



Dear Friends,

It has now been nearly 3 weeks since the devastating earthquake struck Haiti. This parish has prayed and prayed for our sisters and brothers who are suffering unimaginable loss. Father Richard Rohr says, "From great suffering, comes great love." We, as a parish community, have shouldered the great suffering of our friends in Haiti and converted it into acts of great love. For this I am most grateful and encouraged.

What have we done to turn suffering into love? We have given almost \$300,000 to Food For The Poor and Catholic Relief Services to get immediate aid to the earthquake victims. We have filled 7 storage units with critically needed food, water, baby items and first aid supplies. Food For The Poor is sending this material to Haiti for us. We will be working side by side with our friends at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church to package 100,000 meals for Haiti on Feb. 19 & 20. Our parishioners have arranged medical flights, restaurant and winery benefits, social networking updates, and many, many other wonderful individual and small group projects. We have rolled up our sleeves from the parish, school, CCD, Prayer Group, Women of Nativity, Knights of Columbus, Starfish group – many of our organizations have chipped in to help those in need. Donations have come from more than 20 states - from former parishioners and those who have read about our work with Haiti via the Internet. I have saved the personal notes that came with each one. They are truly spirit filled and heart warming.

What can I say about you? I am so very proud of the way you **ACTIVATE YOUR PRAYER**. We light our candles here at Nativity, but we also take the light of those candles and use it to brighten the lives of the needy. And we do it in a big way – a way that is noticed by others, as evidenced by the press coverage of our Haiti Earthquake response.

So now what? Perhaps this is the time to create a quiet moment to reflect on the meaning of the past 3 weeks, before we jump back into our work.

We don't have to look very far to find meaning in what we have done. We have only to look at today's Gospel. Jesus says, "*Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your ears.*" (Luke 4:21) The scripture he refers to is from the prophet Isaiah: "*The spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.*" (Isaiah 61:1-2) We have indeed brought good news to the poor of Haiti in their suffering these past days. Deacon Dick Kelly of the Archdiocese of Washington shared the following with his congregation: "*When we look at this tragedy, and ask, 'where was God?' or 'how can God allow this to happen?' we ask the wrong questions. We need, rather, to ask ourselves a different question. 'How can I bring God into this situation?'*" And YOU have done just that.

What we have done all boils down to love. The love of God and the Love of our neighbor.

For me personally, it is the fulfillment of the scripture verse on my ordination card 43 years ago: *“If one of the brothers or one of the sisters is in need of clothes and has not enough food to live on, and one of you says to them, ‘I wish you well; keep yourself warm and eat plenty’, without giving them these bare necessities of life, then what good is that? Faith is like that: if good works do not go with it, it is quite dead.”* (James 2:14-17)

For all of us it is in the words of Delane Bailey-Herd at Food For The Poor, **“God has raised Nativity up specifically for this moment – for this time of great need in Haiti. You are awesome!”**

Yes, you are awesome, my dear friends, for you love others with a love that knows no bounds. I am indeed grateful and blessed to be your pastor.

Have a nice week!




Monday, February 1

Paul Kirkham..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, February 2

Donald Pettit..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, February 3

Donald Johnson..... 7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, February 4

Olcay Nawrocki..... 7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, February 5

Souls in Purgatory, most in need..... 7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, February 6

Albert Donovan..... 9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe

Special Intentions of

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Hay..... 5:00pm - Fr. Martin

Sunday, February 7

George Milligan..... 7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Scott Smart..... 9:00am - Fr. Wilson

Parishioners..... 11:00am - Fr. Martin

Ellen “Bonnie” Lunney..... 12:45pm - Fr. Wilson

Altar Flowers

In Memory of Patrick and Agnes Lochavel
From
The Ferrario Family
And from
Manuel Martinez



“Nuts and Bolts” #3

You’ve become engaged and suddenly there are a million and one items that come to mind! But **before you make any decisions concerning date and reception venue, YOU MUST contact the priest whom you will want to officiate at your ceremony.** The calendar of the priest and also the parish calendar **MUST** be open for the date and time for your wedding. Once your wedding is scheduled with Father and also the church, then you can work on the other items, such as reception venue, photographer availability, wedding attire, flowers, etc. etc. etc. The priest will want to meet and talk with you. Generally the priest will meet with a couple several times during the engagement period. This is one of the reasons why the Church requires at least a six month time span from engagement to wedding date. There is paperwork to be done, so be prepared to contact your church of baptism and ask for current copies of your sacramental records. This may involve some family research. For those of our parish who were baptized through the military, you might need additional time for a baptismal document search at the Military Archdiocese. When you meet with your priest, he will provide you with all the information you will need to plan this most special day of your life. And of course the parish staff is always available to answer questions and help you in any way that they can.



The Rebuilding Program sponsored by the Office of Family Life helps people who are separated, divorced, or widowed and want to move on with their lives. The nine week program starts Sun., Feb. 21 and meets Sun. Evenings 5:30-8:00 at St. Martin De Porres Center in Alexandria, VA. Important issues related to moving on after the loss of your spouse are discussed each week. There are presentations, guest speakers and participant interaction. A \$45 registration fee covers book and other expenses. Please contact Carie Schaffer 703-519-1751, email CopingRebuilding@hotmail.com or go to <http://www.copingrebuilding.com> for more information.



Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament will take place after the 7:30am Mass on Friday, February 5th. Closing will be at 1:30pm. Come and spend some time with Our Lord.

Life in the Spirit Seminar

Need a faith-lift? The Life in the Spirit Seminars have been a tool of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal since the 1970's to bring people into a deeper relationship with God through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Nativity "Love Is Given" Charismatic Prayer Group will host its Seminar for 7 consecutive weeks from Feb. 11th – March 25th on Thursday evenings, 7:15-9:00PM in the All-Purpose Room. There will be teachings, personal witnesses and small group discussions to help you to learn to live in the fullness of your Baptism and utilize the gifts of the Spirit you were given at Confirmation. You must register prior to the first class so that discussion groups may be assigned. You may register by contacting: Kathleen McArdle 703-978-6811 or Donna Hansen 703-250-7988; email: nativityprayergroup@gmail.com



BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL

CHARITY IS FAITH IN ACTION



Next week every parishioner will have the opportunity to support the **2010 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA)**. During Mass you will receive information and a pledge card for you to fill out. Please take time this week to prayerfully consider your gift amount for the **BLA**.

The **BLA** helps to support diocesan offices and ministries that serve tens of thousands of people each year. From support of seminarians, to the training of our catechists, to helping our youth grow in their faith, to teaching respect for the sanctity of life, your support to the **BLA** impacts the lives of many people that reach beyond the scope of any individual parish.

As you reflect on your blessings this year, we ask you to consider making a sacrificial pledge to help sustain the ministries and programs that are funded by the **BLA**. By making a pledge, your gift becomes intentional, representing a promise to give not from your leftovers, but from your first fruits. From all that we have received, let us make a proper return to God, Our Heavenly Father, the source of our life and all blessings.

LENTEN CONFESSIONS



During Lent confessions will be heard on **Wednesday** February 24th, March 3rd and March 17th from **6:30 to 8:00pm**. A Lenten Penance Service will be held on **March 24th at 7:30pm**.

Pro-Life Corner:

Every pregnancy regardless of the circumstances is part of God's divine plan. In order to do His will, that pregnancy needs to be lovingly allowed to come to full term. Abortion is saying No to God. Say Yes to God! **CHOOSE LIFE TODAY. CHOOSE LIFE TOMMOROW. PRAY ALWAYS. WE MUST DO NO LESS.**



A WOMAN'S CHOICE is a pregnancy resource center that provides free pregnancy testing, referrals for medical treatment, housing, social service assistance and tangible support for pregnant women, including clothing and equipment. (703-538-4305).

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**

Nativity Catholic School and the PTO invite our parish family to a special **Open House today, 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 **today, Sunday, January 31st at 10:15 am – 11:30 am**.

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
- 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
- February 12th – 9:30 am – 11:30 am

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

"...the greatest of these is love..." (Second Reading) Let a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend help your love grow in your marriage or priesthood. 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://wwmc-nova.org/>

Catechists and assistants for First Holy Communion 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 – 3:00pm.

Presidents' Day Holiday — all religious education classes cancelled Sunday, February 14; Monday February 15; and Tuesday, February 16.

The Confirmation Retreat for Group II students will be held in Nativity's Parish Hall Saturday, February 20, from 8:30am – 3:00pm.

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!

“Before you were born, I consecrated you.” If you think that you may be set apart by the Lord to serve Him as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life, call Father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514, or write: b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org.

SHARING HOPE, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, February 5th, at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte 123. The topic will be **“Moving On”**. 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) 240-497-4279.



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 2010 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.



Knights of Columbus Father Vincent S. Sikora, Council 7992, invites you to our annual **LIVE ART AUCTION** on **Saturday, February 27, 2010** in Nativity Hall. Preview starts at 7:00pm and the auction begins at 8:00pm. “A Bit More” Catered Refreshments, Hors d’oeuvres and Wine. Tickets, available after Mass and at the door, are just \$10.00 per person. For more information contact Dave Johnson @ 703-455-3337 evenings.



Next Knights of Columbus Blood Drive: Saturday, Feb. 6, 7AM to Noon, at Nativity. 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 navvy8@yahoo.com **NOW** for your appointment or after Mass to sign up.



In January, we joyfully welcomed into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism: Lucas Emory Phillips, Brayden Michael Kennon, Peighton Skylar Kennon, Kaylen Marie Burnam, Makenna Alzbeta Hintos, Brooke Vivian O’Neill, Jason Alexander Smith, Amanda Nicole Morcelo, Nicolle Ochoa, Luke Kurtis Warner, Emerson Cait Fleming, Logan Stewart Johnson, Meredith Christine Gordon, Nathan Gregory Caruso, Gavin Mark Caruso, Natalie Angelique Sanchez, Steven Smith

Lenten Retreat for Women...February 26-28, 2010 at the Dominican Retreat House in McLean, VA. Fr. Patrick McMahon will be the retreat director. For more info, please call Terry Riviere at 703-922-2951 or the Dominican Retreat House at 703-356-4243.

YOUTH NEWS

viBE will be meeting this Sunday, the 31st in the Parish Hall from 7:00pm-8:30pm. There will be pizza, games, prizes, and most importantly a chance to grow closer to our Lord! Hope to see you there!

There will be no **viBE** on Feb. 7th!

If you still need to sign up for Workcamp please pick up a form and return it to the CYO office. If you have any questions please contact Meghan at 703-455-2400 ext. 115 or through email atcyo@nativityschool.org



NATIVITY SCHOOL & PTO SPRING BENEFIT & AUCTION

Our biggest fundraiser of the year will be on **March 6, 2010 at 6:30pm** in the parish hall. All adult parishioners are invited to come and enjoy a night of delicious appetizers from **Pane e Vino Ristorante**, open bar with wine and beer, silent and live auctions, music and dancing. Would you consider donating an auction item...homemade crafts, professional services, etc.? The funds raised support our students, teachers, classroom technology and many activities. Tickets are now on sale for \$35.00 each or \$30.00 for 2 or more. For more information email Trina Meyer at mevertrina@yahoo.com or call Trina 703-717-1272. Thank you for your support and generosity.

**The Institute of Catholic Culture Presents:
The Catholic Church in Sacred Scripture: Reclaiming a Biblical Ecclesiology**

Presenter: Sabatino Carnazzo, MA, Dir. of the Institute
Time: Tues., Feb. 2 and 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Location: St. Philip Church, 7506 St. Philip Ct., Falls Church.

The Fall of Jerusalem

Presenter: Timothy O'Donnell, STD
Time: Thurs., Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m.
Location: St. Ambrose Church, 3829 Woodburn Rd. Annandale, 22003

Special Topic: The Pope, The Anglicans & The Mass

Presenter: Fr. Joseph Fessio, SJ
Time: Sun., Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Location: St. Ambrose Church, 3829 Woodburn Rd.

Thoughts for the Week

Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.

Do not wait for leaders, do it alone, person to person.

Mother Teresa



Sunday, January 31

- 2:00, 4:00 & 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
- 7:00 pm.....Troop 1100 Committee Mtg. (Rm.6)
- 7:30 pm.....**viBE** Meeting (PH)

Monday, February 1

- 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, February 2

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

Wednesday, February 3

- 10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
- 3:45 pm.....Daisy Troop 1449 (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....First Penance Celebration (CH)
- 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (Room 6)
- 7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
- 7:30 pm.....Hispanic Baptism Class (Room 8)
- 7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Room 9)
- 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)

Thursday, February 4

- 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.....Grief support Group (S)
- 7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room 4)

Friday, February 5

- 8:00 am.....Blessed Sacrament Exposition (CH)
- 1:30 pm.....Blessed Sacrament Closing (CH)
- 4:00 pm.....GS Troop 2134 (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....Troop 1635 (APR)

Saturday, February 6 **Blood Drive**

- 8:00 am.....Confirmation Retreat (PH)
- 9:30 am.....First Saturday Devotion (CH)
- 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)

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