



## PASTORAL SHARINGS

Dear Friends,

Whenever I can get away from my desk and administrative responsibilities I seem to be happiest. Doing pastoral work was the primary reason I chose priesthood some 43 years ago, and pastoral care is still my highest priority in this Vatican-ordained “Year For The Priest.” Such was the situation last Thursday and Friday when I scheduled a one day visit to Food for the Poor in Florida. My original purpose for the visit was to attend a going away luncheon for Sister Jeanne Bouchard CSJ, returning to her Mother House near Hartford, Connecticut after some 65 years of ministry. Her last fourteen years were spent at Food For The Poor.

My flight left Washington at 3:00 PM Wednesday afternoon. After arriving in Ft. Lauderdale at 5:45 PM, I had scheduled a 6:30 dinner with Peter whose very close friend and former Food For The Poor employee had recently been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. He had the need, as all of us do from time to time, to just vent and have listening ears during this difficult time for him as caregiver for his friend. The following day I would visit Barbara at the treatment facility. Friday morning, after offering the 8:00 AM Mass in Food For The Poor’s *Good Shepherd Chapel*, an unscheduled meeting was hastily put together to discuss how our parish pilgrimages could become more “hands on”, rather than for our parishioners to be simply observers. As I was preparing to leave the building a young man, Lesley, told me about the sudden death of his father back in Haiti three weeks ago. Another employee whose response to my “*how are you?*” was “*not too good Father...*” found me going to her office to share the difficulties in her two year old marriage. Leaving for Lake Worth and the Alzheimer’s facility, I found myself off schedule as I was for most of the day, despite Jim McDaniel’s trying to keep me on time. It’s hard to keep a schedule when the hurts of people seem to be all around you. After quickly picking up some flowers to give to Barbara, we had a wonderful visit for almost an hour. I have met many suffering from this illness, but at 61, Barbara was the youngest. She had accompanied our parish on many Haiti pilgrimages. It was also my intent to visit Todd in the next town. He is a former parishioner, 29, who is successfully completing an AA program. We met at *McDonalds* for lunch, although, I only had a Coke since I was to attend a luncheon for Sister Jeanne - my original purpose for the trip.

During our luncheon I was riveted by the varied ministries, over 65 years, of this devoted Sister of Saint Joseph. I was more moved by her life story, something I had never known until that day. Both of her parents died before she was 13. She went to live with a family who was physically and mentally abusive to her. To this day, she exudes nothing but love and forgiveness for them. I would like to invite her to share an evening of reflection during Lent and tell her story of love and forgiveness. I went to visit her and honor her, but she was the one who moved and ministered to me.

Now running only about twenty minutes late, Jim got me to the airport to catch my 6:00 PM flight back to National, minutes before a severe thunderstorm blanketed the airport skies. Thoughts came to my mind of my sister Madeleine’s flight, the night before, to Providence from BWI . It was the flight that struck several birds and had a Mayday type landing. Although she told me that *Southwest* is giving each of the passengers a free voucher for future travel she doesn’t plan on flying any time soon.

My two and a half hour return flight had me thinking of what a diverse 27 hours I had encountering so many different situations. A son distraught at his father’s murder, a woman sharing the pain of an unhappy marriage, a young man in an AA treatment program, a nun retiring after six decades of service, an Alzheimer’s patient and her hurting friend care - giver. I found myself thinking of the words of my

ordination prayer card: *“There is so much work to do; I thank God for the gift of His sacred ministry.”*  
 I also thought of what a parishioner told me some time ago: *“there are no coincidences in life, just steps in God’s plan.”* The Lord’s plan for me during those 27 hours was diverse, tiring and yet most rewarding. It still was great to get away from the desk! I was doing the work of the priest.

Although this *Pastor’s Corner* detailed my journey, each of you begins a journey each morning. It may be in an office, with neighbors, with family or even strangers. The Lord may be putting unexpected people and circumstances in your path. Keep your eyes, ears and, above all, heart open. You may be surprised who steps into *your* path. Remember: *“There are no coincidences in life, just steps in God’s plan.”*

Have a nice week!




**Masses For The Week**

Monday, July 20

JOE & RICHARD TALARICO.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, July 21

FRANK TRAINO.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, July 22

CARMELA & RAY DERBISH.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, July 23

JERRY & STEVE VALENTINE.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, July 24

MARY TALARICO.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, July 25

ALEX KEEPERS.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

*Special Intentions for*

JENN HAY.....5:00pm - Fr. O’Keefe

Sunday, July 26

DR. RICHARD GAITAN, SR.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

FRANK MONAHAN.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

MR. & MRS. EVANS AUGUSTE

& FAMILY MEMBERS.....11:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

*Special Intentions for*

THE STEGNER FAMILY.....12:45pm - Fr. O’Keefe

*Altar Flowers*

In Loving Memory of  
 Zachary and Gabrielle Causin Pike  
 From

Judy Ferraro  
 And

In Loving Memory of our Deceased Mothers  
 From  
 Barbara and Stan Zagalak



Peace starts with a smile

Irene Lagan

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**



**Support the Religious Education Volunteer Marathon!! Call 703-455-0372 to participate.** Some Religious Education classes are slated to be cancelled unless we hear from you! Catechists and Assistant Catechists are still needed.

Religious Education classes begin the week of September 20, for students enrolled *by August 31.*

Religious Education classes begin the week of September 27, for students enrolled *after August 31.*

Student Registration forms should be turned in to the Religious Education Office along with the student’s baptismal certificate (unless it has been previously submitted) and payment. Forms are available in the Religious Education Office, on the community board in the church vestibule, or at [www.edu.nativityburke.org](http://www.edu.nativityburke.org); on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

**An Evening of Praise, Worship and Adoration**

Praise music will be provided by *VISION*  
**First Saturday of Every Month**  
**7:00 pm - 8:00pm**  
**St. Leo the Great in Fairfax**  
 3700 Old Lee Highway

*Thought for the Week*

“No one has the right to make you inferior without your consent.”

Eleanor Roosevelt



The next Knights of Columbus Blood Drive is Saturday, July 25, 2009 from 7:00am to noon at St. Raymond's Parish Hall. At this blood drive, INOVA Blood Donor Services is emphasizing the urgent need of collecting **O Negative, B Negative and A Negative donors**. All donors are welcome! Contact John Landy at 703-250-1492, email [navvy8@yahoo.com](mailto:navvy8@yahoo.com) **NOW** for your appointment or after Mass to sign up.

### Mother's Group

Mom and Me is a cooperative organization of mothers of young children who meet weekly for socialization and service in a Catholic faith environment. We invite you to join us at a local park during the summer on Wednesdays from 10:00am to 11:30am. For more information, please contact Kate O'Connor at [k8oconnor@gmail.com](mailto:k8oconnor@gmail.com) or Magda Lee Ungerecht at [magdalee@yahoo.com](mailto:magdalee@yahoo.com).



### PRO-LIFE CORNER



Many people do not want to "interfere" with someone's choice to have an abortion. Yet to them, it makes perfect sense to "interfere" with a person's "choice" to steal your car, burn your house, or kidnap your child! The fact is that some choices have victims, and when somebody's "choice" destroys another's life or rights, it's everybody's business. It is the business of all of us to save unborn children.

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 crisis pregnancy center can be found at [www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com](http://www.tepeyacfamilycenter.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**

### The Story of Matthew –

A couple of weeks ago, we took a close look at Mark, the first of the Gospel writers. This week let's focus our attention on Matthew, the Gospel that the Church reads in Cycle A. While Mark wrote his Gospel around the year 70 AD, it is believed that Matthew wrote his words approximately 15 years later, in 85 AD. Scripture scholars base this on the fact that by that time, Christians had broken away from their Jewish brothers and were no longer welcome in the Jewish synagogues. Matthew shows this by his references to "their" synagogues", (4:23). While Mark showed the human emotions of Jesus, Matthew focuses on Christ's teachings and presentations of doctrine through the use of discourse and sermons. Matthew definitely appears to be stressing the divinity of Christ. Matthew probably was born in Galilee and was a tax collector in Capharnaum when called by Christ to follow him, (Mark 2:14). He is referred to as Levi, the tax collector. Matthew preached in Judea and then went east to Ethiopia, where it is said that he was martyred. Matthew is the patron saint of bankers and bookkeepers. The Church celebrates his feast day on September 21<sup>st</sup>.



### Engaging Spirituality to be offered at Nativity

Engaging Spirituality, a program of *JustFaith* Ministries ([www.justfaith.org](http://www.justfaith.org)), will be offered by the Parish starting at the end of September. The program includes 21 weekly sessions and highlights the linkage between spirituality and compassionate engagement by emphasizing personal and communal prayer, reflection on the writings of spiritual masters, personal encounters with vulnerable people, and contemplative dialogue in a small faith community. An insert in the Parish Bulletin on July 26 will give further information. More information will be available outside Masses on August 1 & 2 and on the bottom shelf of the table marked "Social Justice Directory" between the doors of the Church lobby next to the Gift Shop. Further information is available from George Alexa, 703-425-2581, [alexa@mris.com](mailto:alexa@mris.com).

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

Irene Lagan

**Don't forget! Life Line Screening - July 29, 2009**  
**Where? Nativity Parish Hall - 8:00am to 5:30pm**  
**Registration required...1-800-897-9177 x 1898**



[cyo@nativityschool.org](mailto:cyo@nativityschool.org) 703-455-2400 ext 115.

## Kings Dominion!

Friday, July 31st

8:00AM – 10:00PM

**WE need DRIVERS!!!**

### This Week!

Sun. July 19th - 25th: Workcamp!!!!  
PRAY FOR US!

Mon. July 27th: Core Meeting 8:00PM – 9:00PM

Wed. July 29th: Summer of Service 9:00AM – 3:00PM  
Lasertag! 5:00PM – 7:30PM

Fri. July 31st: King's Dominion 8:00AM – 10:00PM

## Summer of Service and Laser tag!

Wednesday July 29th:

SOS 9:00AM – 3:00PM

Lasertag 5:00PM – 7:30PM

The Arlington Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima will sponsor a Eucharistic Holy Hour on Sunday, July 26 from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Ave., Reston. We hope you will join us in prayer.

### MARANATHA “COME LORD JESUS!”

**A day retreat with Fr. Clement Machado, S.O.L.T. Sunday, August 9, 2009 from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm at Georgetown Prep School, North Bethesda, MD.**

Cost \$30.00. Pre-registration is required. Fr. Machado is well known on five continents for his apostolic preaching, evangelization, healing and deliverance ministries. For more information, please contact Vicky at 301-670-1028; Susan at 301-926-8335 or by email: [vhschneider1@aol.com](mailto:vhschneider1@aol.com). You can also visit our web page: [www.frmachadorettreat.com](http://www.frmachadorettreat.com)

Stress in Your Marriage? – There is less than a week left to sign up for Retrouvaille. Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment, deep misery and even divorce. For confidential information about or to register for the July program beginning with a weekend on July 24-26 call 703 351 7211 or

[www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com)



### Catholic Heritage Festival, Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

Mark your calendars for the Catholic Heritage Festival, Saturday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 10:30am to 4:00pm at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. Celebrate with fellow Catholics of all ages and nationalities from across the Diocese with Mass, great food, games, music, sporting events, dancing and more. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate the oneness of our faith at Arlington's first ever Catholic Heritage Festival.

### Sell Your Wares or Promote Your Catholic Organization at the Catholic Heritage Festival

You're invited to sell your artwork, crafts, food, etc or showcase your Catholic organization at the diocesan Catholic Heritage Festival on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at Bull Run Park in Centreville! All vendors and exhibitors must receive prior approval. To reserve a vendor table, please contact Tom O'Neill at (703) 841-3807.

Father Martin, **Muchas Gracias!** I enjoyed very much my visit to Nativity Parish this past weekend! I thank you and Father O'Keefe and all your staff and parishioners for their hospitality and for their **great generosity** to our diocesan mission in Banica and Pedro Santana in the Dominican Republic. Estamos muy agradecidos--we are very grateful!! **Paz y bien.** Fr. Jack O'Hara

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AGAIN

**The continued generosity of our good parishioners is so heartfelt. Your donations for the Mission Church in Banica, Dominican Republic totaled \$28,667.00**

Father Martin

**CALLING ALL GIRLS!!!**

Fun and adventure await your daughter in a Nativity Girl Scout troop! Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. So come make new friends, try new things, go camping - be part of the amazing sisterhood of nearly 5 million Girl Scouts. Troops will be forming or registering new members soon for the 2009-2010 school year at all levels, Daisy through Senior (Grades K-12). All parishioners from Nativity Church and students from Nativity School are encouraged to join. Adult volunteers are always appreciated - free training is provided. Please contact Nativity's troop organizer, Becky Chaves, at (703) 425-4965 to register or to get more information. Flyers are also in the Scouting Folder on the bulletin board in the church vestibule.



**THE WEEK AHEAD  
IN OUR PARISH**

**Sunday, July 19**

2:00 pm.....Baptisms (CH)  
2:00 to 5:00 pm....Yard Sale Collection (PH/S)

**Monday, July 20**

9:30 am.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)  
5:30 to 9:00 pm....Yard Sale Collection (PH/S)  
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

**Tuesday, July 21**

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)  
5:30 to 9:00 pm....Yard Sale Collection (PH/S)

**Wednesday, July 22**

5:30 to 9:00 pm....Yard Sale Collection (PH/S)  
7:00 pm.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)  
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)  
7:15 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)  
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

**Thursday, July 23**

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)  
5:30 to 9:00 pm....Yard Sale Collection (PH)  
7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (RM. 4)  
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)  
7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

**Friday, July 24**

5:30 to 9:00 pm....Yard Sale Collection (PH)

**Saturday, July 25**

9:00 am.....Mass (CH)  
10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)  
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Mass (CH)



**REMINDER: WOW !!! IT'S  
ALMOST HERE !!!**

**Nativity's Annual Yard Sale  
for Charity**

**Saturday, July 25, 2009, 9 AM -  
3 PM**

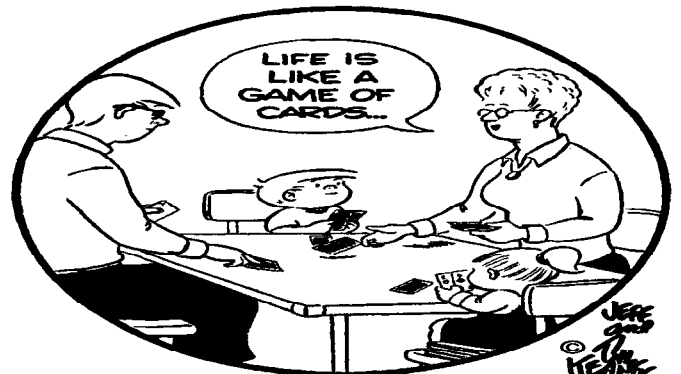
Please donate your no-longer  
needed and usable treasures and  
help Nativity Parish and the  
Knights of Columbus in their many  
charitable efforts. Final  
Collections at Parish Hall, Sunday,  
July 19, 2 - 5 PM, and Monday-  
Thursday, July 20-23, 5:30 - 9  
PM

FOR INFORMATION CALL 703-919-6549 OR 703-451-  
3802

FURNITURE PICK-UP ONLY: 703-866-5217

Need info flyer on what is acceptable/unacceptable?  
email [GK7992@VAKOFC.ORG](mailto:GK7992@VAKOFC.ORG) and place "KOC Flyer  
Request" in subject line

**THE FAMILY CIRCUS**



"...God deals us each a hand at birth. How we  
play the cards is up to us."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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