

MARCH 7, 2010

FROM THE PASTOR....

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear Friends,

During this season of Lent I have been particularly touched by the beautiful words found in the prefaces designated for this season. The preface is the prayer directly before the Eucharistic Prayer. The preface leads into Holy, Holy, Holy and then the presider prays the Eucharistic prayer in the name of all in the community. The prefaces I speak about are the ones used during the daily celebration of Eucharist. There are other specific prefaces designated for each Sunday.

What touches me the most is that the season of Lent is called "a joyful season" and also a special "season of grace." I wonder how many of us would use those words to describe Lent. It is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving but is also a joyful experience for us when our attitude is re-directed. Many things are given up during the season and that connects us in a special way with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When that connection is made and we become more, the season does become one filled with grace and joy. We begin to see and live more closely connected to Christ. What an amazing grace!!

Yes, we choose to give things up. What happens when there are things that we are called to give up when we really don't want to?? Someone we love dies; someone gets seriously ill; someone goes to Iraq or Afghanistan; and the list can go on and on. In my continued reading of Paula D'Arcy's Gift of the Bird she has an encounter with her cousin Don who also buried a daughter. I share what Paula writes about this encounter:

"Don says to me, 'We choose whether or not we'll be free.' I think about those words all day. Recognizing my interest, he tells me some of his story. We have both buried daughters. I ask what he has learned about freedom, and he says **it demands not that we 'have' nothing, but that there is nothing we cannot give up.** He has no idea what it means to me to meet someone else who has walked on a similar path and has not chosen anger".

When we celebrate the Paschal Mystery (the death and resurrection) of Jesus Christ we can begin to understand that he freely gave his life so that we might have new life! All the things and people that we are asked to give up in this life connect us in some way with the ultimate gift of life from Jesus. As he rose from the dead, we too can reflect on the possibility of our resurrection. Understanding new life is not always easy. We know that what we are called to give up is not easy. The season of Lent can be that time of prayer to help us understand and, even more so, believe.

During this week I receive notice from the Archdiocese that beginning March 14th we will again be able to receive the Precious Blood from the cup at our Liturgies. We can also freely shake hands at the Greeting of Peace. Even though the Swine Flu has subsided I ask that you always remember that if you have a cold or are ill please use common sense in the areas of receiving from the cup and shaking hands during the greeting of peace.

Peace,
Fr. Rich

Stewardship Thought for the Week

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" Luke 13:7

Are we like the barren fig tree? What does God find when He searches for the fruits which we have given back?

In gratitude for the gifts we have received from God, parishioners and guests made a joyful return to the Lord for the weekend of February 27 and 28, 2010.

Envelope Number:.....379
Envelope Amount:.....\$18,074.00
Loose Cash:.....\$1,893.00
Electronic Offerings:..... \$2,078.00
Total Contributions:.....\$22,045.00

Income for March 1, 2009.....\$23,930.82

*St. Patrick's Day Lunch
Wednesday,
March 17, 2010 12:45PM
Rosemont Auditorium*

Cost \$12.00 per person - Entertainment provided by Rick Savage on the Accordion and the Cara School of Irish Dance

Please RSVP by March 13th to Kathy Roethlein: 610-525-4801 or email: office@stv.comcastbiz.net or this form can be dropped in the collection basket or at the Parish Center

*TRIDUUM 2010:
THE HOLIEST OF DAYS*

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1ST

8:00PM Mass of the Lord's Supper - Villanova Church
Solemn Adoration until 11:00PM in Corr Hall Chapel

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND

3:00PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Villanova Church

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3RD

EASTER VIGIL

8:00PM (Villanova Church)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4TH

7:30AM - Villanova Church

9:00AM - Rosemont Chapel *

(* American Sign Language Interpreter at Mass)

9:45AM - Villanova Church

11:00AM - Rosemont Chapel

11:30AM - Villanova Church

FOR SAFETY REASONS OCCUPANCY IS LIMITED IN THE VILLANOVA CHURCH TO 650 PERSONS AND IN THE ROSEMONT CHAPEL TO 550 PERSONS.

This will be strictly observed.

Parking for the Villanova Church is in the Main Lot on Lancaster Avenue EXCEPT for persons with Special Needs.

For your safety and the safety of all, please follow the directions of the Public Safety Officers. Thank you!

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED

We need "retired from ministry" Eucharistic Ministers to help serve by taking the Eucharist once monthly (can be during the week or on a weekend) to one of our homebound parishioners.

If you have any questions or can help, please contact Anne Murphy at service@stv.comcastbiz.net or Sr. Anne Marie at p.care@stv.comcastbiz.net, or call the parish center at 610-525-4801.

NAME _____

Number Attending _____

Check Enclosed _____

PHONE _____

LENTEN RETREAT

*Celebrating the Paschal Mystery:
The Journey to Newness of Life
Rosemont Chapel - 7:30pm*

MARCH 11 - *The Journey of Paul* - presented by Peter Spitaler Th.D.

MARCH 18 - *The Journey of Augustine* - presented by Fr. Joseph Farrell O.S.A., S.T.D.

MARCH 25 - *Our Journey to Newness of Life* presented by Fr. Joseph Farrell O.S.A., S.T.D. and Peter Spitaler, Th.D.

How do we walk the walk?
What do we believe?
How do we express it?

Schedule of Events for the
week of: March 7, 2010

Recitation of the Rosary
After the daily Liturgy.
(Monday through Saturday)

Monday, March 8, 2010

Rosemont Manor Ministry	10:30AM
Red Cross Bloodmobile in Auditorium	1:30PM-7:30PM
Baptism Class - PC2	7:00PM
Stewardship Council - PC1	7:30PM

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Golden Bells - Aud	10:00AM
OLBS Mentors	2:30PM
Bible Study - PC4	7:00PM
Youth Group - Middle School	7:30PM
Choir Practice - VNCH	7:30PM
Genesis Bells - Aud	7:30PM

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

Exercise Program - Aud	10:00AM
Honickman Ministry	12:30PM
Religious Education Program	4:30PM
Pilates - Aud	5:00PM
Peace & Justice Committee - PC1	7:30PM

Thursday, March 11, 2010

Walking with Purpose - Aud	9:30AM
Bible Study - PC2	10:30AM
Lenten Retreat—RMCH	7:30PM

Friday, March 12, 2010

Saturday, March 13, 2010

Mom's of Young Children Group Cocktail Party

Sunday, March 14, 2010

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

“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 March 14, 2010.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday	2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday	Dn 3:25, 34-43; Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday	Dt 4:1, 5-9; Mt 4:17-19
Thursday	Jer 7:23-28; Lk 11:14-23
Friday	Hos 14:2-10; Mk 12:28-34
Saturday	Hos 6:1-6; Lk 18:9-14
Sunday	Jos 5:9a, 10-12; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES IN LENT

**St. Thomas of Villanova
Celebrates the Sacrament of Penance, each
Saturday after the 9AM Liturgy**

**Communal Reconciliation
Monday, March 22, 2010
Villanova Church 7:30pm**

Other Parishes offering reconciliation every Wednesday night:

St. Katherine of Siena, Wayne	7:00-7:45pm
Annunciation, Havertown	7:00pm with Stations of the Cross
Sacred Heart, Manoa	7:00pm
St. John Neumann, Bryn Mawr	7:00pm Stations of the Cross followed by Reconciliation

**St. Thomas of Villanova
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, March 8, 2010 -
Rosemont Auditorium 1:30pm-7:30pm**

**Be the one we can count on. Make your appointment
today. Call Parish Coordinator, Carole Grace at 610-
525-1353.**

OPERATION RICE BOWL

The Burning Bush and the Call of Moses

Today we hear the call of Moses to lead his people from oppression to freedom. God promises to be with them as they journey to a new life. Our participation in Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl unites us in prayer, fasting, and giving with the millions of people throughout the world who are oppressed by poverty, injustice, war, disease, and lack of education and other opportunities.

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEK:

Great needs remain in the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Some parishes still need a proper place to celebrate Mass; some dioceses cannot maintain necessary social and charitable works, most cannot support basic pastoral work. Today, we ask you to donate generously to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Give faith to the future.

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT

We humbly thank you, Lord, for making us a people of purpose,
The purpose of building up your body, the Church.
We ask for wisdom to discern the special gifts
That each of us has been given to serve you.
Send us your Holy Spirit, Lord,
And inspire us to give our individual gifts to the ministries of
your Church,
So that we might reach out to each other and the world
With your hands, your mind, your heart and your love,
Living as your disciples, a life of true Christian Stewardship.
We ask in Jesus' name. Amen

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Respect Life Office

The Department for Pastoral Care for Persons with
Disabilities and the Deaf Apostolate

You are cordially invite you to attend The Annual Archdiocesan Celebration with Persons with Disabilities, the Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers — Eucharistic Liturgy — on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. Cardinal Justin Rigali will be the Principal celebrant and Homilist. There is a Prelude Reflection at 2:00pm followed by Mass at 2:30pm. There will also be a reception following Mass. All are welcome.

To RSVP on line go to: www.archphila.org
(Respect Life/PCPD).

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Care of God's Creation: Our Lenten Journey

The Catholic tradition says that we show our respect for the Creator by our care for creation. This inspires a God-centered and sacramental view of the universe.

We would like to believe there's an infinite supply of fresh water on the planet and many of us have used water as if it would never run out. But this assumption is tragically false. Available fresh water amounts to less than one-half of one percent of all the water on Earth. The rest is sea water, or water stored in the ground inaccessible to us or frozen in the polar ice. The earth's water supply is finite. Not only is there the same amount of water on the planet as there was at its creation, it is almost all the same water. Around the world, people are extracting groundwater at rapid rates to supplement declining supplies of surface water. At the same time, the world population keeps increasing by roughly 85 million per year. Therefore the availability of freshwater per head is decreasing rapidly. Many of the world's industries are water intensive.

- Water belongs to Earth and to all species. Corporate control of the world's water resources and distribution systems is as threat to the well-being of humans around the world because water is fundamental to life.
- People should accept responsibility to care for water and to understand the connection between the environment and the physical, cultural, and spiritual needs of people. Water must be conserved for all time. Decision making should be informed by the study of surface water ecosystems, groundwater resources, the impacts of climate change, and pollution prevention. Each person is made in the image of God. This requires a consistent respect for human life and for all of creation.
- Access to water and sanitation are basic human rights.
- Science and technology should be applied to help assure water supplies that are clean, safe, and accessible for all people.
- Water resource management should be based on the perception of water as an integral part of the ecosystem, a natural resource, and a social and economic good. Water is a public trust, to be guarded by all levels of government. All parties affected by water management decisions should be involved in the decision-making process.

Actions: Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 141 glasses of water. Wash clothing in proper water levels. In your next appliance purchase, obtain Energy Star appliances and front loading washers that use less water. Educate your self on global and local water issues.

During Lent we will be presenting materials from publications - Catholics Going Green, Learning and Living Environmental Justice and Catholic Climate Covenant. We will be introducing the ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE at the end of Lent - a commitment we hope that you and your family will consider signing on to. Our sacred journey continues.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

PRAYERLINE

The parish prayerline is waiting for your prayer request. This week call the parish center to activate the parish prayerline. Two parish teams are available for your special intentions.

We are "recruiting" new prayerline partners. Please call Helen for details on what is involved. You do not have to be home all day!

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 the parish center. 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 the parish center.

ST. FRANCIS INN

We are forming a parish work group to serve the midday meal at the St. Francis Inn in Kensington on Sunday, March 21st. 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 center.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Parish Work Day at Habitat for Humanity in Norristown, on Saturday, March 20th, leaving STV Rosemont Chapel rear parking lot at 7:30am and returning by 4:00pm.

Spend the day helping set up a re-store for Habitat in Norristown. You will be sorting donations, building shelves, organizing the store which will sell gently used construction supplies. Wear closed toe shoes and bring lunch. For more information, go to www.habitatmontco.org. Questions or want to sign on, call the parish center.

NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN LENT:

ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE

Serve at St. John's Hospice, located in Center City, across from the Convention Center from Race Street (www.saintjohnshospice.org). St. John's is a shelter for homeless men.

A team is needed to prepare and serve lunch for 40 men on Sunday, March 14th, leaving the rear of the Rosemont Chapel at 10:30am and returning by 2:00pm. Middle school age teens are welcome to serve with a parent.

To sign up or to ask questions, contact the Parish Center.

PENNSYLVANIA FOR HUMAN LIFE

Pennsylvania for Human Life is dedicated to the protection of all human life from conception until natural death. We are seeking pro-life advocates to become speakers and will provide thorough training. Last year's PHL's volunteer speakers gave presentations to more than 60,000 students and adults in southwestern Pennsylvania.

Go to www.Pennlife.org for more information. Questions? Please call the parish center.

If there is interest, we will host an Information Night at the parish.

"SWING INTO SPRING" LIVE JAZZ CONCERT

A Spring concert will be held on Sunday, March 21st at 3:30pm in St. Patrick's Church Parish Hall - a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with the Joe Rotella Sextet and with special guest jazz vocalist, Philly's own Michael Andrews.

St. Patrick's Church Hall
10th & Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA

Tickets are \$20.00 and are limited. Please call the rectory at 215-735-9900. After the concert, stay for the 6:30pm Mass and/or show your ticket at participating restaurants and receive a 10% discount on dinner.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF A
PARISH MISSION TEAM THE WEEK OF
JULY 23 - 31, 2010

You will be going to El Salvador with FIAT (Faith in Action Together), a Catholic Missionary Experience with the Handmaidens of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The week will include service opportunities to choose from including building projects, working with children in an orphanage, a school, a Malnourished Center, a health clinic working with the district nurse.

There will be a cultural immersion including visits to Archbishop Oscar Romero's home, the Church where he was murdered, the Jesuit University and a hike up La Puerta del Diablo.

There will be prayerful reflections each evening. This trip is open to parishioners, 16 years and older. Middle school teens are welcome but must be accompanied by a parent.

Cost: \$1,300.00 per person, includes airfare, room & board, transportation within El Salvador, and a donation to the missions.

Information Night: Tuesday, March 30th, 7:30pm at the Parish Center.

If interested in going, please contact, Anne Murphy at 610-525-4801 or service@stv.comcastbiz.net. RSVP is necessary for the information night.

MONDAY MORNING MINISTRY

at
OUR BROTHER'S PLACE
(Part of the Bethesda Project)

The mission of the Bethesda Project is to find and care for the abandoned poor and to be family with those who have none. Our Brother's Place on 907 Hamilton Street in Philadelphia is a day program for 200 homeless men; overnight shelter for 150 men each night.

We welcome new ministers to any of the following

Spring dates: **March 15th, April 19th or
May 17th**. Training and Transportation are provided.

Would you like to volunteer (on a rotation schedule that works with your life) on a Monday morning, preparing and serving lunch? Service TIME commitment is 2 hours, plus going to and from Rosemont to Philadelphia.

If you would like to go with fellow parishioners for "on the job training" to decide if this ministry is for you, call the Parish Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

40 DAYS FOR LIFE saves lives through: Prayer and Fasting for an end to abortion. Peaceful Vigil outside Bryn Mawr, Lankenau and Paoli Hospitals, and Community Outreach to spread the message that life is sacred. For more information contact J. Angele Kuchukian at 610-896-3734 or Jim Schneller at 610-688-9471 or email schnlj@aol.com.

Malvern Prep's Practice Entrance Exam is being held on Saturday, March 27, 2010 at 8:30am. The test fee is \$40 and is payable the day of the test. For registration or information, please call 484-595-1173 before March 20th.

Merion Mercy Academy is now enrolling 7th and 8th grade students in its Summer Programs for 2010. Academic, high school test preparation, sports, dance, music and fine arts programs are available. For more information, call Kristina Cawley at 610-664-6655, ext 160, or email at kcawley@merion-mercy.com.

Merion Mercy Irish Bingo - Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Merion Mercy Academy Cafeteria, 511 Montgomery Avenue in Merion. Benefits: Retired Sisters of Mercy. Refreshments - Prizes - Fun. Please join us.

St. Joseph's Prep still has space available for their 7th grade boys and girls Summer Enrichment Program. For more information, including a transportation schedule and a printable application, go to our website at www.sjprep.org/pre8.

HELP NEEDED:

St. Joseph's Villa, Flourtown, PA is a long term nursing facility and retirement home, primarily for Sisters of St. Joseph. Each year we appeal to your generosity and ask you to assist us in this gratifying ministry. We have many volunteer opportunities available. Would you consider helping us? For more information, please call Sr. Victoria DeSante, at 215-248-7844 - Monday—Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.