



Dear Friends,

What goes around, comes around! Sending an anniversary card to my Aunt Jane and Uncle Sheldon this past week brought back memories of my seminary days of old in Providence. So often we hear people tell stories about the *good old days*. While many of my days at Our Lady of Providence Seminary were happy, I wouldn't want to return. Many of you know my Uncle Sheldon indirectly. Years ago he made several hundred glass icicles for our Christmas trees that adorn the sanctuary each year. I often think of the connection of the birth of a young Jewish boy on December 25th, and my Uncle Sheldon also of the Jewish tradition. You may be wondering how all of this connects. Back in 1958, when in my first year of college seminary, I asked permission to attend my aunt's wedding and reception only 10 miles away. Permission refused. Instead I could use the priest's phone and then only for five minutes to offer congratulations. Phones, radios, even reading the newspaper were all forbidden. In contrast, many of today's seminarians have their own cars on campus and can come and go as they please. Back in 1960 seminary life was still very conservative, strict, and above all else disciplined. The seminary rule was all important - many of the rules made us feel we had less freedom than those incarcerated at the men's prison five miles down the road. One of the priest (of unhappy memory) held the position of *Dean of Discipline*.

We often would be reminded that the bell was the voice of God. It was hard to see God in the large brass bell with its resounding sound that would reverberate throughout the dormitory corridor every morning at 5:45. The bell followed us all day until the last one at 10:00 PM – mandatory lights out. Some of us would break the rule and retrieve a well hidden flashlight to read under the covers hoping that no light would be seen in the windowed door of our rooms. The Rule dictated other aspects of our life, too. What to wear and when to wear it - most of the time - suit and tie or cassock. (For the youngest generation reading this, the cassock is a long black outer garment reaching to the ankle). Phone calls were forbidden. Mail had to be placed unsealed in an open box in the lobby – subject to inspection by the *Dean of Discipline* who would then seal it. Mail was also received open - subject to inspection. Other aspects of the rule covered everything from no food in the rooms and weekly room inspection to listening only to classical music. The most boisterous classical piece played over and over again was the 1812 Overture by Beethoven! Rock and Roll would have no place in our life - although we were all normal, active college students! Probably not to anyone's surprise Beethoven's 1812 is not among my present day collection!

Thankfully, but not soon enough, the second Vatican Council came along in the early '60's while I was at my second seminary, St. Bernard's, in Alabama. The windows of change were thrown open thanks to Pope John XXIII. Seminary life changed dramatically. Imagine, I could now open my own mail! And I could use the phone! We could even look at TV, albeit at certain times of the afternoon and evening. While still no cars were permitted, we could take a taxi and go into nearby Cullman and have lunch at the one good restaurant. In our new found freedom we were now able to visit in other student's rooms - forbidden up until then. These were the days of the civil rights movement in Alabama, and as seminarians, we felt that we were freer as well.

The seminary of the 1970's and '80's had very few rules. Emphasis of the seminary shortly after I was ordained was on personal freedom and accountability. Father O'Keefe and I have occasionally reminisced about the seminary of my day versus his. In his day cars were permitted on campus, and he, if he chose, could go out to eat dinner if he didn't like the seminary chow for that evening. Where we were never allowed to read *Newsweek*, *Time Magazine* or *Business Week*, his rule contained no restrictions. Personal responsibility now replaced every minute of the day, rather than being mandated by a bell or book.

Continued on next page

Now they tell me that in the past ten to fifteen years the pendulum is swinging back and the seminary is becoming more structured and conservative. Not exactly back to what I went through, but swinging back nonetheless. Seminarians are more conservative than their immediate predecessors. Today, as some of the senior priests are trying to understand all of this turn around and perhaps a return to clericalism, the younger men are probably trying to figure the Vatican 11 priests as well. I've always felt that what is more important is that we as priests be men of the Gospel, men of the truth and above all show forth compassion and understanding to those we minister. That is much more important than whether some wear a cassock or not. Mine, by the way doesn't fit any more as it occupies a place of the honored past in my closet.

Although the seminarians of today are more conservative, they still are one step ahead of my day. They will not have to ask permission to call their Aunt on her wedding day- phones are in. And most, if not all, today's seminarians have their own cell phones. I doubt that my former *Dean of Discipline*, Father Joseph, now 89, would approve.

Have a nice week!




Monday, October 12

Special Intentions for

GREGORY POLINGER.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, October 13

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

Wednesday, October 14

JOHN HARDER.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, October 15

JERRY UHT.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, October 16

EDWARD B. ARASIN.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, October 17

CECELIA JOZEFOWICZ.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

SALVATORE SEMMONELLA.....5:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday, October 18

ELWOOD DALLENGEI.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

ARTURO PALABRICA.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

CHERYL HINDS.....11:00am - Fr. Wilson

MARGARITA CHINCHILLA and

DAVID URIONA.....12:45pm.- Fr. Wilson



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

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

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.

All Catechists and Assistants — the Diocesan Catechetical Conference will be held on Saturday, November 14, at the Sheraton Reston. Pre-registration is required; registration forms must be submitted to Nativity's Religious Education Office by Friday, October 23. For additional information call 703-455-0372.

In Memoriam

A Novena, 9 Masses, will be said for our deceased loved ones. Spiritual Bouquet envelopes with their names will be placed on the Altar during the month of November. If you would like your loved ones remembered, please write their names on a Bouquet envelope and return it with your offering by Saturday, October 31st. Novena Masses will be said on:

November 1 at 7:30 am	November 20 at 7:30 am
November 5 at 7:30 am	November 23 at 7:30 am
November 10 at 7:30 am	November 24 at 7:30 am
November 13 at 7:30 am	November 27 at 7:30 am
November 17 at 7:30 am	

Altar Flowers



**In Loving Memory of
Jose C. Cruz (Father and Papa)
Love, dePondicchello Family**

And

**In Loving Memory of
Patricia O'Donnell
From
Patricia Madden O'Donnell**



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. Fair Trade products are now available in the gift shop.

PRO-LIFE CORNER



People need to know that abortion is their business. People understand that we have to intervene to help the poor, the drug addict and victims of crime. Even if we do not know their names we know it is our business to help them. There is no reason to isolate abortion in a category of its own where all the rules of human decency suddenly change. The death of a human being is our business.

The Alexandria 40 Days for Life campaign continues through November 1, 2009: 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!

The **GABRIEL PROJECT** supports women who are facing a crisis pregnancy and need help. Contact 1-866-444-3553 or 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 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

THE ROSARY

The story of the Rosary has been written before, but somehow it seems appropriate to write it again, especially with the arrival of October and the celebration on October 7th, of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. This devotion is the most popular and widespread of Catholic devotional prayers and methods of meditation. Legend attributes the rosary to St. Dominic, but in actuality, the rosary, as we know it, received its present form in the sixteenth century. However taking a look back into history, we see that the use of beads or small knots on string to keep count of prayers, biblical passages or sayings, dates back to the dawn of recorded history. Repetition was a meditative technique used by many to open one to the Presence of God, and the beads or knots on a string aided in this meditation. By the eleventh century, the custom of saying 150 "Our Fathers" as a substitute for the Psalms became widespread among devout laity. The strings of beads used to count them were called "paternosters". From this we can see the earliest beginnings of the rosary. It was in the 12th century that devotion to Mary became more widespread and the "Hail Mary" began to evolve. But wait.... that is "The Rest of the Story" which will be in next weeks Friar Column.



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 your generous support.



FAIR TRADE IS BACK!!! Organic, shade-grown, delicious coffee with a Fair Trade certification is on sale next weekend, Oct. 17/18 in front of the church. Help make lives better for growers in developing countries by your purchase of Fair Trade goods. Fair Trade eliminates poverty where it exists. More questions? Check www.crsfairtrade.org. You will find information on the many great features of Fair Trade and a catalog of delightful handcrafts and food items for your Christmas giving. **Fair Trade items are now available in the Little Angel Gift Shop.**



Thought for the Week:

Everyone realizes that one can believe little of what people say about each other. But it is not so widely realized that even less can one trust what people say about themselves.

Rebecca West



The Knights of Columbus...your chance to make a difference

We are searching for the next generation of Knights to have the experience of a lifetime....

The Knights of Columbus is guided by **four core principles – charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism.** We in the Knights of Columbus believe a man is defined by his actions as a follower of God, and as a leader in his community. Believing a man is more than simply a man, when he bears the title of “Knight.”

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.

The Knights of Columbus is an organization fortified by its past and driven by its goals for the future. It is through these **five areas of service – faith, community, family, youth, and fellowship** – that we truly make a difference. Of the countless rewards Knight-hood offers, perhaps the most inviting is this: The knowledge that, as a Knight, you can make a difference.

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 WEEKEND, 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.



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!

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 Vicki” or email vocations@osbva.org.

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.

Stress in Your Marriage? There is less than a week to signup for Retrouvaille. Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couple experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment, deep misery and even divorce. For confidential information about or to register for the October program beginning with a weekend on October 23-25 call 703-351-7211 or www.HelpOurMarriage.com.

A Mass to pray for healing for victims/survivors of sexual abuse will be held on **Monday, October 26, 2009 at 7:30pm** at **Sacred Heart Church**, 12975 Purcell Road, Manassas, VA 20112-3217. Bishop Loverde will preside.

FRIENDLY CALLER/VISITOR PROGRAM

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke offers friendly visitor and caller services. Volunteers visit or place telephone calls to older adults in our community. Nativity parish continues to partner with SCFB as a faith based supporting community. Many parishioners play a vital role either by volunteering with the friendly caller/friendly visitor program or participating in other programs that enrich the lives of older adults through discussion, conversation and companionship. If you are interested in information or participating in SCFB programs please contact the Shepherd's Center: 703-323-4788, or Nuala Cohen: 703-425-6851.

PRAYER SHAWL MEETING....The next daytime meeting will take place in the APR on Monday, October 19th at 9:30am. The evening meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00pm 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 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

Catholics for Housing (CFH), a 30 year provider of affordable housing throughout the diocese has a fantastic offer for you. Between now and October 20, all donations to CFH going through the United Way will be matched dollar for dollar by the Williams Foundation. It is double the pleasure and the fun! Please make your check payable to the Prince William United Way, but mail it to CFH at 18139 Triangle Shopping Plaza, Suite 209, Dumfries, VA 22026. Thank you for your generosity.

"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 11

TROOP 1100 CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE

Monday, October 12

7:30 am.....Morning Mass (CH)

Tuesday, October 13

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)
7:30 pm.....JustFaith (GR) ????

Wednesday, October 14

10:00am.....Mom and Me (APR)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (RM. 6)
7:00 pm.....First Penance Parent Mtg.. (CH)
7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (RM. 5)
7:00 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
7:30 pm.....WON Meeting (APR)
7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (RM. 9)

Thursday, October 15

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
6:30 pm.....GS Troop 2948 (GR)
7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (RM. 5)
7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (RM. 8)
7:00 pm.....PTO Board Mtg. (RM. 4)
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (RM. 6)
7:30 pm.....Baptism Class (SL)
7:30 pm.....Grief Support Group (S)
7:30 pm.....BSA Crew 1100 Parents Meeting (PH)

Friday, October 16

4:00 pm.....GS Troop 2134 (APR)
7:00 pmPack 1101 (PH)

Saturday, October 17

**Troop 1100 Christmas Wreath Sale
Knights of Columbus Membership Recruitment**

9:00 am.....Mass (CH)
9:30 am.....Pro-Life Rosary (CH)
10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
10:00 am.....ESL Classes (RM. 5,6,7,8)
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S/PH)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Mass (CH)