



St. Agnes' Episcopal Church

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Church Newsletter

*Asterisk

Last month's *Asterisk ended with two questions: 1) What would've been different if you had a full time priest? And 2) What is the mission of God you would like to join? A couple of people asked me what those questions actually meant. These two questions mean one thing. What you see lacking at Saint Agnes Church is the mission of God to which you have been called. This applies to our everyday lives. What you see lacking in the world is the mission of God to which you have been called. The fact that you are able to see what the problem is may be the very evidence in and of itself that you are called to do something about it. It can also mean that you have a certain desire to bring changes to the problem you are able to see. God's mission isn't too far away from us. Just as Jesus tells us the Kingdom of God is within us, so is the mission of God. We do not have to look further to find it. Search it in your heart where God dwells.

The 14th century German Dominican mystic, Blessed Henry Suso (c. 1300-1366) in his book, *The Life of the Servant* shares this story of how his craving for an apple somehow benefited his whole community. In this story, Suso refers himself as the servant of eternal Wisdom.

He [the servant] had a taste for fruit, but God did not want to allow this. In a vision it seemed that someone offered him an apple, saying, "Take it. This is what you have been craving." Then he said, "No, all my desire is for dear eternal Wisdom." Then he realized that that was not true and that his urge for fruit was much too strong. Within himself he became ashamed because of this and for two years he did not eat a single piece of fruit. The two years went by, not without some craving; and in the following year the crop failed, so that the friary had no fruit. With many a struggle he selflessly resolved not to want something special in the way of fruit for himself at meals. So he asked God, if it were his [God's] will that he should eat fruit, to supply fruit for the whole house. And this happened. In the morning a stranger came and brought to the friary quite a sum in new coin. He only wanted to contribute this if they would buy apples with it. So it happened that they had plenty for some time; and so, gratefully, he began to eat fruit again. (*The Life of the Servant*)

At first, his struggle for an apple sounds quite silly to our modern eyes. What's a big deal about craving for an apple? How come God did not want Suso to have an apple? We can easily come up with many reasons to discredit Suso's story. But we cannot disregard how Suso's self-serving struggle is resolved when it is shared with the rest of his entire community. Thus says he, "With many a struggle he selflessly resolved not to want something special in the way of fruit for himself at meals." He sees there's something more important than his craving. God's will isn't so much about taking an apple away from Suso but fulfilling Suso's craving for an apple in a way that is not self-serving. It is rather self-giving and others-receiving, therefore community-forming.

What are you craving for in your life? That craving of yours can only be fulfilled when it is shared with the rest of your community. That act of sharing, we call a ministry of Jesus. May God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit continue to transform your craving desire into Christ's saving desire for those who are emotionally, physically, and spiritually suffering.

Paul+
Your brother in Christ



Table to Table Food Truck Delivery Dates:

Friday, August 2nd
Friday, August 16th
Friday, September 6th
Friday, September 29th
Friday, October 4th
Friday, October 18th

Help us to unload the rescued food from the Table to Table truck to be used at our Food Pantry on Saturdays. Please arrive at 11:30am to help unload.

Food Pantry Dates:

Saturday, August 3rd
Saturday, August 17th
Saturday, September 7th
Saturday, September 21st
Saturday, October 5th
Saturday, October 19th

Volunteers needed for greeting, registration, food bin management, etc. The Pantry hours are from **8:30am til 10:30am**. Please arrive at no later than 8:15am.



“We thank all the contributors and volunteers at Saint Agnes’ Food Pantry!!”

Prayer Requests



Beth Siedel, Hannah Ploch, Luce Ali, Mark Richards, Eileen Wilson, Michelle Borden, Shelley Healy, Rick, Kelly Daidone, Steve Aquilino, Ronald Tull, Marie Patterson, Doris Hengeveld, John Turkousky, and Andrea Dransfield.

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please contact Lisa Conti in the Office. E-mail: stagneslf@verizon.net or 973-256-5020

August Birthday's

August 15 th :	Joyce Servis
August 17 th :	Beth Siedel
August 19 th :	Sarah Viterito
August 24 th :	Ann Picazio
August 31 st :	Andrea Dransfield



Please call or email the office if you would like to be added to the Birthday list.
Church Office: 973-256-5020 Email: stagneslf@verizon.net



Calendar of Events:

- August 2nd: Table to Table, 11:30am
August 3rd: Food Pantry, 8:30-10:30am
Party, 6-11pm
August 10th: IPUL/Hall, 3-11pm
August 16th: Table to Table, 11:30am
August 17th: Food Pantry, 8:30-10:30am
Party, 5-10pm
August 20th: Vestry Mtg., 7:15pm
August 24th: IPUL/Hall, 3-11pm
August 25th: Party, 2-7pm
August 30th: Metro RR Mtg., 7-9pm
August 31st: Party, 6-11pm
- September 6th: Table to Table, 11:30am
September 7th: Food Pantry, 8:30-10:30am
September 11th: PV UNICO Mtg., 6:30-9:30pm
September 17th: Vestry Mtg., 7:15pm
September 20th: Table to Table, 11:30am
September 21st: Food Pantry, 8:30-11:30am
September 27th: Metro RR Mtg., 7-9pm

