



Dear Friends,

This past week, as I was about to visit a sick parishioner, I thought that I might brighten her day with a bud vase filled with azaleas from the church gardens. When I arrived at the Sunrise Assisted Living Home, she was being attended to by an aide. As I sat in the waiting area and looked at the bud vase, a thought that my grandmother used to often share came to mind: "Give me my flowers while I am living." I always defined that as be nice to me while I am alive. Unfortunately, sometimes those words can fall on deaf ears. Years ago, when I was an assistant in another parish, I recall another visit to a nursing home. The woman often spoke about her son who lived near Richmond, some 90 miles away. Even though he provided her with all of her material needs, she always appeared a bit sad. One day she told me that what she really wanted and needed was for her son to visit or phone more often. He would faithfully visit twice a year, Christmas and Mother's Day, and rarely phoned. He lived less than two hours away and was always too busy. The woman died less than a year later and when I went to the funeral home, I encountered the grieving son. I noticed one of the largest blankets of red roses that I had ever seen covering his mother's casket. I kept thinking that while the roses were nice and the tears genuine, what his mother really wanted, he never had time to give - a few more visits and an occasional phone call. Perhaps, for some of the readers of this column, this might strike a cord. We often say that life is so short - let people know that they are appreciated while they are living. It's better to tear down the wall now, if one has been put up, rather than live in guilt later. All it usually takes is a dose of humility.

When I arrived back at my office a young girl and her father were waiting for me. She handed me a small vase with three Calla lilies. I thought of my Mom who used to say when I would send her a gift for no specific reason: "it's so nice to receive a gift when you are not expecting one." I had forgotten that I had helped the man's family several months ago and he was showing his appreciation. It was then that one of my dad's teachings came to mind: "Whatever you give out always comes back to you." I had picked some pink azaleas, placed them in a small bud vase for a sick woman. I got back to my office and a family had a small thank you gift of three pink lilies. You're right, Dad! And later in the day a bouquet of yellow tulips appeared on my desk from another parishioner. So, kind acts actually come back double.

Thoughts of my parents come to mind often. They are always close in my heart and today it was my grandmother, mother and father. And while I am talking about my family I might end with a wooden plaque that my brother gave me 30 years ago - which he has probably long forgotten. It still hangs on my office wall with words I try to live and certainly are apropos to end this column.

"I expect to pass this world but once. Any good thing that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any fellow human being let me do it now. Let me not defer nor neglect it for I shall not pass this way again." (Stephen Grellet)

Have a nice week - and by the way, in case you forgot, next Sunday is Mother's Day!



Have You Ever Noticed That....

Some people make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips and heart just before the priest or deacon reads the Gospel. While this was much more common 30 or 40 years ago, it continues to be a ritual practiced by many at today’s Liturgies. While this gesture is not found in the ritual description of the Mass, the present Guidelines for the Mass state that at the proclamation of the Gospel, the deacon (or priest) sings or says “A reading from the holy Gospel according to” and then it states that “he makes the sign of the cross on the book, and then on his forehead, lips and breast.” This has its basis in the blessing that the priest gives to the deacon (or that the priest says to himself if there is no deacon): “...may the Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may worthily proclaim his Gospel.” This gesture is important as a nonverbal reminder to the one who proclaims the Gospel that it is indeed “good news” and that in proclaiming this text the deacon or priest should revere its message in what he thinks, in what he says, and in his heart. The fact that many in the congregation imitate this gesture may well signal their own willingness to do the same thing. Liturgy involves gestures and movement, and so our participation in this ritual is both logical and appropriate.



Monday, May 3

Mae Gerberich.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, May 4

Ellen (Bonnie) Lunney.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Wednesday, May 5

David S. Yastishock.....7:30am - Fr. O’Keefe

Thursday, May 6

Rita Ann Fitzgibbon.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Friday, May 7

Souls in Purgatory.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Saturday, May 8

James Tomonto.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

Theresa Bizjak.....5:00pm - Fr. Martin

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

Sunday, May 9

Parishioners.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Marie Laverne Speelman.....9:00am - Fr. Wilson

Gladys Wilson.....11:00am - Fr. Wilson

Gabrielle Doyle.....12:45pm - Fr. Hann



Congratulations to Nativity’s 194 First Communicants of the Religious Education Program and Nativity School who received Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 1.

Religious Education Program Graduation for Seniors — May 2, 6:00pm in the church

Mother’s Day, May 9 — Sunday classes only cancelled; classes will be held on Monday, May 10 and Tuesday, May 11.

Final Religious Education classes — Sunday, May 16; Monday, May 17; and Tuesday, May 18.

Evening of Gratitude for Religious Education Program volunteers on Sunday, May 23, 6:00pm in the church.

Student Registration for 2010-2011 is now open. Class placement is on a first-come, first-served basis according to the date the registration form is received in the Religious Education Office. Return a completed Student Registration form with payment as soon as possible to increase the chance of placement in your first choice session. **Important: registrations will not be processed without a copy of a student’s baptismal certificate included with the form (including students baptized at Nativity) unless the baptismal certificate is already on file in the Religious Education Office.** Forms are available in the Religious Education Office, on the community board in the church vestibule, and at website: www.edu.nativityburke.org; on the Nativity CCD tab click on Student Registration.

MOTHER’S DAY NOVENA

A Novena of nine Masses will be said during the month of May for Mothers, living and deceased. Spiritual Bouquet cards may be found in the Church vestibule. Mother’s names will be placed on the Altar during the month of May. The Novena Masses will be said at 7:30 am on the following days: May 12th, 14th, 17th, 19th, 20th, 25th, 27th, 28th. The Mass on May 31st is 9:00 am.



The Altar Flowers this week are

In Loving Memory of
Mario and Giuseppina Furno

And

In Loving Memory of Mafak Sarafa
From
His wife, Angel Sarafa



The All-Saints 5-Car Raffle, held on April 24, 2010, was a success and Nativity Parish had another cash winner! Visit <http://www.allsaintsvachurch.org/news-and-events/> for complete list of winners. Thanks to all Nativity Parishioners, their families and friends who participated in the raffle. The Knights of Columbus Father Vincent S Sikora Council 7992 and Nativity Parish CYO appreciate your support of their various parish charities and activities.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Friday, May 7th after the 7:30 am Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Closing will take place at 1:30 pm. Make a small sacrifice and come spend some time with Our Lord in thanksgiving for His many blessings.



In April, we joyfully welcomed into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism:
Alexander Salvador Padilla LaBoy,
Santiago Fabian Lazarte, Andy Gabriel Navarro Marin, Cristan Raul Cruz, Christine Winkey Luk, Simon Leonard Winderholt, Colby Peter Carabeo, Randal Joseph Beckham, Alexander David Quinn and Camila Fatima Huerta

The Nativity ESL (English as a Second Language) Program for Spanish-speakers invites parishioners to join the teaching staff for next year. Classes meet in Nativity school on Saturdays from 10:00am to 12:00pm and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:00pm to 9:00pm from September through May. We invite volunteers who are interested in serving our parish's Hispanic community. Proficiency in Spanish is not required to teach in the program. We especially invite those who might be interested in part-time (less than two hours per week) or occasional substitute teaching. To volunteer or to get more information, please call Bob Clark at 703-323-6717 or the Parish Office at 703-455-2400.

PRO-LIFE CORNER



What abortion clinics fear the most are women getting the truth. Abortion advocates are worried that women will realize a human being is in their womb, that abortion actually destroys a baby and that most women, when they realize this, will not have the abortion that destroys this human being.

Are you suffering from an abortion experience? **PROJECT RACHEL** offers spiritual and psychological healing. Call 703-276-0373 or visit(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.

Pregnancy Resource 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

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students who are on the Third Quarter Honor Roll at Paul VI Catholic High School:

Principal's Honor Roll - at least 4.0 grade point average
Maria Barrios, William Long, Caroline Mooney and Kiera Sibbold

Honor Roll - 3.5 to 3.9 grade point average
Juan Barrios, Richard Golinowski, Mary Kazarian, Brendan Keane, Patrick Keane, Ryan Lowry, Michelle Miller, Rosario Perez, Abigail Prince and Mikaela Sibbold

Thought for the Week

One of the key qualities that any CEO (or successful person) needs - a willingness to stretch yourself and go after goals that others think are too visionary, too hard, or too ambitious to accomplish.

Richard A. McGinn

Paul VI Girls Summer Lacrosse Camp- July 19-23
Camp is for rising 2nd through 9th graders. 9-1pm at PVI High School Track field - \$150 per camper. Registration form at:
<http://www.paulvi.net/thletics/2010GirlsLacrosseCamp.pdf>

For more info email: pvgirlslaxcamp@gmail.com

**Knights of Columbus
Frenchy Cyr Memorial Scholarships**

Last year, Nativity's Knights of Columbus Council 7992 awarded six Cyr Memorial scholarships for Catholic secondary school tuition (grades 9-12), totaling \$6000. Scholarships were awarded to Hilary Adams and Kathleen Caler (Ireton HS), Katherine Monogue (Lake Braddock Middle School), and Nicole Miller, Seroja Boyakhchian and Meghan Cowden (Nativity School). This year at least five scholarships, each for \$1000, will be awarded. One scholarship will be awarded to the eighth-grade student scoring the highest; all entrants, including eighth-grade students, will compete for the remaining scholarships. Entrants must be registered parishioners at Nativity, or a son or daughter of an active member of Council 7992. Submissions must be **post marked no later than midnight, Monday, May 3, 2010**. Application forms are available in the Church office, at Nativity School, from guidance counselors at Bishop Ireton, Bishop O'Connell, and Paul VI high schools, or from Tony Rozga. Questions, call Tony Rozga, 440-8390.

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.



MOTHER'S GROUP....

Mom & Me is a cooperative organization of mothers of young who meet weekly for socialization and service in a Catholic faith environment. We invite you to join us at a local park during the summer on Wednesdays from 10:00am to 11:30am. For more information, please contact Janetlee Hurley at 703-250-6887 or janetlee17@yahoo.com

RETREAT FOR WOMEN: Treat yourself to a weekend at Dominican Retreat in McLean June 4-6 to experience God's peace and presence. Our theme this year is "Nothing can separate us from the love of God" (Romans 8:39). Retreat director Fr. David Centner, OCD, is an adjunct faculty member of Washington Theological Union, associate editor of Spiritual Life magazine, and has a special interest in the connection between contemplative prayer and manual work. For reservations or information call Rena Baker, 703-938-9145, or Dominican Retreat at 703-356-4243, or see www.dominicanretreat.org.

GLORY DAYS GRILL FUNDRAISER

From now until June, please save all of your receipts from Glory Days Grill. These must be actual food receipts **not credit card** receipts. Glory Days will kindly donate 10% of receipts and you will be assisting Nativity Workcampers raise funds for their Catholic Heart Workcamp week to Greensboro, NC this summer. Remember, all receipts, including take-out are welcome. Please place receipts in the envelope in the back of the church on the CYO bulletin board. Glory Days is now accepting receipts for all food purchases, seven days a week. Thank you for your assisting us in our journey to help those less fortunate than we are.

SHARING HOPE, a support group for men and women going through separation and divorce, will meet this Friday, May 7th at St. Mary of Sorrows Historic Church Hall, off Rte. 123. The topic will be "Annulments". 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.

We are putting Dale City on the map! Come join Holy Family School and the surrounding Community as we kick-off Dale City's first official 5K race and 1 mile fun run! May 15th the participants in this Falcon 5K will make their way through the Forestdale neighborhood, beginning and ending at Holy Family Catholic Church. It will be a festive, fun-filled, family fitness event! Registration can be done on-line at www.active.com or by downloading a registration form from the school's website, www.holyfamilyinfolink.com. We hope to see you there!



Boy Scout Troop 1100 will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts after all of the Masses on Sunday, May 9th. The boys are raising money to help fund their Philmont High Adventure hiking trip this July. Donuts sell for \$5 a box, and the Boy Scouts greatly appreciate your support!

Please keep our military personnel in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families in your prayers.

BISHOP IRETON HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP OFFERINGS

Bishop Ireton High School announces it's 2010 summer camp offerings at its Alexandria campus. The variety of camps includes theater, basketball, soccer, football and crew. For a brochure and a registration form please email hamerp@bishopireton.org, or call 703-212-5190.

SECCIÓN en ESPAÑOL

Actividades de la Comunidad Hispana
Iglesia de la Natividad 6400 Nativity Lane-Burke, VA 22015
Telephone 703-455-2400 Rev. Cedric Wilson

SANTA MISA EN ESPAÑOL: Todos los sábados a las 7:00pm

CONFESIONES: Los sábados antes de la Santa Misa de.
6:15pm a 6:55pm

Catequesis Para niños y Jóvenes: Sábados de 5:00pm a 6:45pm
Informes: 703-455-2400, ext 116 or Sr. Ponciano 202-262-6659

Catequesis para adultos: Bautismo, Comunión, y Confirmación
Sábados de 5:15pm a 6:15pm Contacto: Tito Pinto 703-912-9220

Charla para el Bautismo: Primer Miércoles del mes 7:30pm

Sacramento del Bautismo: Tercer Sábado del mes. 1:30pm

Grupo de Oración: Miércoles 7:00pm a 9:00pm. Están todos
invitados

Grupo de Liderazgo Juvenil reuniones: Domingo 11:00am-
1:00pm aula 5 Contacto: Nelson Pineda 571-234-3664

Reunión del Grupo de los Jóvenes Sábados: a partir de las
5:00pm aula 4. contacto: Juan Carlos Chavez 703-473-6941

Solidaridad Cristiana: Mayor información Llamar a Mirian
Ponciano 703-913-5494.

Para mas información: Maria Guevara 703-444-5716

"Nos has hecho para Tí...y nuestro corazón estará inquieto
hasta que descanse en Tí." San Agustín

Forthcoming Programs at Dominican Retreat, Advance
Reservations Necessary, 703-356-4243 or visit
www.dominicanretreat.org

May 4...Spring Day of Reflection for Women - Rejoicing
with Mary. Directed by Fr. David Centner, OCD, Tuesday
9:30 am to 3:00 pm

May 6...Mother Daughter Dinner - "Laundry, Tears,
Liturgy and Laughter". Presented by Sharon De Rosa,
Thursday 5:45 pm to 8:45 pm

May 7...Weekend retreat for Men of AA - Getting In
Touch With Your Higher Power and Beyond. Friday
7:30 pm to Sunday 12:30 pm.

May 14...The Wisdom of Jesus - "Your Father knows what
you need before you ask him". Presented by Fr. Bill
Sheehan, OMI, Friday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm.

May 14-16...Centering Prayer Retreat for Women and
Men - "Prayer in Secret", Directed by Fr. Bill Sheehan,
OMI, Friday 7:30 pm to Sunday 3:00 pm



Sunday, May 2 ECHO COLLECTION

2:00, 4:00, 6:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
2:00 pm.....Baptism (CH)
6:00 pm.....Religious Education Senior Graduation (CH/PH)
7:30 pm.....Vibe Meeting (PH)

Monday, May 3

4:00, 7:00 pm.....CCD Classes (S)
7:00 pm.....RCIA Classes (PH)
7:00 pm.....RCIC Classes (Room 9)
8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

Tuesday, May 4

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, May 5 CINCO DE MAYO

10:00 am.....Mom & Me (APR)
3:45 pm.....Daisy Troop 1499 (APR)
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, May 6

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.....Grief Support Group (S)
7:30 pm.....Prayer Group (APR)
7:30 pm.....Venture Crew (Room 4)

Friday, May 7

8:00 am.....Exposition of Blessed Sacrament (CH)
1:30 pm.....Blessed Sacrament Exposition Closing (CH)
4:00 pm.....Brownie Troop 2134 (APR)
6:00 pm.....GS Troop 2948 (APR)

Saturday, May 8

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

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other 6 days of the week can be a puzzle. **Other6.com** is a
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need to find God today?* **Other6.com**, brought to you by Loyola
Press, a Jesuit Ministry, is based on "examination of
consciousness"-a prayerful review of the day intended to help us
recognize God in our daily routines. Join us today; you'll be glad
you did.