

MARCH 21, 2010

FROM THE PASTOR....

Dear Friends,

Last week at the 10:30am Liturgy, we celebrated the 2nd Scrutiny with three Elect who will be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil on April 3rd. At that time, they will celebrate Baptism and Confirmation as well as receive the Holy Eucharist for the first time. All three are students at Villanova University and are being prepared by Kathy Overturf of the campus ministry staff. They are Victoria Estrada, Sara Parolski, and Tao Nguyen. The Scrutiny is an opportunity for us to keep them in prayer as they draw closer to their initiation.

During this season of Lent, we have been singing the hymn O Beauty, Ever Ancient, composed by Fr. Roc O'Connor, S.J., as our Lenten hymn. Possibly the words are familiar to you or you have taken the time to look at the small note that is found in the hymnal. The text is based on a prayer from the Confessions of Saint Augustine. It was a most appropriate choice since our Lenten Retreat has been considering Celebrating the Paschal Mystery, the Journey to Newness of Life. This past week, Fr. Joseph Farrell, O.S.A., spoke of St. Augustine's journey. I thought it would be helpful to reflect for a few minutes on the prayer of Augustine as it is found in his Confessions.

Augustine wrote the Confessions about 10 years after his own conversion and Baptism. He reflects on how his journey for happiness and truth took him on many paths but the most difficult thing for him was to be able to see God as the one who creates and that is everything around us can lead us to God. He looked here and there for God, but was never really satisfied until God gave him the grace to let go of the fear that was holding him back. His prayer is found in Book X. This translation is Sr. Maria Boulding's:

"Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new,
late have I loved you!
Lo, you were within, but I outside, seeking there for you,
and upon the shapely things you have made I rushed
headlong, I misshapen.
You were with me, but I was not with you.
They held me back from you, those things which would
have no being were they not in you.
You called, shouted, broke through my deafness;
you flared, blazed, banished my blindness;
you lavished your fragrance, I grasped, and now I pant
for you;
I tasted you, and I hunger and thirst;
you touched me, and I burned for your peace."

These are Augustine's words to explain the action of God and his response. I pray that his words may be of help in your Lenten reflections and I believe that the music gives a beautiful interpretation to Augustine's words.

Peace,
Fr. Rich

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Stewardship Thought for the Week

"For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ..."
Philippians 3:8

Learning to see our material possessions as just so much rubbish is an important step in growing closer to Jesus Christ. Then we are able to give more freely and joyfully.

In gratitude for the gifts we have received from God, parishioners and guests made a joyful return to the Lord for the weekend of March 13 and 14, 2010.

Envelope Number:.....282
Envelope Amount:.....\$12,464.00
Loose Cash:..... \$1,058.60
Electronic Offerings:..... \$1,660.00
Total Contributions:.....\$15,182.60

Income for March 15, 2009.....\$17,807.40

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!

EUCHARISTIC 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.

LENTEN RETREAT

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

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?

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 2, 2010 at 7:30PM

St. Charles Borromeo Seminary

100 E Wynnewood Rd., Wynnewood, PA 19096

Parking will be at St. Joseph's University (entrance
to the parking lot is on 54th St. below City Avenue).

Shuttle buses will be available for transportation to/from
the Seminary beginning at 6:30pm. (No parking will be
available on the Seminary grounds.)

Candles will be provided at the Seminary
(suggested offering is \$2.00 per candle/protector).

If you are planning to attend, please call Kathy Kelly
at 215-965-8280 with the number expected to participate
(for planning purposes).

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
2010 CENSUS**

Please remember to participate in the 2010 Census,
which has already begun. The confidential information you
provide will impact decisions regarding allocation of federal
tax dollars for use in schools, hospitals, senior centers,
housing and transportation. It also affects the number of
representatives allowed for each State.

In addition to funding, this information assists the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia with planning and the
implementation of services and programs to support various
needs of our community.

For more information regarding the Census, please go
to: www.2010.census.gov.

**Schedule of Events for the
week of: March 21, 2010**
Recitation of the Rosary
After the daily Liturgy.
(Monday through Saturday)

Monday, March 22, 2010

Finance Council Meeting - PC1 7:30PM

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

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

Wednesday, March 24, 2010

Exercise Program - Aud 10:00AM
Honickman Ministry 12:30PM
Religious Education Program 4:30PM
Pilates - Cafeteria 5:00PM

Thursday, March 25, 2010

Walking with Purpose - Aud 9:30AM
Bible Study - PC2 10:30AM
Rosemont Manor Mass 2:00PM
Lenten Retreat—RMCH 7:30PM

Friday, March 26, 2010

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Confirmation Candidates Mass 5:00PM
Confirmation Retreat 6:00-9:00PM

Sunday, March 28, 2010 - Palm Sunday

Rosemont Village Prayer Service 10:30AM

**LENTEN CELEBRATION OF COMMUNAL
RECONCILIATION:**

Monday, March 29th, 7:30pm, Villanova Church.

**This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the
Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance during Lent.** We
join with the University Community in this communal
celebration.

**There will be 14 confessors so time will not be a reason
for missing this important occasion in the life of the
parish.**

**"The Passion of Christ according to the Shroud of
Turin"** - lecture with slide presentation by Massimo Paris,
Wednesday, March 31, 7:30 PM at Saint Pius X School
Cafeteria, 220 Lawrence Road, Broomall. (On Tuesday,
March 30 at 7 PM the movie "The Passion of the Christ" will
be shown in full in the St Pius X Church basement.) All are
welcome to join us in this meditation on the Passion and
Death of Jesus, as we prepare for the Easter Triduum. For
information contact 610-356-6778.

"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 28, 2010.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; Jn 8:12-20
Tuesday Nm 21:4-9; Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Jn 8:31-42
Thursday Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Friday Jer 20:10-13; Jn 10:31-42
Saturday Ez 37:21-28; Jn 11:45-56
Sunday Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11;
Lk 22:14—23:56 or 23:1-49

OPERATION RICE BOWL

The Woman Caught in Adultery

The Lenten call to repentance is matched by the over-
whelming compassion and forgiveness of God. The story
of the woman caught in adultery shows us that Jesus does
not want to condemn us, but rather to place us on the path
to new life. Our prayer, fasting, learning, and giving the
Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl opens paths
to new life for our brothers and sisters in need.

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 Parish Center.

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

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

A special Earth Week presentation on
Monday, April 19, 2010 at 12:45 pm
after the 12:05 Mass in the Rosemont Auditorium.
No RSVP is necessary. Bring your lunch; beverages
provided.

Topic: **Antarctica: Ice and Wildlife**

Presenter: **Paul Tierney**

Paul is recently retired from a second career as a high school physics and astronomy teacher following over thirty years working in information technology for the aerospace industry. He is a lector and a member of our Worship Committee.

Paul and his wife Joanne recently returned from a three week adventure to Argentina, the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula. He will share with us some of the astounding scenery and prolific wildlife that he and Joanne encountered. Please join us.

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, April 18th. 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.

Weekly Exercise Program

An exercise class is held each Wednesday from 10AM-11AM in the Rosemont Auditorium. A trained fitness instructor leads the class. All are welcome.

Come and bring a friend.

Yoga and Power Tone

Classes are held every Wednesday night at St. Thomas of Villanova Rosemont Auditorium at 1229 W Lancaster Avenue, Rosemont, PA, phone 610-525-4801.

Power Tone @ 6:15pm with Lynn

Yoga/Pilates @7:10pm with Lynn

Join me for a special offer to new students. 5 sessions for \$25.00.

We offer a beginner Yoga class every week with a certified yoga instructor who will teach you how to reduce stress in your entire body. You will learn how to bring peace into your life. Hatha Yoga uses your breath to release tension and stress while building strength and flexibility in your muscles. You will be toning your body inside and out. You can feel better than you ever have.

The Power tone class is designed to burn calories and tone your entire body. For more information, call Lynn 610-331-7769.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Care of God's Creation: Our Lenten Journey Continues (From *Care for All Creation, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center*)

In our day the human race is inflicting deadly damage on the life systems that keep this planet a habitat for life. Consumerism is the way people of the post-industrial world are wrecking the planet. Every year 20 percent of Earth's people in the rich nations use 75 percent of the world's resources and produce 80 percent of the world's waste. For example: Chicago, with three million people, consumes as much raw in a year as Bangladesh, with ninety-seven million people. Such overconsumption on our part is driven by an economy that must constantly grow in order to be viable. Its greatest goal is a bottom line in the black without counting the ecological cost. At the same time, the population of the world in developing countries is increasing. The Earth's population will have multiplied five times during the lifetime of someone born in 1950. To translate these statistics into a vivid image: another Mexico City is added every sixty days; another Brazil joins the planet every year.

The carrying capacity of Earth is being exhausted by this growth. Our species now uses up resources faster than Earth's power to replenish itself. This assault on the planet intended or not, wreaks ecological damage of great magnitude: hole in the ozone layer, clear cut forests, drained wetlands, denuded soil, polluted air, poisoned rivers and lakes. Widespread destruction of ecosystems leads to the extinction of the lives that thrive in these habitats. By a conservative estimate, in the last quarter of the twentieth century, 20 percent of all living species have gone extinct.

As Catholic Christians, we need to reflect on our Catholic Social Teachings and Environmental Ethics. The following themes emerge:

Sacramental Universe: God-centered and sacramental view of the universe, which grounds human accountability for the fate of Earth.

Respect for Life: Consistent respect for human life, which extends to respect for all creation.

The Planetary Common Good: World view affirming the ethical significance of global interdependence and the common good.

A New Solidarity: An ethics of solidarity promoting cooperation and a just structure of sharing in the world community.

Universal Purpose of Created Things: An understanding of the universal purpose of created things, which requires equitable use of Earth's resources.

Option for the Poor: An option for the poor, which gives passion to the quest for an equitable and sustainable world.

Authentic Development: A conception of authentic development, which offers a direction for progress that respects human dignity and the limits of material growth.

"A way of life that disregards and damages God's creation, forces the poor into greater poverty, and threatens the right of future generations to a healthy environment and to their fair share of the earth's wealth and resources, is contrary to the vision of the Gospel." *The Call of Creation, Catholic Bishops' Conference of England, 2002*

Over the next several weeks, leading up to Earth Day on April 22, we will learn more about steps that we can take to become caretakers of God's creation, including taking the St. Francis Pledge.

Lenten Almsgiving

Food is needed for our sister parish, Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament's food closet.

Non-perishables items include:
hearty soups, pasta, spaghetti sauce,
canned meats, tuna, salmon, rice,
peanut butter and jelly.

Please bring your gifts to the Parish Center during the week or around weekend Liturgies when you can leave the food at the rear of the Rosemont Chapel.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

You can change the future - become a foster parent!

Foster families provide temporary homes to children of all ages, faiths and races whose families are in crisis.

The love and nurturing that Catholic Social Services foster parents provide has a lasting positive effect on the children whose lives they touch.

For more information about how you can become a foster parent, please call us at **215-587-3960**.

BABY CUPBOARD — Thursdays, 9:15 to 11:45am - Catholic Social Services, 240 N. Bishop Avenue Springfield and on Thursdays all day in our CSS Chester office, 130 E 7th Street, Chester. We may be able to help with needed baby items. Come see us before your baby is born for your newborn gift package. For further information, call 610-626-6550.

URGENT: USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

Updated 3-11-10

**Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!
Protect Conscience - Ensure Affordable Health Coverage
Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance**

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country. Genuine health care reform is being blocked by those who insist on reversing widely supported policies against federal funding of abortion and plans which include abortion, not by those working simply to preserve these longstanding protections.

- On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.
- On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion. And the affordability credits for very low income families purchasing private plans in a Health Insurance Exchange are inadequate and would leave families financially vulnerable.
- Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.
- Congressional leaders are now trying to figure out how the rules of the House and Senate could allow the final passage of a modified bill that would satisfy disagreements between House and Senate versions.

ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

- **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.**
- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.
Contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House health care bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. I urge you to work to uphold essential provisions against abortion funding, to include full conscience protection and to assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

MESSAGE—SENATE:

"I am deeply disappointed that the Senate health care bill fails to maintain the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion and does not include adequate protection for conscience. I urge you to support essential provisions against abortion funding, similar to those in the House bill. Include full conscience protection and assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

WHEN: Votes in the House and Senate are expected at any time. **Act today! Thank You!**

Thank you!!

To everyone who helped make our recent Red Cross Blood Drive such a great success!

Carole Grace and all her volunteers did a fantastic job of getting the word out and bringing in Blood Donors.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this great cause.

MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille is a Catholic based program to help marriages that are stressed or in trouble. Retrouvaille has helped countless married couples in all stages of disillusionment or misery in their marriage. Retrouvaille can help your marriage too. The next program will be held at St. Joseph in the Hills Malvern Retreat Center, Malvern PA on April 9-11, 2010. All calls are confidential.

For more information, call 1-800-470-2230 or 215-766-3944 or visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Our next couples experience will be April 23-25, 2010. For more information, call 1-800-456-8330 or visit us at www.wwme-philly.org.

VOICES THAT CHALLENGE

The following letter gives a real vivid picture in Haiti following the disastrous earthquake. The letter constantly challenges us to live the words of Jesus to love our neighbors. The email was forwarded to us by Mary Beth Appel from Catholic Worker House in Philadelphia.

Dear Friends,

It is two weeks since our return from the second trip to Haiti. Tom Gumbleton, Colleen Kelly and Johanna Berrigan went back to Haiti to deliver a tent to the health agents to be used as a clinic site during this crisis, and to take more medicines and supplies. With the shock of the impact of the earthquake over, we face with the Haitian people the challenge of looking squarely at the damage, embrace the suffering, and doing what must be done in order to carry on. The situation is bleak and dismal to say the least. There is a temptation to yield to hopelessness and yet, the energetic, heartfelt determination of the Haitian people to do what they can for their community inspired us once again. Our time in Haiti was hopeful in many ways, even though ever more mind numbing. It is painful to bear witness to such tragic circumstances made all the more difficult because there seems to be no clear planning for rebuilding.

It poured rain the first night that we were in Haiti this time. We were awakened many times by the sheer loudness and force of the rain against our tent. We were dry, but as Colleen Kelly so poignantly said "It was difficult to sleep just thinking about all of those people without tents to help keep them dry." The short walk in the rain from the field to Matthew 25 House, sloshing through the mud, was sobering enough. I don't know how the Haitian people will continue to endure these discomforts and daily challenges.

At one point, we heard that there was a decision not to distribute tents. The officials determined that providing tents was not a long term solution. It was decided that each family would be given a tarp starting May 1st. Tom Gumbleton, who did not have tent but a tarp draped over a bed, can tell you first hand that this is not a solution at all, by 2:00am he was soaked.

There still seems to be no plan in place to assist the more than one million people left homeless since the earthquake. The rainy season begins in April. Editorial Observer, Lawrence Downes, wrote in the New York Times that the most recent plan approved by the Haitian officials is to move the tens of thousands of displaced people from the tent cities back to the shattered streets of Port au Prince before the rains come. This, of course, is not an adequate plan and speaks to how the Haitian government and aid agencies remain overwhelmed by the crisis.

There are major concerns for the health and well being of the Haitian people as the rainy season approaches. In addition to the psychological and physical suffering from the earthquake there are now additional problems because of a serious lack of sanitation in these areas. This along with the with mounting trash and sewage backup will increase the cases of cholera, and typhoid. With the mosquitoes that the rains will bring, there will also be an increase in the cases of malaria and dengue fever.

There is a Haitian proverb that says "Men anpil, chay pa Lou." "Many hands make light a heavy load." This

proverb describes our journey and our efforts to secure a tent for the health agents. This was the main purpose for returning to Haiti so soon. Through the determined efforts of many people, we were able to ship a 500 lb tent to the Dominican Republic. Through the efficient, kind service of Fed Ex employees, we were driven to the Haitian border with the tent and all of our supplies. Once we arrived at the border, Daniel organized a crowd of young people that had gathered to help. With seemingly little effort, almost no talking, no noise, chaos or arguing this group of young people virtually levitated the 500 lb. tent into the van. Because of the help of these many hands from Detroit to Haiti we now have a tent large enough to accommodate at least 4 exam rooms. The very next day, Kay LaSante, House of Health, was standing tall.

We are very pleased that in addition to the work being done by the health agents in the community, we have hired a Haitian Internist, Dr. Joey Prosper, who will work with us at the clinic and see patients two afternoons each week. This is a new, very hopeful, exciting development for the Kay LaSante project. Dr. Joey is eager to work with our health agents and to be part of our project to provide health care, health education and disease prevention services in this desperately poor community of Ti Plaz Kazo. We are delighted to welcome him as part of our project.

Sadly, during our time in Haiti, there were extremely few signs of clean up or recovery efforts taking place. We thought that what we had seen during our first trip was horrendous enough, only to witness on this trip more shocking sights. Daniel drove us through Port au Prince via Desaline Boulevard, one of the main streets in downtown Port au Prince. We had not been on this street during the previous trip. We saw building after building totally destroyed - an overwhelming number. Amidst this destruction, people are carrying on with their activities of daily life as much as possible. It was just surreal to see people selling goods at their curb side markets along side collapsed structures, huge mounds of concrete, and ever mounting piles of trash. I was at once filled with respect and sorrow as I watched the way the people, especially the women and children, walking and carrying goods on their heads, passing by these ruins with such dignity.

We went to visit The Little Sisters of St. Therese in Carrefour. They have a sister city relationship with the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary here in the states. The earthquake caused extensive damage in the area. The elementary school was completely destroyed. Tragically, there were more than 100 children in the school at the time of the earthquake attending the afternoon session. The bodies of the children remain buried under the rubble. The smell was putrid and the sight of desks, notebooks and toys scattered around the destroyed building spoke profoundly of the lives and dreams lost. Four of the Sisters were killed along with three lay teachers. The Novitiate was also completely destroyed.

Like everyone else in Haiti, the sisters now sleep outside in tents. They have received no assistance from either the government or the Church. We were at first puzzled why their Bishop had not come to visit. They explained that their Bishop was Bishop Miot, who was found dead under the rubble of the Cathedral Office building the day after the earthquake. They have no idea how they will begin to clean up these sites in order to continue with their mission.

Another area of huge concern is Education. Tom Gumbleton and Colleen Kelly were able to meet again with Fr. Pierre Andre Pierre, the President of Notre Dame University in Port au Prince. He expressed his desire to obtain some tents that could serve as classrooms so that they can get classes started at the University as soon as possible. Fr. Pierre is hoping and praying that there might be some Universities in the states that would partner with Notre Dame University in order to help them through this crisis. It is imperative to resume classes immediately so that the Haitian Students are not forced to let go of their dream of a University education. Colleen Kelly returned to the States and went right to work on behalf of Fr. Pierre and the University students. As I write, two classroom size tents are being shipped to Port Au Prince.

One of the most inspiring stories that we heard during our trip was that Carnival was cancelled this year. Carnival is the celebration that takes place right before the season of Lent. This year instead of the Carnival, there was a call for three days of fasting and prayer. The fast ended with a huge outdoor Mass near the destroyed Presidential Palace. We were told heartening stories of how all of the Haitian people gathered together to pray, sing and dance.

We will return to Haiti tomorrow, March 7th. Our plan is to be with Dr. Joey and the health agents for the official opening of Kay LaSante, House of Health, at the new site. We will take with us more medicines and supplies in order for the them to operate the clinic on a long term basis. Our presence and the health care project in this location will bring much hope and healing during this desperate time.

Our gratitude for your concern and generosity is boundless. Please continue to pray for the Haitian people.

Peace,
Johanna Berrigan, for House of Grace Community
Bishop Tom Gumbleton
Colleen Kelly

ST. JOHN NEUMANN GARAGE SALE

The annual garage sale at St. John Neumann Church, Radnor Rd and Highland Lane, Bryn Mawr is planned for Saturday, April 10th from 9:00am to 3:00pm and Sunday, April 11th 8:30am to 1:30pm.

This is a major fund-raiser for the parish. You will find wonderful treasures at bargain prices, all donated by parishioners. Included are better clothing, a designer Boutique for lovely ready-to-wear apparel, accessories, jewelry, bric-a-brac, housewares, linens, toys, books, small appliances, electronics, holiday decorations and furniture.

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, and 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.

FRESH AIR FUND HOSTS NEEDED

There are children living in NYC who do not have the opportunity to experience the simple summer joys our children enjoy by living in the Rosemont area. By becoming a host, you will provide an opportunity for a child to experience things he or she may not ever be able to experience living in the city — running barefoot in the grass, picking fresh flowers, casting a fishing pole or swimming in a lake lit only the stars.

The evening is being graciously hosted by parishioners, Eileen and Neil Brazitis:

Thursday, April 8th at 7:30pm
131 Browning Lane
Rosemont, PA 19010

**You can make a Difference in a Child's Life —
And Your Family's too!**

For more information, please contact:

Eileen Brazitis at 610-639-1159 or
ebrazitis@hirtlecallaghan.com

You can also visit the website at www.freshair.org.