



Dear Parishioners,

The last two weeks we had a glimpse of the poor and needy through the eyes of Father Bill. This week I asked Father Wilson to share his thoughts and how he deals with the poor and needy in Baltimore's inner city. His story, **Doers of the Word**, is interesting.

Doers of the Word

I am grateful to have the opportunity to share my thoughts and experiences with you about this season of renewal and growth.

When I was growing up in Chicago, and attending Catholic school, I had mixed feelings about Lent, since I viewed this time simply as one in which I gave up sweets, not picking on my younger brother and classmates, and not eating meat on Fridays. A pretty narrow view of Lent, I'd say. It wasn't until I was in seminary formation that my understanding of Lent changed and developed into a more mature perspective that viewed Lent as deepening my relationship with God, and that this season was a time in which we avoid or give up certain things which can be a good practice. However, Christ asks His followers to engage in these spiritual disciplines so that we can become the person that God has in His plan for you and me to be, not only for Lent, but for the rest of our lives.

I decided in those developing years that I didn't want to miss out on a golden opportunity to make this endeavor part of my lifestyle.

Since the Church sets aside the days of Lent to help us step outside of our routine and attend more consciously to our relationship with God, prayer, fasting and acts of charity are ways that can afford us a closer walk with the Lord.

I am reminded that the people of the Old testament tried to be good people through prayer and fasting, but their deeds didn't match their religious practices. It was as if they were saying one thing and doing another. For us to profess faith without good works is meaningless. (James 2:14-17).

I have come to learn that living the Christian life is a call to be "contemplatives in action." We are to act, to let our works show our faith. We share Christ's love with the needy in our society knowing that there are many in need because of personal and/or economic crisis or victims of natural disasters or other mishaps that are beyond one's control.

Yet in the midst of life everything we have is a gift—our life, our time, our relationships, our health, etc. Conscious of this reality should lead us to a sense of gratitude which in turn opens the way to generosity. The individual who understands his or her true relationship with God know that all we have has been given to us to share. It is in the sharing that we can make a difference.

I have been working at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore with poor families tending to their many needs. In that time various programs exist to respond to the needs of the children who are in need of support on many levels. One such program is a mentoring program for boys and girls, and the response from the volunteers has been fantastic.

The following is a reflection from one of the volunteers who belongs to a Catholic Social Action Program and wanted to make a difference in the lives of inner city youth. This young man whose name is Tim embodied the words of the Gospel and attempted to live his faith to the fullest. He said that he had been blessed by God and was willing to give back. Tim writes in a letter to me:

I think poverty's impact on education depends in a large measure on whether it is situational or generational poverty. The poverty experienced by a divorced mother struggling to provide for her children without a husband is somewhat different from that experienced by a child of the inner city whose parents and grandparents have perhaps never known anything else. It is difficult for a parent to prioritize a child's education when he or she is struggling daily to put food on the table. Poor children who don't eat a nourishing breakfast will not be able to pay attention in class and so they become fidgety, disruptive. If a parent is working two jobs, for example, the child may spend a lot of time alone after school, with no one to supervise or help with homework, or even make dinner. The child may come to school tired, if no one was there to see that he or she got to bed on time. In some homes there may be no food or money to buy food. To say that a child should learn to want a better life is such an oversimplification of a complicated problem, since they may not be aware that there is a better life anywhere. Poverty can lead to low self esteem. The connection between education and attaining a better life may seem abstract, or just impossible. We cannot assume that all poor people and their situations are the same. Tim concludes that, "ordinary daily life provides extraordinary opportunities to be ministers of Christ's healing presence in our world. People need our time, our presence, our resources. Whenever anyone is hungry, sick or depressed, God is counting on us and our resources to help."

In my years of ministry, I have noted that the deepest joy in life is giving out of love. The most profound moments of life happen in the context of generosity. Giving what we have will not only help others as Tim has experienced in his work, but it will also give us the deepest joy.

Teresa of Avila penned these beautiful words: "Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, you are the eyes through which He looks with compassion on the world, yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which He blessed all the world."

Let us make this Lenten season one in which our relationships are renewed and deepened. And then, when Easter arrives, we can rejoice at the new life we have been given through the Lord.

Father Wilson.

OUR NEED FOR WATER!

The Medical profession tells us that for a healthy body, we should drink eight glasses of water a day. The readings this Sunday follow along that same theme, only in the Gospel Jesus tells us that our need is for “living water.” When we quench our thirst with the words of Jesus, we uncover and heal anything that blocks us from the love of God. When we drink deeply from the life-giving springs of Grace, we are filled with the Holy Spirit, that power within us that allows us to fully live the life of a Christian. So let’s take a few minutes this week to think about the ways that we are spiritually dry. What can we do each day to help us partake of this “living water?” And then let’s make the decision to go ahead and DRINK! The promise from Jesus is that we will be completely satisfied and on the path to Eternal Life.



Monday, March 28

Jeffrey Duffy 7:30am Fr. Martin

Tuesday, March 29

Robert B. Rockefeller 7:30am Fr. Martin

Wednesday, March 30

Benjamin Cecka 7:30am Fr. Martin

Thursday, March 31

Lawrence Russell 7:30am Fr. Korpi

Friday, April 1

Renee Gorey 7:30am Fr. Korpi

Saturday, April 2

Elaine Maiello 9:00am Fr. Korpi
 Dr. & Mrs. Hunter Robinette 5:00pm Fr. Martin
 Spanish Mass 7:00pm Fr. Wilson

Sunday, April 3

Parishioners 7:30am Fr. Martin
 Franz Arakaky 9:00am Fr. Martin
 Joan McDonald 11:00am Fr. Wilson
 Helen Sarnoski 12:45pm Fr. Wilson

PLACING OUR GIFTS



2011 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) Update

Thanks to the great generosity of our Nativity parishioners, \$308,900 has been either received or pledged towards our BLA goal of \$398,000.

That amount comes from just 16% household participation or about 1 out of 6 registered families at Nativity. If additional households will participate, we will easily reach our BLA dollar goal and a higher percentage of families participating. Thanks again for the strong support and now let's finish just as strong.

Parish Prayer List

Please remember, in your prayers, the sick of our Parish Community

Sean Ballard; Sarah Buckley; Mary Hoffman;
 Hayfa Kirma; Lois Lambert; Peter McCourt;
 Gina Newsom; Lynn Penley; Pat Perry; Barb Shaffer;
 McKenna Smith; Daryl Spencer;
 Pam Wadsworth; Claudia Wolf; John Wolfe

For our deceased relatives and friends and especially for all who have recently died:

Patricia Dolan, Mother of Diana Dolan-Beulah; and
 Paul Kraus, husband of Kwon Krause

We also ask that you pray for our military men and women and their families. May God keep them safe and out of harms way.

THE LIGHT IS ON

During Lent confessions will be heard on **Wednesday** March 23rd and March 30th, April 6th and 13th from **6:30 to 8:00pm**. A **Lenten Penance Service** will be held on **Tuesday, April 12th at 7:30pm**.



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Thought for the Week:

“When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another.”

Helen Keller

"I came for the cookies, but I found love and Jesus."

Be a part of the flame that draws souls to Christ. Bake cookies for the women's KAIROS prison retreat scheduled for this Fall at Fluvanna Women's Prison beginning April 6, 2011. This gift of love requires a lot of cookies – about 4,000 dozen for each retreat. Each team member is responsible for bringing 100 dozen home made cookies for the weekend.



The types of cookies needed are: Oatmeal, Peanut Butter, Sugar, Cinnamon, Ginger, Molasses, Chocolate, and Chocolate Chip. Cookies should be 2 inches in diameter and not more than 1/2 inch thick. No icing, sugar, sprinkles or any other type of coating on the outside. No nuts, raisins, fruits, or M&M's on the inside.

Packing the Cookies

Bag thoroughly cooled cookies in a **Quart-Sized Zip Lock bag, 12 to a bag.** Please use **only** a quart-Sized Zip Lock Bag. If you fail to cool your cookies before bagging them, they will stick together and crumble and may not be admitted into the prison. Label each bag with the type of cookie. Freeze all cookies if not delivering within 3 days of the start of the retreat.

For recipes and information about KAIROS, visit the KAIROS Buckingham web site -

<http://kairos-bkcc.org/sites/default/files/documents/KairosCookiesBrochure35.pdf> or call Diane Bayne 703-763-7230

Please place your cookies in the kitchen opposite the church office or give them to a staff member. **Final pickup for the Fluvanna weekend is April 5.**

Nativity School OPEN HOUSE

9:00 to 11:00am

April 5th and May 5th

PRO-LIFE CORNER

On March 31, 2011, "Terri's Day" will be observed to commemorate the 2005 death of Terri Schiavo who was cruelly and needlessly dehydrated to death while her family and millions of supporters stood by, unable to stop her court-ordered sanctioned death. Visit www.terrisfight.org and please support The Terri Schindler Schiavo Foundation.



Through Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011 - 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil at NOVA Women's Medical Center, 10400 Eaton Place, Fairfax, VA 22030. Daily 7 AM - 10 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 pregnancy resource center can be found at www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com



Confirmation students will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on **Sunday, March 27: Group I** at 3:00pm; **Group II** at 7:30pm.

Religious Education classes cancelled on Sunday, March 27, only, due to Nativity's Confirmation Celebrations. Classes on Monday, March 28, and Tuesday, March 29, will be held as usual.

First Communicants must attend the JESUS DAY RETREAT on **Saturday, April 9, 8:00am-12:30pm in the parish hall.**

Seventh Grade Students and Parents are to attend an **important information meeting on Wednesday, April 6, at 7:00pm in the church** regarding Confirmation requirements.

All Religious Education Program teachers and assistants are to attend the Spring Workshop and End-of-Year Information Meeting on **Sunday, April 10, at 7:30pm in the parish hall.**

Student Registration for 2011-2012 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; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

Soups on!!! Our Lenten Soup Suppers are every Monday during Lent in the Parish Hall from 6:30pm-7:30pm. The **last Soup Supper** will take place on April 18th. The cost is \$5 per person and \$20 per family. Please help support the teens of Nativity and spread the word!



The **Nativity ESL** (English as a Second Language) Program for Spanish-Speakers is looking for a volunteer to teach our new course in basic computing for non-English speakers, scheduled to begin next September. Enrollment will be limited to seven students, who will be qualified at the advanced level in English. Day and time for the class are yet to be determined, and will be arranged to fit the teacher's schedule. The course will be taught in nativity School, using laptops generously loaned us by the school. Knowledge of Spanish is not necessary to teach this course. For further details, please contact Bob Clark at 703-323-6717.

Nativity School's Annual Dinner and Auction

Our school's largest annual fundraiser, Lights! Camera! Auction! will be held the evening of **April 2, 2011.....**

6:30pm – 10:30pm at the Country Club of Fairfax, Fairfax, VA. We invite all adult parishioners to attend and enjoy a night of fun and excitement; all proceeds benefit Nativity Catholic School. Tickets for the event are \$50.00 payable in advance and can be purchased after Masses the weekend of March 12th -13th or at the school office. Your ticket price includes, a sumptuous selection of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, full dinner buffet, drink ticket, entertaining and competitive games and silent auction and the always exciting live auction. The funds raised in our silent and live auctions support the students, teachers, and staff with assemblies, technology in the classrooms, outreach programs and many more activities.

For more information on attending the event, to make a donation of an item or service or if you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact Bridget Spencer at (916) 595-2570 or bridgetmspencer@gmail.com.

Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

FAIR TRADE CHOCOLATE

Easter is almost here! Do you have Fair Trade chocolate to add to your baskets? Dark chocolate eggs and milk chocolate eggs with a speckled casing are available in the Gift Shop. Jennifer Oforiwa Kusi is the daughter of a cocoa farmer in Ghana and has plans to be a nurse. Her goal is to live in her childhood village "to help my community when they are ill." In the past, with the closest school two hours away, Jennifer had to leave her family in order to earn an education. Jennifer's father is a member of Kuapa Kokoo, a farmers' cooperative that supplies cocoa beans for Divine Chocolate and shares ownership in the company. With premiums from sales of Divine Chocolate, their village built a school. Now Jennifer can live at home while she pursues her studies and her dream. For more information www.crsfairtrade.org or www.serrv.org. CRS and SERRV work together to promote Fair Trade and have many beautiful items in their online catalogs.



The Little Angel Gift Shop has an assortment of First Communion veils. All are handmade, with love, by Natasha Hines. First Communion is April 30th. Hurry and get yours while supplies last.



My Little Budget Book, an easy to follow step by step guide to personal budgets, were donated to the Little Angel Gift Shop. Stop by and see if the book will make your budgeting easier. A minimum donation of \$2.00 is asked for Starfish.

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, March 27

3:00 pm.....Confirmation Mass (CH)
7:30 pm.....Confirmation Mass (CH)

Monday, March 28

4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S)
6:30 to 7:30 pm.....Lenten Soup Supper (PH)
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, March 29

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S)
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, March 30

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
7:00 pm.....RCIA (PH)
7:00 pm.....RCIC (Room 4,6)
7:00 pm.....JustFaith (GR)
7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (Room 2)

Thursday, March 31

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
6:30 pm.....Hispanic Lenten Retreat (PH)
7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room 2)
7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR, Room 7,8,SL,SC)
7:30 pm.....Adult Choir Practice (CH)

Friday, April 1

8:00 am.....Blessed Sacrament Exposition (CH)
11:15 am.....Blessed Sacrament Closing (CH)
7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)
8:15 pm.....Hispanic Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday, April 2

9:30 am.....First Saturday Devotion (CH)
10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CYO (Room 4)
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)
7:00 pm....Our Lady of China Stations of the Cross (SC)

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to deliver Meals on Wheels to senior citizens once a month, on weekdays from 10:30am to 1:00pm, in the West Springfield/Burke areas. For information please call Joan Opiela at 703-455-9652.

Annual Multi-Car Raffle Thank you to those who have already returned their sold tickets. There is still plenty of time to enter the raffle, but don't wait to the last minute. Remember each \$5.00 ticket is a chance to win all five 2011 vehicles from Koons of Manassas (Honda Civic Hybrid, Honda Accord, GMC Sierra Truck, Honda CRV sport utility and Honda Odyssey Van) plus up to \$20,000 in cash. Thank you for your continued, generous support. If you have any questions or need more tickets to sell, please contact Sam Morthland at 703-455-2816.



RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS FOR SCOUTS



All Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts working towards religious emblems this year must have their booklets turned in by April 20th. The completed booklets should be delivered to 5832 Parakeet Drive in Burke, sent via backpack mail (2nd or 5th grade) at Nativity School, or dropped off at the Girl Scout box in the parish office (Attn: Becky Chaves). Please make sure the booklets are labeled with the name of the scout and troop or pack number and a phone number in case there are any questions. Medals will be ordered for the scouts after the parish review is completed. The Scout Recognition Mass will be held on June 12, 2011 at the 9 AM Mass. Please call Becky Chaves at 703-425-4965 if you have any questions.



High School and Jr. ViBe:

The next **ViBe**/Jr. **ViBe** meeting will be Mafia Madness on April 3rd from 6:30-8:30pm in the APR. See you there!

Stations of the Cross schedule is as follows: Practices will be from 4pm-6pm in the Church on March 20th, 27th and April 3rd and 10th. The performance will be on April 15th. If you are interested in participating please contact Mike Giardina by email or phone.
Email: Mike.Giardina@mwa.com Phone: 703-922-2789

The next Workcamp meeting is on April 12th from 7:00-8:00pm in the Parish Hall.

SHARING HOPE, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, April 1st at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte 123. The topic will be "Mystery Questions". Newcomers are warmly welcomed and there is no fee. For further information, directions or encouragement, please call Barbara at 703-425-5467 or Maureen 703-978-6318.

OUTSIDE THE PARISH

NINE-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND AND ROME with Fr. Chris Vacarro (Holy Spirit Parish) from June 23rd to July 1st, 2011. The pilgrimage begins in Poland and ends in Rome and traces the footsteps of John Paul II from Wadowice, his birthplace, to Krakow, where he was Archbishop, to Rome where he served as Pope for almost 27 years. In Poland we will also visit Warsaw and the site of Pope John Paul's famous 1979 speech on his first trip home after becoming pope, Czestochowa, the great pilgrimage site and home of the Black Madonna, the Shrine of the Divine Mercy where St. Faustina lived and had her apparitions of Christ, the Calvary shrine of Kalwaria and the cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe at Auschwitz. Brochures and reservation forms are available in Holy Spirit Parish Center. Additional information can be found at the website jmjtours.com. If you have any questions, call JMJ Tours at 703-425-5400.

Check out the new website of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (**BSSCWOW**) at: <http://scwow.org>. A list of spring classes and activities – scheduled to start in early April – will be posted on the website in the near future. For more information, call (703) 250-9181.

The monthly peer support group for survivors of clergy abuse and others affected by the abuse will meet on Wednesday, March 30, from 6:30-8:00 pm in the conference room of the Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. This group is sponsored by Voice of the Faithful-Northern Virginia affiliate and meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Free. Confidential. No registration required. For more information or directions, contact Ellen Radday at 703-538-6128.

PTSC NEWS

- Fri. 4/1 5pm Happy Hour at Champs in Reston; call Lenore, 703-787-5784
- Sat. 4/9 5pm Hospitality open house in Vienna; call Ann, 703-751-0739
- Sun. 4/10 5pm Dinner and Dance at the Elks Lodge in Fairfax; call Tom, 703-313-8388
- Sun. 4/17 10:45am attend Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Alexandria, followed by a local lunch; call Jack, 703-971-8665 .
- 4/30 1pm We'll have our own guided tour of the Mall and Tidal Basin; call Alice, 703-979-2332

Each of these events is a nice, low-key, noncommittal way to meet fellow Catholics and get an idea of what our group is like.

If any one would like to receive our PTSC Newsletter, or have questions about PTSC, call Jack Emery, 703-971-8665



OPERATION STARFISH® NEWS

www.operation-starfish.org

How Starfish Got Its Name

Just before Lent 1998, Fr. Martin was out walking his dog and had an idea – what if each family (2,500 at the time) made a sacrifice during Lent that yielded a savings of 50 cents a day? $2,500 \times \$0.50 \times 40 \text{ days} = \$50,000!$ What a huge amount from such a small sacrifice. We could do something wonderful for the poor, and live out the true meaning of Lent – fasting and almsgiving.

The parish family agreed. A simple wicker basket was placed at the back of the church and everyone was able to participate. By Easter, the basket had received over \$67,000! With this funding, we were able to build 27 houses in Haiti.

The name, “Operation Starfish®”, came in the second year. In February 1999, a dozen Nativity parishioners accompanied Fr. Martin on a mission trip to Haiti, sponsored by Food For The Poor, Inc., which had built the Canapé Vert houses.

The travelers were greeted warmly at Canapé Vert, in the hills near Haiti’s capitol, Port-au-Prince. The families who were now living with real roofs over their heads and dry floors under their feet were so thankful and proud of their new start in life.

The Church of the Nativity members were overjoyed at what their compassion had accomplished for the new home owners, but there was a sense of despair at the scope of the problem they witnessed in Haiti. One slum they visited that same day held 300,000 people with no clean water or sanitation. Death and disease was everywhere.

At a reflection meeting on the first night of that trip, parishioners asked “How can we possibly make a difference?” Searching for an answer, Fr. Martin told this 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)

A parishioner spoke up after Fr. Martin finished the story. “Why don’t we call our work ‘Operation Starfish’” he asked. Heartened by the Starfish story, and renewed by their mission trip, Church of the Nativity parishioners recommitted themselves to helping the poor, at home as well as in Haiti.

A Penny A Gallon For Starfish

In April, Cardinal Plaza Shell will automatically donate 1 penny to Operation Starfish for EVERY gallon of gas pumped. Pumping gas can build a house for a family in Haiti. CP Shell will also donate 5% of any auto repairs to Operation Starfish throughout 2011. Just tell the service desk you’re with Nativity Church. Cardinal Plaza Shell is located at the corner of Old Keene Mill Rd. and Rolling Rd. in Springfield. Call 703-451-6232.

High Tea Anyone?

On Sunday, April 17, Global Woman (<http://www.myglobalwoman.com/>) will host a high tea at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Proceeds will go towards construction of houses in Nativity Village at Chastenoye and towards support of the Little Children of Jesus Home, a Food For The Poor facility caring for handicapped orphans. Nativity parishioners visited Little Children of Jesus on our last mission trip to Haiti. For more information, contact Lina Frank at 571-436-3171, or lfrank@globalwoman-magazine.com.

For more information on Nativity’s Operation Starfish®, contact Jim McDaniel at seastar2004@msn.com, or call the Church office.

¡POZO NUEVO, VIDA NUEVA!

3° Cuaresma (A)
Javier Leoz



Hay encuentros que, lejos de olvidarse, dejan una huella impresa en nuestra memoria o en el corazón: aquella primera vez en que se cruzaron los ojos de los enamorados; el retorno o la recuperación de un amigo que lo dábamos por perdido; el abrazo de un hijo con los padres después de una prolongada ausencia.....
Y, como en todo, hay encuentros superficiales (agua que se evapora) y golpes que llegan hasta el fondo del alma (agua fecunda y viva).

1. Metidos de lleno en la Santa Cuaresma nos encontramos con una de las primeras de las tres catequesis bautismales. Nos vendrán, pero que muy bien, para renovar nuestra fe en la gran noche de la Santa Pascua. Como la samaritana, tal vez, caemos en el riesgo de quedarnos en lo superficial: agua para calmar la sed del momento y poco más. ¿Es eso lo que espera el Señor de nosotros? ¿Venimos a la Eucaristía, fuente de vida y de entrega, a cumplir el expediente o a fortalecer y reavivar nuestra vida cristiana con todas las consecuencias. Conocer el don de Dios, en eso somos un poco como la samaritana, debiera de ser nuestro empeño y nuestra aventura. Con ese regalo, entre otras cosas, sabríamos que nuestra fe (lejos de ser exigencias morales) es una experiencia en carne viva, en lo más hondo de nuestras entrañas con Aquel que tanto nos ama. ¿Sentimos esa presencia de Jesús como gracia y algo sensible en nuestro vivir cotidiano?

2. A la samaritana, aquel encuentro fortuito con Jesús, la parecía ilógico. ¿Cómo podía dirigirse con tanta humanidad y respeto un judío a una mujer que, además, era samaritana? Ella sólo buscaba agua para colmar la sed y, un nazareno, le cuenta –con pelos y señales- lo bueno y lo malo de su vida.

Aquella mujer se dio, sin quererlo ni pretenderlo, de bruces con Cristo. A partir de ese momento su vida, sus hechos y sus palabras no serían las mismas. Su cántaro, ahora, era su corazón abierto a Jesús.

Lo contrario ocurre en muchos de nosotros. Como cristianos tenemos una experiencia más o menos profunda de Jesús (por el Bautismo, la Comunión, el Matrimonio, la participación puntual en una procesión o en una cofradía) pero ¿hemos llegado al fondo del misterio? ¿Hemos descendido al fondo del pozo de la salvación que es Cristo? ¿No nos quedaremos al borde de ese misterio?

Ojala diéramos con la fórmula para que aquellos hermanos nuestros que un día fueron felices encontrándose con Jesús, y que lo han dejado por el camino, volviesen a vibrar en ellos las cuerdas de sus almas y sentir la presencia del Salvador.

Si muchos cristianos abandonan su fe (muchas veces con excusas sobre la coyuntura eclesial o por simple dejadez) ¿no será en el fondo porque no saborearon a Dios con la misma intensidad que lo gustó en carne viva la samaritana?

Siempre habrá resistencias y contradicciones. El hombre propone y Dios dispone (dice un viejo refrán) pero también es verdad que, Dios, propone (sin imposición alguna) y el hombre está en su libertad de responder “sí” o “no” para beber de esa agua de eternidad que ofrece a través de la fuente de Cristo.

¡Si conociéramos quien habla cada domingo! Llegaríamos puntualmente al encuentro donde, el Señor, con su Palabra dignifica nuestra vida

¡Si conociéramos quien nos escucha! Nos olvidaríamos de asesores de imagen o la cita con psicólogos para no perdernos la entrevista con Aquel que nos conoce desde dentro hacia fuera

¡Si conociéramos quién se ofrece en la mesa del altar! Como la samaritana creceríamos, en ese encuentro personal con Jesús, en gracia, amor, fe y verdad.

¡Si conociéramos quién nos pide algo de nuestra vida! Sabríamos que, Cristo, es un oasis, un pozo de agua cristalina y limpia donde podemos rejuvenecer interna y externamente toda nuestra vida.

LA LUZ ESTA ENCENDIDA PARA TI !! CELEBRA EL SACRAMENTO DE LA RECONCILIACION

Es una iniciativa diocesana dirigida a todos los católicos para poner a su disposición el Sacramento de Reconciliación. La Confesión es una maravillosa oportunidad para poner a un lado el camino pecaminoso y poder acercarnos a nuestro Señor.

Las Confesiones se harán cada miércoles durante la Cuaresma, de 6:30-8:00pm en todas las iglesias Católicas de la Arlington y la Arquidiócesis de Washington. (Adicionalmente a la horario normal de confesión ante la Misa, los sábados, 6:15-6:55pm)



¿QUIÉN ERES TÚ, SEÑOR?

Para que, creyendo en Ti, crea con más fuerza
y de testimonio de que, Tú, vives y hablas en mí

Para que, acoguéndome tal y como soy,
con defectos y virtudes, pecados y gracia
pueda acercarme a Ti sin temor a sentirme vacío
y beber sin límite ni tregua el agua viva que me das.

¿QUIÉN ERES TÚ, SEÑOR?

Para que, viéndote sentado en el pozo de mi hueca
vida

me ofrezcas lo que yo nunca te he pedido
y me recuerdes que, en mis días, no he estado
acertado

¿QUIÉN ERES TÚ, SEÑOR?

Para que, conociéndote como yo creía conocerte
piense que estaba y vivía como si Tú no existieras
como si, de repente, fueras alguien desconocido
alguien que, en agua fresca derramada sobre mi mente
me hace sentirme feliz y contento, dichoso por
encontrarte

¿QUIÉN ERES TÚ, SEÑOR?

Para que, con la mentira y la verdad de mis palabras
rompa y me aleje de una vez por todas
de aquello que me esclaviza o me inmoviliza
Abandone definitivamente el cántaro del agua
engañosa

el agua que, aparentemente límpida,
no da luz verde ni a mis interrogantes ni a mi sed de
justicia

¿QUIÉN ERES TÚ, SEÑOR?

Porque, como la samaritana, no he buscado
pero te he encontrado

Porque, como la samaritana, yo quería agua superficial
y Tú me has proporcionado otra del manantial de la
vida

Porque, como la samaritana, no me trataba contigo
y, ahora, ya no puedo vivir sin Ti

¿QUIÉN ERES TÚ, SEÑOR, QUE LO SABES TODO?

Javier Leoz

Actividades de la Comunidad Hispana

**Iglesia de la Natividad 6400 Nativity Lane
Burke, VA 22015
Teléfono 703-455-2400
Rev. Cedric Wilson**

SANTA MISA EN ESPAÑOL:

Todos los sábados a las 7:00pm

CONFESIONES: Los sábados antes de la Santa Misa de
6:15pm a 6:55pm

Catequesis Para niños y Jóvenes: Sábados de 5:00pm a
6:45pm Informes: 703-455-2400, ext 116
Sr. Ponciano 202-262-6659

Catequesis Para niños y Jóvenes: Inscripciones para el año
escolar septiembre 2010 a mayo 2011 están abiertas.

Catequesis para adultos: Bautismo, Comunión, y
Confirmación, Sábados de 5:15pm a 6:15pm

Contacto: Tito Pinto 703-912-9220

Charla para el Bautismo: Primer Miércoles del mes 7:30pm,
aula 8

Sacramento del Bautismo: Tercer Sábado del mes. 1:30pm
Contacto: Diacono Pardo 703-455-2400

Grupo de Oración: Miércoles 7:00pm a 9:00pm.

Están todos invitados. Marco Camacho 703-968-5585

Grupo de Liderazgo Juvenil reuniones:

Domingo 11:00am-1:00pm aula 5 Contacto: Nelson Pineda
571-234-3664

Reunión del Grupo de los Jóvenes Sábados: a partir de las
5:00pm aula 4. contacto: Juan Carlos Chávez 703-473-6941

Solidaridad Cristiana: Mayor información llamar Mirian
Ponciano 703-913-5494.

Para mas información: María Guevara 703-444-5716

**Anuncios para el boletín: debe ser presentado por escrito el
viernes a las 9 de la mañana (10 días antes de su
publicación). Pueden enviar su información electrónico a
nativitybulletin@aol.com**

Charlas de Convalidación para recibir el Sacramento del
Matrimonio: cada otro domingo del mes 9:00am – 10:45am
aula 4. Contacto: Antonio y Maritza Di Paolo 703-493-8719

Reunión de Matrimonios: domingo 9:00am – 11:00am aula 5.
Contacto: Segundo y María Guevara 703-444-5716

EL DIACONO JOSE PARDO OFRECERE' SERVICIOS PASTORALES EN:

**CONSEJERIA PERSONAL
CONSEJERIA MATRIMONIAL
ANULACION DE MATRIMONIO
DIAS: LUNES Y JUEVES DE 1 A 4 PM
703.455.2400 703.998.5161**

APRENDE TU FE

- **Sacrificios**—Uniéndonos al sacrificio de Cristo, libremente nos privamos de tiempo, energía, ocio y otros bienes en favor de los demás.
- **Examen de conciencia**—Mediante este proceso de oración y reflexión, pasamos revista al estado de nuestra salud espiritual e identificamos áreas de nuestra vida y de nuestras relaciones en que no estamos actuando de manera verdaderamente cristiana y que necesitan modificarse. Los cristianos hemos de hacer un breve examen de conciencia por la noche antes de retirarnos.
- **Dirección espiritual**—Con la guía de un director espiritual, una persona llega a un entendimiento más profundo de su relación con Dios. Se identifican debilidades y fortalezas espirituales con vistas a su efecto sobre el crecimiento espiritual.
- **Estaciones de la Cruz**—Esta popular práctica devocional fue desarrollada para permitir a quienes no podían hacer peregrinaje a Tierra Santa seguir los pasos de Jesús por su itinerario desde el juicio hasta el entierro. A lo largo de los siglos los católicos se han detenido a orar en las estaciones de la Cruz, especialmente durante la Cuaresma.

El peregrinaje como señal de penitencia—Por siglos la Iglesia ha promovido la práctica del peregrinaje como medio de expiar el pecado y como ayuda para la conversión y santidad personal. Los peregrinos, que viajan a un lugar sagrado específico para conmemorar determinado acontecimiento, se detienen a reflexionar sobre dónde han estado y a dónde están yendo en su itinerario de fe. Los peregrinajes reflejan simbólicamente la naturaleza peregrina de la Iglesia, que se encuentra en un continuo itinerario hacia el nuevo y celestial Jerusalén.

Ejemplos de expresiones de penitencia

- Esfuerzos de reconciliación con un familiar o vecino
- Lágrimas de arrepentimiento
- Preocupación por la salvación de nuestras hermanas y hermanos
- Oración a los santos por su intercesión
- Paciente aceptación de la cruz que debemos cargar para ser fieles a Cristo
- Defensa de la justicia y el derecho
- Admisión de las faltas ante Dios y mutuamente
- Corrección recíproca
- Ofrecimiento y aceptación de perdón
- Entereza ante la persecución en pro del reino de Dios
- Desarrollo de un espíritu de penitencia
- Testimonio de una manera cristiana de vivir