



Dear Friends,

Our Easter congregation, like Christmas is so diverse. Children home from college, relatives and friends visiting from out of town, as well as family members and friends from other denominations, all joining in worship with us. I welcome back those, who for various reasons, have been away from the Church. On this beautiful Easter day I offer a sincere welcome to *all*. It is my hope that all of you (and *especially* our visitors), will feel the warmth and hospitality of our parish. It is also my hope that you will leave filled with the peace of the Risen Christ.

Sharing a reflection on the Easter Egg, I am reminded of an e-mail my nephew Paul sent me. As the Director of Continuing Adult Education at Bryant University in Rhode Island, he was invited to bring his two sons to a new event, the *Spring Egg Hunt*. As a matter of principle he declined the offer, reminding those directing the affair that "there is no such thing as a *Spring Egg Hunt* or spring eggs". How proud I was that he stood up for what the day is really all about--The Resurrection of Jesus--Easter Day--not just another spring day. As a child we always had an Easter Egg Hunt. My parents would hide eggs around the house and in the yard for Jack, Madeline and me to find. Mom and Dad got such a thrill seeing us search for eggs. It has since become a family tradition with my nieces and nephews.

The Easter egg is an ancient symbol of resurrection--new life. The tiny bird encased within its shell experiences life only after it breaks forth from its hard shell. At times we can be enveloped in our own "shells"- *shells* of anger, *shells* of pride, *shells* of intolerance. Our shells can be walls that separate us from our relatives or friends. Walls that were often put up for such insignificant reasons. Only until *we* break out of our *shells*, can we truly experience life. All that is usually needed on our part is a small dose of humility.

We have purchased 85 dozen colorful plastic eggs to hand out to our children, as a symbol of Easter. It would have been nice to have had the real thing, *but not very practical*. One of our parishioners, Michelle Mack, filled them with jelly beans and included a short message from me. My wish for all of you is that you will experience the peace, love and joy of Easter. For those of you who are still encased in a *shell* that keeps you apart from one another, I hope you will have the determination and courage to break forth. Life is too short for walls.

New life, peace and love are what the Resurrection is all about. A Happy and Blessed Easter to all!



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Martin".

HAPPY EASTER!

Our journey through Lent has brought us to the joy of Christ's Resurrection! And so we rejoice on this glorious morning. For this day we begin the celebration of the Easter Season, the fifty days from the "High" feast of Easter Sunday to the Feast of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church. According to several writers, the word *Easter* might come from the Norse term *Eostur*, which means the season of the rising sun or the time of the new birth of spring. These meanings fit in very well with the Christian symbolism and belief of having new life in the risen Christ who is Eternal Light. This might also be the reason for the first eight days of the Easter Season being given the name *Bright Week*. These eight days, from Easter Sunday to the Second Sunday of Easter, are one of the octaves kept by the Church, which means that the first eight days of the Easter Season are considered one continual Easter Day. Easter Sunday itself, is considered the *High Sunday* and the second Sunday is called *Low Sunday*. This term, *Bright Week*, possibly explains where some of our Easter traditions come from, but that is another story for next week's column. Have a beautiful Easter Sunday! (Catholic Source Book, Harcourt Religion Publishers, 2000)



Monday, April 5

Cyril Ducey.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Tuesday, April 6

Thomas G. Ward.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Wednesday, April 7

Mary Jane Frere.....7:30am - Fr. Martin

Thursday, April 8

Souls in Purgatory.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Friday, April 9

Chris Derbish.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

Saturday, April 10

Edward Sudler II.....9:00am - Fr. O'Keefe

Al Laurence Smith.....5:00pm - Fr. O'Keefe

Sunday, April 11

Rita Fitzgibbon.....7:30am - Fr. O'Keefe

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

James E. Wiley.....11:00am - Fr. Wilson

Francis X. Lunney... ..12:45pm - Fr. Martin

Spanish Mass.....2:00pm - Fr. Wilson

Easter Holiday — all Religious Education classes are cancelled during Holy Week and Easter Week, March 28 through April 6. Classes resume on Sunday, April 11; Monday, April 12; and Tuesday, April 13.



HELP FOR CHILE AND HAITI AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES

A Queen Size Quilt and beautiful jewelry sets, made and donated by parishioners, will be raffled for \$1.00 a chance. The proceeds will go for the reconstruction of the devastated cities in Chile and Haiti. Tickets are available in the Gift Shop. They will be on sale the weekend of April 10th and 11th. The drawing is scheduled for May 2nd.

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



In March, we joyfully welcomed into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism:

Ashley Marie Wade, Byron Salvatore Purdy, Amelia Abella Adams, Keira Therese Anderson,

Agustin Tomas Cubillos, Zachary Ryan Dunbar and Mia Ho Pham.

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.



Pastor: Rev. Richard B. Martin
 Parochial Vicar: Rev. J. Kevin O'Keefe
 Visiting Priest: Rev. Cedric Wilson
 Spanish Ministry: Deacon Jose Pardo
 Parish Office: (703) 455-2400
 Nativity School: (703) 455-2300
 CCD Office: (703) 455-0372

The Family Fellowship Group is designed to bring our Church families together in monthly fellowship, to share faith and provide service to the local Ronald McDonald House. If you are interested in more information on this group or if your family would like to attend any of the upcoming events, please contact Courtney and Dzul Scherber at nativityfamilyfellowship@yahoo.com

"Mom & Me" is a cooperative group of mothers and children who gather for socialization and service. Mothers and their infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers are welcome. We meet on Wednesdays at 10:00am in the All Purpose Room. For more information contact Magda Lee at magdalee@yahoo.com.



MARRIAGE HELP—Retrouvaille (retro-vi) has helped tens of thousands of couples at all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. This program can help you too. For confidential information about Retrouvaille call 703-351-7211 or visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com

CAR RAFFLE UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who have returned their tickets! If you haven't, please do so soon! There are only a few weeks left and it would be a shame to miss an opportunity to win one of the five 2010 cars or \$20,000 in cash prizes, like Nativity Parishioners won last year. As always, your Knights of Columbus and CYO thank you for your continued support.



Vacation Bible School will be held from June 28th to July 2nd. Application forms are in the front office.

PRO-LIFE CORNER

Easter is the ultimate celebration of a Life as no other. Greet your fellow Christians with the true meaning of Easter, "Rejoice, Christ is Risen!", as they reply "Truly, He is Risen!" Chose Life Today. Chose Life Tomorrow. Pray Always. We Must Do No Less. A Happy and Blessed Easter to all!



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.

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

Summer Programs and Adventures in New England

The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts, located one hour north of Boston, has an array of summer programs for students and adults alike. The Collegiate Program for High School Students offers a challenging introduction to the liberal arts, the history of New England and the Catholic tradition. Offering three college credits, The Catholic Leadership Institute examines inspirational leaders while also providing a means to develop your own leadership skills in the great outdoors and through a service project. Lastly, The Way of Beauty Atelier offers art programs for those of all ages in Iconography and Naturalistic Drawing. Come spend time in beautiful New England this summer!

For more information, please visit:

www.thomasmorecollege.edu/summer or contact Mark Schwerdt in the Admissions office at (800) 880-8308.

Calling all Men of Nativity

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join us on **Thursday, April 8 2010** for a evening of relaxation and finger lickin' good eating. Yes that's right - ALL YOU CAN EAT, Buffalo Hot Wings, Chicken Strips, and Fries for \$14.99 or you can order off the menu.

Where:

Buffalo Wing Factory <http://www.buffalowingfactory.com/>
2260 Hunters Woods Plaza, Reston, VA 20191 (703) 390-9015

When:

Thursday, April 8th, 7:00 PM

Depart Church Parking Lot promptly at 6:30 PM for carpooling. If you'd like to drive yourself, meet us at the restaurant at 7:00 PM

Come learn about the Knights of Columbus. Hope to see you there!

Contact Gary Mausolf at gary_mausolf@hotmail.com with any questions.

Thought for the Week

I believe in the Sun even when it is not shining.....in love when I am alone and in God even when He is silent.

Inscription found scratched into a wall in Germany by someone hiding from Nazi concentration camps.

RICHMOND WRAP-UP- SALT (Social Action Linking Together) announces that its annual forum to learn what happened during the Virginia General Assembly Session in Richmond is being held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 from 9:00-11:15 am at The American Legion Auxiliary Post 180, 330 Center Street North, Vienna, Virginia. Legislators from Northern Virginia will discuss how well the General Assembly responded to social justice and human services needs facing Virginia and will answer questions posed by participants. This is an excellent opportunity to learn first-hand what transpired in Richmond. There is no charge for the program. All are welcome. For more information, contact SALT Coordinator, John Horejsi at jhorejsi@cox.net or visit the SALT web site at www.S-A-L-T.org. For directions call (703) 938-9535.

Take a trip this summer to see the Oberammergau Passion Play, a "once-in-a-lifetime experience!" August 5-14, from Baltimore-Washington airport. Includes first class hotels, plus sight-seeing in Budapest, Prague, Vienna and Salzburg. Daily Mass celebrated by Capuchin Franciscan Father Francis X. Russo. For a free brochure, call 202-529-2188, ext. 1354. Email: francisxrusso@gmail.com

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Fr. Tom Mattingly, Pastor at Blessed Sacrament Church in Harrisonburg, VA will be the Spiritual Director for a 10 day Pilgrimage to the Holy land from Nov. 7-16, 2010. The itinerary includes 3 nights in Tiberius and 5 nights in Jerusalem. Cost is \$2,675 per person and includes round-trip air from Dulles, RIC, ROA, ORF, superior tourist class hotels, all fees and gratuities, escorted guides, daily breakfast and dinners. Deposit is \$450.00 each with a second payment due by July 1 and the final payment due by August 1, 2010.

For reservations and brochures, contact John Tagnesi, toll-free 1-888-544-4461 or jtag1964@verizon.net.

Year For Priests Spiritual Bouquet Cards Now Available:

Mark the Year for Priests, declared by Pope Benedict, by making spiritual sacrifices for our priests! Simply fill out the Spiritual Bouquet prayer cards available at the entrance to the parish or online at

www.arlingtondiocese.org. Please indicate on the card, the number of Masses, Rosaries, Acts of Kindness, etc., that you will offer for our priests, and return the bottom half of the card to the parish office, drop in the collection basket or return by mail. There is also a space on the back to write a personal note, if you choose.



BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL UPDATE

*** 98% of \$360,000 Goal ***

Charity is
Faith
in Action

To date Nativity parishioners have pledged approximately \$354,000 towards the BLA goal of \$360,000. We need your help to meet this goal by Easter !!

Please help support Fr. Martin for another successful BLA program. Please prayerfully consider the size of 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.

The Mothers' Group at St. Mary's of Sorrows will be holding their annual Kids' Stuff Sale on Saturday, May 15. The sale supports the Mothers' Group, local charities, and individual families in need. They welcome any child-related donations, including infants' and children's clothing, toys, books, gear, and maternity and nursing items. Donations may be dropped off at St. Mary's from May 8-14 (please do not bring items before 4pm on May 8). Or shop the sale on May 15 from 8:30am - 1 pm. (half price after 12). The church is located at 5222 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. If you have any questions, contact Sigrid Ebert sikama@hotmail.com, (703) 543-8456.

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.

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 de convalidación: Para recibir el sacramento del matrimonio: Domingo: Mar 07 a las 9:00am Contactar: Sra. Varillas 703-887-9924

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.

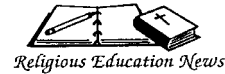
Para mas información: Maria Guevara 703-444-5716

FELIZ PASCUA DE RESURRECCIÓN

Abril 9-11, 2010

Retiro de Fin de Semana para Mujeres que Hablan Español... Director Espiritual Padre Mario Vizcaino Sch.P
 Time: Viernes 7:30pm-Domingo 4:00pm.
 Llamada Dominican Retreat 703-356-4243

The Women of St. Raymond of Peñafort and Fr. Gould invite the women of your parish to join them on a pilgrimage to Philadelphia Sat. Apr.17. The bus leaves St. Raymonds at 7:30 am and returns at 9:00 pm. We will visit St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Independence Hall and more. Space is limited. To sign up send a check for \$35 made out to St. Raymonds with Phila. trip in the memo line and mail to St. Raymonds, 8750 Pohick Rd., Springfield, VA 22153. For more information email_margaret-norton@verizon.net.



Sunday, April 4 EASTER SUNDAY

2:00 pm.....Hispanic Easter Mass (CH)

Monday, April 5

8:00 pm.....AA Meeting (APR)

NO ACTIVITIES TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 7, 8, 9.

Saturday, April 10

10:00 am.....ESL (Rooms 5,6,7,8)

10:00 am.....Dog Obedience Class (PL)

5:00 pm.....Hispanic CCD (S)

RETREATS AT DOMINICAN RETREAT HOUSE

Reservations necessary 703-356-4243

April 13, 20, 27 2010...Breakfast with the Saints, Tuesdays
 10:00am to 12:00pm

St. Mary of Magdala (13th)... Presented by Sr. Deborah Baker, OP

St. Rose of Lima (20th)...Presented by Sr. Janie Keenoy, OP

St. Catherine of Siena (27)...Presented by Sr. Deborah Baker, OP

The offering for each program is \$25.00 or you can attend all three for \$60.00.

April 23-25, 2010...Weekend Retreat for Women

“Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God”

Directed by Fr. Greg Salomone, OP,

Friday 7:30pm - Sunday 3:00pm

April 28, 2010...Poetry as Prayer, the Psalms and Rumi

Presented by Ann Marie Mack

Wednesday 9:30am to 6:30pm

April 30-May 2...Weekend Retreat for Women

“Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God”

Directed by Fr. Bart Karwacki, OFM. Conv.

Friday 7:30pm - Sunday 3:00pm

Call or visit the website www.dominicanretreat.org

There are still spaces available in the Pre-School and Pre-K classes at Nativity School for the 2010-2011 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child please contact the Pre-School Office at 703-455-2300 ext. 136.

