



Dear Friends,

Due to last weekend's insurmountable amount of snow a.k.a. "The Blizzard of 2010," the impassable roads, limited parking and downed trees, I have decided to reprint last week's Pastor's Corner. Attendance at the two Masses last Sunday was about 200; I feel that this letter is worth repeating.

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 15

M. Philip Buckley.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, February 16

Ambrose Vogt.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, February 17

Francis X. Lunney.....7:30am - Fr. Martin
 Father of Jocelyn Carscallen.....9:00am - Fr. Martin
 Raymond Matthews.....6:00pm - Fr. O’Keefe
 Rita Fitzgibbon.....7:30pm - Fr. Wilson

Thursday, February 18

Special Intentions of
 George Monogue.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Friday, February 19

Paul Fleming & Erik Heusmann.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Saturday, February 20

Marie Green.....9:00am - Fr. O’Keefe
 Cecille Egret.....5:00pm - Fr. O’Keefe
 Spanish Mass7:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Sunday, February 21

Martin S. Thomas.....7:30am - Fr. Wilson
 Parishioners.....9:00am - Fr. Martin
 Taylor Murphy.....11:00am - Fr. Martin
 James Sale.....12:45pm - Fr. O’Keefe

Thought for the Week

Each day I seek to carry out God’s wishes.

St. Faustina Kowalska



CHURCH REGULATIONS REGARDING FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal fat.

Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On fast days, two additional smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength. However, the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal. Moreover, eating solid foods between meals on fast days is not permitted.

Taken from The Magnificat Lenten Companion

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Ashes will be distributed during Mass at the following times:

7:30 and 9:00am
 6:00 and 7:30pm

Altar Flowers

In Memory of Lloyd D. and Evelyn M. Reinhard
 From The Reinhard Family

And

In Loving Memory of Edmund and Olcay Nawrocki
 From The Matthews Family



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.

Due to the snow, Nativity's Commitment Weekend has been re-scheduled for the Masses on February 20-21, 2010.

Pro-Life Corner:

Our faith is strengthened when it is shared; so too, the Pro-Life message will be strengthened when it is shared in Christian love.



The **GABRIEL PROJECT** supports women who are facing a crisis pregnancy and need help. Contact 1-866-444-3553 or gabrielproject@arlingtondiocese.org You are not alone! (Gabriel Project is a crisis pregnancy program open to all and sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Arlington.)

Starting Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2010 - 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil at NOVA Women's Medical Center, 10400 Eaton Place, Suite 515, Fairfax, VA 22030. Daily 7AM to 10 PM. Can you pray for 1-2 hours and witness for Life? Details at <http://www.40daysforlife.com/fairfax/>

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



St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance

Come join the Knights of Columbus for the wearing of the green at the 18th Annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner Dance to be held in the Parish Hall at 7:00 PM, Saturday, March 13th. It is always a great evening of dining, dancing and entertainment. Irish dancers from the O'Neill James School of Dance will perform with music for listening, with dancing provided by Black Tie DJs. Bring your friends and reserve a table or meet fellow parishioners through open seating and enjoy the best corned beef dinner in town for \$20 per ticket. Tickets will be sold after all Masses (until sold out) from February 20th through March 7th. This event has "sold out" for the last several years, so be sure to get your tickets early. For additional information, call Gene McGrath at 703-250-1281/genemcgrath@verizon.net.

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 Channel 16. For inclement weather Mass schedules and activities notices go to www.nativityburke.org

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.

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**.

"Blessed are those who trust in the Lord." Are you being called to deepen your in the love of the Lord for you by serving Him as priest, deacon, sister or brother? Call Father Brian Bashista 703-841-2514, or write:b.bashista@arlingtondiocese.org

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



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

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; click on Weather Policy.

“LENT”

It starts this Wednesday. And even though Ash Wednesday is not a holyday of obligation, the Masses on this day will be well attended. The reason for the crowds is that after the homily, ashes will be placed on our foreheads and our Lenten journey will begin. But what does this really mean to you? Is it just another “season” of the Church? Is it a time to “give up” something? **Or**, is it a time to look within ourselves, to look at the nuts, bolts, gears, buttons and switches, that drive us to be who we are! Our parish this Lent invites all of us to look closely at the inner workings of ourselves, to look at what makes us tick! We are invited to embark on a meaningful journey which has as its destination – Inner Healing and Peace – wrapped up in Easter Joy! The vehicle for our journey is not made of iron and steel, but rather it is the heart and soul of each one of us. Throughout these forty days, the journey for each of us will be different, for our lives are different. The speed at which we travel, the stops that we make, the roads that we choose will all be different, **but** the destination remains the same.



Inner Healing and Peace, wrapped in Easter Joy! The insert in this weekend's bulletin gives an overview of our journey. Check it out carefully and like any good road map, keep it handy. Our lives are extremely busy, but this is one trip we cannot afford to miss!

SHARING HOPE, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this **Friday, February 19th**, at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte 123. The topic will be **“Single Again Spirituality”**. 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.

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.



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 trina@vahoo.com or call Trina 703-717-1272. Thank you for your support and generosity.



PRAYER SHAWL MEETING....The next daytime meeting will take place in the APR on Monday, February 22nd at 9:30am. The evening meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 17th at 7:00pm in the APR. Come and bring your project to work on or learn how to make a prayer shawl for someone who is seriously ill. For more information call Toni Rausch, 703-455-3260; Flo Grike, 703-250-7799 or Joanne Dezzutti, 703-455-5702.



NATIVITY CRAFTS GROUP

Due to the generous support of the wonderful Nativity community, the Crafts group was able to donate \$4,500.00 to charities and support groups in the neighborhood. These groups include: Echo, Lame Centre, CYO Nativity, Christ House, Bethany House and the Cornerstone. Your contributions and faithful support of the bazaar have made a great difference in the lives of many during this difficult period. The Crafts Group is always open to new members who enjoy learning new things, who enjoy great fellowship and enjoy a great time creating lovely items. All items produced are sold at the annual Nativity Christmas Bazaar to support the needy in our local area. We also accept and appreciate any donation of yarn and fabric used to make the various items. The group meets every Thursday at 9:30am in the All Purpose Room (APR). We invite everyone to participate. Thanks again for your wonderful support.



YOUTH NEWS

viBE The next vibe meeting will be on Sunday, Feb. 21st from 7pm-8:30pm in the Parish Hall. Hope to see you there!

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

Our Lenten Soup Suppers are about to begin!! They will be on Mondays from Feb. 22nd-March 22nd. There will be 8 different soups to choose from and desserts will be available. Salad, carrots, bread, and drinks will also be offered. The cost is \$5.00 per person and \$20.00 per family. Please join the teens of Nativity and spread the word!!

There will be a mandatory workcamp meeting on Feb. 23rd in the Parish Hall from 7pm-8pm.

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

Try a Carbon Fast this Lent

A Carbon Fast can be more than just giving up wasteful energy practices. A Carbon Fast allows us to link our actions to spiritual renewal. As God bid Adam and Eve to "take care of" the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:15), so we must care for the earth.

Pope John Paul II said: "When the ecological crisis is set within the broader context of the search for peace within society, we can understand better the importance of giving attention to what the earth and its atmosphere are telling us: namely, that there is an order in the universe which must be respected, and that the human person, endowed with the capability of choosing freely, has a grave responsibility to preserve this order for the well-being of future generations. I wish to repeat that the ecological crisis is a moral issue." Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 1990.

Try "giving up" something carbon like the unnecessary use of electric doors at stores, malls, and office buildings. This not only saves the electricity used to operate the door, but it also keeps heated/air-conditioned air from literally being blown out the door. Each time we open a door for ourselves, we can reflect on how many people, like those in Haiti, have no electricity at all. More ideas? Go to www.tearfund.org/Carbonfast

A green thought for Lent from the Creation Care Ministry.



Sunday, February 14 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Monday, February 15 PRESIDENT'S DAY

Office closed
 7:30 am.....Mass
 8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, February 16

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

Ash Wednesday, February 17

7:30 am.....Ash Wednesday Mass (CH)
 9:00 am.....Ash Wednesday Mass (CH)
 10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
 3:45 pm.....Daisy Troop 1449 (APR)
 4:00 pm.....CYO Pizza Delivery (APR/S/Foyer)
 6:00 pm.....Ash Wednesday Mass (CH)
 7:00 pm.....Hispanic Prayer Group (Room 6)
 7:00 pm.....ESL (Room 5)
 7:00 pm.....Prayer Shawl Ministry
 7:30 pm.....Ash Wednesday Mass (CH)
 7:30 pm.....Evening Bible Study (Room 9)
 7:30 pm.....BSA Troop 1100 (PH)
 8:30 pm.....Spanish Ash Wednesday Mass

Thursday, February 18

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.....PTO Family Night (PH)
 7:15 pm.....P.G. Life in the Spirit Seminar (Rm.7/8)
 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, February 19

4:00 pm.....G. S. Troop 2134 (APR)
 7:30 pm.....Stations of the Cross (CH)

Saturday, February 20

8:00 am to 3:30 pm.....Confirmation Retreat (PH/APR/SC/S)
 9:30 am.....Pro-Life Rosary (CH)
 10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8)
 10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)
 1:00 am.....Hispanic Baptism (SC)
 5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)

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 703-455-2400, ext. 117