

February 3, 2008

Bicentennial Moments

Marriage is a covenant "by which a man and woman establish between themselves a partnership for the whole of life" CCC, #1601.

Did you know:

1. Each year over 4, 000 couples are married in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.
2. The Family Life Office has been serving parishes and the entire people of God in the Archdiocese through marriage preparation and enrichment programs for over four decades.
3. Marriage Preparation takes place primarily between the couple and the priest preparing them for marriage. Pre-Cana classes are just a part of the Church's concern that each couple is properly prepared to celebrate the sacrament of Marriage.
4. In the Latin Rite the celebration of marriage between two Catholic faithful normally takes place during Holy Mass, because of the connection of all the sacraments with the Paschal mystery of Christ. CCC #1621

For more information about Marriage Preparation or other programs offered by the Family Life Office please visit our website at www.archdiocese-phl.org or contact us at our e-mail address famlife@adphila.org or call our office at 215-587-5639

February 10, 2008

Bicentennial Moments

The 16th World Day of Prayer for the Sick will be celebrated on February 11, 2008 the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. This celebration was begun by Pope John Paul II in 1992 as a special time of prayer reminding us to see in our sick brothers and sisters the face of Christ.

Did you know:

1. That from the very beginning of the establishment of the diocese, care has been extended to the poor, homeless, widows, orphans, and the elderly.
2. That today the mission of Catholic Health Care Services is to manifest God's healing power through the provision of skilled nursing, independent and assisted living facilities, adult day health centers and community benefit programs to the frail elderly.
3. That Catholic Health Care Services has over 1600 beds/units annually caring for thousands of elders in need.
4. That Villa St. Joseph in Darby has served retired priests for 58 years and care is also extended to priests in the Regina Coeli Residence located on the grounds of Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster.

For more information about the services provided by Catholic Health Care Services please visit our website at www.catholichealthcareservices.org or call our office at 215-587-3663.

February 17, 2008

Bicentennial Moments

Did you know:

1. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is the seventh largest diocese in the United States. Only Los Angeles, Boston, New York, Chicago, Brooklyn and Galveston-Houston are larger.
2. There are over 200 parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with their own unique web site. You can visit them by going to <http://www.archphila.org/parishes/index.htm>.
3. In the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, over 40,000 "people in pews" are directly involved in providing parish sponsored social services for over 326,000 people. These services range from sponsoring blood banks and alcoholics anonymous programs to services for the homebound, food collections and distribution programs and even running summer camps.
4. Almost 30% of all the people in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia are over age 55.
5. In 2006 over 4,000 weddings were celebrated and almost 13,000 babies were baptized in the parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

For all kinds of fun information and facts about the Church and even your parish go to: <http://www.archphila.org/pastplan/newstuff/Mapsandreports/index.html>.

February 24, 2008

Bicentennial Moments

Did you know:

1. That there were only two Catholic signers of the U.S. constitution. Daniel Carroll who was the cousin of Charles Carroll, the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence and Thomas FitzSimmons who represented Pennsylvania in the Continental Congress
2. That although Bishop Neumann is known as the builder of the Catholic School System in Philadelphia there were already a number of private schools operating in the 1830's and 1840's. In that same period we also see the birth of the present Villanova University (1842), St. Joseph's University (1851) and St. Charles Seminary (1832).
3. That Thomas Eakins (1844-1916), famous Philadelphia artist and sculptor often bicycled to St. Charles Seminary Overbrook on Sunday afternoons to listen to Sunday Vespers and to paint. A number of his portraits are housed at the Seminary's Eakins Room.
4. That the 41st International Eucharistic Congress was held in Philadelphia from August 1-8, 1976 during our nation's Bicentennial.

All of this information and more is contained in "Our Faith Filled Heritage", a special history book prepared for our Bicentennial as a Diocese. Books are available in each parish or by contacting Loretta Collucci at 215-965-8190