



---

**VOLUME XLVII      DECEMBER 2008      NO 3**

---



**President's Comments**

This past week has been a rather long one. I took my brother, Fr Ed, back to Mercy Hospital in Sioux City. His leukemia came out of remission and he is undergoing a very rigorous regimen of chemo - ten treatments in five days. At present he is doing well and responding positively to the treatment. Please keep him in your prayers.

In Iowa even though there isn't much VFR flying this time of the year, we can in the spirit of advent, hope for better things. About all we get to do is dream about flying and anticipate longer days and warmer weather and pay the hangar bill. When I think about it, I suppose there is an advent theme in there of anticipation of good things to come. I long for those rare, long, balmy, no wind days of summer when I can go to the airport and not having any evening appointments, fly the cub out to my friend Jimmy's grass strip and sit around and talk flying. Or maybe walk down to his pond and make a few casts for a big ole lazy bass. Good Christian pilots should see Advent as a season of similar anticipation of the Lord's coming. I want to wish you all a blessed Advent and a joyful Christmas.

Gene Murray



## 2009 NAPP CONVENTION

July 7 – 8, 2009

Richfield, Ohio

The sad news in this last letter of 2008 is to announce the death of Fr. John F. Friederick. John died in Dubuque, Iowa on November 2, 2008. John retired in July of 2005 and his health progressively deteriorated. He spent the last months of his life in a nursing home in Dubuque. His funeral was at St. Raphael Cathedral in Dubuque on Thursday, November 6.

We flew together to the NAPP convention in San Diego. John said a man had been home visiting in his parish the week before and invited him to stop by his place of work in California. After the convention we contacted the man and he picked us up at the airport. It turned out he worked for the company that built the space capsules and Neil Armstrong was half way to the moon when he allowed us some time in the capsule they practiced in. It was an exciting time to be in that capsule at that historic point in time.

John, may you rest in peace.

---

I am spending several months in Florida this winter. I didn't pack enough membership cards to send to those who mailed their dues since the last newsletter.

**ELECTRONIC MAIL** I will try to put a note in your email notification **IF** you haven't sent in your 2009 dues. All others are paid.

**SNAIL MAIL** If you **have not** paid you will receive a note in addition to the reminder that you haven't paid.

Allen Corrigan, St. Victor Church in Richfield, Ohio is busy putting things together for the 2009 National Convention. He has sent me the following preliminary plans. Hopefully by the next issue a more complete agenda will be available for you.

Designated airport for those flying to the convention in their own planes will land at the Medina, OH (1G5) airport.

The Radisson Hotel Akron/Fairlawn in Akron, Ohio is the place of lodging. Rooms are \$79.00 per day and that includes breakfast.

Tuesday, July 7, will be spent in Cleveland. A bus will leave the motel in time to transport attendees to the NASA Glenn Research Center. (Only U.S. citizens are permitted on this part of the day). After lunch several hours will be spent at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

The Wednesday activities are still in the planning stages. Obviously it will include a time for Mass and the annual meeting. Very likely this will all take place at Allen parish, St. Victor.

The important thing for now is to put these dates, times and location on your calendar.

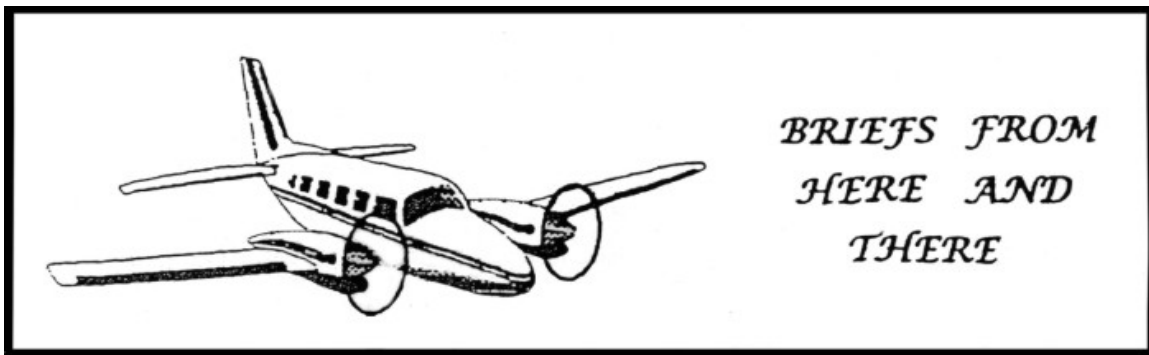
**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE**

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

REV. MEL HEMANN  
127 Kaspand Place  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613-1683  
319-266-3889

email: [N298MH@cfu.net](mailto:N298MH@cfu.net)





**Ed Murray sent the following information**

Hi, Mel,

I have a new email address for the present. Just thought I would send it to you to get the newsletter. I am living with Gene at the present time and still trying to get this Leukemia under control. I have a rash because apparently I am allergic to the drugs they have been putting in me. So I have been off all drugs but still suffering with the rash. The Leukemia is chronic so I am hoping that the drug that I am allergic to will kill the new cancer cells. Anyway, I am feeling fine and hoping to get things stabilized so I can do some flying.

Ed Murray [egmurray65@yahoo.com](mailto:egmurray65@yahoo.com) .

**Editor's Note:** *December 1, 2008*

*(I just received word from Gene that today Ed found out his cancer is back. Keep him in your prayers Gene's president's message came on December 8).*

**Bishop James Timlin included this note**

Dear Mel,

Enclosed please find my dues for 2009. I'm still flying in my 1966 Beech Debonair. I'm in good health and happily retired.

Email: [jctimlin@concast.net](mailto:jctimlin@concast.net)

+JCT

**On Nov 3, 2008 John Costello writes from Chicago**

Dear Mel,

Thank you for the email reminder about dues, it had slipped my mind. (Another shingle off of the roof),

Thanks to a pal who joined me a couple years ago at a NAPP meeting, Tony McMahon, I've been flying his new Piper Mirage. What a transition from the Archer I'm used to renting. As he says, it's as much information managing as anything else and really challenging.

Still, there's nothing like "loosening the bounds of earth."

Hope you're well and excited as our town is about tomorrow's election.

Peace!

John

**Jim Miller writes from Texas**

Hi Mel,

I want to thank you for your dedication to the Priest Pilot's Assoc and inform you I will not be renewing my membership. I have donated my plane to Wings of Hope and it will be helping needy people in Africa and/or S. America. I found the expense of keeping it was too much for me. It was hard to part with it after more than 25 years of ownership and over 46 years as a pilot, but the handwriting was on the wall. All the best to you and the members

. Fr. Jim Miller

I thought the article in the last newsletter about NASA and the Lost Day would arouse some interest. Bill Menzel was the first to reply. He referred me to an article in *SCOPES* which de-bunked the holy idea. I was going to reprint it but it's a copyrighted article so I decided I would give you the web site address and you can take it from there. Kind of interesting what can be done in manipulating Scripture to make it sound like we want it to. The address is:  
<http://www.snopes.com/religion/lostday.asp>

-----  
*John Capone from Golden, CO sent the following greeting with his dues*

Hi Mel,

Hope all is well with you and the NAPPers.

Regards

John

-----  
*COMPLIMENTARY membership* is one of the memberships offered by NAPP. That type of membership is awarded to people who have done something significant for NAPP. My brother Ev offered to sign up a person he taught to fly, his pastor and another priest. Their names follow. As we talked I thought why don't we give a year's *complimentary membership* to people like that. At the end of the year, hopefully, they will join us as Regular or Associate members. Perhaps we could put this idea on the agenda at next July's annual meeting.

Rev Eric Berns  
St. Patrick Church  
401 Mansion St  
Mauston WI 53948-1393

Rev Peter Etzel  
Gesu Parish  
1210 W Michigan St  
PO Box 495  
Milwaukee WI 53201-0495

Doug Kolb  
W 3280 Crowley Rd  
Lyndon Station WI 63944  
: [Douglas.p.kolb@us.army.mil](mailto:Douglas.p.kolb@us.army.mil)

Welcome to NAPP.  
.Plan on Dubuque in May and Ohio in July.

-----  
**UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS**

Jack Paisley is still working on the plans for the May 4 Midwest gathering in Dubuque.

Allen Corrigan has a few details to work out for the Annual Convention in Ohio. By the next issue both sites should have all in place for us.

*Meanwhile*  
*Keep the following information in*

**MIND**

And on

**YOUR CALENDAR**

**DUBUQUE, IOWA**

*MAY 4, 2009*

**RICHFIELD, OHIO**

*JULY 7-8, 2009*

## Whispers in the Loggia

### “Priestless Sundays”

September 28, 2008

*(Bishop Kettler, I hope you don't mind)*

These days, much of the nation might be taken with one Alaskan phenom (who had her [first cheese steak](#) yesterday) – but back home in the Bush, the US church's lone remaining missionary diocese is using this Sunday to underscore [an even broader trend](#).

Dubbed “priestless Sunday,” next weekend will find parish leaders filling the pulpit at Roman Catholic churches all around Fairbanks and the road systems.

No, the urban parish priests haven't all taken vacations at the same time. Instead, they will be ministering in rural parishes across the sprawling Fairbanks Catholic Diocese, which encompasses almost a half million square miles north of the Alaska Range to the Arctic Ocean and west to the Bering Sea.

Priestless Sunday is the product of “thinking outside the box,” and a creative attempt to deal with the acute shortage of Roman Catholic priests, explained Robert Hannon, special consultant to the Bishop Donald Kettler.

Deacons and lay presiders will be conducting communion services – Celebration of the Word with Holy Communion – both Saturday and Sunday. It is not Mass but will satisfy the Catholic obligation to attend Mass.

Kettler has personally been preparing urban parishioners for next

sister parish program that is not just priest to community but community to community.

“I can't say they were happy about doing this, but they understood the necessity of it because of the shortage of priests,” Kettler said.

The diocese has only 17 priests, but serves approximately 16,000 Catholics spread out across 47 parishes, the vast majority of which are only reachable by airplane most of the year. It's the norm for priests serving in outlying areas to divide their ministry among six to eight rural parishes. Rural churches will have a visiting priest to celebrate Mass about once every six weeks. Kettler said.

Kettler and eight local priests will be flying out at the end of next week to spend three or four days in Bush ministry.

Considering fuel costs have doubled since last year, the weekend program is not inexpensive.

**(Blogg Editor's Note:** Thanks to the several readers who noted that, contrary to the above article's claim, the Mass obligation is dispensed where Sunday celebrations in the absence of a priest are celebrated)



## LAST MINUTE FLASH.

This just arrived from Jacek Rejman .

He and Pat Patten work out of Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa.

### What a wonderful Christmas gift and surprise

Hi Mel

How are you doing? Thanks a million for your help as usual and keeping us up to date with sending our newsletter. It would be so nice to see you all... We are doing ok here. It is busy as usual and we are flying high...at least sometimes.

Dear Mel, as you know one year ago we lost one of our planes and we were really busy flying one plane which had to cover the work of two...also last year we managed to buy replacement 206 in Budapest in Hungary and our new plane was flown to Holland for some work (new instrument, heavy duty gear and many more things...KLM Pilots Without Borders were helping us with that) and it was ready to fly here in January...one day before the ferry flight two pilots crashed our plane...they planted our beauty in freshly plowed field. Life is like that sometime. The pilots were ok but N36MS had wrinkled wing, bent prop, collapsed nose gear, engine came out of it's mounts...well it was close to write off... but 100 000 euro later it flew again in Holland and it was ready to be flown to Africa!

Together with Pat we went to Holland to collect our plane...with new engine and prop and new paint...first test flight we did there was a bit nervous...but the plane performed well. Still we had to work for one week on it and at the beginning of November we took off from Lelystad in Holland, called Amsterdam Control and set our course South toTanzania. The weather was of course IFR but over Germany we broke off the clouds and after a few hours we landed in Zurich International Airport. From there to Brindisi in Italy, then Iraklion in Crete, Alexandria for fuel and Luxor in

Sahara desert. It took us 38 hours of flying to get our plane from Europe to Tanzania.

So we have two planes again. Our new one for last 3 weeks flew 70 hours! Busy... Dear Mel, one more time thanks for all your great support and we would like to invite everyone here to Tanzania to see our new beauty...maybe next NAPP meeting in Africa? :) Thanks and fly high

Yours

Jack

### A Few of Our Clinic Flights



Oiborkishu



Arkasupai



Narakawo



**REV. MEL HEMANN  
127 KASPEN PL  
CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613-1683**

*Any questions contact me at  
319-266-3889*

*Or*

*[n298mh@cfu.net](mailto:n298mh@cfu.net)*

**N.A.P.P. DUES -- U.S. \$25.00**

-----  
**Please fill out this form! Make check payable in U.S. Dollars to N.A.P.P., Inc.**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Member:** \_\_\_\_\_ Charter \_\_\_\_\_ Regular \_\_\_\_\_ Associate