



Dear Friends,

“To God, This is for the hungry kids. I love you. Christina”. These words colored in red, green, yellow and blue letters on an 8 by 11 inch paper accompanied three and a half year old Christina’s gift for *Operation Starfish*. After reading her colorful letter, I was reminded of a book I read some years ago entitled *Letters to God*, by young children. We, adults, with all of our degrees can learn much from children. Jesus also reminded His followers of the importance of becoming like little children. Children possess innocence, dependence, happiness, gentleness and above all love. The problem for some adults is that as we get older we can become childish rather than childlike. Another young child sent in her gift with her 8 by 11 paper divided in half. On the left was a rundown house and an unhappy child with the words written above: **“Haiti Now”**. On the other side was a beautiful house, with a sky of blue and a happy child with the words **“Haiti when I come”** written above. This young child had the intention, through his drawing, of making a better world. Last year, a six year old colored a picture of a run down house on the left, and a beautiful house on the right with a bright sun and green grass with the words above: **“I can’t believe what we have done. From this to this.”** Our *Starfish Project* is certainly about money, but it is also about moving hearts. Through this project we have motivated and moved many young hearts.

My nephew, Paul, and his wife, Christina, chose a unique way to teach their children about the value of money and about sharing with the poor. Each week, for doing extra chores around the house, their son gets a small allowance. Nine year old Kyle, each week, must put one third of his allowance into the “Charity Bank.” This money he proudly gives to his Church in Rhode Island or to me for the poor children of Haiti. When I commented to Paul and Christina that I hope he will continue this practice as a teenager, their response was: **“We don’t know what he will be doing at that age, all we can do is instill in him the need to help others now at the young age of nine.”**

We can learn a great deal from our children. A couple of weeks ago I attended a service in the Methodist Church. Behind me was a rather rambunctious young boy who appeared to be no more than three. In a rather loud voice he asked his mother: **“Is this God’s House?”** to which the Mother said **“Yes.”** Then he said in a rather loud voice: **“Where is He?”** I thought that I could do a great homily on those three simple words: **“Where is He?”**

Yes, our children can teach us a great deal. In the book, **“The World According to Mister Rogers,”** Fred Rogers states it so simply: **“Please think of the children. Listen to them, learn about them. Think of the children first.”** The problem is that sometimes we adults get too caught up in ourselves and are too busy to listen. Author Louise Hart wrote: **“The best thing to spend on your children is your time.”** And as Reverend Jesse Jackson once said: **“Your children need your presence more than your presents.”**

Yes, our children can teach us a great deal.

Have a nice week!

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

DO YOU KNOW.....

How the egg became such a popular Easter symbol? In ancient Egypt and Persia, friends exchanged decorated eggs at the Spring Equinox, the beginning of their New Year. These eggs were a symbol of fertility for them because the coming forth of a live creature from an egg was so surprising to people of ancient times. Christians of the Near East adopted this tradition and the Easter egg became a religious symbol. It represented the tomb from which Jesus came forth to new life. Because eggs were at one time forbidden by the church's Lenten discipline of fasting and abstinence, they were a precious Easter food. Bright colored eggs are usually given to children, either in Easter baskets or hidden for them to find. Many ethnic groups paint the eggs with elaborate designs. The custom of decorating trees outdoors with decorated hollow Easter eggs originated in Germany. Easter egg hunts, and even the egg-rolling event on the White House lawn, are contemporary versions of egg games played on Easter for centuries in European countries.



Masses For The Week

Monday, April 20

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

Tuesday, April 21

TRINIDAD ZARATE.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, April 22

MERCEDES PUEBLA.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, April 23

HELEN COOPER.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, April 24

Special Intentions for

MR. & MRS. RON RAWLIN.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, April 24

TERRY MOORE.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

DR. & MRS. H. ROBINETTE.....5:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday, April 26

LOUISA ESTER DRAGONI.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

GEORGE MADDEN.....9:00am - Fr. Martin

PARISHIONERS.....11:00am - Fr. Martin

CARL BOLOGNINO.....12:45pm - Fr. O'Keefe



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

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.

First Holy Communion Masses — Group I: Saturday, May 2 at 8:30am; Group II: Saturday, May 2, at 11:00am.

Religious Education High School Senior Graduation — Sunday, May 3, at 6:00pm 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, or at www.edu.nativityburke.org; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar Flowers this weekend are donated by
Guido and Grace Ianiero
In Loving Memory of
Liberato and Giuseppina Ianiero
And
Douglas and Ethel Denise

Are we like Thomas and doubt the power of God in our marriage? Learn the tools to put God in your Sacrament of Marriage. The next local Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is May 15-17. Early registration is highly recommended. For more info call John/Lorie Scali 703-631-5289.

Thought for the Week

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

Irene Lagan

ADULT CONFIRMATION will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2009. If you have been baptized and have received Holy Communion and would like to be confirmed, Fr. O'Keefe will hold classes on Wednesday, April 29th, May 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th in the school library. You must make a **commitment to attend all classes** and provide a baptismal certificate (dated within the last 6 months). If you are married, we require a copy of the marriage certificate issued by the Catholic Church. For more info call 703-455-2400 x 112.

Knights of Columbus Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships

Last year, Nativity's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 awarded five Cyr Memorial scholarships for Catholic secondary school tuition (grades 9-12), totaling \$5000. Scholarships were awarded to Hilary Adams and Kathleen Caler (Ireton HS), Richard Golinowski (Paul VI HS), Julia Matthews (Nativity School going to Ireton) and Audrey Roper (Nativity School going to John Paul the Great HS). This year again at least five scholarships, each for \$1000, will be awarded. One scholarship will be awarded to the eight-grade student scoring the highest; all entrants, including eight-grade students, will compete for the remaining scholarships. Entrants must be registered parishioners at Nativity, or a son or daughter of an active member of Council 7992. Submissions must be post marked no later than midnight, Friday, May 8, 2009. Application forms are available in the Church office, at Nativity School, from guidance counselors at Bishop Ireton, Bishop O'Connell, John Paul the Great and Paul VI high schools, or from Tony Rozga. Questions, call Tony Rozga, 440-8390.

Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour Today

You are invited to a Eucharistic Holy Hour sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, April 19th, Divine Mercy Sunday, at St. Thomas a Becket Church, 1421 Wiehle Ave., Reston from 3-4pm. The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary will be recited, followed by Benediction.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Abortion is a problem for every one of us; we are all one big family. Nobody can be neutral on abortion; it involves the destruction of an entire group of human beings! Just as we cannot be indifferent to the killing of a newborn baby, so we cannot be indifferent to the killing of a pre-born baby. We all share the responsibility for people who are in danger. Injustice to any person in this world is an injustice to us all!



Are you suffering from an abortion experience? **PROJECT RACHEL** offers spiritual and psychological healing. Call 703-276-0373 (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).

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

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. 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 Communion, Confirmations etc.



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

The Church of the Nativity "Five-Car Raffle" continues. Thanks to all who have made returns. Please return all tickets (sold and unsold) to the Knights of Columbus either by dropping them off at the church office or depositing into the Sunday collection basket.

All returns must be made by today - Sunday, April 19, 2009. The drawings will take place on Saturday, May 2, 2009, at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas. Good Luck to All!

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

The Knights of Columbus invite all members of the parish community to a pancake breakfast in the parish hall on Sunday, April 26th after the 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Masses. The Knights will be serving pancakes, egg casserole, sausage, as well as donuts, fruit, and-of course-coffee. Please join us for a pleasant breakfast and fellowship. Bring the whole family. Just make a donation. Any donations in excess of our costs will be contributed to Food for Others.





First Aid Kit Sale!
TODAY!
After Mass
 Either take one for yourself or donate it to a workcamper! Be Safe!

This Week!

Tonight:	No viBE!!!!	8:00 – 9:00pm	Youth Office
April 20th:	Core Meeting	After Mass	Front of church
April 26th:	First Aid Kit Sale	5:00 – 6:00pm	Parish Hall
	Jr. viBE	7:30 – 8:30pm	Parish Hall
	Workcamp Meeting		

VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!
 Get forms in Church office: dates are June 29th – July 3rd

VOICES for Justice:
 On April 2, over 5,000 post cards were presented to the Fairfax County Supervisors in support of *The Penny for Housing Fund*, adult dental care, and adult English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes. Nearly 800 of the cards were collected by Nativity parishioners for **V.O.I.C.E.**, Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement. Say a prayer the Supervisors will reflect on this support in their decisions on April 20 and 27.

Earth Day and Words from Pope John Paul II:
 Earth Day this year is Wednesday, April 22. Consider taking the Saint Francis Pledge contained in an insert in today's bulletin. Also, prayerfully consider the following words from Pope John Paul II:
 "... I should like to address directly my brother and sisters in the Catholic Church, in order to remind them of their serious obligation to care for all of creation. The commitment of believers to a healthy environment for everyone stems directly from their belief in God the Creator, from their recognition of the effects of original and personal sin, and from the certainty of having been redeemed by Christ. Respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God (cf. Ps. 148:96)."
 "... In 1979, I proclaimed Saint Francis of Assisi as the heavenly Patron of those who promote ecology. He offers Christians an example of genuine and deep respect for the integrity of creation."
Message for World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR PEOPLE FACING SERIOUS ILLNESS: A retreat specially planned for men and women facing serious physical illness will be held at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, VA on May 22-24, 2009. A team of doctors, nurses, priests, sisters and helpers will be present around the clock. Scheduling allows plenty of time for rest and reflection. This retreat is offered **free of charge**. This is a non-smoking weekend. **Registration closes May 12, 2009.** Please call as soon as possible. Dominican Retreat: 703-356-4243 or Doug Sebek, 703-860-4929.

Miss Nellie gray, Founder and President of the March for Life, will receive **The Brent Society's Distinguished Service Award** for her constant and courageous commitment to the defense of innocent life from conception to natural death at an Awards Dinner Thursday, May 28th. Reception/open bar at 6:30pm; dinner at 7pm at the Arlington Hilton Hotel, 950 N. Stafford St., Arlington atop the Ballston Metro Station. Reservations \$55/person or \$500 table of ten required by May 24th. Send checks and names of attendees to: The Brent Society, P.O. Box 2901, Merrifield, VA 22116. Info: 703-830-3103. **All are welcome.**

Outside Our Parish
 St. Joseph's in Alexandria is sponsoring a Gold Tournament April 22, 2009 to benefit the Josephites **Share in Mission Program**. For more info contact Phillippa Ferguson Johnston 240-274-2403 or philiferg@verizon.net.

Camp St. Charles Open House, April 19 and May 17 from 11am to 4pm. This is a Boys and Girls Catholic Over-night Summer Camp. For more information and directions, visit our website: www.campstcharles.com or call us at 301-934-8799.

Spring Dance, featuring The Fairfax Swing Band, Epiphany Parish Center, 3410 Woodburn Rd., Annandale, Saturday, May 2 from 7:30 to 10:30pm. \$15 per person; students and senior citizens \$10. Refreshments included in ticket price. For more info call Daria Parrell 703-255-2221 or email darric@aol.com

Concert by Choir from Chimbote, Peru
 Jupusa (Young People United by a Single Friendship), an award-winning choir from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Chimbote, Peru will perform at St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032, at 7:30pm on April 28. The concert is free, but donations for the choir's parish will be appreciated. For more information contact Pat Seiler 703-978-0242 or pbseiler@verizon.net

Are You 50 or Better?

Come to the Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, May 21, 2009 (12:00-2:00 p.m.) at St. Mary of Sorrows Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd., Fairfax. Sharon Bulova, Chairman of Fairfax Co. Bd. of Supervisors, will be presenting the program: "The Fairfax County Asian-American History Project," highlighting the experiences of Asian-Americans in Fairfax County. May has been designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Seating is limited. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, (703) 620-0161, by May 14. The cost is \$8.00; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office (703) 323-4788.



COOKIES FOR CHRIST

"I came for the cookies, but I found love and Jesus." The KAIROS Prison retreat begins on April 23, 2009 and lasts for 5 days. It is an immersion in the message of the Gospel. Many who come for cookies find a way to turn their lives around. Please make, and pray over, a few dozen soft chocolate chip cookies packed a dozen per ziploc bag. They have to be soft to survive the handling and x-ray activities. Please place your cookies in box at the back of church (and office). Cookies will be take to the KAIROS retreat on Wed. April 22 at 11AM. For more information about this ministry and other recipes: www.allsoulsva.com/html/kairos.html Your Nativity KAIROS team leader is Rick Gammache, 703-727-3782

The **Legion of Mary** is a world-wide organization of the lay apostolate, in which Catholic men and women sanctify themselves through prayer and spiritual work in union with Mary, the Mother of God, under the guidance of a priest. The Legion was founded in 1921 and the members are giving service to the Church on a voluntary basis in almost every country. The Legion sees as its priority the spiritual and social welfare of each individual. The members participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, nursing homes and teaching CCD. The evening adult group meets in the All Purpose Room on Tuesdays at 7:30pm. The day adult group meets in the All Purpose Room on Fridays at 10:00am. For more information call Sandy Giglio (day group) 703-440-0215 or Jane Hamilton (evening group) 703-646-5051.

The Institute of Catholic Culture presents **Roots of the Reformation** with Mr. Brandan McGuire and Mr. Mark Wunch on Tuesday-April 21, 28 and May 5 at 7:30pm, St. John the Beloved CC, 6420 Linway Ter., McLean. For more info call 703-504-8733 or visit www.sjicc.com. Check flyer on bulletin board.

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, April 19 KOVAR Collection

- 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 PM..... CCD Classes (S,PH,GR,CV)
- 2:00 pm.....Baptism (CH)
- 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (Rm. 6)
- 7:30 pm.....CCD Catechist Mtg. (PH)

Monday, April 20

- 9:30 am.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)
- 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S,GR,APR)
- 6:45 pm.....JustFaith (TL)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIA (GR)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIC
- 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, April 21

- 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 (APR)

Wednesday, April 22

- 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 pm.....Traditional Choir Practice (CH)
- 7:30 pm.....VIBE small group (TL)

Thursday, April 23

- 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)
- 7:15 pm.....Family Choir (SC)
- 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Baptism Class (SL)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Rm. 4)
- 7:30 pm.....Hispanic RCIA (Rm. 7)

Friday, April 24

- 10:00 am.....Legion of Mary (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Family Fellowship Grp.(PH)

Saturday, April 25

- 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
- 10:00 am.....ESL Classes (Rm.4,5,6,7)
- 2:00 pm.....Hisp. Jesus Day Retreat (PH)
- 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)
- 7:00 pm.....Spanish Mass (CH)