

# TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## SEPTEMBER 17, 2023



### *Scripture Reflection...*

The passage from Sirach reflects sentiments of the “Golden Rule,” as well as the “Lord’s Prayer,” specifically, “forgive us as we forgive others.” The basis of this teaching is our own need to be forgiven. We have all offended others, and so we are all in need of forgiveness. If we are not willing to forgive others, how can we hope to be forgiven? Sirach appeals to human frailty and mortality. The certainty of death should prompt us to set aside any anger that we might experience. Life is too short to bear attitudes that can undermine our spirits. More importantly, we should be willing to extend to others the same gracious compassion that God has extended to us.

The responsorial psalm begins with a summons to bless the Lord because of God's willingness to pardon, to heal, and to redeem or save. These are all acts that flow from God's lovingkindness and compassion (vv.3-4). It is out of this mercy that God acts, not requiring the harsh punishment that sin would warrant. Two images denoting immeasurable distance describe the breadth of God's devotion: the expanse between the heavens and the earth; and the area between east and west. Using these images the psalmist claims the same limitlessness for God's loving kindness. God puts our transgression so far from us that the distance cannot even be imagined.

In this short reading, Paul maintains that Christ, by virtue of his death and resurrection, exercises power over life and death. Because of this, nothing — neither life nor death — can separate those who are joined to Christ from the love of Christ (see Rom 8:38). Here Paul is speaking about the total lordship of the risen Christ. He insists that in every aspect of life and even in death, Christians are under the lordship of Christ. Whether they live or they die, they belong to Christ and are accountable to Christ. Their lives and their deaths must demonstrate this. This understanding is the bedrock of Paul's ethics. For Christians there is no radical individualism or self-fulfillment independent of Christ.

In today's gospel Peter seems to have thought that he was being extraordinarily generous if he forgave seven times, a number that carried overtones of completeness. However, Jesus indicates that not even this was enough for members of his community. Jesus' parable illustrates the extent to which his followers must be willing to forgive, and the consequences that will befall them if they are not. With one simple statement Jesus draws a connection between the generosity of the king and that of God. If God is willing to forgive the exorbitant debt we owe God, surely we can forgive the paltry debts owed us. However, if we are unwilling to show mercy, the mercy already shown us will be taken back and a severe retribution will be exacted.

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### ***Stewardship Thought for the Week***

*“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.” – Romans 14:8*

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

### **Readings for the Week:**

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10  
Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17  
Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35  
Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13  
Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3  
Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15  
Sunday: Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a;  
Mt 20:1-16a

## CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP AT STV

Our patron, Saint Thomas of Villanova, said: *“We are not born for ourselves, and the natural gifts and free graces that we receive are not for ourselves alone, but we have received them that they might be of benefit to all... Thus it pertains to justice that the graces, gifts, knowledge and skills that someone receives as a gift...should be used for the common benefit.”*

Our parish has been committed to Stewardship since the 1990s and has developed over the years a remarkable range of activities devoted to the service of others, especially those most in need. Because of his extraordinary love for the poor and downtrodden, Saint Thomas of Villanova would be quite proud of the parish bearing his name. Year after year, our Stewardship handbook lists activities and events aimed at offering services and resources to those who have no means of providing them for themselves. The generosity and goodheartedness of individuals and families have marked our parish as an outstanding example of Christian compassion. It is beneficial for us, therefore, to step back now and then in order to refresh our understanding of what we do and why we do it.

Our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a parish gives us an opportunity to celebrate our commitment to stewardship. This weekend we are inviting parishioners to come together for refreshments after each Mass. Representatives and information are available at tables around the room in Harten Hall so that you can take a look at what’s going on and how you might participate. In the letter of James we are told: *“Be doers of the word and not hearers only... the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and perseveres, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such shall be blessed in what they do.”*

Stewardship is who we are, our hallmark as a parish community. It’s at the very heart of our faith, a sort of spiritual eating and breathing, and therefore it is essential in order for us to live meaningful and significant lives as followers of Christ. May the words of the Stewardship Prayer renew our commitment:

*O God, our loving Creator and Giver of all good gifts, bless our parish, strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may give generously of our time, talent and treasure to the spreading of Your kingdom here in our church and throughout the world, through Christ our Lord.*

## **ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH CELEBRATING 175 Years of Catholic Tradition**

**Join us for our next Family Inspired Celebration.....**

**Sunday, October 8, 2023**

**MAIN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**

**at The Inn at Villanova - 3:00pm—7:00pm**

**Food, Family Activities and fun for all Family Members!**

**You must register by September 22, 2023 for this event.**

**To RSVP, please call**

**610-525-4801 or email [admin@stvparish.org](mailto:admin@stvparish.org).**

**Refreshments that adults and kids will enjoy!**

**Fellowship — enjoy old friends, get to know new ones!**

**Fun for ALL ages!**



<b>Mon., Sept. 18th</b> 12:05PM-RMCH	<b>Weekday</b>
<b>Tues., Sept. 19th</b> 12:05PM-RMCH	<b>Weekday; <i>Saint Alonso de Orozco; Saint Januarius</i></b> Albert John Tate - Tate Family
<b>Wed., Sept. 20th</b> 12:05PM-RMCH	<b>Saints Andrew Kim Tae-gon and Paul Chong Ha-sang &amp; Companions</b>
<b>Thurs., Sept. 21st</b> 12:05PM-RMCH	<b>SAINT MATTHEW</b> William & Stephanie DiAntonio & Family — Rita DiAntonio
<b>Fri., Sept. 22nd</b> 12:05PM-RMCH	<b>Weekday; <i>Blessed Josephine of The Purification</i></b>
<b>Sat., Sept. 23rd</b> 9:00AM-RMCH	<b>Saint Pius of Pietrelcina</b>
<b>Sun., Sept. 24th</b> 5:00PM-RMCH	Linda & Enzo Dipiero
<b>Sun., Sept. 24th</b> 7:30AM-VNCH	<b>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> Karl German - Eleanor Crane
9:00AM-RMCH	For the Parishioners of St. Thomas
10:30AM-VNCH	Tyree Jones - Carosella Family

**Schedule of Events for the week of: September 17, 2023**  
Recitation of the Rosary after the daily Liturgy.



<b>Monday, September 18, 2023</b>	
Centering Prayer	8:00AM
Rosemont Care Ministry	10:00AM
Joint Councils & Staff Meeting - Harten Hall	6:00PM
<b>Tuesday, September 19, 2023</b>	
Mansion at Rosemont Mass	2:00PM
<b>Wednesday, September 20, 2023</b>	
Exercise Class - Harten Hall	10:00AM
Children's Choir - RMCH	4:15PM
Family Support Group - Harten Hall	7:00PM
<b>Thursday, September 21, 2023</b>	
Women in Ministry Speaker Series — Harten Hall	7:00PM
<b>Friday, September 22, 2023</b>	
<b>Saturday, September 23, 2023</b>	
<b>Sunday, September 24, 2023</b>	
Religious Education Classes - Start-up	10:10AM
Confirmation Class	10:10AM
Mansion at Rosemont Ministry	11:00AM
French Mass - RMCH	11:00AM
Children's Choir - Parish Center	11:30AM
Baptisms-VNCH	12:00PM

**Thank you for your generosity for the following weekends:**

<b>September 2 and 3, 2023:</b>	
Number of Envelopes	258
Envelope Amount	\$9,326.62
Loose Cash	\$1,016.00
Electronic Offerings	\$10,020.17
Other	\$321.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,684.05</b>
10% Tithe	\$2,068.41
<b>September 4, 2022</b>	<b>\$22,475.85</b>

<b>September 9 and 10, 2023:</b>	
Number of Envelopes	262
Envelope Amount	\$14,063.25
Loose Cash	\$1,371.00
Electronic Offerings	\$8,074.25
Other	\$910.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,418.76</b>
10% Tithe	\$2,441.88
<b>September 11, 2022</b>	<b>\$26,924.41</b>

*Faith Hope  
Love*

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES**

The Archdiocese has notified the parish that they are still in pursuit of \$12.5 million goal for the Catholic Charities Appeal. Our parish has contributed 58% of its goal of \$85,000, for which they are grateful.

Many of the agencies supported by Catholic Charities are organizations that our parish holds as priorities, such as St. Edmond's Home and various Catholic nursing homes. If you have not yet responded to the appeal, please consider contributing, or you can send in contributions to the parish designating them for Catholic Charities and we will forward them.

Note also that Catholic Charities contributions are part of the Catholic Foundation, and these funds cannot be applied to any other facet of Archdiocesan expenses than the worthy organizations sponsored by Catholic Charities, which you can view at [cca@thecfpg.org](mailto:cca@thecfpg.org).





**We wish a warm welcome to the newest members of our parish:**

Charlie Helenbrook of Ardmore  
Sophie Althaus of Blue Bell  
Amy McHale of Media

**Congratulations to the newly Baptized members of the parish:**

Thomas, son of George & Mrta Benham  
Olivia, daughter of Mike & Jennifer Donohue  
Keegan, son of Kevin & Lauren Doyle  
Lachlan, son of Colin & Jamie McGeehin  
Jack, son of Steven & Ann Truant  
Joseph, son of Steven & Ann Truant

**Remember those in need of our prayers, especially:**

Katherine Breck, Brynn Busby, Peter Cellucci, Ellen DeCarlo, Austin DePetris, Ella, Lina Fulton, Ian Gallagher, James Gibbons, Jr., Martin Gollin, Patricia Ann Harley, Joe Hopko, Sam Horsey, Bridget Kelly, Sara Keohane, Kelly Clarke, Ashley Lythgoe, Pamela LaMonaca, Bruno Petrillo, Bill Riley, Michael Salucci, Murray Savar, Theresa Sherwin, Terry Sousa and Robert J. Wahl

Please pray for our soldiers stationed throughout the world. Please also pray for the soldiers who are returning from their assignments, especially the wounded.

**CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

**PRAYER LINE**

The parish prayer line is waiting for your prayer requests. Please contact [stvprayerline1@gmail.com](mailto:stvprayerline1@gmail.com) or Marie DellaGreca at 856-981-7761 to activate the parish prayer line. We have parish teams available for your special intentions.

**DINNERS TO THE DOORSTEP**

This ministry is for parish families who are in crisis or for parish couples welcoming a new baby. Home-made dinners are delivered. Two parish coordinators keep a list of volunteers who are called as needed. If you are in need of this delicious community support, please contact Sarah Breck at 610-975-0444 or [sarahbreck@verizon.net](mailto:sarahbreck@verizon.net).

**ST. FRANCIS INN**

Volunteers are needed to serve the midday meal at St. Francis Inn in Kensington on Sunday, October 15th. The Inn tries to meet the immediate daily needs of the poor and homeless people they serve with food, clothing and hospitality. This ministry is open to anyone 16 years or older. For more information and to sign up, contact our parish coordinator, Sheila Holst at 610-659-5828 or [hagan1126@verizon.net](mailto:hagan1126@verizon.net).

**MOTHER AND NEW FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY**

Parishioner and nurse practitioner volunteer offers support to new moms and their families who are navigating the complexities of motherhood and the addition of a new baby to the family. Contact Suzanne Foley at 610-952-0147 or [suzannefoley@yahoo.com](mailto:suzannefoley@yahoo.com) or Renee Massaua at [service@stvparish.org](mailto:service@stvparish.org).

**You are Welcome to attend our  
FOOD REVOLUTION SUMMIT**

**How to Improve Your Health with a  
PLANT BASED DIET**



Dates: Wednesdays, September 27, 2023  
October 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2023  
November 1, 2023

Join us in the STV Parish Center — PC1  
after the 12:05 Mass

RSVP: [nurse@stvparish.org](mailto:nurse@stvparish.org) — 610-525-4801



Our wonderful Laetate Ringers will soon begin their handbell season. We are dedicated to enhancing our liturgies at St. Thomas with the joyous, ethereal tone of our beautiful bells.

Practices are on Thursday evenings from 7:15pm to 8:45pm in the Rosemont Chapel, beginning on September 28. New ringers are welcome! No experience necessary, just a willing heart. For more information, please contact director Elaine Zajano at [handbells@stvparish.org](mailto:handbells@stvparish.org).



**2023 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**  
**October 10, 2023**  
**2:00pm to 7:00pm**  
**at St. Thomas of Villanova Parish**  
**Harten Hall (Rosemont Auditorium)**

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit  
RedCrossBlood.org and Enter:  
StThomasRosemont  
to schedule an appointment.

There is no substitute for blood. **Donors provide the only supply of life-saving blood for those in need.** Donating is simple, fast, and convenient. The donation process can take as little as 45 minutes of your time, but can make a lifelong difference for someone else. Please sign up today.

**Give the gift of life. Sign up to be a blood donor today!**  
**For questions about eligibility: call 1 800-RED-CROSS**



*"Do you really want to make a difference in the life of a child?"*

Please consider joining one of our teams of tutors who will be working with school age children in Philadelphia.

We will be offering both online and in-person tutoring this school year on a weekly basis, beginning the first week of October and continuing through May.

Online tutoring with students from the Aquinas Center in Philadelphia will occur on Zoom on Wednesdays from 5:00-5:45pm.

In-person tutoring will be at St. Francis De Sales School in Philadelphia. A team of tutors will meet at the Rosemont Chapel to carpool on Tuesdays from 2:00-5:00pm.

Prior teaching experience is helpful but certainly not required. All volunteers (whether meeting online or in person) must go through a 2.5 hour training program, "Protecting God's Children", and secure all clearances as required by the Archdiocese. Please contact Renee Massaua at [service@stvparish.org](mailto:service@stvparish.org) or 610-525-4801, ext. 221, for more information.

### **Bereavement Ministry**

#### **St. Thomas of Villanova Parish Center**

A Bereavement Support Group will be meeting this fall on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in PC-1 on October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1 and 8, 2023.

Kelly Clarke, MSW will facilitate this grief & loss group that is structured to offer guidance and support for those navigating life while dealing with profound loss. Kelly, a therapist who has built and operated several nonprofit organizations for the past 30 years, will provide tools and techniques to effectively process the 5 stages of grief. There is no right or wrong way to grieve. However, there is a healthy way to process loss while keeping the memory of loved ones alive.

### **Augustinian Friends -**

#### **A Social Group for adults ages 55 and up**

St. Thomas of Villanova Parish invites singles, widows/widowers, divorced and never married to join our ministry. Our mission is to bring together Catholic singles for fellowship, socialization, spirituality and volunteerism. If you would like to be a part of this group and/or would like to be a part of organizing events for this group, please contact Peggy Schumann, at 610-525-4801, ext. 225 or [fl-youth@stvparish.org](mailto:fl-youth@stvparish.org).

Past events for this group have included monthly lunch gatherings at Gullifty's, service opportunities and virtual events.



**IN GOD WE TRUST**

## CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

To an outsider, an orphanage is a last resort. But that's not always true. 80% to 90% of kids living in orphanages have a living parent who would like to take care of them but often can't because they're too poor. At the age of 5, Stephen Ucembe lost his mother to violence. Stephen and two of his siblings lived in the orphanage despite the fact their father was still alive in another part of the country. Stephen's father visited him once in the institution. The next time he heard about him, his father was dead. Stephen founded the Kenya Society of Care Leavers in 2009. He says people in their late teens and early 20s leaving institutional care did not have a strong voice or platform to express themselves. He works at Hope and Homes for Children, which specializes in placing children with families and ending institutionalization. Visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org) to see what you can do to help!

If you would like to get involved with CRS at the parish level, please email [service@stvparish.org](mailto:service@stvparish.org) to find out more about our parish CRS chapter, a joint effort with our sister parish, St. Cyprian.

### **From the Anti-Racism Committee:**

We thank all those who were able to participate in our prayerful vigil on Sunday, August 27. We celebrated the feast of St. Augustine, and through that lens we honored the 60th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s historic "I Have a Dream" speech. Those attending came from various faith communities including our sister parish, St. Cyprian, A.D.R.O.P., Villanova University and Our Mother of Good Counsel. The late afternoon service included singing, prayer, reflections and gospel readings to shine light on the intersection of these two individuals and what each had to say about racism in their time and in our present day.

Please save the date for our Anti-Racism Committee meeting held via Zoom on **Tuesday, September 26th from 7- 8 PM.**

## **CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION NOTICE**

ATTENTION RISING 7<sup>th</sup> Grader Families:

Have you registered your child for confirmation? Please note all parishioners make the Sacrament of Confirmation in Pennsylvania at their parish, not Catholic school. If you missed the July deadline, please go to [www.stthomasofvillanova.org](http://www.stthomasofvillanova.org) and click SACRAMENTS>CONFIRMATION at the top of the homepage for all detailed instructions, fees, etc.

Programming for all students making the sacrament this year will begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Please direct confirmation questions to Lauren Finore at [Confirmation@stvparish.org](mailto:Confirmation@stvparish.org).

## ST. JOHN'S CASSEROLES

**Want to help out a great nonprofit that serves hot meals to those in need?**

St. John's Hospice is greatly in need of pre-cooked casseroles. Every day they provide over 350 lunchtime meals to homeless people in Philadelphia close to the Convention Center.

We are looking for volunteers who can make a casserole and bring it to our freezers located in the room outside the elevator in the lower level of the Rosemont Chapel. Casserole tins are available on the top of the freezers. Any home cooked casseroles must have a protein, i.e., meat and/or beans. Please label and **date** your casserole with masking tape.

If you have any questions, or need recipes for the casseroles, please contact Renee Massaua at [service@stvparish.org](mailto:service@stvparish.org).

### CYO FALL SPORTS NEWS:

*All 4th-8th grade students that attend Catholic School and are registered in Our Mother of Good Counsel & St. Thomas of Villanova Parish; or are registered in the Parish and attending Religious Education Classes at your parish are eligible.*

*OMGC and STV do field a Cross-Country Team jointly and practice with St. Katharine's in Wayne. All Parish registered 4th-8th grade students are eligible. For more details and to sign up, visit St. Katherine of Siena site: <https://www.stkatharineofsiena.org/cyo/>*

OMGC and STV field a joint Basketball Program. All Parish registered 5th - 8th grad students are eligible. More details to come for registration in September.

### **RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE**

Some couples feel lonely, frustrated, or angry in their marriage, often feeling shut off from one another. Other couples experience severe conflict and never-ending arguments. Retrouvaille offers hope for all these marriages by teaching couples to communicate in a deeper, more meaningful way, healing hurts and rebuilding trust and intimacy. No relationship is beyond help.

The next program will be held October 6 - 8, 2023 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit [www/HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www/HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.





FR. BILL ATKINSON, O.S.A., SERVANT OF GOD

THE AUGUSTINIAN PROVINCE  
OF ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA  
and  
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY PRESENT

Father Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. Symposium:  
**OVERCOMING HARDSHIP  
WITH FAITH, HOPE,  
AND PERSEVERANCE**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023  
On the campus of Villanova University



Keynote Speaker  
**BRENDAN T. SAMMON, PH.D.**  
Associate Professor,  
Saint Joseph's University



Guest Speaker  
**MOST REVEREND NELSON J. PERÉZ, D.D.**  
Archbishop of  
Philadelphia



Guest Speaker  
**THOMAS F. DAILEY, O.S.F.S.**  
Professor of Theology,  
St. Charles of Borromeo



On Tuesday, October 3, join the Augustinian Friars, special lecturers, Archbishop Perez, and friends and family of Servant of God Fr. Bill Atkinson, O.S.A. for a complimentary daylong symposium discussing Fr. Bill's extraordinary life, the Cause for his beatification and canonization, and the theology of disability.

View the speakers, schedule, and register at [augustinianfund.org/Atkinson-symposium](http://augustinianfund.org/Atkinson-symposium). To learn more about Fr. Bill's Cause, visit: [augustinian.org/the-cause](http://augustinian.org/the-cause). The event will be livestreamed, and the link will be posted on the symposium website later in the month.

All are invited to Saint Laurence Parish, Upper Darby, for the Upper Church Re-opening Celebrations:

Saturday, September 23 — 10:00am to 3:00pm  
St. Laurence Grounds — Family Entertainment Music, Fun, Food & Games Festival

Sunday, September 24 — 10:30am Mass  
Eucharistic Celebration, 40 Hours Procession and Devotions in the newly renovated Upper Church.

Details: [www.stlaurencedelco.org](http://www.stlaurencedelco.org).

**Fr. Bill Atkinson Pilgrimage  
Thursday, September 21, 2023**

Prayer Service begins at 3:30pm at St. Thomas of Villanova Church Followed by a 4 mile accessible walk to Our Lady of the Assumption  
Fr. Rob Hagan will lead the service and the event is both a means for our nonprofit members, the Fr. Bill Atkinson Service Corps, to participate meaningfully in society as well as a push for Fr. Bill's Sainthood candidacy. Register online at [www.friendsoffatherbill.org](http://www.friendsoffatherbill.org). All are welcome! Please join us!



## Celebrating and Reimagining Women in Ministry: Walking in the Footsteps of St. Phoebe

Thursday, September 21st, 7:30pm-9pm  
St. Thomas of Villanova — Harten Hall, Rosemont

Please join members of our parish community as we celebrate women in ministry. Our evening will include refreshments and community building, opportunities for discussion, and a slideshow about the wonderful things women in our parish are doing every day.

Our guest speaker is parishioner Mia Holman.

Our parish group is working alongside Discerning Deacons, who are inviting Catholic communities around the globe to *walk together* on St. Phoebe Day—in praying through St. Phoebe's intercession for the global synod, in celebrating women's gifts for ministry and leadership in the Church, and in bearing witness to the discernment about women's participation as it is unfolding in the synod.

All women, men and teens are welcome! If you have questions or to RSVP, please contact Peggy at [fl-youth@stvparish.org](mailto:fl-youth@stvparish.org) or Megan at [youth@stvparish.org](mailto:youth@stvparish.org). A zoom link will be made available for those who are not able to attend in person. If we have enough zoom participants, breakout discussion rooms can be assigned via zoom as well.

**We are hosting a guest speaker about refugees.  
The St. Thomas of Villanova community is  
welcome to attend.**

**Refugees: What We Remember Will be Saved  
Talk by Stephanie Saldaña, Journalist & Scholar**

Moderated by Michele Pistone, Professor of Law  
With refugee guests: Adla Mustafa &  
Yolanda Losocha Samba Nabola  
(former CARES clinic clients)

**Monday, September 18, 2023 - 4:00pm-5:30pm**  
Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law  
John Scarpa Hall, Room 203

Zoom registration link:

[https://villanova.zoom.us/j/9101HNP7VSUB3Py-KFw\\_CFxQiCG2](https://villanova.zoom.us/j/9101HNP7VSUB3Py-KFw_CFxQiCG2)

**When people flee their homes, the things  
they save speak of beauty and  
suffering and the indomitable human spirit.**

### **Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr**

invites you to attend one of our upcoming high school admissions events. Please join us for a **Red and White Breakfast on the Hill - Open House on Friday September 22, October 13, November 3, November 10, and December 1, Virtual Open House on Wednesday October 25,** and our **High School Placement Test on October 22 and November 4.** Registration is required for all events. Please visit our website at [SHAbrynmaur.org](http://SHAbrynmaur.org) to access a full list of events, and registration links.

### **Walking with Purpose More Than a Bible Study!**

We invite all women to join us on Thursdays for a women's bible study. Our sessions will begin Thursday Sept 29 & meet weekly. We will be offering Morning & Evening In-Person sessions, as well as an Evenings via Zoom. Sessions run as small groups facilitated by a table leader using the Walking with Purpose study. Babysitting will be offered during the morning in person session.

**To register** please see the Parish website, scan QR code or contact Maria Luby at [stwalkingwithpurpose@gmail.com](mailto:stwalkingwithpurpose@gmail.com)

#### **Study for New Participants - Opening Your Heart (morning)**

This 22-lesson Bible study will take you on an exciting journey closer to the heart of God! Opening Your Heart is an incredibly effective guide to deep, lasting transformation of the heart and we encourage all participants new to Walking with Purpose to begin here, regardless of previous experience with Bible study.

#### **Study for Continuing Participants (2 studies) - Rooted & Radiant/ Reclaiming Friendship (morning and evening)**

Rooted and Radiant was written for any woman who wants to live her life grounded in Jesus Christ. Through this Bible study, we dive deep into understanding who Jesus is and what that means for us. (10 weeks)  
Reclaiming Friendship: Let God reshape how you see and experience intentional relationships, and become a woman who is capable of the lifelong bond of true friendship. (10 weeks)





## Thank You Letters

**Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary**  
741 Polo Road  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010-3825

Dear Friends:

In this time between Mother's Day and Father's Day, we remember our parents and their sacrifice for us. As missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary we also remember our beginnings.

The year 2024 will be the hundredth anniversary of our founding. In the U.S. Region, we remember Sister Philomena Fox, a Philadelphian who was one of the first ten members of the new congregation for the African missions. In 1924 she traveled from Philadelphia to Ireland to join. In 1955 Sister Ann Marino and Sister Bernie Murdoch began their novitiate in Villanova. After profession, Sr. Ann served in Nigeria and Kenya as a nurse-midwife and educator. She served locally at Misericordia Hospital, Fitzgerald Mercy Hospital, Booth Memorial Hospital, St. Ignatius Nursing Home and the Mothers Home. Sister Bernie was a teacher and catechetical leader in Nigeria and Sierra Leone. In the United States she became our outreach person for mission awareness, parish outreach, and vocation outreach. She supported Sister Terry Shields, one of the founding members of Dawn's Place, a residential home for women transitioning out of prostitution. The sisters combined experience is awe-inspiring.

We are so grateful that we can celebrate their 90th birthdays and their embodiment of reaching out in love and compassion wherever mission takes us.

You, too, are reaching out in love and compassion through your support — by your prayer and your financial sacrifice. We are so grateful. For all of us, may the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost light the flame of our love and compassion this year and every year.

Gratefully remembering you in our prayer and with all best wishes.

Sister Ellen Anderson and  
Sister Ifeoma Onwudinjo

*Many thanks for your generous support that enables us to put a smile on the face of the poor we serve. May the light of good health, God's Blessings, and peace shine upon you and your loved ones this summer and always.*  
Amen

**Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**  
**PROJECT FIAT Mission Center**  
2025 Church Road  
Wyncote, PA 19095

August 23, 2023

Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas:

On behalf of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, I would like to thank you and the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for allowing us to participate in The Missionary Cooperative Plan, 2023. I was very happy to share in your loving community of believers and followers of Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

I know that the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus feel very blessed to have had such a wonderful opportunity to raise mission awareness and collaborate in building the Kingdom of God.

Wishing you God's Blessings,

Lynette Kyle  
Project FIAT Coordinator

**MOTHERS' HOME**  
51 N. MacDade Boulevard  
Darby, Pennsylvania 19023

Dear Parishioners:

On behalf of Mothers' Home, please accept my/our sincerest gratitude for the generous \$5,000 contribution to our wonderful mission.

The homeless pregnant women and their babies will surely benefit in very real and concrete manners, as they funds will allow us to continue to serve them in a safe, warm, loving surrounding.

Bless you and thank you again!

With gratitude,  
Dennis McAndrews, Esq.