

IN GOD'S IMAGE: CATHOLIC FAITH SHARING FOR LGBT PERSONS & THEIR FAMILIES - *In God's Image*, the Gay and Lesbian Faith Sharing Group at Sacred Heart Church, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM in the Parish Annex (behind the school). **Our meetings will resume in September.** For more information call 908-822-5895, OR contact Fr. John at x125 OR email: sacredheartigi@gmail.com. And look for the **IGI** icon on the parish website. All are invited to view and share the video presentation at OwningOurFaith.com.

SOUTH PLAINFIELDLABOR DAY PARADE

Join with your fellow parishioners as we march in this year's town parade, Monday, September 5.

The parade theme is "90 Years of Red Carpet – Movies, Music, Theater." Walk the route



with us or wave from the sidelines but WEAR SACRED HEART RED. Some might even consider dressing as characters from films with Catholic themes like ... The Song of Bernadette, The Bells of St. Mary's, Going My Way, Shoes of the Fisherman, A Man for All Seasons, The Robe, Joan of Arc, etc. Be creative! Let us know that you and others are joining our "parish delegation." Please call our Parish Life Coordinator, Ralph Quaglia at 908-756-0633 x142.

THE OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES -

Diocese of Metuchen, has a number of donated disability aids on hand which we would be happy to make available to anyone in the parish who might have need of them. They include wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, canes, and porta-potties, plus other items. A complete list of available items has been provided



to your parish office. If you have any questions, or wish to contact our office directly, please feel free to contact us at 732-765-6432 or e-mail: catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com. To request prayers for yourself or others, please call our 24 hour prayer line: 732-765-6431.

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE! RETROUVAILLE -

A lifeline for troubled marriages. Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring – your relationship grown cold, distant – thinking about a separation or divorce? Are you already separated/divorced but (both of you) wish to try again – then the Retrouvaille program may help you. RETROUVAILLE (Rediscovery) sponsored by the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The next program initiates the weekend of September 16-18. All inquiries are confidential. For details, please call the Family Life Office 732-562-1990 x4573, Rich & Annette Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Tom & Pat McTague 732-583-4468 (evenings).

Are you praying your Morning Offering?

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM - SACREDHEARTSPNJ

DAILY INTENTIONS

Sunday That the Gospel message of Joy, Mercy and Reconciliation, may open hearts and minds to Christ

Our Savior

Monday For the Sick and Persons with Disabilities

Tuesday For Those who Suffer Discrimination regardless of its source (Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, National

and Ethnic Origin, Sexual Identify, Social Status)

Wednesday For Military & Emergency Response Services Personnel

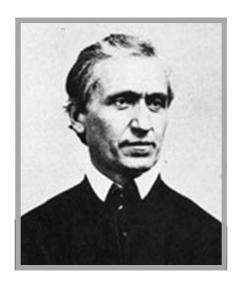
Thursday For all Pregnant Mothers and their Unborn Children

Friday For all Civil and Religious Leaders

Saturday For our Families, our Bishop James & his intentions, and

the intentions written in our Parish Intention Book

WITNESSES TO FREEDOM



FR. JOHN BAPST, SJ

"... if John Bapst, SJ, be found again on Ellsworth soil we will provide for him, and try on an entire suit of new clothes, such as cannot be found at the shop of any tailor, and then when thus appareled he be presented with a free ticket to leave Ellsworth upon the first railroad operation that may go into effect."

Catholics in the United States have a history of challenging our country to a fuller embrace of religious freedom. In the 19th century, violence and persecution posed a significant challenge to newly arrived immigrants from Ireland, Germany, and other parts of Europe. Riots led by anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic nativist parties broke out in cities such as Louisville, Cincinnati, and Philadelphia. It was a time of serious testing for Catholics in this country.

Fr. John Bapst of the Society of Jesus did not want to be sent to the "New World." But his Jesuit superiors had other plans for him, and they sent him to Maine to evangelize the Native Americans. In the town of Ellsworth, where he set up a Catholic parish and school, Fr. Bapst became caught up in a controversy over public schools. During that time, students read aloud from the Bible in school. Fr. Bapst had suggested that Catholic students not be required to read from the King James Version of the Bible, because it was a Protestant translation. After this, *Know Nothings* attempted to destroy the parish and banned Bapst from Ellsworth.

Bapst was apprehended by a mob. According to some accounts, he was actually pulled out of the confessional. The mob tarred and feathered him, and attempted to set him on fire. He was rescued and eventually cleaned up and brought back to good health. He would go on to become the first president of Boston College. Even so, the event traumatized him, and he suffered flashbacks until the end of his life.

Fr. Bapst did not come to this country as rabble rouser. He is not known to have been a particularly great preacher or confessor or scholar. There is no cause for his canonization. He was a Jesuit priest who answered a call, and it thrust him into a whirlwind of hatred. Religious prejudice is not new. John Bapst, SJ shows us the courage of an ordinary priest bearing witness to freedom in an extraordinary way.

May the example of Fr. John Bapst inspire each of us to answer our own call, even in the midst of misunderstanding and prejudice.



Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty www.usccb.org/freedom | Twitter: @USCCBFreedom Text "Freedom" to 377377 to receive updates

