

# PRIESTS' PAGE

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APRIL 2009

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## PLEASE CALL

Call one of the persons below whenever you are admitted to a hospital for a procedure or are in an emergency situation. Your privacy will be respected. Other priests will be notified only with your permission.

Bishop Peter Sartain  
Fr. Joseph Tapella  
Fr. William Dewan  
Sister Judith Davies

815-730-8716  
815-722-6653 xt. 28  
815-557-8880 (cell)  
815-740-1731

## FROM BISHOP SARTAIN

Dear Brother Priests,

From time to time we are approached by parishioners who would like to invite speakers representing various alleged apparitions of the Blessed Virgin, private revelations or locutions, or others claiming to possess extraordinary spiritual gifts. My purpose in bringing this to your attention is to ask that you not issue such invitations. Whether the speakers would make presentations on well-known alleged apparitions, such as Medjugorje, or lesser known private revelations, we must be extremely cautious about inviting or promoting them.

As you know the Church takes great time and care before declaring that an apparition is worthy of belief, and even then it never says that a Catholic must accept the apparition as a matter of faith. We must avoid giving the impression that alleged apparitions about which the Church has not made a judgment are somehow already approved. It is our responsibility to see that our parishioners are not led down the wrong path. That is not to say that those who ask us to promote these matters are doing so out of bad faith, but we must be extremely careful not to confuse our parishioners. Our greatest spiritual treasures are the Word of God, the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, and the teaching of the Church, and our focus should always be there. Needless to say, these comments do not refer to apparitions such as Fatima, Lourdes or Guadalupe which enjoy the approval of the Church.

Thank you for your attention to this important spiritual matter, and I am grateful for your cooperation.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Bishop Peter Sartain

## WORKSHOP

A workshop entitled, *The Noonday Devil: Sightings in Dante and Basset*, will be held on April 28 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Pastoral Center. The noonday devil is a symbol of the temptation of midlife, weariness of life and being tired of it all which can lead to dryness in prayer. Any priests who are tired of it all or want to see who is tired of it all are invited. Dr. Christine Fletcher holds a Ph. D. in English and Theology from Oxford University. Presented by Continuing Formation for Priests

## GRANT OPPORTUNITY

CTU in Chicago has a grant opportunity for four international priests of our diocese. The program is to assist them in ministering to a variety of cultures including our own. The applicant needs to