



Dear Friends,

“CAUTION, HUMAN BEINGS HERE, HANDLE WITH CARE.” These words are from a poster that hung in my various offices for years. Unfortunately, while my office was being repainted some years ago, it was mistakenly thrown away. The words, however, still resonate with me and are a constant reminder of how we are to treat one another. They are especially poignant this weekend as we celebrate *Respect Life Sunday*. We sometimes look at life’s issues as a cafeteria line - we pick and choose. Some who oppose abortion (as we should), think that there is nothing wrong with capital punishment. Still others hold the reverse. Shouldn’t followers of Jesus see life - all life - as a *“seamless garment,”* i.e. respect for life from conception to natural death? Those who say that they respect life must see in this *seamless garment* the handicapped or special child, as well as the mother who is on welfare and trying to support the child she bore. Just as we concern ourselves with the unborn, we must be just as concerned after that baby enters our world. Shouldn’t we also be concerned with the quality of life of the elderly, especially those in poorly run nursing homes? And how concerned are we that so many elderly cannot afford the extraordinary prices of medicine and prescription drugs? Are we, who have good health care coverage, concerned with those who cannot afford health care? Many of our brothers and sisters, unemployed because of the present economic crisis, have also lost health coverage for their families. I am a pastor who deplores abortion. However, I am also a pastor who has love and compassion for the young girl who has chosen this act. Why? Because Jesus taught us, on more than one occasion, the importance of forgiveness and love. In Matthew 9:9-13, we read that Jesus, Himself, was criticized by the Pharisees for associating with those whom they considered sinners. I have always identified with His response: *“Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.”* He always was concerned with helping those whom society had ostracized and those who were hurting. Should that not be the role of every priest - to teach the ideal, but remain compassionate with those who failed to meet the ideal?

At the same time I can identify with recent Popes who have asked for sparing the lives of several on death row. The machinery of capital punishment in the United States has slowed down, primarily due to fears that innocent people are being fed into it. According to an article in the Catholic Weekly *Commonwealth* (June 19, 2009), since 1973, 133 death row inmates have been exonerated, largely to the evidentiary wonders of DNA. And yet according to a Gallup survey last November, support for the death penalty remains high, with 64% in favor of it and just 30% opposed. Do we remember that Jesus suffered crucifixion, the capital punishment of His day?

“Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, “Every child...brings us God’s smile and invites us to recognize that Life is his gift, a gift to be welcomed with love and preserved with care always and at every moment.”

Respect Life Sunday should be a day of prayer for all life - conception to natural death. Let each of us ask ourselves how really pro *all* life are we? Jesus’ teachings reflect the love and respect for *all* people. Should we who call ourselves Christian be anything less? **“CAUTION HUMAN BEINGS HERE, HANDLE WITH CARE”.**

We beg you, Lord, to help and defend us. Deliver the opposed. Pity the insignificant. Raise the fallen. Show yourself to the needy. Heal the sick. Bring back those of your people who have gone astray. Feed the hungry. Lift up the weak. Take off the prisoners’ chains. May every nation come to know that you alone are God, that Jesus is your Child, that we are your People, the sheep that you pasture. Amen.

Clement of Rome

Respect Life and have a nice week!

MONTH OF OCTOBER – MONTH OF MARY



As we begin this month of October, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, comes to mind. Traditionally this month has belonged to Mary and the Rosary. For those of us “older Catholics”, it’s a no-brainer, Mary, the Rosary, October, they all go hand in hand. Throughout the centuries, Mary has been given many titles and the Church Year has numerous feast days assigned to her. The Queenship of Mary (Aug. 22nd), Our Lady of Sorrows (Sept. 15th), Our Lady of the Rosary (Oct. 7th) are just a few examples of how the Church focuses attention on Mary and her role in the mystery of Christ. About 20 years ago, Sr. Sandra DeGidio, O.S.M. wrote a beautiful article for the St. Anthony Messenger Press. In it she described Mary as “open to God’s will”, saying “yes” to his call, and as “Christ-bearer to the world”. Mary was “attentive to the needs of others” and “compassionate to all who suffered”. (CU May, 1988). While many Catholics felt that the Second Vatican Council drew attention away from Mary and devotion to her, that was not so. Vatican II praised Mary as “the Church’s model and excellent exemplar in faith and charity” (#53). It stated further that “the followers of Christ ... raise their eyes to Mary who shines forth to the whole community...as a model of the virtues” (#65). In her May article, Sr. Sandra writes “Mary is ‘every person’ in today’s Church – a model for both women and men who strive to live fully the gospel challenge of discipleship.” To that let us add our “AMEN”.



Monday, October 5

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

Tuesday, October 6

JOE RUSSO.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, October 7

TODD MILLER.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, October 8

IRENE KROSINICK.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, October 9

TERRY MOORE.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, October 10

PASQUALE VOLPONE.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

MARIE-ANGE AMRHEIN.....5:00pm - Fr. O’Keefe

Sunday, October 11

CRAIG O’DONNELL.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

JOSEPH SHIA.....9:00am - Fr. Martin

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

MARION McLELLAN.....12:45pm - Fr. O’Keefe



Catechists and Assistants for First Penance should attend a very important information meeting on Sunday, October 4, at 7:30pm in the Room 9.

Confirmation Students and Parents are to attend a **VERY IMPORTANT Investiture Service and information meeting** on Wednesday, October 7, at 7:00pm in the church.

Parents of First Penance Students are to attend a **VERY IMPORTANT information meeting** on Wednesday, October 14, at 7:00pm in the church.

Columbus Day Holiday – all classes are cancelled on October 11, 12, and 13.

Catechists, Assistants, and all Other Volunteers of the Religious Education Program, mark your calendar to attend the Fall Workshop on Sunday, October 25, at 7:30pm in Nativity’s parish hall.

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.



Open House.....JP the Great.....Nov. 8, 2 to 4 pm
For more information visit our website
www.jpthegreat.org

Vocation Prayer

Lord God, we thank You for the gift of life and ask Your continued blessing upon us. Please help us all to know, love and serve You each day through our faithfulness to our vocations. May all those You are now calling to the priesthood or consecrated life, answer You with hearts ready to make Your will their own. Amen.

Altar Flowers



**In Loving Memory of
Terry Moore
From
Cathy Moore, Patrick, Elizabeth and Jack
And
In Loving Memory of
Charles Hisler
From
Steve and Pat Hisler**



THANK YOU NATIVITY CHURCH

The Women of Nativity would like to thank you for making our White house Ornament sale a huge success. We can always count on the wonderful parishioners here at Nativity to be kind and generous. This enables the Women of Nativity to help others in need. Once again we thank you for your never ending support Many blessings to all!

PRO-LIFE CORNER



Sunday, October 4, 2009 - Life Chain
2:30 - 3:30 PM. Life Chain is a prayerful, peaceful, and positive Pro-Life event that provides public witness to the sanctity of human life and to a truth that cannot be denied: "ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN". This truth must be shared so that our community can remove this crippling evil from the tapestry of America. Come with your family and join your friends as we all stand tall for LIFE during this hour. Along Franconia Road, east of Springfield Mall. For further information, contact Saint Lawrence Rectory, 703-971-4378, or Jane Hamilton, 703-646-5051 The Alexandria 40 Days for Life campaign continues: 40 Days for Life is a focused Pro-Life effort that consists of 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil, 40 days of community outreach. See full details at www.40daysforlife.com/alexandria and Stand Up For Life!

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 info.

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

Boy Scout Troop 1100 will be taking orders for wreaths and holiday greenery products after Mass on October 10th/11th and October 17th/18th. Proceeds from these sales enhance and aid scout activities throughout the year. Thank you for



Knights of Columbus Catholic College Fair

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a college fair exclusively for Catholic colleges and universities on Thursday, October 8 at 7:00pm in the school gym at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. This is an excellent opportunity for those facing a college decision to learn about the many opportunities for Catholic higher education. Representatives of twenty-five schools will be available to discuss the programs available at their schools.

YARD SALE YARD SALE YARD SALE

Junior Girl Scout Troop 2134 will be holding a troop yard sale on **Saturday, October 10th from 7am to noon** on Parakeet Drive in Burke (across from the Burke Nursery). We are raising funds to support field trips and activities planned for the year. Stop by to find some treasures and support our troop at the same time - we'll also be selling lemonade. Please contact Becky Chaves at 703-425-4965 if you have any questions or need directions. Thanks and hope to see you there!



Newly Baptized

We joyfully welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism

Jonathan Rizal Cabacar Ryman, Lilah Catherine O'Hara, Brendan James Strauss, Jason Clarence Taylor, Natalie Renee' Laub, Sabrina Antonella Rivera, Rosana Gaudiosa Ayala, Mateo Baires, Joseph Dacs Miles, Salvatore Paul Furino, Jason Roque Condori, Abigail Marie Beck, Lillian Anne Slovensky

Can you believe that Christmas is only three months away????? The **Little Angel Gift Shop** has Christmas cards for sale. Buy them now! Avoid the stress and rush Christmas will be here before we realize it. If you missed out on the White House Ornament sale, the gift shop has a supply and is selling them for \$19.00 each. They make wonderful gifts at a reasonable price.

Thought for the Week:

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.
Irene Lagan



The Knights of Columbus...something for everyone

Look around our parish community at Nativity. You will find the Knights of Columbus as ushers & lay ministers at Mass, teaching CCD, leading the Boy Scouts, organizing charity events such as the annual art auction and yard sale, or volunteering in support of many parish activities.

There is a way for everyone to participate...We are searching for the next generation of Knights.

As a Knight you can choose the projects you wish to join within our community. Knights are dedicated to family life and the many benefits it offers. From insurance to scholarships to service and social activities and programs, all are open to the whole family.

Being a Knight is more than camaraderie; it is being involved with our community; it is supporting our Church, while enhancing our own faith; it is about protecting and enhancing our family life.

On October 17 & 18, Brother Knights of Father Vincent S. Sikora Council here at Nativity parish will be available after each Mass to visit with any man over 18 interested in having the experience of a lifetime by joining this great fraternal organization that is involved in giving back to our church, our families, and our community.

If you are over 18, please visit with one of the Brother Knights outside after Mass next week.

You can also e-mail GK7992@VAKOFC.org, or call Matt Smith (703) 455-3197 or Tom Savage (512) 983-5641.

Come see just what the Knights of Columbus is all about and take the first simple steps to becoming a Knight.

Social Action Linking Together (SALT) & Faith Communities United for Housing (FCUH)--Urge Your Support for FAIR HOUSING - Fairfax County is again facing a budget shortfall for 2011 and is holding community dialogue meetings where citizens are encouraged to share their priorities about the budget. Your voice is needed to protect the most vulnerable from cuts in affordable housing programs - which are crucial to preventing and ending homelessness. Please attend a community meeting in your district. To view times and locations and to register, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/> For more information about SALT visit the SALT web site at www.S-A-L-T.org or contact SALT Coordinator, John Horejsi, jhorejsi@cox.net.

The Benedictine Sisters of Virginia are having a Monastic Discernment Weekend for single, Catholic women on October 30 to November 1, 2009. For more information contact Sister Vicki Ix, OSB, Director of Vocation Ministry at 703-298-5337, Facebook® "Sister Vixcki" or email vocations@osbva.org.

A sign-up sheet for bus transportation is in the alcove for the

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to the NATIONAL SHRINE of the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION on Saturday, October 10th:

7:30 a.m.-- meet in the parish parking lot for bus transportation

9:00 a.m.-- arrival at Basilica and Introductory Remarks by Bishop Loverde

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. -- Confessions and/or (self-directed) Basilica tour

11:00 a.m. -- Keynote address by Fr. David Thayer

12:00 - 12:45 p.m. Lunch (bring your own or buy a boxed lunch from the cafeteria)

1:00 p.m. -- Mass

2:45 p.m. -- departure

For more information or questions contact Jane Hamilton at 703-646-5051

The Family Services Department of Catholic Charities is offering a therapeutic 12-week support group for men and women experiencing the pain of separation and divorce. This group will provide a forum to express and explore feelings, and to offer and receive support. The group will be facilitated by Patricia Cole, LCSW.

Where: Catholic Charities Family Services, 3838 Cathedral Lane, Arlington, VA 22203 **When;** Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm, beginning November 2 **Fee:** \$25 per session (sliding scale available) **To register:** Please call Pat at 703-841-2531, ext. 646. You will be asked to schedule an initial no-cost interview. Pre-registration is required.



2009 COAT DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus will be having their annual Coat Drive on the weekend of October 24/25.




Please bring your new or gently used coats to the back of the church or the church hall. The Carpenter's Family Shelter will be their destination - so we will accept all sizes (men, women and children). We can also take sweaters, hats/gloves and toiletries. We appreciate your help with this annual drive.

Thank You!

Networking Ministry CAN Help the Unemployed!
 Christians are Networking (“CAN”) is a Catholic Charities-sponsored ministry that assists people who are in career transition. CAN provides a venue where job seekers receive **free** professional counseling - including resume reviews and practice job interviews - and opportunities to network with other professionals.
 Join us **every Thursday** evening from 6:30 - 9:30pm at the St. Martin De Porres Senior Center, 4650 Taney Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.
 Special Presentations:
 October 1: “Writing a winning KSA for federal applications”
 October 15: “Working for an association”
 No advanced registration required to attend. For more details, contact Elizabeth Lucas at 703-683-7704 or elizabeth22305@verizon.net or Bill Hummell at 703-830-5467, hummel830@cox.net.

ANNUAL WHITE MASS
 Join Bishop Loverde at the Annual White Mass honoring physicians and health care professionals on Sunday, October 18th at 10:00am at St. Philip Church in Falls Church. The Mass will be followed by a delicious pancake breakfast and Rev. Peter Ryan, S.J., Professor of Moral Theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, who will be speaking on “Caring for Patients in the Persistent Vegetative State., A Catholic Perspective.” Tickets for the breakfast are \$25 per person/\$15 for students until October 10th and then \$50/person.Reservation and payment can be mailed to Dr. Chai Thieda, McLean Pediatrics, 6711 Whittier Ave. #101, McLean, VA22101. For information, contact info@tepevacfamilycenter.com.

Nativity Catholic School 
 Nativity Catholic School is continuing to accept enrollments 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.

“The Locator”
 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 search feature: The Locator.” Visit www.arlingtondiocese.org and look for the yellow box! Please e-mail communications@arlingtondiocese.org for more information or to offer feedback.

**THE WEEK AHEAD
 IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, October 4 Respect Life Sunday
 2:00 pm.....Baptism (CH)
 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00pm.....CCD Classes (S,PH)
 7:30 pm.....1st Penance Catechists Mtg. (CH)

Monday, October 5
 4:00 & 7:00pm.....CCD Classes (S,PH)
 7:00 pm.....RCIA (GR)
 7:00 pm.....RCIC (PH)
 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, October 6
 9:00 am.....JustFaith (GR)
 9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
 4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S, PH)
 7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus
 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)
 7:30 pm.....JustFaith (GR)

Wednesday, October 7
 10:00am.....Mom and Me (APR)
 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (SC)
 7:00 pm.....Confirmation Student Investiture and Parent Meeting. (CH)
 7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (RM. 5)
 7:00 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
 7:30 pm.....Hispanic Baptism Class (RM. 8)
 7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (RM. 9)

Thursday, October 8
 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
 6:30 pm.....GS Troop 2948 (GR)
 7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (RM. 5)
 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (RM. 4)

Friday, October 9
 7:00 am.....BSA Troop 1100 Board of Rev. (RM. 6)
 7:00 pmTroop 1635 (APR)

Saturday, October 10
 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)

Is your marriage in trouble? Retrouvaille can help, please call 703-351-7211 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com