

SACRED HEARTS COMMUNITY

† RETREAT MINISTRY †

*Father Thomas McElroy, ss.cc.*

*77 Adams Street Fairhaven, MA 02719*

January 2010

My Dear Friends,

I just broke another icicle off my nose. For the past two weeks this weather has been brutal. At one point, we had three feet of snow. The plows are earning every dime they make. Added to this is the extreme cold that has gripped two thirds of the country. To give comfort to myself, I watch how much more the Midwest is suffering. I pray for all of us.

We had a wonderful Advent and a spectacular Christmas. The liturgies were well attended including the midnight Mass. Yes, I brought it back last year and the folks really enjoyed coming out.


Fr. Gabriel was named "*Man of the Year*" for the town of Wareham, because of his work feeding the poor from St. Damien's Pantry. I am getting ready for retreats in Fall River for a whole deanery of about eight parishes. I will also travel to Maryland, to Chevy Chase, to offer a retreat to folks in the Blessed Sacrament Shrine. It will be a very busy Lent.

My parish of St. Joseph's has twenty-one people, both adults and kids, in the R.C.I.A. program. Easter will really be a celebration of the Resurrection. We are having a Retreat during Lent for the two Sacred Hearts Parishes here in the Fairhaven area. The seasons seem to be moving quickly along. It is hard to believe Christmas is over.

On Sunday, January 31, 2010, St. Damien will be inducted into the Saints of the U.S. The ceremony will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC and the main celebrant will be the Apostolic Nuncio, the Pope's delegate from Rome, Archbishop Pietro Sambi. We are trying to gather as many pilgrims as we can to come to the ceremony. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. Come if you can!

Thanks deeply for your continued support of the gospel through the preaching ministry.

From the Sacred Hearts, Blessings and Love,



Father Tom, ss.cc.



*St. Damien of Molokai, ssc*  
*Pilgrimage to Washington, DC*  
*January 30, 2010—February 1, 2010*

**\$275.00 per person** Double  
(**\$90.00** Additional for Single)

THE CONGREGATION OF THE SACRED HEARTS OF JESUS & MARY (SSCC)  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND A MASS OF THANKSGIVING  
IN CELEBRATION OF THE CANONIZATION OF  
*Saint Damien of Molokai, ssc*  
AT THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE  
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION IN WASHINGTON, DC.  
2:00 PM † SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2010 † WORLD LEPROSY DAY

*Principal Celebrant*  
*Archbishop Pietro Sambi*  
*Apostolic Nuncio to the United States*

**PILGRIMAGE TRIP INCLUDES**  
**JANUARY 30**

8:00 AM Mass at the SSCC  
St. Joseph Parish, Fairhaven, MA  
Round Trip Bus Transportation  
Two nights accommodations at  
Hilton McLean Virginia Hotel

**JANUARY 31**

Morning Bus Tour of Washington, DC.  
Transportation to St. Damien Mass  
St. Damien Banquet Hilton McLean

**FEBRUARY 1**

8:00 AM Mass prior to  
Departure for Fairhaven



Reserve Your Place By January 12, 2010 † Call Kathy Hinds (508) 993-2442 Ext. 200  
Make Checks Payable to **Sacred Hearts Missions**