

JANUARY 3, 2010

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Stewardship Thought for the Week

*"...the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel."
Ephesians 3:6*

Today we celebrate the fact that Christ came to all of us, not just the Hebrews. He made us all one body with Him. Because God has given us different gifts we all have different yet equally valuable roles to play in the Body of Christ. If one of us does not play his or her role the whole body suffers. How will you play your role this year?

Dear Friends,

Happy 2010! Even as I write this date I cannot believe it. In a few weeks I will be celebrating my 8th year as pastor of St. Thomas of Villanova parish. I am not sure where the 8 years have gone. I think there have been many good things that have happened during these years and I am grateful for the support of my fantastic staff who are always ready to give of themselves for the people of the parish. I am also very grateful to you for getting behind me and the staff as you encourage us and affirm us in our ministries. I could not fulfill my role as pastor without both the staff and all of you! Thank you so much.

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, when Jesus was manifested to the whole world. The visitors from the East represent the world. Using the knowledge they had they could see that something special was happening. I do not think they fully realized what it was, but they made a journey using their gifts and then sharing other gifts with the newborn king. "Using our gifts" is a curious phrase. Whenever a new year begins there are all sorts of resolutions we make. They are made to hone in on some of our gifts or to get rid of some things that are keeping us from using and sharing our gifts. I encourage you to stay with those resolutions. If you haven't made any, there is still time. It is never too late to do something that is good. If you have already broken them, don't give up just yet. Start again. Remember the old saying "Today is the first day of the rest of your life." That can be everyday.

We will be starting our last push to complete our phase of the Archdiocesan Campaign, Heritage of Faith, Vision of Hope. We will be ending the campaign on January 31st which is the last Sunday of the month. We will be making some more phone calls, have some individual meetings and are also sending one final mailing. Hopefully we will reach our goal of \$1,350,000. It is within reach! What we need is everyone doing something. If that happens, I believe we could even exceed the goal. As always I ask that you pray and reflect on what you can do and then do it. That is all that I ask of you. We have four more weeks!!

Thanks to everyone who made our Christmas celebrations so wonderful. My hat goes off to Alice Obarski, our new Director of Liturgy, who gave so much of her time and expertise. Thanks to Don Giannella who, with the wave of his baton, worked his magic once again. Thanks to the Pastoral Musicians who had to deal with the baton! The Villanova Church and Rosemont Chapel both looked beautiful, thanks to the team who helped with the decorating. There were so many ministers doing their special roles in the liturgy so extraordinarily well. Thanks to everyone for being so generous with their time, talent and their treasure.

Speaking of treasure, next Sunday, January 10th, we will be giving our Sunday tithe to Sr. Mary Scullion, the director and inspiration behind Project Home. She will be speaking here on Monday, Jan. 11th and we will present a check to her then. If you want to add something additional for Project Home, please put it in an envelope marked Project Home and we will add it to our tithe. Sr. Mary has done so much to give dignity to those who have no home of their own. Hearing her speak would be something very special.

Peace,
Fr. Rich

Heritage of Faith-Vision of Hope Campaign Update

Happy New Year!

**As we begin January we have \$880,790
or 65% of our parish goal
of \$1,350.000 for the
Archdiocesan Campaign
Heritage of Faith-Vision of Hope**

January will be our last opportunity to reach our goal. We will have volunteer parishioners phoning again this month and every pledge we receive gets us closer to our goal so we really need your support.! Thank you to all who have volunteered in the past to make phone calls, all who have made their pledges, and all who continue to support this campaign

Heritage of Faith - Vision of Hope Prayer Heavenly Father

*For two hundred years you have blessed the
Church of Philadelphia.*

*Your faith-filled people have humbly sacrificed their time,
talent and treasure in building a community of believers with
Jesus Christ as our foundation and cornerstone. We look
to the future with grateful hearts.*

*Instill in us the desire to share our heritage of Faith and to
invite others to embrace our vision of Hope.*

*Under the guidance of your Holy Spirit and the patronage of
our Blessed Mother, Saint John Neumann and Saint
Katharine Drexel, may your Kingdom continue to grow
within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.*

*Through their intercession and the generosity of many, may
our **Heritage of Faith ~ Vision of Hope** campaign
be successful. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Amen

“Masses in Interpreted American Sign Language”

On the Second and Fourth Sunday of each month, we have scheduled an American Sign Language Interpreter for our 9:00am Mass in the Rosemont Chapel. The Interpreter will be here on January 10, 2010.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHTS

Living stewardship means being responsible and accountable for our development and use of all God's gifts. Take an inventory of all your blessings — both spiritual and material. Then ask yourself, “How am I using God's gifts? Am I growing them or letting them get stagnant? Am I sharing them with others or do I pretty much focus on myself?” We know that each of us will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment. Living stewardship means being responsible and accountable now in anticipation of the Lord's ultimate question: What did you do with all the gifts and talents I gave you?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday	1 Jn 3:22—4:6; Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday	1 Jn 4:7-10; Mk 4:34-44
Wednesday	1 Jn 4:11-18; Mk 6:45-52
Thursday	1 Jn 4:19—5:4; Lk 4:14-22a
Friday	1 Jn 5:4-13; Lk 5:12-16
Saturday	1 Jn 5:14-21; Jn 3:22-30
Sunday	Is 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38; Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

**Schedule of Events for the
week of: January 3, 2010**
Recitation of the Rosary
After the daily Liturgy.
(Monday through Saturday)

Monday, January 4, 2010

Rosemont Manor 10:30AM
Preschool Reopens

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

BP Screening after 12:05 Mass
OLBS Mentors 2:30PM
Youth Group - High School 7:30PM

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

Exercise Program - Aud 10:00AM
BP Screening at Rosemont Plaza 10:45AM
Honickman Ministry 12:45PM
Religious Education Program - PC 4:30PM
Pilates - Aud 6:00PM
New Horizons Group - PC1 7:00PM

Thursday, January 7, 2010

Walking With Purpose - Aud 9:30AM
IHN Board Meeting - PC1 7:30PM

Friday, January 8, 2010

Council/Staff Dinner—Aud 6:00PM

Saturday, January 9, 2010

Sunday, January 10, 2010

Word of God 9:00AM
Baptism—RMCH 9:00AM
Religious Education Program 10:10AM
RCIA 11:45AM
Rosemont Village Prayer Service 10:30AM

TEEN CONVOCATION 2010:

“Never— Ending Story”

Join hundreds of other High School teens from across the Archdiocese for Teen Convocation 2010: “Never-ending Story.” This event will be held at Archbishop Carroll High School, On Sunday, March 7th.

The day begins with registration at 11:30am and concludes with mass celebrated by Bishop Senior at 4:00pm.

The Teen Convocation will include a keynote speaker, a variety of presentations, music, lunch, the opportunity for confession and mass. The day will be formational, informational and fun. It promises to be memorable.

The cost for the day is \$20 per person. Registration materials are available on the web at www.archphila.org/catechetical or call 215-587-3760.

Thank you!!

Thanks for the Mom’s of Young Children Group for their many gifts of coats and toys for the children of our sister parish of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament!

The major snowstorm of Saturday December 19th made the annual delivery of poinsettia plants to our homebound parishioners impossible.

Thank you to our Parish Youth Group for all of the preliminary work that went into map-questing and planning for this service ministry that connects our parish teens to our older parishioners.

Next year, we will try again!

SAVE THE DATE:

Service Ministry for all ages,
Monday, January 18, 2010 on

Martin Luther King
Day of Service.

Service opportunities
for all ages.

FEED THE HUNGRY MINISTRY

The Feed the Hungry Ministry will be serving dinner at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County (69th St. area) on Saturday, January 9th. If you can help by making a meatloaf, cooked potatoes, desserts or sandwiches and can deliver your gift to a parishioner's home in Villanova the afternoon of January 9th, please call the Steele's at 267-251-6050.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The Annual March for Life will be held on Friday, January 22nd. We will be joining Villanovans for Life on their bus which will head to Washington, D.C. to commemorate the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade.

The bus will leave the university at 7:00am and will return by 8:00pm. A \$10.00 donation is suggested. Come and be a voice for all those who will never have one.

Email Villanovansforlife@gmail.com or call 610-519-4486.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

PRAYERLINE

The parish prayerline is waiting for your prayer request. This week call Helen Viggiano at 610-527-3933 to activate the parish prayerline. Two parish teams are available for your special intentions.

PROJECT HOPE

Project Hope is a transportation ministry for our Parish. If you need a ride to your medical appointments or to food shop this week, please call Ann Hennessy at 610-525-2112. Please give at least 3 days notice.

DINNERS TO THE DOORSTEP

Dinners to the Doorstep ministers to parish families who are in crisis or to parish couples welcoming a new baby home. Homemade dinners are delivered. Two parish coordinators keep a list of volunteers for this ministry and volunteers are called as needed. If you are in need of this delicious community support, please call Sarah Breck at 610-975-0444.

ST. FRANCIS INN

We are forming a parish work group to serve the midday meal at the St. Francis Inn in Kensington on Sunday, January 17th. The Inn tries to meet the immediate daily needs of the poor and homeless people they serve with food, clothing and hospitality.

For more information and to sign up, contact our parish coordinators, Ruth and Joe Reeder at 610-278-8788 or jmrrer@aol.com.

Would you like to help the youth of St. Thomas of Villanova?

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist in our Youth Group Program.

The Youth Group includes Middle School Students and High School Students. We meet every Tuesday evening and the Middle School and High School Students alternate each week.

If you have any questions or could help us, please contact Karen Noonan at karentnoonan@gmail.com.

2009 Contribution Information

We will be sending out year-end statements by January 31, 2010.

If you do not receive your statement by the middle of February, please let us know.

FAMILY LIFE COMMITTEE

is hosting a

St. Thomas of Villanova

Parenting Series

(for parents of children 5 years of age and over)

4 Tuesday Nights: January 19, 26, 2010
February 2, 9, 2010
February 16th (make up date, in
case of snow)
7:30pm to 9:00pm in the Rosemont
Parish Center

Facilitated by: Florence Sturm, Parent Educator from
Family Forum

Topics to be covered in the Series:

- * Raising Kids With Confidence!
(Both yours and theirs)
- * How to Listen More and Talk Less
(and more effectively to our kids)
- * Why Does My Child Misbehave?
- * How Can I Discipline More Effectively?

There is a \$25.00 registration fee per parent or couple for this special series. To register, please place this completed registration form along with the registration fee in the offertory basket at Liturgy or you can mail or drop this form off at the parish center. Questions? Call Anne Murphy at 610-525-4801 or email service@stv.comcastbiz.net

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ages of your children: _____

New Horizons
Careers in Transition

Experiencing job loss or transition in the workplace? *New Horizons* is a program to assist people in search of new employment. Focused on developing the tools and skills essential for success, *New Horizons* sponsors a networking group which meets at the STV parish center. The group provides members a forum to network in a peer group environment, make contacts and exchange ideas in an atmosphere of mutual support.

Please provide your contact information to Paul Frank @ STVNewHorizons@yahoo.com or call the parish center, 610-525-4801.

**KICK OFF THE NEW YEAR
WITH
THE WOMEN OF
ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA**

Join us for a talk by

Sr. Mary Scullion, R.S.M.

*Director of Project H.O.M.E.
and one of the
"Time 100"*

*Time Magazine's 2009 most influential
and powerful people in the world.*

**MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010
7:00pm –ROSEMONT AUDITORIUM
1229 West Lancaster Avenue
Rosemont, PA 19010**

Talk will begin promptly at 7:00pm, followed by a social hour. Coffee and dessert will be served.

Please RSVP by calling Kathy Roethlein at 610-525-4801 or email office@stv.comcastbiz.net.

St. Thomas of Villanova Parishioners
are invited to a Parish Forum

*The Faith Community of St. Thomas of
Villanova is pleased to offer*
Living in Love
February 13-14, 2010

Please treat yourselves to this extraordinary experience for the sake of our community, yourselves, and your children.

If you are considering sponsoring an engaged couple for the parish this workshop is also the initial training for "Preparing to Live in Love" our parish pre-marriage mentoring program.

Living in Love is a mini retreat workshop for married couples designed to energize the romance and renew the excitement of being in love.

A Mission to Love... Couples who stay successfully and happily married have made marriage their mission. They choose not to 'settle down' but instead adopt a proactive approach to put the fun and delight into being a man and a woman in love. This day and a half parish-based event provides the inspiration and insight that enables each couple to create the lifestyle and marriage they have always dreamed of. Clearly there is a difference between loving and being "in love". **Living in Love** offers liberating insight into how differently men and women prefer to achieve intimacy and helps couples get in touch with the resources that draw them to each other and fuel their passion.

The cost is \$100 per couple and includes all materials, refreshments, and a romantic Saturday evening meal.

For more information about time schedule, topics, and cost please visit: www.livinginlove.org. You may register online or fill out the following form and drop it at the parish center or in the Sunday collection.

Living in Love Registration Form:

Wife's Name: _____

Religion: _____

Husband's Name: _____

Religion: _____

Parish: _____

Phone: _____

Email _____

Breast feeding babies can be cared for at the retreat. Babysitting can be arranged upon request. For more information, please call Dave and Stephanie D'Archangelo at 610-489-4869 or darkangels5@verizon.net.

Monday, January 25, 2010 at 12:45pm
after the 12:05 Mass in the Rosemont Auditorium
No RSVP is necessary.
Bring you own lunch, beverages provided.

Topic of Forum:
"Citizen Soldier to Scholar:
A Personal Memoir of World War II"

Presenter: Dr. David Burton

Parishioner Dr. David Burton is a professor emeritus of history and former Chair of the History Dept at St. Joseph's University. Author, co-author and/or editor of twenty-five books.

GIFTS OF STOCK ONLINE

Are you thinking of making a gift of appreciated securities to the parish?

Go to www.archdiocese-phl.org then to Giving, Planned Giving - Gifts of Stock. This link will provide you with all of the information you need to make a gift of stock to St. Thomas of Villanova Parish!

Questions – Please call Karen Farley at the parish office at 610-525-4801.