



## Father Walter Ciszek Day Homily

October 17, 2010



Rev. Walter J. Ciszek, S.J.

### PRAYER FOR A FAVOR THROUGH THE INTERCESSION OF FATHER WALTER CISZEK, S.J.

Almighty God, we love, adore and praise You as our Creator and Loving Father. Look with compassion and mercy upon us. Hear our prayer in this time of special need and through the intercession of Father Walter Ciszek, grant the following favor if it is Your Holy Will.

*(Mention the Request)*

Most loving God, accept our gratitude for hearing this prayer. May the knowledge of the virtues and holiness of Father Walter be recognized and known to provide a lasting example to draw sinners to reconciliation and to lead souls to sanctity.

For You are our God and we are Your people and we glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

*Please inform the Prayer League of any special favors from Father Walter Ciszek.*

Good afternoon and welcome to the Parish Church of St. Casimir and the Church of Father Walter's Baptism. Today we celebrate the 26th Annual Father Walter Ciszek Day. We have gathered to give glory to the Triune God for Father Ciszek's life of love and faith in God's providence, and his kindness to all people, including those who imprisoned him. And, our prayer today is that the Church will recognize him officially for his saintly life.

I believe that it is more than just coincidence that the theme of this Sunday's liturgy is prayer because, as Father Walter acknowledges, it is prayer that helps us to live in greater unity with God. Prayer helps deepen our awareness of God's presence, power and love. Prayer is our response to God, acknowledging dependence, gratitude and praise. Through prayer, we can and do grow in understanding of our faith; receive strength to overcome evil; are guided on the path of salvation.

In particular, today's Scripture readings focus on persistence in prayer. In our first reading, as long as Moses has his arms lifted in prayer, Joshua is winning the battle. It is Moses' persistence in prayer that enables Joshua to win the battle. In our Gospel passage, Jesus teaches us that prayer must be persistent and He uses the story of the widow and the unjust judge to teach this lesson. Through the widow's persistence the judge finally gives in to her request. Jesus is teaching us that persistence is also a test of our faith. As we persist in our prayer, our faith grows stronger as it keeps affirming itself; and this leads us to a deeper appreciation and understanding of our relationship with God. Therefore, it is our persistence in prayer that gives us the stamina to wait in faith and hope.

In his book, *He Leadeth Me*, Father Walter reflects on his prayer life in Russia and how his persistence in prayer enabled him to grow in his faith and to deepen his relationship with God. It helped him to come to see God's will for him and how he was living out God's will.

When Father Walter was in prison in solitary confinement, he scheduled his day around prayer as he learned in the novitiate and seminary. He was subject to regular and irregular periods of interrogation in an attempt to break him. In reflecting on these years he tells us that at a period of great grace he realized that God would allow our whole world to be turned upside down in order to remind us that the world is not our permanent abode or final



Rev. Msgr. Ronald Bocian  
Main Celebrant and Homilist



*continued on page 3*

**REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
JULY 10, 2010 MEETING**

The meeting began with the prayer for the canonization of Father Walter Ciszek.

Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and approved by all present.

Articles to be published in the next newsletter were shared with the group. Members present liked the articles and agreed they were good for publishing.

Spanish translations of a previously-published English brochure and the prayer for a favor through the intercession of Father Ciszek were presented—these had been translated by a prayer league member from Florida, and were exhibited in a display found in some churches in the Miami Archdiocese to help spread Father Ciszek's cause. A photograph of one such display was shown to the group.

Letters of testimony to spreading the word and praying for the cause were read to the members, including one from Poor Clare nuns in Ireland, another from a family in the Philadelphia area who believe that Father Walter was instrumental in gaining a "miracle" in answer to their prayers, and a third from a prisoner in a state detention facility who is committed to praying for the canonization of Father Walter as well as for his own desired "miracle".

Sister Doris expressed hesitation about making quick judgments concerning responses to requests for materials, which carry some expense to the prayer league. The group gave their opinion that she should have the freedom to act alone, but to report to the board if there was an incidence of greater expense.

A list of the tasks involved in work at the Center was read to the members; that list was previously presented to the Board president.

Sr. Doris pointed out various bits of information that she had come across in sorting and cataloging the archives of the prayer league, especially regarding the establishment of local prayer league chapters in the early years of existence of the Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League

The meeting ended with a prayer.

**"For/From the Friends of Walter Ciszek, S.J."**

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Official Organization for the Promotion of the Cause of  
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**By Rev. Thomas J. Sable, S.J.**

*Who am I? The question was in my every cry. I am Who am, I thought. The world is so big, as big as the Father's love, and I, I am so small in this shell of flesh. The bigness of the world recedes forever over the edge of the manger, in all directions, like a desert of sand, a tundra of howling snow, and the distance flees glimmering from me in all directions. Or in the next moment, the world is big, and the bigness grows tall and close, like walls coming together with a great weight and I am hugged and cuddled in my mother's arms, not crushed but loved.*

*The world is like a Christmas party to which I am not welcomed. So I will give a Christmas party for all those like me, for all those who are not loved or welcomed by the world.*

*The Russian writer Dostoyevsky takes up this notion in his short story, The Little Child at Christ's Christmas Party. The little orphan boy in the story wanders through the streets of the looming city at night and gazes into windows of houses filled with happy children who are gathered around sumptuous Christmas trees. He pauses with fascination at some windows of stores filled with mechanical toys. Frightened by some unruly older street urchins, he takes refuge in a yard behind a pile of wood. There he falls asleep and his frozen body is found the next morning. He has dreamed a wonderful dream: "Where is he now? Everything sparkles and glitters and shines, and scattered all over there are tiny dolls, ---no, they are little boys and girls, only they are so luminous, and they all fly around him." These are the children at my Christmas party. They are the child-victims of human sin and social injustice. I hold out my hands to them, hands that have been scarred and hands that have suffered. I welcome them and their parents to my party.*

*Is it only a story or a message of hope? Father Walter Ciszek tried to preach this message of hope to all the suffering people of Russia: "I talked of how he had suffered every indignity a human being could suffer, from a humble birth, to poverty, to thirty years of the dullest and most routine life of work in a small, backward village, to rejection and suffering and pain and finally death, the end that faces every man. I spoke of his resurrection and victory over death...I told of how his coming was the beginning of a new age, of a new kingdom, the beginning -- but only the beginning -- of a re-creation of the world according to God's original plan, which all of us now must dedicate ourselves to perfect and bring to completion." [He Leadeth Me, Doubleday edition, pp. 209-210]*

*Let us rejoice in this holiday season and bring the message of hope to all those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.*

# Father Cizek Day Celebration - October 17, 2010

Six months ago my family and I had not heard of Father Walter Cizek, S. J., much less of St. Casimir Church in Shenandoah, PA; but there we were on a beautiful Sunday morning driving over two hours to attend the annual Father Cizek Day Celebration. Two of my sisters had actually flown in from St. Louis, Mo. just to attend the celebration with us. Our introduction to Father Walter had been through an article in a Catholic periodical, *The Word Among Us*, and we wanted to know more about this holy priest. His extraordinary and devout life had already influenced our own.

When we arrived we learned that this was the 25th year the Prayer League has celebrated their saintly son. And celebrate they did. We found ourselves spellbound by the architectural beauty of the church, the majestic singing of the choir and the angelic voices of the children's choir. The principal celebrant and homilist of the Liturgy, Rev. Msgr. Ronald C. Bocian, spoke lovingly and admirably using passages from Father Walter's books. After Mass Msgr. Bocian even shared with us the long list of people for whom he is praying, through the intercession of Father Walter, for a miracle.

Following Mass we joined parishioners and friends of Father Walter in the church hall to continue the celebration of his heroic life. The warmth, the friendliness, the welcoming was so beautifully real that we felt we had known all these wonderful people all our lives. We found ourselves moving from table to table being graciously introduced to nieces and nephews of Father Walter and friends that knew him. Each and every one of them eagerly shared snippets of Father's life with us.

As we drove home later that afternoon enjoying the beauty of the colored trees on the Shenandoah hills, the modest homes, and businesses of the area, the friendly waves and exchanges of the town's people, we couldn't help but think about what we had just experienced. Yes, Father Walter was truly one of them. This had been his hometown. This is where he grew up. He was the boy next door, who had gone on to do great things for God. Now he is being considered for the greatest honor, Canonization, and these friends and neighbors are so proud and anxious to share him with the world. We felt privileged and grateful that we had the opportunity to share this day with them. — Patricia A. Laub

## Homily *continued from page 1*

destiny, and that God would bring us to our senses and restore our sense of values, to turn our thoughts once more to Him. At that moment, he remembered the simple words of the Sermon on the Mount: "Do not be anxious about what you shall eat, or what you shall wear, or where you shall sleep, but seek first the kingdom of God and His justice."

He tells us that "God is constant in his His love if we will but look to Him, He will sustain us in every storm if we will but cry out to Him. He is there, if we will only turn to Him and learn to trust in Him alone. The turmoil of our lives can in fact serve best as signs to remind us of His love and of His constancy, to make us turn once more to Him and cling to Him again when all else that we counted on is overturned around us."

He tells us that he began to realize that he had to look at his life situation from God's viewpoint instead of his own. He had accepted all he had learned about prayer and the spiritual life as abstract principles and not as part of his daily life. He tells us that he began to understand that the "sole purpose in his whole life is to do the will of God. Not the will of God as we might wish it, or as we might have envisioned it, or as we thought it in our poor human wisdom it ought to be. But rather the will of God as God envisioned it and revealed it to us each day in the created situations with which He presented us." It is then that he tells us that he realized that if he should die, if they should kill him, he would be doing nothing else than returning to God from whom he came. This realization gave him true freedom and took away his fear of being killed. It gave him peace and the beginnings of his understanding of God's will and divine providence.

Father Walter tells us that it was his experiences in Lubianka that put prayer in true perspective for him and that it was prayer that helped him through every crisis. He learned to purify his

prayer by removing all aspects of self-seeking. He began to pray for his interrogators because they were children of the Father and for no other reason. He learned to stop asking for more food and instead to offer his sufferings for all others in the world who were suffering from hunger. It is then that he went to the Sermon on the Mount: "Do not be anxious about what you shall eat, or what you shall wear, or where you shall sleep, but seek first the kingdom of God and His justice."

It was during his stay in Lubianka that he realized the power of what he called the "perfect prayer". As Jesus' disciples did, so did Father Walter say "Lord, teach us to pray." He tells us that he realized for perhaps the first time that the Lord's Prayer begins by placing us in the presence of God. That it is a prayer of petition and of reparation. That it encompasses in its short and simple phrases every relationship between us and our Creator, between us and our loving Father. And as the Lord's Prayer begins by placing us in the presence of God, it begins a communication between two people who are truly present to each other in some way. It is true prayer.

Father Walter asks: "What other purpose has man in life but to do God's will? And every effort, at any moment, to follow the promptings of His will is itself both a grace and a blessing of no small consequence." It is prayer. And perseverance in such efforts, in such prayer, is at the very least, practice in the habit of finding the will of God at all times and in everything.

Let me conclude by closing with a prayer that Saint Faustina wrote in her "Diary": "Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen." (950).

# Father Cizek cause is moving forward in Rome

BY JOHN E. USALIS

It may seem that the cause for canonization for Father Walter J. Cizek, S.J., is at a standstill, but according to a co-postulator of the cause, the investigation is slowing continuing at the Vatican.

The Rev. Msgr. Anthony D. Muntone, a Shenandoah native and priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Allentown, providing the uplifting news during the 26th annual Father Walter Cizek Day Mass on Sunday in St. Casimir Roman Catholic Church in Shenandoah. Msgr. Muntone and the Rev. Thomas F. Sable, S.J., are the co-postulators of the cause. Postulators work with the sponsoring diocese to collect the materials necessary and take the case to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

"I know that many, many of you wonder how far is the cause and can we hope that maybe next week or next month to learn that Father Walter has been declared a saint," said Msgr. Muntone from the pulpit at the conclusion of Mass. "I wish that I could say 'Yes' to those questions, but I can say this afternoon that the cause is moving along, and it's moving along very nicely, and it's very encouraging. There are a lot of things working behind the scenes that's not very visible, and because it's not visible, we get the impression that nothing is happening, but a whole lot is happening."

A native of Shenandoah and born



Baptismal Font where Father Walter Cizek was baptized

of Polish immigrants, Father Cizek was baptized and confirmed in St. Casimir's and attended the parish school. The baptismal font where he was baptized is located in the church.

The main celebrant of the annual Mass was the Rev. Msgr. Ronald Bocian, pastor, and the president of the Father Walter J. Cizek Prayer League, which supports the cause by promoting it, prayer, and raising funds to help offset diocesan expenses incurred in the investigative process. He was also the homilist. Concelebrants were Msgr. Muntone, Rev. Thomas Sable, S.J., the Rev. J. Michael Beers, the Rev. Richard Brensinger, and the Rev. Msgr. Anthony J. Wassel. Music was provided by the St. Cecilia Choir and children from the Trinity Academy choir and chorus.

During his talk, Msgr. Muntone credited some of the movement forward on Father Cizek himself, noting that there were coincidences occurring that had to be part of his influence. Rev. Muntone traveled to Russia to meet with the archbishop there, which eventually led him to a seminary in St. Petersburg where he found a seminarian who not only knew who Father Cizek was, but informed him that his grandfather had met him in captivity.

"At the end of the interview, he shocked us by saying, 'My grandfather was at the prison camp with Father Walter. And Father Walter was a great source of comfort and consolation to him and the other prisoners,'" said Msgr. Muntone. "What a wonderful coincidence, we thought, but I knew Father Walter had arranged that."

The importance of the unexpected meeting in Russia has a bearing on the cause, said Msgr. Muntone, because the Congregation that is investigating Father Cizek's life, his writing, the interviews of people who knew him said more information was needed on Father Cizek's life during his Soviet captivity.

The interviews made in Russia were used for "A Grave in Perm:



Reverend Msgr. Anthony Muntone, Co-postulator

The Father Walter Cizek Story" documentary, which was viewed by the Jesuit co-postulator at the Vatican working on the cause and contacted Msgr. Muntone to tell him that the seminarian they spoke with is now a priest and also stationed in Rome.

"Father Walter arranged that," said Msgr. Muntone in a very matter-of-fact way. "Not only is he working in room, he is also studying for a degree in church history, which qualifies him to do the work that the congregation is asking for Father Cizek's cause."

He said the congregation has created an historical commission to collect more historical information lacking in the documentation already submitted to the Vatican.

If the investigation proceeds positively, the Congregation would declare Father Cizek "venerable," which means he is an example as a follower of Jesus Christ is worthy to be emulated. The next step is beatification, which requires a verified miracle through the intercession of Father Cizek. Another miracle after being declared "Blessed" would be required for canonization as a saint.



Plaques were presented to Rev. Thomas J. Sable, S.J. and Elaine Cusat in grateful appreciation for 25 years of faithful service to the cause of Father Walter Ciszek Prayer League.



Father Sable with Anna Kielbasa



Father Walter Ciszek Day Raffle

“Thing in Rome move very slowly, but things in Rome do move,” said Msgr. Muntone. “And I have the confidence that Father Walter, who Bishop Welsh used to call the ‘saint of happy coincidences,’ is working very hard to make sure that everything does come together.”

After Mass, the social was held in the parish hall, hosted by the St. Casimir’s Ladies Guild and volunteers from Msgr. Bocian’s two other parishes in Shenandoah. The prayer league sold books, prayer cards and other items about Father Ciszek, and fresh bread made by the nuns at Holy Annunciation Monastery in Sugarloaf. Father Ciszek was instrumental in the founding of the monastery.

Born on Nov. 4, 1904, Walter Joseph Ciszek entered the seminary and became the first American Byzantine Rite Jesuit priest in order to do missionary work in the Soviet Union. Shortly after entering the Soviet Union from Poland under an assumed name in 1940, he was captured and accused of being a spy. After spending five years in the infamous Lubianka Gulag in Moscow, he was sent to Siberia for a time in hard labor. Throughout the ordeal, however, he continued to celebrate Mass and hear confessions of the faithful at considerable personal risk. Overall, he spent 23 years in the Soviet Union.

When he was finally released in 1963 in a prisoner exchange between the U.S. and Soviet Union, he returned to his native parish, St. Casimir’s in Shenandoah, to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving. Father Ciszek spent the last 21 years of his life working with the American family, clergy and religious communities through counseling and retreat work. He wrote two books, “With God in Russia” and “He Leadeth Me,” with co-author Rev. Daniel Flaherty, S.J.

He died on Dec. 8, 1984, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and is buried at the Jesuit Novitiate in Wernersville.

Following the Mass, a reception was held in the parish hall, which included a presentation of a video, coffee and other items were served, and books, pamphlets, cassettes and CDs were available for sale by The Father Walter J. Ciszek Prayer League, which is the official organization for the promotion of the cause of canonization of Father Ciszek.

Originally established and approved by the Most Rev. Michael Dudick, bishop of the Byzantine Ruthenian Eparchy of Passaic, the prayer league works for the promotion of the cause through prayers and the living out of Father Ciszek’s spiritual message of the acceptance of the will of God in vibrant faith. The process of the cause was officially transferred to the control of the Diocese of Allentown after the retirement in 1995 of Bishop Dudick, who passed away in 2007. In addition to Msgr. Muntone, the other co-postulator is the Rev. Thomas F. Sable, S.J.

It was announced that the prayer league was donating \$5,000 to help the Diocese of Allentown defray the expenses associated with the promotion of the cause of canonization.

## MY EXPERIENCE of FATHER CISZEK

I wish to share how Father Ciszek’s life has given me **hope**. His raw honesty in writing about his despair and depression, and how he conquered them, can be summed up in the saying “**Don’t give up!**”

I am thirty years of age, son to an alcoholic father and to a mother with addiction problems. Our family life was one of violence, drunkenness, gambling, and regular verbal abuse. All of us, including my father, were victims of this destroyer of families—the disease of alcoholism.

Regrettably, last year, I made a serious attempt on my life, coming within an inch of death. Why did I do that? I had reached a point in my life best described by Father Walter Ciszek, when he wrote, “One day the blackness closed in...I could see no way out...I lost hope...”

After my attempt, I found myself in a psychiatric hospital, the same one in which

I had visited my father when I was a child. I was very angry at God. Again, Father Walter best puts into words my feelings, “This was despair...that one moment of blackness...I had stood alone in the void.”

My eldest brother visited me in the hospital, bringing with him a copy of He Leadeth Me. As I was reading the book, I was deeply moved. There was this Jesuit priest confessing to deep despair, being close to breakdown, and feeling suicidal. The crowded prison conditions he described made the state-run hospital where I was, seem like a five-star hotel in comparison.

If this Polish-American priest could still love, revere, and thank God in solitary confinement and in Siberian labour camps, I could do it, too. I began to learn patience in my hourly pleas for God’s intervention in my mental anguish.

I also learned from this holy priest “that

faith is like a dark tunnel...God gives us light one step at a time.” I needed to slow down and take baby steps in my recovery.

Father Ciszek’s writings also made me aware of the fundamental need to trust in God, no matter what Satan throws at us, and to believe that God loves each of us, no matter what a mess we have made. This trust is something I have always found difficult, due to the lack of trust in my own parents.

However, each day I make an act of faith to try to believe what Father Walter himself was convinced of, that “God cares for each of us...watches over us...in the circumstances of each day.”

I have every confidence that this man will be declared a saint. Regularly, I ask him to plead for me in the throne room of heaven; and when Father Walter is canonized he will be among those “in whose constant intercession we rely for help.” — Mark, Ireland

# Father Walter Cizek's Spirituality as seen by his sister – *Sister Mary Evangeline* (Second Installment)



## **Boyhood and Changes in the Life of Father Walter**

In retrospect, I can say that his entire life's events from birth to death were being molded by God in order to adjust to the circumstances God prepared for Walter's eighty years of unusual happenings. It could be said that this "tough" lad sought sanctity from his early days, and that it was already conceived but hampered in growth by a temperament of stubbornness and reliance on his own strength. Yet, so as not to be seen by any member of the family, he rigged an altar behind an old-fashioned heavy dresser where he would often repair in order to pray to God and to his beloved Virgin Mary. His prayers must have been a compilation of those he learned at home and at the parochial school but he also put in an admixture of boyish matters that he felt God should have full knowledge of—he simply had to ask the Lord for continued bodily strength, a fighting strength in order to outdo the lads with whom he and his gang wrestled on a competitive basis. Walter was short of stature and he wanted to compensate for this by showing that bodily prowess was more of an asset to a person than was prominent height.

Since boys will ever be boys, the wrestling matches at times turned out to be fist fights which fortunately never scored more than bloody noses. When his father learned about the fights, and when neither reprimands nor chastisements failed to stop the wrestling encounters, Mr. Cizek decided to send his son to a reform school. God Himself intervened in this matter through the advice of the town's Chief Burgess, Mr. Magalingo. The latter convinced the father that the placement of his son in an institution would leave the boy with a stigma for life. Moreover, he claimed it was natural for boys to engage in fights, and in time they would find better means of exhibiting their boyish valor. In Walter's case, he would stage a fight when he learned that someone defenseless was being hurt. The town bullies knew very well that sooner or later Walter would show up to right the wrong. In one instance he had a fistful of sand thrown at his eyes, and it took my mother's gentle ministrations to look after her son for a week in order to cure the affliction of the hurt. His fighting episodes came to an end in grade seven, when a God-inspired nun, Sister Ligorina, simply told Walter that he had a vocation to the priesthood.

By the grace of God, Walter accepted her remark; and to give it an initial response he became an altar boy. However, he did not abandon the fact that his strength, both physical and in self-denial, could possibly lose out in any test of match with others. Even in his seminary days he spent a Lent partaking of only bread and water for the entire time to show his stamina. He would also rise very early during winter and jog barefooted in the snow for one

mile around the seminary lake. The Lord in His own patient way was leading him to a time when once and for all he would recognize the fact that God alone was the author of every type of strength.

God permitted this show of courage as a preparation for the starvation and extreme cold weather that he would cope with in Russia. Yet it took a sense of defeat, failure, guilt, and shame provided by the Lord's grace at the notorious Lubianka prison after Father Walter's signing a confession, to bring his assurance of self-strength to a stage of complete collapse—a complete wearing away of his self-will. Father Walter finally ascribed his strivings of personal discipline and his snug ability of having the right answers for the merciless interviewers at the prison, to naught else but pride; in *He Leadeth Me* he states, "Yes, I prided myself on doing these things better or more often than others, vying as it were with the legends of the saints to prove that I (that telltale word again) could be their equal and somehow even much better than any contemporaries."

He now no longer leaned on his own strength or his own unenlightened prudence. He fully realized that his own natural courage and determination merely brought on one failure after another and only served to feed his pride. Equipped with a new war cry of "God's All and my nothingness" he set out for the battles that he knew awaited him. He kept this war cry ever before him and he fed it often with the maxim of St. John the Baptist — "He, Christ, must become more and more, and I must become less and less" — lest his old pride would come back to life anew.

## **Father Cizek Day 2010 RAFFLE WINNERS**

- \$500.00** Mr. and Mrs. William A. Dateno  
Springfield, VA
- \$250.00** Loretta Gressens, Shenandoah, PA
- \$100.00** Peggy Morro, Drexel Hill, PA
- \$50.00** Frank Serina, Lansford, PA
- \$25.00** Eleanor Palkon, Philadelphia, PA
- \$25.00** Stephanie Wesoloski, Scranton, PA

## Learn to be and play like children!

### A perfect New Year's Resolution – by Kathy Prieto

*"If we could constantly live in the realization that we are sons and daughters of a heavenly Father, that we are always in His sight and play in His creation, then all our thoughts and every action would be a prayer." Fr. Walter J. Cizek, S. J.*

- Do you believe that you are a son/daughter of our heavenly Father?
- Do you believe that this Father loves you unconditionally and wants what is best for you?
- Do you have complete trust in your heavenly Father?
- Do you believe that He only gives you what you can handle? Of course, He wants you to ask/rely on Him for help in everything—do you rely on Him completely in good and bad times?
- Parents take delight in watching their children play. It is through play that they learn, grow, and enjoy themselves. Do you envision yourself as always being under His watchful eye playing in His creation? Do you believe he takes delight in watching you?
- Are you “too much of an adult” to think of yourself as a child?

Do you think you are too old to play or be child-like in the eyes of God?

- Are you “too busy” to play in Our Father's creation?
- Are you attempting to dig out the root of your pride which does not allow you to think/act as a child of God?
- Do you have negative, scrupulous thoughts of yourself that prohibit you from enjoying the cozy, safe and loving Fatherhood of God? If so, how are you changing this?
- Keeping our divine “sonship” in mind is a lifting up of our hearts and minds to God and this becomes a prayer. Have you learned how to do this? Has it become a habit? If not, have you developed a plan on how to obtain this habit of continual prayer/communication with your heavenly Father?
- If you are having a hard time believing in God's unconditional love and His divine Fatherhood, do you ask your Mother, Mary, for help with this?
- Have you thanked God for His divine Fatherhood and perfect plan for you as a son or daughter of His? Thank You Father!

*Note pads with the above quote from Fr. Walter can be purchased from the Prayer League. They are a great gift idea and can serve as a holy reminder for you and others!*

prayer hotline

**DECEASED** - Bill Fonslick, Kathleen Kisner, Jack Laughlin, Leonard Klocek, Fran Conway, Doris Dietzler, Rev. Joseph Langford, MC, Ellen Lukas, Catherine Holden, Stanley Holdrychs, Mary Ann Prybolski, Leon Blashock, Rita Williams, Ernest Stofko, Florence Chesakis, Chet Gratkowski, Sister Melchior, OSF, Brian Fitzgerald, Jack Laughlin, Richard Allgower.

**HEALTH** - Joseph Mrozowski, Walter Baran, Patricia Laub, Jim Peck, Donald Skiff, Sr., Edward Topolski, Eleanor Oravitz, Joanne O'Connor, Florence Wojcik, Irene Ganssle, Dorothy Higgins, Mary Clare Ramirez, Tara Mirabella, Rosemarie Lenhart, Loretta Lorenzen, Theo Walge, Jack & Mary Dando, Frank Macus, Bob Browne, Valentino Guzman.

**SPECIAL INTENTIONS** - Robert William Thomas, Nathan Cortes-Peck, Allan Tubosnick, April Witmer, Marie Bianco, Stephanie K. & Braden, Pope Benedict XVI, Family and Friends of Maureen Schoen, Maryclare Ramirez, Dr. John Chovanes, Halina Korotasz, Elenis Ricardo Mendoza.

*For all whose names were previously on our list, but who are still in need of our prayers; for all those who have requested prayers of the League; for all those who are praying through the intercession of Father Walter Cizek; and for all who need our prayers.*

**MEMORIALS:** In memory of Mary Ann Prybolski by Agnes Thomas and Family; in memory of Ellen Lukas by Anne M. Coyle; in memory of Leonard Klocek by Agnes Thomas; in memory of Fran Conway by Mary Anczarski, in memory of John Anczarski by the Anczarski Family.

## Notes from Sister Doris

We are so glad to be able to show you some pictures taken on Father Cizek Day in October. To be sure, we had fewer people than last year, but those who were present helped to add to the spirit of the occasion, which began with Mass in a very festive atmosphere in St. Casimir Church. The sanctuary was beautifully decorated by Teofil Galezniak, and the heavenly music of choir and students of Trinity Academy under the direction of the same Mr. Galezniak combined with the deeply thought-provoking homily based on Father Cizek's own thoughts to make the day very memorable. We are sincerely grateful to Patricia Laub for contributing her reflections of it all, including the reception in the parish hall.

Again in this issue we are happy to present the second installment of Sr. Evangeline's recollections of her brother's spirituality, and another grace-filled meditation by Kathy Prieto inspired by one of Father Cizek's quotes. Our focus on Father Walter's influence is also highlighted by Mark, from Ireland, with words offered from his heart.

We have received many membership renewals in recent weeks, for which support we give thanks, and we hope that so many others will follow suit to update for 2011 in the early part of the year, so as not to miss any issues to come. We will be rechecking when dues were paid, and envision a new marking during the coming year to indicate expiration dates more effectively.

Our prayers reach up to heaven for each of you, that you have a blessed season of Advent and Christmas, and happy holidays.