

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

A Sign of Generosity

Dear Parishioners,

One very concrete sign that we are growing spiritually is that we are becoming more generous with our time, talent and treasure. A true faith perspective towards life sees "all as gift." All I have comes from the loving hands of a generous God:

- The precious gift of time
- My talents, skills and natural gifts
- My material resources

The more we develop inner eyes that see all as gift, the more we grow in gratitude and a sense of biblical stewardship that calls us to:

- Develop and grow the gifts God has given to us.
- Use them responsibly to bless the communities we belong to.

Over a decade has past since our parish last built a home for someone in our community. It is long past due that we as a faith community, with a deep sense of gratitude for all that God has given us, reach out in blessing to a fam-

ily that needs descent housing. So, I am excited that the parish leadership of St. Mary's has decided to support our local community by sponsoring a home to be built by the Augusta/CSRA Habitat for Humanity affiliate with volunteer labor to be supplied by people of St. Mary on the Hill.

Habitat for Humanity, founded in 1976, has built more than a million homes for the poor. A habitat home project will allow our parishioners many opportunities to participate over a several month period in many different roles. A building schedule is planned so the house can be completed and dedicated by Christmas. This will be a fantastic way to celebrate the birth of our Savior and I have no doubt that this blessing intended for a family in need will return many blessings to our faith community.

Groundbreaking will be this month. A parish meeting will be held in early August to solicit volunteers for the many jobs that will be needed for each



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Catholic Social Services

Living the Gospel Message

Most of us can remember when Catholic Social Services was located behind St. Mary's parking lot. It was a tiny building, but mighty things were accomplished beneath its roof.

In 1999, Catholic Social Services (CSS) moved to a new facility on 12th Street – the very same street in which the original ministry was founded in 1969 by Sr. Celine Fahy for the purpose of providing food and clothing to the less fortunate.

Forty-one years later, CSS still provides these basic services to Augusta and the surrounding areas. The ministry has grown to provide aid in other areas such as prescription medications, transportation, emergency shelter, dental assistance, job referrals, and assistance to migrants. And because of its new location, the new facility is on the bus line, making it more accessible.

Although now housed in a different building, the ministry still accomplishes mighty things. In the past year alone, CSS has served over 10,000 individuals, helped over 6,000 families, and donated 9,500 pounds of food.

"Catholic Social Services, in the name of the Catholic Church, strives to meet the needs of anyone who asks for it," explains Sr. Janet Roddy, CSS director. "We work with clients, assess their needs, and help them in tangible ways. We work to be good stewards of the gifts God has given us so we can use them to help others."

When there are emergencies such as a fire, prolonged illness, or the untimely death of a parent, CSS works with other agencies to provide emergency assistance. Sometimes, help means negotiating with landlords and utility companies, obtaining birth certificates, or providing clothing vouchers.

Of course, a big part of helping someone is giving them the skills and tools to ultimately help

themselves; Sister explains that plans are underway to begin an education program in September that will offer classes in parenting, housekeeping, budgeting, and preparing for job interviews.

"One of the greatest gifts we can give someone in need is to listen to them, and then show them how to help themselves," explains Sister. "With that willingness to work and overcome struggles comes the hope that things can and will be better."

With such a large outreach ministry, CSS relies heavily on volunteers; in fact, Sister explains, one of the ministry's biggest needs is help in either the Thrift

Shop on Broad Street or conducting case management interviews at the main facility. Everyone can make a difference, and there is always work to be done.

Among those who volunteers for CSS on a regular basis is parishioner Laura Cameron. Every Friday she works as a cashier at the Thrift Store. Laura is so well known by the clients that if she is absent, they inquire where she is. And, at age 94, she is a champion of volunteering.

"If you are not working, if you are retired, or if you have free time, then make use of yourself and volunteer," she says. "Volunteering is good for you, it helps others, and believe me – it keeps you going."

Finally, Sister says that working at CSS is invigorating and, despite the many problems and requests, sometimes what an individual needs is something as simple as a smile.

"It's amazing, as soon as the doors open in the morning, there are some who come in without any specific physical needs; they are just looking for a conversation or a smile – any human interaction that tells them God is close to them," she says.

For more information on volunteering at Catholic Social Services, or on how you can make a donation, please call the main office at 706-722-4390.



Members of the CSS staff at morning prayer.

The Christian Steward

Each day, we strive to live lives of stewardship, recognizing our roles as “God’s co-workers” in His creative, redemptive, and sanctifying work. But in our quest to live as disciples of Christ, many obstacles often arise.

One of the most prevalent roadblocks in living stewardship is understanding the traits that make up a good Christian steward. Surely, it would be much more convenient if we had some sort of “stewardship profiler” who could lay out the necessary steps to becoming a good steward, like on one of those television crime dramas. Unfortunately, it more often feels like living stewardship is a lifelong journey that we will never fully comprehend.

Fortunately, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, gives some insight into the characteristics that make up a good Christian steward. It may not have the powers of a stewardship “profiler” or “mentalist,” but it certainly gives us some tangible things to think about.

The Christian steward should display some of the following traits:

Insight: Before the disciples could live what we know as the stewardship way of life, they needed a flash of insight, or a certain way of viewing the world and their relationship to it in a fresh light. This “divine grandeur,” more than anything else, is often what sets people on the path to Christian stewardship (*Stewardship: A Disciples Response*, 39).

Conscientiousness: Stewards are fully conscious of their accountability in sharing of their time, talent and treasure. As caretakers of the gifts that God has given them, they have the opportunity and responsibility to use them to their fullest potential to spread God’s kingdom on Earth (40).

Generosity: Christian stewards are generous out of love as well as duty. They should display a desire to share with and care for others based on the sacramental graces they have received. And they are also cognizant of the many warnings that the New Testament presents to those who fail in charity and authentic love (40.)

Joy: Christian stewards are often presented with difficult obstacles, but they should remain joyful in the face of challenges to their lives of stewardship. Like Paul, the good steward is able to say, “I am filled with encouragement, I am overflowing with joy all the more because of all our affliction” (2 Cor. 7:4). Only by serving with a joyful spirit will stewards fully reap the rewards of their service, both in this life and the next.

Indeed, living as a Christian steward is a lifelong journey with many ups and downs along the way. But if we strive to consciously incorporate each of these characteristics into our giving of time, talent and treasure, we will find that the profile of a good Christian steward will become much clearer with each experience of service.

Congratulations 2010 Graduates!

High School Graduates

NAME

Lauren Ashley Genova
Matthew Lint
Brian Timothy Leonard, Jr.
Natalie Richards

HIGH SCHOOL

Aquinas
Aquinas
Aquinas
Greenbrier

COLLEGE PLANS

University of S.C.
Clemson University
Loyola University
Augusta State University

College Graduates

NAME

Dylan A. Jesse

Matthew John Socha

Thomas Folk

COLLEGE ATTENDED

University of S.C.

MCG

Georgia Tech

DEGREE RECEIVED

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (Double major in Finance and Marketing and a minor in Sports and Entertainment Management)

Doctor of Philosophy (Dissertation: SPARC Mediates Renal Injury in Angiotensin II – induced Hypertensive Mouse Models)

Master’s in Aerospace Engineering

The Cursillo Movement

Living the Fourth Day

Using the motto “Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ,” participants in the Cursillo Movement reach out to family, friends, and co-workers with the belief that everyone is meant to be with Christ. By seeking out others who share the same beliefs, everyone then helps, supports, and encourages each other to achieve this goal.

“Cursillo is a Catholic evangelical movement with a mission to bring people closer to Christ,” explains Jerry Marcotte, lay director for the movement in the Augusta area. “We are committed by Christ through His baptism to spread His word to all the nations – we are called to be witnesses of Christ.”

Cursillo, a shortened form of the Spanish *cursillo de cristianidad* (little course in Christianity), is an international ministry that is popular with Catholics in countries around the world, as well as in every diocese in our nation. Its foundation is built on individuals who, by word and example, live the Gospel message. And to encourage momentum, *cursillistas* (Cursillo participants) take part in both regularly scheduled small group reunion meetings and monthly *ultreyas*.

Jerry explains that the small groups are usually comprised of three to five individuals who meet on a weekly basis for one hour to motivate, witness and discuss what each one has done the previous week to improve him/herself. It’s a way for members to listen to one another, provide feedback, and share ideas.

An *ultreya* is a reunion of all these small groups. In the Augusta deanery, an *ultreya* gathers the second Tuesday of the month at the Senior Center to encourage three areas of the movement: prayer, to continue our dialogue with God; study, to improve our knowledge of Christ; and action, to go out and be active ambassadors of the Faith.

“*Ultreya* means ‘onward’ in Spanish, and signifies a movement toward God,” explains Jerry. “In addition to praying and singing, every *ultreya* features a guest speaker who gives witness on how God has been active in their life. The speaker often presents a personal plan on how to bring God to others, and encourages fellow *cursillistas* to keep moving onward.”

For Jerry, who joined the Cursillo Movement in 1982 at the request of his wife, Barbara, being a *cursillista* has profoundly changed his life. He shares that Christ is the primary focus of his life and, that through the movement, he has formed some close bonds and friendships.

“We can’t get to heaven without Our Lord and Savior,” he explains. “For me, participating in Cursillo emphasized the need to pay attention to Jesus.

It has given me a reason as to why we are all here; and although we may experience failures, nothing is permanent because of God’s forgiveness. We simply try again – *ultreya*, we move onward.”

Those interested in joining this ministry are invited to participate in a three-day workshop that is offered twice a year. Over the course of a weekend, a series of 15 progressive talks is given by lay people and members of the clergy, and on Sunday evening the new members are presented with a Cursillo cross and sent out into the world. (Information about upcoming Cursillo workshops will be posted in the parish bulletin.)

“We do not ask the impossible; in fact, it’s difficult to go through a weekend and not be changed for the better,” Jerry says. “For three days, participants learn how to reach out to family, friends, and co-workers; then, after the three days, they are sent out to work on their fourth day – the fourth day being the rest of their life.”

For more information about the Cursillo Movement, or to find out about the next weekend workshop, please contact Jerry Marcotte at 706-733-7128.



First Communion 2010



Jump Shots for Jesus

The Men's Basketball Ministry

When it comes to basketball, LeBron James and Shaquille O'Neal aren't the only hoopsters with serious skills. Each Wednesday and Sunday evening, a group of local basketball enthusiasts display their ability to sink jump-shots, set picks and execute lay-ups at the St. Mary's School gymnasium.

The men who participate in this semi-weekly activity come from a variety of churches and faith communities in the area. Among the regulars are men from St. Mary's, St. Joseph, St. Teresa as well as several Protestant churches in town. And while the churches they attend may vary, the men all share a common love for the game of basketball.

"It's intense," says Tony Prestifillipo, coordinator of the group. "We are running, running, running. And it's a lot of fun."

Tony organized the Men's Basketball Ministry at St. Mary's with the help of parishioners Keith

Murrell and Mike Brown over eight years ago. At the time, the men simply wanted a time and place where they could gather to "shoot some hoops."

"We wanted to give the older guys a chance to get together and play in a less competitive atmosphere," Mike says, explaining the original purpose of the group. "We weren't in our athletic prime, but we wanted to offer guys like ourselves a way to play that was more conducive to their present state in life."

In the beginning, Tony and Mike remember barely having enough guys to play a game. Over the years, the group has grown. Today, as many as 20 show up to participate in five-on-five full-court basketball.

"Sometimes there are guys sitting through a game and waiting for the next one," Tony says. "So many men enjoy it."

For his part, Tony enjoys the ministry because it allows him to remain active as well as play with friends,

even though, he admits, his skill level is nowhere near the pro's.

"I've never been the best at basketball, but I've always enjoyed it," he says. "I really enjoy having the opportunity to play now – especially with some of my fellow parishioners."

For Tony, the Men's Basketball Ministry is about more than scoring baskets; it's about teamwork and camaraderie.

"You get with these men to play, and then you're with them in what sometimes become stressful situations during the games," he says. "You're bonding through your actions while you get to know each other in a very close way."

The ministry has also enabled many of the men to become further involved at St. Mary's.

"When I hear that Fr. Jerry needs help with one thing or another – Interfaith Hospitality, the

Knights of Columbus, or coaching the youth basketball league, for example – I usually bring it up to the men on the court," Tony says. "And many of them have taken the opportunity, jumped in, helped, and grown closer to the Church as a result."

"This ministry has really grown and evolved in many, many ways over the years," Tony continues. "We get together to play ball – and we play a good game – but on top of that, the league offers us an opportunity to evangelize, both to fellow Catholics and to those non-Catholics who come with their Catholic friends."

The Men's Basketball Ministry is open to all men – regardless of which church or place of worship they attend – 20 years old and older. For more information, contact Tony at 706-738-1595, or simply show up at the St. Mary's School gym at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays or 5:30 p.m. on Sundays.



A Sign of Generosity *continued from front cover*

Saturday. Please look over this list and consider where you might be able to help. To offer your time or materials, please contact Rich Dimenna (706-855-5610) or the church office (706-733-6627). There will also be sign-up lists at the Parish Meeting.

Tradesmen volunteers: The three highlighted trades are needed immediately for building permit preparation. Please call the church office to arrange coordination with Habitat for Humanity.

- **Electrical**
- Roofing
- Flooring
- Concrete Finishing
- Trim work
- **HVAC**
- Vinyl Siding
- Dry wall finishing
- Landscaping
- **Plumbing**
- Painting
- Framing

Gifts-in-Kind: These must be coordinated with Habitat for Humanity in advance. All materials must be new.

- Windows
- Trusses
- Vinyl Siding
- Appliances
- Electrical Hardware (lights, receptacles, switches, etc.)
- Plumbing Fixtures (tubs, sinks, toilets, etc.)
- Flooring
- Doors
- Framing Materials
- Shingles
- Insulation
- Sheetrock

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Ad Placement

Saint Mary

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Augusta, GA 30904
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www.stmaryonthehill.org

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Recent Gifts to St. Mary on the Hill

St. Mary on the Hill Church

In memory of Bo Weigle

Mr. E. B. Pollock

Mike and Barbara Sanders

Joe and Julia Felton

Fran and Bobby Hickman

In memory of Norman Russell

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Owens

Nicholas and Susan Procaccini

J.W. and Pauline Joseph

Dr. and Mrs. Terrence Cook

Mr. Tom Dozier

Diocesan Conference

Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Vincent

St. Mary on the Hill School

In memory of Bo Weigle

Griggs and Jane Wheeler

I.C. Biddle

W. Aaron and Rita Johnson

Wallace and Betsy Taylor

Aquinas High School Alumni
Association

PAGE Academic Team

Drs. Carmel and Jaya Joseph

St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment

In memory of William Smith

Henry and Marcelle Rochon

In memory of Lucille Bassette

Henry and Marcelle Rochon

Baptisms

*Harrison Quinn Bauer
Son of Andrew and Candace*

*Nicholas Edward Blake
Son of Thomas and Sarah*

*Elijah Alexander Brisson
Son of Richard and Alyce*

*Mairead Emma Didion
Daughter of Sean and Lisa*

*Riley Ann Duncan
Daughter of Sean Michael Duncan and Jennifer Watkins*

*Carson Joseph Keck
Son of Jeffery and Joanne*

*Jane Maris Lammers
Daughter of Michael and Missy*

*Nattie Mary Lopez
Daughter of Kenneth and Fionna*

*Katie Claire Rhodes,
Daughter of Jimmy and Kerry*

*Kaylee Brianna Schwamb
Daughter of Bryan and Lauren*

*Molly Maguire Welsh
Daughter of Thomas and Carter*