



Dear Parishioners,

This is the concluding article about our journey to Haiti last month. In my last 2 Pastor's Corners, I described our impressions of the earthquake aftermath, our visit with the handicapped children at Little Children of Jesus Home, releasing prisoners in Cap-Haitien, harvesting tilapia, planting seeds, trudging through the Prolonge Swamp, visiting Nativity Village at Prolonge, meeting with Archbishop Louis Kebreau, descending into the hell of Shada, breaking ground on Nativity Village 6, visiting earthquake victims in Chastenoye, and some of the numerous other activities and experiences of our pilgrimage. In a word, WE WERE PRESENT TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN HAITI. When asked what is the most significant thing we can do to help Haiti, Archbishop Kebreau answered, "Continue to give the gift of your presence. Sometimes this is the most important gift we can give – our presence."

BEING PRESENT TO THE POOR – PART III "Leaving Haiti With Hope"

DAY FOUR (con't.)...

Last week, I described the events of Thursday morning, Day 4 of our journey. We started the day in the horror of Shada, where 3,500 families live in filthy, disease ridden destitution. For us, it was challenging and uncomfortable to be present to these people, but nothing like the ordeal of daily survival that they endure. We clung to the thought that at least some of the families we met will soon breath the fresh air of Nativity Village at Chastenoye. From Shada, we drove to Chastenoye to plant a row of fruit trees and break ground on our next Nativity Village project. While there, we visited with earthquake refugees who had been relocated to new Food For The Poor housing.

Leaving Chastenoye, we made a brief stop at a Food For The Poor orphanage. Jim McDaniel urged us to use the bathroom facilities, but not to linger with the children because it would delay our schedule – always the taskmaster! But once the cute little kids with their brightly colored hair beads and big smiles greeted us with song, and we started handing out Sillybandz, playtime began. Brittany Felschow had her hair brushed out, photos were taken, and we grouped together to sing "Do, Re, Mi..." This was a light moment, much-needed.

The next event was certainly personally rewarding for me and my family. This afternoon we blessed and dedicated the "Georgette Martin Sewing Center" in Nativity Village at Demier. When my Mom died on December 27, 2008, our family suggested, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to build a sewing co-op in Haiti to train young people in garment design and fabrication. This would honor my Mom, who taught sewing, with a legacy that leads to small business opportunities for Haitian young people. Today, that legacy has begun to provide self-sustaining job skills to people in need. We blessed the building, cut a ribbon, and celebrated mass in the new sewing center. The community made us a wonderful lunch, with homemade cake decorated with tropical fruit. Our parishioners and friends had previously shipped 600 lbs. of fabric and sewing supplies, along with first communion dresses, in a Food For The Poor container. These items arrived just 2 days before our visit and were distributed to the Georgette Martin Sewing Center and to our sewing co-op in Nativity Village at Prolonge. Today, we brought several additional bags of sewing items that we had taken in our luggage, and made a monetary gift, courtesy of one of our parishioners.

Following the celebration, we emptied several barrels of fingerling fish into the lake at Demier. These Pangassia fish will grow quickly and provide a needed source of protein for the people of this Nativity Village. Today was a long day. We traveled from an abyss of anguish in Shada to a promise of paradise in Chastenoye and Demier. This is Haiti – land of paradox. This is Operation Starfish – making a difference, one at a time.

DAY FIVE...

Our last day in Haiti, Friday, July 2nd, began early. We left Cap-Haitien on a 7 a.m. charter flight to Port-au-Prince. Our friends at Food For The Poor's Haiti HQ again had a nice breakfast waiting for us. We then went to visit Food For The Poor's HIV/AIDS clinic at the University of Miami Field Hospital in Port-au-Prince. We met with Dr.'s Jerry and Marlon Bitar, Haitian twin brothers and surgeons, who were doing 15-20 amputations a day during the month following the

the quake. I held both of them in my arms and blessed them for saving so many lives.

As we made our last drive through the ravaged city, I was overwhelmed with conflicting emotions. I prayed for the repose of the souls of the 250,000 killed in the earthquake; I prayed for healing for the injured and for the families who are grieving; I prayed for the 1.3 million people still living in tents; and I thanked God for this beautiful group of people on the bus with me, knowing that He is at this very moment stirring their hearts, touching their very souls. This group of 18, along with those who have gone to Haiti with us in the past, and all the good people of Nativity Parish will continue to activate prayer with action. We at Nativity are firmly committed to the Gospel call to serve the poor. We have done everything asked of us in Matthew 25:34-36 (*Then the king will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me"*)

And with every fiber of my existence, I know that our Nativity community will continue to follow the Gospel in service to those in need, across the street and around the world. Our very essence as a parish community is found in the scripture (James 2:14-17) that I had printed on my prayer cards at my ordination to the priesthood on May 14, 1966: (*What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*)

A sincere thank-you to each of the people who joined me on this latest mission trip to Haiti: Delane Bailey-Herd, Lesly Clervil, Nancy Clarke, Meredith Lee Dauksz, Kathy De-prenger, Brittany Felschow, Gianina Ferraiuolo, Laura Grace, Linda Lenertz, Cynde Mausolf, Joshua Mausolf, Lauren Mausolf, Jim McDaniel, Jim Scott, Dennis Staszak, Maria Werries, and Ian Wood.




As your pastor at Nativity Parish, I am always proud when our parishioners reach out and assist others in need. I have witnessed these efforts time and time again. The latest example of your generosity was the Parish Yard Sale held on Saturday, July 24th. I know that this was a labor intensive effort that brought together many men and woman in the parish with this focus: "In Service To One. In Service To All". The plethora of items for sale was amazing and the prices were so reasonable that I even purchased a few items myself (contrary to my homily last Sunday!).

Thanks to all the parishioners who donated their goods and thanks to all the volunteers who labored on a very warm and humid day. There were sales of over \$17,000 and the funds raised from this ministry will serve many within and beyond the boundaries of Nativity. And one final note, all the donations that remained after the Yard Sale were given to the Lupus Foundation of America to further its research. Needless to say, the parishioners of Nativity have made me proud once again!






Monday, August 9

Jenny Urek.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, August 10

Catherine Hay.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, August 11

Patricia Marisa Merino.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday August 12

Mark Muzii.....7:30am - Fr. Korpi

Friday, August 6

Bertha Zivich.....7:30am - Fr. Korpi

Saturday, August 13

Ellen "Bonnie" Lunney.....9:00am - Fr. Korpi

Mauro De Ramos.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Spanish Mass.....7:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday, August 14

Terry Azakerley.....7:30am - Fr. Juan Pedro

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

Thomas Cox.....11:00am - Fr. Wilson

Lorenzo Legaspi Valentona.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

Thought for the Week

There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.

Jacqueline Kennedy

PRO-LIFE CORNER



In the beginning it was said that abortion was introduced only in order to help poor women and victims of rape and incest. Very quickly abortion became permitted for any reason. Now abortion has made a mortal breach in the respect for life and, with a lack of respect for human life, euthanasia has been introduced. We must speak out for life while we can.

A WOMAN'S CHOICE is a pregnancy resource center that provides free pregnancy testing, referrals for medical treatment, housing, social service assistance and tangible support for pregnant women, including clothing and equipment. (703-538-4305).

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 info.

Pregnancy Resource Centers Phone Numbers:
 Catholic Charities National: 1-800-CARE-002
 Catholic Charities Local: 703-425-0100
 A Woman's Choice: 703-538-4305



Teachers and teacher assistants are still needed for Nativity's children in the Religious Education Program!! With more than 1,300 students the need is great! Please call the Religious Education Office today at 703-455-0372 or send an email to nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org.

Teachers, assistant teachers and all other volunteers for the Religious Education Program should attend the Orientation Meeting/Workshop on Sunday, September 12, at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall. This is a very important information meeting to get the year off to a good start regarding the Religious Education school year.

Students enrolled by September 7, begin religious education classes the week of September 19.

Students enrolled after September 7, begin religious education classes the week of September 26.

To enroll in the Religious Education Program, turn in a completed Student Registration form to the Religious Education Office along with payment and a student's baptismal certificate (unless it has been previously submitted). Class placement is on a first-come, first-serve basis. 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.

"Faith is the assurance of that which is hoped for." If you believe in the Giver of the call, you can hope to be true to it. Will you follow Christ as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514 or write b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org.



During the month of July, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we joyfully welcomed into the Church:

Claire Isabella Sihrer, Jayden Curtis Freeman, Kristine Eliza Borromeo Malangyaon, Samuel Patrick Nylund, Nathalie Legaspi Alipio, Isabella Bernadette Chedid, Alezis Kennedy Guild, Omar Ian Hernandez-Esperanza



In Loving Memory of
Marie F. & Patrick J. Flaherty
Love, Patty, Tommy & Michael

and

In Loving Memory of Nestor Yelicie
From The Yelicie Family

JustFaith Questions

Do you find that your life is rapidly moving from one year to the next and with little time to reflect on what it means to live the Gospel as Jesus asks us to do? Consider joining a **JustFaith** group that helps to answer this question through reflection, study, prayer and community. Information packets are available on the top shelf of the table between the doors on the left as you exit the lobby and on the "Community Outreach" page of the parish website: <http://www.nativityburke.org/parish/CommunityOutreach.php>

WOMEN OF NATIVITY CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

The Women of Nativity will be collecting school supplies after all Masses during the weekend of August 14-15 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.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU VERY MUCH



The Church of the Nativity Annual Yard Sale for Charity sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Vincent S. Sikora Council 7992 was held on July 24, 2010 and it was a very successful event. Thanks go out to all who participated in the yard sale through their donations and purchases. And special thanks to the women and men of the parish who volunteered and were so generous with their time at the yard sale and the days leading up to the yard sale. All these efforts will have a profound effect on those who are less fortunate and will once again affirm Nativity as "The Caring Parish".

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Monday, August 9

- 12:00 pm.....CYO Summer Activity (APR)
- 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, August 10

- 9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)

Wednesday, August 11

- 12:00 pm.....CYO Summer of Service (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
- 7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Thursday, August 12

- 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room 4)

Saturday, August 13 **WON Christmas in August Supply Collection—Room 6**

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

“A Letter From God”

This letter was given to me sometime ago. Periodically it is well worth re-printing as a reminder to all of us.



“Good morning. This is God.

Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box. It will be addressed in My time, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it or remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem. If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution. Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child. If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CRAFTS? The Nativity Craft Group would like you to join us. We meet every Thursday in the All Purpose Room at 9:30 am. Come and enjoy a morning of fun, relaxation and new friendships.

SECCIÓN en ESPAÑOL

Actividades de la Comunidad Hispana
Iglesia de la Natividad 6400 Nativity Lane-Burke, VA 22015
Teléfono 703-455-2400 Rev. Cedric Wilson

SANTA MISA EN ESPAÑOL: Todos los sábados a las 7:00pm

CONFESIONES: Los sábados antes de la Santa Misa de 6:15pm a 6:55pm

Catequesis Para niños y Jóvenes: Sábados de 5:00pm a 6:45pm Informes: 703-455-2400, ext 116 o Sr. Ponciano 202-262-6659

Catequesis Para niños y Jóvenes: Inscripciones para el año escolar septiembre 2010 a mayo 2011 están abiertas.

Catequesis para adultos: Bautismo, Comunión, y Confirmación, Sábados de 5:15pm a 6:15pm Contacto: Tito Pinto 703-912-9220

Charla para el Bautismo: Primer Miércoles del mes 7:30pm, aula 8

Sacramento del Bautismo: Tercer Sábado del mes. 1:30pm Contacto: Deacon Pardo 703-455-2400

Grupo de Oración: Miércoles 7:00pm a 9:00pm. Están todos invitados. Marco Camacho 703-968-5585

Grupo de Liderazgo Juvenil reuniones: Domingo 11:00am-1:00pm aula 5 Contacto: Nelson Pineda 571-234-3664

Reunión del Grupo de los Jóvenes Sábados: a partir de las 5:00pm aula 4. contacto: Juan Carlos Chávez 703-473-6941

Solidaridad Cristiana: Mayor información Llamar Mirian Ponciano 703-913-5494.

Para mas información: María Guevara 703-444-5716

Anuncios para el boletín: debe ser presentado por escrito el viernes a las 9 de la mañana (10 días antes de su publicación).

Pueden enviar entradas por correo electrónico a nativitybulletin@aol.com

Charlas de Convalidación para recibir el Sacramento del Matrimonio: cada otro domingo del mes 9:00am – 10:45am aula 4. Contacto: Antonio y Maritza Di Paola 703-493-8719

Reunión de Matrimonios: domingo 9:00am – 11:00am aula 5. Contacto: Segundo y María Guevara 703-444-5716

PENSAMIENTO PARA EL DÍA

Elige vivir fielmente


Estén también ustedes preparados, porque el Hijo del Hombre llegará a la hora que menos esperan. Lucas 12:40

UNA MUERTE INESPERADA es siempre un gran golpe. Los seres queridos del difunto quieren entender el “por qué” de una muerte prematura. Suelen escucharse frases como “¡Él acababa de cambiar su vida!” o “¡A ella le estaba yendo tan bien!”. Una enfermedad repentina o un accidente trágico nos despiertan a la fragilidad de la vida y nuestra propia mortalidad.


Este funesto recordatorio empuja a algunos al hedonismo: “Comamos y bebamos, que mañana moriremos”. Esta filosofía los hace dejarse llevar por las pasiones y pasar por alto el amor al prójimo. Como me dijo un estudiante hace poco: “¿Por qué debería preocuparme por las generaciones venideras? Lo único que quiero hacer es divertirme y que nadie me moleste”. Gracias a Dios, otra gente no es tan egoísta y reconoce que la longevidad no está garantizada, aprovecha los días que tiene, lleva una vida productiva y de fe, sirve al Reino de Dios cada vez que puede. La muerte es inevitable, pero cómo enfrentarla está en nuestras manos.

Oh Señor, que estemos preparados cuando llegues.

Elizabeth-Anne Stewart



Mark your calendars! The new RCIA class begins Wednesday, September 15, 2010, and will generally be held every Wednesday from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall through early June 2011, excepting holidays. In addition, beginning in Advent and up until Holy Week there will be "break out" sessions at the Sunday 9:00 am Mass to discuss the Scripture and homily.



2010 White House Ornament Sale

It will be here before you know it!

Women of Nativity will have their only Fundraiser of the year to be held in September! Watch the bulletin for details.