute, please call Diana Roth @ 283-8709*

**Forgiveness**

**"No one heals himself by wounding another."**

**St. John Chrysostom**

**For Reflection:**

**"We should be careful of what we allow to rent space in our heads!"**

*Something to think about !*

**PRIESTLY & RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS**

.....If you feel God may be calling you to a religious vocation in His Church, call Fr. Gary Dailey at 413-452-0816 or email: [g.dailey@diospringfield.org](mailto:g.dailey@diospringfield.org). Website: [www.myvocation.com](http://www.myvocation.com).

## ~~ DONATIONS ~~

*SINCERE THANKS for your generosity & support of our parish – God Bless All*

**GENERAL FUND -  
BURSE FUND -**

### **CASH DONATIONS TO OFFSET MONEY RAFFLE –**

\$30 – John & Lori Dzedzic                      \$25 – Larry & Cynthia Jasak  
\$20 – Veronica Kokoszka                      \$20 – Rosalie Kokoszka  
\$25 – Eugene & Donna Olearczyk \$50 – Rudolph Pisarczyk, Jr.  
\$20 – Jane Swiderski                      \$100 – Kathy & Bill Vigneux  
\$25 – Michael Wojnilowicz                      \$50 – Blanche, Michael & Maryann Wostena

## ~~ DIVINE MERCY NEWS ~~

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Annual Parish Picnic

Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. – First Mass for Fr. Thomas Gorny

**“SIGN IT” - DIVINE MERCY** When writing a check out to the church, please make it out to **“Divine Mercy Parish”**.

**FOOD SHARE** – Please continue to assist with your donations to the Food Share program. All non-perishable items are accepted, including crackers, Jell-O, condiments, coffee, tea, jams, jellies, cake mixes, etc. Drop off donations in the box at church. *Thank you for your help!*

**WEB-SITE UPDATE** – Please visit our church web-site [www.churchofdivinemeracy.org](http://www.churchofdivinemeracy.org). Paul Brozek is the person that updates the web site; if you have any comments or would maybe like to see something added, please contact the Rectory. Weekly bulletin can be viewed there.

**STAR 2010-2011**- Your **JULY** contributions to the STAR Program may be deposited in the weekly collection basket or may be mailed to the Rectory. Please make your check payable to Divine Mercy Parish and include the applicable coupon so you will be properly credited and entered in the next drawing.

# DIVINE MERCY ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC

**Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>**

~~~ *INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW* ~~~

The Picnic Committee welcomes new assistance.

Volunteers are also welcome and needed to make this year's Parish Picnic another success. *Please consider giving a couple hours of your time!*



PICNIC SET-UP – Every night at 6:00 p.m.

starting on Monday, July 19th we will be getting together for about an hour to an hour and a half to work on the picnic set-up. If you have any questions, call Fred Orszulak at 283-7400.

ARTS & CRAFTS ITEMS – We are still collecting your hand-made arts & crafts items. If you have something to donate you can drop it off at the Rectory during office hours or call Carol at 283-7222.

BASKETS FOR SPECIAL RAFFLE BOOTH

We will gather in the Parish Hall at 6:00 p.m. on **Friday, July 23rd** to assemble the baskets for the Special Raffle booth. Everyone is welcome and no special skills are required, all you need is a pair of scissors.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!! Time to get out those aprons and recipes!
We need items for the bake sale at the
Annual Parish Picnic and accept anything yummy!
Pies, cookies, cupcakes,
or whatever your specialty item maybe,
all are appreciated.

Thank you!! Dziekuje!! Merci!!

CHICKEN BBQ TICKETS

Cathy and Ron Izyk will be selling tickets for the
BBQ Chicken Dinner.

You can get your tickets after all the weekend
masses until the picnic.

Tickets are \$10.00 each.

CONCERT AT DIVINE MERCY

There will be a concert here at Divine Mercy Parish
on **Sunday, August 8th** at 4:00 p.m. featuring
Jennifer Fijal and pianist Clifton J. Noble Jr.

The event will vary from art songs to musical theater to opera.

Admission is by donation at the door.

Suggested donation is \$15, but less or more is welcome.

Jennifer is a senior at Plymouth State University and will be applying to graduate
programs next year for voice.

There will be a reception in the Parish Hall following the concert.

~~ **AROUND THE AREA** ~~

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH OF INDIAN ORCHARD cordially invites you to its 30th Annual Dozynki Polish-American Festival to be held on the parish grounds July 16, 17 & 18, 2010. Traditional Polka music, as well as popular European music will be provided free of charge daily. Two kitchens serving American food and homemade Polish food will be open throughout the festival. There will be 2 separate raffles, they are:

The Grand Raffle:

1st Prize: 2010 Ford Mustang Coupe

Tickets are \$50.00/each

Only 1000 tickets will be sold!

The Cash Raffle:

1st Prize: \$1000.00

2nd Prize: \$500.00

3rd Prize: \$200.00

Tickets are \$2/each or 6 for \$10.00 **DRAWING: SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2009**

We look forward to seeing you there! The Immaculate Conception Church Picnic Committee

POLISH PICNIC AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH to be held on Parish grounds at 414 North St. in Pittsfield on Sunday, July 18th from 12 Noon to 6:00 p.m. There will be a live band and dancing to "The Rymanowski Brothers". Lots of events, food, raffles and more. Free admission, bring your lawn chair. Proceeds benefit St. Joseph's new Parish Center.

MICHAEL H. DESLAURIERS SCHOLARSHIP FUND, SUMMER BLAST to be held Saturday, August 7th from 4:00 pm. to 10 p.m. (rain or shine). Adults/\$5 – Children 12 & under are free. K of C Pavilion, West Main Street (Rt. 9) in Ware. Music by Dennis Polisky's "The Maestro"s Men". All seniors in local schools including Pathfinder are eligible to receive this Scholarship.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH 358 Pleasant St. in Gardner, MA is joining the P.A.C.C.'s Polish Picnic on Sunday, August 15th at 171 Kendall Pond West in Gardner from 12 – 6 p.m. There will be Polish and American food. Music for listening and dancing will be provided by Eddie Forman. There will be various tables and raffles including money, liquor and basket raffles; Restaurants, etc; face painting and much more. Come join the fun. (978)632-0375.

“The Richness of Our Worship.”

In a short time, the English-speaking world will welcome the revised Roman Missal. This is the third typical edition (the original Latin was approved by **Pope John Paul II** on Holy Thursday, 2000 and published in 2002). Here follows a timeline.

The order of celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was revised after the Second Vatican Council. **Pope Paul VI** promulgated the revised **Roman Missal (*Missale Romanum*)** in 1969. What had formerly been one volume, became the Roman Missal in two volumes: the **Sacramentary** containing the prayers proper to Mass and the **Lectionary** containing the Scripture readings for Mass. This was due in large part to the increased number of readings over a three year Sunday and two year weekday cycle.

In the United States, the Order of Mass of Paul VI was approved for use in 1970, and the liturgical books were confirmed by the Holy See and published in 1973. The Latin edition of the *Missale Romanum* was reissued in 1975. A second edition of the U.S. Sacramentary containing minor changes and updates (including new saints/blesseds to the liturgical calendar) was issued in 1985. After years of preparation, primarily to provide a more accurate and dignified translation from Latin, the third English edition of the Roman Missal was approved by the Holy See in 2009.

What remains now is for the final preparation and printing of the liturgical books. It is anticipated that the revised **Sacramentary** of the *Roman Missal* will be in parishes in late 2011, perhaps around the start of the Advent Season. This allows sufficient time for the introduction of the new translations to the average person in the pew.

As stated on the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB): ***“May this process of the implementation of the revised Roman Missal be a time of deepening, nurturing, and celebrating our faith through our worship and the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.”***

There are some voices of dissent with varying objections. Some say the new language is too lofty, or not common enough (would ordinary street language or slang be worthy of our worship of God?). Others argue that it’s unnecessary or too soon to change. We will only confuse people in the pews (where was that argument when the **Missal of St. Pius V** was literally discarded----*never a request from the faithful*----and replaced with the **Missal of Paul VI** with very little, or rather no preparation?).

In response to this we turn to Bishop Arthur Serratelli, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship. He readily admits that some will not like the new translations, but anyone with an open mind and heart should recognize the beautiful gift we are about to receive. Bishop Serratelli reminds us that the preparation of this third edition of the Missal took place over five years, certainly not a hasty or reckless process. The translations are understandable, dignified and accurate. So many are working so enthusiastically on the new texts in order to deepen our understanding of the Church’s worship. Whereas the current texts were loosely translated or paraphrased, the bishop says that the revised translations preserve both the biblical and theological richness of the original Latin texts. This will be a time to appreciate anew the beauty of the Mass.

VOTIVE LAMP INTENTIONS

1.+Edna Burns – daughter Patty. 1.+Piotr I Anna Majka – syn. 1. Zsp. Joseph & Frances Swist – daughter. 1.+Earl McKee – wife Lydia. 1.+Frank & Mary Falk – daughter & son-in-law. 1.+Felix & Catherine Misiaszek – son Peter & daughter-in-law. 1.+Phyllis Misiaszek – brother Peter & sister-in-law. 1.+Sister Josephine – Niece. 1.+St. Anne special blessings on grandchildren. 1. St. Anthony for a special favor. 1. +Joseph Misiaszek Peter & sister-in-law. 1. Zsp. Deceased members of Salamon & Marcinkiewicz families. 1. +Deceased members of Gut & Yurkunas family. 1.+Helen & Francis Ford – Pat. 1.+Rusty Nowak – wife & son. 1. Zsp. Jana Wasiuk – od zony z rodzina. 1. Thank you God, for prayers answered & continued blessings & good health – B.R. 1. God's blessing & continuing recovery for Eleanor – Charlie. 1.+Michael A. & Mary Wojnilowicz – son Michael. 1. Pray for world peace – Holy Rosary Sodality. 1. For a friend's health. 1.+Edward Ziobrowski – family. 1. For all members of the military – Rosary Sodality. 1. For an end to abortion – Rosary Sodality. 1. Health for our sick parishioners – Rosary Sodality. 1. For Priestly and Religious vocations – Rosary Sodality. 1.+Edward Zerdecki – wife & family. 1. +Darryl Tyburski – love Mom, Dad, sister Betty & brothers Tom & Ray. 1.+Julia & Joseph Koziol – family. 1.+Edward Godek – wife Pat. 1. Health & God's blessings for Irene Orluk – Sophie. 1.+Nancy Szostek – Gloria Nowak. 1.+Kowalczyk family – family. 1. Zsp. Franciszke I Wojciecha Frydryk – Syn. 1.Zsp. Stella I Leo Pulaski – J.F. 1.Zsp. Anne I Michala Zbylot – J.F. 1.Zsp. Edna I Frank Pytka – J.F. 1. Zsp. John I Michael Boronski – J.F. 1. Zsp. Patricia Kohler – J.F. 1. God's blessings & health for Christine – Virginia. 1. Healing for Susan B – LJF. 1. Rest in peace Michael – LJF. 1. Health & God's blessing for daughter & family. 1. Sister's health. 1. Zsp. Helena Dziedzic – **10th** anniv. – son John & family. 1. God's blessings & special intentions for my family – MS. 1. God's blessings & return to good health for Richard Charwick – Mom, Bruce & Frank, Jr. 1. +Frank Charwick – wife & sons Frankie, Bruce & Richard. 1. +Frank Zabawa – his wife. 1. Thank you, St. Joseph & Baby Jesus to keep my employment safe – love, 1. God's blessings & return to good health to Josie Slozak – Eleanor & Charlie. 1. God's blessings & good health for Louis Kapinos, love, Julie & Carol. 1. +Fred Mastalerz – love, Julie & Carol. 1. God's blessings & health for Millie Skaza – Vera Borowik. 1. +Edwin McClosky – **3rd** anniv. – brother & sister-in-law. 1. God's blessings & health for Irene Pietryka – Tom & Jane. 1. “Jesus I Trust In You” family blessings of health & strength. 1. +Vera Olbrych – brother Tom & sister-in-law Jane. 1. God's blessings, good health & continued success for Rep. Todd Smola – EK&GK. 1. God's help & guidance for my son – D.. 1. In loving memory of Grace Kulpa – daughter Debbie. 1. +Grace Kulpa – husband Ed. 1. God's blessings & quick recovery for Josephine Slozak – Anna Stefanowich. 1. To St. Lucy for a special favor. 1. +Henry Stefanowich – Anna. 1. +Fred & Helen Krawczyk – daughter Susie & husband Leslie. 1. St. Jude – healing – D.. 1. God's blessings for a speedy recovery, Mom – love, June. 1. +John Ligus – wife Helen. 1. +Ela Swiderski, love, Ron, Katelyn & Lindsey & family. 1. +Anthony Zieminski – wife & family. 1. +Joe Misiaszek – Cis & family. 1. God's blessings & quick recovery for Josephine Slozak – Barbara Miskiewicz. 1.

+Frank Miskiewicz – Barbara. 1. +Sophie & Joseph Socha – Barbara. 1. +William Gilbert. 1.
 + Helen Starzyk. 1. +Eleanor Starzyk. 1. +Betty Bielaska. 1. God's blessings & good health
 for KDJ. 1. St. Theresa the Little Flower intercede for Susan for successful medical
 procedure & healing – Sonny & Diana. 1. Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Good Remedy –
 Sonny & Diana. 1. Thanksgiving to St. Philomena – Sonny & Diana. 1. Thanksgiving to St.
 Joseph – Sonny & Diana. 1. Thank you Blessed Mother for prayers answered. 1. Graces,
 blessings & protection Connor – Dziadziu. 1. God bless Damien & "G". 1. +Joseph
 Marchelewicz – family. 1. Special intention for Father Stefan – S.. 1. +Edward Rudnick –
 family. 1. In thanksgiving for prayers answered. 1. Pat & Linda – a miracle for Baby Ben. 1.
 God's blessings & good health for Josie Slozak – Elizabeth Dorsey. 1. God's blessing &
 healing for Jake. 1. God's blessings for our family. 1. For St. James care, protection & peace
 for Father Stefan – L.R.. 1. For intentions of the prayer line – L.R.. 1. In thanksgiving to our
 Guardian Angels – L.R.. 1. For healing for Alice Rudnick & Josephine Yurkunas – L.R.. 1.
 +Frank & Sophie Swiatlowski – family. 1. +Ken Duquette – Ernie & Pearl Charland. 1.
 Birthday blessings & health for Barbara Wawro – Pat Godek. 1. healing & strength. 1. To
 Pope John Paul I for good health of Blanche Wostena – children. 1. To St. Jude Thaddeus in
 thanksgiving – the Wostena family. 1. For health of Joe Goncalves to Our Lady – the
 Wostena family. 1. Zsp. Joseph Wostena, Jr. – wife & children. 1. Terry & Frank Kulina – S. 1
 Stella J.M. – S.. 1. Susan L. K. – S.. 1. +Julia A. Machnik – S.. 1. Gail Benoit – S.. 1. Lori Vaz – S..
 1. +Jennie Vaz – S.. 1. The Lemanski family – S.. 1. A.J. & Joanne – S.. 1. Zsp. Rodzicow
 Witkowskich – od corki. 1. Living & deceased members of Lemanski & Vaz families. 1.
 +Genevieve Vaz – Lori. 1. peace of mind – SML. 1. +Veronica Olbrych – Lori. 1. Christening
 blessings – Ava. 1. +Mary & Ida Lemanski. 1. God's blessings & health for Lawrence Hall –
 Michael Wojnilowicz.. 1. Health & God's blessing for son. 1. Family health & God's blessing.
 1. God's blessing & good health for Diana Doane – V. Gilbert. 1. Good health of husband. 1.
 God's blessing & speedy recovery for Josephine Slozak – Hedy Workum. 1. +Victor
 Bukowski – R.C.. 1. Health & strength for Mom – R.C.. 1. Jesus I Trust In Thee. 1. God's
 blessings for all our families. 1. +Ruth Rodrigues – Emily Izyk. 1. +Walter Smola – wife
 Alice. 1. Health & God's blessings for my grandson. 1. Blessings & good health for daughter
 & son & their families. 1. +Joseph Kszepka – wife & family. 1. Blessings for my grandson
 Vic – Grandma. 1. +Stefan Rosinski – wife Sallie. 1. +John & Henrietta Wieczorek – sister
 Sallie. 1. Safe travel for daughters. 1. Blessed Mother – blessings & good health for
 daughters & granddaughters. 1. Health & happiness of K.T.E.N. – M.P.. 1. God's blessings &
 health for J.J.P.B.J. – M.P.. 1. God's blessing & speedy recovery for Cheryl – Chet & Helen. 1.
 God's blessings & speedy recovery for Josie Slozak – Sally M.. 1. Birthday blessings for
 Connie W. – Sally & family. 1. St. Lucy – E.. 1. St. Jude & St. Anthony – E.. 1. +Raymond
 Sabourin, Sr. – wife & family. 1. +John Mastalerz – wife & family. 1. +Stephen & Sophie
 Noga – son Stephen. 1. +Louis Zglobicki – wife & family. 1. +Veronica Olbrych – Frances
 Bukowski. 1. +Victor Bukowski – wife Frances. 1. God's blessings & good health & Happy
 Birthday to Connie – Kazik & Eleanor.

~~ BACK PAGE HUMOR & MORE~~

BE PROUD THAT YOU ARE CATHOLIC

This is an interesting observation by a non-Catholic. It doesn't undo the harm the Church has caused by being slow to recognize and react to abusive priests, but it does cast an interesting light on what the media continues to portray as a "Catholic" problem. The following are excerpts of a speech given by non-Catholic Sam Miller – a prominent Cleveland Jewish businessman:

“Why would newspapers carry on a vendetta on one of the most important institutions that we have today in the United States, namely the Catholic Church?”

Do you know – the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students every day at the cost to that Church of 10 billion dollars, and a savings on the other hand to the American taxpayer of 18 billion dollars. The graduates go on to graduate studies at the rate of 92%

The Church has 230 colleges and universities in the U.S. with an enrollment of 700,000 students.

The Catholic Church has a non-profit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people – not just Catholics – in the United States today.

But the press is vindictive and trying to totally denigrate in every way the Catholic Church in this country. They have blamed the disease of pedophilia on the Catholic Church, which is as irresponsible as blaming adultery on the institution of marriage.

Let me give you some figures that Catholics should know and remember. For example, 12% of the 300 Protestants clergy surveyed admitted to sexual intercourse with a parishioner; 38% acknowledge other inappropriate sexual contact in a study by the United Methodist Church, 41.8% of clergy women reported unwanted sexual behavior; 17% of laywomen have been sexually harassed.

Meanwhile, 1.7% of the Catholic clergy has been found guilty of pedophilia. 10% of the Protestant ministers have been found guilty of pedophilia. This is not a Catholic problem.

A study of American priests showed that most are happy in the priesthood and find it even better than they had expected, and that most, if given the choice, would choose to be priest again in face of all the obnoxious PR the church has been receiving.

The Catholic Church is bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. The agony that Catholics have felt and suffered is not necessarily the fault of the Church. You have been hurt by a small number of wayward priests that have probably and hopefully been totally weeded out by now.

Walk with your shoulders high and your head higher. Be a proud member of the most important non-governmental agency in the United States. Then remember what the prophet Jeremiah said 'Stand by the roads, and look and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is and walk in it, and find rest for your souls'. Be proud to speak up for your faith with pride and reverence and learn what your Church does for all other religions.

Be proud that you're a Catholic.”