

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS

JANUARY 28, 2007 - EPIPHANY IV - ST. PETER NOLASCO, C - ST. AGNES, VM (THE SECOND TIME)

CONFESSION SUNDAY: Confessions will be heard before and during all Masses.

Dr. Droleskey is giving a lecture this morning at 10:30 AM in Helfta Hall. His topic is: **Pro-Life Report: What's Really Happening.** All parishioners are invited. A free-will offering will be taken.

1st Vespers of St. Francis de Sales and Benediction are at 4:45 PM.

✠ FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Monday is the Feast of the Patronal Saint of the Diocese of Cincinnati, St. Francis de Sales, whose meekness and gentle strength are the embodiment of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Please join us for two special Masses in honor of our Patron; One at 11:30 AM and a special time of 5:45 PM in the evening.

FEBRUARY 2ND - CANDLEMAS
Friday, February 2nd, is First Friday and the feast of the Purification / Candlemas. A special evening "Mass of Candles", at approximately 6:30 PM, follows their Blessing and the Presentation Procession at 5:45 PM. Our annual "Winter Soup Supper" follows the Mass. The evening concludes with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, devotions and the opening of **ALL NIGHT ADORATION** at approximately 9:00 A.M.

Plan to spend this lovely feast of Our Lord and Our Lady with your "church family" by bringing your children to take part in the lovely candlelight procession. After Mass we will share a family supper of bread, wine, soup and desserts.

As you did last year, bring your *favorite meatless* soup in a crock pot, and the church will supply a variety of tasty breads and wines.

In the spirit of this feast of the Presentation, *present* yourself and your children, as Our Lady presented her only Son. Make the *offering* of your delicious soup or dessert as St. Joseph offered two doves. Your extra effort for God and your "church family" will not be forgotten by Him.

"Only the pure in heart can make a good soup."

—LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN,
b. DECEMBER 16, 1770



✠ FEB 3RD - FEAST OF ST. BLAISE
Saturday is First Saturday and the feast of St. Blaise. The **Blessing of Throats** follows the 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM Masses. Throats will also be blessed Sunday following all Masses.

✠ SORROWFUL MOTHER NOVENA

Our annual Novena to the Sorrowful Mother, with the Blessing of the Sick, opens this Friday evening at 5:15 PM prior to the Blessing of Candles and Procession. Be sure to bring the sick to be blessed, and call their names in to the office to be mentioned in the Novena.



✠ FIRST FRIDAY

Friday is the First Friday of the month. The schedule is as follows:

11:00 AM Confessions

11:30 AM Low Mass

5:00 PM Confessions & Rosary

5:30 PM Infant of Prague Novena VI, Sacred Heart Novena & Opening of Sorrowful Mother Novena with Blessing of the Sick

5:45 PM Blessing of Candles & Procession

6:30 PM (Approx.) "The Candle Mass" followed by the Winter Soup Supper.

9:00 PM (Approx.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Devotions.

ADORATION CONTINUES ALL NIGHT

The Intention of the All Night Adoration: In Reparation to the Sacred Heart, for our young people.



✠ FIRST SATURDAY

Reparation Intention: For immodest fashions and sins of the flesh.

7:00 AM Confessions

7:30 AM Low Mass

8:10 AM Rosary & 1st Saturday Devotions

8:45 AM Closing Benediction, Confessions

9:00 AM High Mass & Confessions

10:00 AM Decorations Take-Down

4:30 PM Confessions

Collection Report

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2007 \$ 3421.00

*Thank you for your generosity!
Remember St. Gertrude's in your will!*

✠ POETRY CORNER

TO OUR LADY

By DOM BEDE CAMM

Hail Mary, pearl of grace,
Pure flower of Adam's race,
And vessel rare of god's election;
Unstained as virgin snow,
Serene as sunset glow—
We sinners crave thy sure protection.

Thou Queen of high estate,
Conceived immaculate
To form incarnate Love's pure dwelling;
The spirit found His rest
Within they sinless breast,
And thence flows joy beyond all telling.

Through His dear blood Who died,
By sinners crucified,
Art thou preserved, and we forgiven,
Help us to conquer sin,
That we may enter in
Through thee, the golden gate, to heaven.



From O GLORIOSA DOMINA

By RICHARD CRASHAW

Hail most high, most humble one!
Above the world; below thy Son,
Whose blush the moon beautifully mars
And stains the timorous light of stars.
He that made all things had not done
Till He had made Himself thy Son.
The whole world's Host would be thy Guest,
And board Himself at thy rich breast.
O boundless hospitality!
The Feast of all things feed on thee.

Servers

FEBRUARY 4, 2007

7:30 AM John Wiesman, Kent Maki, Joe Andreotta, Tom Kamphaus
9:00 AM Jim Gebel, Richard Smith, Dale Wilker, Bernie Brueggemann
11:30 AM Bob Uhlenbrock, Kirby Bischel, Dennis Hille, John French
5:45 PM John Seyfried

Servers

JANUARY 29, - FEBRUARY 4, 2007

•MON 01/29 5:45 PM Low: G. Keaveney
•WED 01/31 6:30 AM Low: C. & T. Simpson
•FRI 02/02 5:45 PM High: MC: R. VandeRyt & P. Lotarski
(Servers will be contacted for other positions.)
•SAT 02/03 7:30 AM Low: C. & T. Simpson
8:45 AM BENEDICTION: Keaveney, Briggs, Bayer
9:00 AM High: Keaveney, Briggs, Bayer
•SUN 02/04 7:30 AM Low: D. & S. Brueggemann
9:00 AM High: CHAPLAINS: J. & A. Lotarski; TH: I. French; AC: Cozzens Bros; TORCH: B. Lotarski, G. Wnek, T. Simpson, A. Richesson
11:30 AM Low: F. Puglielli & C. Ritze
5:45 PM Low: G. Miller

✠ ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT'D.)

✠ NEXT SUNDAY

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of the month. The **Blessing of Religious Articles** follows all Masses. The **Blessing of Throats** follows all Masses. **Dr. Droleskey** will speak at **10:45 AM** in Helfta Hall.

Set your missal: February 4th. **Septuagesima** with the commemoration of St. Andrew Corsini, BpC. **PREF:** Trinity.

✠ YOU ARE INVITED...

to a lecture in Helfta Hall, Sunday, February 4th. Dr. Droleskey will be giving a talk on: **Ratzinger: Rat or Cat? The Modernist's Mindset.** The talk follows the 9:00 AM High Mass – at approximately 10:45 AM. A free-will offering will be taken.

✠ THE KING OF LOVE

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Wnek and family who enthroned the Sacred Heart of Jesus King of Love in their home and family, with the assistance of Fr. Saavedra, on Monday evening, January 15th.

✠ REMINDER

Parents, please remember to take your children to the bathroom before Mass. Children should only leave Holy Mass for an emergency, not for a little break from time to time. Children are forbidden to use the water fountain during Mass — parents and ushers please note! Our Blessed Savior suffered three hours of burning thirst at Calvary, which is the Mass.

✠ ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT LITERARY WINE TASTING

Saturday, February 17th, at 5:30 PM we are offering a Literary Wine Tasting and appetizer buffet. The wine selections will be similar to those mentioned in classical literary pieces such as:

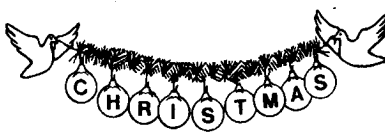
Hamlet, The Three Musketeers, The Canterbury Tales, The Cask of Amontillado, The Great Gatsby and Beowulf.

A classical literature presentation by Margaret Kinnett will accompany each selection.

The cost is \$25.00 per person and the cut-off date for reservations is February 10th, so that the wines may be ordered in appropriate quantities. Please contact the church office at 645-4214 for reservations.

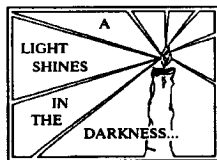


Decorations Down Day



On Saturday, February 3rd, following the 9:00 AM Mass and Blessing of Throats, we will begin taking down our Christmas Decorations. This project will take the cooperation and effort of many volunteers. Eldon and Ernie will need men to help take down the Christmas trees, as well as all the outside decorations. As many ladies of the parish as are able to come — beginning after the Mass and continuing into the afternoon — are needed to dismantle the trees, and carefully wrap and pack all the delicate decorations that help to make our church so beautiful. Of course, all this disruption will make everything very dirty, and we will all be needed to clean the church and prepare it for Sunday, and the beginning of Septuagesimtide.

Unlike last year, we have already taken down the decorations in the side chapel, around the doors and the angels and wreaths. That still leaves the side altars, and the main altar. This is *not* just a Holy Helpers project, this is for *everyone* that can come and help. We need many hands to successfully make this work. We'll even provide pizza and something to drink. Come help—*it's fun!*



✠ VOTIVE CANDLES

The suggested donation for a seven day votive candle is \$5.00. The suggested donation for 6-hour votives is 50 cents.

We also offer the practice of making a memorial donation to cover the extremely expensive cost of our Sanctuary light. This light is made of 100% bees wax, and olive oil, representing the purity of Our Lord. It is beautifully sweet-smelling and burns for a fortnight. We are offering the privilege of burning this visible mark of the Real Presence for a suggested donation of \$25.00. For two weeks your prayers, petitions and remembrances for your

loved ones will burn continuously in the presence of Our Lord. Envelopes for this privileged donation are available in the vestibule. Your intention will be listed in the bulletin.



THE PRESENTATION

According to Mosaic law,
As soon as forty days were o'er
They Christ, the Infant Savior, bore
To God's great Temple. When they saw
Its courts, what holy joy they felt!
All mothers had a noble pride
To bring their first-born there where dwelt
The Lord. But now the Sanctified
This Virgin to the Father gave;
He was the one true Sacrifice,
Whose offering now began to save
Mankind, and help them all arise
From sin and death. This Mary knew
When, joyful, she nigh the altar drew.

—REV. JOHN J. RAUSCHER, S.M.

CANDLES



DEAR, I have lit a candle
for your birthday
Because a candle is so like to
you.

What need is there of candles
in the sunshine!

What need is there of love
when life is gay!

But ah, a candle set within a window,
When twilight shadows come drearily gray,
Tells of a mother waiting with her dearness
To comfort hearts the day has touched
with pain—

A little candle shining through the darkness,
How fearlessly it braves the wind and rain.
Dear, I have lit a candle for your birthday
Because in every grief I come to you.

—SISTER M. ELEANOR, C.S.C.



✠ THE CALENDAR

✠ BISHOP'S CORNER



MON	01/29/07	ST FRANCIS DE SALES, BPCD PRINCIPAL PATRON OF THE ARCHDIOCESE 11:30 AM High <i>In Honor of St. Francis de Sales - For Prayers Answered (Jean Bischel)</i>
N.B.:	5:45 PM	Low Mass <i>†God's Mercy on Charlene A. Hopkins - 41st Wedding Anniversary Remembrance (Timothy Hopkins)</i>
TUES	01/30/07	ST MARTINA, VM 11:30 AM Requiem High Mass <i>Purgatorial Society</i>
WED	01/31/07	ST JOHN BOSCO, C 6:30 AM Low Mass <i>Success at Work (Barb Steinmetz)</i> 11:30 AM High Mass <i>Special Intention (E. Wanke)</i> 7:00 PM Parent-Teacher Conference / Report Cards Distributed 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
THUR	02/01/07	ST IGNATIUS, BPM - FIRST THURSDAY St Brigid, V 11:30 AM High Mass <i>†Pearl Albanese (M/M C. Bellavia)</i> 7:00 PM Compline
FRI	02/02/07	PURIFICATION OF OUR LADY - CANDLEMAS DAY - FIRST FRIDAY 11:00 AM Confessions 11:30 AM Low Mass <i>For the Poor Souls (Charlene A. Bloemker)</i> 5:00 PM Confessions & Rosary 5:15 PM Infant of Prague Novena VI, Sacred Heart Novena & Opening of the Sorrowful Mother Novena with Blessing of the Sick 5:45 PM Blessing of Candles & Procession 6:30 PM (Approx.) "The Candle Mass" , <i>In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Bishop Dolan)</i> followed by the Winter Soup Supper 9:00 PM (Approx.) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Devotions
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CONTINUES ALL NIGHT		
SAT	02/03/07	OUR LADY'S SATURDAY - ST BLAISE, BPM FIRST SATURDAY THE BLESSING OF THROATS AFTER BOTH MASSES 7:00 AM Confessions 7:30 AM Low Mass <i>Uncle Bob (Jacinta Brueggemann)</i> 8:10 AM Rosary & First Saturday Devotions 8:45 AM Closing Benediction & Confessions 9:00 AM High Mass, Confessions <i>Bishop Dolan (Ernie & Nora)</i> 10:00 AM Decorations Take-Down 4:30 PM Confessions
SUN	02/04/07	SEPTUAGESIMA - ST ANDREW CORSINI, BPC 7:30 AM Low Mass <i>Grandparents, Relatives & Friends (Regina Brueggemann)</i> 9:00 AM High Mass <i>Grandpa & Grandma Brueggemann (Jacinta B.)</i> 10:45 AM Dr. Droleskey's Lecture 11:30 AM Low Mass <i>Living & Deceased of the Weigand Family (Joan Weigand)</i> 5:45 PM Low Mass <i>For the People of St. Gertrude</i>

Today Fr. Saavedra, who is so faithful each week teaching in our school and working with our youth, is with us for the Sunday Masses. Along with Fr. Thielen, he is hearing Confessions all morning, and we thank both priests for their devotion which renders ours so easy.

I've gone up to Columbus today to see the St. Clare congregation, but will be back for evening Vespers which opens the feast of our local patron saint, Francis de Sales. May he protect our city, and convert us along with this archdiocese. St. Francis founded the Visitation Order which was privileged to receive the last great Sacred Heart revelations, leading to the feast day, First Friday, and the wonderful promises for those devoted to our Lord's Heart.

Vespers are sung here, early or late, several Sundays a month throughout the year, generally to an empty church. Even erstwhile devout souls think nothing of NEVER attending the Church's evening prayer, of sanctifying the *whole* of the Lord's Day, as our ancestors in the faith did until very recent years. Only a handful of faithful ever bother to return, (like the one healed leper) and give thanks. For the rest of the parish, even those nearby: Not even two or three times a year...no—never!

We have the odd, modern fallacy imprinted in our heads that we only have to "get to Mass" on Sunday. True, if more of you would do this faithfully *each* week, it would already be something. Still, we should at least make some effort to maintain our Catholic customs, and show our gratitude as we sanctify the waning hours of Our Lord's Day. A translation of the beautiful service is usually provided, but you may pray quietly as well. And how beautiful to end Sunday with Benediction!

Many Protestants think nothing of going to church twice every Sunday, and even during the week. Most Catholics would be horrified at the notion! No wonder the Protestants are gaining on us! How ironic to lose the faith, but gain in generosity and devotion! Protestants put us to shame!

May the example of heretics inspire you to be a better Catholic. I thank all of you who went out of your way to make the January 22nd devotions a success. Who knows the power of your prayer, and the potential recompense for those who make reparation?

May St. Francis de Sales fire us with firm, sweet zeal for our holy religion, and bless you all.

—Bishop Dolan

The participation of the faithful in Sunday Vespers: In an earlier age, these canonical prayers were attended by many of the faithful: but this gradually ceased, and, as We have already said, their recitation at present is the duty only of the clergy and of

religious. The laity have no obligation in this matter. Still, it is greatly to be desired that they participate in reciting or chanting Vespers sung in their own parish on feastdays. We earnestly exhort you, Venerable Brethren, to see that this pious practice is kept up, and that wherever it has ceased you restore it if possible. This, without doubt, will produce salutary results when Vespers are conducted in a worthy and fitting manner and with such helps as foster the piety of the faithful. Let the public and private observance of the feasts of the Church, which are in a special way dedicated and consecrated to God, be kept inviolable: and especially the Lord's day which

(Continued on the insert)



THE QUESTION OF THE POPE:

"JUST AN OPINION?"

By Most Rev. Donald J. Sanborn

(This is a series in which Bishop Sanborn examines opinionism, and to render judgement whether it is a legitimate position to take. Can the identity of the Roman Pontiff be a matter of opinion?)

THE VACANCY of the Apostolic See, the non-papacy of Benedict XVI, and for that matter of John Paul II, John Paul I, Paul VI, and even of John XXIII, is an issue which has divided traditionalists perhaps more than any other over the past forty years.

Of those who have taken the path of resistance to the reforms of Vatican II, the majority profess to be *sedeplenis*, that is, they hold that Benedict XVI is a true Roman Pontiff. Others, a minority but not an insignificant one, are *sedevacantists*, that is, they say that Benedict XVI is not a true Roman Pontiff, nor are his Vatican II predecessors.

This difference of theological position has caused a worldwide agony among those who are resisting Vatican II.

"I do not say that the pope is not the pope, but I do not say either that one cannot say that the pope is not the pope."

—Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre

This fundamental tenet of *Opinionism*, as defined by Archbishop Lefebvre, is what will be addressed in this article.

Five Errors of Opinionism (Cont'd.)

ERROR 1: Opinionism places the identity of the Roman Pontiff, i.e., whether Ratzinger is the Vicar of Christ or not, in the category of "theological opinion."

The conclusion that Ratzinger is pope carries with it *necessary* conclusions: that the doctrines, disciplines, and rites which he has universally promulgated are Catholic and not sinful. If Ratzinger is pope, then by the indefectibility and infallibility of the Church, the religion which he approves and promulgates is the Catholic Faith. One could practice it in all good conscience: indeed one *must*.

The conclusion, on the other hand, that the doctrines, disciplines and rites of Vatican II are false and evil, and contrary to Faith, religion, and good morals, carries with it a *necessary* conclusion: that the person or persons who have promulgated it do not have the authority of Christ. The infallibility and indefectibility of the Church, which comes from the solemnly promised assistance of Christ, cannot bear that such a thing happen. One *must* conclude to Ratzinger's non-papacy, if one concludes these things about Vatican II.

So it is impossible, logically and theologically to say, "I accept Ratzinger as pope, but I reject Vatican II and its reforms." Likewise it is impossible, logically and theologically to go the other way, saying, "I reject Vatican II and its reforms, but I accept Ratzinger as pope."

In other words, Ratzinger's papacy necessarily means the religion he promulgates is Catholic, and the non-Catholicism of Vatican II and its reforms necessarily means that Ratzinger cannot be pope.

The Society of Saint Pius X is guilty of the first fallacy, of accepting Ratzinger but rejecting his religion. They mount a worldwide defiance of him by the establishment of a parallel apostolate in which they try to lure souls away from him and his hierarchy.

The opinionist is guilty of the second fallacy, he rejects Vatican II and its reforms, but admits the acceptance of Ratzinger is theologically viable. It makes no sense.

If you have undertaken a resistance to Vatican II and its reforms you cannot say that it is a legitimate opinion to hold that Ratzinger is the pope. To say this is to implicitly admit that you are not certain that Vatican II and its reforms are truly contrary to faith and morals. To be opinionist about Ratzinger is to be opinionist (and therefore doubtful) about the whole basis of the resistance to Vatican II.

If it is possible that Ratzinger is pope, then it is possible that Vatican II, the New Mass, the new sacraments, the new canon law, and ecumenism are Catholic. If it is possible that Ratzinger is pope, then it is possible that we are all wrong about Vatican II.

(To be continued.)



REALITY OF MASS AND BENEDICTION

He's there, I see Him,
in Glory, all white!
Our Creator, our God
our King, our Light!
Our Redeemer, our Savior,
the love of our life!
Who's gift of Himself to us,
sets all things aright.

—JOHN SEYFRIED

POPE PIUS XII, *MEDIATOR DEI* (Cont'd.)

the Apostles under the guidance of the Holy Ghost, substituted for the Sabbath. Now, if the order was given to the Jews: "Six days shall you do work: in the seventh day is the sabbath, the rest holy to the Lord. Everyone that shall do any work on this day, shall die." how will these Christians not fear spiritual death, who perform servile work on feastsdays, and whose rest on these days is not devoted to religion and piety but given over to the allurements of the world? Sundays and Holydays, then, must be made holy by divine worship, which gives homage to God and heavenly food to the soul. Although the Church only commands the faithful to abstain from servile work and attend Mass and does not make it obligatory to attend evening devotions, still she desires this and recommends it repeatedly: moreover, the needs of each one demand it, seeing that all are bound to win the favor of God if they are to obtain His benefits. Our Soul is filled with the greatest grief when We see how the Christian people of today profane the afternoon of feastsdays: public places of amusement and public games are frequently in great numbers while the Churches are not as full as they should be. All should come to our Churches and there be taught the truth of the Catholic faith, sing the praises of God, be enriched with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament given by the priest, and be strengthened with help from heaven against the adversities of this life. Let all try to learn those prayers which are recited at Vespers and fill their souls with their meaning. When deeply penetrated by these prayers they will experience what St. Augustine said about himself: "How much did I weep during hymns and verses, greatly moved at the sweet singing of thy Church. Their sound would penetrate my ears and their truth melt my heart, sentiments of piety would well up, tears would flow and that was good for me."



✠ WHY ISLAM?

After the shock of 9/11, all of a sudden Hilaire Belloc's 1928 essay on "The Great and Enduring Heresy of Mohammed," from his classic, *The Great Heresies* (Sheed & Ward), came into great vogue, with its argument that the West may well have to confront a resurgent Islam again.

Among all the brilliant passages in that essay, it seems to *FTM* that the most brilliant was probably the most overlooked, that is: the reason why so many in the Christian Middle East and North Africa embraced Islam. After reminding readers of this key fact:

"Mohammedanism...began as a heresy, not as a new religion. It was not a pagan contrast with the Church; it was not an alien enemy. It was a perversion of Christian doctrine. Its vitality and endurance soon gave it the appearance of a new religion, but those who were contemporary with its rise saw it for what it was—not a denial, but an adaptation and a misuse, of the Christian thing. It differed from most (not from all) heresies in this, that it did not arise within the bounds of the Christian Church.

"The chief heresiarch, Mohammed himself, was not, like most heresiarchs, a man of Catholic birth and doctrine to begin with. He sprang from pagans. But that which he taught was in the main Catholic doctrine, oversimplified. It was the great Catholic world – on the frontiers of which he lived, whose influence was all around him and whose territories he had known by travel – which inspired his convictions....

"Thus the very foundation of his teaching was that prime Catholic doctrine, the unity and omnipotence of God. The attributes of God he also took over in the main from Catholic doctrine: the personal nature, the all-goodness, the timelessness,

the providence of God, His creative power as the origin of all things, and His sustenance of all things by His power alone. The world of good spirits and angels and of evil spirits in rebellion against God was a part of the teaching, with a chief evil spirit, such as Christendom had recognized. Mohammed preached with insistence that prime Catholic doctrine, on the human side — the immortality of the soul and its responsibility for actions in this life, coupled with the consequent doctrine of punishment and reward after death....

"He gave to Our Lord the highest reverence, and to Our Lady also, for that matter. On the day of judgment (another Catholic idea which he taught) it was Our Lord, according to Mohammed, who would be the judge of mankind, not he, Mohammed. The Mother of Christ, Our Lady, 'the Lady Miriam' was ever for him the first of womankind. His followers even got from the early fathers some vague hint of her Immaculate Conception.

"But the central point where this new heresy struck home with a mortal blow against Catholic tradition was a full denial of the Incarnation....He eliminated the Trinity altogether.

"With that denial of the Incarnation went the whole sacramental structure. He refused to know anything of the Eucharist, with its Real Presence; he stopped the sacrifice of the Mass, and therefore the institution of a special priesthood. In other words, he, like so many other lesser heresiarchs, founded his heresy on simplification....

"Catholic doctrine was true (he seemed to say), but it had become encumbered with false accretions; it had become complicated by needless man-made additions, including

the idea that its founder was Divine, and the growth of a parasitical caste of priests who battered on a late, imagined, system of sacraments which they alone could administer. All those corrupt accretions must be swept away.

"There is thus a very great deal in common between the enthusiasm with which Mohammed's teaching attacked the priesthood, the Mass and the sacraments, and the enthusiasm with which Calvinism, the central motive force of the Reformation, did the same...."

Why did the nominally Catholic inhabitants of the Middle East and North Africa enthusiastically embrace this heresy, asked Belloc, and he answered in a passage that should be italicized, so *FTM* will do just that:

"Both in the world of Hither Asia and in the Graeco-Roman world of the Mediterranean, but especially in the latter, society had fallen, much as our society has today, into a tangle wherein the bulk of men were disappointed and angry and seeking for a solution to the whole group of social strains. There was indebtedness everywhere; the power of money and consequent usury. There was slavery everywhere. Society reposed upon it, as ours reposes upon wage slavery today. There was weariness and discontent with theological debate, which, for all its intensity, had grown out of touch with the masses. There lay upon the freemen, already tortured with debt, a heavy burden of imperial taxation; and there was the irritant of existing central government interfering with men's lives; there was the tyranny of the lawyers and their charges.

"To all this Islam came as a vast relief and a solution of strain. The slave who admitted that Mohammed was the prophet of God and that the new teaching had, therefore, divine authority, ceased to be a slave. The slave who adopted Islam was henceforward free. The debtor who 'accepted' was rid of his debts. Usury was forbidden. The small farmer was relieved not only of his debts but of his crushing taxation. Above all, justice could be had without buying it from lawyers... All this is in theory. The practice was not nearly so complete. Many a convert remained a debtor, many were still slaves. But wherever Islam conquered there was a new spirit of freedom and relaxation..."

—THE WANDERER - From the Mail
January 11, 2007

OUR GOAL

100%

75%

50%

25%

JANUARY RECTORY FUND FIGURES

January Monthly goal	\$5000.00
Received to date	\$2784.00
Percent of goal received	56%
Possible contributors	200
Contributors to date	60
Percent contributing	30%

Your support is needed and appreciated!