



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings! With the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of August now here, I share with you two items of note for your calendar:

**Sunday September 12:** Our Parish Ministry Fair and Open House of our Former School Building. All will have an opportunity to see how to be involved in the parish this year and see our school building from the inside.

**Sunday October 10:** Our Annual Octoberfest Celebration makes a return this year, with food, activities for the kids and our friends from Braeloch Brewing!

Beyond these, I highlight some historical dates surrounding this week. Namely, August 6 and 9: The Anniversary of the Atomic Bomb Explosions on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. August 9 and 14: The Anniversary of the Deaths of Maximilian Kolbe and Theresa Benedicta of the Cross, killed in Auschwitz. And finally, August 15, Our Lady's Assumption in to Heaven. While un-related to each other, these events are in providential ways connected. They serve as reminders of great evil, great love and God's Great Plan for our Salvation. Below please find an interesting article about these events and in this historic week, raise your minds to the Lord whose own death brought us Life.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

**The Jesuit Priests Who Survived Hiroshima** [Kathy Schiffer](#)

On Aug. 6, 1945, a B-29 Superfortress named the Enola Gay struck out across the Pacific and dropped a uranium-235 atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. The bomb, code-named "Little Boy," flattened buildings for miles in all directions. Tens of thousands of people were killed instantly. That strike and the subsequent atomic bomb attack by the U.S. on the city of Nagasaki three days later brought an end to World War II, as the Japanese military leaders realized that they could not win.

But in the midst of the devastation, near the hypocenter of the attack, eight Jesuit missionaries who were in their rectory survived. Four of the priests whose lives were spared are known by name: Father Hugo Lassalle, Father Wilhelm Kleinsorge, Father Hubert Schiffer and Father Hubert Cieslik sustained only minor injuries from shattered windows. None suffered hearing loss from the explosion. Their church, Our Lady of the Assumption, suffered the destruction of its stained glass windows but did not fall; it was one of only a few buildings left standing in the midst of widespread destruction.

Not only were the clerics kept safe from the initial blast — they suffered no ill effects from the harmful radiation. Doctors who cared for them after the blast warned that radiation poisoning to which they had been exposed would cause serious lesions, illness and even death. But 200 medical exams in the ensuing years showed no ill effects, confounding the doctors who had predicted dire consequences.

Father Schiffer, who was only 30 years old when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, told his story 31 years later, at the Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in 1976. At the time, all eight members of the Jesuit community who had lived through the bombing were still alive. Before the gathered faithful, he reminisced about celebrating Mass in the early morning, then sitting down in the rectory kitchen for breakfast. His memories were vivid: He had just sliced and dug his spoon into a grapefruit when there was a bright flash of light. Speaking before the Eucharistic Congress, he said that at first, he thought it might be an explosion in the nearby harbor. Then he described the experience:

Suddenly, a terrific explosion filled the air with one bursting thunder stroke. An invisible force lifted me from the chair, hurled me through the air, shook me, battered me, whirled me round and round like a leaf in a gust of autumn wind.

More details have been reported by a priest who once met Father Schiffer at the Tri-City Airport in Saginaw, Michigan. Father Schiffer visited the state to give a talk before the Blue Army, an organization that promotes the apparitions at Fatima. The priest recounted their conversation: (continued on page 4, second column)