



Dear Parishioners,

This summer I have been trying to clear some of the bookshelves in my office. I still have text books from seminary days - that I know I will probably never open again. Why do I save so much *stuff*? I even had a copy of the *United States Catholic Directory* from 1997- 2109 pages and four inches thick. The same week that I was clearing the shelves, the 2010 directory arrived with its 2105 pages! While not claiming to be a statistician, I found some of the comparisons in the past 13 years quite interesting. Last weeks column was rather humorous and light after three weeks of intensive columns about Haiti. Perhaps you might find some of the following comparisons interesting as well.

	<u>1997</u>	<u>2009</u>
Total Diocesan priests:	32,442	28,061
Total Religious Order Priests:	16,629	13,428
Total Religious Sisters in US:	89,125	60,715
Religious Brothers in US:	6,357	4,905
Total parishes in US:	19,726	18,372
 Total population of Catholics in US:	 61,207,900	 68,503,456

I then looked at some individual dioceses, especially some that I served in when I was in Alaska. The number of priests and the miles covered is interesting.

Anchorage, Alaska: 10 Diocesan priests; 11 Religious Order Priests; 138,985 square miles.

Fairbanks, Alaska: 11 Diocesan Priests; Religious Order Priests 20; 409,849 square miles.

Providence, RI: 174 Diocesan Priests; 123 Religious Order Priests; 1,085 square miles.

Reno, Nevada: 19 Diocesan Priests; 6 Religious Order Priests; in 70,852 square miles.

Nashville TN: 29 Diocesan Priests; in 16,302 square miles.

Arlington VA: 143 Diocesan Priests; 74 Religious Order Priests: 6541 square miles.

Now I can put my 1997 on a higher shelf or just file #13. Perhaps you may find the above interesting. If not, next week might be better reading.

Have a nice week!

*J. Martin*

## St. Augustine & St. Monica

This week we celebrate both the Feast of St. Augustine and also that of his mother, St. Monica. St. Monica was born in Tagaste in what is present day Algeria. While she was a Christian, she married a pagan and had three children, one of whom was Augustine. It is well documented that Augustine led a rather wild life and Monica is, in turn, known for her extreme patience and persistence as she prayed daily for her wayward son. Augustine finally did turn his life around and consented to his being baptized in Milan by St. Ambrose. Monica, by then a widow, died shortly thereafter and Augustine went on to become one of the great leaders in the development of Western Christianity. He was a prolific writer and teacher. Many of his sermons and letters were written to fight against the heresies of his time. He is given credit for the concept of original sin as well as the idea of just war. His influence on others in the years following his death is outstanding. Today his legacy lives on, not only in his writings, but also in the work of the religious men who follow in his footsteps as Augustinians.



### Monday, August 23

Aloysius Gerencser.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

### Tuesday, August 24

Cecelia Heitmanek.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

### Wednesday, August 25

Sam "Terry" Scavuzzo.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

### Thursday, August 26

Bethene Minor.....7:30am - Fr. Korpi

### Friday, August 27

Margaret Rowley.....7:30am - Fr. Korpi

### Saturday, August 28

Patti Roth.....9:00am - Fr. Korpi

Virginia Mooradian.....5:00pm - Fr. Korpi

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

### Sunday, August 29

David E. Grayson.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Denise Wagner.....9:00am - Fr. Korpi

Parishioners.....11:00am - Fr. Martin

Mrs. Margaret Sharpe.....12:45pm - Fr. Martin



Shed light on God's Good News; help Nativity's children learn more about the gift of faith and God's love. **Call 703-455-0372 to volunteer or send an email to [nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org](mailto:nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org), or simply drop by the Religious Education Office.**

**Students must be enrolled in the Religious Education Program by September 7, to attend classes during the first week on September 19, 20, and 21.**

**Students enrolled after September 7, begin classes on September 26, 27, and 28.**

**All Religious Education Program teachers and assistants should attend the Orientation/Workshop on Sunday, September 12, at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.** This is a very important information meeting regarding the 2010-2011 school year.

Student Registration forms should be turned in to the Religious Education Office along with payment and the student's baptismal certificate (unless it has been previously submitted). 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.



In Memory of Our Loving Son,  
Alexander and Mother Susana Basurto  
and  
In Memory of Our Father Morton Gousse  
from  
Myrtho and Kettly

## PRAY THE ROSARY FOR PEACE

The Women of Nativity wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the parishioners who donated so generously to the 2010 Christmas in August School Supplies Collection.



Through your generosity, we were able to send school supplies to Martha's Table, Salvation Army, Lorton Community Action Center and Carpenter's Shelter.

## Celebrating a Silver or Golden Wedding Anniversary this Year?



Were you married in 1960 or 1985? Then join Bishop Loverde for the 2010 Marriage Jubilee Mass to be celebrated on **Sunday, October 24 at 2:30 p.m.** at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. Contact the parish office to register no later than September 24.

John Murray, a college Spanish professor, has volunteered to teach beginning Spanish on Thursday evenings from 7 -9 pm in Classroom 6. Classes begin on September 9th. Books are available for \$10 each. New students (who have studied Spanish before) are welcome. Please call John (703-239-2651) to discuss the possibility of joining the class. To sign up for the class, call the Parish Office (703-455-2400) .

**ATTENTION.....Chocolate and Coffee Lovers!**

The Little Angel Gift Shop has a new shipment of FAIR TRADE chocolate and coffee. Come in and see what we have.

There are still spaces available in the Nativity Preschool and Pre-K classes for the 2010-2011 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact the Preschool Office at 703-455-2300 ext. 136.

*Thought for the Week*

The interior life of a Christian is the reproduction of the life of Jesus.

Blessed Ildefonso Schuster

**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.

The **GABRIEL PROJECT** supports women who are facing a crisis pregnancy and need help. Contact 1-866-444-3553 or [gabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:gabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org) You are not alone! (Gabriel Project is a crisis pregnancy 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 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  
 Gabriel Project 1-866-444-3553

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.

**RCIA**, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a pilgrimage of faith.

**RCIA** is the Catholic Church's way of forming new disciples of Jesus Christ, and welcoming new members into the Church at the Easter Vigil, April 23, 2011.

Nativity's **RCIA** program involves instruction, prayer, group discussion and special spiritual events designed to prepare those seeking to enter the Church. RCIA is open to those --

- \* Who have not been baptized
- \* Christians baptized into another faith (Presbyterian, Baptist, etc.)
- \* Adults baptized Catholic who have not been confirmed
- \* Those who want to learn more about the Catholic faith, including adult Catholics.

Come and meet Jesus Christ and discover who God made you to be!

For further information, call the Church office or e-mail Ron Riggins at [rjriggins@cox.net](mailto:rjriggins@cox.net) .



**2010 White House Ornament Sale**

To be held September 11-12-18-19.  
 Cost of each ornament is \$20.00 each.

Checks or cash only.

**Checks are to be made out to Church of Nativity.**

Watch the bulletin for more information.

“Make straight paths for your feet.” Will your path of holiness be as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call Father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514 or write [b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org).

**JustFaith Questions**

Are you interested in exploring the social justice tradition of your faith? Do you want to know more about the spiritual journey of Francis of Assisi, Mother Theresa, Oscar Romero and the prophets? Consider taking part in a new justice formation process called “**JustFaith**” that begins at our parish this fall. The program includes readings, videos, conversations about the most difficult topics, face-to-face encounters with the poor, and an investigation into the intersection of spirituality and Christian activism. Parishes have offered **JustFaith** across the country with dramatic effects. **JustFaith** runs from September to May. Sound good? 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>

**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 8, and Thursday, September 9, both evenings from 7:00 to 8:30pm in the Green Room at the rear of the Church, and Saturday, September 11, from 10:00 to 11:30am in Nativity School. We want to thank the parishioners of Nativity for your generous support of our program. Our teaching staff now consists of thirteen volunteers from the Parish. The Parish office staff is always generous with their time and assistance, our local Knights of Columbus chapter provides much needed 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 703-323-6717.

**Volunteers Needed for Children’s Program**

St. Margaret of Cortona Transitional Residences in Woodbridge, VA is looking for volunteers for its Tuesday night children’s program from 6:30 – 8 p.m. beginning Sept. 14. St. Margaret’s serves families exiting shelters and safe houses through the Diocese of Arlington. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old or 16 or 17 if accompanied by a parent. Orientation sessions will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 31 and Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 7-9 p.m. For more information and a volunteer application, please call Paula Hummel at 703-910-4845 or e-mail her at [phummel@ccda.net](mailto:phummel@ccda.net).

**THE WEEK AHEAD  
IN OUR PARISH**

**Monday, August 23**

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

**Tuesday, August 24**

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

**Wednesday, August 25**

7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

7:30 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)

**Thursday, August 26**

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 28**

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



**\*Information Meeting\***

**AD ALTARE DEI “To The Altar of God”**

*Sunday, September 12, 2010, 2:00 p.m.*

*All-Purpose Room, Nativity Church, Burke*

The Ad Altare Dei program was designed by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting to help develop the spiritual growth of Catholic Boy Scouts in their day-to-day lives by focusing on the seven Sacraments. All Catholic Boy Scouts, age 13 – 14, who have completed the sixth grade and are active in their BSA Troop are eligible to earn this religious emblem. Learn more! You and your parent(s)/guardian(s) are invited to attend an information meeting on Sunday, September 12

**FOR SALE...USED ROLAND KR-7 DIGITAL PIANO**

- Flagship KR-Series piano with stereo-sampled sounds and 128-voice polyphony
- 88-note Progressive Hammer Action Keyboard with Escapement for realistic touch
- Over 600 high-quality sounds, plus easy-to-use arranger functions and touchscreen LCD
- Helpful Music Assistant with setup templates for over 120 popular songs
- New “Grand Sound” speaker system for true grand piano sound
- Available in Simulated Mahogany (KR-7-MH), Polished Mahogany

**\$2000.00 or best offer.** For more information contact Michael Hoffenberger [MADORGANIST@COX.NET](mailto:MADORGANIST@COX.NET)

<b>SECCIÓN en ESPAÑOL</b>
---------------------------

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](mailto: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**

**¿Estoy cerrando mi puerta a Dios?**

Esfuércense por entrar por la puerta angosta, porque yo les digo que muchos tratarán de entrar y no lo lograrán.  
Lucas 13:24

ELLA DIJO: “TENGO UN sueño recurrente, sueño que una luz entra a raudales por una puerta abierta; sé que debo cruzar el umbral pero me asusto y me despierto”.

“¿Y cómo te sientes al despertar?”, le pregunté. “Triste. Quiero cruzar la puerta pero siempre hay algo que me frena...”.

La imagen del sueño resumía el camino espiritual de la mujer. De niña había sido sobreprotegida y, aunque ahora tenía más de cincuenta años, todavía no había descubierto el propósito de su vida y no comprendía qué implicaba entablar una relación con Dios.

Cada uno tiene una puerta que lo lleva a sentir la presencia de Dios más plenamente; cada uno también tiene algo que lo frena: una adicción, el deseo de controlar, el miedo, la desconfianza, el egoísmo. Pocos tienen valor para cruzar el umbral; solo con la ayuda de Dios podemos superar todo lo que nos paraliza.

*Tómanos de la mano, oh Señor, y guíanos a tu presencia.*

Elizabeth-Anne Stewart

**Acto de fe**

OH, DIOS MÍO, creo firmemente que eres un solo Dios en tres personas divinas, Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo; creo que tu Hijo divino se hizo hombre y murió por nuestros pecados y que vendrá a juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos. Creo ésta y todas las verdades que la Iglesia católica enseña, porque tú las has revelado y ni engañas ni puedes ser engañado. Amén.