



Dear Friends,

Father Wilson summed up the feelings of our parish at the homily he shared last Sunday morning: *“Our parish family is feeling a deep sadness today. Over the past 10 years we have developed a familial relationship with our Haitian sisters and brothers. It is as if we are in mourning for a member of our family.”*

Now we know why so many of us are feeling the way we do. What our parish is doing with those feelings is very important right now. We are praying and we are activating that prayer with tangible help for the earthquake victims. I am so very proud of how you have taken our collective grief and translated it into the hands and feet of Christ.

We continue to receive very generous gifts of money, goods and volunteer service. Many times personal notes accompany donations. The following are from the “younger set” of our parish family. After reading one of the letters to a parishioner he quickly commented *“the kids get it.”* The following was sent in by a six year old who asked his grandmother to write for him. She wrote it exactly as he spoke it- with all the grammatical errors.

Dear Father martin
 my Grandma is writing this letter
 for me, as I can not write yet.
 I have told her to write what I say
 only
 I am given you my coffee can
 to send to Haiti for nativity village.
 I hope all is well with them.
 I do not know how much money
 is in the coffee can, but it makes a lot of
 noise when you shake it, so there must
 be a lot in it.
 I Love it at school. God bless you Fr.
 Love ? I do not want you
 to now my name. I wanted to send this
 to your children in Haiti, who dont have
 what I have. Love.

Another story came from an 11 year old girl who is passionate about hockey. She had been saving her money for months to buy herself a Washington Capital's jersey. Just as she reached her goal of \$100, the earthquake struck. She made the decision to forego the hockey jersey and give the entire amount to *Operation Starfish* and the people of Haiti.

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Pastor's Corner continued....

From a 9-year-old boy:

Dear Father Martin

I am so sorry that an earthquake hit Haiti. I am watching the news right now but I just cannot look. I am giving you \$55 right now because I want to help as soon as I can. I got the \$55 from my cousins at Christmas. They said I should keep \$50 and give \$5 to those in need, but in this case I want to give it all. I'm sure the children in Haiti need it more. God Bless.

John

From a 12-year-old:

Dear Fr. Martin

I watched the news and was very upset at what I saw. I don't think it is fair that the poorest country has to suffer like this. I am including money I received for the holiday. I think that as hard as this is there may be a positive side to this. Haiti has met the ears of almost everyone in the world. If there is anything at all I can do I will be more than glad to do it.

Andrew (age 12)

Yes. The "kids" do get it. The destruction has moved the hearts of many in our parish. Many have been asking what the status of our projects is.

We in the church office, along with Food For The Poor, are trying to establish and stay in contact with our villages. As of this writing our first work at *Canapé Vert (Green Hillside)*, 27 houses, has been completely destroyed. We worked with Father Printemps on our second village- 500 houses, sanitation and two story school. As this project was close to Port Au Prince we hope for the best and pray that Father is alive. We have not yet been able to reach him. As soon as we know something I will share it with you.

Our remaining projects (housing and fishing villages, tilapia farms, clinics, schools, etc.) are either in Cap Haitian, some 90 miles north, or on the south coast, or on the Dominican border and so the distance has spared them. Father Duken told us that they are secure. Father did tell me that thousands are walking the 90 miles to Cap Haitian to get food and to bury their dead, many in wheelbarrows, to give them a dignified burial.

Today we read in Luke's Gospel the words that I printed on my ordination card, some 43 years ago: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." From the bottom of my heart I thank each and every one of you for living this Gospel today and every day. You have literally translated Luke's beautiful words, the words that began and continue to inspire my priesthood, into comfort and aid for the poor, across the street and around the world. God bless each and every one of you.

Have a nice week!



Bilingual Pregnancy Help Volunteers Needed

Gabriel Project Arlington (GPA), the diocesan parish-based pregnancy assistance ministry, needs faithful Catholic women who are fluent in both English and Spanish to assist with translating for pregnant women at their prenatal appointments at Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax. Free training is provided on Saturday, February 6 at 9 a.m. – 12 Noon at St. Theresa Church in Ashburn. Please contact our offices by e-mail at gabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org or phone at (703) 841-2755 for more information.

“You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.” Are you being called to strengthen His body through a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate or the consecrated life? Call father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514, or write:

b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org

Please remember to pray for our parishioners serving in Afghanistan and Iraq and their families

An Evening of Praise, Worship & Adoration

Praise music will be provided by VISION. Saturday, February 6th from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. St. Leo the Great in Fairfax..3700 Old Lee Highway

Pro-Life Corner:



Instead of being a giant step forward for women's rights, legal abortion is the most destructive manifestation of discrimination against the woman today. The abortion mentality is an example of rampant sexism that need not exist. **CHOOSE LIFE TODAY. CHOOSE LIFE TOMORROW. PRAY ALWAYS. WE MUST DO NO LESS.**

Please support the **TEPEYAC FAMILY CENTER**, 11135 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030, 703-273-9440 x 107, with your prayers and financial resources. Info on this pregnancy resource center can be found at www.tepeyacfamilycenter.com

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

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

Altar Flowers



In Memory of my Loving Father, Tom Harvey
 From
 Mark Harvey
 And
 In Loving Memory of Patrick O'Donnell
 From
 The O'Donnell Family

Catechists and assistants for Confirmation students are to attend an important information meeting Sunday, January 31, 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.

URGENTLY NEEDED!

SCIENCE FAIR JUDGES

Nativity Catholic School Science Fair

Thursday, February 25, 2010

12:00pm – 2:30pm

If you enjoy science and have a few hours to donate to our Nativity Middle School Science Fair, we would love to have you as one of our judges. The students are judged on their ability to follow the scientific method, logical thinking and presentation. You are not required to have a degree in science to be a judge! (Sorry, parents of 7th & 8th Grade Nativity students are ineligible.) This is a wonderful opportunity for 30 adults to be role models for our youth. Lunch will be provided for judges and an orientation will be provided prior to lunch. If you would like to provide this worthwhile service to our school community, please notify us as soon as possible by contacting Mrs. Schempp (aschempp@nativityschool.org) or Mrs. Sinclair (msinclair@nativityschool.org) at 703-455-2300. Thank you for volunteering!

Plan ahead for large purchases. Often we do not plan ahead for building projects or making large purchases because it takes more time or money to invest in ecologically sound options. In this way we allow the values of convenience and shortsighted thrift to dominate our lives rather than sustainability, community and justice. If we take the time to plan, and to save for any additional startup costs, we can make ecologically sound choices which will benefit us and creation for years to come. What "big ticket" items (car, house, remodeling project, appliances) are you considering buying in the next year? Be willing to research the most ecologically sound purchase even if it means a sacrifice in order to purchase this way.

A green thought from the Nativity Creation Care Ministry.



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



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 8, 2010, each registered family of Nativity will receive tickets in the mail with instructions. Thank you in advance for your support.

“Nuts and Bolts” #2

Preparing for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is an exciting time in anyone's family. Here is some helpful advice to assist in planning this celebration. First of all, notify the parish office of the date on which you would like to have your child baptized. Baptisms take place on the first and third Sunday of each month. However the number of Baptisms each Sunday is limited to seven, so you need to sign up, as well as register to attend the Baptism class, if you have not attended a class previously. Then, try to fulfill all of the Church requirements as quickly as possible, as time has a way of getting away from all of us. If your sponsor or godparent is from out of state or even the country, it might take some time for the necessary certificate for baptism to arrive, so it is best to get this paperwork moving quickly. If you have members of your extended family who would like to celebrate the sacrament here at Nativity, there is an additional step you should follow. Most parishes are pleased to grant permission to allow infants whose families reside within their boundaries to be baptized at another parish. Fr. Martin happily grants his permission for these baptisms frequently. Out of respect for our fellow parishes, we also ask for their letters of permission, which they are more than willing to send to us. But all of this takes time, so if you have an upcoming baptism, please check with the parish office to see what needs to be done to have the celebration indeed be a happy and blessed one.



YOUTH NEWS

viBE viBE will be meeting this Sunday, the 24th in the Parish Hall from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Come and play some games, meet new people, and grow a little bit closer with Christ.

Our next Vibe meeting will be on Sunday January 31st, same time and place!

There will be no Take a Break Tuesday on January 26th

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 or if you still need to sign up please contact Meghan at 703-455-2400 ext. 115 or through email at cyo@nativityschool.org



Monday, January 25

Special Intentions for Bulletin Advertisers.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, January 26

Vern Bellender.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, January 27

Joseph Wolford.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, January 28

Francis X. Lunney.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, January 29

Margaret M. Sullivan.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, January 30

Patrick Collins.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

Special Intentions of

Jennifer Hay.....5:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday January 31

Special Intentions of

Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Sexton.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

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

Josiah Sullivan.....11:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

Robert McHugh.....12:45pm.- Fr. O'Keefe

Food collection for ECHO and the POOR CLARE SISTERS.....



The monthly food collection will take place next Sunday, January 30th. Please bring non-perishable foods to the foyer of the church. In this time of need, food pantries are being rapidly depleted. Canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, dry products (cereal, pasta, pancake mix, etc.), pancake syrup, vegetable oil, tuna helper, powdered milk, crackers, concentrated juices, quick oats, peanut butter and jelly, paper products (bathroom tissue and paper towels) and over-the-counter cold medicines are much need items.



Sunday, January 24

9:30 am.....Prayer Shawl Ministry (APR)

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

7:30 pm.....viBE Meeting (PH)

Monday, January 25

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 26

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

4:30 & 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)

7:30 pm.....Legion of Mary (APR)

Wednesday, January 27

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, January 28

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)

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

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

Friday, January 29

4:00 pm.....Daisy Troop 6116 (APR)

Saturday, January 30

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)

Nativity's Family Fellowship Group welcomes all parish families to join us in fellowship at our monthly pot-luck gatherings, and to participate in our service commitment to the Ronald McDonald House. If your family is looking to feel more connected to other families from church and have a desire to serve families at the local RMH, then please e-mail Courtney and Dzul Scherber at nativityfamilyfellowship@yahoo.com



Thought for the Week

If you have much, give of your wealth; If you have little, give of your heart.

Arab Proverb