



Dear Friends,

Last Monday's *USA TODAY* had a front page picture of three black college students sitting at a Woolworth's Department Store lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina lunch counter waiting to be served, only to be told that the store served only white clientele. The front page story detailing that scene took place fifty years ago, February 2, 1960. At that time, blacks could spend money in those stores but couldn't eat at the store's lunch counter. Some of the younger set, reading this article, are probably asking *how could that be?* Yet, that was the reality in many of our southern states including Virginia fifty years ago.

Reading the article brought back thoughts of my seminary years in Cullman, Alabama, some 50 miles north of Birmingham. Our class was planning to go into town to see a movie. Since one of the Benedictine Brothers was black, the Abbot thought that he would call the theatre ahead of time to inquire about their policy. He was told that the theatre was for "whites only." I admired the Abbot's decision - none of us would go. Some of our readers might remember water fountains and rest rooms marked Black or White only. These sit-ins at lunch counters were begun by courageous men and women who did not want their children to grow up with the same divisions that they had experienced. They chose to make a difference.

We have come a long way since that episode at Woolworth's Store, and yet we have much left to do. Prejudice is still not dead. Visiting the Holocaust Museum in Washington, I overheard a young teenager remark how what we did to the Jewish people was so terrible. No one would dispute that. Yet, many today still put up barriers of prejudice toward people who appear different from us, be that color, race, religion or lifestyle. Prejudice is just that -pre-judging without having much information about the person or situation. I have been guilty of doing it and I do not say that with any sense of pride. What those three college students were saying back then was: *I'm different in color, my background is different from yours, but when I am hungry I have every right to sit down, as you would, and have a meal.*

The words from Leo Buscaglia's book *LOVE* are as relevant today as they were when first written 35 years ago.

*We're all unconditionally like the other. It is just  
That we are in diverse lands, playing different  
Roles in a variety of robes before dissimilar  
Backdrops on various stages before foreign audiences.  
It would be interesting if we could often change  
Robes and stand on many stages in our lifetime.  
It would give us great insight into man's universality.  
We are all basically alike with similar needs. We exist  
For each individual as each individual exists for us all.*

**While our teachers ought to address acts of prejudice, it is first and foremost the role of parents. They are the first teachers of their children. The home is the first school. Often children pick up and act on what they observe in that home, and will often exhibit prejudicial comments in that same home that go uncorrected by the parents.**

**I am glad that those three black men sat at that lunch counter although they were never served. What they did by that simple act of defiance was to show that we are all children of the same God who loves all equally. Should we not be doing the same? Did He exclude anyone when he mandated: *LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF*? Who amongst us is not different from the other? Open your eyes and hearts this week and see all that you do have in common with that other person. While we don't necessarily have to like every one we must love them. That IS the teaching of the One we come to offer Eucharist with this weekend.**

***“To acquire knowledge one must study; but to acquire  
Wisdom, one must observe.” (Marilyn Vos Savant, writer)***

**Have a nice week!**




**Monday, February 8**

Irene Krosnick.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

**Tuesday, February 9**

Scott Smart.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

**Wednesday, February 10**

Margaret O'Halloran Gleason.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

**Thursday, February 11**

Paola Saffiotti.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

**Friday, February 12**

Frank Sammartino.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

**Saturday, February 13**

Genevieve & Donald Valentine.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

Mary Talarico.....5:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Spanish Mass .....7:00pm - Fr. Wilson

**Sunday, February 14**

Ray & Carmela Derbish.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson

Frances & Dominic Butera.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

Joseph, Richard, Anthony & John Talarico. ....11:00am - Fr. Wilson

Melvin W. Carr.....12:45pm.- Fr. O'Keefe

**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](mailto:nativityprayergroup@gmail.com)

**Altar Flowers**

In Memory of Lame Vardy  
From The Head Family  
And for Marie Le  
From  
Gaston Nguyen



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](mailto:CopingRebuilding@hotmail.com) or go to  
<http://www.copingrebuilding.com> for more information.

**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.

**Pro-Life Corner:**

Abortion can never be the solution to a troubled pregnancy. Abortion does not make a woman "un-pregnant"; it makes her the mother of a dead baby. Pray for all who have troubled pregnancies, that they will make the right decision and bring God's gift of life into the world



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

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**

**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

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](http://www.nativityburke.org) or to **Channel 16**.



**VOCATION PRAYER...Merciful Father**, You call us each by name and have chosen us each for a unique share in spreading the gospel of Christ Jesus, Your Son, and the peace of Your Kingdom. Grant that many will respond to the call to serve You through the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life so that we may never be lacking in the holy providence of Your grace. Amen

Paul VI Catholic High School community is having their 20th Annual Pancake Supper on February 16th from 6:00 to 8:00pm in the school cafeteria. The evening will feature entertainment and fun for the entire family. Adults \$6.00, children under 6: \$4.00, omelet bar additional \$3.50. for more information or if you would like to be placed on the reserved "Will Call List" please contact Campus Ministry, [campusministry@paulvi.net](mailto:campusministry@paulvi.net) or call 703-352-0925 ext. 330.



**Mrs. P's Planet Danz is back!!!** One day Hip Hop clinic for girls and **boys**. Sunday, February 21, 2010 from noon to 4:00pm. Held at Paul VI High School. Cost is \$45.00 per person which includes a T-Shirt, pizza, snacks and drinks. For more info call Mrs. "P" at 703-250-5711. Check bulletin board for flyer and registration form.

**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 8:30 – 3:00pm.

**Catechists and assistants for First Holy Communion students** are to attend an important information meeting Sunday, February 21, at 7:30pm in Room 9.

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

## “Fasting and Abstinence”

In less than two weeks, we will be beginning our Lenten Season. In anticipation of that we look this weekend into the Church laws concerning Fast and Abstinence. Why does the Church say we shouldn't eat too much at our meals on certain days during Lent? And where does not eating meat come from? We often speak of fasting and abstinence as though they go together, but in actuality they are two different disciplines, one involving **how much** you consume, and the other concerning **what** you consume. They began in the very early days of the Church as voluntary practices which varied from a few days to a week, in preparation for the great feast of Easter. The Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, mentioned a time length of forty days for fasting. The rules then became **very** strict, allowing for only one meal a day, usually in the evening. The early Christians were called to abstain from meat, fish, and alcohol. In some places even eggs and milk products were forbidden. In the Middle Ages, the overall rules were relaxed enough to allow the eating of fish and dairy products during Lent, but the overall fast continued to be very strict. This continued up until the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), when the emphasis shifted from the physical suffering during Lent to the spiritual preparation for the Paschal Mystery of Easter. While we continue to fast and abstain on certain days during Lent, we now focus on other forms of penance and increased prayer and works of charity. All of these are not ends in themselves, but rather the means by which we prepare ourselves to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord. Lent helps to remind us of our sinfulness and our need to return to our baptismal innocence.



Beginning next week, all registered families of Nativity Parish will receive 20 tickets for the All Saints Catholic Church Annual Multi-Car raffle in the mail. Each \$5 ticket offers the potential to win one of five 2010 vehicles from Koons of Manassas (Honda Civic, Honda Accord, GMC Sierra Truck, Honda CRV SUV and Honda Odyssey Van) or one of twenty cash prizes. Please read the information provided in the packet, and consider selling the tickets to yourself, family, and/or friends. Proceeds will benefit charitable and youth programs here at Nativity. 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.



### Give the gift of life this Valentine's Day.....

Please join us on Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010 from 9:30 – 4:30 p.m. for our “**Celebration of Sadie's journey**” open house/blood drive at the Pond's Community Center, 9837 Burke Pond Lane. Blood donations will be coordinated by Inova Blood Donor Services and there will be a small fundraiser to benefit Caring Bridge. Caring Bridge is a nonprofit organization that provides free websites that connect family and friends during a serious health event and recovery. Schedule your blood donation appointment online at [www.inova.org/donateblood](http://www.inova.org/donateblood) or call 1-800-bloodsaves. Sponsor code is #7637. Appointments available from 9:30 – 4:30pm and child care will be provided for blood donors. For further information, contact Amy Dozier at [asdozier@verizon.net](mailto:asdozier@verizon.net).



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

**Thought for the Week** “Christian life is never about getting one's prayers done or about doing a certain amount of prayers each day. Christian life is about following Jesus-and each day that means something new. Our days change and thus does our conversion.” (Philip Lawrence, OSB, Abbot, Christ in the Desert Monastery, Abiquiu, New Mexico)

**YOUTH NEWS**



There will be no Vibe on Feb. 7th!

The next vibe meeting will be on SATURDAY, Feb. 13th from 7pm-9:00pm in the Parish Hall. We will be having a movie night, so bring a blanket to sit on and some snacks. More info to be posted on Facebook!

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 at [atcyo@nativityschool.org](mailto:atcyo@nativityschool.org)

If you are interested in participating in the Living Stations of the Cross this year, there is an initial meeting and casting session on February 21st in the Church from 4:00-6:00pm. If you have any questions you can contact Mike Giardina at 703-922-2789 or by email at [Mike.Giardina@mwa.com](mailto:Mike.Giardina@mwa.com)

**DOMINICAN RETREAT HOUSE RETREATS**

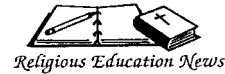
For information call 703-356-4243 or visit [www.dominicanretreat.org](http://www.dominicanretreat.org)

- February 10-11**, Wed. 9:30am to Thurs. 3:30pm Overnight Retreat for Women and Men “Poetry as Prayer, the Psalms and Rumi”...Presented by Ann Marie Mack
- February 11**, Thurs. 6:15 to 9:30pm Valentine’s Evening for Spanish Speaking couples
- February 12-14**, Fri. 7:30pm to Sun. 3:00pm Weekend Retreat for Women, “Nothing can Separate us from the Love of God”...Presented by Fr. Joseph Dorniak, OFM, Conv.
- February 14**, Sun. 6:30 to 9:30pm Valentines Evening for Married Couples...Presented by Fr. Raymond O’Brien
- February 17**, Ash Wednesday 9:15am to 2:15pm Day of Reflection for Spanish Women...Presented by Monsignor Francisco Gonzalez SF
- February 19-21**, Friday 7:15pm to Sun. 1:30pm Weekend Retreat for Women of Al Anon
- February 23**, Tuesday 9:30am to 3:00pm Lenten Day of Reflection for Women...Presented by Fr. Daniel Leary
- February 26-28**, Friday 7:15pm to Sun. 3:00pm “Nothing Can Separate us from the Love of God”...Presented by Fr. Patrick McMahon, O.Carm

**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**.



**Sunday, February 7 ECHO COLLECTION**

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

**Monday, February 8**

- 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 9**

- 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 10**

- 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, February 11**

- 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, February 12**

- 4:00 pm.....Daisy Troop 6116 (APR)
- 7:00 pm.....BSA Troop 1100, Board of Review (Room 6)

**Saturday, February 13**

- 10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)
- 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
- 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)

**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](mailto:mevertrina@yahoo.com) or call Trina 703-717-1272. Thank you for your support and generosity.