

FEBRUARY 21, 2010

FROM THE PASTOR.....

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

St. Thomas of Villanova is an Augustinian Roman Catholic Community. As the Body of Christ, we share our time, talent and treasure to fulfill our Baptismal commitment. Following the example of St. Thomas of Villanova, our patron, we take as our challenge the mission of Jesus and strive to love and experience God through worship, social justice, education and evangelization.

STEWARDSHIP
changes lives

Stewardship Thought for the Week

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me."

Deuteronomy 26:10

This simple line from the Old Testament presents us with two challenges. First, do we bring God our first fruits — the best that we have to offer? Second, do we remember that everything we have has been given to us by God? We brought nothing into this world and we can take nothing from it. So why not share what we have while we are here?

Dear Friends,

The last large snow storm really wrecked havoc in many ways. It took days to dig out and to get back to normal. There were days off from school and possibly work or working at home instead of going to work. It even was the culprit in delaying our bulletins so that we didn't have them last week. There wasn't much that I could do about that. Hopefully this week we will have them.

Last Friday our parish staff took a day of reflection at the St. Raphaela Retreat Center in preparation for the season of Lent. It was a wonderful reflective time and I believe was very helpful to all of us. We were led by Sr. Mary Carboy, SSJ who was able to frame the season for us especially well. In the course of the day she quoted from a book written by Paula D'Arcy entitled Gift of the Red Bird. I purchased the book and would like to share a quote I found from the introduction:

"...why are we able to master great technology, but do not yet understand our own hearts? Why, after centuries, are we still so far from understanding the nature of love? And why are we willing to make endless outer journeys, but are loath to make the significant one: the journey within? The inward journey may frighten us, yet it is this journey which holds the real treasure. There God's spirit waits to reveal mysteries and beauty beyond our imagination: the secrets of what is holy, the encounters with truth that change everything. It is the journey that opens the eye of the heart."

This quote especially touched me since last summer I met with Dr. Peter Spitaler to begin to craft our Lenten Retreat: **Celebrating the Paschal Mystery, the Journey to Newness of Life**. I find Paula D'Arcy's quote particularly relevant in relation to our retreat. We are hoping to offer something that will be reflective, prayerful, and helpful to celebrate the season of Lent which is seen as a journey. The retreat will be held the four Thursdays of March from 7:30 to 8:30. Each evening will discuss someone's journey with the last evening being our journey. Both Dr. Peter Spitaler and Fr. Joe Farrell, O.S.A. are eminently qualified for the task of leading us through this retreat and I encourage you to make the time for these four Thursdays to be at the center of your own Lenten journey!!

This Lent can be a wonderful time to grow in faith if we allow ourselves to accept the challenge to do so. Like Jesus, we can be tempted, but our temptations are not as extraordinary as Jesus.' I believe our biggest temptation is to try to do a lot of things, but without slowing ourselves down to think and pray about our lives. We so need this season of Lent to remind us of our call as disciples and good stewards of God's gifts to each of us. It can lead us closer to Christ, especially nudging us to remember the forgiveness he brings to us and to celebrate that forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We have seven weeks ahead of us. May God help us to use this time well.

Peace,
Fr. Rich

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.

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.

FEED THE HUNGRY MINISTRY

The Feed the Hungry Ministry will be serving on "St. Thomas Night" at the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County on Saturday, March 6th.

If you can prepare a meatloaf, a potato casserole, salads, desserts or make sandwiches for distribution, please call our parish center.

Thank you for your assistance.

Schedule of Events for the week of: February 21, 2010

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

Monday, February 22, 2010

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Golden Bells - Aud	10:00AM
Mom's of Young Children Coffee Group	?????
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, February 24, 2010

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

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Walking with Purpose - Aud	9:30AM
Bible Study - PC2	10:30AM

Friday, February 26, 2010

Saturday, February 27, 2010

Sunday, February 28, 2010

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

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

THANK YOU!

Thank you again for your support of the Heritage of Faith—Vision of Hope Campaign. We are grateful to all who continue to send in their pledges and support this campaign. Just this past week we received approximately \$6,000 in pledges to reach \$1,214,140. We are almost there! Although the campaign officially ended January 31, you can still turn in a pledge if you missed our commitment weekend or missed Mass because of the snow. If you have a pledge card you would like to send, please complete it and either mail it in, drop it at the Parish Center or you may drop it in the offertory basket next weekend. If you need a Pledge Card, please call the parish office.

Thank you again for your continued support.

PASTORAL COUNCIL CORNER

The pastoral council met Feb. 1 and the meeting was led by Dr. Sherretta in Fr. Rich's absence. The meeting opened with a prayer read by Dr. Sherretta.

The council spent the first part of the meeting reviewing goal #2 of the parish council which is: "to enhance the level of faith understanding within our Parish community through education at all levels." Dr. Sherretta reviewed the many educational offerings that already exist. The council identified again the need to improve parish technology to enhance educational opportunities. Specifically, the council recommended more e-mail correspondence from Fr. Rich and updating the parish website.

Finance: Denise Mariotti from finance council provided a quarterly update of the parish's financial picture.

Parish Survey: Rick Sudall presented a plan to have a parish survey in the spring. Previous surveys were reviewed and relevant issues to address in this year's survey were discussed. The tentative plan is to present the parish with an on-line survey in April. A paper option will be made available for parishioners without access to email.

Capital Campaign: The capital campaign for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has concluded. It has been a major success thanks to the generous donations of so many parishioners. 35% of the proceeds will be returned to the parish as they are received by the Archdiocese. Several capital projects for the parish center will be financed by the monies received. They include installation of central air conditioning, an elevator and a sprinkler system.

Updates were provided regarding the donut social, the Godspell performance, the Lenten Retreat lecture series, the book club and the ice skating Family Life party. The meeting concluded with The Lord's Prayer.

BIBLE STUDY

[The Psalms II](#)

This study includes two lessons each on the royal psalms, psalms of lament, and psalms of declarative praise. 7 sessions

[Israel's Story - Part One](#)

This book explores Old Testament history, theology, and stories, from the creation accounts of Genesis to the fall of the Northern Kingdom and its prophets. 7 sessions

[Israel's Story - Part Two](#)

This study continues to explore Israel's history and theology, from the division of the kingdom, through the prophets to the southern kingdom of Judah, the Exile in Babylon, and the return to restore Jerusalem. 7 sessions

Tuesday Evenings: 7-8:15pm in the Parish Center

Thursday Mornings: 10:30-11:45am in the Parish Center

Facilitator: Dr. Ernie Sherretta

Bring your Bible. We provide the study materials.

To register and reserve your copy of study materials, please call 610-525-4801, ext 204, or email rel.ed@stv.comcastbiz.net

"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 February 28, 2010.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

Monday	1 Pt 5:1-4; Mt 16-13-19
Tuesday	Is 55:10-11; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday	Jon 3:1-10; Lk 11:29-32
Thursday	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Mt 7:7-12
Friday	Ez 18:21-28; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday	Dt 26:16-19; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17—4:1 or 3:20—4:1; Lk 9:28b-36

WAY OF THE CROSS AT ST. DENIS CHURCH

The St. Denis Youth Group will be hosting the St. Francis Mystery Players at the St. Denis Church at 7:30pm on February 28th, where the Players will act out The Way of the Cross. It depicts Jesus' Passion, and allows its audience - young and grown - to experience Jesus' final hours. The players is a traveling troupe of teens and adults, and performs to full churches around the country. (They fill cathedrals that hold 1,000 people!). There will be no cost, but all donations benefit the St. Denis Youth Group and the St. Francis Mystery Players, and will be greatly appreciated.

Traveling Living Stations - Good Friday, April 2, 2010

The Living Stations will be presented by the Sacred Heart, Annunciation and St. Denis Youth Groups. The Stations start at St. Denis and conclude at Sacred Heart. The journey begins at St. Denis at 10:00am. All are welcome; hope to see you there!

OPERATION RICE BOWL

In Luke's story of the temptations of Jesus we see how we can be tempted by wealth, power, and esteem just as He was. Lent calls us to focus on our faith life by living it in deeper ways. As we begin our journey with Catholic Relief Service's Operation Rice Bowl, let us pray and sacrifice so that through our faith life we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need.

St. Patrick's Day Lunch Wednesday, March 17, 2009 12:45PM Rosemont Auditorium

Cost \$12.00 per person - Entertainment provided by the Accordion styles of Rick Savage 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

NAME _____

Number Attending _____

Check Enclosed _____

PHONE _____

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA NOTICE

The 13th Annual National Migration Week Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, 18th Street and Ben Franklin Parkway. Cardinal Justin Rigali will be the main celebrant and homilist. At 2:00pm, a Procession of Ethnic Communities will begin with various selections of hymns sung by Community members. The celebration of the Holy Mass will begin at 2:30pm.

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

Join us for an hour of silence, song and deep prayer in the Taize mode on the Tuesday evenings during Lent: February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23. IHM Retreat Center (on the grounds of St. Aloysius Academy) 401 Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr, from 7:30-8:30pm.

PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE Care of God's Creation: Our Lenten Journey

In Advent, we embarked a journey through the creation story embracing the mystery and goodness of God and the wonder of all put into motion by our loving God. Genesis tells us that God looked at everything and found it very good. The Church takes the idea about the goodness of creation much further. The church says that every part of creation is sacred or holy precisely because God has created it. We walk on holy ground. Creation is a sign of God's presence and abiding love for us. As such, it is worthy of our profound care and requires our able stewardship.

In the first Christian centuries, the sacramental vision of nature was much stronger than it is for many Christians today. Today, fueled by recognition of the current environmental crisis, many Catholics are renewing this ancient vision. In our sacraments and liturgical rites, we see vibrant celebrations of Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, rites of anointing of the sick, weddings, and funerals — all of these use things of the earth such as water, bread, wine, oil, and fire to point us toward God, present among us and loving us. We are a sacramental people, finding signs of God in all things - most fundamentally in the things of nature.

Because so many of us live and work in ways disconnected in conscious ways from the earth, we have a greater inclination to unknowingly or carelessly neglect or misuse this holy ground. Air pollution, global climate change, dirty and unsafe water, toxic waste, and many other environmental degradations confront us. In so many ways, we are failing to be good stewards.

The whole universe is God's dwelling. Earth, a very small, uniquely blessed corner of that universe, gifted with unique natural blessings Earth is our home, and we are never so much at home as when God dwells with us. The Christian vision of a sacramental universe — a world that discloses the Creator's presence by visible and tangible signs — can contribute to ensuring that we are accountable for what we do or fail to do to preserve and care for the earth and all its creatures, including our brothers and sisters.

We start our journey of commitment to earth renewal through our encounter with Mystery - the uniqueness of the earth. Through the many qualities and characteristics of the earth, God communicates with us. The earth is not insensitive or devoid of communication; rather, the earth is precious, for it is the meeting place of God and people. The earth is open to promise for it is fulfilled through our proper action and encounter. Insensitivities are not in the earth, but in us. Focusing on earth and not on distant heavenly bodies, our acts are rightfully close to home, but at the same time, we can begin our process by gazing out at the vista of heavenly bodies in order to realize our smallness and greatness - that paradox which our cradle and grave, the earth, shares.

Over the next few weeks we will be presenting material here from a publication titled, ***Catholics Going Green, Learning and Living Environmental Justice*** and ***Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl***. We will be suggesting actions we can all take in an effort to be good stewards of creation. We will introduce the ***St. Francis Pledge***, a commitment we hope that you and your family will consider signing on to. Our sacred journey continues.

DYNAMIC
PAIN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

- * Hear about new theories of pain management
- * Manage headaches in new and more effective ways
- * Learn ways to better cope with fibromyalgia
- * Develop new coping strategies to lessen your pain
- * Supportive group atmosphere
- * Goals tailored to meet individual needs

WHEN: Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am
March 3, 2010 to April 28, 2010 (Meets Weekly)

WHERE: Rosemont Plaza Conference Room
1062 E Lancaster Ave, Rosemont, PA 19010

This group is appropriate for chronic pain patients who have any of the following conditions:

Arthritis	Back or Neck Pain
Chronic Pain	Fibromyalgia
Headaches	Irritable Bowel Syndrome
Lupus	Knee Replacements
Lyme Disease	Post Surgical Pain

To register, call Jane K. Rosen, M.S.W., L.C.S.W., M.Ed. At 484-432-9217.

Please join us for a special afternoon with
New York Times best-selling author &
breast cancer survivor

Kelly Corrigan

Sunday, March 14 - 3:00pm
Radnor High School
Open to the Public

\$20 in advance - \$25 at door
For information and to reserve books, go to
www.randnorscholarshipfund.com

"More than 1 Million NEW people are diagnosed with cancer each year... Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment."

The #1 reason donors say they give blood is because they "want to help others."

You can sign up on-line at www.pleasegiveblood.org/donate
Use Sponsor Code: 4051

STEWARDSHIP THANK YOU

St. Martin de Porres Church
2340 W Lehigh Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19132
February 8, 2010

Dear Parishioners of STV:

Please accept our sincere and hearty thanks for the gift of \$334.62 from the Advent Giving Tree and for the beautiful Christmas gifts for our parishioners.

In accord with your designation, the gift will be used to benefit directly one of the families, who are experiencing an emergency, such as a heating or electric bill, or something equally dire.

Again, thank you so much! We pray for our benefactors every Sunday at Mass; please say a little one for us!

Sincerely,
Fr. Ed Hallinan, Pastor

STV YOUTH SPORTS NEWS:

Spring track registration is now open to all in grades 4 through 8. Practices won't start until March. Meets will be on Sunday afternoons. Registration will end on February 22nd.

Please visit the website www.wagdogs.com to sign up. Any questions please email Joe Manion at Joe.Manion1@gmail.com

Calling all students interested in softball, baseball or track with the CYO. Please register at www.wagdogs.com.

All public, parochial and private school parishioners from Our Mother of Good Counsel and St. Thomas of Villanova in grades 5 - 8 are eligible to participate.

All spring track participants should register at St. Katherine's as noted above.

If you have any CYO questions, please contact Beverly Owsik at 610-525-7439 or mbmmbj6@comcast.net.

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.

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

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 12:45pm
after the 12:05 Mass in the Rosemont Auditorium
No RSVP is necessary.
Bring your own lunch, beverages provided.

Topic of Forum:
"A Parish Son Tells his story of
servicing In the U.S. Army Special Forces
in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Presenter: J. J. Williamson

J.J. Williamson grew up in our parish community. He attended ST/GC School, Carroll H.S., West Point. J.J., a Captain in the Army, had two tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

J.J. is currently enrolled in Villanova Law School. He met his wife, Hope, at West Point. They have a new daughter and are back as parishioners at STV.

MERION MERCY ACADEMY

Merion Mercy Music Theater proudly presents **Les Miserables School Edition** on Fridays, February 26 and March 5 at 7:30pm; Saturdays, February 27 and March 6 at 7:30pm and Sundays, February 28 and March 7 at 2:00pm.

The most well-known and performed musical worldwide, based on the 1862 Victor Hugo novel, *Les Miserables* is a captivating story of the intertwining lives of people caught in a struggle for redemption and revolution.

The musical's best known songs include the hauntingly beautiful "I Dreamed a Dream", the saucy "Master of the House", the inspiring "One Day More" and the rousing "Do You Hear the People Sing?" MMT's *Les Miserables School Edition* is a must see event.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for children, students and senior citizens. Tickets may be purchased on-line at www.merion-mercy.com or at the door. All seating is assigned, so buy your tickets in advance for the best seats. MMT is located at 515 Montgomery Avenue, Merion, PA 19066.

THOUGHTS OF ST. JOHN VIANNEY

Let us go often to the foot of the Cross... We shall learn there what God has done for us, and what we ought to do for him.
Sermon on the Cross (Lent)

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA PCPD/Deaf Apostolate

We are looking for Adoptive Parents for a few children from Haiti who also have disabilities. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Fr. Chris Walsh using email walshchris@yahoo.com.

Three of the children include:

John Cassian Joseph, 9 year old and blind.

Wilma Gauthier, 8 year old, blind and deaf.

Francice Francois, 4 year old, sickle cell anemia

If you are married for at least 10 years, Catholic Social Services will be happy to provide information, support and assistance to you.

MEN'S SPIRITUALITY CONFERENCE

The 2010 Men's Spirituality Conference at Archbishop Ryan High School is scheduled for March 13, 2010 - mark your calendars. Catholic Evangelist Jesse Romero, former deputy sheriff, and area native Mike Piazza, former All-Star catcher, will headline another great lineup of speakers. Join us for a full day of faith sharing and fellowship with other men from throughout the Archdiocese. The 2010 Conference theme is "Be Reconciled to the Lord" (2 Cor 5:20). Cardinal Justin Rigali will celebrate the closing Mass at 4:00pm. For additional information and online registration go to www.archphila.org and look for the Men's Spirituality Conference Logo, or call 215-587-5639.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE ELDERLY

The Irish Tenors

Finbar Wright, Anthony Kearns and Karl Scully
Live on stage at the Liacouras Center at
Temple University
March 5, 2010 at 8:00pm.

Tickets range from \$45.00 to \$250.00 (\$250.00 includes a post-concert reception with the Tenors) and are available at Holy Name Home by calling the Development Office at 215-729-5153, ext 1120, Comcasttix.com, www.liacourascenter.com or by calling 800-298-4200.

VALLEY FORGE MILITARY ACADEMY

VFMA Summer Camp - Adventure that lasts a lifetime! Valley Forge Military Academy is now offering boys and girls ages 6-17 a great summer. For more information, check out our website at: www.vfmac.edu/camp. Overnight, day adventure, and sports camps offer a wide range of activities for summer fun. We are holding an OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, March 27th from Noon to 2:00pm in Bower Hall Boodle shop. For more information, call 610-989-1262. Academic enrichment classes are available. Give your child a summer they will never forget...