



Dear Friends,

I seem to talk with just about everyone I meet. People in elevators, servers at restaurants and occasionally, strangers on the street. It doesn't cost much to smile and say "hello."

I have friends, however, who think my "practices" are a bit unusual. *Daisy* always wants to greet everyone on our walks, mostly dogs. People can learn a lesson on hospitality just by paying attention to their pets.

As Pastor, I try to make it a priority to visit my staff each day. It is an essential practice that I try to keep.

I have also observed in my civilian, military and priestly life, how easy it is to pass by some people we think are not very important. What a terrible disservice!! Some of *the most important people* in any office are the receptionists, secretaries and above all, the maintenance personnel. They certainly are in my offices, both parish and school. The following was sent to me. I think that it has "food for thought" for all of us.

THE CLEANING LADY

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one, "What was the first name of the woman who cleans our classroom?" Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name? I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely", said the professor. In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "hello".

Consider this a practice this Lent. Start with one week and begin to recognize people. You might even say "hello", by name, to the person who serves you. It's not that difficult, all you have to do is look at their name tag. Who doesn't like to hear their own name? This might be another way of practicing the *Great Commandment*, "Love your neighbor as yourself."

"Wherever there is a human being there is an opportunity for kindness".

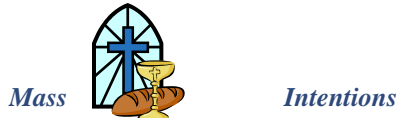
(Seneca)

Have a great week and a blessed Lent.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Martin".

ALMSGIVING – A Part of Lent

Almsgiving, just like prayer and fasting, has an Easter purpose. We fast during Lent as a way of helping us to become aware of the hunger of others. We “give up” things to help us realize what exactly is important. We pray during Lent as a way of bringing us closer to God. By becoming aware of the needs of others, by talking to God, we become more open to Him and his gifts. And so we give alms for the same reasons. By depriving ourselves of monetary items, we are able to focus more on God’s gifts. By giving our monies to those in need, by seeing the needs of others and acting on them, we become more Christ-like. And so we have opportunities like the Bishop’s Lenten Appeal or the Rice Bowl Project, or here at Nativity, the Starfish Project, to find the face of Christ in the poor and the needy during the Lenten Season. And so our Lenten journey becomes one of hope and simplicity as we come closer and closer to the true great joy of Easter.



<i>Mass</i>	<i>Intentions</i>
<u>Monday, March 16</u>	
FRANK BASILE.....	7:30am - Fr. Martin
<u>Tuesday, March 17</u>	
KATHY DAVIS.....	7:30am - Fr. Martin
MARGARET CAVANO.....	7:30pm - Fr. Wilson
<u>Wednesday, March 18</u>	
ELIZABETH LOACH.....	7:30am - Fr. Martin
<u>Thursday, March 19</u>	
WILLIAM MULROY.....	7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe
<u>Friday, March 20</u>	
<i>Special Intentions for</i>	
JENNIFER HAY.....	7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe
<u>Saturday, March 21</u>	
ANN SMITH.....	9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe
MR. STUART CAULFIELD.....	5:00pm - Fr. O’Keefe
<u>Sunday, March 22</u>	
BOB REMALY.....	7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe
LEO HEATH.....	9:00am - Fr. Wilson
PARISHIONERS.....	11:00am - Fr. Martin
GREHORY BOBLITZ.....	12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

Post Cards to Fairfax Supervisors:

Nativity’s VOICE leaders (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) ask registered voters in the parish to join them in urging Fairfax County Supervisors to approve the County Executive’s proposal to continue funding the ***Penny for Affordable Housing Fund***, plus half of the costs of a dentist at the Northern Virginia Dental Clinic. The Clinic serves low-income adults. More details are in an insert in this week’s Bulletin. Post cards will be available outside church next week. Please stop by and complete one.



Confirmation students and sponsors must attend practice on **Saturday, March 28**, in the church: **Group I** from 10:00am-11:30am; **Group II** from 12:00pm-1:30pm.

Confirmation students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on **Sunday, March 29**: **Group I** at 3:00pm; **Group II** at 7:30pm.

Religious Education classes cancelled on **Sunday, March 29, only**, due to Nativity’s Confirmation Celebration. Classes on Monday, March 30, and Tuesday, March 31, will be held as usual.

First Holy Communion students’ banners are to be turned in to the Religious Education Office **by March 31**.

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, or at www.edu.nativityburke.org; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

You cannot do a kindness too soon, you never know how soon it will be too late.

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, please call Donna Gomez at 703-426-9230.

Have you started your Carbon Fast? Why not walk or bike to church next Sunday? You can reflect on the wonder of God's creation while diminishing your negative impact on it. To share ideas about Creation Care Ministry, join us the third Wednesday of the month 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Green Room or contact Kim Young, 703-493-9035, KYoungDT@msn.com. Our next meeting is March 18.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

We need to go back to basic values. What we should be doing is working to achieve a world in which the power to bear children is viewed as a gift to be protected rather than a burden of which to be relieved. **CHOOSE LIFE TODAY. CHOOSE LIFE TOMORROW. PRAY ALWAYS. WE MUST DO NO LESS.**



Through Sunday, April 5, 2009 - **40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil** at NOVA Women's Medical Center, 10400 Eaton Place, Suite 515, Fairfax, VA 22030. Daily 7:00am-10:00 pm. Can you pray for 1-2 hours and witness for Life? Details at <http://www.40daysforlife.com/fairfax/>

Please support the **TEPEYAC FAMILY CENTER**, 11135 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-273-9440 x 107, with your prayers and financial resources. Info on this crisis pregnancy center can be found at www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com

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.

Come join the Knights of Columbus where you are more than just a man when you become a Brother Knight...

The Knights of Columbus is guided by four core principles--charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. We in the Knights of Columbus believe a man is defined by his actions as a follower of God and as a leader in His community. Believing a man is more than simply a man, when he bears the title of "Knight."

Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with our community; it is supporting our Church, while enhancing our own faith; it is about protecting and enhancing our family life.

The Knights of Columbus is an organization fortified by its past and driven by its goals for the future. It is through these five areas of service - faith, community, family, youth and fellowship - that we truly make a difference. Of the countless rewards Knighthood offers, perhaps the most inviting is this: The knowledge that, as a Knight, you can make a difference.

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? If you are over 18, please visit with one of the Brother Knights outside after Mass or call George Getek (703) 978-8874 or Matt Smith (703) 455-3197.

If you are unable to stay after Mass, please plan to attend the Knights of Columbus open house being held Tuesday, March 17, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Open to families. Come see just what the Knights of Columbus is all about and take the first simple steps to becoming a Knight.

Lent is upon us and the **Little Angel Gift Shop** is ready to help you on your Spiritual Journey. You will find pamphlets on the Stations of the Cross, The Seven Last Words and pamphlets of encouragement about Mother Teresa, St. T r se Lisieux, Thomas Merton and more.



First Communion is scheduled for **May 2nd**. Natasha has beautiful custom-made veils for the little girls, ties for the boys and gifts for all Communicants. Visit the **Gift Shop** after Sunday Mass to see what we have to offer.

Thought for the Week

If wrinkles must be written upon our brows, let them not be written upon the heart. The spirit should not grow old.

James A. Garfield



cyo@nativityschool.org 703-455-2400 ext 115.

Jr. viBE

Tonight!!!

5:00PM – 6:00PM

Stations of the Cross

Practice:

**Sundays from 4-6pm
in the Main church!**

Fundraisers

Soup Suppers!

Every Monday in March

6:30 – 7:30 in the Parish Hall

\$5.00 per person, \$20 per family

This Week!

Tonight!:	Stations of the Cross	4:00 – 6:00pm Main Church
	Jr. viBE	5:00 – 6:00pm Parish Hall
	viBE	7:30 – 8:30pm Parish Hall
March 16th:	Lenten Soup Supper!	6:30 – 7:30pm Parish Hall
March 18th:	Small Group	7:30 – 8:30pm Teacher's Lounge

How it all Began...



One evening just before Lent in 1998, Fr. Dick Martin took a walk with his dog and wondered “What if...” What if our parish could add meaning to the Lenten sacrifice by giving up a topping on a pizza or an order of fries, and use the money saved to do something for the poor? What if each family could save 50 cents a day during the 40 days of Lent? Could we create a miracle just like the wedding feast at Cana? The parish thought it was a great idea. Fr. Martin put out a simple wicker basket during Lent, and by Easter, each family’s small sacrifices had yielded \$67,000! What a miracle!

With Food For The Poor, we built houses at Canapé Verte, Haiti, that first year. The following Lent, parishioners wanted to do it again. But first, Fr. Martin wanted to see what had been done with the previous year’s gift, so he took 12 parishioners to Haiti to visit the families living in our new houses. While our people were happy that some lives had been changed for the better, they were depressed by the depth of poverty they saw. That’s when Fr. Martin told the “Starfish Story:”

As a young boy walked the beach at dawn, he noticed an old man ahead of him picking up starfish and tossing them into the sea. Catching up with the man, the boy asked why he was doing this. The old man explained to the boy that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun.

“But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish,” exclaimed the boy. “How can your effort make any difference?”

The old man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it safely into the waves. He turned to the boy and said, “It made a difference to that one.”

--Based on the writing of Loren Eiseley

2009 BLA UPDATE

WE’RE GETTING CLOSE!

Thank-you to those who have already pledged to the 2009 Bishop’s Lenten Appeal! We are approaching our \$320,000 goal... but we still need your help. To date, Nativity parishioners have generously pledged \$313,000, nearly 98% of our goal. Remember that these pledges keep our Catholic community in the Arlington Diocese strong and vibrant. 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. Fr. Martin urges all parishioners to participate in this vital funding campaign, and pledges of all amounts are welcomed. Please prayerfully consider the bonus matching program – every \$1.00 increase over your pledge last year’s is matched by an anonymous donor.

(1 Timothy 6:18)

Starfish, con’t.....

At that point, a parishioner spoke up and said, “Let’s keep doing this, and let’s call our work ‘Operation Starfish.’” Everyone agreed. Eleven years and \$2 million later, Operation Starfish® has been trademarked by Food For The Poor, and the concept has spread to more than 300 churches, schools and organizations across the country.

Interested in keeping up with Operation Starfish? Visit www.starfishmission.org



HIGH SCHOOL MUSICALS

Bishop Ireton's Theatre Arts Department is presenting *Godspell*, the rock musical based on the Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Godspell is about community and the value of the gifts of faith, hope and love. The performances will be on March 20-21 at 7:30 pm with a special matinee presentation today, March 15 at 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students. They may be purchased at the door reserved ahead of time through the Box Office (703-212-5166). Please visit www.BishopIreton.org for more information.

PVI Players present *The Curious Savage*, a warm hearted tale of Mrs. Ethel Savage, a slightly eccentric and extremely wealthy widow whose greedy children commit her to a sanatorium. There she meets all sorts of social misfits who endear themselves to her, and with their help, she leads everyone on a merry chase and learns that a true family is formed through love and kindness. Show times are April 3-4 at 7:30pm and April 5 at 2:00pm. Special understudy performances on Apr. 2 at 7:00pm and April 4 at 2:00pm. Tickets: \$5 for students/seniors; \$10 for adults and \$30 per family. Advance tickets available. For more info, visit www.paulvi.net or contact PVIProducers@yahoo.com.

Bishop O'Connell Drama Department will present a fun-filled family Musical Comedy, *Little Mary Sunshine*, directed by E.H. Milam on Friday, April 3rd and Saturday April 4th at 7:30pm and Sunday April 5th at 2:00pm. Tickets are \$10.00 for general admission and \$5.00 for senior citizens and students. Tickets can be reserved at 703-237-1448 or purchased at the door.

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.



Due to the generous support of the Nativity community, **The Craft Group** was able to donate \$4,500 to needy charities and groups in our neighborhood. These groups include: ECHO, Lamb Center, CYO Nativity, Christ House, Bethany House and The Cornerstone. The Craft Group is always open to new members who enjoy learning new things, who enjoy great fellowship and a fun time creating lovely items. We sell the items at the annual Nativity Christmas Bazaar. The group meets every Thursday at 9:30am in the All Purpose Room. We also accept any donations of yarn and fabric to make the various items. Thanks again for your wonderful support.

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, March 15

- 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm..... CCD Classes (S,PH,GR,CV)
- 2:00 pm.....Baptism (CH)
- 4:00-6:00 pm.....Stations of the Cross Practice (CH)
- 7:30 - 8:30 pm.....viBE Meeting (PH)

Monday, March 16

- 9:30 am.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)
- 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 17

- 9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
- 7:15 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Lenten Mass. (CH)
- 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (Rm. 9)

Wednesday, March 18

- 10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
- 7:00 pm.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Rm. 9)
- 7:30-8:30 pm..... viBE (TL)
- 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Traditional Choir Practice (CH)

Thursday, March 19

- 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
- 9:30 am.....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.....Baptism Class (SL)
- 7:30 pm.....Grief Support Group (S)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Rm. 4)
- 7:30 pm.....Hispanic RCIA (Rm. 7)
- 7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)

Friday, March 20

- 10:00 am.....Legion of Mary (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday, March 21

- 9:30 am.....Pro Life Rosary (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)
- 7:00 pm.....PTO Auction (PH)