

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Sharing Thoughtful Words on the Eucharist

Dear Parishioners,

Last month, I took an overnight at Lake Greenwood and had a grand time looking at all the bulletins – a big old shopping bag full – that you brought back from your vacations last summer. They had been sitting in a pile in my office, and I thought it was long past due that I took a good look at them. I firmly believe in stealing other parishes’ good practices, and the bulletins were filled with lots of great ideas. One of the bulletins, from Christ the King Parish in Kingston, R.I., had a great article by Bishop Thomas Tobin attached to it. It is well worth sharing parts of it in this space. And please keep on bringing those bulletins home to me. If nothing else, it’s evidence that even on vacation, you too have a deep love for our Eucharistic Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jerry Ragan

Never Take the Eucharist for Granted
By BISHOP THOMAS J. TOBIN

I suppose it’s typical for human beings to sometimes take our finest gifts

for granted – our health, our faith, our family and our friends, for example. And even as Catholics we have the tendency to take for granted one of God’s most precious gifts – the Holy Eucharist, and all that it means for us. Although we typically pay lip service to the importance of the Eucharist, I wonder if we really appreciate its significance in our lives.

As the heart and soul of our Catholic Faith, the Eucharist is a gift and mystery that includes several important dimensions. The Eucharist is a sacrifice – the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, made present again in a sacramental way. The Eucharist is a sacrament – the abiding presence of Christ among His people under the external forms of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a meal – established by Jesus at the Last Supper, and in which the action of eating and drinking the Body and Blood of Christ is essential to its meaning. And the Eucharist is a celebration – an affirmation of our faith in sign and symbol...

Pope Benedict said this: “The Eucharist brings about a fundamental transformation. God no longer simply stands before us as totally other. He enters into us and then seeks to spread

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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.

STEWARDSHIP

A Need to Give

As a stewardship people, we are called to give of ourselves not simply because the Church has needs, but because each of us has a *need to give*. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states in its pastoral letter on stewardship, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "We need to give our money to individuals and families in need, to the Church, and to other worthwhile charitable organizations because giving money is good for the soul and because we need to return thanks to a loving God for all of the many blessings each of us has received" (67).

As fellow members of the Body of Christ, created in God's image, we should strive to go beyond simply co-existing with one another on earth. The life we live should be fueled by love for each other. This love should dictate how we live — by giving of ourselves.

Jesus Christ showed us the perfect example of this self-giving love when He died on the cross. His death was a completely selfless act. He gave of Himself for our sake, offering us — through that gift — life everlasting.

As Christ's disciples, we follow His example, and we give of ourselves for the sake of others, out of love and an inherent need to give.

That's not to say that we gain nothing through our gifts. In fact, in His goodness, God sees to it that we do. Most of us have experienced what happens when we give of our time, talent or treasure. We feel as though we get more out of it than we give. If you speak to someone who serves at the soup kitchen or someone who has made it a regular practice to tithe to the Church, you are likely to find that he or she feels blessed to be able to give. As the U.S. Bishops point out, "To be a Christian disciple is a rewarding way of life, a way of companionship with Jesus, and the practice of stewardship as a part of it is itself a source of deep joy. Those who live this way are happy people who have found the meaning and purpose of living" (*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, 21).

2014 High School Graduates

Name – High School attended – College

Juan Migone
Aquinas High School
New York University

Stephen Hagler
Aquinas High School
GA College & State University

Andrew Poirier
Aquinas High School
University of Notre Dame

Josh Cooper
Aquinas High School
Stanford University

Alanna Maria McArdle
Aquinas High School
GRU

Cara Joseph
Aquinas High School
Clemson

Gabrielle Acree
Davidson Fine Arts
GRU

Annie Fair
Aquinas High School
Mercer

Cory Parel
Aquinas High School
GCSU

Chandler Bovitz
Lakeside High School
Georgia Tech

William Koth
Plagenhoef
Evans High School
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural

Reece Wisner
Davidson Fine Arts
Mercer

Aaron Michael Wallace
Aquinas High School
University of North GA

Christina Rimbey
Evans High School
Catholic University of America

John Keaton Craw
Westside High School
Georgia Southern

Megan Hightower
Evans High School
Georgia Southern

Sarah Fain
Aquinas High School
University of GA

Maggie Arfman
Lakeside High School
Georgia Southern



2014 College Graduates

Name – College attended – Degree

Kayla Parel
GCSU
BS Education

Caitlin Clark
Clayton State University
BSN- Nursing

Michael Clark
Wake Forest University
Masters in Accounting

Sara Kennedy
GRU Allied Health
Physician Assistant

Maureen Kennedy
Johnson & Wales
BS Business

Wilkes Murray
Clemson
BS Financial Management

Zachary Dromsky
Georgia Tech
BS Physics

Mary Prestifilippo
University of West GA
BS Anthropology

David Mysona
University of South Carolina
BS Biomedical Engineering

Jeno Rodriguez
Georgia State University
BS Biology

John Daniel Easley, III
Georgia State University
Law

“An Open Invitation Seminarians Patrick M

Law school was the plan for Patrick May. He was finishing his bachelor’s in Political Science, taking the LSAT, and looking into law programs. But he felt the increasing pull to another plan.

“In college, I started taking my faith seriously and being more involved with the church, so I was able to discern the Lord’s will better for me in my life,” Patrick says. “I started to hear the Lord’s call for me to the priesthood. Going into the seminary didn’t automatically mean the priesthood for me, but I knew it was the next step.”

Patrick and Malcolm Cibak are two St. Mary on the Hill parishioners who are in their first years of seminary at Mount St. Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Md.

Their studies will take place over six to seven years, beginning with two years of philosophical studies and then four years of theological studies, culminating in a master’s in Theology. In the middle of their theological studies, some seminarians will also spend a pastoral year



Patrick May and Fr. Jason Adams



Patrick May with (from left) mother, Patty; his sister, Kathleen; and his father, Pete May at St. Mary on the Hill

in a parish under the mentorship of the pastor.

“Seminary in each diocese is a little different,” Patrick says. “Each summer, we are assigned to a parish. One of those summers, each seminarian spends in immersion in a Spanish-speaking country. Many of us go to Guatemala.”

After the seminarians’ third year of theology, they are ordained into the diaconate as transitional deacons for one year before their priestly ordination.

Currently, Patrick is entering his third year at the seminary. He laughs as he explains that he didn’t know much about the process of becoming a priest before meeting a seminarian – now Fr. Jason Adams – a few years ago.

“I never knew how one became a priest or anything about the process,” Patrick says. “I never met a seminarian until about four years ago. It was God’s plan that I met now-Fr. Jason Adams. He answered a lot of the questions I had about the discernment process. I realized

the priesthood is an open invitation from God.”

Malcolm is entering his second year at the seminary, and felt his first call to the priesthood during his youth.

“When I was 12 years old, now-Msgr. Costigan was preaching a homily at my parish and said, ‘Some young man might be thinking about the priesthood,’” Malcolm says. “Of course, at 12 I had this idyllic vision of the priesthood. But I turned to my mother right then and said, ‘That might be me.’”

In high school, Malcolm believes his faith was tested and the call to the priesthood didn’t enter his mind again until reading a book – given to him by his youth group leader – by Fr. Larry Richards, titled *Be a Man! Becoming the Man God Created You to Be*.

“It had challenges at the end of each chapter and said, ‘If you don’t have a personal relationship with Christ, you need to drop this book because you won’t understand it,’” Malcolm says. “I put the book down

Adoration from God"

Patrick and Malcolm Cibak

and asked what I needed to do to get this relationship. The words just came to me - 'Go to Adoration.'"

Malcolm doesn't remember packing his book bag that day, but he does remember going to Adoration and seeking a deeper relationship with Christ.

"I was prompted to enter the seminary to further this newfound relationship with Christ," Malcolm says. "I would tell all men discerning the priesthood to maintain a strong relationship with Christ. Have a daily prayer time, whether it is an Our Father or time in Adoration."

Since entering the seminary, both Patrick and Malcolm have been impressed by the community they share with their fellow seminarians.

"Living with 180 other guys who are on the same track as you are and growing closer to the Lord makes it a beautiful and prayerful



Malcolm Cibak

place to live," Patrick says. "Our formation is holistic and develops a man according to four pillars – intellectual, spiritual, human, and pastoral. You're constantly working on each one."

Malcolm calls the relationship the seminarians share a "fraternity" and draws an analogy to university life.

"I knew that there was going to be a lot of prayer and intense study in seminary, but what really surprised me was the community – the absolute fraternity that is there," Malcolm says. "I joked that I joined the greatest university – the alpha

and the omega. We're like a fraternity, but the goal is to get each other to Christ."

Our new seminarians Patrick and Malcolm thank the parish for our prayers that support them in their daily formation.

"I'd like to express my gratitude for the support I received over the years from my education from St. Mary on the Hill grammar and middle school, and for all the prayers and generosity that people have extended to me," Patrick says. "This has been a great experience, and I keep the parish in my prayers every day."



Malcolm Cibak with his mother during her visit to Mount St. Mary's this past October

"I was prompted to enter the seminary to further this newfound relationship with Christ. I would tell all men discerning the priesthood to maintain a strong relationship with Christ. Have a daily prayer time, whether it is an Our Father or time in Adoration."

– Malcolm Cibak

Proclaiming the Word of God

Lectors Ministry



Every Catholic parish has a number of different ministries and volunteer opportunities for its parishioners. Some ministries may not be outwardly visible to the average churchgoer, while others are a familiar sight to anyone who attends Mass each Sunday. At St. Mary on the Hill, our parish lectors belong to the second category, standing in front of everyone to proclaim the Word.

“Lectors are tremendously important, because the whole service for that particular day, the readings are an important part of that service,” says Brian Mulherin, who has been a member of the Lectors Ministry at St. Mary on the Hill since it began. “You’re part of explaining the readings that pertain to the feasts of the Church. You’re part of celebrating the feast and explaining that in the readings to the congregation.”

There are about 80 volunteers who serve as lectors at our parish. They are scheduled to serve according to the Mass of their choice, and each lector generally reads one to three times every three months. All are welcome to join this ministry – all that is needed is a commitment to serve, communication with your fellow lectors, and one hour of training.

The lectors’ basic duties include proclaiming the first and second readings, and sometimes the responsorial psalm and petitions. What many people may not realize, however, is that there is also an aspect of preparation. Lectors are expected to prepare and practice for their readings before their scheduled Masses. This practice gives new weight to the Liturgy of the Word for the lectors.

“Each year, we have a new workbook, and that is so helpful at explaining what you are reading,” Brian says. “And it also gives you the information that you need to understand that you are not just reading to the congregation, but delivering a message to them in an understandable way.”

For many people, speaking in public can be a very scary idea. Most people become at least a little nervous before they stand up and speak before an audience, even in church. However, our parish lectors participate in a short training session to go over the guidelines and procedures before serving their first Mass. In addition, their own preparation goes a long way in helping to overcome any anxiety about public speaking.

“You need to prepare properly and look over everything and practice it before you go on duty,” Brian says.

There are many benefits for the members of this ministry. The Lectors Ministry provides a great way for people of St. Mary on the Hill to get involved in our parish and give back to the Church, while also fostering a stronger sense of community.

“It instills in me a sense of responsibility and appreciation both – appreciation for the Mass and for the Church and for the parish,” Brian says. “It’s a fulfilling feeling of accomplishing something tremendously worthwhile.”

For more information about the Lectors Ministry or to get involved, please contact Kyle McArdle at 706-267-0099 or mcardleclan@gmail.com.

Pastor Letter *continued from front cover*

outward to others until He fills the world, so that His love can truly become the dominant measure of the world.” (World Youth Day, Cologne, 2005)

The Eucharist, then, is all about “transformation” the Pope says. It begins with the transformation of the elements of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. (Note this is a very special kind of transformation that Catholics call “transubstantiation,” meaning the very substance of the bread and wine is changed into the very substance of the Body and Blood of Christ.) This transformation continues as the person receiving Holy Communion grows spiritually and is transformed into the image and likeness of Christ in their daily lives. And that transformation reaches its conclusion as the faithful enter into the world and, by living the vision and values of Christ, transform it, the secular world, into the Kingdom of God.

Blessed Mother of Teresa of Calcutta put it this way: “If we truly understand the Eucharist; if we make the Eucharist the central focus of our lives; if we feed our lives with the Eucharist, we will not find it difficult

to discover Christ, to love Him, and to serve Him in the poor.”

And finally, in reflecting upon the value of the Eucharist, we should also recall the importance of Eucharistic adoration, a wonderful devotion in the history and spiritual tradition of the Church. Pope John Paul wrote that “it is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His breast like the beloved disciple, and to feel the infinite love present in His heart.” He also points to the example of many saints, specifically St. Alphonsus Liguori who wrote, “Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us.” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, #25)

So, dear reader, as we consider the Holy Eucharist, let’s try to resist our normal tendency to take our gifts for granted. The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ; it is the Bread of Life; it is spiritual food for our journey on earth; and it contains all the power we need to transform the world into the Kingdom of God.

Ad Placement



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