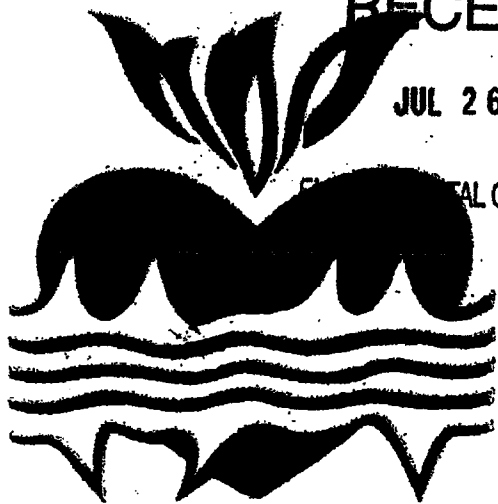


*A petition for The Prayer
of the Faithful, For Masses
celebrated in NW & North
Central Pennsylvania in
the summer of 2010.*

**That the Integrity of
God's majestic creation
be upheld at the EPA
public hearings in Can-
onsburg, PA July 22nd &
Binghamton, NY, August
3rd ***

Let us pray to the Lord.



* These public hearings are for comments regarding Marcellus Shale-related natural gas drilling.

**To: Fr. James C. Campbell, Pastor,
St Eulalia, Coudersport, Pennsylvania
St Gabriel, Port Allegany, Pennsylvania**

Sunday, July 18th I arrived in the midst of your homily at St Gabriel because I had mistakenly gone to St. Eulalia's after spending some prayer time in the hinterland above Roulette, Potter County, "God's Country," and source of the Allegheny, Genesee & Susquehanna watersheds. How appropriate after you helped us consider the better part chosen by Mary that we should then sing as the offertory hymn: "Come to the Water." where we sang: "Let all who thirst, let them come to the water Why should you pay the price, except for the Lord?"

Attached is a meditation built around the offertory of the Mass, which, by the way, you so devotedly celebrated July 18th and which also dwells upon water as an element of the liturgy. While the Lord pours out the sacramental living waters "without price," the natural waters that flow through much of Pennsylvania are currently endangered by those who, in some cases, irresponsibly are fouling those waters. "Residual Waste," a.k.a "toxic sludge" has been found to put at risk both man and beast throughout the Commonwealth. One can see right along US Route 6 equipment used to transport such by-products from the exploitation of the energy riches nature has stored up for whom? A single generation of humanity, our own generation?

As a native of Olean, NY and as one who has enjoyed in his youth canoeing and hiking along the banks of that often naturally muddy river, the Allegheny which flooded our family home in 1942 when downpours occurred in Potter and McKean Counties, I would ask you to ask The Faithful to help safeguard the headwaters of those rivers originating in your neighborhood.

Sincerely in the Lord of Living Waters,

Fr. Bernard Survil, Tel: 724-850-1616

The celebrant prays at the offertory of the Mass:

“Blessed are you God of all creation ... we have this bread to offer “Blessed Are you God of all creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.”



The rubrics speak of the quality of the wine to be used in the Eucharistic Liturgy :”... fruit of the vine, natural and pure..” but is there any mention of the required quality of the water which is to be mixed in? Or is it simply taken for granted? Can it be taken for granted?

In Ignazio Silone’s novel: Bread and Wine (Pan e Vino) friends of fascism add poison to the Mass wine to eliminate a bothersome, elderly priest, Don Benedetto. The Eucharist, for us believers, a source of grace, was transformed into a death-imbibing event for Father Benedetto. Is there a danger that the water that is mixed with the wine before the offering of the chalice comes from unreliable sources? Already there are reports from Upper St Clair, & Washington County to McKean, and Bradford Counties about “bad tasting” water and cattle and fish kill-offs once their water sources are contaminated by Marcellus Shale hydraulic fracking. Dare we sacrifice clean water just for gas?

The celebrant also prays at the lavabo, inaudibly: “Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sins.” The water set out for this ritual is presumed to be clean but if it is polluted, how can it “cleanse” anything? Far fetched? Then why would Pittsburgh’s State Senator Ferlo say, as he prepares to introduce legislation regarding fracking: *“We’ve only begun to come to grips with the environmental damage the coal industry inflicted on Pennsylvania. Destroyed streams and drinking water, mine subsidence, mine fires and acid drainage, mercury pollution, and more have left us a legacy of cleanup that will span decades and centuries. With this experience behind us, we simply can’t afford to repeat those mistakes.”* (June 11, 2010)

In Paul John II’s 1990 Message: “Making Peace with All Creation,” he notes “..how the dramatic threat of ecological breakdown is teaching us to the extent to which greed and selfishness...are contrary to the order of creation .” (#8), and “ The ecological crisis is a moral crisis,” (#15) and “I remind ...my brothers and sisters in the Catholic Church ...of their serious obligation to care for all creation.” (#16) So how can we allow Mother Earth’s innards be ruptured with a poisonous fracking mix just to satisfy the insatiable appetite for energy (natural gas) with predictable consequences? See the documentary: GASLAND produced by Josh. Fox. (2010)

In Salem (Peace) Township, near the borough of Delmont, (The Hill and Dale of Creation as we know it), just off State Route 66, a small stream which will eventually empty into The Kiski and then The Allegheny and Pittsburgh’s Water Works) has water that is yellow and brackish.

more >

Nearby in the same dale is drilling equipment. For what? Deep well drilling? Is this polluted creek imaging what is destined to become of the whole Marcellus Shale Region, with Western Pennsylvania at its geographic center?

In Jesus' parable of Dives & Lazarus, Dives pleads: "Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue...Send him to ...my five brothers ... so that he may warn them" Consumerist Dives enjoyed an energy-intensive life-style. The USA with 4% of the Earth's population consumes 29% of its energy. This Seven-to-One ratio can be confirmed by calculating one's eco-footprint at www.footprintnetwork.org, "Footprint For You." Don't be surprised – particularly if you are a priest living alone in a sizeable rectory – that you have a considerably larger than average footprint requiring seven earths if every human being so lived.

We commend and pray for our fellow Catholics who are a part of the solution by working with organizations such as Clean Water Action, Duquesne University Center for Environmental Research, Rachael Carson Homestead, Sierra Club Allegheny Group, Three Rivers Water-keeper, etc. but we strongly propose that every parish nominate an ECO JUSTICE AND PEACE COORDINATOR, a volunteer but with a budget to cover some expenses. Also, let the PA Catholic Bishops weigh in on the ethical implications of this impending crisis. And we offer our own members to facilitate the same purpose, motivated by that Mass Offertory aspiration:

"May the Lord accept this sacrifice for our good and the good of all his Church."

Summer, 2010

SOME LINKS:

www.vatican.va

www.chec.pitt.edu

www.fractracker.org

www.alleghenysc.org

<http://sciweb.cc.duq.edu>

www.duq.edu/leadership

www.cleanwateraction.org,

www.damascuscitizens.org

www.threeriverswaterkeeper.org

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I would worry about that water, Son