



Dear Friends,

When I was home in Rhode Island last month, I was able to reconnect with my friend, Charlie, whom I hadn't seen in a couple of years. We did our original seminary studies together and were ordained together in 1966. He served in the Providence Diocese and I came to the Richmond Diocese. Whenever Charlie and I get together, even if we haven't seen each other for years—we both seem to just pick up from where we had left off. Oftentimes, we just regale in stories from college seminary days. This past week I reconnected with another friend from college seminary days, John, who left the seminary after college and now is a permanent Deacon at St. Margaret's Church in Rumford, Rhode Island. I have always admired his vocation as husband and father. John's wife, Marilyn, died suddenly after being married for only nine years. He single-handedly raised his three sons, Christopher, Timothy and Jeremy. After living his vocation of parent and father he studied for the Diaconate. Charlie, John and I have shared a deep friendship together for some 51 years. We have shared the joyous as well as the sad events of each others lives. They are always there whenever I need them and me for them, even though we don't see each other that often. Our deep enduring friendship reminds me of the words of Elizabeth Foley: "The most beautiful discovery true friends make is that they can grow separately without growing apart" (Bits and Pieces). We all have grown separately in Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Virginia, yet we just pick up from where we last left off. Each day that I look at the plaque on my bookshelf the words become so much more meaningful: "*The best things in life are not things.*" Friendship is one of those *best things*. We all need good friends - even Scripture mentions the close friends of Jesus - John the Apostle, as well as Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

Family is most important to me, as you well know from my mentioning them in homilies. Being some 400 miles from home, friends become my adopted family, as I'm sure many of you can identify with, being "transplants" yourselves. This summer my vacation was just a few days back home, but one of the highlights of my summer was sharing a drink, a meal and good conversation and above all hearty laughter with my two close friends of 51 years.

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*"My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me." (Henry Ford)*

*"Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down." (Oprah Winfrey)*

*"A friend is somebody you can be quiet with." (Bits and Pieces)*

*"Friendship is like a bank account. You can't continue to draw on it without making deposits." (Bits and Pieces)*

*"The reason dogs have so many friends is because they wag their tails and not their tongues." (Bits and Pieces)*

Have a nice week!

This weekend, our country celebrates “Labor Day”, a civil holiday which honors honest work and workers. Ironically, the Gospel read on this day tells of how Jesus upsets the scribes and Pharisees because he heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, which was to be a day of rest. By this “labor” Jesus was pointing out to his enemies, their false ideas of keeping holy the Sabbath. While our celebration of Labor Day has nothing to do with honoring the Third Commandment, it did start me thinking of how society treats Sunday and what has happened to it as a “day of rest”. When the early Christian writers interpreted the Third Commandment, they counseled abstinence from activity on Sunday as a way of keeping the day holy. A church discipline enforcing Sunday rest became common as a result of their writings. In 589, the Council of Narbonne called for severe punishment, including whipping, for anyone who worked on Sunday. Years later, this rule eventually crossed over into universal church law. While there never was a specific list of the kind of work that was forbidden on Sunday, it was understood that it was work that was unnecessary, or which kept one from attending Mass. In the sixteenth century, it was described as hard physical labor. “Sinful activities” were interpreted as common forms of recreation or leisure activities. Years later, in some Protestant countries, especially England and Scotland, it included all frivolous behavior. This thinking came to America in the 1600’s with the Puritans. In 1781 in Connecticut, laws were published curtailing or forbidding certain activities on Sunday, such as athletic events and liquor sales. These laws were known as “blue laws” because of the paper they were bound in. Many of these have only recently been done away with, and in fact some are probably still on the books in various areas of our country. Nowadays, our activities on a Sunday include everything from running errands to catching up on chores. Hopefully, in all our activities we can keep in mind the true meaning of honoring God and “keeping holy the Lord’s Day”.



Monday, September 7

MRS. JANE BROWN.....9:00am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, September 8

MARGARITA LEGASPI BALINTONA.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, September 9

GEORGE ECONOMY.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, September 10

SHERRY BRYANT'S FATHER.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, September 11

Special Intentions of

“MOM” MARTIN.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, September 12

ALLISON McCLAY.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

ROBERT C. BLACK.....5:00pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Sunday, September 13

CONNIE E. BOURGEOIS.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

PAUL BUCHER.....9:00am - Fr. Martin

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

ROSE CARILLO.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

**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 7:00pm, 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 faith while you are deepen your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. RCIA is open to.....

1. Those who have not been baptized;
2. Christians baptized into another faith;
3. Adult baptized Catholics who have not been confirmed; and
4. Others who want to learn more about the Catholic faith.

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

**Nativity Catholic School**



Nativity Catholic School is still accepting enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year. In 2009 Nativity School was awarded the Blue Ribbon of Excellence. Please inquire in the school office or call Amor Paulson at 703-455-2300, ext. 119 for more information.

**Thought for the Week:**

If you have fun at your job, I think you’re going to be more effective.

Meg Whitman

**Altar Flowers**



**In Loving Memory of  
The Hynes and Radican Families  
From  
Edward and Eleanor Radican  
And  
For Delores Prozzillo  
From  
DuAnn Best**

**White House Ornaments have arrived**

The Women of Nativity will have the Ornaments available to you on September 12, 13, 19 and 20. The cost remains \$19.00 for each ornament. Stop by our table with your list and either cash or checks. Checks are to be made out to: Church of Nativity. The white House Ornaments continue to be a favorite keepsake and a treasured gift for friends and family. Thanks for your support of WON! See you next weekend.

**IN THE BEGINNING: A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF GENESIS**

Sabatino Carnazzo, MA

Tuesdays, Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6 &amp; 13 @ 7:30 PM

**EVENT LOCATION: CHANGE**

Holy Transfiguration Greek-Catholic Church  
8501 Lewinsville Road, Mclean VA 22102

Free Admission! No Reservations Required!

FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.SJICC.COM](http://WWW.SJICC.COM) OR  
CALL 703.504.8733

**PRO-LIFE CORNER**

Eight years ago on 9/11/2001, in New York City, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon, we lost almost 3000 citizens due to terrorists and we as a nation still feel the pain. Our prayers go out to all those who continue to suffer. But here is another sad statistic: the loss of future citizens due to surgical abortions since 1973 in America is equal to the total population of New York City five times over! Let us never forget!

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 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**

**No child should be left behind!** Some classes may have to be cancelled due to the lack of teachers. The CHILDREN of Nativity NEED YOUR HELP!! **Catechists are needed for grade 2 (First Holy Communion) on Mondays (4:00-5:15) and Tuesdays 4:30-5:45). Assistants are also needed for various classes.**



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.

Students registered by August 31, begin Religious Education classes on September 20, 21, and 22. On the first day of class, students should report to the Parish Hall to meet their teachers and be escorted to their classrooms.

**Students registered after August 31, start classes on September 27, 28, and 29.**

**Catechists and assistants** are to attend a very important Orientation Meeting on Sunday, September 13, at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.

**All Religious Education Program Volunteers** will be commissioned at Nativity's 9:00am Mass on Catechetical Sunday, September 20.

**To register your child for Religious Education classes, submit a completed Student Registration form with payment and a copy of the baptismal certificate,** (unless a certificate copy is already on file in the Religious Education Office). For further information call 703-455-0372.

**Newly Baptized**

**Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we joyfully welcome into the Church:**

Arianna Rae Gipson, Naomi Christina Scherber, Kiara Ayelen Conca, Fabianna Mackeyla Velarde, William Thomas Waugh, Virginia Elizabeth Janet Waugh, Cassandra Vidallon Fabi, Mon Rafael Bondoc Montejo Tanner Anthony Fearson, Allison Renee Rozier, Liam Randall Finley, Alexandra Dare Weatherly, Chrisitan Omar Larrain


**Thank you** to all who made either food or monetary donations to help **Food for Others**. My food drive brought in 1,211 food items which came to weigh 1,415 pounds worth of food! Thank you again for your generosity.



Emily Horton

**PRAYER SHAWL MEETING....**The next evening meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 16th at 7:00pm in the APR. The daytime meeting will take place on Monday, September 21st at 9:30am in the APR. Come and bring your project to work on or learn how to make a prayer shawl for someone who is seriously ill. For more information call Toni Rausch, 703-455-3260; Flo Grike, 703-250-7799 or Joanne Dezzutti, 703-455-5702.



 Nativity's Charismatic Love is Given Prayer Group meets every Thursday night from 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the All Purpose Room for an evening of Spirit-filled faith sharing, praise and worship and prayer in a Christ-centered community. For more information call Anne Rother at 703-644-1278.

### 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.

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.

**Charismatic Retreat**, Dominican Retreat House, 7103 Old Dominion Dr., McLean, VA ,Sept. 11-13 - Retreat Director Fr. John Gordon, an engaging international speaker who will inspire you to live the abundant life of Christ which will fill you with joy and bring glory to God. Fr. Gordon has been active in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal for over 30 years. The retreat includes Daily Mass, all-night Adoration, Sacrament of Reconciliation, small group discussion and contemporary praise music with *His Songs*. To register, call (703)356-4243, \$75 to reserve, suggested offering for retreat \$250.

### 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.

### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

Celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Arlington and the Year for Priests by participating in the 2009 Diocesan Pilgrimage entitled, "Mary, Cause of our Joy and Mother of Priests" on Saturday, October 10 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The day of spiritual enrichment will begin with the Rosary, followed by time for confession and tours of the Basilica, a special presentation by Fr. David Thayer and Mass with Bishop Loverde. In celebration of the 35th Anniversary, Bishop Loverde will re-consecrate the Diocese of Arlington to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Please visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org) for more information.

### **FYI.....Looking for Confession on a Tuesday night?**

.....Interested in finding a Mass on Sunday evening?..... Parishioners and visitors from the Diocese can now search for Parishes, Schools, Masses, Confessions and Adoration times with our new advanced feature: "**The Locator**".

Visit [www.arlingtondiocese.org](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org) and look for the yellow box! Please e-mail

[communications@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:communications@arlingtondiocese.org) for more information or to offer feedback.

"Be strong, do not fear!" With true vocation comes the strength and courage of the One who calls. If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to follow Christ 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)



Next Knights of Columbus **Blood Drive: Saturday, September 26, 7:00am to noon**, St. Raymond's Parish Hall. At this blood drive, INOVA Blood Donor Services is emphasizing the urgent need of collecting **O Negative, B Negative and A Negative donors**. All donors are welcome! Contact John Landy @ 703-250-1492, email [navyy8@yahoo.com](mailto:navyy8@yahoo.com) now for your appointment or after Mass to sign up. Thank you!

#### Paul VI Girls Fall Lacrosse Camps- 4 Sessions

Sat./Sun. 9/26 and 9/27; 10/3 and 10/4. 12-3pm at PVI. Sign-up for 1 or all 4 sessions. 4 session early discount price: \$95. Registration form at: [http://www.paulvi.net/currentstudents\\_parents/camp/2009\\_girlsLax\\_camp.pdf](http://www.paulvi.net/currentstudents_parents/camp/2009_girlsLax_camp.pdf) For more info email: [pvigirlslaxcamp@gmail.com](mailto:pvigirlslaxcamp@gmail.com)

The **2009 Divine Mercy Care Gala will be held on November 14, 2009** (only two and a half months away!!) and the Volunteer Gala Committee is hard at work in an effort to make the 2009 Gala the best ever! There is much interest in the Gala this year and I am pleased to announce that 28 tables have already been filled! **A profound "thank you" to our generous Host Committee Members who have stepped out early to support the 2009 Gala.** 2009 Gala Invitations will drop in the mail after Labor Day and I think you will be impressed with the look and feel of the invitation. **Mark your calendar ... the RSVP date for the Gala is October 31, 2009.**

**For more information, please call Vince Criste at 703-934-5552 x 304 or email [gala@divinemercycare.org](mailto:gala@divinemercycare.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.

**MATT MAHER - LIVE!!** Matt Maher, contemporary Christian recording artist, will perform at the "Praying and Praising Peace" concert at the Hylton Memorial Chapel on Sept. 11, 2009. Doors open at 6:30pm and the service begins at 7:30pm. Tickets can be purchased at [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com) or by contacting St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School at (703) 491-4447, ext. 220 or [jrock@acquinstars.org](mailto:jrock@acquinstars.org).

## THE WEEK AHEAD IN OUR PARISH

### Sunday, September 6

2:00 pm.....Baptism (CH)

### Monday, September 7 LABOR DAY

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

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



### Tuesday, September 8

### Wednesday, September 9

10:00am.....Mom and Me (APR)

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

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

7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (RM. 5)

7:30 pm.....WON Meeting (GR)

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

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

### Thursday, September 10

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

7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (RM. 5)

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

### Friday, September 11

7:00 am.....BSA Troop 1100 Board of Rev. (RM. 6)

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

### Saturday, September 12

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

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

10:00 am.....ESL Classes (RM. 5,6,7,8)

4:30 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S/PH)

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

### **SPIRITUAL RETREAT FOR VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND A SUPPORT PERSON**

**September 19, 2009, 9:30am to 3:00pm**

St. Ann Catholic Church, 5312 N. 10th Street, Arlington, VA 22205. Lunch will be served. Reservations will be Required 4 days prior to the meeting. **Please RSVP to one of the telephone numbers listed below.**

The Victim Assistance Coordinators for the Diocese of Arlington are **Patricia Mudd, ACSW, Confidential phone number is 703-841-2530; email is [p.mudd@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:p.mudd@arlingtondiocese.org)** and **Kathryn Kramer, LCSW, Confidential phone number is 703-841-2759; email is [k.kramer@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:k.kramer@arlingtondiocese.org).**