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**PASTORAL SHARINGS**

Dear Friends,

One task that I am determined to do this summer is to clean out my desk and file drawers in the office and my closet at home. So far I'm half done. It's amazing what I have found and have accumulated over the years. Keys from my old 1992 Oldsmobile, a desk clock that doesn't work, several packs of long expired Austin cheddar cheese crackers, outdated files crammed on my bookshelf, as well as homilies that I had written ten years ago - (*did I really say that!*). There were also books from seminary days that I just *might* refer to - even though they haven't seen the light of day in 43 years! I even came across a picture from 1957 of Bishop Loverde with 19 of his classmates taken at La Salle Academy in Providence where we both attended. Tackling the closet was filled with unrealistic expectations: Medium size shirts and a favorite pair of pants size 33 waist. Wishful thinking, but I don't think I'll be fitting into them anytime soon. There were even some 20 year old narrow ties. Save them, they'll be back in Vogue some day. How easy to amass clutter, and the "*don't throw it away I may use it someday*" mentality.

Amidst the clearing, I thought back to the day Mom died some 6 months ago. By the time she went to the nursing home she had but a few possessions. Within an hour after Mom's passing, my sister was quickly clearing the room of her belongings. Although we could have returned the next day, Madeleine felt it would be too painful for her to return to Mom's now empty room. Sweaters, jewelry, clothing, cosmetics, cards, photographs and television were packed up or given to some of the residents. In an instant, what belonged to Mom now belonged to someone else. How easy it is to get attached to our possessions, I thought as I held my Mother's hand, thinking that *she* was truly our most important possession and now was with God. One of my favorite scripture passages is Luke 12:16-21 entitled *The Rich Fool*. The story concerns a rich young man who had an abundance of crops and each year would build bigger barns to store his harvested wealth. Never did he think of sharing with others. And the haunting question of the Lord: "*This night you will die and to whom will all this piled up wealth go to?*" Sobering thought.

This past week I was talking with my cousin Mary Frances who, while she has a comfortable life now, grew up in very poor conditions. Sharing the thoughts of this column with her she said to me: "*My wealth has never been the material things I can hold in my hand. My wealth is my husband, my son and daughters. If my house were to burn to the ground today I would still be a very wealthy woman.*" Much food for thought in that statement.

In all the clearing and the cleaning I still put a couple of books back on the shelf. After all, I just might re-read them one day when I have nothing to do. And why not save just one of my favorite medium size shirts? Who knows? Miracles do happen!

However, there is one thing I will not give away. It is a small plaque given to me this year by Laurie Roberts, our former school secretary, that sits on my book shelf and reads:

***"THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE NOT THINGS."***

How true! I learned some good lessons just cleaning drawers and closets. Now someone else can enjoy the clothes that I will not be using. Have a nice week!

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**BUYING HAPPINESS**

A FASHIONABLE LITTLE GIRL, clutching a wad of money, carefully surveyed the aisles of a toy store. Her search ended as she stopped in front of a magnificent doll with a heart-shaped face and velvet dress. "Do I have enough?" she asked her father.

He nodded yes. As she walked down the aisle with her new doll, she noticed another child and father going through the same decision-making process.

The little boy held only a few dollars in his hand. His pants were too short and the sleeves of his jacket were frayed.

He grew excited when he spotted a game on the shelf. “This is what I want!” he cried to his father. “Do I have enough?”

But his father lowered his eyes and shook his head no. The little boy looked at the money in his hand and then placed the game back on the shelf. He took his father’s hand and they continued down the aisle toward a display of coloring books.

The little girl studied the doll she had chosen and then looked over at the game the little boy had wanted. She put the doll back on the shelf and picked up the game. “Do I have enough?” she asked her father again.

When he nodded yes, she ran to the cashier with her purchase. After paying for the game, the little girl whispered something to the cashier—who quickly wrapped the game and stuck it under the counter.

The girl and her father stood near the exit until the boy and his father checked out. “Congratulations, you have been selected to win a prize!” the cashier said to the boy, presenting him with the gift-wrapped game.

“Wow!” cried the boy as he opened the package. “This is *just* what I wanted!”

“That was very generous of you, sweetie,” said the girl’s father as they left the store. “What made you decide to do it?”

“Daddy, didn’t Nana and PawPaw want me to buy something that would make me happy?”

“Of course they did, honey.”

“Well, I just did.”

Adapted from the “Toothless grin”

SHARON PALMER

*Stories For A Cheerful Heart*

Multnomah Publishers

## OPERATION STARFISH®

### HAITI MISSION TRIP ANNOUNCED



Fr. Martin will be taking another group of Nativity parishioners to Haiti the week of November 9-13, 2009. With logistical support from Food For The Poor, this pilgrimage will focus on the Port-au-Prince area, with a side trip to Haiti’s south coast to inaugurate “Nativity Village at Lozandier,” our 4<sup>th</sup> Nativity Village project. Travelers will visit with Fr. Jean Printemps at the first Nativity Village at Merger, where we have built housing, water wells, sanitation, an elementary school and a chicken farm. We are also planning to go to Rainbow House (where children with HIV/AIDS are treated), Cardinal Leger Leper Hospital, Food For The Poor’s main feeding center, clinics, orphanages and other facilities that serve the poorest of the poor.

Nativity Village at Lozandier will be blessed and dedicated. This development project includes housing, water, sanitation and a fishing village. Fr. Martin welcomes anyone who feels the call of the Holy Spirit to join us. “You have only to bring your eyes, ears, and an open heart,” he says. For more details contact Jim McDaniel ([jimmcdaniel@me.com](mailto:jimmcdaniel@me.com)) 703-455-6874; or the church office.

Going on vacation? Need to find a Church? Visit [www.CatholicWeb.com](http://www.CatholicWeb.com).



Scroll to search, type in the city and state you are visiting. You will be able to find a Church near your vacation site.

## The Gospel of John



This Gospel is the last of the Four Gospels and is much different from those written by Matthew, Mark and Luke, who are referred to as the Synoptics. According to ancient tradition, John, the son of Zebedee, the “beloved disciple” is said to be the author. Modern scripture scholars in respecting that belief, realized that the ancient peoples had a broader understanding of the word, “author” than we have today. Their understanding was that “author” could be one who oversaw the actual writing of the manuscript. This they felt, could explain the different styles that are found in the Gospel itself. So, under John’s guidance, based on his wisdom and his preaching, another writer/s, put down the words which give this fourth Gospel, the distinctive literary features which we call “Johannine”. And so this Gospel has a message which responds to the very pressing theological issues that were present at the end of the first century. In this Gospel you will find valid historical details about the life of Jesus. Also you will find the desire to show that Jesus was the Messiah and the desire to convince all Christians that their religious beliefs and practices must be rooted in Him. John was the Apostle who was entrusted with the care of Mary, the Mother of Jesus. This Gospel was most probably written in Ephesus around the years 95-100 AD. John also is said to have written the Book of Revelation as well as three epistles. He is the only one of the apostles who did not suffer martyrdom. The Church celebrates his feast day on December 27<sup>th</sup>.



Monday, August 3

TONY TALARICO.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, August 4

IRENE KROSNICK.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, August 5

KATHY DAVIS.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, August 6

LUCILLE DEMBINSKI.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, August 7

JOE RUSSO.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, August 8

JOHN LESEYE.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

HARRIET DECK.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday, August 9

THOMAS BRESNAN.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

PARISHIONERS.....9:00am - Fr. Martin

TONY FRANCO.....11:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

ADUALIN MILIN.....12:45pm - Fr. O'Keefe



Earn Heavenly Rewards

Volunteer to teach or assist in the classroom for Nativity's children who want to learn about the Catholic Church and God's Good News of salvation. Call the Religious Education Office at 703-455-0372 today!

Students enrolled in the Religious Education Program by August 31, begin classes the week of September 20.

Students enrolled in the Religious Education Program after August 31, begin classes the week of September 27.

To enroll in the Religious Education Program, turn in a completed Student Registration form (one per family) to the Religious Education Office along with a 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.

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**



What can you and I do to promote the Culture of Life and defeat the culture of death?

Donate Pro-Life books to local libraries, schools and churches. Publicize Pro-Life events. Donate money to Pro-Life groups. Help run a Pro-Life booth at a community fair. Learn about RU-486 and other abortifacients. Use the Internet to spread Pro-Life thoughts via e-mail. Little things can make a big difference in promoting the Culture of Life.

Are you suffering from an abortion experience?

**PROJECT RACHEL** offers spiritual and psychological healing. Call 703-276-0373

([projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto: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).

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**

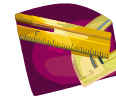
**Catholic Charities Local: 703-425-0100**

**A Woman's Choice: 703-538-4305**

**Gabriel Project: 1-866-444-3553**

**WOMEN OF NATIVITY CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST**

The Women of Nativity will be collecting school supplies after all Masses during the weekend of August 8-9 for its annual Christmas in August Project. Items needed include: loose-leaf paper, 3-ring binders, spiral notebooks (single and multiple subject), pens, #2 pencils, fiskar scissors, large glue sticks, thin Crayola markers, 12" rulers, pencil cases and school backpacks. Supplies will only be collected on the scheduled dates because of delivery arrangements. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. For further information or questions, please call Kathy McHugh at 703-239-2198 or Debby McLernon at 703-250-6869. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions.



**Active Senior?**

Volunteer two days a week with the materially poor and grow spiritually through the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC). To learn more about 35 NoVA volunteers: **1.** Attend info session at 7:30 pm, Thursday, August 13; The Broadway Club Room; 502 W. Broad St.; Falls Church 22046. **2.** Contact IVC/NoVA Regional Director Jim Kelley ([jkelly@ivcusa.org](mailto:jkelly@ivcusa.org) or 703-533-7322). **3.** Visit [www.ivcusa.org](http://www.ivcusa.org).



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

## Senior Citizen Bingo!!

Wed. Aug. 5th

Lunch at 11:30AM

followed by two hours of Bingo!!!

Volunteers need to be there at 9:00AM

We need prizes so bring something to donate

### This Week!

Mon. Aug. 3rd:	Core Meeting	8:00PM – 9:00PM
Wed. Aug. 5th:	Senior Citizen Bingo Potluck	9:00AM – 3:00PM After Bingo
Fri. Aug. 7th - 9th:	White Water Retreat	3:30PM
Mon. Aug 10th:	Last Core Meeting!	8:00PM – 9:00PM

## White Water Rafting Retreat!

Aug. 7th – 9th

Forms in back



### Altar Flowers

In Loving Memory of  
Olcaj and Edmund Nawrocki  
From  
The Matthews Family

### 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. More information will be available outside masses this weekend 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 Joe Pettit, 703-455-4937, [pettit@georgetown.edu](mailto:pettit@georgetown.edu).

### 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.



Nativity's Grief Support Group, for all who have suffered the death of a loved one, and are in need of the comfort that sharing can bring, meets at 7:30pm in our school building 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, ext 117) for more information.

### BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS



Results of the Knights of Columbus Blood Drive, 25 July 09: A total of 91 units were successfully donated. Congratulations to Nativity and St. Raymond Parishes, and thank you for donating this "gift of life." God bless!

Future 2009 K of C Blood Drives: Saturday, September 26 and Saturday, December 12, 2009, 7:00am to 12:00 noon, in St. Raymond's Parish Hall. Contact John Landy NOW at 703-250-1492 for your appointments.

**FOOD FOR OTHERS** ~ There will be a **canned food collection** to assist Food For Others, a distributor of free food for people in need in Northern Virginia, **August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> before and after all Masses.** During the summer months, when children are out of school, there is a greater need of food. This is mainly due to the fact that the children do not have access to the free breakfast and lunch that is often provided to them through the school systems. Your help and donations will be greatly appreciated. There will also be donation forms available if you would like to make a financial donation to help keep their street distribution sites functioning.

Every food donation helps in the fight against hunger ~ no matter how small or big.

**Sharing Hope**, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, August 7th at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte. 123. The topic will be "Betrayal." Newcomers are warmly welcomed and there is no fee. For further information, directions or encouragement, please call Barbara at 703-425-5467 or Maureen (work) 703-610-5805

Nativity's Charismatic Love is Given Prayer Group meets every Thursday night from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the All Purpose Room for an evening of Spirit-filled faith sharing, praise and worship and prayer in a Christ-centered community. For more information call Anne Rother at 703-644-1278.



**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 Festival. All vendors and exhibitors must receive prior approval. To reserve a vendor table, please contact Tom O'Neill at 703-841-3807.

Nativity's ESL (English as a Second Language) program for Spanish speakers begins classes in September. We offer three levels of classes (beginner, intermediate and advanced) on Saturday mornings, from 10:00am to 12:00pm, an advanced class on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00pm, and an intermediate class on Thursdays, also from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Registration and placement testing for all classes will be held on Wednesday, September 9, and Thursday, September 10, both evenings from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Green Room at the rear of the Church, and Saturday, September 12, from 10:00 to 11:30am in the Nativity School. We want to thank the parishioners of Nativity for your generous support of our program. Our teaching staff now consists of fifteen volunteers from the Parish. The Parish office staff is always generous with their time and assistance, our local Knights of Columbus chapter provides much need financial support and Father Martin's generous help ensures that no student will ever be turned away for lack of funds. Thank you all. If you have questions about our program, please call Bob Clark at 703-3323-6717 or Ben Jacinto at 703-644-1787.

**THE WEEK AHEAD  
IN OUR PARISH**

**Sunday, August 2 ECHO COLLECTION**

2:00 pm.....Baptisms (CH)

**Monday, August 3**

8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

**Tuesday, August 4**

9:30 am.....Bible Study Summer Session (APR)

**Wednesday, August 5**

7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)

7:30 pm.....Hispanic Baptism Class (RM 8)

**Thursday, August 6**

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)

7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)

7:30 pm.....Grief Support (S)

**Saturday, August 8**

9:00 am.....Mass (CH)

10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)

7:00 pm.....Hispanic Mass (CH)

**Speak Up for a Child-Volunteers Needed!!**

A new case of child abuse or neglect enters the Fairfax County Domestic & Juvenile Relations Court system once every 30 hours. These children need caring advocates to help ensure that they grow up in safe and permanent homes. Fairfax CASA trains volunteers to advocate for a child's best interests in Court.

If you seek a volunteer role with real purpose that can create real change, please attend Fairfax CASA's upcoming information session .at the Pohick Regional Library on Sat., Aug. 15th from 11:00-12:00pm. For reservations or information, contact Elisa Kosarin, Recruitment and Training Manager at 703-273-3526, ext. 22,

[ekosarin@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarin@casafairfax.org). or visit [www.casafairfax.org](http://www.casafairfax.org).

***Thought for the Week***

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Irene Lagan

**OPTIMISM**

“There are only two ways to live your life.

One is as though nothing is a miracle.

The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein