



Dear Parishioners,

I received my theology training from the Benedictine Monks in Cullman, Alabama. The Benedictine Sisters were across the road. Having said this, I read with sadness of the death of Benedictine Sister Denise Mosier. Sister Denise, 66, was killed August 1st. The vehicle she and two other Nuns were riding in was hit, head-on, by an alleged drunk driver. They were just six miles from St. Benedict's Monastery, in nearby Bristow, where they were to begin their annual retreat. Sister Charlotte and Sister Connie Ruth, both in their 70's, remain in critical condition in Fairfax Hospital. Sister Cecilia, Prioress, echoed forgiveness and compassion in her statement to the press: "*We all know Sister Denise would have been the first to forgive, not excuse, but forgive, and would have done so with compassion.*" The parents of the 23 year old driver came to the Monastery to offer their sympathy and condolences to the Sisters for what their son had done. As I read about the actions of both the Sisters and the parents in the local paper, I wondered how many of us could have done the same?

As I was thinking of Christian forgiveness, I also recalled the Amish response to the Nickel Mines tragedy four years ago in nearby Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In a small one room school house, a young father killed five children and injured five others before taking his own life. The Amish folks, devastated by this tragedy, attended the funeral of the killer, contributed money for his young family and offered forgiveness. Their mourning was without anger. Even though their wounds will last a lifetime, the Amish offered their forgiveness. While all Christians praise the Gospel of the Prodigal Son, the Amish made it a practical test of their faith.

While these two dramatic cases illustrate forgiveness, I often wonder why it is so difficult for many to offer forgiveness for minor hurts caused by others? Why is forgiveness so difficult? Forgiveness doesn't imply "*excusing*" what the other has done, as Sister Cecilia said in her statement. It doesn't even imply forgetting the hurt caused by the other or pretending that it didn't actually happen. I wonder why we are one of the only countries in the civilized world that sees no problem with the death penalty. While I support fully the pro-life movement, it seems a contradiction that one can be against killing of the unborn baby and cry out in favor of capital punishment. Do we forget the words of Jesus on His cross: "*Father forgive them.*" So often we can forget the words of the Lord's Prayer: "*Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.*" The second part of that petition involves courage, good will and above all faith. We come up with all sorts of reasons why we don't forgive, for the most part, minor infractions of others: "*He (she) started it*", "*It's his (her) fault, not mine*", "*She (he) should come to me first*", "*I'll never forgive her (him).*" We can easily forget that forgiveness is a letting go of the past sufferings and pain that we carry. Whenever we forgive we free ourselves from the past. Recall the dialogue of two former prisoners of the Vietnam War as recorded in *The Art of Forgiveness* by Jack Kornfield:

*"Have you forgiven your captives yet? No Never!
Well, then, they still have you in prison, don't they?
We begin the work of forgiveness primarily for ourselves."*

Every funeral that I celebrate I am reminded just how short life really is. If there is someone we need to go out to and offer forgiveness to, let us do it now and be just as quick to accept the apology of another as well. Really life is very short!

Have a nice week!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Saints & Feast Days

For the past two weeks we have been learning about some of the well-known saints in our Church. In gathering the material for those columns, some interesting facts came to light. For example at one time, centuries ago, almost every day of the calendar honored one saint or another – some days even honored more than one. Many of the feast days were for saints that were known only in a small geographic area. Things were truly getting out of hand, so in 1570 AD, Pope Pius V revised the church calendar, cutting the number of saints and feast days down to 158. But then gradually over time, the numbers increased again and by the early twentieth century, over 300 saints had special feast days. No wonder then, that the Second Vatican Council revised the church calendar one more time. The new official calendar in 1969 retained for the universal church only those feasts that honored individuals who had a special meaning for the entire Church. Even so the number is significant with there being a patron saint for every parish, diocese, religious community and institution. Also, most cities and towns with a Catholic population have a patron saint. (And even now new individuals are being canonized each year and more feast days are being added to the calendar.) Many Catholic countries and cities honor their patron saint by public liturgical celebrations. The patron saint of the United States of America is Our Blessed Mother. We honor her on her special day, The Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th.



Monday, August 30

Theresa Easley.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, August 31

Gertrude Pellegrino.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, September 1

Larry Brown.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, September 2

Nash O. Thompson III.....7:30am - Fr. Korpi

Friday, September 3

Maureen McHugh.....7:30am - Fr. Korpi

Saturday, September 4

Samuel Jackson.....9:00am - Fr. Korpi

Parishioners.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

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

Sunday, September 5

Louise Oliver.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Joan Dilbeck.....9:00am - Fr. Daniel

Scott Smart.....11:00am - Fr. Daniel

Ferdinand & Ileana Ferrer.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

Food for ECHO and the POOR CLARE SISTERS

The monthly food collection will take place next Sunday, September 5th. Please bring non-perishable foods to the foyer of the church. In this time of need, food pantries are being rapidly depleted. Canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, dry products (cereal, pasta, pancake mix, etc.), pancake syrup, vegetable oil, tuna helper, powdered milk, crackers, concentrated juices, quick oats are much need items. Thank you!



The Altar Flowers this weekend are given
In Loving Memory of Andres Paredes
from
The Paredes Family



ATTENTION

The Religious Education Program has an **URGENT NEED** for teachers and assistant teachers. **Call 703-455-0372 to volunteer, send an email to 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 was previously submitted). 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.

PRAY THE ROSARY FOR PEACE



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday, September 3, 2010 after the 7:30 am Mass. Adoration will be in the Church until 11:00 am when there will be the closing of Exposition with Benediction. Come and spend some time with Our Lord!

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 at (703-455-2400).

SHARING HOPE...No meeting on September 3rd due to Labor Day Weekend

Thought for the Week

“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.”

From a headstone in Ireland



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.

“An attentive ear is the desire of the wise.” Is your prayer attentive to the wisdom of Christ? Is He inviting you to follow Him as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? Call Father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514 or write b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org.

PRO-LIFE CORNER



Each day in America nearly 4,000 babies die a painful death from surgical abortion simply because they are "inconvenient" or "unwanted". We as followers of Christ are called to be the light of the world. Let's speak out in defense of God's unborn babies. They have no voice but yours.

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 pregnancy resource center can be found at 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 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 rriggins@cox.net.

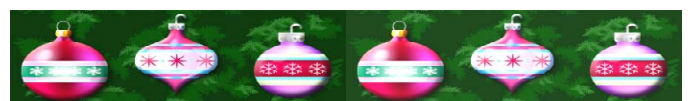
2010 White House Ornament Sale

This is a favorite keepsake, that features the Presidency of William McKinley.

This year's ornament is very pretty and Patriotic! The cost will be \$20.00 for each Ornament—we accept checks or cash only.

Checks are to be made out to Church of Nativity.

The Women of Nativity will be available for Sales September 11-12-18-19 between the hours of 8AM-1PM on Sunday and also on Saturday before and after 5PM Mass. Proceeds allow the Women of Nativity to assist local families and charities, as well as victims of natural disasters, in the name of "Nativity". We look forward to seeing you in front of the Church. As always we appreciate your continue support of our only fundraiser!



JustFaith Questions

English poet William Wordsworth wrote, “The world is too much with us; late and soon, / Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers: Little we see in Nature that is ours; / We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!” If the world is too much with you, and you are looking for a place to reclaim the power of your faith, then check out **JustFaith**. During each of the thirty weekly sessions, **JustFaith** can create a place for you to reclaim the heart of your faith—loving God and loving your neighbors all over the world—in a new and meaningful way. Find out what you are called to do through reflection, study, prayer and community by participating in the **JustFaith** program. 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.

Remember to pray for our military in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world and their families.

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

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Monday, August 30

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

Wednesday, September 1

7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)

7:00 pm.....RCIA Meeting (GR)

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

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

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

Thursday, September 2

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

7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

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

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

Friday, September 3

8:00 am.....Exposition of Blessed Sacrament (CH)

11:15 am.....Exposition of Blessed Sacrament Closing (CH)

Saturday, September 4

9:30 am.....First Saturday Devotion (CH)

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

11:00 am.....ESL Teachers’ Meeting (SL)



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 at 2:00 p.m. Nativity Church, All-Purpose Room.

ORDER MULCH FOR YOUR GARDEN, LAWN, and TREES!

The Bishop Ireton High School Crew Team's semi-annual Mulch Sale is under way!! Top-quality shredded hardwood mulch comes in large, 3 cubic ft. bags at \$6 per bag. Delivery for orders of 10 or more bags is scheduled for Sunday, October 3, 2010.

All orders of **10 or more bags of premium mulch** include **FREE DELIVERY** by our own rowers! And, ALL proceeds benefit our student-athletes!

Questions? E mail: bi.crew@yahoo.com Contact Karen Czarnecki at 202/494-0659, or kmc3inva@yahoo.com.

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

Quando des un banquete, invita más bien a los pobres, a los inválidos, a los cojos y a ciegos. Lucas 14:13

AL HABERME CRIADO EN UNA sociedad estratificada, soy consciente de la importancia de la lista de invitados y lo que dicha lista refleja sobre la posición social del anfitrión . La presencia o ausencia de ciertos individuos puede “opacar” o “realzar” una fiesta. El señor aburrido de bigotes estilo Dalí arregla su corbata de moño y no le aporta nada a la fiesta más que su linaje; la mujer maquillada de peinado almidonado y sonrisa falsa habla fuerte de los logros de su esposo. Este tipo de invitados supuestamente convierten la fiesta en un “éxito” más que en un acontecimiento placentero.

Las cosas son muy diferentes en el banquete de Dios. Aquí todos están invitados, sin importar su profesión, riqueza, genealogía y demás; aquí se puede ser pobre, sin techo, indocumentado, desempleado, mayor o discapacitado. Lo que refleja esta lista de invitados es que Dios incluye a todos: nada de lo que podamos llevar a la mesa aumentará o disminuirá el amor de Dios; ni podemos devolverle la hospitalidad a Dios. Nuestra única obligación es asistir.

Elizabeth-Anne Stewart

Sirácides 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Salmo 68:4-7, 10-11; Hebreos 12:18-19, 22-24; Lucas 14:1, 7-14

Comida para ECHO y las Hermanas Clarisas



La colección mensual de comida se llevará a cabo el próximo domingo, (septiembre 5). Por favor traigan comidas no perecederas a la entrada de la iglesia. En estos momentos de tanta necesidad, las despensas de las caridades locales se están vaciando rápidamente. Los productos muy necesitados son frutas y vegetales en lata, carne enlatada, productos secos (cereals, pasta, harina de panquekes, etc.) sirope de panquekes, aceite de vegetal, pasta para mezclar con atún (tuna helper), leche en polvo, galletas, jugos concentrados y avena instantánea. ECHO también acepta pequeños aparatos eléctricos tales como tostadoras, licuadoras, lámparas de mesa, cazuelas y sartenes, microhondas, y ropa nueva o usada. Para mas información tome un folleto de los estantes al lado de la sacristía o llame 703-569-9160. El Centro ECHO está en calle Old Keene Mill Road, número7205. Gracias!