

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from seminarian Drew Larkin

Summer of Formation

Dear Parishioners of St. Mary on the Hill,

I thought that the summer months would slow the fast-paced nature of time's passing in the seminary but it seems that my stay here at St. Mary on the Hill is already concluding. Rather than listing those things that I have helped with in the summer, since I am sure those programs would have run just as smoothly without me, it seems more fitting to speak of those things that I have learned, witnessed, and benefited from in some way thanks to your dedicated parish community.



The summer really got going once Vacation Bible School began. Outfitted as St. Jerome in my makeshift cave, I taught what was a very Catholic Bible school program highlighted by the study of the Eucharist. Though explaining the Eucharist is difficult to say the least, the children looked astonished as they learned the purpose of Mass and the Real Presence without any oversimplification.

But children still retain a trusting heart and an unspoiled wonderment; the disposition we should strive for in our own Eucharistic meditation. How incredible to be able to teach using Christ's words and watch the Holy Spirit use them to touch the hearts of their listeners.

Many of my mornings were spent in the holy presence of Sr. Josephine as I accompanied her to distribute communion to the many sick and homebound of St. Mary's. To see those who realized that their home is not in this world well up with tears after receiving Jesus spoke to the remedy-

It has been a blessing to accompany Fr. Ragan and Fr. Winchel to dinners, hospitals, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and other events. The idea of imitating Christ's priesthood in daily life is somewhat indefinite for a seminarian, but in being with the priests of St. Mary's, I am able to see a functional example of living out a fulfilling, joyous priesthood. How privileged a priest is to represent Christ in the most intimate moments of people's lives.

Mass Schedule

Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Monday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, 7:00 a.m. and 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Friday, 7:00 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, 9:15 a.m., 5:00 p.m. (Sunday Vigil)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, 3:45-4:45 p.m.

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Chapel is located at the corner of Monte Sano and Bellevue.

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Stewardship *Our Spiritual Home*

Where do you go to church? We've all answered that question hundreds of times before. But have you ever stopped to think about what it truly means?

"I go to St. Mary's," is the usual response, and rightly so, because we do "go to" the church to celebrate Mass together. But as Catholics and as stewards of God's gifts, the Church is much more than a building within which we worship. The Church, as we understand it, is the universal body of believers, the society that Christ established to help us grow in holiness, to bring us closer to Him through the giving of our time, talent, and treasure, and to lead the world to the truth.

Before Jesus ascended to the Father, He commissioned the disciples, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20). That is the Church's mission in the world today – to make disciples of all nations, to bring all men to Christ.

Our parish plays a key part in that. As members of St. Mary's, we are local representatives of the universal Church. Together, as members of this parish family, we work to carry out the Church's mission on a local level. We worship the Lord at Mass, offering Him our praise and thanksgiving, and then we go forth on a mission to make disciples – to encourage our fellow parishioners in their lives of faith and to bring unbelievers into knowledge of the truth.

In addition to being a "local representation of the universal Church," the parish is much like a family. We are communal beings. We are created to live with others, and so, as Catholics, we are members of the Church and, on a more immediate level, of the parish. As such, we gather together for the Eucharistic meal and we grow in faith together throughout the week, supporting one another through our participation in many parish ministries, through prayer, and through the friendships that many of us share.

In a letter written to parish priests throughout the nation, the United States bishops explained the important place of the parish in the lives of Catholic



faithful: "The parish is a privileged place to announce the Word of God. It includes a variety of forms and each of the faithful is called to take an active part, especially with the witness of a Christian life and the explicit proclamation of the Gospel to non-believers to lead them to the faith, or to believers to instruct them, confirm them and encourage them to a more fervent life."

So, we ought to feel truly blessed to be a part of this parish family. We ought to make a conscious effort to be actively involved, to build relationships with our fellow parishioners and to celebrate the Mass together as often as possible (most especially every Sunday). Then, we are bound to grow closer to others, to grow deeper in faith and closer to Christ and then, together as a parish family, we are bound to proclaim the Gospel to others, inviting them to a life of discipleship, thereby, building the kingdom of God.

Summer of Formation *continued from front cover*

ing nature of the Eucharist as we progress toward life in heaven. I could not help but think how amazing it is to say that your job is literally bringing Jesus to people.

The most enjoyable and longest weekend of my stay came with the youth traveling to Ohio for the Steubenville Youth Conference. It was invigorating to see 50 young people who had been talking about school, music, and each other on the bus ride up, talking about Jesus Christ and eagerly asking questions about Catholicism on the way back. Much of their zeal was attributed to the powerful Adoration on Saturday night which had many in tears. How extraordinary to watch our Lord bring the grace of conversion to the hearts of all who seek him.

In thinking about how to generalize my assignment here, I realized the success of St. Mary on the Hill comes from being a truly Eucharistic church. All of my experiences here were influenced if not totally reliant on the Eucharist. I immediately think of Blessed John Paul II's

encyclical, in which he identifies the Eucharist as the source of life for the Church and seconds Vatican II's statement that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of Christian life", the "Church's entire spiritual wealth." This is why St. Mary on the Hill is so full of life and so full of the Holy Spirit.

I leave with a new parish to pray for and a renewed excitement for seminary only because I was so excited to be here. As a seminarian, I can only do so much to bring souls to Jesus Christ. I know that the Lord desires for me to return to seminary to better learn, better train, and, most importantly, better know Him so I can return equipped with His grace to better serve the people of the diocese as Christ served His Church.

Thank you all for your example and continue praying for holy priests,

Drew Larkin

What a joy it was to have Drew Larkin spend the summer with us. We have an extraordinary number of priests and seminarians spend time with us because I think the Bishops sees the vibrancy in our faith community.

It is a good place to learn in a concrete way what it means to be "Church". Good because so many of you through the spirituality of stewardship have learned to place God first in your life. Good because as Drew has pointed out so many of you root your holiness in a love for our Eucharistic Lord. If you are not spending time in our Adoration Chapel, I would encourage you to do so. It is also a great practice to attend daily Mass. And in August there are feast days of some great saints. So join us on:

- Aug. 24, for the Feast of St. Bartholomew
- Aug. 27, for St. Monica, patroness of Mothers
- Aug. 28, for St. Augustine, whose conversion was finally won by 30 years of prayers by his Mother, St. Monica.

You can check the weekly bulletin for other feast days in August but be sure not to forget the Assump-



tion of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Aug. 15. It is a holy day of Obligation.

God bless you,

Fr. Jerry Ragan

Fr. Jerry

St. Bartholomew: *The Vocation to Holiness* (August 24)

As baptized Catholics, we are all called to lives of supreme holiness. As Pope John Paul II explained in his message on the 39th annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations, “Since Baptism is a true entry into the holiness of God... it would be a contradiction to settle for a life of mediocrity...

The time has come to re-propose wholeheartedly to everyone this high standard of ordinary Christian living.”

Yet, in a culture that glorifies sin and, in many ways, looks down upon holiness, where do we turn for inspiration, for encouragement, and for strength to live out our baptismal call to holiness? We turn to Christ and His Church. In a particular way, we can focus on the saints. These many men and women are ordinary humans like you and me who rose above the norms of the day, embraced the call to holiness, and they lived the call to the best of their abilities until the end of their lives. In some cases, in fact, it was their courage to live the call to holiness that brought them to the end of their lives!

St. Bartholomew is one such man. One of the 12 apostles, living in the time of Christ, St. Bartholomew lived a life of extraordinary holiness. Throughout the Gospels, we see him going from town to town, preaching the message of Christ. Then, according to tradition, as it is recorded in the Roman Martyrology, he was skinned alive and then crucified upside down after preaching in and around India. St. Bartholomew displayed tremendous courage in the face of trial and tribulation. He serves us as an amazing example of strong

faith and a real commitment to live Christ’s call – even if that means death (even, in his case, death on a cross)!

Most of us in the modern world will never face the prospect of martyrdom, as did most of the Apostles and so many of the early Christians. Our challenge is

to remember that “to give your life for Christ” means to *live* for Him – not necessarily to accept martyrdom in witness of our faith. We have opportunities every single day to live our faith, to witness by our actions that Jesus Christ is the Lord of our lives. As we face obstacles and challenges in this world – even in the small arenas in which most of us live our lives – we might call on the intercession of St. Bartholomew. We can look to him as an example of courage as we strive to live out our Catholic call,



even when it seems incredibly difficult!

For more inspiration from St. Bartholomew and from our many brothers and sisters who have preceded us into eternal life, why not challenge yourself to become acquainted with the saints? There are volumes of stories of the ways in which people like us have met the challenges of their own lives with courage born of faith, with the many virtues in which we might grow by taking our faith seriously and keeping Christ at the center of our lives. Reading about the lives of the saints is a great way to be a good steward of your time, and meeting those who now live with the Lord can be a precious blessing in your life. Think about it!

“All holy men and women, pray for us!”

2012 High School Graduates

Name – High School attended – College

Taylor Schneider <i>Aquinas HS</i> Clemson Univ.	Erin Brousseau <i>Augusta Prep</i> Amherst College	Michael Young <i>Lakeside</i> undecided	Zachary Wayne Pace <i>Greenbrier</i> Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
Samuel Bowman <i>Lakeside</i> UGA	Evan McArrhur <i>Lakeside</i> undecided	Madison Rebecca Burroughs <i>Westside</i> ASU	Tony Perella <i>Lakeside</i> Mercer
Joseph Byrd <i>Aquinas HS</i> LSU	Cameron McCormack <i>Aquinas HS</i> undecided	Joseph Lee Gray <i>Westside</i> Augusta Tech	Andrew May <i>Aquinas HS</i> Auburn
Meghan Longtin <i>Aquinas HS</i> College of Charleston	Kirsten Pitock <i>Lakeside</i> ASU	Stephen Lint <i>Aquinas HS</i> Clemson Univ.	Trex Bolick <i>ARC</i> UGA
Leslie Anne Wiedmeier <i>Aquinas HS</i> ASU	Cameron Goodwin <i>Westside</i> Belmont Abbey	Matthew Tran <i>Lakeside</i> Wofford College	Benjamin Agee <i>Aquinas HS</i> Georgia Southern Univ.
Emily Skidmore <i>Aquinas HS</i> Mercer Univ.	Katie Baker <i>Davidson Fine Arts</i> UGA	Tiffany Wannamaker <i>Greenbrier</i> Georgia College & State Univ	Elizabeth Brady <i>Aquinas HS</i> UGA
Michael Joseph Young <i>Lakeside</i> ASU	Amelia Hagler <i>Aquinas HS</i> Samford Univ.	Kellie Pitts <i>Aquinas HS</i> Georgia College & State Univ	Luke Joseph <i>Aquinas HS</i> UGA (Honors Program)

2012 College Graduates

Name – College attended – Degree

Joe Fox <i>Georgia Southern Univ.</i> Information Technology	Katie Pitock <i>Georgia Southern Univ.</i> BS in Education	Amanda Morrell <i>Irrnmaculta Univ.</i> BS Fashion Merchandising/Minor French & Business
Lauren Brousseau <i>Hamilton College</i> BA in Biology	Nick Edry <i>Augusta Tech</i> Nuclear Engineering Technology	William Benjamin Millar <i>GSU</i> BS Electrical Eng.
Mary Evelyn Scheirer <i>Sav. College of Art & Design (SCAD)</i> BA	Kortlyn E. McPeck <i>Univ. of San Diego</i> BA in Theology & Religious Studies/English	Mary Helen Purcell <i>UGA</i> BA Journalism/Degree in Public Relations
Caitlin McCormack <i>Univ. of SC</i> BA Dance Performance & Choreography	Elizabeth Barksdale <i>Georgia Southern Univ.</i> Major in Health Education & Promotion	Margaret Durant Dunstan <i>GSU</i> BS Fine Arts
Joshua Swanson <i>UGA</i> BA Biology	Justin Purucker <i>Georgia Tech</i> BS Civil Engineering	

Meeting New Challenges as a Family *Family Honor*

Middle school is a time of tremendous change, as well as many new challenges. Family Honor provides a way for kids to meet these challenges while also strengthening their bond with their parents.

"This is a critical time in these children's lives," says Kim Welsh, who helps with scheduling and registration for Family Honor.

"The most important thing for them is to stay connected to their family. That's something that I think Family Honor does well. The focus is keeping the kids communicating with their parents."

Family Honor is an educational program for middle-school students and their parents, open to all middle-school students in our community, and not only the students at St. Mary on the Hill School. The program explores the topics involving the many changes that youth experience at their age. That does not mean, however, that Family Honor is simply sex education.

"Family Honor is not just a chastity program," Kim says. "If I had one word to describe Family Honor, it would be 'communication,' because at heart, Family Honor is about encouraging communication between the parents and the child at a critical time in their lives."

There are two separate programs within Family Honor: *Changes and Challenges*, for fifth and sixth graders, and *Real Love & Real Life*, for seventh and eighth

graders. Each of these programs focuses on different aspects of what the kids are experiencing at this age.

Real Love & Real Life sessions will be held over four consecutive Mondays this fall, beginning on Sept. 17. This program deals with topics like chastity, sexuality, dating, marriage, and more. *Changes and Challenges* is a two-session program, which will be held on Feb. 4 and 11. The *Changes and Challenges* participants are separated into two groups — the boys and their fathers in one group, and the girls and their mothers in the other. This program focuses on physical changes, peer pressure and the challenges of adolescence, as well as self-respect, responsibility, courage and more. Both programs include games and skits, which encourage communication be-

tween parents and kids while adding some fun to the experience.

"It was actually pretty fun, and it made it easier to talk to my mom," says Elena Ramage, 13, who went through the program last year.

Another interesting component of Family Honor is the presenters. There are two married couples acting as presenters, as well as teen

presenters who have been through the program, and now assist the adult presenters.

"It was interesting to get both sides of the experience," says Grayson LaHatte, a recent Aquinas High School graduate who was a teen presenter for the first



Family Honor *continued from page 6*

two years of high school. "As a kid, it was interesting and important to learn. Then presenting it to the other people, it was very interesting. They needed to learn it, and I needed to present it the best way I can."

And it is not just the kids who benefit from the program.

"The most important thing is communication," Kim says. "It benefits the parents as well as the children, because it's encouraging communication between them. You're seeing other parents and children there, and we're all trying to live the same faith. It's good to see others there that are doing the same thing."

Registration forms for Family Honor will be mailed out during the last two weeks of August, and there will also be forms in the narthex. For more information, call Kim Welsh at 706-738-8207, or e-mail her at kwelsh15@comcast.net.



Ad Placement

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*In Honor of the principal, faculty and
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daughter of Graham and Nichole Yoch

*St. Mary on the
Hill School year
begins August
16th. Please
pray for all the
staff, teachers
and students.*

