



Dear Friends,

### Walking With Christ in Haiti – Part 3

Our last day at Cap Haitien brought us to our proposed 2010 Lenten Starfish project - Nativity Village #6. Some 8,000 people live in Shada along the polluted canal that winds through Haiti's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city. As our group walked along the river the stench was overpowering. Amidst the garbage smell and polluted water was a small primary school. Children attend school only if their parents can come up with the \$10 dollar monthly tuition. Most schools in Haiti are private; all the school children wear uniforms. The garbage that collects along the rivers edge helps to form landfill that will hopefully keep the water from overflowing into their small shacks that we would never allow our animals to live in. To illustrate the destitution of the area we passed by a man who was roasting a pig which appeared to be about 100 pounds, over a small fire. We were told that it would probably take at least a day, probably two with the small wood fire for it to be fully cooked - with all the entrails. When one is starving everything is consumed- even the innards.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Nativity Village project will relocate these river people to higher - and safer - ground several miles away. They will become part of our other already formed communities with new houses of their own. Change is difficult for any of us and some will undoubtedly resist leaving. The best chance to find any menial job is usually near a city. These jobs vary from day to day and hour to hour. We saw one man pulling and two pushing a rig with some 50 bags of cement each weighing over 100 pounds. Their pay? About 30 to 40 cents US. Scenes like this as well as the man cooking his pig over a few pieces of wood seem primitive - almost caveman-like. We have so many reality shows on TV, that in my mind are anything but reality. The scenes we saw today are reality for hundreds of thousands.

In the afternoon we visited the Prolonge swamp. Through your sacrificial gifts we have provided new houses to more than 350 families in this area, but many still live in the swamp. It is an ongoing project. It was here that I encountered another scene which I will not soon forget. A woman with a large strainer in one hand and an even bigger basket in the other was in some three feet of muddy water trying to catch small crabs - no more than an inch - and fish about the same size. Her face spoke to us with strength, determination and faith. When we asked what she would do with them we were told she would use some for her meal and the others she would sell to neighbors. A woman wearing a dress kneeling in mud up to her waist trying to survive! This some 600 miles from Disneyworld! This was and is reality and it will probably never be part of any television series.

A ray of hope was realized that afternoon when we visited and blessed our 5<sup>th</sup> Nativity Village at Demier. Food for the Poor had arranged for a celebration lunch for 250 of the residents, along with new shoes and colorful berets for the girls and soccer balls for the boys. It was chaos however. Someone had "leaked" the news of the food to people in neighboring villages several miles away. More than 1,000 people descended upon the village. Since none of us were able to perform a "multiplication" miracle, many got nothing to eat. This is reality in Haiti - walking miles for the promise of rice and beans. I thought at that moment of all the food that we throw away simply because of an expiration label on a box or can. This IS reality! At our last meal together back at the hotel (rice, beans, vegetables and goat) we poured our hearts out to one another at what we had seen these past days. We all had walked through the Beatitudes of the Gospel. We had truly lived in four days the words of St. Matthew in his Gospel Chapter 25.

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**CLOTHED THE NAKED.....**We saw many who walked with no shoes. Children walking with just a tee shirt on and some wearing nothing. We passed out nearly 1,000 pairs of shoes.

**FEED THE HUNGRY.....**we had fed hundreds, many with the orange hair of malnutrition.

**GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY....**we experienced young children begging for our half-empty bottles of water.

**IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME...we** walked through the Cap Haitien prison, gave shoes and food to the 563 inmates. Fr. Duken orchestrated the release of 4 of the young men. We washed their feet in imitation of Jesus at the Last Supper, gave them new shoes and a little money, and walked them out the gate.

**SICK AND YOU CAME TO ME....**especially in the Little Children of Jesus handicapped home, we held and comforted the broken children. And while ten of our parishioners walked literally in this poorest country of the Western Hemisphere, YOU through your prayers and sacrificial monetary offerings were walking right along with us. None of this would ever have become a reality were it not for your generous support – your checks and zip-lock bags of coins. I am most grateful and know that I speak for the thousands who now, while still poor, are beginning to live in dignity. YOU made their dream - their prayer - a reality.

What more could you do? If these past three weeks bulletins of our journey spoke to you, you might pass them along to another, rather than toss them into the trash. Not only is this the “green” thing to do these days - you might even motivate someone else to become involved in helping the destitute. Look what started from a simple, quiet, late night walk with my dog “Pete” some eleven years ago. God does work in mysterious and wonderful ways, doesn't He?

For more info – [www.operation-starfish.org](http://www.operation-starfish.org)




Monday, December 7

VIOLA RUDZINSKI.....7:30am - Fr. Martin  
ALBERT DONOVAN.....7:30pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Tuesday, December 8

Holy Day of Obligation

ROBERT McHUGH.....7:30am - Fr. Martin  
SCHOOL INTENTIONS.....9:00am - Fr. Martin  
GENE BEAVERS.....7:30pm - Fr. Wilson

Wednesday, December 9

THOMAS BURNS.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, December 10

SANTIAGO HERNANDEZ.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, December 11

MARCIA WILBER LaRUE.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, December 12

DICK TALARICO.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe  
EDWARD RAWLIN.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday, December 13

PARISHIONERS.....7:30am - Fr. Martin  
FRANCES BUTERA.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson  
EDWARD H. UTLEY.....11:00am - Fr. O'Keefe  
JOHN SHERMAN.....12:45pm - Fr. Wilson



Altar Flowers

In Loving Memory of  
Esther and Jack Reagan  
from Pat and Steve Hisler  
and

In Loving Memory of  
The Nawrocki and Matthews Families  
from The Matthews Family



We joyfully welcome into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism

Leila Cerie Deleon, Cole Eli Livingston, Anthony Victor Bardo, Brooke Emily Weidner, Christina Mae Cahill, Jameson Lawrence Searight, Harper Rose Stone, Jacob Ryan Opsut, Julia Erin Lehrer, Abigail Elizabeth Rios, Santiago Leonel Torres, Melanie Michelle Polo, Brandon Javier Polo, Jordan Michael Perez, Kevin Anthony Escobar

Thought for the Week

**“This is what the poor are....to give to the rich the occasion to do good for Christ’s sake.”**

Peter Maurin  
Co-founder of the Catholic Worker



**Confirmation Requirements Deadline**--All requirements for Confirmation students must be completed and turned in to the Religious Education Office by **Sunday, December 6; Monday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 8.**

**Immaculate Conception**--Holy Day of Obligation. Monday evening classes (Session #5; 7:00-8:15pm) on December 7, and Tuesday evening classes (Session #7; 7:00-8:15pm) on December 8 are cancelled, so that students can fulfill the obligation to attend Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at 7:30pm with their families. (Afternoon classes on Monday and Tuesday will be held as usual.)

**Christmas Holiday**--all classes cancelled December 20 through December 29. Classes resume January 3, 4, and 5.

The **Inclement Weather Policy** can be viewed at **[www.edu.nativityburke.org](http://www.edu.nativityburke.org)**; click on Weather Policy.

### Pro-Life Corner:



The deliberate killing of innocent persons, whether they are pre-born or born, through all forms of abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or any other means is unethical, immoral, evil, and is a direct interference in God's plan for those souls. **Choose Life Today. Choose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less.**

Are you suffering from an abortion experience? **PROJECT RACHEL** offers spiritual and psychological healing. Call 703-276-0373 ([projectrachel@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto: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**

## “Little Christmas”



This year December 6<sup>th</sup> falls on a Sunday so the Feast of St. Nicholas, which is celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December is largely overlooked. But for many individuals this holy man can never be forgotten. St. Nicholas is the Patron Saint of Russia and Greece and is revered in both the Eastern and Western Churches. He also is the Patron Saint of sailors and children. Not too much is known about him since he lived during the 4<sup>th</sup> century. He became the Bishop of Myra which is now a part of southwestern Turkey. While historical facts are few, legends abound. It is said that he was an extremely generous man, but one who gave his gold coins secretly to help all who were in need. (Today, we keep his “secret giving” alive by our custom of being a “secret Santa” to others.) It was during the early Middle Ages that he became extremely popular although his popularity dimmed in Protestant Europe following the Reformation. However, in Holland, his memory was kept alive, and it is said that on his feast day he would arrive on horseback dressed in a red robe with helpers who would assist him in giving candies and presents to good children, and placing lumps of coal in the shoes of those who were not so good. So the custom was for children to place their shoes outside their bedrooms and eagerly check them in the morning to see what St. Nicholas had left for them. It was the Dutch who brought his tradition to New Amsterdam (New York City) where he became known as Santa Claus. The English know him as Father Christmas.

### DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON TO JOIN WORLD-WIDE CELEBRATION OF ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

The Pontifical Mission Societies of the Diocese of Arlington will celebrate a special Mass in honor of the Servant of God Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on the 30th anniversary of his death, December 9, 2009 at 12:05 pm at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde will be the celebrant. This Mass is part of a world-wide celebration of the life of Archbishop Sheen.

The Archbishop Fulton John Sheen Foundation is the official promoter of the cause for the canonization of Archbishop Sheen. To learn more about the cause or about Archbishop Sheen visit [www.archbishopsheencause.org](http://www.archbishopsheencause.org).

“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another...” Worldwide Marriage Encounter can energize your sacrament. 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>)

The Nativity Girl Scouts will be distributing the Nut & Candy orders after all Masses on the weekend of December 5th and 6th. If you placed an order back in October, we will have it waiting for you. Your receipt is not required for pick-up. Any orders not picked up on this weekend will be held for you. Thanks for your support of our pilot fall sale.



**NATIVITY SCOUT WREATH PICK UP**

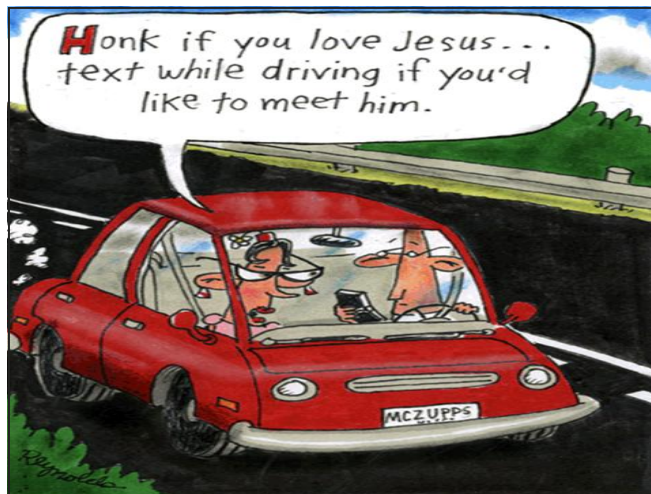
Wreath and Holiday Greenery orders made through Boy Scout Troop 1100 will be available for pick up after all Masses on November 28th and 29th, and on December 5th and 6th. A limited number of items will be available for purchase in the event that you didn't preorder, or would like to purchase additional items. The Boy Scouts of Nativity Parish thank you for your support.



After all the Sunday Masses on December 13, 2009, the *Virtus Update DVD* will be played in the Parish Hall. These viewings are offered for all volunteers and employees who work with children who haven't recently taken their *Virtus* Class, and who do not regularly take *Virtus* classes online. The program lasts approximately 22 minutes. The Diocese of Arlington's Office for Child Protection and Safety states that seeing this DVD is one of its requirements for being compliant with its program for protection of God's Children. Please attend if this applies to you. Thank you.

**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.



**NATIVITY NIGHT OF MUSIC**

Regrettably, we will not be having our annual concert with the choirs this December. For a host of reasons, it was not possible to put on the same quality program that you all have enjoyed in past years. We plan to be back in 2010 with another outstanding program.



**Breakfast with Santa!**

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them in the Parish Hall on **Saturday morning, December 12th, 10am to noon**, for fun, fellowship, and a chance for the children of our Parish to meet and have breakfast with Santa. Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted to support Christ House in their ministry to those who are in need in our community.



Join us for fun, food, pictures with Santa, a Christmas craft, and a children's Christmas video. Santa will be bringing a surprise for all boys and girls who attend.

Please RSVP to John or Cheryl Ostrowski at [Johnnyo89@verizon.net](mailto:Johnnyo89@verizon.net) 703-323-1411 so we can tell Santa how many treats to bring with him.

See you there!



**Next Knights of Columbus Blood Drive:**

Saturday, December 12th from 7:00am to Noon at St. Raymond's Parish Hall. At this Blood Drive, INOVA Blood Donor Services is emphasizing the urgent need of collecting O Negative, B Negative and A Negative donors. All donors are welcomed! Contact John Landy @ 703-250-1492, email [navyy8@yahoo.com](mailto:navyy8@yahoo.com) NOW for your appointment or after Mass to sign up. Thank you in advance for your help.

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.



**Lord Jesus, Christ our King**, for this You were born, for this You came into the world, all so that we might know the truth of our Father's merciful love for us. We belong to You and strive to listen to your voice in our lives. May all those You are calling to build Your kingdom as priests, deacons or in the consecrated life be made especially responsive to You and be faithful witnesses by their share in Your glorious mission. Amen.

**VOCATION DISCERNMENT RETREAT**  
 Young women from 18-30 years old are welcome to a "Come and See" vocational discernment weekend with the Daughters of St. Paul in Alexandria, VA from December 18-20, 2009. Please call Sr. Margaret Michael or Sr. Christine for more information at 703-549-8306 or email [srmichaelfsp@aol.com](mailto:srmichaelfsp@aol.com).

**A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO THE PARISH?  
 2009 TAX LAW - TAX-FREE IRA GIFT**

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift tax-free from your IRA to our parish or the Diocese through 12/31/09. While this gift will not result in a tax deduction, the amount will be excluded from your taxable income for 2009. Other benefits and restrictions apply - for more information, please call 703-841-3896 or visit:

[www.arlingtondiocese.planyourlegacy.org/ira.php](http://www.arlingtondiocese.planyourlegacy.org/ira.php).

**TAX SAVINGS THROUGH A GIFT OF STOCK**

You may make a gift of stock as a **donation to our parish or our diocese**. In exchange for a gift of long-term, appreciated securities (stock), you can receive an income tax deduction and avoid capital gains taxes on stock appreciation. For more information, please call 703-841-3896 or visit

[www.arlingtondiocese.org/giving/gifts\\_stock.php](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/giving/gifts_stock.php)

Pianist and composer Bobby Jasinski, a Church of The Nativity parishioner since 1989, will give his ninth benefit concert at The Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on Saturday, December 19th, at 3 p.m.

The musical celebration, which also will feature Christmas Carols performed by a local barbershop quartet and additional surprises, is designed to assist the economically challenged in Haiti through Project Starfish and The Haiti Mission.

Attendees are asked to donate \$10 in non-perishable food items (rice and beans preferred) for those most in need. The food items will be collected by parishioners and distributed.

The Good Shepherd UMC is located at 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, VA. For more information, please contact Bobby at 703-298-4904 or at [rtjasi@gmail.com](mailto:rtjasi@gmail.com)

**PHOTOS FROM HAITI....**

If you are interested in viewing photos from the Nov. trip to Haiti go to <http://haitinovember2009.shutterfly.com/>, enter the password **wecare** and enjoy the photos.



*This Week in our Parish*

**TROOP 1100 CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE  
 CRAFT GROUP BAZAAR  
 ECHO COLLECTION**

**Sunday, December 6**

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

**Monday, December 7**

- 4:00 pm.....CCD (S)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIA (PH)
- 7:00 pm.....RCIC (Room 9)
- 7:30 pm.....Vigil Mass, Immaculate Conception (CH)
- 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

**Tuesday, December 8 Holy Day of Obligation**

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

**Wednesday, December 9**

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

**Thursday, December 10**

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

**Friday, December 11**

- 4:00 pm.....GSA Meeting
- 7:00 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 Board of Review (Room 6)
- 7:00 pm.....Family Fellowship Group (PH)

**Saturday, December 12**

- 9:00 am.....Mass (CH)
- 10:00 am.....Breakfast with Santa (PH)
- 10:00 am.....ESL (Room 5,6,7,8)
- 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
- 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Mass (CH)

Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Lack of pep is often mistaken for patience.

**Kin Hubbard**