



Roman Candle

St. Roman Parish, 1710 W. Bolivar Ave. • March 2009

Concerned Parishioners Who Wish To Remain Anonymous

**From Fr. Brian Holbus
Administrator**

Anyone who has ever gone through family counseling knows that communication issues are often critical matters that need to be addressed and resolved.

The goal of family counseling is often “effective communication” which might sound like a cliché, unless one has experienced dysfunctional and passive aggressive behavior personally.

One of the most ineffective ways of communicating, in my opinion, is anything that is written anonymously. We all have seen desktop and bathroom graffiti and wondered what type of person would think this was an appropriate way of communicating with others.

Modern technology has made anonymous communication a lot easier these days, and also (it seems) a lot nastier. I am amazed at what people are willing to say about their fellow human beings in text messages, voice mail, email, blogs, Facebook, talk radio, online discussions boards, etc., when they know that their identities are concealed.

Regardless of the means of communication, it is wrong to trash the reputation of others without giving them an opportunity to face their accusers and to defend themselves. This is a form of bullying and intimidation that corrodes a society.

I have to say that there are few things that creep me out more than being ambushed by an anonymous message. There is simply no way to

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Sharing Sunday Suggestions Sought

The St. Roman Sharing Sunday Ministry has started the 2010 schedule with the Haiti Relief effort.

The last full week of each month is designated as the weekend for a collection for St. Roman Parish groups and community-based charitable organizations .

This year’s community groups include;

Open Door Free Clinic;

Food for the Hungry;

St. Ben’s Community Meal Program;

Dominican Center for Women.

St. Roman Parish groups that participate are our Outreach Ministries, Meal Programs, Southeast Interfaith, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Food Pantry.

We still have one month open for another charitable organization. If you have a suggestion for

a worthy charity, please use the green Sharing Sunday box in the narthex.

We need the name, address and phone number of the organization. The Sharing Sunday Committee will follow up to determine if the group is eligible to participate in the ministry.

Last year’s beneficiaries, in addition to St. Roman groups, were:

Casa Romero;

Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin;

National Alliance on Mental Illness;

Cathedral Center;

Pregnancy Help Center of Milwaukee;

America’s Second Harvest of Wisconsin;

Intercession, Inc.

Again, please submit the information for a group that you feel will benefit from participation in the St. Roman Sharing Sunday ministry.

Anonymous Communication

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respond to someone whose identity is cloaked in anonymity.

As a matter of principle I choose to ignore all anonymous communication, whether it is directed to me personally or to me as a member of a group receiving the same message.

I simply delete or shred any and all anonymous communication. I do not forward the information to anyone else and I refuse to discuss the matter with anyone. I do not want to give this type of communication any more credence or weight that it deserves, which is none at all.

If this is a “matter of principle” then, one might ask, what specific principles underlie this manner of dealing with anonymous communication?

Saint Paul tells us that we must admonish one another at times (Colossians 3:16) and that we must settle our grievances with kindness and charity and to forgive another as Christ forgives us.

In addition to these basic principles of charity and kindness, we do have some very specific norms from Jesus himself about how to settle differences within the Christian community. Allow me to paraphrase what Jesus says to his disciples in Matthew 18:15-18:

Jesus says if someone sins against you...

Go and tell the person alone, between the two of you, and express your grievances personally.

If the person does not listen to you, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’

If that person refuses to listen to them, tell the

church. Note: In every diocese and parish of the Catholic Church there are grievance procedures that allow all types of issues to be addressed effectively and charitably and in a way that honors the rights of all people involved.

“If he refuses to listen to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.” There are times when matters within the Christian community are discussed in the public forum. No one likes to have their family’s dirty laundry aired in public, but sometimes that is necessary. However, even then — or especially then — the basic norms of charity and justice need to be observed.

In the United States of America we cherish the right to express ourselves freely. I am sure the founders of our democratic republic never envisioned and never would have countenanced what passes for civil discourse in the age of electronic communication.

As long as people pay attention to anonymous communication and allow themselves to be intimidated or controlled in this way, the more it will persist.

I choose to follow the advice of my parents from long ago: *just ignore them.*

You all know by now that I am very approachable. If you have problems or issues with me or with anyone or anything in this parish feel free to let me know. But if you choose to remain anonymous in your communication with me or with other parish leaders, please save yourself the time and energy.

May God continue to bless us with peace and charity.

Information Seminar on Tax and Estate Planning

Where do you want your money to go?

1. Nursing home;
2. IRS;
3. Children, grandchildren, other special person;
4. Your favorite church or charity.

If you want to learn how to distribute your assets in the order of your preference, attend a Tri-Parish Information Seminar on Tax and Estate Planning hosted by Andrew Plewa of Catholic Family.

The seminar will take place Tuesday, April 27,

at 7 p.m., in St. Roman Parish Adamski Hall. There will be snacks and beverages for your enjoyment.

For additional information, contact Andrew Plewa at 332-5522 or Jim Rehm at 840-4111.

Living Stations...a Lenten Tradition

Join us March 26 as the St. Roman 4th Grade class presents the Living Stations of the Cross in church at 1 and 7 p.m.

St. Roman Earns Archbishop's 'Thanks' For Successful CSA

For the third consecutive year, St. Roman Parish has exceeded its quota for the Catholic Stewardship Appeal.

The quota for 2009 was \$43,000. Parishioner contributions to the annual campaign totaled \$49,193.

Many thanks to all who contributed to its success, which also has been recognized by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Recently, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki sent a letter of commendation to our administrator, Fr. Brian Holbus.

The letter reads:

Please accept my sincere thanks and congratulations for exceeding your 2009 Catholic Stewardship Appeal goal.

Despite a less than ideal economic climate and other ongoing challenges, you and your parishioners answered the call to stewardship by supporting the most important ministries and programs of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

This is a tremendous accomplishment and one for which you and the faithful of your parish should be extremely proud.

The achievement of your goal was not only made possible by the generosity of your parishioners, but in large part by your personal leadership and support of the Appeal. Thank you so much for all of your efforts.

Please accept...my deepest gratitude and extend my sincere thanks to your parishioners for their kindness and support.

I look forward to working with you toward another successful Appeal in 2010.

Fraternally yours in Christ,
Jerome E. Listecki,
Archbishop of Milwaukee

Editor's Note: The 2010 CSA begins with Ash Wednesday and continues throughout the year. St. Roman Parish quota again this year is \$43,000.

Thanking you in advance for your continued generosity we look forward to another successful CSA effort.

SVDP-HSA Rummage Sale Slated April 24-25

The parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference along with the Home and School Association will host their second annual rummage sale on Saturday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations will be accepted before all Masses on April 10, 11, 17 and 18 as well as Monday through

Thursday, April 19-22, from 5-8 p.m. in the Betz Center.

Please start your spring cleaning early and save the items to bring during one of the collection times.

Your help in promoting this event also is appreciated.

Christian Women's Fund Raising Dinner April 7

St. Roman Christian Women's annual fund raiser is planned for Wednesday, April 7, at 5 p.m., in the Betz Center. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$22 and are available from any members of the Christian Women group or at the parish office.

The price includes buffet dinner, coffee, milk, dessert, beer, soda and an entry into a drawing for a cash prize.

Entertainment will be provided by the Trinity Irish Dancers.

Information: call Rita Antoniewicz at 570-3042.

Festival Weekend — June 17-20

St. Roman Parish Festival will be here before you know it.

Please clear your schedule for June 17-20 so that you can work one or more of the many slots we have to fill.

Also, watch the narthex so that you can pick up your raffle tickets as they become available.

Volunteer sign-up and ticket returns will begin May 1 and continue each weekend prior to the festival.

Dates to Remember

March 5 — Stations of the Cross, 6:30 p.m.
March 6-7 — St. Vincent de Paul Lenten food drive (and on all weekends in Lent)
March 7 — Tri-Parish Mission
March 8 — Tri-Parish Mission
March 9 — Tri-Parish Mission
March 12 — Stations of the Cross, 6:30 p.m.
March 13 — Festivals of Faith
March 14 — Festivals of Faith
March 13-14 — SVDP Lenten food drive
March 15 — Market Day pickup
March 17 — School dismissal at noon
March 20-21 — SVDP Lenten food drive
March 24 — Triduum rehearsals:
Good Friday, 6 p.m.
Easter Sunday, 6:30 p.m.
Holy Thursday, 7 p.m.
March 26 — Living Stations of the Cross at 1 and 7 p.m.
March 27 — SHARE pickup
Blessing of palms at 4:30 Mass

March 28 — Blessing of palms at 11 a.m. Mass
April 1 — Holy Thursday
School dismissal at noon
Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7 p.m.
April 2 — Good Friday
Parish and school offices closed
Church service, 1 p.m.
Stations of the Cross, 6:30 p.m.
May 10 — Confirmation rehearsal
May 12 — Confirmation and reception
May 14 — School Walk-a-Thon
May 15-16 — Festival raffle tickets return and volunteer sign-up
May 17 — Market Day pickup
May 22 — SHARE pickup
May 29 — Graduation liturgy, 6:30 p.m.
May 31 — Memorial Day
Parish and school offices closed
June 4 — School year-end liturgy and dismissal for summer

St. Roman Parish
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Milwaukee, WI 53221

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