



THE CMPC TIMES

The official newsletter of the Canadian Martyrs Prayer Community

www.cmpccommunity.com



February 1, 2008

Edition 1

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to welcome you to the first edition of "The CMPC Times" - the official newsletter of the Canadian Martyrs Prayer Community. This newsletter will be distributed to members of the CMPC (and to anyone else who is interested) on a bimonthly basis (i.e., once every two months). Since this is the first edition of the newsletter, I would like to take this opportunity to go over the main components of "The CMPC Times".

Each edition will contain four main parts, listed below:

- CMPC News
- CMPC Website
- Other News
- Interesting Fact

The 'CMPC News' section, as its name suggests, provides readers with up-to-date news and reminders regarding past or upcoming CMPC events.

The 'CMPC Website' section will contain announcements regarding updates to the official CMPC Website. These updates may include newly added features, calendar updates, etc. It will also include information on how to contact the site administrator.

The section on 'Other News' contains news related to our Catholic faith. It may contain news coming from the Vatican, the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and/or Catholic organizations.

Finally, the 'Interesting Fact' section includes a brief article on any Catholic-related curiosity that - I am hoping - the reader would find rather amusing or intriguing. Occasionally, this section may also contain a discussion on a recent book or a movie (specifically discussing how the book or film relates to the Catholic faith).

If you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions regarding the newsletter, I encourage you to voice your opinion by sending me an e-mail (contact details are found on Page 3).

God Bless!

- Frolin S. Ocariza, Jr.

CMPC NEWS

2007 Christmas Party

The seventh annual CMPC Christmas Party, which took place on Christmas Day, 2007, was a big success, thanks to the hardwork and dedication of the individuals who took part in preparing it. The party was filled with laughter, energy, and good food, as attendees gathered to celebrate the birth of Christ. Most importantly, members and guests gathered in prayer as a community to thank God for the many blessings that he has provided, and still provides.



Pictures of the event can now be viewed at the pictures page of the official CMPC website (<http://www.cmpcommunity.com/pictures>).

2008 Prayer Meeting Schedule

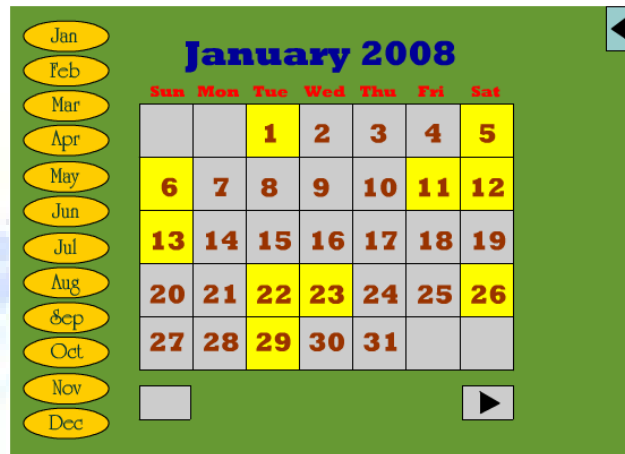
The prayer meeting schedule for 2008 has been decided upon. For future reference, you can consult the list of prayer meeting dates, shown below. Please note that the dates listed below may change throughout the year. The list is therefore only intended as a rough guideline for this year's schedule. For a definitive list of prayer meeting dates, you can visit the "Schedule" page of the CMPC website (<http://www.cmpcommunity.com/schedule>) and browse through the 2008 calendar found on that page.

- January 12
- January 26
- February 16
- February 23
- March 8
- March 29
- April 12
- April 26
- May 10
- May 24
- June 28
- July 12
- July 26
- August 9
- August 23
- September 13
- September 27
- October 11
- October 25
- November 8
- November 22
- December 13

CMPC WEBSITE

2008 calendar

The 2008 calendar is similar in format to the 2007 calendar, which some of you might have had the chance to see if you visited the site in the past year. In other words, it still includes the basic features found in the 2007 calendar, such as marked events and month navigation. In addition, prayer meetings, birthdays and anniversaries, CMPC events, and notable holidays and feasts are still colour-coded so that the visitor can easily differentiate between these occasions.



A feature found in the 2008 calendar (but not in the 2007 calendar) is event navigation. In this new calendar, the visitor can hover his cursor over the arrow found on the top-right side of the calendar screen to reveal an events menu. This menu includes a link to the month during which the next prayer meeting will take place, as well as links to the months associated with CMPC events. Further, it includes links to holidays/feasts whose dates are not fixed, such as Easter or Good Friday.

The Millionaire Game: Catholic Edition



How much do you know about the Catholic faith? You can give "The Millionaire Game: Catholic Edition" a try to find out! This game is based on the popular game show "Who Wants to be a Millionaire", and follows the same format. That is, you must answer a stack of 15 Catholic-related multiple-choice trivia questions which increase in difficulty after each "dollar value". In case a player gets stuck on a question, he can use one or more of the three available lifelines: Fifty-Fifty, Ask the Audience, and Phone a Friend.

At the moment, only one question corresponds to each dollar value, so winning the grand prize of \$1,000,000 can be fairly easy after a few tries (please note that no actual cash prizes are awarded). Additional questions may be added to the game in the future in order to make it more challenging and non-repetitive.

Contact Info

E-mail: admin@cmpcommunity.com

Feel free to send us an e-mail if you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions.

OTHER NEWS

Catholics Continue to Support Holy Father and His Right to Speak

After Pope Benedict XVI decided to cancel a speech that he was scheduled to give at Rome's La Sapienza university, amidst protests from students and professors from the academic institution, Catholics from all around the world have begun to voice their support for the Pope and his freedom to speak.

The Holy Father was scheduled to deliver a speech on faith and reason in the said institution, but opted to cancel upon learning that 67 academics from the university had signed a letter asking that their invitation to the Pope be withdrawn, which could catalyze the possibility of threats and protests. Andrea Serbini, a professor from La Sapienza, was quoted saying, "...science doesn't need religion. The university is open to every form of thought but religion isn't."

A crowd consisting of approximately 200,000 individuals (which includes students from La Sapienza) attended the Pope's Angelus address on January 20, 2008, to show their continued support for the Pope and opposition to the university's actions. You can read the Pope's Angelus address by clicking on the link below:

http://www.vatican.va/news_services/or/or_eng/text.html

Ironically, La Sapienza was founded by a former pontiff, Pope Boniface VIII, about 700 years ago.



Sources:

- URL: <http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2008/jan/08012106.html>

- URL: http://www.catholic.org/international/international_story.php?id=26492

Image courtesy of <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

INTERESTING FACT

Pope John Paul I - Letters from the Smiling Pope

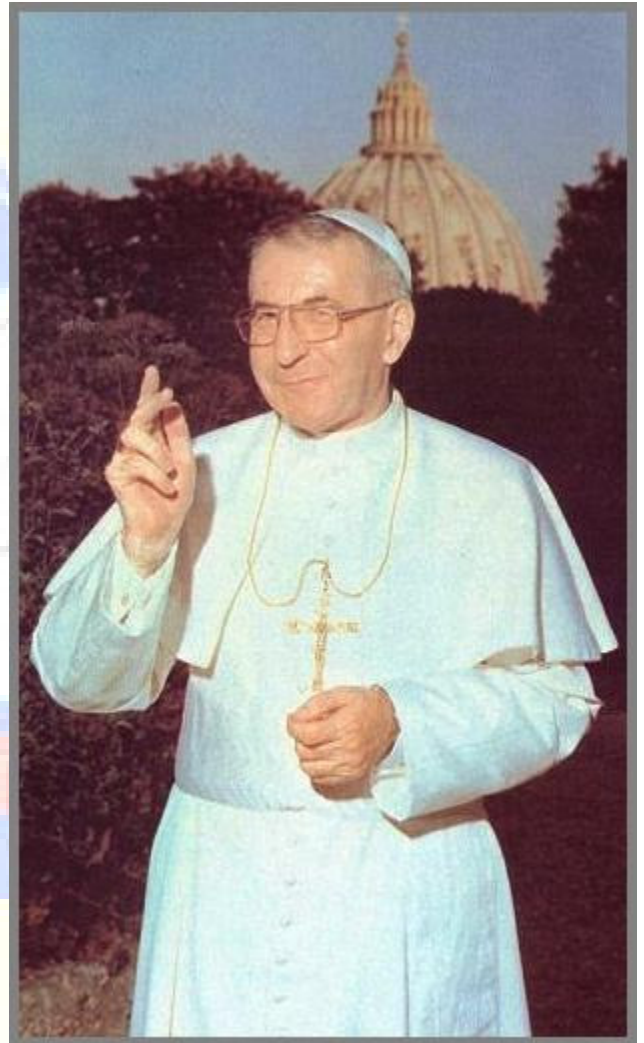
Pope John Paul I (b. Albino Luciani) is perhaps most famous for his short papal reign, which only lasted 33 days. As a result, people tend to overlook his warm and humble personality, which his successor, the great Pope John Paul II, once described as, "...an abundant outpouring of love." [1] He was also a gifted communicator, and many of his writings and speeches include witty anecdotes that make the audience both laugh *and* listen (you are encouraged to read his first Angelus address [2] as an example).

His warmth and wit are greatly exemplified by the 'letters' to fictional characters and historical figures that he wrote as a cardinal (which have subsequently been compiled in a book entitled *Illustrissimi*). Not only are these letters fun to read, but they are also filled with nuggets of simple but important life lessons.

Take, as an example, his letter to Pinocchio. In this letter, Pope John Paul I imagines Pinocchio as being in his teenage years, and uses this interpretation of the character as an allegory to the difficulties often encountered by youth. He gives Pinocchio, and thus the youth, advice on how to handle such challenges as forming new friends, fitting in with the crowd, and falling in love (unless, the pope says, Pinocchio wishes to become a priest!). He also cautions that during these formative years, temptations that aim to threaten one's faith in God will arise, and thus, it is always important to remain strong in faith.

These lessons, though simple, are such an integral part of Christian living that merely neglecting them would result in misdirection. By writing these letters, Pope John Paul I is able to provide this sense of direction. Perhaps realizing that the simplest things are often the easiest to forget, he also does so in a memorable way, with each letter having that parable-like quality that makes them easy to embed into one's mind and heart.

Certainly, Pope John Paul I deserves far more than being distinguished as the "33-day Pope". His humility, faithfulness, and warmth – all of which are evident in his works – suggest that he should be seen as a role model, as the qualities that he possesses are the very ones that make God smile.



[1] L'Osservatore Romano, Weekly Edition in English. October 26, 1978

[2] URL: <http://www.ewtn.com/library/PAPALDOC/jp1angad.htm>

Image courtesy of http://www.papaluciani.com/ita/galleria/jpi_pic.jpg