

N.A.P.P.



VOLUME XXXVIII DECEMBER 2000 NO. 3



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi all you aviators out there! Winter has set in and flying has become a little more tedious. Except for those of you residing in areas where the climate is warmer or fly there. I can think of several who do that. Enjoy!

As I am writing we are still in Advent and the result of the election is still unresolved.

I like the little story I ran across about being realistic about who we are, about our lives and about our time. It is a great little Advent story and also applicable to the election and candidates.

In the woods, near a beautiful pond, a little turtle begins to climb a tree. It takes hours for him to reach the top. Then, waving his little arms and legs, the turtle jumps into the air and comes crashing to the ground. He lays there stunned for a while, but shakes it off, and slowly starts climbing the tree again. Hours later, he is at the top. Again, flailing his little arms and legs, he

leaps into space and again crashes to the ground. Pulling himself together, the little turtle heads back to the tree and starts the long climb up to try again. Two robins are sitting in their nest watching the turtle's pitiful attempts. Finally, the mother robin turns to her mate and says, "I'm sorry. I can't bear to watch this again. I don't care what you say, we have to tell him he's adopted."

The planning for the 2001 convention in July in Florida is moving forward. I heard from Fr. John Walsh, "Knobby", concerning the location for the convention Mass and the invitation to the local Bishop. Thanks Knobby for your work. I am looking forward to our 2001 convention.

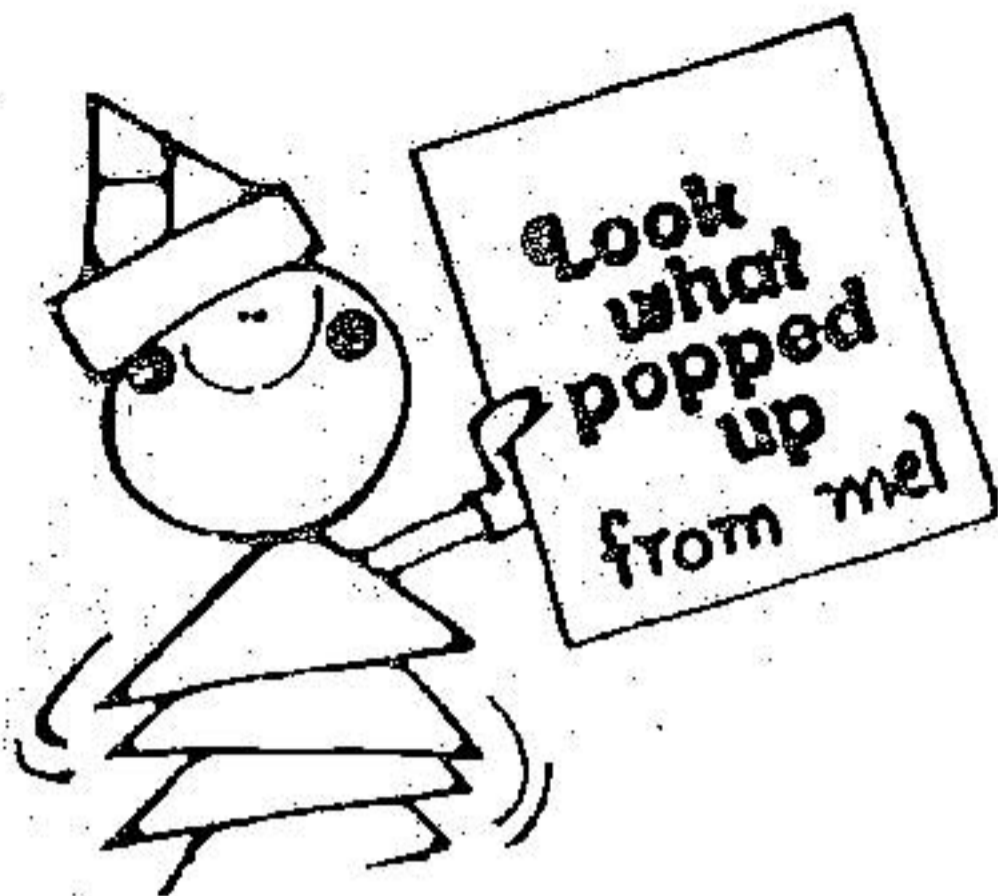
I heard this on the air going into Salina. Tower: "Cessna 123, you have your traffic on final yet?" Cessna 123: "Ugh, still looking." Tower: "He's on short final, kind of high, still trying to shovel some air out from under his wings."

Also heard this on the air going into Wichita. Tower: "TWA 123, how's the ride?" TWA 123: "It's rougher than burlap underwear up here." Tower: (after a short pause) "Would you classify that as light, moderate, or severe chafing?"

The best of Christmas to all of you and a very good and happy New Year!

FLY SAFELY!

Al Werth



As usual we have interesting information from members to share with you. The good news is I have more for future issues. Keep those human interest stories coming.

Frank Weidinger's wife shares the latest about their lives. Fr. Joe McCaffrey gives us some insight about his extraordinary ministry. I never cease to be amazed at who and what we are.

On a personal note, a few weeks ago I received a letter from the local Flight Standards District Office stating they have decided to appoint a Designated Pilot Examiner in our area. The person they have chosen is a National Guard helicopter pilot and "one of the reasons for this selection is that he will be able to assist us as a Helicopter Examiner as well as an Airplane Examiner."

So much for my chances as an examiner. The letter does continue as follows. "Your application will remain on file for a period of two years. If there should be further need for an Examiner, your application will still be active for consideration."

I won't hold my breath for further

developments. It was fun and interesting to go through all the hoops.

Thanks to those of you who responded to the last dues appeal. I am including one last reminder with this newsletter in case some of you have still forgotten. I will delete the names of those not responding to this final reminder. It's been a couple of years since we've "purged" the list. We will continue to honor members who have requested to remain with us as we thank those who have contributed something extra to help defray expenses for those unable to pay.

We have some initial information in this newsletter on the July convention. A more detailed registration/information will come in future issues.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

National Meeting

July 10-11, 2001 - 38th Annual

Wing South Airpark, Florida

MIDWEST SPRING MEETING

April 30, 2001

Charles City, Iowa

Host: John W. Hemann

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

REV. MEL HEMANN

127 Kaspand Place

Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1683

319-266-3889

E-Mail: DBQMHeumann@arch.pvt.k12.ia.us



NAPP CONVENTION - JULY 10 - 11, 2001

WING SOUTH AIRPARK

The following provides some preliminary information for your future planning.

1. The official airport is **WING SOUTH AIRPARK**. Knobby pointed out the error of my ways by calling attention to the fact there is no "S" in Wing. We stand corrected. In the AOPA directory it is listed as Private-use under Naples. Identifier: **15X** See page 3-579 in the AOPA directory.

Wing South Airpark is located on the MIAMI sectional. CYY vor 4.5 miles 120 degree radial.

Wing South has an excellent runway, 4400 ft with 300 ft overruns at each end. 18 or 36; right traffic rwy 36; left traffic rwy 18 due to Naples. Excellent ramp with tiedowns. We will have ropes available for those who do not have them.

There is no fuel on the field. Fuel at Naples or at a self fueler (credit cards) at Immokalee IMM 25 nm.

2. For those wishing to make early commercial arrangements:

The best commercial airport is Fort Myers, RSW (Regional Southwest) about 25 nm. Most of the biggies serve there. Naples has some commuters, AA from Miami, US from Orlando, but not very convenient. Naples is only about 20 nm from Ft. Myers.

3. It looks like **COMFORT INN** will be the best deal but that will be firmed up in the near future. Motel information and reservation forms will be available in the new year.

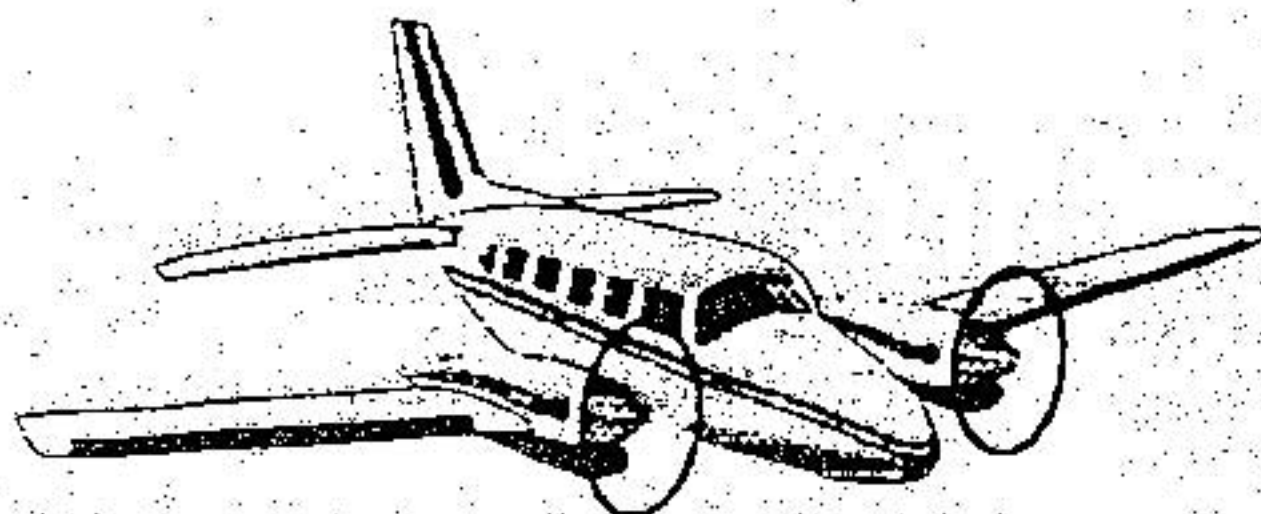
4. Fr. Tim Navin of St. Peter the Apostle church has agreed to let us use the church for Mass.

5. If you can't wait for details contact Fr. John Walsh - **KNOBBY** - at the following:

Phone: 716-242-0257
Fax: 716-242-7733
E-Mail: WALSHJT@prodigy.net

While you're at it, don't forget to mark your calendars for the Midwest

Spring Regional Meeting in Charles City, Iowa on Monday April 30, 2001.



BRIEFS FROM HERE AND THERE

From Pat Weldinger in Camas, Washington

Dear Fr. Mel,

In the last newsletter you sent I noticed your e-mail address and decided to send you a few lines.

On October 1, Frank had a small stroke (TIA) which people generally recover from without too much difficulty. However, since Frank already has Parkinson's disease the "waters are muddied." His left side was affected and though he's not paralyzed the left side is like a wayward child. Messages aren't getting to the brain as to its whereabouts and it is still rather uncontrollable. On the other hand, Frank is getting stronger and is making progress strength wise. The feeling seems to be coming back into the left side and he is getting excellent help. For two weeks he was in rehabilitation at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland, OR. Now Frank has been home for two weeks and he is getting Home Health through our insurance Kaiser Permanente. I am so thankful to God for all the excellent, loving care Frank has received with so much love.

Frank always looks forward to receiving your newsletter and hearing how everyone is doing. If you would ever like to give Frank a call our number is 360-834-5119.

Our daughter, Mary Pat, is a registered nurse now and she has been an invaluable help to us. Her daughter Kylie is five years old and since her mother works 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM Kylie usually sleeps at our house.

Otherwise, all is well here on the western front. Thank you for sending the newsletter to Frank and keeping him abreast of your group.

Bill Menzel, Wisconsin Rapids, WI included the following note with his dues.

I just returned from a 3 months sabbatical at the North American College & Institute for Continuing Theological Education in Rome. It was a wonderful experience!

Paul Baseford of Santa Maria, CA wrote as follows.

Dear Mel,

Thanks so very much to you and all your helpers who do so much for the rest of us. The extra \$20.00 is for a courtesy membership ... or whatever need.

If all goes as planned this year coming I will be able to join you at the convention ... no matter where it is.

In Christ,

Paul Baseford

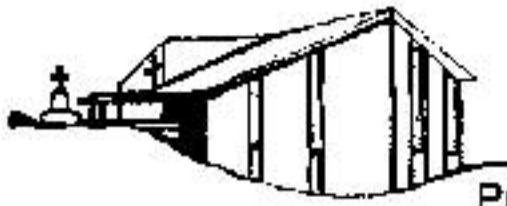
Bill Roche, Redwood City, CA sent the following.

Dear Mel,

"Antenna," seasonal newsletter of the Presbyterate of the Diocese of Rochester, asked me about NAPP. This is the result. Thought you might like a copy.

Best regards.

Ed Note: Dill did a great job on describing us, using information from our constitution and brochures.



St. James the Apostle Church
PO Box 207 New Bedford, PA 16140 ☩ 724-964-8276 ☩ (Fax) 724-964-1108

November 7, 2000

The National Association of Priest Pilots
Attention: Rev. Mel Hemann
127 Kaspand Place
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1683

Dear Mel,

Just a little update to tell you what is going on with me. In September of 2000 I received my instrument rating and in October of this year I took a leap of faith and purchased my first airplane. It is a Cessna 177 Cardinal RG. I am ecstatic! It seems like a very good deal. The man who owned it just turned 80 and has lost his medical for quite some time now. He used to run an aerial photography business, and so the plane is wonderful for visibility.

These Cardinals are 200 hp fuel-injected engines with no struts and retractable gear...this makes for a very fast airplane.

Since the man I bought it from has been out of commission for quite some time the plane needs a lot of tender, loving care. Nothing major wrong with it so far, thank God. It only has 1500 hours total time.

I'm looking forward to the next time I will be able to attend one of our meetings. In the meantime please keep me in your prayers as I continue to be pastor of St. James Parish, which comprises about 500 families and am chaplain to the Youth Development Maximum Security Prison and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. With all these assignments I wish I could fly to each one of them. Unfortunately, there are no landing fields near any of them.

With best wishes and prayers,

Ft. Joseph R. McCaffrey
Pastor

JRM:gpw

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FBI Emergency!

*Send forensics, rescue crews ...
and Father Mac*

*From the Oct 7 NATIONAL CATHOLIC REPORTER
by Dana Millarath*

NEWPORT, R.I. - When Egypt Air Flight 990 crashed into international waters last Oct. 31, Fr. Joseph McCaffrey received a request from the FBI to report for duty.

Other priests jumped in to cover his responsibilities as pastor of St. James the Apostle Church in New Bedford, and two days later he left for Newport, R.I. He spent a week there, serving at the Navy base command post, including time on the rescue ship and in the morgue.

Fr. McCaffrey is a volunteer chaplain in a highly acclaimed FBI program that meets the spiritual needs of its employees who are undergoing traumatic stress.

"Primarily, the FBI asks us to deal with critical incidents, like a plane crash, a shooting, the death of an agent or even family members," said Fr. McCaffrey, 39. "We try to be there with the agents, to experience some of what they experience, so that afterwards, when we do debriefings with them, we're not strangers on the scene. They can't say, 'You weren't there. You didn't see what I saw. How can you help?'"

"People on evidence response teams are the ones who go and examine the gruesome evidence, then have it brought in for further examination and fingerprinting," he continued.

"This is where people can easily become traumatized. I remember someone had recovered a hand with a ring still on it, and an agent had to fingerprint, mark it, and lay it aside."

"These assignments are very task-oriented and very difficult," said Special Agent Marla Talbot, who worked with Fr. McCaffrey on the Egypt Air Crash.

"How many body parts could you see in one hour and still feel like you're all together?", she asked. "People don't understand that the people who serve in these situations have psychological and spiritual needs, just as the families affected by them do."

What she called "critical incident stress debriefing" is a key tool for dealing with the trauma of these situations, she said. "It is a carefully, scientifically developed system," explained Talbot. "People talk about what happened - the bad and even the good. You never forget what happened to you, but this makes it manageable."

An Amazing Effect

"When the chaplains work together with the whole trauma team, it has an amazing effect," said Dr. Gary Aumiller, a police psychologist who has given training workshops for the FBI chaplains

"The chaplains are able to field questions that mental health professionals aren't real comfortable with, like 'Why did God let this happen to me?'" Aumiller said. "They are very, very good at making people feel comfortable with getting things out as they are going on." During his week in Newport, Fr. McCaffrey also celebrated Mass, and offered Communion for Catholic morgue workers at an ecumenical worship service.

"Attendance at the ecumenical service in the morgue was unbelievable," said Talbot. "In these situations, we have Muslims, Jews, Catholics and Protestants from all over the country working together. Everybody in the morgue stopped what they were doing and attended, regardless of their religious beliefs. They even took up a collection of more than \$350 and donated it to the Red Cross."

Fr. McCaffrey was impressed, too. "When I see this outpouring of people willing to come to the aid of others, being sympathetic to others' pain and wanting to console them, I see that as the outpouring of God's goodness in the midst of tragedy. What keeps me going is my personal conviction that death is a part of life, and that the resurrection is in the midst of it all."

The FBI's chaplain coordinator, Paul Yates, said, "The greatest benefit of the chaplain's program is the confidentiality that goes with it. If you know who is the chaplain is, you give that person a call. You don't have to go through anyone else."

Smaller Crises, Too

Working with traumas is not Fr. McCaffrey's only work with the FBI. He has also offered invocations and blessings at memorial services, building dedications, and even retirement parties. In addition, he does pastoral work with employees who request it. He is known affectionately by FBI employees as "Father Mac."

"When my mother-in-law was dying of cancer last year, Fr. Mac came over and spent two or three hours with us," said Pete McCann, who retired three years ago as senior resident agent in the FBI's New Castle, PA office.

"It had the greatest effect on my brother-in-law, who wasn't prepared for what was going on with his mother. I met Fr. Mac through work, but we have a very personal affiliation with him."

Fr. McCaffrey is one of nearly 125 volunteer FBI chaplains nationwide. He gives about 40 hours a month to the agency.

"The courage and the compassion I find in so many of the people that I've come in contact with have been a tremendous experience for me," he concluded. "I think my work with the FBI makes me a better priest."