



PASTORAL SHARINGS

Dear Friends,

I should credit my cousin, Mary Frances, for what I share with you in this week's column. A good title would be "*A little bit of Understanding and Forgiveness.*" While my cousin was rear-ended while stopped at an intersection. Getting out of the vehicle she noticed a much shaken young man in his 20's, a college student who reminded her of her son, Matthew. He immediately took ownership of his mistake and offered his apologies. He did not want to contact the insurance company as the dent didn't appear that big and offered to pay for the repair. After Mary left the scene, she realized that all she had was the young man's name, cell phone number and his *verbal* agreement to pay. As she was getting the estimate -\$800- she told her husband and a couple of her fellow teachers about the incident - to which they all had a similar response: "...*kiss that money good by, you'll never hear from him....*" Mary never waivered - perhaps it was her maternal instinct that guided her. Her "*naysayers*" were proven wrong when they found out that the young fellow, did indeed, phone. However, they returned to their "negative camp" after she told the same people that the young man asked to repay her in installments. "*Mary, you're being taken....you'll never see that check.*" No check the first week, none the second. The third week came and not to her surprise, a first installment of \$300 arrived. He would scrape the rest and repay her in full. Mary was impressed with the young man not making excuses for the accident - from the beginning he took ownership for his mistake. So often we think that young people are void of values and responsibility. As my cousin said: "*we sometimes underestimate our young people.*" Mary phoned the young man and after acknowledging receiving the money, she said that she would excuse him from paying the remaining \$500 under one condition. She reminded him that some day someone *will* undoubtedly enter his life, perhaps even in a similar way and that he must "*pay forward*" with his forgiveness. He assured her that he would. He had followed up on his part. Mary told me, that after making her decision, she recalled the Parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:23-32). It's one of the teachings of Jesus on forgiveness - a message she always tried to impart to her own three children. Mary told me that while the bumper was not replaced with \$300, "*The dent reminds me that none of us are perfect. We all make mistakes.*"

A simple story of understanding and forgiveness. Is there someone we need to forgive? Are there "*naysayers*" in our life that might be saying "*don't waste your time or why bother*"? Is there someone in our life that just might need some understanding, as that young man did? Is there someone whose debt we need to forgive? How long must we keep the wall up? How long do we keep the grudge alive? We might all remember the words of author, Alan Paton in *Cry, the Beloved Country*: "*the tragedy is not that things are broken. The tragedy is that they are not mended again.*"

Have a nice week!

“Pope Trivia”

While looking through some church history books, I came across some rather interesting facts about our Popes. We all are familiar with Pope John Paul II, but did you know that, being Polish, he was the first non-Italian to be elected Pope in 450 years?



While most of the past popes have been Italian, there were several German, Greek, Frenchmen, and even one Englishman, Nicholas Breakspear, who became Pope Adrian IV in 1154. While we expect a newly elected pope to change his name, there is no rule, however, that he must do so. In the year 533, Pope John II became the first pope to give up his birth name. (He did so because his birth name was “Mercury”, the name of a pagan god.) The last pope to keep his birth name was Pope Marcellus II, whose given name was Marcello Cervini. This happened in the year 1555. Also popes may resign from their office. In 1294 Pope St. Celestine V shocked everyone by voluntarily resigning from the papacy after only five months on the job. He was an 84 year old hermit when elected, and very quickly realized that he lacked the skills necessary to do his job well. So he issued a constitution declaring the pope’s right to resign. The Cardinals accepted it. Two years later he died and was canonized in the year 1313. It has been said that Pope John Paul II contemplated resigning as his health deteriorated, but he chose not to, leaving everything in God’s hands.



Masses For The Week

Monday, August 24

MARY WILHELM.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, August 25

Special Intentions for
JENN HAY.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, August 26

ROBERT McHUGH.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, August 27

RAY & CARMELA DERBISH.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, August 28

DENNIS O’BRIEN.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, August 29

JOHN ROBERT BRANISH.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

LISA THOMAS.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday, August 30

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

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

TONY FRANCO.....11:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

ROSE MARY LONGO.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

Thought for the Week:

Those who devote their lives to a cause greater than themselves always find a larger, fuller life than the one they remembered.

Wilbert E. Scheer



Not Catholic? Seeking a Deeper Relationship with God?

If so, you’re invited to Nativity’s Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program, beginning Monday, September 14, 2009, at 7:00 pm, in the “Green Room” at the back of the Church. RCIA, the way of forming new disciples of Jesus as new members of the Catholic Church, features instruction, prayer, group discussion and spiritual events designed to facilitate your journey of faith. RCIA is open to –

- those who have not been baptized;
- Christians baptized into another faith;
- adult baptized Catholics who have not been confirmed; and
- others who want to learn more about the Catholic faith.

For more information, contact the Church office at (703) 455-2400, send an e-mail to Ron Riggins at rjiggins@cox.net or pick up an RCIA brochure at the back of the Church.

Gratitude is a shortcut to holiness.

Sister Ida

Engaging Spirituality Introductory Session Scheduled

A 45- minute Introductory session for **Engaging Spirituality** will be held at 7:30 pm August 26 in the Green Room at the back of the Church. **Engaging Spirituality** includes 21 weekly sessions starting in late September 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 is available 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.

Is Your Marriage in Trouble? Retrouvaille can help!

Please call (703-351-7211) or visit

www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

If we really want to be compassionate, then help give the mother the opportunity to choose life for her child. If we really love the mother who has an unwanted pregnancy, then don't let her be exploited by an abortionist, who will make a profit from her dead baby. That memory will haunt her for the rest of her life. Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.

Are you suffering from an abortion experience?

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

The Columbiettes, the Ladies' Auxiliary for the Father Diamond Council Knights of Columbus,

is hosting a craft fair at St. Leo's Church on Saturday October 17, 2009. We are now accepting registrations from vendors interested in renting booth space for this fair. Please contact Linda Baringhaus at 703-385-9455 or columbiettes6292@yahoo.com for registration information.

**THE WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENTS
ARE COMING SOON!**

**Women of Nativity will be holding their
annual fundraiser September**

12,13,19,20. The ornament this year

features the

Presidency of Grover Cleveland.

The cost of each ornament will remain \$19.00 ~

Payable in cash or check.

**Start making your list today--we'll see you in
September.**

Questions: Contact Bonnie Laurich - 703-455-3694

or

Kathy Dillon - 703-866-1306.

Thank you for your continued support of WON.

**Altar Flowers**

**In Celebration of Parent's
Joe and Sarah Ferraro Anniversary**

From

Loretta Scott

And

In Loving Memory of Olcay and Ed Nawrocki

From

The Matthews Family



Celebrating a Silver or Golden Wedding Anniversary this year? Were you

married in 1959 or 1984? Then join

Bishop Loverde for the 2009 Marriage

Jubilee Mass to be celebrated on Sunday, October

25th at 2:30pm at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More.

Contact the parish office (703-455-2400) to register no later than September 25th. For more information, visit

www.arlingtondiocese.org/familyvlife/MJM.php

An Evening of Praise and Worship, Saturday, September 5th from 7:00 to 8:30pm. St Leo the Great in Fairfax; 3700 Old Lee Highway.

ARLINGTON DIOCESE MISSION FAIR***All ARE WELCOME!***

The first Arlington Diocese Mission Fair will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2009 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. James Catholic Church in Falls Church, Virginia. Parishes from across the Diocese will be represented at this day-long event. Guest speakers, workshops and exhibits will focus attention on the mission work of the Arlington Diocese. Clergy, religious and lay leaders will gather to teach best practices, share experiences and learn from each other, in an effort to affirm and encourage the Gospel call to engagement with the poor. Theresa Patterson, Executive Director of the Parish Twinning Program of the Americas, will give a keynote address.

Hosted by the Pontifical Mission Societies, this day will highlight the work currently being done by Arlington Diocese churches in poor countries across the globe. The event will also provide opportunities for parishes and individuals to get involved in mission work. Catholic Relief Services, Food For The Poor and other organizations will be on hand.

Workshops will include:

“Best Practices in Mission Work”

“Revitalizing Your Mission Work”

“A new Website to Support Your Mission”

“Mission Boot Camp”

“Involving Young People in Mission Work”

“How One Person Can Make a Difference”

According to Fr. Patrick Posey, Diocesan Director, Pontifical Mission Societies, “We are planning a day of practical guidance and spiritual inspiration for all those who want to share what they are now doing to serve the poor of the world and those who are looking for opportunities to get involved. All are welcome!”

For more information on the Mission Fair and to register online, go to www.arlington.pontificalmissionsocieties.info/register, or call 703-221-4312

FALL THEOLOGY COURSES at CHRISTENDOM GRADUATE SCHOOL

Registration is underway for the fall semester (Sept.8-Dec.19) at Christendom College’s Notre Dame Graduate School. At our convenient Alexandria campus (on Queen of Apostles Parish grounds) we are offering 11 courses, most of them on weekday evenings: Philosophy of God and Man, Old Testament, Montessori Catechesis and Family Spirituality, Holy Spirit/Ecclesiology, God the Father, Introduction to Theology, challenges Facing the Contemporary Church, Sexual Ethics, Patristics, Catechetical Norms and Methods, and Recent & Contemporary Spiritual Classics. At St. Mary’s Parish in Fredericksburg, we are offering Old Testament on Tuesday evenings. We also have 4 catechetics courses on line! Both degree-seeking and casual students are welcome on either a part-time or full-time basis. Low tuition rates and discounts available. For more information call 703-658-4304, email NDGS@Christendom.edu or visit www.christendom.edu/grad.

College Students going to Liberty University?

St. Thomas More Parish is your parish home-away-from-home while you are at Liberty University. Contact us with your address and e-mail, so we can let you know about us. St. Thomas More Catholic Church, 3015 Roundelay Rd., Lynchburg, VA 24502. Phone number: 434-237-5911. E-mail: info@stmva.com Website: www.stmva.com

MOTHER’S GROUP.... Mom & Me is a cooperative organization of mothers of young 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 or Magda Lee Ungerecht at magdalee@yahoo.com

CHURCH FESTIVALS

Good Shepherd Church 34th International Festival

Labor Day, September 7, 2009 12:30pm to 6:00pm
 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, Alexandria 22309
 Games, white elephant sale, live entertainment, bake sale, international food and more! Proceeds benefit local charities. Free admission (tickets required for some activities). Call 703-780-4055 or visit www.gs-cc.org for more information.

Holy Family Catholic Church is hosting their annual Family Fall Festival 2009!! Friday, September 11 from 6-11pm and Saturday, September 12 from 4-11pm. Lots of international foods, music, entertainment, games and prizes for everyone. Holy Family is located at 14160 Ferndale Rd., Dale City, VA 22193

Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church 35th Annual Slavic American Festival

Sunday, September 13, 2009 Noon to 6:30pm.
 3410 Woodburn Road, Annandale, VA 22003
 Traditional Slavic foods: holupki, pirohi, kolbasi, haluski, potato pancakes; John Stevens' Doubleshot Band from NE PA; Children's rides and games, Religious art & craft sale; Slavic art & crafts sale; Bake sale; Rummage sale; Bingo; Raffles; Cold refreshments and more. For more info call 703-573-3986 or visit www.epiphanyofourlord.org.

The Columbiettes, the Ladies' Auxiliary for the Fr. Diamond Council Knights of Columbus, is hosting a craft fair at St. Leo's church on Saturday October 17, 2009. We are now accepting registrations from vendors interested in renting booth space for this fair. Please contact Linda Baringhaus at 703-385-9455 or columbiettes6292@yahoo.com for registration information

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to offering support, compassion, information, resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers offer comfort and support while helping people cope with feeling of fear, loneliness and a host of other emotions associated with grief. **To become a Haven volunteer:** **1.** Attend an orientation to acquaint yourself with the purposes of Haven. To register for orientation, call 703-941-7000. **2.** Attend a 30-hour training course. **3.** Commit to one year of service answering Haven's phones (a minimum of 2.5 hours weekly.)

Mary succeeded where Eve failed.
 Venerable Blessed John Henry Newman

**THE WEEK AHEAD
 IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, August 23

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

Monday, August 24

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

Tuesday, August 25

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

Wednesday, August 26

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

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

Thursday, August 27

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

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

7:30 pm.....Baptism Class (SL)

Saturday, August 29

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

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

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

LOOKING FOR A LASTING BEAUTY TREATMENT?

Come with a friend (or better yet nine friends!) to the Phases of Womanhood Afternoon Tea and hear Lisa Brenninkmeyer, founder of the Catholic Bible study Walking With Purpose, share her insights on becoming beautiful in the eyes of God. Join us Sunday, September 20, 2009, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Reston. Cost is \$45.00 per person or \$425 for a table of ten. Register online at www.phasesofwomanhood.org or call 703-378-2660 for more information. Hurry! Space is limited.

More unwritten laws of life:

Law of Logical Argument: Anything is possible if you don't know what you are talking about.

Law of the Theater: At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

Law of the Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will.

Taken from St. Clement Church Bulletin
 Rockaway Township, NJ