

PASTORAL PRAYER: June 17, 1984

O GOD, OUR FATHER, we thank you for the freshness of this June Father's Day,
and for all that it means to us in the way of inspiration,
reassurance, forgiveness and perspective.

WE ARE THANKFUL for the devoted hearts that gather here from Sunday
to Sunday to worship You...to hear Your Word, to try
to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to sing in the
Choir, to teach a Sunday School class.

WE ARE THANKFUL, too, for the many blessings that have touched and
warmed our individual lives at so many times and in
so many places...our homes, our loved ones, our
Church, and all of the joys of friendship and fellow-
ship that we share together in this place.

OUR LIVES ARE FILLED with gratitude for the lift that we receive from
sharing in the wonders of Your handiwork -

The warmth of the sun,
The shade of trees,
The green of the grass,
The grandeur of the seas and
The majesty of the mountains.

IN THIS HOUR OF WORSHIP, we would turn aside from the pains and problems
that have been troubling us, and here in the
silence of Your sanctuary rest our tense and
worried spirits in that love that rests at the
heart of all life, that love that will never let
us down nor let us go.

HERE WE WOULD SEEK to gain a new insight,
to see life from higher ground,
to see You at the heart of all things.

HERE WE WOULD PRAY, too - not only for ourselves, but also for our
fellow man -

For the less fortunate - the poor, the hungry, the
distressed, the bereaved, the suffering.

Forgive us our sins, and keep us calm within. Speak to
each of us Your quiet word of peace and love.

TO THY GUIDANCE, we commit ourselves - our Church, our nation, our world.

Do with us as Thou wilt.
In the name and spirit of Christ, we pray our
prayers this day.

INTRODUCTION

The week of toil has ended. The day of rest is at hand.

May the rest and the quiet of this hour of worship refresh our inner life and may it renew in all of us a sense of God's holy and abiding presence. In silence, let each now pray as the heart may prompt.

MEDITATION

We rest our hearts in the Promise of Jesus who said:

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of Me. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light".

"Comfort ye. Comfort ye my people, saith your God. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms."

"For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us."

"In the name of Jesus Christ, I share with you the Good News: we are forgiven."

"And all things...whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing... you shall receive. And as many as touched Him were made whole"

PRAYERS / LORD'S PRAYER

Touch with healing, O God, those whom we mention in our prayers this hour. Heal each of us at the point of our deepest need. Daisy Herrick. (A patient in Lenox Hill Hospital)

Comfort the bereaved and the broken-hearted among us. Abide among us as a healing benediction.

Answer the unspoken prayers offered to You on the altars of our hearts, spoken in the spirit of Jesus who taught us to say when we pray:

"Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen."

Daisy Herrick - Lenox Hill
Richard Bieberich - Memorial Hospital

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we have the joy of baptizing Julia Lee Sheffield, infant daughter of Chuck and Joanne Sheffield, born on April 23, 1984 at St. Vincent's Hospital.

The bulletin indicates a second baptism, but that has been cancelled and will be re-scheduled for another Sunday. Dear friend of Nica and Astor Val-Hackett who want to be here for the baptism of Alana were not able to come this morning and it's important that family and friends be here if possible for these occasions.

I would invite the Sheffields to join me at the baptismal font. Joanne Sheffield's sister, Lorraine, is to be the Godmother of Julia Lee and she is here and will also join us..

Also, Julia Lee's grandparents - mother and father of Joanne - are present with us today...coming over from Staten Island to share and witness this event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: June 27, 1984

GREETING / VISITORS

We greet the visitors in the congregation this morning...delighted to have you with us, and we do hope that the opportunity will be ours to greet you in a more personal way following this service of worship...either at the door, as you depart, or, time permitting, downstairs in the Russell Room where punch and cookies will be served.

Be free in the sharing of your name with us. Take a moment to sign one of the Guest Books in the narthex or to fill out a visitor card there in the pews. Join us on other Sundays in our worship, our fellowship, our programs of service rendered to others.

You worship in a Church whose roots are deep in the soil of this part of New York City, a Church that has been a beacon of light and love to thousands of people since the year 1837, the year the Church was founded. We minister here in the name of Christ, and it is in his strong name that we bid you welcome on this beautiful June day!

CONCERNS

I have a number of concerns to share with you at this time.

This Summer the hour of worship will remain at the regular eleven o'clock hour. Share word of this with others in the Church and let's do our best during the Summer months of July and August to have good congregations each Sunday.

Our congregation tends to cut itself in half during the Summer, as people take well earned vacations and head to the beaches and mountains on many Sundays. I'll be here through July and then we'll have a number of guest ministers in my absence. How nice it would be if we could have consistently for ten Sundays 100 people at worship. It would make a difference. The coffee hour will continue and child care and instruction will be available, thanks to a number of our devoted Sunday School teachers.

We draw to the close of another choir season and reluctantly bid goodbye for the Summer to our dedicated singers. They have done a terrific job again this year and we shall miss them. We have an excellent choir led by a splendid leader and organist, Lyndon Woodside. This is a good Sunday to say thanks for a fine year. Volunteer soloists for the Summer services are encouraged to sign up.

Our thanks to all who helped to make yesterday's Church Picnic such a delightful and enjoyable day...with special thanks to Doreen Morales, Picnic coordinator. What fun we had! A great day...one that will be forever etched in our memory books! Thank you, Doreen, for making it so special for us all.

JESUS SAID

"It is more blessed to give than to receive". In this spirit, let us worship God with our morning offering.

BACK WITH US

One of the joys of a parish in NYC is the warming experience of welcoming back friends and members from former days. It's hard to think of Elody Hoelscher as a "former active" member...for she's still active even though she's living in Florida. She is in town on business and will be present at tomorrow evening's meeting of the Board of Trustees. It's always wonderful to see you Elody. Welcome back.

TODAY'S PREACHER

Today's preacher is Dr. Robert Polk, Executive Director of the Council of Churches of the City of

NY.

This is Dr. Polk's second visit to our Church and it's a joy to welcome him back....for he's a friend....and a close friend to several of you - Len Williams, Joseph King, Lee and Joyce Gartrell...as well as myself.

His previous visit was in January of 1981...shortly after he became Ex. Director of the Council of Church. At that time, as I recall, the NY Times in an article about him, spoke of him as "a famous, learned, and powerful leader" of our City. And he is!

With love and affection, with appreciation and gratitude for your ministry to this city, we welcome you this day and this hour.

JESUS SAID

"It is more blessed to give than to receive". In this spirit let us worship God with our morning offering.