



Dear Friends,

My family, friends, and staff know how I try to escape town for my birthday. I'd rather give than receive. This year, the surprise was on me when at last Sunday's 11 o'clock Mass my brother, Jack, and my sister-in-law, Patti, were sitting in the front pew, along with close friends and staff to celebrate my three score and ten birthday. It was a total surprise.

My sister, Madeleine, was unable to attend because of a previous family commitment. This year, a party that was apparently planned weeks ago by a friend with the cooperation of my secretary, Josefa, and my staff was a complete surprise. I have often jokingly fudged on my age, but now with this special celebration, the real number is known. While I certainly don't feel my years it was comforting to read recently: "*It's not the years in your life that matter, but rather the life in your years!*"

It's usually easy to determine the age of the priest since seminary studies are four years of college and four additional years of post graduate school in theological studies. The average age of a priest at ordination is usually 25. Add the years since ordination and the age can be easily computed. The exception would be men who were in the workplace before entering seminary, as our dear friend, Fr. Bill, ordained last year at 63.

This year's special birthday is different in one aspect. For the past 50 years, I have always sent my Mom a bouquet of flowers on my birthday, for giving me the gift of life. This is the first year that won't be done. She certainly will be with me in thought and prayer, as well as my Dad, since I will be spending my "summer vacation" across the pond where Dad's family hailed from - County Roscommon.

A few days ago, someone emailed me the following sayings by Dick Anderson as he reminded me that 70 is the "new 50"- sounds good anyway!

TIME GETS BETTER WITH AGE

I've learned that my dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either. (Age 7)

I've learned that just when I get my room the way I like it, Mom makes me clean it up again. (Age 12)

I've learned that although it's hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me. (Age 15)

I've learned that brushing my Childs hair is one of life's greatest pleasures. (Age 26)

I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it. (Age 30)

I've learned that you can make some one's day by simply sending them a little note. (Age 44)

I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, and it will be better tomorrow. (Age 48)

I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. (Age 53)

I've learned that making a living is not the same as making a life. (Age 58)

I've learned that if you pursue happiness, it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people, and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. (Age 65)

I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. (Age 82)

I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. (Age 92)

And what have I learned as I look back over my 70 years (it's still awkward to say that number since I feel much younger)? 1. The most important blessings in life are family, friends and health - not things. 2. Treating others always with kindness returns personal dividends of happiness to me.

WE DO NOT STOP PLAYING BECAUSE WE GROW OLD; WE GROW OLD BECAUSE WE STOP PLAYING.

(Bits and Pieces)

Have a nice week!

J. Martin

MARY & THE SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION



Two weeks ago on Saturday, October 10th, the Arlington Diocese sponsored a Diocesan Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, located adjacent to the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. This was to celebrate the Year for Priests, and also the 35th Anniversary of the establishment of the Arlington Diocese. It was a day filled with spiritual enrichment, encompassing the Rosary, confession and a keynote presentation by Fr. David Thayer. In celebration of the Diocese 35th Anniversary, Bishop Loverde re-consecrated the Diocese of Arlington to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the concluding Mass. While this was a day dedicated to Mary, it brought attention to our National Shrine. Did you know that Mary, who is the patroness of the United States, is especially honored in this monument which is the second largest church in our country, and the seventh largest church in the world? Also, the Shrine, like medieval cathedrals, is constructed totally of masonry. In other words, it does not have a steel structure! Its construction was begun in 1920, and was dedicated in 1959. Why it took so long was due to the fact that it was funded by donations from millions of Catholics. It contains sixty chapels which reflect the Church's rich Marian devotion, including Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Czestochowa, Our Mother of Sorrows, and Our Lady of Hope. Truly this beautiful



Monday, October 19

Special Intentions for

THE PEGNATO FAMILY.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Tuesday, October 20

JOHN CONNOLLY.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Wednesday, October 21

RACHEL BAKER.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Thursday, October 22

JIM ARGODALE.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Friday, October 23

MRS. RYAN.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Saturday, October 24

GEORGE A. FEHLNER.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

PETER TKACZ.....5:00pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Sunday, October 25

BILL JACKSON.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

ALFONSO BARRAGAN.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

NANCY McCOLLOUGH.....11:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

ALBERT G. VAN METRE, SR.....12:45pm - Fr. O'Keefe



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.

Catechists and Assistants for Seventh Grade should attend an important information meeting on Sunday, November 8, at 7:30pm in Room 9.

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 5 at 7:30 am
 November 10 at 7:30 am
 November 13 at 7:30 am
 November 17 at 7:30 am

November 20 at 7:30 am
 November 23 at 7:30 am
 November 24 at 7:30 am
 November 27 at 7:30 am

Altar Flowers



**In Loving Memory of
 Our Son, Brother and Grandson
 Sean Patrick O'Connor
 From
 The Duprey and Romero Families**

And

**In Loving Memory of
 Our Deceased Father
 From
 The Zagalak Family**

HELP NATACHA.....HELP HAITI

Please help fill a sea container to send to Haiti. Shop the sales for summer clothing for men, women, children and babies. T-shirts, socks, dresses, pants, underwear, diapers. Please, no used clothing! Drop clothes in the Gift Shop the weekend of October 31/November 1. Questions? Call Natacha (after Oct. 23rd) for more information (703-440-0425).



PRO-LIFE CORNER



The battle for life is not between Pro-Lifers and pro-abortion supporters, traditionalists and feminists, but rather between justice and injustice. Either life is for everyone or the right to life will be doled out at the whims of the powerful. Pray that this does not come to pass.

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!

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 crisis pregnancy 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.

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

Thought for the Week:

Peace takes the will, the courage, and the hope of the whole village, but starts with the individual.

YO-YO MA

COOKIES FOR CHRIST



"I came for the cookies, but I found love and Jesus." The KAIROS Prison retreat begins on October 21, 2009 and ends on October 25, 2009. It is an immersion in the message of the Gospel. Many who come for cookies find a way to turn their lives around. Please make, and pray over, a few dozen soft chocolate chip cookies packed a dozen per zip-loc bag. They have to be soft to survive the handling and x-ray activities. Please place your cookies in box at the back of church (and office). Cookies will be taken to the KAIROS retreat on Wed. October 21st at 11AM. Please bring your cookies to the Church lobby on Wednesday the 21st. For more information about this ministry and other recipes: www.allsoulsva.com/html/kairos.html Your Nativity KAIROS team leader is Rick Gammache, 703-727-3782. Thank you for your support.

VIBE IS BACK!! The **VIBE** Halloween party has been changed from the 25th of October to the 24th. We will be carving pumpkins, playing games, and of course eating candy! If you have any questions you can call Meghan at 703-455-2400, ext. 115.

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.



What would St. Francis say?

In October we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. What can we tell him that we did this month for "our Sister Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs?" (Canticle of the Creatures)

Of course, the month is not over. Consider what we can do in the next two weeks that will allow us to make a better report. For example, improving our efficient use of energy, recycling more, or praying for the health of our Sister Mother Earth.

A green thought from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry

Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" Should the Lord direct these words to you in prayer, how will you respond? As a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Call father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514, or write: B.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org.



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 Knighthood 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 TODAY, 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!



Families of Nativity...

Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus

Everyone is invited to the parish hall after the 7:30 a.m. & 9:00 a.m. Masses **TODAY** - Sunday, October 18, 2009 - for a Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Plan to join the Knights of Columbus for an evening of prayer during the annual Illuminated Rosary on Friday, October 30, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Please join us as we recite this beautiful prayer together as a parish community. Each person will represent a bead of the Rosary, and as they are reached, have their candle illuminated joining in a living Rosary. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the Rosary. For more information, please e-mail GK7992@vakofc.org.

PRAY FOR PEACE!

The Nativity Family Fellowship Group is hosting a Soup Potluck Gathering and Recipe Exchange on Friday, October 23rd from 6:30 to 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. As the weather is getting cooler, it is a great time to find your favorite family soup recipe and share it with families in our church. For more information on the group, please e-mail the Scherbers at nativityfamilyfellowship@yahoo.com

You are invited to a Eucharistic Holy Hour sponsored by the Arlington Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima on Sunday, October 25 from 3:00 to 4:00 pm at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic church, 1421 Wiehle Ave., Reston. At Fatima, Our Lady asked for prayer and sacrifice for the conversion of sinners, peace in the world, and an increase in vocations. We hope you will join us in prayer.

High School Open House

Bishop Ireton, Sunday, October 25th from 1 to 3 pm. Presentations begin at 1pm. 201 Cambridge Rd. Alexandria, VA. For more information call 703-751-7606.

Paul VI, Sunday, November 1st from 1 to 4 pm. 7th and 8th graders and their families are encouraged to attend.

St. Anselm's Abbey School, Sunday, November 1st from 11am to 3pm. Open House for boys entering grades 6-12 in Fall 2010. 4501 S. Dakota Ave., NE, Washington, DC. For more information call 202-269-2379 or email admissions@saintanselms.org

John Paul the Great, Sunday, November 8th from 2 to 4 pm

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.

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.

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.

Catholic High School Information Night, October 28, 6:00 to 8:00 pm, St. John the Beloved Catholic Church, 6422 Linway Terrace, McLean, VA 22101.

Schools attending the Fair

- Georgetown Preparatory School
- Gonzaga College High School
- The Heights School
- St. Anselm's Abbey School
- Connelly School of the Holy Child
- Georgetown Visitation
- Oakcrest
- Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart
- Bishop O'Connell
- Paul VI
- St. John College High School

**THE WEEK AHEAD
IN OUR PARISH**

Sunday, October 18

- WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
- CRS FAIR TRADE COFFEE
- K of C MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT
- TROOP 1100 CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE
- K of C PANCAKE BREAKFAST
- 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S, PH)
- 2:00 pm.....Baptisms
- 7:00 pm.....Troop 1100 Com. Mtg. (Rm. 6)

Monday, October 19

- 9:30 am.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)
- 4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S, PH)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIA (PH)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIC (Room 9)
- 8:00 pm.....AAA (APR)

Tuesday, October 20

- 9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
- 4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S, PH)
- 7:00 pm.....K of C (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, October 21

- 10:00am.....Mom and Me (APR)
- 3:45 pm.....Daisy Troop 1449 (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (Rm. 6)
- 7:00 pm.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (Room. 5)
- 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Room. 9)

Thursday, October 22

- 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
- 6:30 pm.....GS Troop 2948 (GR)
- 7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (Room. 5)
- 7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room. 9)
- 7:00 pm.....BSA 1100 Board of Review (Room. 6)
- 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room. 4)

Friday, October 23

- 7:00 pmFamily Fellowship Group (PH)

Saturday, October 24

- WON MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
- K of C COAT DRIVE
- BOY SCOUT POPCORN SALE
- 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)
- 7:00 pm.....CYO vibe meeting (PH)