

MARCH 14, 2010



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Stewardship Thought for the Week

"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan."

Joshua 5:12

Throughout the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land, the manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

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 6 and 7, 2010.

Envelope Number:.....370
Envelope Amount:.....\$21,640.04
Loose Cash:.....\$1,942.57
Electronic Offerings:..... \$1,740.00
Total Contributions:.....\$25,322.61

Income for March 8, 2009.....\$19,763.07

FROM THE PASTOR....

Dear Friends,

As we continue our Lenten Journey...hopefully we are allowing ourselves to listen to the Lord speak to us. I have already quoted from Paula D'Arcy's Gift of the Red Bird a number of times. As you probably realize, the book itself spans quite a few years in her life. In the book she speaks about her vision quest which happens near the end of the book. When she was younger she attended a Sun Dance during a visit to an Indian reservation in Wyoming. It is a ceremony which symbolizes the people's relationship with the supernatural. Looking back over the years she makes an interesting comment about where she was at these two parts of her life.:

"Many of the truths presented to me at the Sun Dance, when I was twenty-four were identical to the truths I finally incorporated during my vision quest, almost twenty years later. At twenty-four I wasn't nearly ready to contain them, Truth has to fall on fertile soil. And in a way, all the intervening circumstances which I experienced during those years were essential parts of my soil's preparation."

With hind sight we can always see things much more clearly than at the time we were making certain decisions. At the same time, I think it is utterly important to make the time to prepare ourselves to listen to the Lord at all the stages of our lives. The season of Lent is that time to make the soil of our hearts fertile for God's word. I know that our various experiences constantly help us to see the situations and people in our lives around us more fully. They can also help us see God ! Easter is only three weeks away. There is still time to make ourselves ready.

In today's gospel we have the wonderful parable of the forgiving father. I know that we title it the parable of the prodigal son, but what the father does is so extraordinary. His ability to forgive is the key. He is the one we are to emulate as we read the parable. Oftentimes, however, we may be more like the prodigal son, or for that matter even the other brother. What is so great about the parable is that we begin to realize we may be like the two brothers at various stages in our life, but ultimately we aim to be like the father, with God's help.

Lent is a time for us to change some of the things that keep us from living, loving and forgiving as Jesus has taught. This is why we have the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament we are able to come to peace with ourselves and with God, which then enables us to be more at peace with others and, maybe even have the ability to forgive in ways we formerly thought impossible. We are celebrating our communal celebration of Reconciliation on Monday of Holy Week, March 29th at 7:30pm. Please put it on your calendar. There was a slight mistake in our Lenten brochure which had it scheduled on the 22nd. We always celebrate it on the Monday of Holy Week. Come and join us!!

Our Lenten Retreat is moving along. We have only two more nights, Thursday March 18th and Thursday March 25th, at 7:30. Just another opportunity to make our hearts fertile!

Peace,
Fr. Rich

*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](mailto:service@stv.comcastbiz.net) or Sr.  
Anne Marie at [p.care@stv.comcastbiz.net](mailto:p.care@stv.comcastbiz.net), or call the parish  
center at 610-525-4801.

*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 13<sup>th</sup> to Kathy Roethlein:  
610-525-4801 or email:

[office@stv.comcastbiz.net](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

**LENTEN RETREAT**

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

**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?

**SPECIAL NOTE:**

**Because the Feast of St. Joseph will be on a Friday in  
Lent this year, the obligation to abstain from meat does  
not bind on the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Friday, March  
19, 2010.**

Schedule of Events for the  
week of: March 14, 2010  
Recitation of the Rosary  
After the daily Liturgy.  
(Monday through Saturday)

**Monday, March 15, 2010**

Rosemont Manor Ministry 10:30AM  
Augustinian Meeting - Aud 1:00PM-4:30PM

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010**

Golden Bells - Aud 10:00AM  
BP Screening after 12:05 Mass  
Staff Meeting 1:00PM  
Eldernet Board - Aud 2:00PM  
OLBS Mentors 2:30PM  
Red Cross - PC1 6:00PM  
Bible Study - PC4 7:00PM  
Youth Group - High School 7:30PM  
Choir Practice - VNCH 7:30PM  
Genesis Bells - Aud 7:30PM

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010—St. Patrick's Day**

Exercise Program - Aud 10:00AM  
Honickman Ministry 12:30PM  
St. Patrick's Day Luncheon 12:45PM  
Religious Education Program 4:30PM  
Pilates - Cafeteria 5:00PM  
New Horizons - PC1 7:00PM

**Thursday, March 18, 2010**

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

**Friday, March 19, 2010—St. Joseph's Day**

**Saturday, March 20, 2010**

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

**Sunday, March 21, 2010**

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

**STEWARDSHIP GRANT PROGRAM**

The way our parish tithes ten percent of all offerings to ministries is through our parish grant program. We tithe ten percent of all parish offerings to ministries beyond St. Thomas of Villanova. Some are local, some are national, and some are international in scope. About 25% are targeted toward ministries affiliated with the Order of St. Augustine. We invite applications by May 1, 2010 from organizations who are congruent with our Augustinian Catholic values. The application process is described on the parish website, at [www.stthomasofvillanova.org](http://www.stthomasofvillanova.org), under ministries, and then under "Stewardship". There you will find the applications and relevant information.

**"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 Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 4:1-16  
Wednesday Is 49:8-15; Jn 4:17-30  
Thursday Ex 32:7-14; Jn 4:31-47  
Friday 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22;  
Mt 1:16:18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a  
Saturday Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53  
Sunday Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14;  
Jn 8:1-11

**RECONCILIATION OPPORTUNITIES IN LENT**

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

**Communal Reconciliation**

**Monday, March 29, 2010\***

**Villanova Church 7:30pm**

**\*This is the correct date for the Communal  
Reconciliation. We are not having Communal  
Reconciliation on March 22, 2010.**

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

## OPERATION RICE BOWL

### The Prodigal Son

The story of the Prodigal Son helps us refocus on the meaning of Lent. This is a time to change our ways, to turn back to God our Father, and to appreciate and share the gifts we have received. As we begin the second half of our journey with Catholic Relief Services' Operation Rice Bowl, we remember that we are called to be stewards of what God has given us, and we connect our prayers and fasting with our giving.

### CHURCH IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE:

Thank you for your generous donations to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your gifts will support scholarships for Catholic students, innovative Catholic Communications, and essential pastoral work in Europe and parts of Asia that were once under Soviet control. To learn more about how funds are used, please visit [www.usccb.org/nationalcollections](http://www.usccb.org/nationalcollections).

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Good and gracious God,  
We give you thanks for the many blessings you have given us –  
For shelter, clothing, food, love, and abundance in our lives,  
And for our parishes which connect us so closely with you and  
your people.  
We hear your call to Stewardship, Lord.  
Give us generous hearts that we may respond by sharing our  
blessings.  
Give us courageous hearts that we may respond by living the  
Gospel message.  
Give us faith to believe in your goodness, so that with confident  
hearts  
we may return a generous portion of our monetary resources to  
you, oh Lord.  
We pray, with grateful hearts, through Christ, your Son. Amen.  
\*Created by Kathy Clark, Archdiocese of Seattle

### 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.

Thank you to the St. Francis Inn team and the Feed the Hungry Ministry for feeding hundreds of local people of all ages delicious meals. It was greatly appreciated.

Thank you to J.J. Williamson for his inspiring thoughts and stories from Iraq and Afghanistan. He also thanked everyone who participated in Holiday Hugs for Heroes which meant so much to the troops.

## *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.

## 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](http://www.habitatmontco.org). Questions or want to sign on, call the parish center.

### NEW MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY IN LENT:

#### 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](http://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.

### **ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL, NARBERTH:**

St. Margaret's is currently accepting applications for the 2010-2011 school year. We provide a nurturing, faith based education in a caring environment, serving parishes and families from Bala Cynwyd through Villanova. Call to visit or speak with our parish representative Barb Harrison at 610-789-4376 or email [barbharrison64@verizon.net](mailto:barbharrison64@verizon.net), or visit [www.saint-margaret.org](http://www.saint-margaret.org)

## *Easter Egg Hunt:*

The Mom's Group will be hosting an Easter egg hunt on **Saturday, March 20 at 10:00am at Clem Macrone Park in Rosemont**. We ask that each child bring their own basket and 10 plastic eggs filled with candy. The hunt will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m.

In addition to the hunt, the children can help decorate an Easter craft to give to the children at Presbyterian Village. In the event of rain, the raindate will be Saturday, March 27 at 10:30am. Drinks will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact the parish center.

## STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CORNER

Present: Sara Wallace, Kraig Null, Jackie Burke, Denise Moran, Michele Gallagher, Joan Hawley, Tom & Nancy Costello, Deni Zodda

- 1 - Meeting began with Reflection by Kraig Null – “The Gift of Reconciliation”
- 2 – Minutes of December 14, approved.
- 3 – Fr. Rich informed the council of the passing of a beloved member of the parish as well as the Stewardship Council – Elaine Abruzzo on Sunday, February 7.
- 4 – Stewardship Page on Parish Website – There are a few forms that are out of date. Updates will be sent to the office.
- 5 – Welcoming Committee – The next event is planned for May 15<sup>th</sup> – There will be a wine and cheese event that evening after the 5:00pm mass. There should be a follow up to answer any questions and help their transition into the parish. More volunteers may be needed.  
Tom and Nancy gave us a list of the mission statements of other parish welcome committees. The Welcome Committee will put together their own mission statement. An old Welcome Committee Vision and Mission was found and distributed
- 6 – How do we get the young families and the young singles that register with the parish involved? Service was suggested. Could we organize a service trip for young singles? We will look at our database and see who would be willing to take part in this initiative.
- 7 – Time & Talent Renewal - The council discussed the Time & Talent Renewal and ways it could be helpful in attracting new parishioners for the various ministries. The Bulletin Company provides two free newsletters per year, so we discussed doing the same newsletter format (with an addition of a tear out sheet of all ministries that could be filled out and mailed or dropped in the collection basket). This newsletter will also be available at the St. Thomas of Villanova parish celebration. It was suggested that we might have a PDF form on the parish website entitled “I would like to be involved” with an online form that can be filled out and submitted.
- 8 – The welcome package given to new parishioners was also discussed. The current Registration Form was forwarded to all council members and staff to see if updates were needed.
- 9 – Worship Committee – The Worship Committee suggested that the councils incorporate evening prayer at the start of the meetings. Fr. Rich reported that Liturgy of Hours is prayed in our community and this was discussed further.
- 10 – Bridging CCD into the Youth Group – “Children are stewards too.” We need to be able to get to the parents of the CCD children about Stewardship.
- 11 – Programs – We would like to have the students who received parish grants come and give a presentation on their Trips. We should develop a program around gratitude for the fall. There will be a Lenten Retreat Thursdays in March with Joe Farrell and Peter Spitaler. Parishioners can attend one or all. Each retreat will be approximately 35 minutes.

### 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.

## 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.

## PEACE & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

### Care of God's Creation: The Fourth Week in Lent

(Source: *Care For All Creation, Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center.*)

We honor God when we take steps to foster an environment that promotes healthy living for creation and for each other. The pervasiveness of pollution across the land, water, air, and the presence of harmful chemicals in the manufacturing process of nearly every human-made item, made the health dangers of chemicals and pollution a sobering problem. Environmental degradation has been linked to diseases that range from asthma and cancer to developmental disorders in children. Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable to these widespread contaminants.

Toxic pollution is also a justice issue. Toxic pollutants and chemicals disproportionately threaten the health of low-income communities and communities of color. In our country according to a report titled *Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007* issued by United Church of Christ, "people of color make up the majority of those living in host neighborhoods within 1.8 miles of the nation's hazardous waste facilities." Pope Benedict XVI on August 27, 2006 called for a commitment to care for creation. He said creation is "exposed to serious risks by life choices and life-styles that can degrade it....environmental degradation makes the lives of the poor especially unbearable."

Pollution occurs when human activities contaminate God's earth with harmful substances. This contamination endangers human health and has devastating effects on the rest of God's creation. It disrupts the balance and harmony that sustains life. Air pollution is often caused by carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and nitrogen oxides produced by motor vehicles, power plants, and industrial processes. Water pollution which often occurs as a result of surface runoff from farmland or urban areas can contaminate waterways and ground water with toxics, pesticides, or excess nutrients. Soil contamination occurs when chemicals such as heavy metals, herbicides or pesticides are absorbed into the ground.

Synthetic chemicals are pervasive in our modern lives-in our homes, schools, and churches. These seemingly invisible, yet toxic chemicals are found in everyday items from baby bottles to personal care products to the food we eat. These synthetic chemicals and heavy metals in consumer products, building materials, cleaners, and plastics are believed to be contributing to unprecedented incidences of illness. While many of these chemicals have been tested to ensure that they could perform their intended tasks, their long-term impact on our bodies and on the rest of creation have been largely ignored.

Ridding the earth of all pollution and toxic chemicals that trigger illness is part of which we are called as stewards of creation and advocates for justice. The kind of purification requires that we know about the pollution that our life-styles create and the chemicals that are entering our bodies.

Every day we make choices about our daily living-from which transportation we use to what household cleaning products we choose, to our selection of lawn care products. We tend to think of these as individual decisions concerning only us, but we are called to consider how we are affecting all of creation. What impact will our actions today have on those who come after us?

**The Precautionary Principle:** When an activity raises threats of harm to human health, or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context, the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of the proof. This principle says that as an ethical matter, we should prevent all the harm we can. It says that if you've got safer alternatives, why not use them?

**Actions:** Find "recipes" to make homemade cleaning products using natural products like white vinegar, salt, baking soda, hydrogen peroxide, lemon juice. Recycle. Eat less beef.

### Pastoral Council Corner:

The pastoral council held it's monthly meeting on March 2nd. The meeting began with a brief Lenten prayer service led by Alice Obarski.

Alice and worship committee member Ann McCarraher, then led a discussion reviewing parish goal number three regarding the liturgical life of the parish. The council reviewed a broad range of topics related to the parish's liturgy and got a chance to hear about the enormous amount of effort that is put forth organizing, reviewing and always trying to improve the liturgy.

The pastoral council plans to organize a parish survey to be taken over several weeks in April. Mike Glynn is heading up this effort for the council. The survey will be distributed through e-mail, and for those without email, hard copies of the survey will be made available after Masses. The council would like to ask as many people as possible to update their current email address with the Parish office.

Father Rich reported to the council on the technology conference that he and his entire staff attended at Villanova. There is a recognition that the new communication technologies are increasingly important vehicles for communication. The Parish continues to work towards adopting those technologies in an effort to stay current and in communication with as many parishioners as possible.

The Provincial elections of the Augustinians were recently held and our former pastor Fr. Anthony Genovese has been elected!

The stewardship committee is planning a newsletter to be sent out this spring highlighting those ministries which are in most need of more participation.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

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](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup> or  
May 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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 Coordinator, Ellen Mulroney at 610-525-7707 or

email Ellen at [mulroney7@comcast.net](mailto:mulroney7@comcast.net).

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament  
345 N. 63rd Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139  
March 1, 2009

Dear Parishioners & Parish Youth Group:

Many thanks for your most generous donations to our food pantry here at OLOBS. These donations help us maintain and sustain our food ministry to the people of West Philadelphia. In a time when many people are unemployed, we are experiencing a large increase of people coming to the pantry on a weekly basis. We are feeding 250-300 people a month which is a large increase in clients. It is through the generosity of your parish that we are able to help so many.

A very special thank you is extended to the Parish Youth Group who came on February 21st and brought vans full of goods for our pantry. This was a beautiful testimony to the work of St. Thomas of Villanova. The Corporal Works of Mercy came to life that Sunday afternoon. My sincerest thanks to Karen Noonan who coordinated everything with me and kept the troops working. God bless them for all of their hard work.

During this special Lenten season, please be assured of our most sincerest prayers during our liturgies. Our Bible Study group prays for our sister parishes daily and that our relationship grows even stronger.

In Christ's Peace,  
Mark Gonzalez  
Director of Faith Formation

**OPEN HOUSE**

Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast will host an open house on Sunday, March 21, 2010 from 11:00am till 1:00pm. **The Practice Scholarship Exam originally scheduled for March 21st has been rescheduled to April 25th.**

Our Open House welcomes all potential students but is geared toward students currently in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. Parents & potential students will have the opportunity to meet with faculty and staff as well as explore the campus. There is no cost and we will provide light refreshments to all those in attendance. You may register in advance by contacting Mr. Tom Oropeza, Director of Admissions, for both Bonner and Prendie at 610-259-0280, ext. 1205. Walk-ins are welcome.