



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to all of you! Hopefully you experienced the real joy of Christmas, even as you are relieved that the hectic holiday pace is over. While some of your plans might have been derailed because of our 22 inch blizzard, I experienced a white Christmas not only in Virginia but in Rhode Island for the first time in many years. My three days at home began with a family Christmas dinner that my sister Madeleine prepared, followed by desserts at my sister-in-law's home with some 30 friends and family. I was also able to visit some of my old classmates. On December 27th our family gathered at St. Benedict's Church in Warwick for a first anniversary Mass for Mom. Then we went to Patti's house where she prepared a buffet lunch for 38 people. It was a busy trip home, but very fulfilling.

It was my intention to pay a visit, before Christmas, to my seminary classmate, Father Paul, in Nashville, but the hectic Advent schedule changed that itinerary. Paul has been suffering a degenerative nerve condition which had him confined to just sitting in his wheel chair or recliner for several years. He especially came to mind on Christmas day and I phoned him just after landing at the Providence airport on Christmas. Our conversation was a short one, since he was having great difficulty breathing. How thankful I was that I didn't postpone that phone call, as my dear friend went home to the Lord two days later, the same day and almost the same hour my Mom had died one year ago. He offered Christmas Eve Mass at his home surrounded by family and close friends. I later learned that he gave his blessing to his family and close friends from his hospital bed just minutes before he died. I feel privileged that he had wanted me to give his eulogy, which necessitated a trip to Nashville just hours after returning from Rhode Island.

I learned a valuable lesson from that phone call on Christmas day-don't wait until tomorrow, for tomorrow might be too late. My first inclination was to do just that, and then it would have been too late. It is so easy to procrastinate. I will always treasure those five minutes on the phone with my friend.

As we begin another year, many of us make New Year's resolutions. So often they revolve around dieting, losing weight as we anticipate summer clothing and trimmer waistlines. A good resolution might be for all of us not to put off kindnesses-be they word or action-towards another. Could we resolve to be more understanding, loving and considerate of others? If we have put up a wall between ourselves and others, resolve that this year will be the one to tear it down. Usually all it takes is burying our pride and saying three simple words-I am sorry. I guarantee that you will never regret making that resolution. In fact, you yourself will feel better.

As I look back over 2009, I want to thank everyone for the many gifts that you bring to our parish. I am especially thankful for the hundreds who volunteer their time to make Nativity the welcoming community that it is known to be throughout the Diocese. Above all, thank you for your generosity to the poor, be they across the street or around the world. I received a couple hundred Christmas cards this year, almost all with personal messages of gratitude for the spirit of our community. YOU make the parish and for this I am especially grateful. Thank you!

A happy, blessed New Year to all.

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

**CHRISTMAS OUT –
ORDINARY TIME IN.**



While society stopped singing Christmas carols on Dec. 26th and packed up the Christmas decorations by Dec. 27th, as a Church we have continued our celebration through the 12 Days of Christmas and up to the Baptism of the Lord which we celebrate this weekend. But, come Monday, it will be time to put away the nativity set, dismantle the trees and get on with our everyday lives, for the “Christmas Season” will come to an end at sundown this Sunday. And so we will enter the time on the Church calendar that is called “Ordinary Time”. But let us ask, just how *ordinary* is this Ordinary Time? Most probably our answer will be “not ordinary at all!” It is a period between Christmas and Lent that is devoted to the everyday living of a Christian life. And for many of us this life is not boring or uneventful, but rather hectic, fast-paced and stress-filled. So during these weeks Christ reaches out to us, embraces us in his love and teaches us about loving others. His message “Love God, love one another as you love yourselves” becomes one that is meant to bring calm and peace into our lives. In keeping with the change of liturgical season, the focus of the Scripture readings shift to the ministry of Christ and the color in the church becomes green, the symbolic color of hope.



Monday, January 11

ANNUNZIATA TUMMINO.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, January 12

CARL W. KIMES.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, January 13

JACQUELINE LITTLE.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, January 14

DOMINICK T. GONNELLA.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, January 15

HELEN TARBELL.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, January 16

HELEN VERMEER.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

FERNANDO MOLLEDA.....5:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday January 17

RONNIE TWARDESKY.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

FRANCES RITCHIE CONNORS.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

JAMES WINKLER.....11:00am - Fr. Wilson

JOSIAH SULLIVAN.....12:45pm.- Fr. O’Keefe



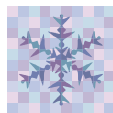
ALL catechists, assistants, babysitters, and substitutes who attended a VIRTUS seminar *prior* to June 1, 2009 **must attend** the 40-minute showing of the DVD, “Keeping the Promise Alive,” on Sunday, January 10, at 7:30pm in the parish hall to update their individual child protection status. For further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

Catechists and assistants for First Holy Communion students are to attend an important information meeting Sunday, January 24, at 7:30pm in Room 9.

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

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY



The Church Office will follow Fairfax County Government Offices’ schedule in the event of inclement weather. If the **schools are closed**, there will be **NO MORNING MASS**. If a 2 hour delay has been announced, then the morning Mass will be celebrated at its regular time. Parishioners are cautioned that there is no obligation to risk aggravating physical conditions or compromising safety when attempting to come to Church. To check the schedule go to [http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/weatherupdate.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/weatherupdate.htm) or www.nativityburke.org or to **Channel 16**.

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.

Thought for the Week:

**LIVE FOR TODAY; DREAM OF TOMORROW;
LEARN FROM YESTERDAY.**

Words on a banner hanging in the Cathedral Church in Ennis Ireland

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

Pro-Life Corner:

Each child is sent into this world by God with a unique message to deliver, a new song to sing, a personal act of love to bestow. We are rejecting God's gift and destroying His plan by aborting His babies. Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.

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.)

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

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.

SHARING HOPE, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, January 15th at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte. 123. The topic will be “Disengaging”. Newcomers are warmly welcomed and there is no fee. For further information, directions or encouragement, please call Barbara at 703-425-5467 or Maureen (work) 703-610-5805.

In December we joyfully welcomed into the Church



Anya Rosita Yabes, Jacob Michael Lyon, Sierra Moon McGuinness Willis, Elizabeth Anne Porter, Branden Tu Nguyen, Katrina Isela Maranon, Thomas Lee-Kai Rapalski, Lesly Jasmin Juarez, Juliana Yanez, Lino Maisson Saldana, Jacqueline Vanessa Torres, Brandon Paul Luff, Hannah Lea Engdahl,

Vocation Prayer...

Creator God, life is your gift. Through baptism you invite us to share our lives in service to others. Give us the courage and generosity to respond to your call. Bless those who serve you as priests, deacons, religious, consecrated seculars and lay ministers. Amen.

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.

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.

Nativity's ESL (English as a Second Language) program for Spanish speakers begins classes for the spring semester during the week of January 11, 2010. We offer three levels of classes (foundation, intermediate, advanced) on Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, an advanced class on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, and an intermediate class on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Registration of new students and placement testing for all classes will be held on Wednesday, January 13, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm; Thursday, January 14, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm; and Saturday, January 16, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. We are accepting new students on these three dates only. All classes, registration and testing will be held in the Nativity School. There is a one-time cost for new students of \$20.00, which includes the text book and a Spanish-English dictionary. For more information, call the Parish office at 703-455-2400.

Be sure to take time **THIS** year to enrich your Sacrament of Matrimony. Come to a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and recharge your marriage. The next local Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is February 19-21, 2010. Early registration is highly recommended, as dates fill up quickly. For more information call John and Lorie Scali 703-631-5289 or visit <http://wwme-nova.org/> (en español <http://www.seccion16emm.com/>)



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

"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.

The **Girl Scouts of Nativity and Service Unit 52-7** recently sent a care package to soldiers serving overseas that included special camouflage rosary beads and hand-made Christmas cards. We would like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their help shipping the package as well as the parishioners who made and donated the rosary beads. Many thanks also to the girls who made such creative and festive cards to brighten the holidays for our service men and women who are away from their families at this time.



Also, if you did not get a chance to pick up the nuts and candy you ordered from the Girl Scouts, please call Becky Chaves at 703-425-4965 to arrange for pick-up. We appreciate your support for this fundraiser.

Girl Scout cookie sales are just around the corner!



START YOUR NEW YEAR ON THE RIGHT FOOT BY TAKING A 4-WEEK CCDI MINI-COURSE

Starting in the middle of January, the Continuing Christian Development Institute (CCDI) will present 3 weekly evening mini-courses (at St. Charles Borromeo, Arlington (Mondays), St. Anthony of Padua, Falls Church (Thursdays) and Nativity, Burke (Thursdays)) and one on Saturday mornings at Good Shepherd, Mt. Vernon.

Learn from top scholars--two Scripture courses and two Theology courses. Deeply discounted tuition--less than half of any comparable courses. For more information and registration, e-mail Dr. William J. Tobin, Director at CCDIofVA@aol.com, or call 703-941-4329

The Institute of Catholic Culture is a non-profit educational Institute dedicated to the re-evangelization of our society through educational seminars offered to the public at no charge.

The Infancy Narrative of St. Luke (Bible Study) is being offered on Tuesday, January 12 at 7:30pm at St. Michael Church, 7401 St. Michael's Lane, Annandale, VA 22003. The presenter is timothy O'Donnell STD.

You can always find out more about the ICC at www.sjicc.com or by contacting the Director of the Institute, Sabatino Carnazzo at 703-504-8733 or by e-mail at famuluschristi@yahoo.com

Options for High School!

Join us for an Open House and learn more about the Paul VI Catholic High School's Options Program. Thursday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m. at Paul VI Catholic High School. The Options Program serves students with intellectual disabilities and significant learning disabilities. A primary goal for each student is to be as fully integrated as possible into the total life of the school community.

For more information on the Paul VI Catholic High School Options Program or to register for Open House, contact Mrs. Chris Desmarais @ 703 352-0925 Ext 333 or visit our website @ www.paulvi.net/academics/departments/options

The Options Program is now accepting applications for the academic year 2010/2011. Space is limited, so apply now!



Sunday, January 10

KOC Appalachia Collection after all Masses

- 2:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
- 4:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
- 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)

Monday, January 11

- 4:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
- 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 12

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

Wednesday, January 13

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

Thursday, January 14

- 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
- 6:30 pm.....Troop 2948 (GR)
- 7:00 pm.....ESL Registration (Room 5)
- 7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room 2)
- 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room 4)

Friday, January 15

- 4:00 pm.....Daisy Troop 6116 (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....Pack 1101 (PH)

Saturday, January 16

- 7:30 am.....Pack 1101 Pinewood Derby (PH)
- 9:30 am.....Pro Life Rosary (CH)
- 10:00 am.....ESL Registration (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)
- 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
- 1:00 pm.....Hispanic Baptisms (SC)
- 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)
- 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Mass (CH)

In the New Year, may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship, but never in want.

Irish Proverb