

# Saint Mary

## ON THE HILL

### CATHOLIC CHURCH



### *News and Notes from Fr. Jerry*

## An Honest Relationship with God

Dear Parishioners,

**T**here are some great examples in this month's *Marianite* of how to grow closer to God. We are blessed to have Fr. Avery as our new parish priest because he already understands the importance of keeping Christ as the focus of one's life. I owe him a personal debt of gratitude because he was a huge help in his very first days with us as he covered many of my duties when my Mom died. It gave me such great peace knowing that I could depend on him. And over the years, our faith community has been greatly blessed by Msgr. McGread's teachings on stewardship. You may never have known his name, but he is the priest that has taught so many of us some very concrete steps that have drawn us deeper into the mystery of God's love.

In this issue, you will also find a great article on the many different spiritual traditions in our Church. All great spiritual masters and directors will tell you that one of the keys to an effective mature prayer life is learning to be honest with God and with all the stuff in our lives. Without such honesty, our relationship with God will be superficial and 'nice' but not real.

Fortunately for us, the Scriptures offer us many concrete examples of individuals being honest with God. And since my

father affectionately called me Jeremiah, I love to read the Book of Jeremiah as a special primer on how to "keep it real" with God. Our relationship with God is pretty much like our relationship with others. We can treat God as "polite company" and never share our true self with Him, or we can be upfront with Him about the real stuff in our lives. When you think about it, it is really foolish not to be our true self with God. After all, God knows us better than we know ourselves. Spiritual directors tell us that when God seems distant and our relationship with him is dry or boring, there is a good chance that we are not being honest with Him about real stuff going on in our lives.

Jeremiah was a rather quiet and gentle person, but his "soul conversations" reveal that sometimes he engaged in some tough dialogues with God. Being a gentle person, Jeremiah was particularly sensitive to outbursts of hostility from the people he was trying to reach. Once when experiencing such hostility, he cried out in desperation, "Cursed be the day on which I was born! May the day my mother gave me birth never be blessed!" (Jeremiah 20:14). In another place, Jeremiah complains to God about the injustice of allowing evil people to prosper. He even

### 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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# A Life of Stewardship

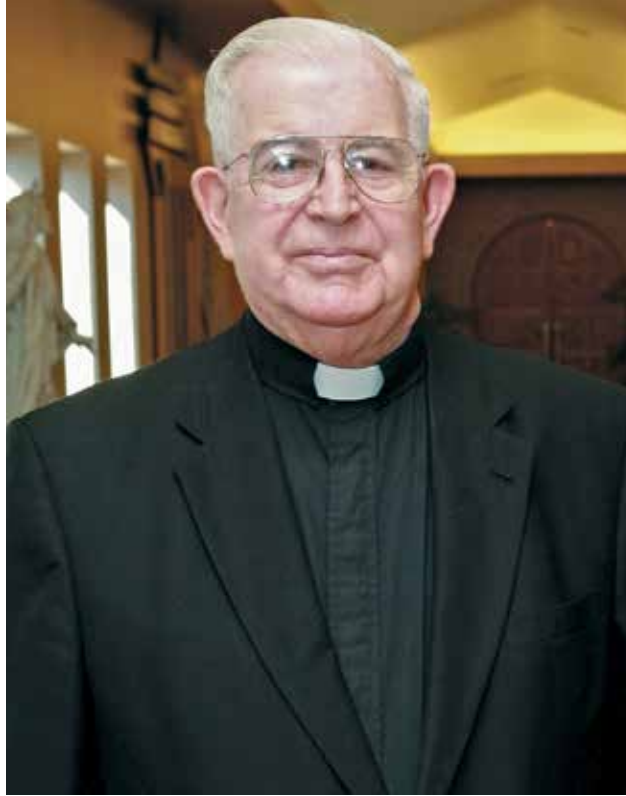
## *Msgr. Thomas McGread*

This spring, we said goodbye to perhaps the most influential advocate for stewardship as a way of life. On Monday, April 1, 2013, Msgr. Thomas McGread died at the age of 84.

Msgr. McGread has been called the “Father of Stewardship,” and that title carries more than a little merit. Most of the efforts and developments in stewardship as a way of life throughout the country can be traced directly back to Msgr. McGread and the work he started at his parish of St. Francis of Assisi in Wichita, Kan., in the 1960s.

Msgr. McGread was born in Omagh, County Tyrone, Ireland on Dec. 5, 1928, and he was ordained a priest at All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland on June 21, 1953. Later that year, he was assigned the position of associate pastor at St. Patrick Parish in Parsons, Kan. Over the next few years, he served as associate pastor for two other parishes, and as pastor of two more in the Diocese of Wichita before being named pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in 1968. He continued to serve as pastor at St. Francis of Assisi until retiring in 1999.

It was at this parish that Msgr. McGread’s vision of stewardship as a way of life began to thrive — from there, it spread through Catholic parishes and communities all over the country and throughout the world, as



it continues to do today. This vision views stewardship as a spiritual, biblically based principle that begins with conversion of heart and translates into a lifestyle of service.

Msgr. McGread broke stewardship down into three equally important components — time, talent and treasure. Monsignor taught his parishioners the importance of using our personal gifts in each of these areas, as well as the importance of giving these gifts back to God.

St. Francis of Assisi became one of the most dynamic and vibrant parishes in the country, and Catholic parishes all over the U.S. have followed the example of Msgr. McGread and

the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi.

Msgr. McGread was also involved in the drafting of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop’s pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, in 1992. He spoke about his message of stewardship at parishes and dioceses around the country.

Msgr. McGread’s concepts and teachings serve as the model for our stewardship efforts here at St. Mary on the Hill, and it is the same model that is successfully followed by Catholic parishes across the country and the world. Though we will truly miss this great visionary, Monsignor’s influence and legacy will live on as we continue to live the stewardship way of life.

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# Parish Welcomes Newly Ordained Parochial Vicar, Fr. Avery Hanna

It has been a month of big changes for Fr. Avery Hanna. On June 1, he was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Savannah. And less than two weeks later, he was here in Augusta beginning his first assignment as a parochial vicar for St. Mary.

Those of you that have met him already can probably detect from his accent that Fr. Hanna is not a native son of Georgia. Fr. Hanna grew up in the Bahamas and came to the United States to attend St. John's University in Minnesota. Since graduating, Fr. Hanna has served as a teacher and school administrator in Minnesota, New York, and the Bahamas. He also spent several years as a program officer with the Salesian Missionaries, traveling to Africa to make assessments of Salesian schools. Most recently he served as the principal at Pacelli High School — now known as St. Anne Pacelli Catholic School — in Columbus, Ga.

"Until I became the principal at Pacelli, I had successfully ignored the desire and the calling to the priesthood," Fr. Hanna says. "I had poured myself out so much in my teaching and working at the school that I was able to ignore it. Then a strange thing happened — one day I led a prayer service at Pacelli and afterwards a young man came up to me and said, 'Sir, have you ever considered becoming a priest? Because you sound like one.' It was a strange thing, coming out of the blue. Then a week later, another boy said the exact same thing and at that point I started getting nervous."

Recognizing that perhaps God was using the students as messengers, Fr. Hanna consulted his pastor and began spiritual direction. In the subsequent months, he made a compromise with God.

"I decided that I was going to do it on my terms, so I applied and was accepted to the permanent diaconate program," Fr. Hanna says. "I figured that way I could still have my job, and travel and go to nice restaurants. My spiritual director, Msgr. David Talley, who is now an auxiliary bishop for Atlanta, said he really felt God was calling me to the priesthood but that I should go on with the diaconate aspirancy program. Well, by the end of the year it was clear that he was right."



*Fr. Avery Hanna distributes Holy Communion during his ordination Mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist last month. Photo by Paul H. Camp/Southern Cross.*

Finally ready to receive God's will for him, Fr. Hanna began seminary at Blessed John XXIII Seminary in Massachusetts at the age of 42.

"The biggest thing formation-wise that I struggled with — but which was very, very necessary — was coming into a school situation where I was a student again and not the evaluator or administrator," Fr. Hanna recalls. "Being at an older age and trying to conform completely to a process in order to be trained for the priesthood — that was a very challenging, but necessary process."

Among his several goals for his first assignment, Fr. Hanna is looking forward to bringing his gifts from his education background to the parish's faith formation programs, in addition to preaching, saying Mass, hearing confessions, and drawing people to Christ through Eucharistic Adoration.

"It is with great joy and humility that I begin my first assignment at St. Mary on the Hill," he says. "I hope and trust that I can truly bring the love of Christ to all of the parishioners that I encounter here. [After all,] the priesthood is not mine — it is the priesthood of Jesus Christ, and I just happen to be called to serve in that priesthood!"

If you haven't met Fr. Hanna yet, please be sure to introduce yourself to him and give him a hearty welcome to our parish!

# Catholic Social Services: *Living out the Beatitudes*

When you walk into Catholic Social Services, you can't help but get a feeling that you are walking into the living pages of the Gospels.

"I love working here because we are really helping people who need it," says Mary Kruckow, employee of Catholic Social Services. "I am so glad I can do something for people who are hungry. It's like living out the Beatitudes. It is offering hope."

At Catholic Social Services, Christ works through His servants to help those who have been met with tremendous trials in life.

"We have people who come into Catholic Social Services who have been homeless all of their lives, and we have people who have recently lost their jobs and homes, and even part of their families," says Director of Catholic Social Services Sr. Janet Roddy, MFIC. "It is very difficult for many of them to accept the reality of homelessness because it overwhelms them, especially when they don't have their families available to help. We want to encourage them to take the steps they need to reach sustainable independency. We want to help them take the 'next best step.'"

In order to enable others to take this "best step," Catholic Social Services offers many key services — client case management with mentor-like relationships, birth certificate procurement, emergency food assistance, transportation aid, utility assistance, various forms of medical assistance, and counseling services. They also have an impressive employment empowerment program and provide emergency help to families who have



*Catholic Social Services reaches out to the poor for God and country.*

been victimized by natural disasters, fire, and major illnesses or deaths in the family.

The beautiful work that Catholic Social Services does is only made possible through the generous stewardship of talent offered by volunteers from local Catholic parishes such as our own, as well as the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd.

"All we do is in the name of the Church and all who support our ministry," Sr. Janet says. "We are completely indebted to our volunteers. We have absolutely fantastic people working for us — compassionate, sensitive volunteers who listen to our clients and help them make good choices. They are so important and we could not possibly serve the poor without them. I am really very grateful to the people of St. Mary's Parish and others for their help. We receive a tremendous amount of strong support every day."

Adult volunteers are needed to help fulfill the call to live the Beatitudes at Catholic Social Services. For more information, please contact Sr. Janet Roddy at 706-722-3982. Those who would like to donate items may visit the Catholic Social Services Outreach Office at 811, 12th Street in Augusta.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Embracing the Social Mission of the Catholic Church in the world, and responding to the Gospel Message, Catholic Social Services of Augusta offers emergency assistance to poor, homeless, deprived, and at-risk individuals and families in Augusta, Georgia and the surrounding area. Confirming the dignity and worth of each person, the agency welcomes clients into case management, assists and supports them through crisis situations, and encourages and empowers them in their journey toward self-improvement and sustainable independence. In fulfilling this mission Catholic Social Services of Augusta partners with the Community of the Faithful in solidarity with, and compassion for the poor.

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:

- Prescription Drugs for Indigent Persons
- Low-Income Health Clinic Co-Pays
- Assistance with Medical supplies/equipment not covered by insurance
- Personal Hygiene Provisions

## EMPLOYMENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM:

- Assistance with Interview, Application, and Resume (*by appointment*)
- Vouchers for Interview Clothes from Thrift Store
- Provision of Non-Skid Shoes/Steel-toed Boots (with job referral)
- Public Transportation for Job Acquisition, Maintenance, and Retention

# Blessings of First Communion

It is not everyday that you receive the Eucharist for the first time. It is an important and unique event that all Catholics experience. And on May 11, many of our parish children received the special blessing of their First Communion. Congratulations to our First Communicants and their families.



# Drawing from the Traditions of Spirituality in Our Catholic Church

If you knew that the person who loves you most in the world was longing to spend some time with you, would you want to meet with them? What if this person was also the only one capable of saving your soul for all eternity, not to mention blessing you abundantly on earth?

You'd be crazy to say "no" to getting to know them just a little better, right?

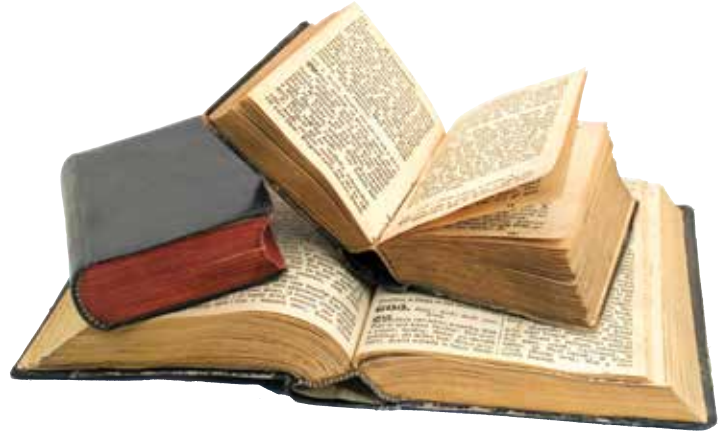
That being said, you may wonder how you can best go about getting to know this particular person. To do just that, as Catholics, it is important that we seek out and read things from our Catholic Christian tradition — immersing ourselves in the spiritual works of those who have found Christ in a very deep way in accordance with the Church. Indeed, there are many great saints who have flowered out of the community of believers, and we can turn to them to get to know God better.

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church has been profoundly touched, enriched and enlightened by spiritual masters whose works are powerful enough to convert souls. It is also important to recognize that the spiritual traditions in the Church express many of the same ideas but in different ways, bearing witness to the ineffable, mosaic-like beauty of Catholicism.

St. Benedict began the first formal monastic tradition in the western Catholic Church, basing it on the *Rule of St. Benedict*. To this day, Benedictine spirituality is centered around the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours, simplicity and the appreciation of the Holy Eucharist.

The Franciscan spiritual tradition began with St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. These saints brought about the Counter-Reformation that still marks the Church with splendor today. St. Francis is widely known for his Gospel-centered living, love of poverty, devotion to Christ Crucified, and mercy for all men and creatures. *The Life of St. Francis of Assisi* by St. Bonaventure, as well as *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* both help one to learn more about this magnificent saint.

Similar to St. Francis, St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila also sparked a critical reformation within the Carmelite Order, which later influenced the



entire Church in a positive way. Carmelite spirituality is a desert spirituality which bases itself on silence, deep contemplative prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, outstanding penance and various traditional Catholic devotions. *The Story of a Soul*, which is the autobiography of renowned Carmelite St. Therese of Lisieux, the *Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*, and the works of St. John of the Cross all capture the essence of Carmelite spirituality.

Furthermore, Salesian spirituality stems from the great life and work of St. Francis de Sales. *The Introduction to the Devout Life* is a fantastic primer for those desiring to enter more profoundly into a life of union with Christ.

Ignatian spirituality is known for educating people on the discernment of spirits. *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*, as well as *The Discernment of Spirits* by Fr. Tim Gallagher are excellent resources for learning more about this powerful spiritual tradition.

Last but not least, *The Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin is modern-day spiritual work that can help those who are seeking Christ, to find Him.

The rich variety of spiritual traditions we have in the Catholic Church are an indication of how diverse our Church is. There are so many different ways of following Christ and praying — and to do so, we can draw from the spiritual "greats." But of course, we must always pray in the way that God is leading us, in a way that we can truly encounter God in conversation.

# An Honest Relationship with God continued from front cover

has some suggestions for God concerning how He ought to deal with the wicked (see Jeremiah 12:1-3). I would like to think that God was delighted that Jeremiah was comfortable enough in his relationship with Him to say exactly what was on his mind. Ideally, we should all want the people in our lives to be honest and upfront with us.

This summer, I hope you find some time to relax and devote some of your time to growing closer to God. Take a “vacation” to the Adoration Chapel and read from the lessons from Scripture and the lives of the saints on “how to keep it real” with God through honest prayer. An old saying regarding prayer states, “Pray as if everything depended on God and act as if everything depended on yourself.”

We shouldn’t just pray for better health, we should do everything possible to improve our health with medicine, exercise, etc. We shouldn’t just pray for God to change our spouse or friend, we should do everything possible to be a better spouse and friend. We shouldn’t just pray for someone to come to church and be a better Christian, daily we should try to be a better witness of Christian living and invite them to come to church with us.


A word on prayer from St. Therese of Lisieux:

*I have not the courage to search through books for beautiful prayers...*

*Unable either to say them all or choose between them, I do as a child would do who cannot read — I say just what I want to say to God, quite simply, and He never fails to understand.*

1. How honest are you in your relationship with God? Have you ever gotten angry or frustrated with God about anything?
2. Do you tend to think that it is a sin to get mad, even very mad with God?
3. On a scale of one to ten, how real is your relationship with God?

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

## Ad Placement



# Saint Mary ON THE HILL

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## Recent Donations to St. Mary on the Hill

### St. Mary on the Hill Church

In Memory of Peter Menk  
*Tommy and Lynda Blanchard*

In Memory of Delia Lubinsky  
*Mary H. Williams*

In Honor of Britt Bennett  
*Lyn Bennett*

## Baptisms

Caroline Jane Lynn  
*Jonathan & Julie Lynn*

Micah David Cospers  
*Jonathon & Sharon Cospers*

Graham Fisher Cranford  
*Jeremy & Brigid Cranford*

Joshua Carter Logan  
*Joshua & Cassandra Logan*

Reid Palmer Elliott  
*Richard & Kristen Elliott*

## St. Mary on the Hill Celebrates 100 Years of Catholic School Education

**A**s we celebrate 100 Years of Catholic education in the St. Mary's Catholic Community, we want to hear from students, parents, relatives and staff who have been associated with the former Mount Saint Joseph, St. Mary School, CCD – Confraternity of Christian Doctrine – and Aquinas High School. As part of a special celebration we're planning for this October, we are in the process of gathering information to provide histories of the four entities, as well as asking those associated with the schools to lend memorabilia to the parish

to use for display purposes during the celebration.

In order to make the histories more personal, we are also asking for reminiscences by completing the sentence, "I remember..." – for example, "I remember Sr. Mary Gerald," or "I remember getting holy cards at MSJ," and so forth.

Those who would like to share their "I remember..." reminiscences can send an email to Martha Kearns at the church office, martha.kearns@knology.net, or mail a letter to Martha's attention at the church office, 1420 Monte Sano Ave., 30904.