



## NO LONGER PART OF US

One of the common experiences of many Catholics today is dealing with family and friends that have left the Church. This means a wide variety of behaviors. They might not go to Mass except when there is a wedding or funeral or maybe Christmas. It might mean they have gone to another Christian Church or another religion. Or they might just reject any belief in any of the teachings of the Church. St. Paul's experiences of dealing with his fellow Jewish friends and family in today's 2nd reading should offer us some reflection on this issue.

First Paul was aware that with all his preaching and commitment to Jesus he was not successful in gaining the converts he wanted among his own people. But Paul does not throw a fit of anger and but states clearly a very deep admission that he is experiencing "great sorrow and constant anguish of heart" because they are not believers in this Jesus the Messiah. And he is so convinced of this Jesus as well as being so deeply connected to his people that he makes the astounding declaration: "For I would wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh." He does not discount his family or give up caring about them, but he is ready to give up everything if they would just believe. This even raises our attitude not just to our own family but what is our attitude to the Jewish people who have not accepted Christ. Too often the attitude has been one of hate and dislike and even smug spiritual superiority over them and their religion. And yet Paul writes a moving passage: "They are Israelites." We might not realize he does not use the word "Jews" which would be a more general and ethnic term but Israelites, which in the Bible refers to God's choosing of them to be his people. Nor "Israelis" which is the term for the citizens of the state of Israel, which is not all Jews but even some Arabs are Israelites! Paul then goes on to write: "...Theirs the adoption, the glory, and the promises; theirs the patriarchs, and from them according to the flesh is the Christ, who is over all, God Blessed forever. Amen"

As much as Paul believes in Jesus he does not take away from his people the special relationship that they continue to have with God. The 'adoption' is exactly that God has adopted them as his people. Let us examine our own feelings to those who have left the Church, for theirs is yet the bond of Baptism which makes them a son and daughter of God in Christ. Let us examine our own feelings to the Jewish people, so that they might correspond to the preaching of St. John Paul the Great, inspired by the teaching of the Apostle Paul, that we recognize in the Jewish people a covenant that has not been revoked by God because of our Christian faith.

-- Fr. Joe

***The generosity of our Parishioners & Friends has brought St. Barbara Church the following:***

**Collection for August 2-3 - \$1,616 (50 envelopes)  
Maintenance Fund - \$1,245 (28 envelopes)**

***Thank you! Dziękuję bardzo!***

## Prayer List

***Please pray for our parishioners who are ill and all who are in need of our prayers:***

Jim Adams, Phillip Adams, Renette Armstrong, Ed Barker, Stan Bellar, William Boutell, MaryAnn Boyer, Alan Bradny, Iola Natal, Loretta Budzinski, Sarah Burket, Shannon Burke, Phyllis Cielec, Donna Cuevas, Jean Fabian, Mary Jean Farren, Dorothy Friedl, Marcy Hill, Joan Kalemba, Paul Karbowski, Richard Konarski, Chris Krovich, Maria Kusmierczyk, Christopher Lenik, Rosemary Maier, Ed Montgomery, Dorothy Noga, Kathleen Patton, Linda Sikora, Marek Pietrzycki, Martha Plonski, Martha Vana, Mike Prock, Marc Rudolph, Ann Sagar, Robert Orahoske, Lindsey Sieniawski, Brandon Hrelja, Włodzimierz Wrobel, Sandy Kalemba Worden, Ray Yoder, Tom Zakarowsky

**THANKS** to everyone who remembered me on my birthday.

Thank you to the St. Barbara Parish Guild for your thoughtful gift! Even without your regular meetings, your support to me and the Parish is still ongoing.

-- Fr. Joe

**CONGRATULATIONS & ALL THE BEST** to our parishioner, Francis Umeana, who recently received his nursing degree from Cuyahoga Community College

**SOCIAL CONCERNS PROJECT:  
Back to School Gift Cards for Kids**

Thanks to all who have already donated to our Walmart Gift Cards to help selected students at **Metro Catholic School** prepare for the new school year. Your generosity and support is so greatly appreciated. The deadline for receiving the cards is next weekend of **August 15/16**.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION This Weekend  
Religious Assistance to Poland & Polonia**

**FACE MASKS** are to be worn upon entering the church and during the celebration of the Mass only to be removed momentarily to receive communion. If you or your guest does not have a face mask one will be made available to you. Face masks are on the table near the side entrance.

**NOSIC MASKE NA TWARZ**

Podczas wchodzenia do kościoła i podczas Mszy Świętej należy nosić maskę na twarz. Tylko na chwilę można usunąć ją przyjac komunię. Jeśli ty lub twój gość nie ma maski, możemy ją dla was zapewnić.

**CONFESSIONS**

Fr. Hilinski will use the priest's sacristy to hear confessions on Saturdays, from 3:45-4:00 p.m. The sacristy will be set up with a kneeler and a chair. Please use the door to the sacristy which is located in the hallway that leads to the single restroom.