



PASTORAL SHARINGS

Dear Friends,

Last week I received two letters that aptly describe the welcoming spirit of our parish. While the pastor can set the tone of a parish, it is really the people that germinate that spirit among their sisters and brothers that make up the total parish family. The first hand written note was from a new resident at Heatherwood Retirement Home and the second from a gentleman who is leaving the area after coming to Nativity for the last twelve years. I have chosen to use the first and last initials of their names only.

Dear Father Martin, April 20, 2009

“This morning I went to the Nativity office to register as a new parishioner and I feel a need to tell you what a joyful experience that was - and unique. I have been longing to be in a parish like this all my life - and now I find it at 86 as a resident in a retirement home. I’m a life long resident of Rhode Island, until I came to join my sister at Heatherwood. Throughout my life I have lived in various parishes, but never one like this. The Project in Haiti blows my mind! But I have to say it’s not only your activities which impressed me, but the wonderful, warm, out going spirit of the parishioners. I could recount several incidents of their welcoming me the stranger. The girls in the office surely reflect that too. I look forward to meet you personally.”

*Sincerely,
A.B.*

Dear Father Martin, May 3, 2009

“I wanted to take a moment to thank you and say how much I enjoyed being a member of Nativity parish. I have lived in Fairfax Station for 14 years. I have retired and will be moving to Pinehurst, N.C. During my life I have moved many times and have been in quite a number of parishes, but for sure none like Nativity. Nativity has become truly a great parish with such a diverse group of parishioners. The feeling of being so welcome as a member of the parish was a great experience for me. It’s a blessing that we should all be very proud of. It’s very much of a team effort for a parish to be well thought of, so congratulations to all.”

*With best regards,
J.C.*

When I showed these two letters to a parishioner his comment was so meaningful. “*You try to feed your sheep and in return they feed you.*” We are all on the same journey to spread the welcoming, loving and outreach spirit of the Gospel and I continue to be the proud pastor of our Parish Community.

Receiving From the Chalice –

On Saturday, May 2nd, approximately 200 children here at Nativity made their First Communion. This always is such a happy event and is truly celebrated here in our parish. While preparing to receive this sacrament, all the children taste the unconsecrated hosts and practice the ways of receiving the bread. However, because receiving from the chalice is always an option and not required, they do not have the opportunity to taste the wine or practice how to hold the chalice before First Communion Day. So parents, if your young first communicants would like to receive from the Chalice at Mass, it would be very beneficial if they had the opportunity to taste the wine beforehand, as well as practice holding the chalice. Please feel free to stop in the sacristy before Mass begins and talk with one of the adults. We will be most happy to allow your child to taste the unconsecrated wine and also hold the chalice. It really is helpful that they be aware of how to receive from the Cup, so that spills may be avoided and the Communion experience is all that it is intended to be.



Monday, May 18

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, May 19

JOHN BUKOWINSKI.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, May 20

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, May 21

Special Intentions for
MANUEL FLORES & FAMILY.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, May 22

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, May 23

INMARIANO LEUTERIO.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

JOE RUSSO.....5:00pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Sunday, May 24

Special Intentions for
STELLA GACEI.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson
MENA MACALUSO.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson
DORIS VOGT.....11:00am - Visiting Priest
JOSEPH KENNEDY.....12:45pm - Fr. O'Keefe



Final Religious Education Classes — May 17, 18, and 19; report cards will be distributed.

A big **THANK YOU** to the Religious Education Program's students, their families, and our volunteers for their participation in the Program's Operation Starfish Lenten Project. Due to their enthusiastic and generous support to help families in Haiti with school tuition, the Religious Education Program collected \$7,634.10, far surpassing the original donation goal!

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.

The Altar Flowers this week are donated
In Loving Memory of
Henry Krynick
From
The Tomasetti Family
And
In Loving Memory of
Andres Paredes
From
The Paredes Family

Thought for the Week

“Don't take life too seriously...it's not permanent.”

Anonymous



A Retirement Party for Mrs. Carol Mack, Pastoral Minister, will be held on Sunday, May 31st after the 12:45 pm Mass. After thirteen years of devoted service to our Church Community she will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her retirement.

Creative Care Ministry

Once we begin to adopt St. Francis' worldview of our deep interrelatedness to all creation, and God incarnate in all living things, it is impossible to continue "business as usual." We connect and fall in love again with the world we were created for. When we love something as our own, taking action to protect it goes beyond mere duty - we are moved from the heart to safeguard and protect it in times of need. (Adapted from Care for Creation (a Franciscan spirituality of the earth) by Delio, Warner, and wood, p.185)

You are welcome to share your ideas about Creation Care at our meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30pm in the Green Room.

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



Mom and Me is a cooperative group of mothers and children who gather for socialization and service. Mothers and their infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers are welcome. We meet on Wednesday at 10:00 am in the All Purpose Room. For more information contact Magda Lee at magdalee@yahoo.com

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.

The Mothers' group at St. Mary of Sorrows will be holding their annual Kids' Stuff Sale on Saturday, May 30. The sale supports the Mothers' Group, local charities and individual families in need. They welcome any child-related donations, including infants' and children's' clothing, toys, books, gear and maternity and nursing items. Donations may be dropped off at St. Mary's from May 23-29 (please no donations before 4pm on May 23). Or shop the sale May 30 from 8:30 am to 1 pm (half price after 12). The church is located at 5222 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. If you have any questions, contact Michelle at 703-978-0635 or mflann@gmail.com.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS...At 11:00am on Monday, May 25, 2009, Holy Mass will be celebrated at Fairfax Memorial Park, formerly Calvary Cemetery, 9900 Brad-dock Road, Fairfax, by Rev. Terry Specht. If outdoor ser-vices at the Cemetery are canceled due to inclement weather, Father Specht will offer an 11:00 am Mass at Holy Spirit Catholic church. 5121 Woodland Way, Annan-dale, VA 23003.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

When the record of our life is set down, there are three pairs of eyes who see it in a different light. Then is the life as I see it, as others see it, and as God sees it. While there is still time in our life to do the will of God, we must protect all life, from conception to natural death.



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

Pro-Life Rosary-A prayerful, peaceful and public gathering of friends and neighbors who pray the rosary for one hour takes place on Saturdays at 10:00 am on Rolling Road across from Kings Park SC Giant Food. Please call Jane Hamilton, 703-646-5051 for more information.

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**



A BABY SHOWER BY WON...This year's **BABY SHOWER** will be held on June 6th and 7th before and after the Masses.

We are especially in need of the following items: **SIMILAC ADVANCE FORMULA, DIAPERS, NEW AND GENTLY USED CLOTHING UP TO 9MONTHS AND OTHER SUNDRY BABY ITEMS.** Please place your donations in the playpen outside of the church.

This year's recipients include TEPEYAC FAMILY CENTER, CATHOLIC CHARITIES, ECHO CENTER, MARIAH HOUSE, LORTON COMMUNITY CENTER, BIRTHRIGHT and A WOMAN'S CHOICE.

As always, your generously is deeply felt by those we serve. If you have any questions, please call Donna Gomez at 703-426-9230. This is the only weekend we will be holding the shower.

Evening of Charismatic Prayer and Praise...7:30-9pm-St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Rd. Fairfax. All are invited to unite with Catholics across the Diocese to intercede for a special openness to the Holy Spirit in the hearts of His people this Pentecost. Sponsored by the Charismatic Renewal Service Committee, worship music by Dave Bentz. For more information visit www.arlingtonrenewal.org or contact Terry Riggins, tgr56@aol.com, (703-569-5470)



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

T-shirts!

In the gift shop!!!!

Memorial Day Picnic!!!

Sunday May 24th. 6:00PM - 9:00PM

This Week!

Today May 17th:	Bake Sale NO vIBE!	After Masses
Sat. May 23rd:	Breakfast Club	10:00AM
Sun. May 24th:	Memorial Day Picnic	6:00PM - 9:00PM

Vacation Bible School

Forms are due in the Church office by June 1st
Volunteers are needed!
Please email cyo@nativityschool.org

Forthcoming Programs at Dominican Retreat

- May 26**.....Evening for Separated and Divorced, Directed by Sr. Agnes, Friday, 7:30-9:00pm
 - May 27**.....Dia en honor de Nuestra Senora, Espiritual Padre Armando Marsal, D.H.J.M., Miercoles 9:30am-3:00pm
 - May 29**.....Special Day-Centering prayer "Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit," Directed by Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI, 9:30am to 3:00pm
 - May 29-31**.....Centering Prayer Retreat, "Be Still and Know I am Your God," Directed by Fr. Bill Sheehan, OMI, Friday 7:30pm to Sunday 3pm
 - June 5-7**.....General Weekend for Women "Behold, I Make All Things New," Directed by Fr. Jude Winkler, OFM. Conv. Friday 7:30pm to Sunday 3pm.
 - June 16**.....Special Day-"Conscience, Prudence and Christian Decision Making," Directed by Fr. John Corbett, OP, Tuesday 9:30am to 3pm.
- Advance registration is required.** For more information call 703-356-4243 or visit www.dominicanretreat.org

Nativity School Scrip Gift Card Program

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2009 LAST ORDER DATE FOR SCRIP

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 places 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.

Bishop Ireton High School announces it's 2009 summer camp offerings at its Alexandria Campus. The variety of camps includes theater, basketball, soccer, football and wrestling. For a brochure and a registration form please email hamerp@bishpireton.org or call 703-212-5190.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held from June 29th to July 3rd. Forms are in the Parish Office and on the web. All forms must be turned in by **June 1st**. Applications are available in the Parish Office and on the website cyo@nativityschool.org

Campus Ministry at George Mason University is having a summertime barbeque for all college students and graduating high school seniors on Thursday, June 4th at 6:30pm, St. Robert Bellarmine Chapel, 4515 Roberts Road, Fairfax. **It's a great way to meet college students from different schools!!!** Our student center will also be open for hanging out every Thursday night in June and July. For Facebook information, search for the group: Summer Catholic Fun@ GMU." For more information contact Catherine Horan at 703-425-0022 or choran@gmu.edu; www.gmuccm.org.

The Bishop O'Connell Academic Summer School will be offering the following courses: Computer Applications (1/2 credit), Film Study (1/2 credit), Health & PE for rising 9th & 10th graders(1 credit), Behind the Wheel, SAT Prep course, Summer Music Institute and make-up classes for failures. For more information, please call the Guidance Office at 703-237-1460 or email Patricia LaWall at plawall@bishopoconnell.org.



The Little Angel Gift Shop has some new items of interest. There are gifts for Father's Day, pewter statues of assorted saints, patriotic memorabilia and much more. Stop in after Mass and see what we have to offer. We also have the book "*Left To Tell*" by Immaculee Ilibagiza, an awe-inspiring book about the Rwandan Holocaust. Below is a little about the book.

Father Martin spoke highly of the book "*Left To Tell*" in a recent homily. This poignant story of how a woman came to forgive her enemies is now available in **The Little Angel Gift Shop**. "I listened to Immaculee tell her powerful story of turning hatred into forgiveness," said Father Martin after hearing Immaculee speak at a Catholic Conference last month.

"*Left To Tell*" takes the horror of genocide in Rwanda and converts it to a lesson in Catholic Faith. You can share in this gripping story with your own copy of the book. Immaculee is giving all the proceeds to a shrine to the Blessed Virgin in her native Rwanda.

Flower Donation Openings...A few are still available: May 31st (1 space); June 7th (1 space), August 2nd (2 spaces), November 1st (1 Space) 8th (2 spaces) and December 6th and 13th (1 space each). Come to the parish office or call 703-455-2400 to reserve a space.



BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER

On a monthly basis we give \$500.00 to ECHO. But when this money is combined with others the result is amazing.



Last month ECHO helped clients in the following ways:

1. 1928 bags of food were given out to 1121 families
2. Clothes, linens small appliances and computers were given to families that could use them
3. 10 cribs, strollers and playpens found needy, loving families
4. Financial aid to clients totaled \$32,354.00.

All this in just one month. The power of a dollar shared with others. God bless all who donated to the poor box in April.

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, May 17 **CYO BAKE SALE**
CRS FAIRTRADE COFFEE SALE

2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....Last CCD Classes (S)
2:00 pm.....Baptisms (CH)

Monday, May 18

9:30 am.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)
4:00 & 7:00 pm.....Last 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, May 19

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
4:30 & 7:00 pm.....Last CCD Classes (S,APR)
7:15 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, May 20

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.....Creation Care Ministry (GR)
7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
7:30 pm.....Adult Confirmation Class (TL)

Thursday, May 21 **Ascension of Our Lord, NOT a Holy Day of Obligation**

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
7:15 pm.....Family Choir (SC)
7:30 pm.....Youth Choir (CH)
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
7:30 pm.....Grief Support Group (S)
7:30 pm.....Baptism Class (SL)
7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Rm. 4)

Friday, May 22

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

Saturday, May 23

6:00 am to 2:00 pm....K of C Blood Drive (PH)
10:00 am.....ESL Classes (Rm. 4,5,6,7)
10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
4:00 pm.....Family Choir Practice (SC/CH)
7:00 pm.....Spanish Mass (CH)