



Dear Friends,

*Receive the Book of the Gospels, whose herald you now are.  
Believe what you read. Teach what you believe. Practice what you teach.*

This mandate, given to every man on his Ordination to the Diaconate, was given to Fr. John Hughes by Bishop Peter Ireton in 1953 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Richmond. One difference - back then the admonition was given in Latin. Fr. Jack Hughes, in his 55 years as a Priest, certainly lived that mandate. As I concelebrated his funeral Mass at St. Bernadette's Church, February 20th, along with almost 100 priests and a standing room only congregation, I thought about the commonalities that were interwoven in both of our lives. He, as I, came from a middle class family. He lived in a tenement house in St. Michael's Parish and I lived in St. Mary's Parish - some five miles apart. Often we would remark to each other how fortunate we were to have come from ordinary working class families - his father a paper cutter for the local newspaper, mine a mailman. We both agreed that we never did get everything we wanted, but always got everything we needed. And at the top of the list was a wholesome loving family with a caring mother and father. Father Jack never forgot where he came from and because of that always had a special love for those who were struggling or at the bottom rung of the ladder. Our families were interconnected through his sister, Sister Mary Hope Hughes, and my great Aunts who were also members of the same community in Rhode Island. Many of our parishioners remember Father Jack singing *Danny Boy* at the end of Mass on the Sunday nearest to St. Patrick's Day. Just two weeks before he died he was looking forward to coming, once again, to the Knights of Columbus Irish Dinner. When I shared this with Grand Knight, Bob Davis, he immediately responded that if Fr. Hughes could not be with us on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, he would bring the corn beef to him. Father Jack always had the knack of making everyone, even those he met for the first time, feel at ease usually with his great Irish humor. And many of us would humor him by continually laughing at the very same stories that we had heard countless times before. While most of us know this gentle man as Pastor of nearby Saint Bernadette's Church he lived and taught the Gospel message during his many years in the Richmond Diocese as coordinator of two Diocesan high schools, a member of the liturgical commission, radio commentator for eight years, and as Director of the Propagation of the Faith, where he cared for the poor. My thoughts during the funeral Mass kept reminding me of a kind and gentle man who truly lived the title *Gentle-man, Father and Pastor (Shepherd)*. I thought about the thousands of people he touched during his 55 years of ministry. I thought of the man who was *always* there for his people. I thought of the pastor who counseled me on several occasions when I just needed someone to talk with. I thought of a man who never said "no" to anyone in need. As I learned recently, he even helped us out with Sunday Masses these past months when he himself was going downhill and would tell no one of his illness. And as the Navy Hymn was played at the recessional, we were all reminded of his love for his country and the country he served as a shop machinist in the U.S. Navy.

Thursday January 29th, Fr. Wilson asked if I would be able to have dinner with Jack that evening. I had an appointment on my calendar and I suggested we go the following week. Fr. Wilson persisted, "Dick, I think we should do it tonight." Changing my appointment, we met at a restaurant in Tyson's Corner for what would be Jack's final night out. I will be forever grateful that Father Wilson was insistent. I learned an important lesson - not to put off what you can do today.

Yes, Father Jack, you not only received the Book of the Gospels on your Ordination as Deacon in 1953, but you truly were the Lord's Herald and many lives have been changed because of you. You *practiced* what you preached - a lesson for many of us today. Our parish extends to the one you always referred to as "Sis", Sister Mary Hope Hughes, R.S.M. our sincere condolences.

Father Jack would often extend his hand while saying the Irish Blessing:

*May the road rise to meet you  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
The rains fall soft upon your fields.*

The final line however has now been realized in this good, simple, holy man's life:

*May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

**FASTING – What’s it all about?**

Every Lent we are called to “fast”. So the question is “why” and “how did it all come to be?” According to *The Modern Catholic Encyclopedia*, fasting and abstinence were common practices among the Jews of the Old Testament. Often in times of bad fortune, the judge, the king or the prophet would proclaim a fast to show humility before God and to win God’s favor. To refrain from “unclean foods” was, and still is, a part of the Jewish faith. The early Christians tended to follow many of the practices from their Jewish heritage. Fasting during the Lenten season was at first extremely severe, allowing only one meal each day, usually in the evening. Fish, meat and sometimes even dairy foods were forbidden. It was during the ninth century that it became permissible for fish and eggs to be eaten at this one meal which took place during midday. In the last few centuries, up to the Second Vatican Council, two small meals could be eaten each day along with the main meal during the Lenten season. Meat could be a part of the main meal except on Ash Wednesday and Fridays. For centuries, the purpose of fasting during Lent was to suffer physically. Vatican II shifted this age old emphasis to one of spiritual preparation for the paschal mystery of Easter. And so while we still fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays during Lent, the focus now includes other forms of penance, and self-denial. Prayer, fasting and alms-giving, are important as vehicles or tools which help to prepare us to fully celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Lent is OUR journey. Let us fully embrace it.



Monday, March 2

CARMELA & RAY DERBISH..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, March 3

NASH O. THOMPSON III..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

FRANCES & JIM BUTERA..... 7:30pm - Fr. Wilson

Wednesday, March 4

PAUL GOULD..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, March 5

KATHLEEN DAVIS..... 7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, March 6

JOE, DICK, MARY, JOHN &

TONY TALARICO..... 7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, March 7

JERRY & STEVE VALENTINE..... 9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Special Intentions for

MR. & MRS. GERALD HAY..... 5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday, March 8

PARISHIONERS..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

MARY BECKETT..... 9:00am - Fr. Wilson

MIKE BROOKS..... 11:00am - Fr. Wilson

PAUL HALTER..... 12:45pm - Fr. O’Keefe



**Parents of First Holy Communion students** should attend an important information meeting on Wednesday, March 4, at 7:00pm in the church.

**Confirmation students only** are to receive the sacrament of Penance at the **Confirmation Penance Service** on **Tuesday, March 10, at 7:00pm in the church.**

**Student Registration for 2009-2010 is now open.** Class placement is on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date the registration form is received in the Religious Education Office. Return a completed Student Registration form with payment as soon as possible to increase the chance of placement in your first choice session.

**Important: registrations will not be processed without a copy of a student’s baptismal certificate included with the form (including students baptized at Nativity) unless the baptismal certificate is already on file in the Religious Education Office.** Forms are available in the Religious Education Office, on the community board in the church vestibule, and at website: [www.edu.nativityburke.org](http://www.edu.nativityburke.org); on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

**Nativity’s Grief Support Group**, for all who have suffered the death of a loved one and are in the need of the comfort that sharing can bring, meets **7:30pm** in the school on the **1st and 3rd Thursday of each month** and is open to all adults free of charge. Prior registration is not required. Call Carol Mack for more information 703-455-2400, ext. 117.



**TIME CHANGE**

Daylight Savings Times begins on **March 8th.** Don’t forget to **SPRING FORWARD** before going to bed Saturday night.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** is held on the **First Friday of each month** in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel located adjacent to the vestibule of the Church. The next adoration is from 8:00am to 1:30pm on **Friday, March 6, 2009** closing with Benediction.



The **Women of Nativity** are once again making **Easter Baskets** for local area children in need. We hope you will help us by donating the following items: **school supplies, small stuffed animals, small toys, books and personal care items (hair barrettes, nail items, etc.)** We **DO NOT** need Easter grass. The children range from ages 6 months to 13 years. We will be collecting the Easter Goodies on the weekend of March 28th and 29th before and after all Masses. This is the **ONLY** weekend we will be conducting this drive. The collection will be located in the vestibule as you enter the Church. **Thank you for your kindness and generosity.** If you have any questions,

### A green thought for the week from Creation Care Ministry

Praised to You, My Lord, through our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs.

*The Canticle of Creatures*  
St. Francis of Assisi

To share ideas about Creation Care Ministry, join us the third Wednesday of the month 7:30-9:00 pm in the Green Room or contact Kim Young, 703-493-9035,

[KYoungDT@msn.com](mailto:KYoungDT@msn.com)

### PRO-LIFE CORNER

Abortion is a tragic mistake for all involved. The consequences on family relationships can be far-reaching and quite destructive. Yet there is nothing beyond God's capacity to heal and forgive.



Are you suffering from an abortion experience?

**PROJECT RACHEL** offers spiritual and psychological healing. Call 703-276-0373

[projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org) for a referral for private, sensitive and confidential counseling and/or reconciliation. (Project Rachel is a post-abortion healing program open to all and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington).

**Pro-Life Rosary**-A prayerful, peaceful and public gathering of friends and neighbors who pray the rosary for one hour takes place on Saturdays at 10:00am on Rolling Road across from Kings Park SC Giant Food. Please call Jane Hamilton, 703-646-5051 for more info.

### Crisis Pregnancy Centers Phone Numbers

Catholic Charities National: 1-800-CARE-002

Catholic Charities Local: 703-425-0100

A Woman's Choice: 703-538-4305

Gabriel Project: 1-866-444-3553



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

### CAR RAFFLE UPDATE



**Have your car raffle tickets to return? You can return your tickets after Mass to the table located outside or one of the Knights of Columbus in the coffee room.**

*Come join the Knights of Columbus who are helping God's special children.....*

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society and the world's largest lay Catholic organization with more than 1.75 million members. Last year members of the Knights of Columbus donated more than 68 million hours of volunteer service for charitable causes and contributed more than \$144 million to charity.

Nativity Knights donated 11,000 hours of volunteer service and raised \$43,470 for charitable causes in 2008. According to the Independent Sector, the estimated dollar value of a volunteer hour last year was \$19.51 which brings the total value of charity contributions by Nativity Knights to \$258,080 last year alone.

Are you the best Catholic man you can be? We want to make you better! We are searching for the next generation of Knights. Interested in having the experience of a lifetime by joining this great fraternal organization that is involved in giving back to our church, our families and our community? Visit the coffee room after Mass to visit with a Brother Knight or call George Getek (703-978-6674 or Matt Smith (703-455-3197).

### Thought for the Week

Don't wait for a crisis to discover what is important in your life.

Author Unknown

Come join the Knights of Columbus for the wearing of the green at the 16th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance to be held in the Parish Hall at 7:00 pm, Saturday, March 14th. It is always a great evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Irish dancers from the O'Neill James School of Dance will perform with music for listening and dancing provided by Black Tie DJs. Bring your friends and reserve a table or meet fellow parishioners through open seating and enjoy the best corned beef dinner in town for \$20 per ticket. Tickets will be sold after all Masses through March 8. For additional information, call Gene McGrath at 703-250-1281.



**This Week!**

Tonight!	ViBE Meeting	7:30 – 8:30pm Parish Hall
March 2nd:	Lenten Soup Supper!	6:30 – 7:30pm Parish Hall
March 8th:	Workcamp Meeting!	7:30 – 8:30pm Parish Hall

## Fundraisers

**Soup Suppers!**  
**Every Monday in March**  
**6:30 -7:30 in the Parish Hall**  
**\$5.00 per person, \$20 per family**

**Jr. viBE**  
**Next one: March 15th**  
**7-8<sup>th</sup> Graders**  
**5:00PM -6:00PM**

## WANTED

Teens interested in participating in a live performance of the Stations of the Cross are invited to come to an information session /first practice on Sunday, March 1 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM in the main Church

For more information or if you have any questions please contact: Paul Devine, Youth Coordinator at [cyo@nativityschool.org](mailto:cyo@nativityschool.org) or 703-455-2400 ext 115.

## THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

### Sunday, March 1 ECHO COLLECTION

- 2:00 pm.....Baptisms (CH)
- 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S,PH,GR,CV)
- 7:30 - 8:30 pm.....viBE Meeting (PH)

### Monday, March 2

- 4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S,GR,APR,S)
- 6:30-7:30 pm.....Lenten Soup Supper (PH)
- 6:45 pm.....JustFaith (TL)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIA (GR)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIC (CH)
- 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

### Tuesday, March 3

- 9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
- 4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S, APR)
- 7:15 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary
- 7:30 pm.....Lenten Mass (CH)

### Wednesday, March 4

- 10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
- 7:00 pm.....1st Holy Comm. Parent Mtg. (CH)
- 7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Rm. 9)
- 7:30 pm.....Hispanic Baptism Class (Rm. 8)
- 7:30-8:30 pm..... viBE (TL)
- 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Traditional Choir Practice (CH/MR)

### Thursday, March 5

- 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
- 9:30 am.....Spanish Mass/Exposition (SC)
- 7:00 pm.....Life in the Spirit Seminar (Rm. 5)
- 7:15 pm.....Family Choir (CH)
- 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Rm. 4)
- 7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)
- 7:30 pm.....Grief Support (S)

### Friday, March 6

- 8:00 am.....Blessed Sacrament Exposed (CH)
- 10:00 am.....Legion of Mary (APR)
- 1:30 pm.....Blessed Sacrament Closing (CH)
- 7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)

### Saturday, March 7

- 9:30 am.....First Saturday (CH)
- 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
- 10:00 am.....ESL Classes (Rm. 4, 5, 6, 7)
- 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CYO (rm. 4, SL)
- 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)
- 7:00 pm.....Spanish Mass (CH)

**OPERATION STARFISH® UPDATE****Site Selected for 5<sup>th</sup> "Nativity Village" Development**

**Nativity Village at Caracol** is the name of our 5<sup>th</sup> development project in Haiti. Located near Cap-Haitien, on the north coast of the island, this site was selected for our 2009 Operation Starfish® campaign. One of Nativity's two fishing village co-op's is located nearby at Madras. The Caracol development will include 80 houses, sanitation, water wells and a 30-acre farm. Nativity Village at Caracol will also include a community center with a sewing co-op honoring Mrs. Georgette Martin. Here, young adults will be taught dressmaking, pattern design and production of school uniforms and table linens. The funding for this vocational development component comes from donations in memory of Fr. Martin's Mom. The Martin family designated Operation Starfish® for gifts in honor of Mrs. Martin, who was an accomplished dressmaker.

Operation Starfish® at Nativity Church begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through the Easter season. A wall of photos in the church vestibule depicts the work our parish has done in Haiti since 1998. Fr. Martin asks that we consider giving up a little something each day during Lent – something that yields 50 cents a day. All of our individual gifts together can make a big difference in the lives of the poor, as the photos illustrate.

In a recent videotape, being distributed by Food For The Poor to pastors across the country, Fr. Martin said, "Operation Starfish is such a simple idea. There is no administration, no committee, and no work at all. Every penny goes to the poor. We put a simple wicker basket at the church entrance and you put something in it or you don't. Just 50 cents a day can make a huge difference in the lives of the destitute."

**Interested in keeping up with Operation Starfish? You now have two ways to do it electronically:** 1) **subscribe to the periodic e-newsletter by sending an e-mail with your name and email address to [lmacev@hotmail.com](mailto:lmacev@hotmail.com)** or 2) **visit [www.starfishmission.org](http://www.starfishmission.org) and click on the "subscribe" link on the home page.**

There are still spaces available in Nativity's Preschool and Pre-K classes for the 2009-2010 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact the Pre-school office at 703-455-2300 ext.136.



For their Bronze Award, **Nativity Girl Scout Troop 1089 Juniors** are collecting **new shoes** during Mass on March 1st and March 8th, to send to families in need in Haiti and other Latin American countries. Please drop off your new shoes in the box marked "**Project Mary Jane**" at the church entrance. For info. Please contact Raphaela Eleuterio ([drkeleuterio@yahoo.com](mailto:drkeleuterio@yahoo.com)) or Cheryl Ostrowski ([cheryl05@verizon.net](mailto:cheryl05@verizon.net))

**2009 BLA UPDATE**

Nativity Inches Towards its \$320,000 Goal!

Thank-you for pledging to the 2009 Bishop's Lenten Appeal! So far, Nativity parishioners have generously pledged \$268,000, which represents approximately 84% of our \$320,000 goal. Fr. Martin needs your support so that Nativity can reach this goal for supporting our Catholic community in the Arlington Diocese. The BLA campaign funds seminarian programs, teaches our children about the Catholic faith, provides financial resources for the needy and those in crisis and promotes various cultural groups in our Church. All parishioners are urged to participate in this vital campaign, regardless of the size of your pledge. And remember this year's bonus – every \$1.00 increase over your pledge last year is matched by an anonymous donor, which doubles your increase. (1 Timothy 6:18)

**INSURANCE MAILING ALERT**

In recent weeks parishioners may have received a solicitation mailing from an insurance company. PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT THIS MAILING WAS DONE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT OF THE DIOCESE or PARISHES. The diocese never releases the names of parishioners to outside organizations. The insurance company purchased a mailing list of Catholics from a direct marketing company.

**Nativity School Scrip Gift Card Program**

Nativity School is selling Scrip Gift Cards! Scrip gift cards are similar to gift certificates that you purchase from national retailer stores. By purchasing scrip gift cards through Nativity, you are providing much needed funding support for the school simply by shopping. You will get full face value for the amount purchased and the school receives a percentage of the purchased price! Many popular national retailers such as Safeway, Giant, Macy's, Kohls, Sam's Club, Best buy, Macaroni Grill, etc. participate in our scrip program. Ordering scrip is easy! Simply obtain an order form from the scrip envelope located on the bulletin board in the vestibule of the church or online at [www.nativityburke.org/school/documents/ScripSelections.pdf](http://www.nativityburke.org/school/documents/ScripSelections.pdf). Fill out the order form and drop it with a check in the school or church office to the attention of Cara Guzik (school). Orders placed by Friday at 3:00pm will be available for pick-up in the school office by the following Thursday. Please think of Scrip Gift Cards for birthdays, anniversaries, First Communions, Confirmations, etc.

**BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER**

Our sprinkler and water system (fire prevention) has cost \$2,269.00 since the beginning of July 2008. These costs are for inspections, county fees, up-keep and repairs. Koznom (Hungarian thank you)

