



Dear Friends,

A favorite poster which traveled with me through several assignments and most recently hung in the school office was mistakenly thrown away some months ago. The words reflected Gospel values and echoed the teachings of Jesus and were what I try to emulate in my own personal life.

CAUTION HUMAN BEINGS HERE HANDLE WITH CARE

Last week, on hearing about the poster's demise, one of our parishioners brought me a small wooden plaque with those same words on it: *Caution Human Beings Here Handle With Care*. This small 13 by 5 inch wooden plaque holds a lot of meaning, since he took the time and made it especially for me. Once again, it hangs in my office as a reminder to me and to all who read it of how we are to treat one another. Every one of us has feelings which is so easy to forget. Teens talking back to parents in ways that they never would talk with their friends; spouses taking each other for granted; employers can even act the same with their employees. How easy it is to hurt the feelings of others by gossip. How easy it is to destroy one's reputation with false accusations, or things that might be true but need not be shared with others. The following was printed in the Wall Street Journal. Think about the following whenever you are tempted to knock another down.

THE SNAKE THAT POISONS EVERYBODY

**It topples governments, wrecks marriages, ruins careers,
Busts reputations, causes heartaches, nightmares, indigestion,
Spawns suspicion, generates grief, dispatches innocent people to cry in their pillows.**

Even its name hisses.

It's called gossip.

Office gossip, Shop gossip. Party gossip.

It makes headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself:

Is it true?

Is it fair?

Is it necessary?

If not, shut up.

GOSSIP

GOSSIP is that which no one claims to like but everyone enjoys!

SMART is when you believe only half of what you hear.

BRILLIANT is when you know what half to believe!

Have a nice week!

J. Martin

THE LOST TEN DAYS –

Because we are so busy, we often say that we don't know where the days go. But did you know that in the year 1582, Pope Gregory actually made ten days disappear from the calendar. Here is the story. Centuries ago, actually before Jesus was born, in the year 40 BC, Julius Caesar came up with the Julian calendar as a way of keeping track of time. He devised a period of 365 and ¼ days for a solar year. He also set the number of days in each month and actually named one of the months, (July), for himself. So 365 days became the common year and the ¼ day for each year was taken care of by every 4 years having a "leap" year. However his calculations were a bit off. By the 16th century, astronomers were aware that Caesar's system, the Julian calendar, and Mother Nature were not in sync. There was almost a two week discrepancy between the position of the heavenly bodies and the dates on the calendar. So Pope Gregory XII made a series of corrections to the Julian calendar, corrections which are much too complicated to fully and clearly explain in this paragraph. One of these was to eliminate ten days from the calendar. So in that year, October 15th followed October 4th immediately. These changes got the calendar back on track and now a one day correction needs to be made only every 3500 years. It took years for Gregory's calendar, (the Gregorian calendar), to be fully accepted by all countries. England finally accepted it in 1752 and Russia in 1918.



Monday, November 16

BERTHA FISCHER.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, November 17

ALL SOULS DAY NOVENA7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, November 18

JOSEPHINE BORRELLI.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, November 19

JAMES BRADY.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, November 20

ALL SOULS DAY NOVENA.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, November 21

DAVID YASTISHOCK.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe
Special Intentions of

MR. & MRS JAMES O'GRADY.....5:00pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Sunday, November 22

SCOTT SMART.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

PARISHIONERS.....9:00am - Fr. Martin

ANA ANEZIN.....11:00am - Fr. Wilson

MR. VANDERSLICE.....12:45pm - Fr. Martin



Thanksgiving Holiday — classes cancelled Sunday, November 29, (only). Classes Monday, November 30, and Tuesday, December 1, will be held as usual.

Deadline for all Confirmation requirements: Sunday, December 6; Monday, December 7; and Tuesday, December 8. Confirmation students must have all requirements completed and turned in by the stated deadline.

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Nativity Craft Group will be having their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 5th from 9:00am to 1:00pm and Sunday, Dec. 6th after all



Masses in the All Purpose Room. A variety of handcrafted items and baked goods will be available. A beautiful handmade Christmas Quilt, donated by one of our parishioners, will also be raffled at our bazaar. All proceeds will go to local charities

Boy Scout Troop 1100 will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts after all of the Masses today. The boys are raising money to help fund their Philmont High Adventure hiking trip next July. Donuts sell for \$5 a box, and the Boy Scouts greatly appreciate your support!



Altar Flowers



In Loving Memory of
Frank Suchond
from
Frederick K. Arzt
And
In Loving Memory of
My Husband, Ernie Weeks
from
Zulma Weeks

Thought for the Week

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.
1Corinthians 10:31

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

Our Lady of Knock Society would like you to join us for our 13th Annual Card Party for Charity. The card party will be held on Saturday, November 21st, at 6:30. A donation of \$15 will get you in the door to access all the fun and prizes. NO CARD SKILLS are required. Reservations must be made by November 15th. Tickets are on sale after all Masses or you can call Cathy Durham at (703) 866-3646.



SPECIAL MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

On Tuesday, November 17, 2009 a special Mass of Remembrance will take place at Nativity. Any parishioner who has experienced the loss of a loved one during the past year is invited to attend. A small reception will be held in the vestibule following the liturgy. For more information, please contact Teri Baker, Liturgical Minister, TeriBaker67@cox.net or call 703-455-2400 x 129.

Pro-Life Corner:

Abortion and euthanasia are commonplace because too many have done too little for too long. Nothing complicated, we've simply allowed the evil influences to inundate us and we do nothing. We allow our pro-abortion officials to remain in office and, in fact, may have voted for them, voting for our pocketbook instead of voting for Life. May we all receive courage from God to change our hearts and work to end abortion.



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

It's that time again for the annual Women of Nativity's Giving Tree project. As always, we are excited about the upcoming event and are so appreciative to partner with the generous parishioners of our church. On November 21, 22, 28 and 29, ornaments with holiday wishes will be placed on a Christmas tree in the vestibule. Please take the ornaments of your choice and return the gifts to the church vestibule on the collection dates of December 5, 6, 12, and 13. The wrapping instructions for each gift will be on the back of the ornament. Several of the organizations we service have requested the gifts be **UNWRAPPED** for easier distribution and the integrity of their program involving young children. Please **securely attach the ornament you take from the tree to the gift**. This helps us greatly in separating and bagging the gifts for the various groups to collect. GIFT CARDS should be put in an envelope with the recipient marked on the outside. It is easier to handle Gift Cards if they are not wrapped. We appreciate your cooperation very much.



It is very important that gifts be returned on the scheduled dates because of the delivery arrangements. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Transportation is very difficult to arrange after Dec 13, and it would be sad if we couldn't deliver on a child's request.

Below is a list of the groups we support with their corresponding ornament.

Purple Christmas Bulb – S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat)

Green Christmas Bell - Sunday Supers

White Angels – Martha's Table educational and homeless shelter, Washington, DC

Red Gift Box – Nativity Parish families in need

Yellow Star – Hispanic outreach program for No. Va. Day workers

Blue Snowmen – St. Augustine Church, Washington, DC

Orange Gingerbread Men – Father Wilson's counseling project

Red Cross — Alexandria Red Cross program for disadvantaged seniors

Salvation Army - These ornaments are prepared by the Salvation Army and each will have several gifts. You are to choose the item you would like to give.

We appreciate the generosity and caring of our parishioners in making this a special and happy holiday for so many of our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Please feel free to contact Sally Quenneville (703-764-3239 or sallyq48@cox.net) with any questions.

The **Victim Assistance Ministry** is a program of outreach to victims/survivors of childhood sexual abuse by clergy, religious or lay employees of the Catholic church, as well as those abused through incest, by acquaintances, or through violent attack. We encourage both victims/survivors and the entire Catholic community to join us at a Prayer Service to pray for the healing of those who have been sexually abused. The Prayer Service will be held on **December 1, 2009 at 7:30 pm** at St. Andrew the Apostle Church, located at 6720 Union Mill Road in Clifton. Rev. Mark Mealey, O.S.F.S., will preside. For more information about the Prayer Service and other services offered through the Victim Assistance Ministry, please visit our website www.arlingtondiocese.org. You may also contact the Victim Assistance Coordinators, Pat Mudd at 703-841-2530 or Kathryn Kramer at 703-841-2759. All calls are confidential.

CREATION CARE MINISTRY

The whole human race suffers as a result of environmental blight, and generations yet unborn will bear the price for our failure to act today. - *Renewing the Earth, U.S. Catholic Bishops, 1991, p. 2.*

What action will YOU take today to reduce damage to the environment?

A green thought from Nativity's Creation Care Ministry

The **Knights of Columbus** would like to invite all parishioners to a special tour followed by Mass on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 4:00 P.M. at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, (Crypt Church), 400 Michigan Avenue, Northeast, Washington DC. The Shrine is easily accessible by car with plenty of free parking. The Shrine is also accessible on the Metro Red Line (Brookland/CUA). Our celebrant for Mass will be Fr Joseph Fox, from the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception. Additionally, we have arranged a special tour of the Shrine for those interested beginning at 2:00 P.M. If attending the tour, please meet at the Visitors Center. We hope that you can join us for this very special and Blessed event. For more information, e-mail GK7992@VAKOFC.ORG

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, November 15, 2009** - for a Pancake Breakfast hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

The **University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN**, is currently accepting applications for its program in educational administration designed especially for preparing Catholic school principals. The Master of Arts (M.A.) degree is part of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program. All certified teachers interested in the principalship are encouraged to apply. For information, call 574-631-4449, or visit <http://ace.nd.edu>. The online application is now available on this site.

AFRICAN SYNOD PRESENTATION at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church -- Fr. Rocco Puopolo, Executive Director of the Africa Faith and Justice Network, has returned from covering the Special Assembly of Bishops on Africa which took place in Rome from October 4th to 25th. Come to a presentation on this African Synod, which will include a Power Point presentation on the Synod process and findings, background information on the final message and 57 propositions that were the result of this ecclesial event. Come and discover what implications those propositions may have for us as the Church here in the USA as we join in solidarity with the Church in Africa. Information on the Synod, the message, the propositions and Fr. Rocco's commentaries along the way can be found at www.yesafricamatters.org, <http://www.yesafricamatters.org/>>. The presentation will be at Our Lady Queen of Peace, 2700 19th Street South, Arlington, Virginia in the Founder's Room on Tuesday November 17th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. All are welcome.

Sharing Hope, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, November 15th at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte. 123. The topic will be "Rebuilding Self Esteem". 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.

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.

The **Arlington Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima** will sponsor a Eucharistic Holy Hour on Sunday, November 22 from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. at St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Wiehle Ave., Reston. We hope you will join us in prayer.

A placement test for five Catholic High Schools, **Bishop Ireton, Bishop O'Connell, Paul VI, Pope John Paul the Great and Oakcrest School** will be given on Saturday, December 5, 2009 (snow date December 12, 2009) from 8:30 am to 12:00 noon at **Bishop Ireton, Alexandria; Bishop O'Connell, Arlington; Paul VI, Fairfax and Pope John Paul the Great, Dumfries**. Any 8th grader attending public school, non-Catholic private schools or Catholic schools outside the Arlington Diocese are eligible. Students must fill out a High School Placement Test Registration Form (available under "School Forms" at <http://wwwsw.arlingtondiocese.org/catholicschools/parents.php>). The registration form must be submitted to the test site no later than Wednesday, December 2, 2009. A \$30.00 fee should accompany the form. For students who are prevented from taking the test on December 5, 2009, there will be one additional testing date...Saturday, January 9, 2010 at **BI, DJO, PVI and JPG**. The snow date is January 23, 2210 at **BI, DJO, PVI and JPG**. Test time is 8:30 am to 12:00 noon and the fee is \$30.00.

The **Blessed Christmas Wafers**, a centuries' old Christmas vigil tradition enjoyed by the East Europeans, are available from the St. Vincent de Paul Society at the Knights of Columbus Christmas tree trailer located at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church, 3700 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Times are week days, 3:30 to 9:00pm and weekends, 9:00am to 9:00pm beginning November 29. Please call or availability after December 17. Donation is \$3.00 per wafer package. For more information call 703-764-0243. All wafer proceeds benefit the Saint Vincent de Paul Society.

Healing of Family Tree Mass to be celebrated for families who have generations of unresolved issues, at St. John Paul II Cultural Center on Saturday, November 21st at 10:00am. Rev. Fr. Joseph Barr, Pastor of Holy Family Church (Davidsonville, MD) will be the main celebrant and homilist. The Mass will seek to free families of inherited deficiencies and burdens that may have become part of the family history and development. There is no admission fee, but pre-registration is required because of limited seating. Please call 202-635-5425 to confirm how many family members are attending. JP II Cultural Center is at 3900 Harewood Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20017. Free parking is available. The Center is located near the Basilica of the National Shrine and Catholic U. The nearest Metro is Brookland-CUA on the red line.



This Week in our Parish

Sunday, November 15

School Christmas Card Sale, CRS Fair Trade Coffee, Boy Scout Troop 1100 Donut Sale

- 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S, PH)
- 2:00 pm.....Baptism (CH)
- 7:00 pm.....Vibe Meeting (PH)

Monday, November 16

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

Tuesday, November 17

- 9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)
- 4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD (S, PH)
- 7:00 pm.....Knights of Columbus (PH)
- 7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Mass of Remembrance (CH)

Wednesday, November 18

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

Thursday, November 19

- 9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)
- 6:30 pm.....GSA Jr. Troop 2948 (GR)
- 7:00 pm.....ESL Classes (Room. 5)
- 7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room. 2)
- 7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room. 4)
- 7:30 pm.....Baptism Class (SL)
- 7:30 pm.....Grief Support Group (S)

Friday, November 20

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

Saturday, November 21

- 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)
- 6:30 pm.....Lady of Knock Card Party (PH)
- 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Mass (CH)