



Immaculate Conception-  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish  
Weekly Bulletin for February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Father Michael Pennock, Pastor  
Rectory-265-7236



**Sunday Masses:** Saturday 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m.- English and 11:30 a.m.- Spanish

**Gilman Weekday Masses:** 8 a.m. on Wednesday & Thursday and Saturday at 9 a.m.

**Piper City Masses** - Tuesday and Friday 8 a.m., Wednesday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 10:15 a.m.

**Confession Times in Gilman:** 30 minutes before weekday Masses and Saturday at 4:15 p.m.,  
Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and after the 11:30 a.m. Mass (when there are no Baptisms)

**Ministerial Positions for Sat., February 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Lector:** Frank Gagnon

**Ushers:** volunteers

**Ministerial Positions-Sun., February 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Eucharist:** Steve Schunke

**Lector:** Jim Broderick

**Ushers:** Doug Vaughn and Lucas Krones

**Gifts:** Todd and Carrie Miller

**Altar Servers:** Jason Finegan, Max Redenius,  
and Mayalyin Sanchez

**Mass Intentions for February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ For Jeanine Ishmiel request by Gene and Sandy Olson
- ❖ For Dave Ward request by Pat & Family
- ❖ For all the Parishioners

**Ministerial Positions for Sat., February 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Lector:** Jim Schreiber

**Ushers:** volunteers

**Ministerial Positions-Sun., February 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Eucharist:** Frank Gagnon

**Lector:** Doug Hanson

**Ushers:** Jim Broderick and Gus Losos

**Gifts:** Warren and Roxanne Weber

**Altar Servers:** John Finegan, Nick Vaughn, and Emily Vaughn

**Mass Intentions for Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

- ❖ For Stuart Merkle (Birthday Remembrance) request by Gene and Pat Merkle & Family
- ❖ For Lois Howard
- ❖ For all the Parishioners

Collection last weekend: \$1749.83  
2<sup>nd</sup> Collection GOD's Food Pantry: \$575  
**Thank you for your generosity!**

**Pope Benedict's Prayer Intentions for February**

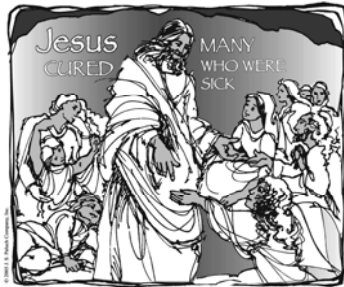
**General:** That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.

**Missionary:** That the Lord may sustain the efforts of health workers assisting the sick and elderly in the world's poorest regions.



Psalm 1:3

He shall be like a tree  
Planted by the rivers of water,  
That brings forth its fruit in its season,  
Whose leaf shall not wither;  
And whatever he does shall prosper.



## **February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** **WOE IS ME**

Often we think about the troubles in our lives and cry out, “Woe is me!” Like Job we might look around in despair at the misery in the world. Like Job’s friends we might look backward for something or someone on which to blame our suffering. We may decide that God—or we ourselves—must be to blame.

The Gospel today offers a different perspective from which to view earthly suffering. Jesus realized that there was nothing to be gained from looking around in despair or backward in blame. Instead, he looked forward in hope. He did not blame the sick and the possessed for their suffering, as many others did. And he did not give up hope, even though he knew he couldn’t cure all the sickness in the world. Jesus tried neither to eliminate human suffering nor to explain it. He simply did what good he could do in the time that he had.

Today’s Readings: Job 7:1–4, 6–7; Psalm 147:1–6; 1 Corinthians 9:16–19, 22–23; Mark 1:29–39  
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### **Announcements**

- **Children’s Mass Today-** Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. Mass
- **Please see the Back of this Bulletin for our Bishop’s letter!**
- **Please join us for the movie, Bella, in our parish hall on Saturday, February 11, at 7 p.m. All is free, including the popcorn!**
- **Prayer Group** - Every Monday, 6 p.m. in our Blessed-Sacrament Chapel.
- **Adult Catechism** - Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., pre-ceded by the Rosary at 7 p.m.

### **Reflection on Pope’s Mass Intentions**

1. What practical steps do I take to take care of, and value, the water that I consume each day?
2. How can we take part in campaigns or activities which would help to make real the Pope’s intention for prayer this month, ‘That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.’?
3. Is Jesus the living water who satisfies my thirst? How?

**Saint Quotes** – “He who cannot put up with the loss of his honors, can never make any advance in spiritual things.”- St. Philip Neri

**Bulletin Bloopers:** Wash your hands and say your Prayers because Jesus and germs are everywhere!

**Bulletin:** Mindy Rogers email: [delfin.rogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:delfin.rogers@sbcglobal.net) Call/Text: 309-242-2179

**Prayer Chain:** Call Laura Finegan 265-4651    **Hall Rental:** Call Anita Melgoza 265-7425

**Parish website:** [www.ournewchurch.com](http://www.ournewchurch.com) - view the bulletin on this site for information

**Please scroll down to read a letter from our Bishop**

## English

Dear Friends in Christ,

On January 20th an agency of the federal government created a serious threat to the freedom of religion guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. As Americans and Christians, we must take steps to counter this threat.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a directive that all private health care insurance programs must include several reproductive services for women. These services must be provided without any co-pay or deductible. Among the services are FDA-approved prescription contraceptives (some of which can cause early abortion), sterilization procedures and related education and counseling. The directive applies to religious employers, even if the services in question violate their moral principles. It also places an unnecessary burden of conscience on other employers, Catholic and otherwise, who consider these services immoral.

The directive does provide an exemption for some religious employers, but the terms of exemption are very narrow. The employer must employ primarily members of its own faith and serve primarily members of its own faith. Certainly most Catholic hospitals would not qualify for an exemption and perhaps many Catholic universities. Catholic Charities would not qualify. It could be argued that Catholic dioceses, parishes and schools likewise do not qualify, since Christ clearly sent his followers to proclaim the Gospel to everyone, to invite everyone into his Kingdom and to serve all who are in need. The Church doesn't exist just to take care of its own.

Now, it is no secret that many Catholics dissent from the Church's longstanding teaching on artificial contraception, elective sterilization and abortion. However, pursuing old arguments on these issues will sidetrack us from the real one at hand. The Health and Human Services directive is a violent breach of the wall of separation between church and state. For the government to force a religious body to pursue a course of action that contradicts its beliefs, particularly where no public interest is at stake, is completely unacceptable.

Throughout the history of this country, religious groups, certainly the Catholic Church, have made good use of religious liberty by contributing enormously to the common good. We have run hospitals and nursing homes that cared for everyone, especially the poor. We built universities and schools that educated millions of people who went on to develop this nation. Every day we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, fight for the oppressed and in many other ways give hope to the downtrodden—all done in the name of God, all done because of our faith.

Now our ability to carry out many of these apostolates is at stake, and many of our dedicated employees are potentially at risk of losing their medical insurance.

Your help is greatly needed, both as Christians and as Americans. First, please pray that this grave threat to religious liberty be stopped. Surely, if the gates of hell cannot prevail against the Church, God can manage a cabinet department. Second, support whatever efforts I may ask you to support in the future, such as legislative or judicial remedies. Even now, you can contact the President, the Secretary of Health of Human Services, and your members of Congress. Third, be courageous in your conviction. Take action of your own. For additional information about this issue, visit the special link on our diocesan Web site ([www.dioceseofjoliet.org](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org)).

The United States is a great country. It was founded by people who sought freedom, initially, religious freedom. The first right enshrined in the Bill of Rights is the free exercise of religion. We are justifiably proud that in this country people of virtually every faith on earth are able to pursue their religious objectives in peace and friendship. Our federal government should help preserve and promote that heritage. Let us work together at this moment to assure that it does.

God bless all of you, whom I am privileged to shepherd in the name of Christ.

Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon

## Español

Queridos amigos en Cristo,

El día 20 de enero, una agencia federal del gobierno hizo una seria amenaza a la libertad de religión, garantizada por la Primera Enmienda de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos. Como americanos y cristianos, debemos tomar acciones para enfrentar esta amenaza.

El Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de los Estados Unidos emitió una directiva para que todos los programas de salud privados, incluyan algunos servicios de fertilización para la mujer. Estos servicios deben ser proveídos sin deducible ni pago compartido. Dentro de estos servicios se encuentran anticonceptivos aprobados por el FDA (algunos de los cuales pueden causar un aborto temprano), procedimientos de esterilización, educación y consejería relacionados a esto. La directiva aplica a empleadores religiosos, aun cuando los servicios en cuestión, violan sus principios morales. Esto pone una carga innecesaria sobre la conciencia de otros empleadores, católicos y otros, quienes consideran estos servicios inmorales.

La directiva provee una excepción a algunos empleadores religiosos; sin embargo, los términos de la excepción son muy estrechos. El empleador debe contratar a miembros de su misma fe y servir primordialmente a miembros de su misma fe. Ciertamente, la mayoría de los hospitales católicos no calificarían dentro de la excepción y, tal vez muchas universidades católicas tampoco. Caridades Católicas no calificaría. Se podría argumentar que las diócesis, parroquias y escuelas tampoco calificarían, ya que Cristo envió a sus seguidores a proclamar el Evangelio a todos, y a invitarlos a su Reino y servir a todos aquellos que están en necesidad. La Iglesia no existe solo para cuidar de los suyos.

Ahora, no es ningún secreto que muchos católicos están en desacuerdo con las enseñanzas sobre los anticonceptivos, esterilizaciones y abortos, por elección propia. Sin embargo, entrar en estos viejos argumentos, sería desviarnos de la realidad que tenemos ahora en mano. La directiva de Salud y Servicios Humanos es un puente violento a las paredes que separan a la Iglesia del Estado. Para que el gobierno fuerce a un cuerpo religioso a seguir un curso de acción que contradice sus creencias, particularmente cuando ningún interés público está en juego, es completamente inaceptable.

A través de la historia de este país, grupos religiosos, específicamente la Iglesia Católica, ha hecho buen uso de sus libertades religiosas al contribuir enormemente al bien general. Hemos administrado hospitales y asilos en los cuales cuidamos de todos, especialmente de los pobres. Hemos construido universidades y escuelas que han educado a millones de personas, que han ido desarrollando a esta nación. Cada día le damos alimento al hambriento, vestimos al desnudo, albergamos al desamparado, luchamos por los oprimidos y, de muchas maneras, les damos esperanza al marginado: todo esto en el nombre de Dios y de nuestra fe.

Ahora, nuestra capacidad de continuar con muchos de estos apostolados está en riesgo, y muchos de nuestros ejemplares empleados están en riesgo de perder sus seguros médicos.

Necesitamos de su ayuda, como cristianos y como americanos. Primero, le pido que ore para que esta grave amenaza a la libertad de religión sea detenida. Seguramente, si las puertas del infierno no podrán prevalecer contra la Iglesia, Dios podrá arreglar estas situaciones que se presentan. Segundo, apoye cualquier esfuerzo que yo le pueda pedir en el futuro, tales como enmiendas legislativas o judiciales. Aun hoy, usted puede contactar al Presidente, a la Secretaría de Salud y Servicios Humanos, y a miembros del Congreso. Tercero, sea fuerte en sus convicciones. Tome usted mismo acción. Para mayor información acerca de este tema, visite el enlace especial de nuestra página ([www.dioceseofjoliet.org](http://www.dioceseofjoliet.org)).

Los Estados Unidos es un gran país. Fue fundado por un pueblo que buscó libertad, inicialmente libertad religiosa. El primer derecho consagrado en la Declaración de Derechos es el ejercicio libre de la religión. Justamente, estamos muy orgullosos que en este país, personas de cada fe que existen en el mundo, sean capaces de seguir los objetivos religiosos en paz y de una manera amigable. Nuestro gobierno federal debe de ayudar a mantener y promover esta herencia. Trabajemos juntos en estos momentos para asegurarnos que esto sea así.

Dios los bendiga a todos, a quienes tengo el privilegio de pastorear en el nombre de Cristo.

Monseñor R. Daniel Con