



Dear Friends,

Living Buddha, Living Christ is the title of one of the books I received as a Christmas gift. Thich Nhat Hanh, the author, has been part of a long study between Buddhists and Christians, and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. While I am just halfway through the book, several comments struck me.

In the first chapter the author quotes Professor (Father) Hans Kung, whose books were used in our studies back in my seminary years. "Until there is peace between religions, there can be no peace in the world." After reading these lines I put the book down and thought of how many wars have occurred because of religious differences. Pope John Paul XXIII once said, "Let us look at what unites us rather than what divides us." When people are willing to learn from each other, dialogue takes place and the seed of peace begins to grow. The key is that we must first listen to what the other is saying and try to be open. Peace--in our world, or even among families, will never ensue as long as minds and hearts are closed. When there is understanding, compassion is born.

We begin another New Year hoping and praying for peace in Iraq and the Middle East. True peace cannot be had by bullets. Let us hope and pray that warring people will realize the importance of dialogue over the centuries of division.

At the beginning of this New Year, let those who have built walls between themselves and others look deeply within themselves. Let us also realize the importance of dialogue. We all say so often, *life is too short*, but do we really believe it? May this be the year that if fences need to be mended between ourselves and someone else that we simply **DO IT**.

Peace is building a bridge and sometimes for that bridge to be built a wall must be torn down. I pray that this will be the year that peace for our country will be a reality. I pray also that those who read this column that are at odds with someone will start tearing their walls down and begin the building of that long overdue bridge. For *life is too short!*

While some may think my hopes and wishes are naïve, so be it. I still believe in the last lines of the hymn we sing so often in our church, "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me."

On a side note:

Much conjecture surrounds the Feast of the three Kings (Wise Men, Magi) that we celebrate this weekend. In European countries, the celebration of Epiphany (Little Christmas) seems to take on more importance than in our own country. Epiphany is derived from the Greek word-manifest, meaning show forth. The significance of the feast of Epiphany is that Jesus was manifested not only to the Jews, but to the entire Gentile world as well.

It is the vocation of each Christian to show forth Jesus in his or her life. How easily can this be done? Simply LIVING the message of Jesus that we read in the Scripture. During this Christmas Season our parish showed this "epiphany" in many diverse ways through their concern for the poor. During my ten years serving as your Pastor, I have witnessed this manifestation in many other ways-in particular, through your warmth and openness to others in the community. I recall the words of the late Cardinal Joseph Bernadin, "Preach the Gospel always...and if need be use words." The way we live can be and should be a living Epiphany. Many New Years' resolutions have been made in the past two days; we should all resolve to be Epiphany people-manifesting Jesus through our actions. Really, it's not that difficult. Let's try it!

Have a good week and a great New Year!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Martin".



A heartfelt “THANK YOU” goes to Carlos Gutierrez, our maintenance facilities manager, and his staff for doing an outstanding job in removing the snow from the recent BLIZZARD of 2009. Countless hours were spent, starting at 4:00 a.m. and continuing to midnight, cleaning the sidewalks and parking lot, doing the work themselves to save the Parish snow removal fees. May God bless them. I always believe that the most important people are the receptionists and maintenance personnel...so far, I can’t transfer a call on a multi-line phone or fix toilets!!!

J. Martin



Monday, January 4

Rev. Edward L. Richardson, S.M.A.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, January 5

Leonor Quintero.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, January 6

Joe Talarico.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, January 7

Genevieve & Donald Valentine7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, January 8

The Souls in Purgatory Most in Need7:30am - Fr. O’ Keefe

Saturday, January 9

John Silver.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Special Intentions of Jenn Hay.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday January 10

Olcay Nawrocki.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Gene Gozdziaik.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Special Intentions of

Mildred & Harry Keen..... 11:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Parishioners..... 12:45pm.- Fr. Martin



ALL catechists, assistants, babysitters, and substitutes who attended a VIRTUS seminar *prior* to June 1, 2009 **must attend** the 40-minute showing of the DVD, “Keeping the Promise Alive,” on Sunday, January 10, at 7:30pm in the parish hall to update their individual child protection status. For further information, call Lorrinda at 703-455-0372.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday — all Religious Education classes cancelled Sunday, January 17; Monday, January 18; and Tuesday, January 19.

The **Inclement Weather Policy** can be viewed at www.edu.nativityburke.org; click on Weather Policy.

“The Epiphany of the Lord”

The Story of this Feast is a fascinating one for it celebrates the manifestation of Christ to all the nations. It shows the glory of God as a past event, a present reality and a hope for the future. Interestingly enough, the story of the Three Kings is only found in the Gospel of Matthew (2:1-12). Matthew tells us nothing about the home country of these Magi, their status or their names, just that they came to worship the newborn Baby. So let’s take a look at what we do know and the basis for this knowledge. The number of Magi is set at three because of the three gifts mentioned, gold, frankincense and myrrh. Their names, Melchior, Caspar, and Balthazar, come from a ninth century Italian manuscript. We call them Kings because of references from the Prophet Isaiah and Psalm 72, both of which are read on this day. The Feast of the Epiphany dates from the third century and was the original feast of Jesus in the East, and one of two dates used by the early Church for the initiation of catechumens. Here is an interesting fact: according to some traditions, today is the day for the blessing of homes and other buildings. Chalk markings are placed on the lintels of doorways to commemorate the three Magi. This year the markings would be 20+C+M+B+10. These letters represent the three initials of the Magi’s names written between the numbers of the year, separated by four crosses. They are also the Latin abbreviation for “*Christus mansionem benedicat*,” which means “Christ blesses this house.” (2010 Sourcebook by Liturgy Training Publications).



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers for the Christmas Season are donated by our parishioners in memory or honor of their loved ones. Thank you for helping decorate our Christmas Sanctuary.



The donors that were omitted from last weeks insert are listed in this weeks bulletin.

Pro-Life Corner:

The media's censoring of the Pro-Life message has led many women to believe that the baby within her is not a being, not a person, but simply a blob of tissue. This is why so many women today carry the burden of an abortion after they realize just what they have done. We must help them to seek God's forgiveness. That forgiveness will heal.



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).


37th Annual MARCH FOR LIFE is Friday, January 22, 2010. Theme "Stand Up Now! Unite For The Life Principles – No Exceptions! No Compromise!". All Americans are called upon to free themselves from the evils of abortion. Tax-deductible contributions to support March For Life may be made to March For Life Education and Defense Fund, PO Box 90300, Washington, DC 20090. Visit www.marchforlife.org Buses will depart from Nativity at 11:00 AM and return by 4:30 PM. For bus sign-ups, please contact Jane Hamilton (703-646-5051) or George Getek (703-978-6674). And thank you for your prayers and your pro-life support!

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

Are you looking for an opportunity to grow in your own faith and extend that gift to others through your personal witness and service to the church? We invite you to volunteer as a docent or receptionist at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Hours and days are flexible and training will be provided. We are also in need of volunteer nurses and doctors to assist at large events at the Shrine. Anyone interested please contact Sister Miriam, R.S.M. at the Basilica (202) 526-8300, ext. 111, or at smm@bnsic.org

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. 

Unemployed? Networking Group CAN Help!

Christians are Networking ("CAN") is a **free** community job-networking group for the unemployed and under-employed.

Whether you're a recent college grad or a mid-level executive, join us **every Thursday** evening from 7-9:30pm at the St. Martin DePorres Senior Center, 4650 Taney Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304. No advanced registration is required to attend. For more details, contact Elizabeth Lucas at 703-683-7704 or elizabeth22305@verizon.net or Bill Hummel at 703-830-5467 hummel830@cox.net.

Retreat for all Men...Need a break? Some time for spiritual reflection? Start the new year with a weekend retreat for men on January 22-24, 2010 at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, VA. **Rev. Bart A. Karwacki, OFM Conv.** Will be the retreat director. For reservations or information contact Paul Allard at 703-569-1040 or the Retreat House at 703-356-4243. **"Nothing can separate us from the love of God"**

Romans 8:39

The Diocesan Science Fair...Individuals with a science background are needed to help judge seventh and eighth grade students' research projects for the 2010 Science Fair. These projects encompass such categories as botany, health, chemistry, zoology, behavioral science, engineering, physics, math and other areas of life and physical science. If your calendar allows you to spend the morning (8:00am to noon) on Saturday, April 24, 2010 at Paul VI High School to judge projects, please call Janet Vetrano at the Office of Catholic Schools (703-841-2560).

Recognition of Christmas Memorials omitted from last weeks bulletin:

Lorraine O'Brien & Freda Langan	The Langan Family
Thomas Malkowski	The Malkowski Family
Marianna Mello, Mr. & Mrs. Francisco Cabeceiras, Mr. John McGillvray, Sr.	Mr. & Mrs. John McGillvray, Jr.
Our Parents, Mary Louise & David Pfloum & Hazel & Robert McKibben	Jan & Bob McKibben
Terry Moore	Cathy Moore, Patrick, Elizabeth & Jack
Demorest Hulse, Bruce & Margaret Oliver	Bruce, Nancy & Matt Oliver
Mother Josephine Marie O'Brien, S.C.; Father Peter O'Brien, S.J., Sister Helen Gertrude Donovan, S.S.J.; Sister Mary Josephine O'Brien, R.S.C.J.	Dick & Mary Jo O'Brien
Joseph M. Olsavsky & Giuseppe Gurrieri Families	Mike & Maria Olsavsky
Gregg A. Percoco	James A. Percoco
Deceased Members of the Politano & Rodenbeck Families	Art & Marlene Politano
Lloyd D. & Evelyn M. Reinhard & Kari A. Posch	The Reinhard Family
William Dillon & Anne Cabaniss	Ginger & Rick Rustt
Mafak Sarafa	Angela Sarafa
Captain Mark Stubenhofer	Sallie & Norm Stubenhofer
John R. Weis, Sr.	Weis Family
Deceased Members of the Werner & Wine Families	The Werner Family
Deceased Members of the Albrecht, Zagalak & Laskowski Families	Stan & Barbara Zagalak
Florence & Thomas Gramzow & Elizabeth & Robert E. Liddell	Col. & Mrs. Robert J. Liddell
In Honor of Church of the Nativity	The Josten Family
In Honor of Church of the Nativity	Anonymous

Social Action Linking Together (SALT) is asking all parishioners to contact their state delegates and senators to urge them to support a rental assistance pilot program for low-income workers and their families. The program would bridge the gap between 30% of an eligible family's income and the fair market rent in their area. It would provide housing at about half the cost of emergency shelter, and would free up shelter space for some of the 51,315 Virginians turned away last year. Urge your Delegate & Senator to support Rental Assistance patroned by Del. Herring; For information on Rental Assistance & how to contact your legislators, visit www.S-A-L-T.org and click on "Rental Assistance" & "Contact Your Legislator." Questions--contact John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net.

Take 3 to 5 minutes and write a message that could make it possible for thousands of low wage earners and their families to stay in their homes.

"Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts."
Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother?
Call Father Brian Bashista (703) 841-2514, or write:
b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org

Food Stamp Screening for Seniors

St. Martin de Porres Senior Center is working with the Federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to ensure that all persons over 60 who are entitled to Food Stamps are receiving them. If you would like to be screened for Food Stamp eligibility or would like more information about food stamps, please contact (703) 751-2766.

*Thought for the Week*Rules of Conduct

Think the best of others.

Believe the best of others.

Be considerate of the tender feelings of others.

Listen and weigh matters before speaking.

Do kindness to those in your realm.

Bits & Pieces

Adapted from the Detroit Free Press



The **Nativity Knights of Columbus Council 7992** would like to invite all Boys and Girls Ages 10 – 14 to their **2010 Annual Free Throw Championship**. This individual competition will be held Sunday, January 3, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the **Holy Spirit Parish School Gymnasium**. Please contact John Ostrowski at 703-323-1411 / email Johnnyo89@verizon.net for more information.

"APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING -- SPECIAL COLLECTION: On the weekend of Jan 9-10, the Knights will be speaking at all of the Masses to raise money to build their 11th home in the heart of Appalachia in June 2010. The Nativity Community has provided over 70% of the entire funding in past years and provides over 70% of the crew to build the home. Collections will take place outside of Church and checks may be made payable to "Nativity Parish", but please annotate Appalachia Home Building on the check. Thank you for all your help in the past and help us continue this important outreach effort. Please contact Bob Corsi at 703-239-2890 if you have any questions."

2nd ANNUAL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHILI DINNER & FOOD DRIVE: Families of Nativity are invited to the 2nd Annual KOC Chili Dinner & Food Drive on Saturday, January 23, 2010 in the Parish hall. Doors open at 6:00pm. Tickets are \$5/person or \$20/family larger than four. Last year's event raised \$1500 and contributed 700 pounds of food. All proceeds to support Christ House. Please also plan to bring a food donation to support their food pantry. We look forward to seeing you as we support this great organization providing for those in need. For more information, e-mail GK7992@VAKOFC.ORG.

Theology Courses at Christendom Graduate School

The Christendom Graduate School is accepting registrations for the spring term (Jan. 18 to May 8). Courses include Eschatology, Theology of Grace, Biblical Spirituality, Liturgy & Sacraments, Catholic Social Teachings, Philosophical Errors, Ecclesiastical latin, Moral Theology, Christology, New Testament and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Level One Training.) Online offerings this semester are Philosophy of God & Man, Old Testament, and Teaching the Faith (catechist formation) parts I & II. Most courses are taught during weekday evenings at our convenient Alexandria campus on the grounds of Queen of Apostles Parish. We have low tuition, a friendly, welcoming community and discounts for catechists and seniors. For more information , please call 703-658-4304 or visit www.christendom.edu/grad



Sunday, January 3 ECHO COLLECTION

2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
2:00 pm.....Baptism (CH)
7:30 pm.....viBE (PH)

Monday, January 4

4:00 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
7:00 pm.....RCIA (PH)
7:00 pm.....RCIC (Room 9)
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, January 5

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, January 6

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (Room 6)
7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
7:30 pm.....Hispanic Baptism Class (Room. 8)
7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Room 9)
7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

Thursday, January 7

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room 2)
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
7:30 pm.....Grief Support Group (S)
7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room 4)

Friday, January 8

7:00 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 Board of Review (Rm. 8)

Saturday, January 9 KOC APPALACHIA COLLECTION

10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)
10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)
7:00 pm.....Hispanic Mass (CH)

You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For more information about the program call 703-351-7211 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com.