

Dear Friends,

All good things must come to an end, but I am happy to be back. As much fun as flying is, I don't want to be strapped into an aircraft seat for 20-plus hours again for a long while. If it seems that I don't know what day or time it is, you're correct.

I have it on reliable authority that Father Jerry enjoyed his stay immensely, and has vowed not to step on a scale for at least a month. Thank you for extending good, old Sacred Heart hospitality to our visitor. I even understand that many of you were sorry to see Father Jerry go back home. Who knows, we might invite him back again next year.

Believe it or not, this very weekend marks my one-year anniversary here at Sacred Heart. How time flies! In honor of this momentous occasion, I thought that I would share a few of my thoughts and impressions of our one year together. Please keep reading. This week's Bulletin Interview is the first annual Sacred Heart State of the Union Address.

God Bless,
Fr. Niall

Father Niall and the State of the Union

1. Well, have you wanted to leave yet?

No. I'm just getting started. You haven't seen anything yet! Seriously though, there have been days when I felt like I wanted to lock the rectory door and just run away. At first, we were kind of under siege over here. There was so much going on. There were people in the parish office and rectory often until 9:00 p.m. or later many a night, and I just never knew what was going to happen next. It was kind of like the Mad Hatter's Tea Party! Now, things are much calmer. Although I haven't completely unpacked as yet, I have plans to move in formally and completely this summer and really make the rectory my home. Additionally, I've decided to put off my nervous breakdown indefinitely.

2. What do you like best?

I would have to say first and foremost, I like the diversity of the people of Galveston. It is very universal here and Sacred Heart Parish reflects this wonderfully. There is a marvelous, easy going attitude here. I enjoy seeing everyone coming to church with the whole clan in tow. It is great to see families with small children made to feel so welcome. I even get a chance to catch up with all the "news of the day" with the older generation. They come earlier to get their favorite seat, get the bulletin read before mass, and of course, catch up with all their neighbors. I have to admit that the pace of life is so different from what I was used to in Houston. What scares me now is that I think, "Do I really have to make that day trip to Houston?" It seems so far away.

3. What has changed?

There have been changes, but I think that they have all worked out pretty well. What has changed for me personally is that this is the first situation that I have ever been in as a priest where I

actually sleep in the same building where I work. It is also the first time that I am in a parish all by myself, without any fellow priests or deacons. Though, before Christmas of last year, the pastor of Reina De La Paz was invited to live in the rectory with me. Our staff is the smallest that I have ever worked with. By and large, I initially had to make most of the decisions by myself, but that has thankfully changed. Now, we have a new Finance Committee, a new Director of Religious Education, and a new maintenance person. We have worked together to produce an excellent Eucharistic Ministry Team and to reorganize our CCE program. We have promoted a Bilingual Baptism Team and have added a much-needed money counting group. The grounds have been spruced up, and the rectory has received some painting and repairs. A lot of good things have happened. We have so many more people, young and old, who have become involved in various ministries. The future is definitely looking good.

4. What are some of the things that surprised you?

The first surprise was to find that the people in Galveston have an accent. Sometimes you can't understand them, and when they talk about "my accent", I keep wondering, what are they talking about? The biggest surprise of all was to find out that there are no such thing as "secrets" in Galveston, and that's for sure! The people who talk about others get talked about, as well. There is a certain, lovely poetic justice in that. I have to admit that I never expected to experience a traffic jam in Galveston. No one told me that there is a mad rush to get to work here by the off-islanders, or that they blow up the causeway every now and then with maybe just a few days notice! I almost forgot, and maybe it is because I really do want to forget, but here it is: at one point, the air conditioner on the roof of the rectory was draining into the upstairs bathtub. I kept wondering where the cold water was coming from as I showered. Now, that has been repaired and the A/C has its own drain. Wonders never cease!

How about I let you have the last word?

I have to say how much I appreciate what the parishioners have done for me personally and what they have done for our community. So many people, including children, have stepped forward to join the various ministries and to take on all kinds of different jobs to help out in every way possible. Among many other things, we have had volunteers to assist with sorting, cleaning, moving, and decorating; mostly in the church, but also in the parish office and rectory. We have a new webmaster who keeps our website looking great. Quite a few odd jobs, some of them pretty large, have been undertaken. Does anyone remember the ill wind that blew down the bougainvillea? We had a group of green thumbs who came on St. Patrick's Day and worked tirelessly to repair that damage and to beautify the entire grounds; an on-going process which everyone is always welcome to join. We are looking positively "the place to be" around here. The Knights of Columbus members offered to paint the parish office and rectory. Even though everything was wet at once and smelled to high heaven, they did a wonderful and professional job. I can't forget to mention Sacred Heart's staff. Rose D'Ambra and Dorothy Nelson, who work in the parish office, have had to learn a second language, Irish-English, to be able to talk to me and assist me. Ray Hertel has come on board

as our new DRE. Leo Hock, our organist, has taken on the additional job of sacristan. Chacho Rangel, who has become our plant manager, is our maintenance man and rescuer in times of disaster. I am so very grateful and thankful to everyone who continues to make this place a home for all God's people. There is a real vitality here, and it is wonderful to be a part of it.

CCE REGISTRATION

Sacred Heart CCE registration, including First Confession and First Communion continues. **Dates:** The last day for registration for the 2007-2008 school year will be July 31st, 2007.

Fees: The base registration fee is \$50.00. this fee applies to the first child. An additional \$10.00 registration fee will apply for the second and third child in the same family. For four or more children in the same family, there will be no additional fee.

Qualifications: A) The parent(s) and or/ guardian(s) and the child(ren) must be members of the parish and attend mass regularly;

B) The previous year's CCE program must have been successfully completed.

C) Those newly transferring from another parish must live within the parish boundaries and be able to demonstrate CCE registration and satisfactory participation at their previous parish.

Some exceptions, including financial assistance, will be considered.

For more information contact: Ray Hertel, at 281-703-1231 or email

sacramental-theology@hotmail.com

Confirmation: Sacred Heart has very low confirmation enrollment this year and will not have teen Confirmation classes in the 2007-2008 school year. We are looking into having Confirmation classes every other year.



BAPTISMS

Parents requesting a Baptism are asked to call the office 409-762-6374.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION



Wednesday, July 4th, 5:30 p.m.

Paciencia Tuazon

Saturday, July 7th, 5:00 p.m.

Bread: Mary Ann Reilly, Terry Jackson, and Yolanda Lloreda

Wine: Linda Goinet, Lori Kusnerik. and Barbara & Michael Reyna

Sunday, July 8th

8:00 a.m.

Bread: Jose & Roxanne Soto and Ben Parma

Wine: Sherlyn Cook, Ann Halligan, and Andrea & Jared Chiarchiaro

10:00 a.m.

Bread: Norma Suayan, Kathy Dietrich, and Angelo Grasso

Wine: Zoila Contreras, Claudia Mancuso, Vernon Frederickson, and Hadden Dietrich

12:00 noon

Bread: Betty Gounah, Vivian Kleinschmidt, and Karen Crummett

Wine: Christina Mendez, Jerome Rourke, Bartosz Szczesny, and Gilbert Silva

1:15 p.m.

Bread: Zoila Contreras

Wine: Nicanor Prado and Ana Boleman

READERS

Wednesday, July 4th, 5:30 p.m.

Betty Gounah,

Saturday, July 7th, 5:00 p.m.

John Pena and Leslie Burgess

Sunday, July 8th

8:00 a.m.

Kay Sandor and Bonnie Webster

10:00 a.m.

Grace Mansfield and Monica Ott

12:00 noon

Angela Crummett and Judy Wolf

1:15 p.m.

Gabriela Lara and George Gutierrez



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

Sat., June 30th, 5:00 p.m.

Eleanora Peters, Joe Centenio, and Harry Brown

Sun., July 1st

8:00 a.m.

Phillip Traynor Jr., Gertrude Butler Macha, Gertrude

Dorsey, and Harry Brown

10:00 a.m.

Ava Marie Gately and Harry Brown

12:00 p.m.

Americo "Rico" Negrini Sr., Jesus R. Aleman, and Harry Brown

1:15 p.m.

For the people of the parish and Harry Brown

Mon., 8:00 a.m.

Henry Porretto Jr., Mary K. Mallia, and Paul M. Mallia

Tues., 8:00 a.m.

Charles Demack, Pedro Tejeda, Jesus Martinez, and Roberto Gonzales

Wed., 8:00 a.m.

Rose & John D'Ambra – 43rd wedding anniversary

5:30 p.m.

Frank Tropea

Thurs., 8:00 a.m.

Catherine Deltz

Fri. 8:00 a.m.

Rick Vaiani, Jose Martinez, and Paulino Gonzales

Sat., July 7th 5:00 p.m.

Eleanora Peters

Sun., July 8th

8:00 a.m.

Gerome & Minnie Anselmo and Bernard Traynor

10:00 a.m.

June, Roy & Georgia Cantieri

12:00 p.m.

Wally S. Hines, John Asta and W. Scarboro Hines

1:15 p.m.

For the people of the parish

Contributions for June 24, 2007

\$8,193.27

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Wednesday, July 4th

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena and St. Jude Novena,
8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 6th

Wedding rehearsal of Leal and Anasco at 5:00 p.m.

Wedding rehearsal of Hold and Lara at 6:00 p.m.

Wedding rehearsal of Belluomini and Vermeer at
7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 7th

Wedding of Mary Grace Leal and Leslie Anasco at
11:30 a.m.

Wedding of Michael Hold and Christell Lara at 2:00 p.m.

Wedding of Amy Belluomini and Travis Vermeer at
7:00 p.m.

HEALTH NOTES

**COURTESY OF THE HEALTH MINISTRY
ALZHEIMER'S**

Alzheimer's Disease(AD) is a progressive brain disorder that gradually destroys a person's memory and ability to learn, reason, make judgments, communicate, and carry out daily activities. This disease causes nerve cells to die in areas of the brain that are vital to memory and other mental abilities, and connections between nerve cells are disrupted.

As many as 4.5 million Americans suffer from AD. The disease usually begins after age 60, and risk goes up with age. AD is not a normal part of aging.

BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday morning bible study will not meet during the months of July and August.

Happy summer to all, and see you in the fall.

**ATTENTION READERS AND
MINISTERS OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

Schedules for Readers and Eucharist Ministers for August, September and October are now being made. The new schedule will be in the sacristy on the weekend of July 28th.



JULY 4TH

Have a happy and safe holiday. The office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2007.

WAHOO!

**A SUMMER FESTIVAL FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES**

St. Patrick's Parish, Galveston, will be hosting an archdiocese-wide Summer Festival for children and young people with disabilities, their siblings, friends and families on Saturday, July 14 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 per participant. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m. and a complementary lunch will be provided for everyone at 12 noon. The Festival includes a respite for parents and care providers from 10:15a.m. until 12 noon at no additional cost. Please contact Jo Jefferies at 409-762-9646 for additional information, registration forms, and requests for financial assistance or to volunteer.

**ST. PATRICK'S ALTAR SOCIETY
GAMES PARTY**

St. Patrick's Altar Society will have a Luncheon, Games and Card Party on Saturday, July 7, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 and includes a chicken salad lunch, dessert, and door prizes. Men are cordially invited to reserve a table and join the fun. For more info call 744-2500 or 927-1551.



Pray for ...

Asta, Serina	Loudon, Fred
Asta, Rachel	Longoria, Suzanne
Arcidiacono, Elena	Martino, Julie Ann
Arcidiacono, Giovannina	Mendoza, Sue
Aymes, Melissa	Micheletti, Sister Carmella
Bastien, Flo	Miller, Willis
Beebe, Debbie "Lucy"	Morse, Gene
Bember George	Muscat Joe
Carmignani, Anna Marie	Novelli, June
Chandler, Anna Marie	Orapallo Mary Joyce
Chavez, Carmen	Owens, Casey
Cooke-Schilling,	Peralez, George
MacKenzie	Perez, Marisela
Curtis, Joann	Platt Bustamante, Janie
Demack, Vilma	Powell, Agnes
Fichera, Joe & Tina	Roberts, Ruby
Foster, Kathleen	Ross Colleen
Frey, Norma Clare	Rougeaux, Shelia
Gonzales, Zachary	Ruggiero, Donna
Gonzalez, Rosaura	Sampson, Elizabeth
Hernandez, Clemente	Sanchez, Ramiro
Hernandez, Peter	Semien, Cora
Hines, Rosalie	Siemssen, Craig
Hoffman, Bertha Margaret	Siemssen, Lynn Prino
Hoffman, Harry	Shannon, Sister Benedict
Hogan, Lawrence	Shannon, Sister Rebecca
Hypolite, Bernice	Stein, Jay
Jordan, Bryan	Sterk, Katie
Kaluza, Jerry	Thomas, Karen
Kollar, Andras	Vucanovich, Christine
LeBoeuf, Mary	Walker, Betsy
Llewellyn, Earl	

SANCTUARY LAMP

In honor of Rose & John D'Ambra on their
43rd Wedding Anniversary

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 18:16-33; Mt 8:18-22
 Tuesday: Eph 2:19-22; Jn 20:24-29
 Wednesday: Gn 21:5, 8-20a; Mt 8:28-34; or, for
 Independence Day, any readings from the
 Mass "For Public Needs," nos. 882-889, or
 "For Peace and Justice," nos. 887-891
 Thursday: Gn 22:1b-19; Mt 9:1-8
 Friday: Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67; Mt 9:9-13
 Saturday: Gn 27:1-5, 15-29; Mt 9:14-17
 Sunday: Is 66:10-14c; Ps 66; Gal 6:14-18;
 Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 [10:1-9]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time;
 Canada Day
 Tuesday: St. Thomas
 Wednesday: St. Elizabeth of Portugal; Independence Day
 Thursday: St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria
 Friday: St. Maria Goretti; First Friday
 Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday