

Servers for the weekend of 1-2 December:

Sat. 4 PM: R. Richmond, R. Richmond

Sun. 8 AM: J. & T. Murnane

Sun. 9:30 AM: K. & C. Carney

Sun. 11 AM: C. Anderson, A. Mastro

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING OF ALL: 25 November (Last Sun. of Year)

Today we wish to publicly profess our faith in and love for Jesus Christ as our King: King of Nations, King of governments, King of All.

Please manifest your adoration by spending some time with Him as He is enthroned on our altar from 12 noon until 4 PM, when we will celebrate Vespers and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

PIE SALE A WHOPPING SUCCESS, THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

Our Lady's Sodality reports that they made \$1130 on their pie sale last weekend! The young ladies baked their hearts out, and so many of you helped them by making pies yourselves...God bless you all. The girls will be assisting some needy families for Christmas with their proceeds.

WALK-A-THON REPORT

Our annual Walk-A-Thon, through which we raise money for the bus for March for Life in Washington, D. C., was held on the first Sat. of October. This year's total was \$4571.00! Thank you to all who walked and collected sponsors, to all who sponsored walkers, and to all who donated to the cause of the unborn! We have had some truly astounding victories this year with the seating of Justice Kavanaugh on the Supreme Court and the limitations placed on abortion in several state legislatures. The CDC has reported a 26% drop in the abortion rate in the U.S. Since 2006. So, our prayers, sacrifices and efforts are doing a lot of good!

God bless each of you!

ENVELOPES FOR 2019

If you do not currently have a set of envelopes, and would like a set when we issue them in December, please put your name on the list on the bulletin board. If you do have a set, and would not like one issued to you for 2019, put your name on the list, and check the NO SET column.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Every child in the parish from pre-K through 4th grade is welcome to participate in the Christmas play that will be put on on Sun. 16 Dec. at 1 PM at Holy Cross Academy. Rehearsals are at 1 PM on 2 Dec. and 9 Dec. If your child will participate, please put their name on the list on the bulletin board.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR CONCERT: SUN. 16 DEC. 4 PM
CHURCH**

On Being Wise as Serpents

Christians must be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Mt. 10:16) because we are sent as sheep into a world of wolves. So there we have a whole menagerie of metaphors, all making the same point about naivete. The best diplomacy secures amity, but at its worst it lets loose ministers who are innocent as serpents and wise as doves. Charles de Gaulle, who was not subtle, said “Diplomats are useful only in fair weather. As soon as it rains, they drown in every drop.” Without succumbing to cynicism, it is possible to see a mixture of calculation and callowness in the provisional agreement between the Holy See and

Communist China., recognizing the primacy of the Pope, but at the price of an unclear arrangement giving the government a role in the appointment of Bishops.

Ever since Constantine, and certainly since Pope Leo III crowned Charlemagne in 800, ecclesiastical and civil threads have been intertwined. The medieval investiture Controversies were background for the sixteenth century appointment of privileges granted to the French crown and the Concordat between Pius VII and Napoleon. In the year that Mary Howitt wrote about the Spider, nearly five of every six bishops in Europe were appointed by the heads of state. Right into modern times, Spain and Portugal invoked the Patronato Real and the

Padroado, but these involved governments that were at least nominally Catholic. The 1933 Reichskonkordat with the Nazi government was not the proudest achievement of the Church. The Vatican's accommodation against “Ostpolitik” in the 1960's made Cardinal Mindszenty a living martyr. The II Vatican Council sought, largely successfully, to reserve the appointment of Bishops to the Sovereign Pontiff (Christus Dominus, #20).

It was my privilege to know Cardinal Ignatius Kung Pin-Mei of Shanghai, who endured 30 years in prison, and Archbishop Dominic

Tang Yee-Ming of Canton, who was imprisoned for 22 years, 7 of them in solitary confinement. The 87 year-old Cardinal Archbishop of Hong Kong, Joseph Zen, sees a betrayal of those who have suffered so much for Christ. Time will tell if the present diplomacy is wise. An architect of this agreement, Cardinal Parolin, said, “The Church in China does not want to replace the state, but wants to make a positive and serene contribution for the good of all.” His words are drowned out by the sound of bulldozers knocking down churches while countless Christians languish in “re-education camps”.

A 14th century maxim warned: “he who supps with the devil should have a long spoon”. For spoon, we might now say chopsticks. When it comes to cutting deals governments, it is sobering to recall that of the 12 Apostles, only one was a diplomat, and he hanged himself.

(Fr. George Rutler 7 Oct. 2018, “From the Pastor”).