



Dear Friends,

As we observe Dr. Martin Luther King Day tomorrow, my thoughts bring me back to my 1964 seminary days in Cullman, Alabama. Cullman was a small town 50 miles north of Birmingham. In both cities, I remember separate rest rooms and separate drinking fountains - one for those who were black and one for the white people. To a 24 year old student coming from the north this was an entirely new experience. I found it shocking to say the least. I recall restaurants that would not accommodate black people and when they boarded the buses in Birmingham they were relegated to the back seats. The atrocities that went on in Selma, Alabama, were more than news segments on television - they were happening only a few miles away. Shortly after being ordained in 1966, I was required to be bonded by the Commonwealth of Virginia. I was not a landholder so a prominent businessman in Alexandria signed the bonds for many of the newly ordained. One of the reasons for the bond was to ensure that I would have the fine to pay in the event that I officiated at the wedding of a black and a white person - against the law then. Thankfully, that law was soon changed. To many this may seem like *ancient history* - and yet all of this occurred within the last 45 years!

We have come a long way since Dr. King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech. But we still have much growing to do to accept *all* people. Today some have great difficulty in accepting our Islamic sisters and brothers, especially in light of the attempted bombing of an airliner just weeks ago. To fault all because of terrorist attacks of a few is also an injustice. I have Islamic acquaintances and am about to read a book on Islam to increase my understanding. It bothers me when people make disparaging comments about those who are different - be that difference religion, skin color, lifestyle, culture - without having any real knowledge of these "different" people. Or worse still - without even *wanting* to know more about them. Who among us are not different? We all have differences - different ancestral backgrounds, skin color, different religious beliefs. And yet *all* of us were created by the *same loving God*. What Pope John XXIII said some 40 years ago is still so true today: "Let us look to what unites us rather than what divides us." With all of our differences, we still have more things in common.

I think that differences can be compared to various instruments in an orchestra. The violin is not the viola; the trumpet is not the tuba; the harp is not the same as the percussion section; the piano is not the organ. Each is different. Yet, when *all* are played in unison with one conductor we have a melodious symphony. The same with people. And the conductor might be comparable to the Lord who always taught us to Love One Another.

As I look back on my seminary days in Alabama we have come a long way. However, we still have much to accomplish to realize the dream of Dr. King. Although it is not always easy, try to find some good in those "different people" you will meet this week. In each other's eyes we are *all* different. But don't forget, we are all under the baton of the *one conductor*!

"Commit to life, not just to memory." (Golden Rule Bits and Pieces)

*"Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstandings, mistrust, and hostility to evaporate."
(Albert Schweitzer, (1875-1965) medical missionary)*

Have a nice week!

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

“Nuts and Bolts” #1

This week and also for the next two or three, the office staff has asked that we take a closer look at what is necessary to keep a parish viable and growing. Just as the parish has certain obligations concerning the parishioners, we, the parishioners, have responsibilities concerning the parish. For example, did you know that when your children turn 18 years old, they are considered adults and should register as such with the parish? Also, are you aware that as your families grow with the birth of children, your parish registration cards need to be updated? It also is very important to update the parish registration cards as your children grow in their faith. And how about changes in address and phone numbers? These items might seem insignificant compared to other events going on in our lives, and can be easily overlooked, but when it is necessary for the office staff to get in touch with families, current information becomes very important. So as we begin a new year, with its many resolutions and good intentions, let's make updating our parish information one of them.



Monday, January 18

JIM MILLER.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, January 19

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

Wednesday, January 20

PRANDONI FAMILY.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, January 21

DR. JAMES WINKLER.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, January 22

EDWARD BALLMAN.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, January 23

SAMUEL MORANO.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

JOHN MCGURL.....5:00pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Sunday January 24

Special Intentions of

REUBEN PINKSON.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

ANNA DIDUCH.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

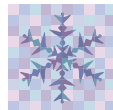
MR. & MRS. JAMES SCANLON.....11:00am - Fr. Martin

CHRISTINE BARRETT.....12:45pm.- Fr. Wilson

Thank you to all who donated to Cardinal Leger Hospital for Lepers. These donations are the only means of support to feed the families of the lepers. May God bless you for your generosity.
Natasha

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> or www.nativityburke.org or to **Channel 16**.



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.

First Holy Communion students to receive the sacrament of First Penance Wednesday, February 3, at 7:00pm in the church.

The Confirmation Retreat for Group I students to be held in Nativity's Parish Hall Saturday, February 6, from 8:30am – 3:30pm.

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

Altar Flowers

In Loving Memory of
Jose C. Cruz, Father & Grandpa
From The de Pondicchello Family
And

In Loving Memory of
Anthony J. & Therese L. Dobrowski
From The der Boghossian Family



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 at 703-455-2400, ext. 117

Ωομεν οφ Νατιβιτυ Γιωε Τηανκς



To all our Nativity Parish Friends...a heartfelt THANK YOU on behalf of all the families we help with the Advent Giving Tree. With pleasure we received and distributed most of the desired items to those we serve. "Thank you" does not begin to express our gratitude and appreciation for your kindness and generosity.

Pro-Life Corner:

Roe v Wade is the Dred Scott of the 20th century and now the 21st. We must pray that the time will come when Roe v Wade is remembered only as a horrible reminder of what we as a nation once allowed. This is the time for a new abolitionism, the time to abolish the horrible practice of abortion. We must fight for the Right to Life, for the born and the unborn.

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).

37th Annual MARCH FOR LIFE is Friday, January 22, 2010. If you have signed up to travel via the Nativity buses to the National Mall in Washington DC for the Rally and March For Life, please gather at the back of the church for march instructions by 10:45 AM that morning. Buses will depart from Nativity at 11:00 AM and return by 4:30 PM. Late sign-ups are still welcomed. Contact Jane Hamilton (703-646-5051) or George Getek (703-978-6674) for sign-ups/questions. 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 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

BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL

In the coming days, many of you will receive a mailing from Bishop Loverde regarding the 2010 Bishops Lenten Appeal (BLA) please read it over and consider your support of this very important appeal that funds many of our Diocesan programs and ministries.

This year's BLA theme is "Charity is Faith in Action." As you reflect on your contribution, pray for the intercession of Saint John Vianney, the Universal Patron of Priests, to guide you. Think about the many blessings in your life, including the gift of your faith. Please consider making a sacrificial pledge that can be paid over the course of the year.

Please consider how your gift to the BLA will help your brothers and sisters in our diocese who are served by our ministries, programs and services. The BLA requires financial support from every one of us to be successful. **Charity is Faith in Action!**

Nativity Catholic School and the PTO invite our parish family to a special **Open House on Sunday, January 31st from 10:15 am – 11:30 pm** to begin our celebration of Catholic Schools Week. We welcome the parish to visit our classrooms, talk to our teachers and discover more about the unique experience of students attending Nativity Catholic School. We look forward to showing you how our Nativity stars shine and offer you light refreshments on Sunday, January 31st at 10:15AM – 11:30AM.

Other Important School Dates

Open House on February 4th

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

*We invite everyone to join us for our Band Concert immediately following at 7:00 pm

Open Registration

February 10th - 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

February 11th – 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

February 12th – 9:30 am – 11:30 am

APPALACHIA HOME BUILDING COLLECTION
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The Knights of Columbus want to thank the entire Nativity Family for their incredible response on supporting the Appalachia Home Building outreach effort. The collection set all records bringing in approximately \$32,000 and donations continue to come in. Thank you and God bless you all!



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 703-5569-1040 or the Retreat House at 703-356-4243.
"Nothing can separate us from the love of God" Romans 8:39

**WANT TO START YOUR NEW YEAR RIGHT—
 TAKE A CCDI MINI-COURSE ON JESUS AND HIS
 CHURCH THURSDAYS AT NATIVITY**

Starting Thursday, January 28th, the Continuing Christian Development Institute (CCDI) will conduct a four-week, Winter, mini-course "*JESUS—GOD AND MAN, AND HIS CHURCH*" It will be held in Nativity School (8th grade Room) from 7:30-9:30 PM. **Dr. William J. Tobin**, Director of the CCDI, and former National Director of Religious Education, will conduct the mini-course
Topics to be covered are: The Jesus of Faith is the Jesus of History; Jesus in the Creed—True God and True Man; The Sinlessness of Jesus; The New Testament Titles Given to Jesus; Understandings of Jesus' Atonement; and How Did Jesus Found His Church.
 Modest, deeply discounted tuition for Nativity parishioners is \$160.00, which includes all class handouts. Contact Dr. William J. Tobin, CCDI Director at CCDIofVA@aol.com, or 703-941-4329 for information and registration.

God encourages us: "I have set before you life and death... Choose life." (Deut. 30:19) In this New Year, how will we choose life? How will we show more compassion, more caring, for God's world where now people die for lack of clean water, where children lie listless and malnourished on dirt floors, where animals and plants struggle for survival because of habitat loss and pollution?

Each of us can commit to one act of advocacy, one area of need, or one way to live more lightly on our planet. We can bring our unique personalities and talents to bear on the problems facing our world. We do not have to do it all. But think of the impact on the world if each of us added one new way to care for God's marvelous creation. Some will advocate for environmental issues by writing letters to representatives in Congress or the State House. Others will find that researching an area of need and supporting it through donations of time and/or money is be a better fit. Let each of us choose to do something in the New Year; so that this time next year we can look back and say, "Yes, thank God, I chose life."

A green thought from Nativity's Creation Care Ministry

You are invited to a **Eucharistic Holy Hour** sponsored by the Arlington Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima on Sunday, January 24 from 3:00 – 4:00 P.M. 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.



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



The Knights of Columbus are hosting a **PANCAKE BREAKFAST** for the parish after the 7:30am and 9:00am Masses **today, Sunday, January 17th**. Please join us for a great breakfast and fellowship. There is no charge for the breakfast, but we accept donations which will be used to support food for the needy programs.

The **Knights of Columbus** will host a benefits evening, Tuesday, **January 19, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. This event is open to all. So come learn more about the benefits of belonging to the Knights of Columbus. The Knights of Columbus was formed to render financial aid to members and their families. Mutual aid and assistance are offered to sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief works. 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. Join us!

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.

All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited us to again participate in their **Annual Multi - Car Raffle**. The Knights of Columbus have been asked by Father Martin to lead the effort here at Nativity parish. Prizes include five 2009 vehicles from Koons of Manassas (Honda Civic, Honda Accord, GMC Sierra Truck, Honda CRV sport utility and Honda Odyssey Van). One \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five vehicles plus up to \$20,000 in cash prizes. Proceeds will benefit charitable and youth programs here at Nativity. Beginning the week of February 2, 2009, each registered family of Nativity will receive tickets in the mail with instructions. Thank you in advance for your support



Prayer Shawl Ministry... Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00pm and Monday, January 25th at 9:30am. We meet in the All Purpose Room to work on our projects. Please join us.

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



TAKE A BREAK TUESDAY!

Have nothing to do on Tuesday? Come hang out in the youth office after school on **Jan.19th from 3pm-5pm.** You can do your school work, play some games, or just hang out. See you there!

There will be **no Vibe on Jan. 17th**, but come out next Sunday, the 24th for food, games, and a chance to grow deeper with the Lord in the New Year! Vibe will be from 7-8:30pm in the Parish hall.

There is a mandatory Workcamp meeting on **Jan.26th from 7:00-8:00pm** in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions about Workcamp please contact Meghan at 703-455-2400 ext. 115 or through email at cyo@nativityschool.org

Are you buried in old files, receipts or paper? **NO PROBLEM!** The **Paul VI Catholic High School PTO** can help. A secure recycling and shredding truck will be in the school parking lot on **Saturday, January 30, 2010 from 10:00am to 1:00pm.** Protect your identity for a donation of only \$8.00 per box. Proceeds to benefit our teacher scholarship fund.

Paul VI Catholic High School is hosting an Athletic Night for 8th Graders and their families on January 30th. Be our guest for both the Girl's and Boy's Varsity Basketball Games and dinner. Contact ehanley@paulvi.net for reservations and additional information.

 Looking for smaller classes and more individualized attention for your high school student? **Paul VI Catholic High School** is now accepting applications for the Fall of 2010. Please contact Mrs. Eileen Hanley at ehanley@paulvi.net to arrange a private tour and visit.

Networking Group CAN Help the Unemployed!

Christians are Networking ("CAN") is a Catholic Charities-sponsored ministry that assists people who unemployed or under-employed. CAN provides free professional career counseling -- including resume reviews and practice job interviews -- and opportunities to network with other professionals.

Join us every Thursday evening, from 7-9 p.m. at the St. Martin De Porres Senior Center, 4650 Taney Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304.

In the coming weeks, we'll have a special presentation on managing your finances in difficult times and advice from a panel of recruiters.

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.



Sunday, January 17

CRS FAIR TRADE COFFEE

KOC PANCAKE BREAKFAST

2:00 pm.....Baptisms (CH)

Monday, January 18

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

8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, January 19

9:30 am.....Bible Study (APR)

Wednesday, January 20

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)

3:45 pm.....Daisy Troop 1449 (APR)

7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (Room 6)

7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)

7:00 pm.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)

7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Room 9)

7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

Thursday, January 21

9:30 am.....Craft Group (APR)

6:30 pm.....Troop 2948 (GR)

7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)

7:00 pm.....Spanish Class (Room 2)

7:00 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 Board of Review (Room 6)

7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)

7:30 pm.....Baptism Class (SL)

7:30 pm.....Grief Support Group (S)

7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room 4)

Friday, January 22

4:00 pm.....GS Troop 1635 (APR)

7:00 pm.....Family Fellowship Group (PH)

Saturday, January 23

10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)

10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)

5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)

6:00 pm.....KOC Chili Dinner

7:00 pm.....Hispanic Mass (CH)

Theology of the Body Seminar: Bill Donaghy, TOB Institute Speaker and Educator will crack open the beauty and mystery of Pope John Paul II's and the church's on sexuality. **Sat, Jan. 23, 9 am - 3:30 pm, Ft. Belvoir**, Woodlawn Chapel, 1801 Wright Rd, across from the commissary. Everyone is welcome; \$20 per person includes study materials, breakfast and lunch. Non-military must have a photo id card and enter through the Tulley Gate off of Route 1. Registration forms available online: http://www.ascensionpress.net/SeminarFiles/fort_belvoir_VA_flyer.pdf For info call 703-806-3394 or email FBCCinfo@gmail.com