



## PASTORAL SHARINGS

Dear Friends,

I returned to the office this past Tuesday after spending four days in Rhode Island. My brother, Jack, and sister-in-law, Patti, were in Seattle visiting their son, Eric, so the summer R. I. cabin on the ocean was empty. The extended weather forecast was for rain, although not a drop fell, probably because I packed my umbrella and rain gear. The morning fog burned off by noon and returned in the early evening. One of the highlights was watching the over 12 foot waves from Hurricane Bob which brushed the east coast. I have always had a great love of the sea with its ever changing moods. I find that I can do my best thinking and writing just sitting on the sand of an isolated beach. That is how I spent most of the time. My sister, Madeleine, will often tease me about my love for solitude, quiet and space. I never was that way as a youngster or as a young priest. Shepherding the fourth largest parish in the Diocese, with 350 children in the school, 1500 in CCD, and some 50 organizations, I find quiet time and reflection not only necessary, but almost mandatory for my well being. I remember shortly after Dad died walking alone by the ocean just reflecting. It was like a refuge. While at the beach, I read *Blessings by the Sea* by Charles Wysocki. How well I can relate to the words on the back cover:

*“Follow your heart to the ocean’s comforting shore. There embraced by the ebb and flow of the sea, immerse yourself in the many blessings That rise on the waves and return again and again to refresh your spirit.”*

The ocean has always been a place for me to reflect on God, His creation and just put things into perspective. Perhaps it’s my age, but I often wonder why some people have such difficulty with quiet time. I recall a trip I made to Ambergis Cay in Belize, Central America. Ambergis Cay is a small island with only three sand streets appropriately named Front, Middle and Back. Sitting on a quiet dock watching the lapping waves, I was joined by two women who came and sat near me with their boom box – high volume. I have an Ipod, but much prefer the sounds of the ocean and the seagulls crowing above me when I am sitting on a beach. I have met more than a few people who seem to need noise to get through a day. We turn the TV on and leave it on. I am not suggesting that we just shut all of our windows of life, but closing them occasionally can help to renew our spirit. And that is what I did for four days. Now with teachers back this week and our school children returning Monday, I am back in the real world. It was a nice escape to return back to my roots and to the Ocean State if only for a few days. I hope all of you enjoyed your summer and were able to renew your spirit. It is something that we all need.

*“Every man’s memory is his private literature.”* (Aldous Huxley)

Have a nice week!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Martin".

**“SOMEONE ELSE”**

As Labor Day approaches and a new school year begins, numerous parish and school organizations are seeking new volunteers and members. With that in mind, this article seems to be most appropriate:



“Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else. Someone’s passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person’s share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone’s list - ‘Let Someone Else do it.’ Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. ‘Someone Else can work with that group.’ It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference. Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did? When you are asked to help this year, remember – we can’t depend on Someone Else anymore.”

Anonymous



Masses For The Week

Monday, August 31

JOE, DICK, JOHN & TONY TALARICO.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, September 1

EDNA & DON VALENTINE.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, September 2

NASH O. THOMPSON, III.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, September 3

PAUL GOULD & BEN STEVENS.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, September 4

ROSE & PANCRAZIO TALARICO.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, September 5

JAMES B. PERSKE.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

ROBERT SAALE.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday, September 6

PARISHIONERS.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

MARION HUGHES.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

JAMES TIDWELL.....11:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

AL D’IMPERIO.....12:45pm - Fr. O’Keefe



Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday, September 4th in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, located adjacent to the vestibule of the Church. Adoration begins after the 7:30am Mass and continues until 1:30pm, closing with Benediction. Come and spend some private time with our dear Lord!

Thought for the Week:

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.  
Irene Lagan

**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 & Third Thursday of each month** and is open to all adults at no charge. Prior registration is not required. Contact Carol Mack for more information 703-455-2400, ext. 117



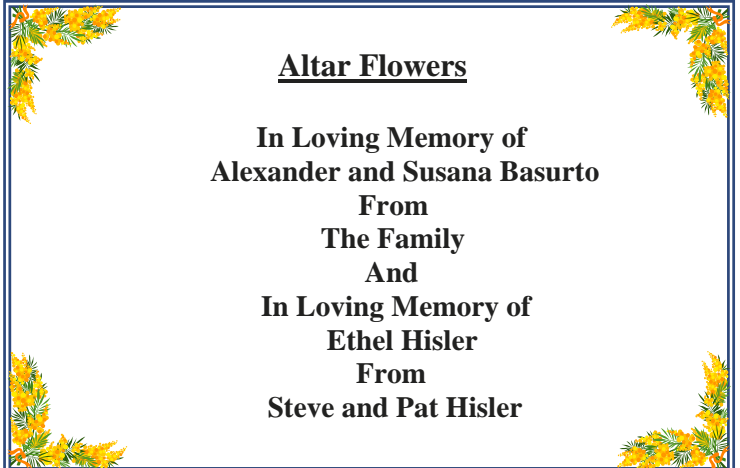
**Food collection for ECHO and the POOR**

**CLARE SISTERS.....**The monthly food collection will take place next Sunday, September 6th.

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. ECHO also accepts small appliances such as toasters, blenders, table lamps, pots and pans, microwaves, new and used clothing. For more information pick up a brochure in the bookrack by the sacristy or call 703-569-9160. ECHO Center is located at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road.

Altar Flowers

In Loving Memory of  
**Alexander and Susana Basurto**  
From  
The Family  
And  
In Loving Memory of  
Ethel Hisler  
From  
Steve and Pat Hisler



**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.

We must unite as the body of Christ to fight the greatest evil of our day, abortion. To build a culture of life, we must start with prayer. Please join the worldwide **“Pray to End Abortion”** cause on facebook, at [www.ProLifePrayers.org](http://www.ProLifePrayers.org). Be part of the largest prayer group in history!

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**



There are laws against rape, burglary, armed robbery and illegal drug activity, yet every one of these crimes continues to happen in our society. Does the fact that these crimes still happen inspire us to make them legal? Clearly not! Laws legalizing abortion have significantly influenced whether women choose to have abortions.

**A WOMAN’S CHOICE** is a Crisis Pregnancy 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 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

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**



The Religious Education Program has an **URGENT NEED** for Catechists in the positions listed in the table below. Also, assistants are needed in various grades and times. Call 703-455-0372 to volunteer, or email: [www.nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org](mailto:www.nativity.ccd@nativityschool.org), or simply drop by the Religious Education Office.

Grade	Day	Time
2 (First Holy Communion)	Mondays	4:00-5:15pm
2 (First Holy Communion)	Tuesdays	4:30-5:45pm
5	Tuesdays	4:30-5:45pm
5	Tuesdays	7:00-8:15pm
7	Tuesdays	7:00-8:15pm
8 (Confirmation)	Sundays	2:00-3:15pm

Students must be enrolled in the Religious Education Program by August 31, to attend classes during the first week on September 20, 21, and 22.

Students enrolled after August 31, begin classes on September 27, 28, and 29.

Student Registration forms should be turned in to the Religious Education Office along with the 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.

**All Catechists and Assistants should attend the Orientation Meeting on September 13, at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.** This is a very important information meeting regarding the Religious Education school year.

**On Your Own Schedule**



Most of Nativity's food ministries operate on specific days. However, one called **NO HANDS BUT YOURS** operates every day. A Nativity parishioner serves coffee and food each day to poor and homeless individuals standing in two locations in Virginia. Contributions of sandwiches, hard-boiled eggs and cookies from fellow Nativity parishioners are always welcome. For more information, please contact Manuel Ponciano, by email at [manuelmar10@yahoo.com](mailto:manuelmar10@yahoo.com), or by phone at 703-939-0123 or 202-262-6659. The name of the ministry calls to mind the first sentence of a prayer attributed to St. Teresa of Avila: “Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours.”

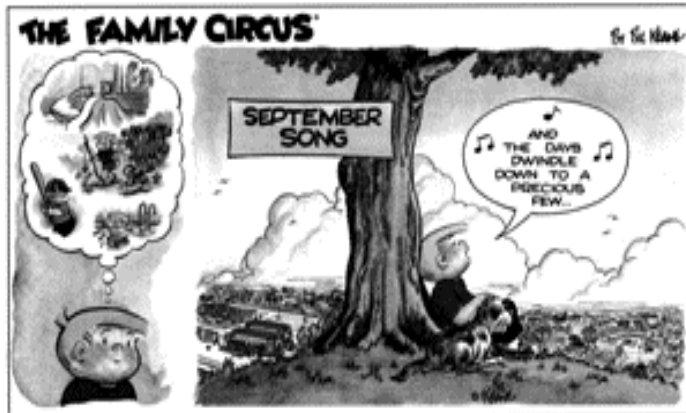
### FALL THEOLOGY COURSES at CHRISTENDOM GRADUATE SCHOOL

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](mailto:NDGS@Christendom.edu) or visit [www.christendom.edu/grad](http://www.christendom.edu/grad).

### Mother's Group

The Mom & Me Group invites you to join us on Wednesdays from 10:00 am - 11:30 am at the Church of the Nativity's All Purpose Room. Mom & Me is a cooperative organization of mothers of young children who meet weekly for socialization and service in a Catholic faith environment. Most kids are birth through preschool age. For more information, please contact Kate O'Connor at [k8connor@gmail.com](mailto:k8connor@gmail.com) or (703) 923-9739.

**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.)



### Flu Shot Clinic at Church of the Nativity Saturday October 3rd and Sunday the 4th



The flu season is just around the corner and we are trying to do what we can to show our parishioners and extended community that we care about their health and well being! We have coordinated a flu shot clinic for anyone who is eighteen years and older on Saturday October 3rd from 5:00 pm. - 8:30 pm. and on Sunday October 4th from 7:00 am. - 1:30 pm. Flu shots will be given during Mass times. The price of the flu shot is \$24.50 and the vendor conducting the clinic accepts Credit, debit cards and cash as a method of payment. Personal checks will not be accepted. This event is open to all Church of the Nativity parishioners, their friends, neighbors and the Burke community as a whole! If you have any questions about the seasonal flu and or H1N1 please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/> for more details about symptoms and prevention.



### Wondering if You Are Being Called to the Catholic Church?

If yes, we invite you to come and see. Nativity's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program, begins Monday, September 14, 2009, at 7:00 pm, in the "Green Room" at the back of the Church. RCIA is the way of forming new disciples of Jesus and preparing you for membership in the Catholic Church. Nativity's RCIA program offers in depth teachings and group discussion about the Catholic while you deepen your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. 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 [riggins@cox.net](mailto:riggins@cox.net) or pick up an RCIA brochure at the back of the Church.

Repentance...is a medicine to trespasses, a destruction to lawlessness, an end to tears, courage before God, a weapon against the devil, a knife that decapitates his head, the hope of salvation, the abolishment of despair.

Saint John Chrysostom

**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](http://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.epiphanyoffourlord.org](http://www.epiphanyoffourlord.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](mailto:columbiettes6292@yahoo.com) for registration information

**NAPOLEON BONAPARTE & THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA:**

**The Making of Modern Europe**  
Brendan McGuire, PhD (cand)  
Thursdays, September 10 & 17 @7:30 pm  
EVENT LOCATION:  
Saint Ann Catholic Church  
5312 N. 10th Street  
Arlington, VA 22205

No matter how you used yesterday, you received 24 hours today. Author Unknown

**THE WEEK AHEAD  
IN OUR PARISH**

**Sunday, August 30**

**Monday, August 31**

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

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

**Tuesday, September 1**

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

**Wednesday, September 2**

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

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

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

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

**Thursday, September 3**

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

7:00 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

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

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

7:30 pm.....Venture crew (RM. 4)

**Friday, September 4**

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

1:30 pm.....Blessed Sacrament Expo. Closing (CH)

7:00 pm.....Prayer and Life Workshop (RM. 8)

**Saturday, September 5**

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

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

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

10:00 am.....ESL Classes (SL)

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](http://www.phasesofwomanhood.org) or call 703-378-2660 for more information. Hurry! Space is limited.

In the sacrament of the altar, the Lord meets us, men and women created in God's image and likeness (cf. Gen. 1:27) and becomes our companion along the way.

**Pope Benedict XVI**