



Dear Friends,

My column for this week was completed and ready to be proofed-that was until I read *The Letters* page in *USA TODAY*, March 16<sup>th</sup>, titled “*Care for patients, don’t just treat them,*” by Bernard Siegel, MD. The focus of the letter was on some hospice patients feeling abandoned by doctors who were not taught how to care for people approaching the end of their life. Dr. Siegel related how he had written to the Dean of his former medical school to say that “...*teachers taught me to be an excellent surgeon, but they did not teach me how to deal with my feelings or to really care for my patients.*” He commented that the American College of Surgeons pledge says, “*I promise to deal with each patient as I would wish to be dealt with.*” He went on to say that he would like to see the words “*dealt with*” changed to “*care for.*”

Perhaps what Dr. Siegel was saying was that doctors need to focus on the person as well as the process. After reading his letter I felt that his thoughts could be applied to priests as well as to caregivers. Sometimes, if priests are not true to their calling, they can become more concerned with the rituals (administering the sacraments, sacramentals etc.) rather than with the person receiving the sacrament. I have been called upon by families to administer the “Last Rites” to a loved one who had already died. Some priests may refuse to go to the hospital or home upon hearing this, for there is no sacrament for the deceased. Sacraments are for the living. Indeed the name is no longer “Last Rites” but Sacrament of the Sick. A priest concerned primarily with ritual may not visit the home or hospital. A truly pastoral minister will offer to come and bless the body and be there to comfort the family. Their concern, like the doctor, ought to be not with the process, but with the family and their grief. Compassion, concern, sympathy for the family is just as important as what the family is hoping for from their pastor.

When I read the surgeons pledge for their patient, the words compassion, love and concern immediately came to mind. The priest, the pastor, must be the same. I have often shared my belief that those virtues are not taught to us as college students in a seminary. The Latin derivative of seminary is *semen* or seed bed. The place where the *seeds* of compassion, concern and love are first sewn is in the home with loving parents - not in any seminary. That was certainly true in my home under the tutelage of my Mom and Dad. They deserve the credit as my first teachers.

The comments of Dr. Siegel can also trickle down to each of us. For are we not all caregivers in various ways and to different people at one time or other? How often does someone come to us with a personal dilemma. Oftentimes, we cannot fix their problem. Many times the person wants someone just to walk with them, to listen or to hear the words “*I’m with you, I care.*”

The optional Gospel for this Sunday (John Ch.9 verse 1-41) is about the man born blind, who wants nothing more than to be able to see. Sometimes we all need to make that request of the Lord: “*Help me to see.*” Until we can *really see* that other person we will never be able to attend to his innermost needs, be we a doctor, priest or layman. We will just be focusing on the process, concerned more with the rituals and the externals. In the Book of Psalms we read: “*They have eyes but do not see, they have ears but do not hear.*” This week, in whatever profession you have chosen, in whatever office you work, in your homes, with your spouses and especially your children, open your eyes, your ears, your hearts to what people are saying - or perhaps what they are not saying.

Have a good week.

**FORGIVENESS AND RECONCILIATION.....**

As we continue our journey through Lent, let us pause now and take a closer look at our sinfulness, God's mercy, and His forgiveness. Throughout the Mass, these three themes are repeated over and over. During the remaining weeks of Lent, try to pay special attention to some of the prayers said by the priest and people, referring to our unworthiness and just how God reaches out to us. From the "Kyrie eleison" to the "Agnus Dei" the words speak of the incredible mercy of God and His love for His people. He offers us forgiveness and reconciliation. The Season of Lent calls us to repent, to change our ways, to realize God's mercy and love for us, and to really take the time each day to think of what exactly this means to us personally. We ask for forgiveness when we pray the *Our Father*. We are called to forgive others in the very same prayer. While it is not always easy to forgive those who have wronged us, it is what we must do if we are to grow and to change. Only by doing this can we truly experience the overwhelming joy and peace of Easter.



**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**.

**Jesus Day Retreat** for First Holy Communion students is on **Saturday, April 18, 8:00am-12:30pm in the parish hall**. *Attendance is required.*

**First Holy Communion students in Group I must attend practice** on **Wednesday, April 29, 6:00-7:30pm in the church**.

**First Holy Communion students in Group II must attend practice** on **Thursday, April 30, 6:00-7:30pm in the church**.

**Easter Holiday** — all Religious Education classes cancelled from **Sunday, April 5, through Tuesday, April 14**. Classes resume on Sunday, April 19; Monday, April 20; and Tuesday, April 21.

**Catechists and Assistants of the Religious Education Program** should attend the Spring Workshop on **Sunday, April 19, at 7:30pm in the parish hall**.

**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](http://www.edu.nativityburke.org); on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

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.

**Thought for the Week**

Sign outside Covenant Moravian Church, York, PA:

**"Despite appearances, I am in control.  
"Relax, God."**

-via Rev. Dean Jurgen



**Masses For The Week**

**Monday, March 23**

GEORGE LAWYER.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

**Tuesday, March 24**

BEN STEVENS.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

ANNA MAGNANTI.....7:30pm - Fr. Wilson

**Wednesday, March 25**

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

**Thursday, March 26**

ROSE O'MALLEY.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

**Friday, March 27**

LOIS KRUSH.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

**Saturday, March 28**

RAYMOND DERBISH.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

MARIE JOHNSON.....5:00pm - Fr. Wilson

**Sunday, March 29**

PARISHIONERS.....7:30am - Visiting Priest

IRENE KROSNIK.....9:00am - Visiting Priest

MARJORIE HEIBEIN.....11:00am - Fr. Wilson

*Special Intentions for*

ISABELLA DELILLE.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

**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.

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**

America will never be whole as long as the right to life granted by our Creator is denied to the unborn through abortion and the elderly through euthanasia. We are being desensitized. Who will be next: the handicapped, the person with the "wrong" political view, or skin tone, or religious belief? We are sliding down the "slippery slope" of the culture of death.

Are you suffering through 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

The Victim Assistance Ministry is a program of outreach survivors of childhood sexual abuse by clergy, religious or lay employees of the Catholic Church, as well as those abused through incest, by acquaintances, or through violent attack. We encourage both victims/survivors and the entire Catholic community to join us at a Prayer Service to pray for the healing for those who have been sexually abused. The Prayer Service will be held on April 25, 2009 at 10:00am at St. Louis Church, 2907 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. Rev. Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., will preside. For more information, please visit our website [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org). You may also contact the Victim Assistance Coordinators, Pat Mudd at 703-841-2530 or Kathryn Kramer at 703-841-2759. All calls are confidential.

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.



**T-SHIRTS!!!!**

**For Sale in the Gift Shop**

## Fundraisers

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

## Stations of the Cross Practice:

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

### This Week!

**Tonight!:** Stations of the Cross  
 viBE  
**March 23rd:** Lenten Soup Supper!  
**March 25th:** Small Group

**4:00 – 6:00pm Main Church**  
**7:30 – 8:30pm Parish Hall**  
**6:30 – 7:30pm Parish Hall**  
**7:30 – 8:30pm Teacher's Lounge**

### It's your Lent too, Mom!

When my kids chose to clean up the local woods for a Lenten service project, I explained that I could not because of laundry, house cleaning, etc. In typical child fashion, my daughter said, "This is a family service. You have to come. It's your Lent too." Bottom line: the entire family went, including the dog (white poodle). After an hour together picking up trash, we had four big bags of garbage, six happy family members, and one not so white poodle. (A true story.)

More than just giving up wasteful energy practices, a Carbon Fast is an intentional reduction in our use of energy that is linked to the spiritual renewal of Lent. Try a Carbon Fast idea with your family this week.

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

**Mom & Me is a cooperative group of mothers and children who gather for socialization and service. Mothers and their infants, toddlers and preschoolers are welcome. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 am in the All Purpose Room. For more info contact Magda Lee at [magdalee@yahoo.com](mailto:magdalee@yahoo.com).**

**MARRIAGE HELP**—Retrouvaille (retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about Retrouvaille call 703-351-7211 or visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)

### 2009 BLA UPDATE

CONGRATULATIONS – WE MADE OUR GOAL!

Fr. Martin extends a warm "Thank-you!" to all who pledged to the 2009 Bishop's Lenten Appeal! Your generosity facilitated our ability to reach Nativity's \$320,000 goal. To date, Nativity parishioners have generously pledged \$327,000, approximately 102% of our goal. Your BLA pledge keeps 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. If you have not made your pledge yet, there is still time before this Lenten campaign draws to a close.

### SEEDS OF HOPE

A special night benefiting FOOD FOR THE POOR'S House Building Program is being held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at The Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA. Make plans to join us as we celebrate a special evening with dinner, dancing and entertainment. For more information, please contact Melinda Engelbrektsson 703-690-9921 or [Swedes5@cox.net](mailto:Swedes5@cox.net)

### BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

**Health, dental and vision Insurance for our full time Church employees and Priests (excludes the school employees) was \$11,049.84 for the month of March, 2009.**

**Mahad-lob (Thank you in the state of Georgia in former USSR).**



**Postcards to Fairfax Supervisors**

Nativity's V.O.I.C.E. leaders (Virginia Organized for Interfaith Engagement) ask Fairfax adult residents 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 for low income adults, and maintaining funding for adult English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) classes. Details were in last week's Bulletin. Additional information and post cards to the Supervisors are available outside church this weekend. Please stop by and complete one.

The monthly peer support group for survivors of clergy abuse and others affected by the abuse will meet on March 25 at 7 pm in the conference room of the Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. This group is co-sponsored by Voice of the Faithful-Northern Virginia affiliate and meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Free. Confidential. No registration required. For information or directions, or in case of bad weather, contact Ellen Radday at 703-538-6128.



Natasha is looking for 2 people who are able and willing to help in the **Little Angel Gift Shop** on Sunday morning after the 7:30am Mass. You will be trained by Natasha.

Lenten pamphlets are still available.

**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.

Queen of Apostles is having their annual Arts & Sweets Fair on Sunday, March 29th from 9:00am until 2:00pm. The Fair features a Craft Show, Bake Sale and Plant Sale. There will be raffle prizes, baked goods, jewelry, Partylite Candles, Mary Kay, baby blankets, Easter plants and more. Queen of Apostles is located at 4409 Sano Street, Alexandria; just off Lincolnia Rd.

**EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

These are more effective than 911. Call when...

You are sad, phone.....John 14

You have sinned, phone.....Psalm 51

You are facing danger, phone.....Psalm 91

People have failed you, phone.....Psalm 27

It feels as though God is far from you, phone.....Psalm 139

Your faith needs stimulation, phone.....Hebrews 11

You are alone and scared, phone.....Psalm 23

ALL OF THESE NUMBERS MAY BE PHONED DIRECTLY. NO OPERATOR ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY. ALL LINES TO HEAVEN ARE AVAILABLE 24 HOURS A DAY.

Good Shepherd Catholic Church Bulletin, Spring 2008

**THE WEEK AHEAD  
IN OUR PARISH**

**Sunday, March 22**

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

**Monday, March 23**

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 24**

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

**Wednesday, March 25**

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)  
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)  
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 26**

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 27**

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

**Saturday, March 28**

**EASTER BASKET COLLECTION after evening Mass**

10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)  
10:00 am.....ESL Classes (Rm. 4, 5, 6, 7)  
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)  
7:00 pm.....Spanish Mass (CH)