

# Notes from Fr. Nick

## Bulletin Columns

After eight years of seminary, six summers at Notre Dame, and seven years at the Graduate Theological Union, I had read through enough syllabi. When I finished my last degree, I decided that for the rest of my life I would read whatever I pleased. Teaching assignments and other projects have kept me from fully honoring this decision, but for the most part, for the last twenty years I've read anything that pricked my curiosity.

A friend tells me I'm the most catholic (note the lower case "c") reader he's ever met. In the past twelve months, I have read a book on the intelligence of cephalopods (Peter Godfrey Smith's *Other Minds*) as well as a collection of Nordic stories (Neil Gaiman's *Norse Myths*), and almost any other subject in between. I try to strike a balance between fiction and non-fiction, but tilt toward the latter.

My bulletin columns follow the same pattern. Generally I write about whatever strikes my fancy. Although everything I read in some way informs my faith, my columns may, or may not, comment on Church, theology, ecclesiology or liturgy. I may be a priest to the core, but my interests stray very far from the sanctuary.

One of the deep dark secrets about these columns is that I write them far in advance of publication. Four times a year, I sit down and compose thirteen of them all at once. Having the bulletin deadline loom over me every week would be a surefire way to failure. Occasionally I must rewrite a column when plans change, or something else intervenes, but at least the queue is filled well in advance.

So, get ready for book reviews, essays, and recipes, in addition parish events, liturgical musings and Church teaching. Saint Paul tells us, "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.*" (Romans 12:2) To me this means having a healthy interest in just about everything without mindlessly buying into it. I never cease to be surprised when I find God in the oddest places, and I love writing and preaching about it.



*Fr. Nick Glisson greets parishioners after the 11:00 Mass at his first weekend as pastor at St. Mary Magdalen parish.*