



Dear Friends,

“Love will find a way; indifference will find an excuse” (author unknown)

Our parish community overflows with love for others. At Nativity, indifference to our neighbors does not exist. Our care for others around the world and across the street is what attracts so many newcomers to our parish. Today I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your outreach to so many people this past year.

During Lent, your gifts to *Operation Starfish*® totaled nearly \$162,000 and donations continue to come in. When combined with *Starfish* gifts received since last June, we now have almost \$237,000 towards development of our 5th Nativity Village project in Haiti. In addition you so generously responded to my plea to help the Haitian people recover from several devastating hurricanes last September with monetary gifts totaling \$100,000.

Many of you have reached out to those in need with your individual efforts. For example, one parishioner arranged a donation of 250,000 pairs of new underwear from Hanes Brands. Another orchestrated a gift of 12,000 pairs of new shoes from Soles for Souls. A parish family foundation arranged the planting of 5,000 fruit trees in Haiti this past January. You have joined with other churches to send several sea containers of medical supplies, school equipment and other needed goods. You have built and endowed a clinic treating 10,000 people who had no access to medical care. You have built houses and established vocational training programs in Haiti in memory of your loved ones, and mine. And many of you have traveled to Haiti with me to show solidarity – to give the gift of your presence to our destitute sisters and brothers.

Your support of the *Starfish* idea, that came to me during a walk with my dog 11 years ago, has moved this program into 350 churches and schools across the country. Because of your response over the past 10 years our parish has received national attention: my invitation by President Bush to deliver the invocation at the Pageant of Peace; Satellite Radio interviews; acknowledgement of our parish efforts in both catholic and protestant national publications; and speaking engagements at national conventions. Next Thursday (April 30) Mr. McDaniel and I will again tape a “Catholic Life” TV show. This time I felt it important to get a perspective on *Operation Starfish* from our younger generation and have invited a sixth grader to join us.

I am most grateful to have with us this weekend Father Duken Augustin from Cap Haitian, Haiti, to personally express his gratitude for all that you as a parish have done. His Archbishop recently told me “Your parishioners have brought resurrection to my people.”

How encouraging it is to see our social justice efforts yielding more political support both for Haiti and for local aid to the poor. You have met with Congressional Representatives and as a result bills have been introduced to provide protection to Haitian refugees and economic relief to this needy country.

While Nativity outreach programs extend around the world (Haiti, Mexico, Cameroon, Pakistan, India and the Philippines), we are also concerned with those across the street. Our parish is an important partner in VOICE (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement). We work with 35 Catholic, Protestant, Jewish and Muslim congregations to help low-income people in Northern Virginia. Because of our endeavors, the Fairfax County supervisors adopted a budget that reflects two VOICE agenda items:

Pastor's Corner con't.

\$18 million will be allocated to affordable housing; and an additional dentist will be funded at a local clinic. Many of you will remember how an elementary school boy died recently because his family couldn't afford dental care and his infection became fatal.

Within our parish we have some 50 different organizations helping others in the community- across the street. Nativity has made a big difference simply because we have seen the importance of dedicating our time, talent and treasure to the poor. And all of you have helped in no small part through your contributions to the parish poor monthly envelope, which in the past year totaled \$103,000. *YOU* are living the Gospel message by helping your sisters and brothers in need.

Lastly I am most grateful for your generosity to the local Church of Arlington. Our parish Bishop's Lenten Appeal goal for this year was \$320,000. Nativity's total was the second highest in the Diocese- \$391,375.

Reverend Thomas Fuller (1608-1661) once wrote: "A good example is the best sermon." Our parish community has both preached and lived the sermon of love and care for others Across the street and around the world. Thousands of people have been affected in a positive way because *YOU* chose to make a difference. In the Gospel of Matthew chapter 25 we read the words of Jesus: "*Whatever you have done for the least of your brothers (and sisters) you have done for me.*" You have every right to be proud of **YOUR PARISH. I continue to be grateful and proud to be your pastor. Thank you for truly activating the Gospel message to God's poor- and *your* sisters and brothers**




Monday, April 27

THOMAS JUZWIAK.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, April 28

STACEY L. MCDONNELL.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, April 29

MARGARET "PEG" MULDOON.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, April 30

PHYLIS LUPO.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, May 1

VIRGINIA ROGERS.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, May 2

TIMMY RAY.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

Special Intentions of

JENN HAY.....5:00pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Sunday, May 3

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

MARK WALKER.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

MICHAEL MARCHESE.....11:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

TINA COLOMBO.....12:45pm - Fr. Martin



Holy Adoration will be held on **Friday, May 1st** from **8:00am to 1:30pm** in Blessed Sacrament Chapel located adjacent to the vestibule of the Church.

Nativity's Grief Support Group, for all who suffered the death of a loved one, and are in need of the comfort that sharing can bring, meets at 7:30pm in the school library on the First and Third Thursday of each month and is open to all adults at no charge. Prior registration is not required. Contact Carol Mack 703-455-2400 x 117 for more info.

Young Adult Volunteer Opportunities! First Saturdays

If you are a young adult seeking to serve others, please join us for a Saturday morning of community outreach! See our web page: http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/yam/young_volunteer.php. Questions?: visit yam@arlingtondiocese.org or call 703-841-2550.



The Altar Flowers this week are donated

In Loving Memory of Karl A. Posch

From the Reinhard Family

And

In Loving Memory of Louis A. DeFusco

From His Family



Pastor:	Rev. Richard B. Martin
Parochial Vicar:	Rev. J. Kevin O'Keefe
Visiting Priest:	Rev. Cedric Wilson
Spanish Ministry:	Rev. Armando Marsal
Spanish Ministry:	Deacon Jose Pardo
Parish Office:	(703) 455-2400
Nativity School:	(703) 455-2300
CCD Office:	(703) 455-0372



OPERATION STARFISH UPDATE

FR. DUKEN VISITS NATIVITY THIS WEEKEND

Fr. Duken Augustin, who manages several of Nativity’s Operation Starfish projects in Northern Haiti, is visiting Nativity Parish this weekend. He has come to Virginia to personally thank our parishioners and to let us know how much our work has meant to the people he serves in Haiti. For the last 5 years, the participants on all of our parish pilgrimage trips to Haiti have been blessed by Fr. Duken’s hospitality in Cap Haitien. We are excited to finally be able to host him on a brief but happy visit with us.

Fr. Duken is pastor of Our Lady of Altigrace Parish in Cap-Haitien, Haiti’s second largest city. He has been assigned by the Archbishop of Cap-Haitien to serve as liaison with Food For The Poor. In this capacity, he oversees Nativity Village at Prolongé, Nativity Fishing Village at Petit-Anse, Nativity Tilapia Farm, St. Anthony Clinic, Nativity Fishing Village at Madras, and he will be supervising the development of our 2009 project – Nativity Village at Caracol. In January, Fr. Duken organized the Nativity Green Tree Project, which saw 5,000 fruit trees planted with funding from the Matthew 25 Foundation.

We welcome Fr. Duken to Nativity, and look forward to this opportunity to strengthen our relationship with our Haitian sisters and brothers.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Abortion is justified by claiming the destruction of pre-born babies is “safe and legal.” An abortionist and clinic owner said, “I just go by what the court says. I only do what is legal.”



These were the same justifications used by “doctors” who participated in the massacre of millions at Auschwitz. Evil does not change; it only modifies its appearance.

A WOMAN’S CHOICE is a Crisis Pregnancy Center that provides free pregnancy testing, referrals for medical treatment, housing, social services assistance and tangible support for pregnant women, including clothing and equipment. (703-538-4305).

Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.

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

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
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE 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.



"Project Mary Jane" Update: The Junior Girl Scouts of Troop 1089 would like to thank the Nativity parishioners for their generosity. Kaelyn Eleuterio and Susanna Ostrowski collected 170 pairs of new shoes from parishioner donations as well as from several other Girl Scout troops. The girls, along with their troop leaders, delivered the shoes to the *Shoes2Share* warehouse in Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday, April 4th. We were able to help sort the shoes and see them prepared for shipment to needy children and adults around the world. It was a wonderful service project for the girls and their leaders.

Sharing Hope, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, April 17th at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte. 123. The topic will be “Men and Divorce”. Newcomers are warmly welcomed and there is no fee. For further informa-

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

Thought for the Week: Note: It’s best to try and look at others from the inside out. God makes everyone’s heart the same color.

Taken from *Little Francis Love Notes* by Julie Hanna



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

First Aid Kit Sale!

TODAY!

After Mass

Either take one for yourself or donate it to a workcamper! Be Safe!

NEW!! Saturday Morning Breakfast Club!

Join us for a brief run or game of ultimate on Saturday mornings at 10:00AM.
Then stay for some great breakfast some hangout time!
Meet in the youth office

This Week!

Today!:	First Aid Kit Sale	After Mass	Front of church
	Jr. viBE	5:00 – 6:00pm	Parish Hall
	Workcamp Meeting	7:30 – 8:30pm	Parish Hall
May 2nd:	Saturday Morning Breakfast Club		
	Run	10:00AM	Youth Office
	Breakfast	11:00AM	
May 3rd:	Jr. viBE	5:00 – 6:00pm	Parish Hall
	viBE	7:30 – 8:30pm	Parish Hall

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.



As the Starfish/Lent collection draws to an end for 2009, I would like to review the I.R.S. required letters for any check written for \$250.00 or more to Nativity.

First of all, you may receive a thank you note from Fr. Martin for your donation to Starfish. But if the donation was \$250.00 or more you should also get a letter stating that you did not receive any material goods for this donation. You should keep this letter with your tax records, in the event you are audited by the I.R.S. It is a recent requirement, and if you review the schedule "A" form, you will find that the question is asked "Do you have a letter for all one time donations of \$250.00 or more?"

Please keep all letters you receive from any non-profit organization with your yearly donation record totals. Your check alone is no longer soul proof of an allowed donation.

MRS. P'S PLANET DANZ is a one-day dance/drill team clinic. HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL "3" is the theme. Sunday May 3, 2009 from noon to 4:00pm. The clinic is held at Paul VI Catholic high school for girls from 1st grade and up. The fee is \$45.00 per girl includes a T-Shirt. For more information call MRS. "P" at 703-250-5711.



How many by reading a pious book have changed their way of living and become saints!

St. Alphonsus Liguori

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.

CCDI will offer two 4 week mini-courses in early May. At St. Anthony of Padua starting Thursday evening, May 7th from 7:30 to 9:30 and on Saturday morning (time not given) at Good Shepherd in Mt. Vernon starting on May 2nd. For more information check the bulletin board, visit CCDIofVA@aol.com or call Dr. William Tobin at 703-941-4329.

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA

A Novena of nine Masses will be said during the month of May for Mothers, living and deceased. Spiritual Bouquet Cards may be found in the Church vestibule. Mother's names will be placed on the Altar during the month of May. The Novena Masses will be said at 7:30 am on the following days: May 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 28 and at 9:00 am on May 30.



Congratulations to Nativity's 208 Confirmandi on the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation! Welcome to the discipleship of Jesus as you walk with him to share the Good News.

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.

Classes on Sunday, May 10, are cancelled due to Mother's Day. Classes on Monday, May 11, and Tuesday, May 12, will be held as usual.

Final Religious Education Classes — May 17-19; report cards will be distributed.

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.

Next Weekend - May 2/3 we will have the FOOD DRIVE for ECHO and the POOR CLARE SISTERS.



All non-perishable foods are needed. Please put your donations in the Church foyer. Thank you for your assistance in filling their food pantry.

THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, April 26 KOC Pancake Breakfast 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 PM.....CCD Classes (S,PH,GR,CV)

Monday, April 27 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S,GR,APR) 6:45 pm.....JustFaith (TL) 7:00 pm.....RCIA (GR) 7:00 pm.....RCIC (CH) 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, April 28 9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR) 4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S,APR) 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, April 29 10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR) 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC) 7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Rm. 9) 7:30 pm.....Traditional Choir Practice (CH) 7:30 pm.....VIBE small group (TL) 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

Thursday, April 30 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.....Venture Crew (Rm. 4) 7:30 pm.....Hispanic RCIA (Rm. 7)

Friday, May 1 8:00 am.....Blessed Sacrament Exp. (CH) 10:00 am.....Legion of Mary (APR) 1:30 pm.....Blessed Sacrament Closing (CH)

Saturday, May 2

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 8:30 & 11:00 am 1:15 pm...Hispanic 1st Communion



8:30 am.....1st Holy Communion Mass (CH) 10:00 am.....ESL Classes (Rm.4,5,6,7) 11:00 am..... 1st Holy Communion Mass (CH) 1:15 pm.....Hispanic Communion Mass (CH) 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S) 7:00 pm.....Spanish Mass (CH)