

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

The Importance of Mass Attendance

Dear Parishioners,

Last month, my nephew, Patrick Ragan, received his First Holy Communion at his parish church in suburban Philadelphia. It was a joy for me to be there, but I experienced some sadness as I saw that only about half of the parents of the 90 children who received Communion, received our Eucharistic Lord themselves. No doubt, not all the parents were Catholic or in sacramental marriages, but I fear a good number of the parents were raised Catholic and had lost the Faith. How will our children be able to mature in faith if their parents seemly have already lost it?

Every year, I ask the parents of our children who are preparing to receive their first sacraments to write a reflection on their Faith. I often introduce the exercise by sharing an old Latin proverb, *nemo dat quod non habet*, literally meaning "no one [can] give what he does not have." A few years ago, I asked the parents to specifically reflect upon the importance of going to Mass every Sunday. Below you will find seven of the many wonderful responses I received.

1. Some of the best memories from my childhood happened on Sundays. Sunday Mass always seemed like a special beginning to a special day. Our whole

family attended Mass together each week. Sometimes, it was the only time we were together. I feel that attendance at Sunday Mass is a good way of having a close family relationship and of keeping the whole family close to God. I am happy and proud to attend Sunday Mass. I hope that my children and the generations of my family to come will keep up this lovely celebration and tradition.

2. As a child, I had to go to Mass with my parents or be punished. As I grew older, I was told that it was a mortal sin to miss Mass, so I went to avoid going to hell. But by the time I was 16, I thought there must be a better reason for going to Mass, so I decided to try out the old saying, "You only get out of Mass what you put into it." And I found that the more I looked into the prayers, songs, and readings, the more Mass was really a way to share God's love with my fellow Catholics. If people would participate more at Mass, they would get more out of it.

3. I attend Mass regularly on Sunday out of habit. It is part of my life, just like brushing my teeth and cooking dinner. That's not to say I don't *enjoy* going to Mass, however, or that I would stop going if it were made voluntary. It just

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.
and by appointment

Perpetual Adoration Chapel

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

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Understanding the New Roman Missal

The Introductory Rites



Last month in Fr. Jerry's letter, we introduced the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum* (Roman Missal) that will be implemented in United States parishes starting on Nov. 27, 2011. In that introduction, we discussed some of the reasons for the new translations and the work that has been done to finalize them over the last 10 years. This month, we will briefly touch upon some of the major changes that Catholics can expect during the introductory portion of our daily and weekly liturgical celebrations.

Although the words that we say at Mass have undergone translation, the order of the Mass will not change. The Liturgy will be broken up into four parts: Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, and Concluding Rites. This article will highlight some of the notable revisions to the Introductory Rites.

After the opening hymn or antiphon, the first words that we are used to hearing at Mass are the priest leading us in making the Sign of the Cross, to which we respond "Amen." The priest then has several formulas from which he can choose to greet the people, the most familiar of which is "The Lord be with you." These words will not change, but our response to them will. Instead of saying "And also with you," as we have done in the past, we will now respond, "And with your spirit."

This revised response more closely corresponds to the one that currently exists in many other languages, and is directly inspired by Sacred Scripture. Moreover, as Fr. Paul Turner points out in *Understanding the Revised Mass Texts*, it is a richer response that more fully places us in the presence of Christ. "The purpose of this greet-

ing is not just to say, *Hello* or *Good morning*. It alerts participants that they are entering a sacramental realm and reminds them of their responsibilities during this time we will spend at prayer" (Turner 8).

Another small, but notable, change that may initially cause some confusion will be a new translation of the Confiteor during the Penitential Act. The Confiteor is the communal prayer that begins "I confess to almighty God, and to you my brothers and sisters..." Instead of saying "that I have sinned through my own fault" as we did in the previous translation, we will now use the phrase "that I have greatly sinned." Furthermore, a new stanza will be added between the words "in what I have done and in what I have failed to do" and "I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin." The assembly will now pray the following, according to the official *Order of the Mass*:

in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

(And, striking their breast, they say:)

*through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;*

(Then they continue:)

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,

At first glance, this new translation of the Confiteor appears to encourage us to offer a much more heartfelt repentance for our sins, which must be a lot more serious than they were during past liturgical celebrations, right? Not necessarily. According to Fr. Turner, "The guiding principle of the translation is a closer adherence to the words in Latin—not a sharper critique of our virtue. The new translation does have us express more grandly the seriousness of our sin and the sincerity of our contrition. It offers a humbler way to collect ourselves before stepping any further into prayer" (Turner 11).

In the future, we will explore some of the changes to the Liturgy of the Word in the new translation of the Roman Missal. In the meantime, please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Web site at www.usccb.org/romanmissal for more information and resources regarding the Third Edition of the *Missale Romanum*.

Welcoming Deacon Dick Renard

This spring, St. Mary on the Hill welcomed a new deacon to our parish family.

After retiring in September of 2010, Deacon Dick Renard and his wife, Kathleen, moved to Augusta in March to help their daughter and son-in-law raise their eight children.

"I was ordained by then Archbishop Raymond Burke (now Cardinal) for the Diocese of St. Louis in 2007," Deacon Renard says. "I then went through three additional years of post-ordination training, which St. Louis mandates for those seeking to obtain preaching faculties. I finished that training last year and then we discerned a call to come out here to Georgia to help our daughter and her family – so here we are."

After his ordination, Deacon Renard spent the subsequent four years serving at St. Peter Catholic Church in Kirkwood, Mo., a large parish in the Diocese of St. Louis. He greatly enjoys all the ministerial duties that accompany his new role.

"I count it as a huge blessing to serve in this capacity: working with engaged couples, baptizing and teaching," Deacon Renard says. "I've also done some work with marriage tribunals and the process of annulment; that's a very challenging but rewarding ministry. I would have to say that more than anything else, the opportunity to preach at Mass is probably my greatest joy as a deacon."

After 42 years of marriage, the Renards have been blessed with three daughters and 14 grandchildren. They see these and the many



other gifts they have been given as an impetus to give back.

"God has blessed our family so abundantly, and the diaconate provides a beautiful way to share those many blessings with the Church," Deacon Renard says. "The ministry isn't always easy – for example, counseling couples in the annulment process can be very difficult – but I feel very blessed to have been given a vocation close to retirement that I find very fulfilling. After a great career, to be able to step into the diaconate – it's a tremendous privilege."

As with all married men pursuing the diaconate, the Renards discerned the calling together and decided that, indeed, God was calling them to a life of ministry and service.

"Holy Mother Church is not in the business of breaking up marriages, so she insists that the decision be equally shared between the spouses," Deacon Renard says. "My wife Kathleen was with me the whole way; for both of us, the calling became affirmed as the

"God has blessed our family so abundantly, and the diaconate provides a beautiful way to share those many blessings with the Church."

- Deacon Renard

years of training passed and there was great peace."

St. Mary on the Hill now has five permanent deacons serving the parish community. Deacon Renard hopes to simply fit in wherever he is needed.

"With four excellent deacons already ministering to the parish, I'm not sure what capacities I'll be serving in," he says. "But I'll be happy to just take my directions from Fr. Jerry – I told him I'm here to help however I can."

If you have not done so already, please take a moment to welcome the Renards to our parish community the next time you see them!

Love Blossoms at the Senior Center

In June 2010, when Elaine Peebles and Tony Henderson met for the first time, neither considered that in just six months, they'd be married. Elaine, a widow of three years, and Tony, a widower of seven years, had already devoted themselves to marriage before (twice before, in Elaine's case, as she was widowed by two husbands), and weren't interested in investing their hearts in another relationship.

Tony, whose wife died in 2003, says the pain of losing one's spouse is beyond anything he's felt before.

"To lose a spouse that you've been with for so long, you lose part of your identity," he says. "The feeling of loss is unlike any emotion I've experienced. It's very devastating."

While romance was far from their minds, a common love for the game of Bridge brought the two together. Elaine and Tony began playing cards with other seniors at St. Mary's Senior Center, although in separate groups.

As friendships developed, Tony was asked to join a few ladies for a game of Bridge outside the Senior Center. Elaine was a part of the group, and the game became a weekly affair.

"I started to notice this pretty young girl," Tony says, speaking of Elaine. "She was very pretty and outgoing, and seemed to enjoy life."

Interested in inviting Elaine to lunch, Tony was nervous she'd turn him down. So, he invited the whole group, instead.

"The other ladies made excuses as to why they couldn't go, so it was just me and Tony," Elaine says. "It was a very nice lunch. We discussed our families, religion and our previous spouses. But neither of us wanted to get married again."

"I invited her to lunch several times," adds Tony. "It never occurred to me that we'd do anything other than enjoy each other's company."

Eventually, the pair began to develop feelings that were deeper than friendship, and they started dating. The two also began attending Mass together, and visiting the church to pray the Rosary. Soon, they were talking about marriage.

"We thought, 'Why waste time?'" Elaine says. "We had so much fun being together."



*"Everybody's made to feel welcome; everybody's just so nice. It's just a wonderful, warm place where people can go."
- Tony Henderson*

"When you get to be our age, you don't have much time!" adds Tony.

On Dec. 21, the couple "tied the knot" during a small ceremony at St. Mary's. Soon after, they threw a party with all of their friends at the Senior Center.

"The seniors played such an important role in our relationship," Elaine says. "We felt that we needed to do something for them, so we had a big celebration there."

Thanks to the hospitality of Patty LeZotte, director of the Senior Center, and the other seniors who frequent the facility, individuals like Elaine and Tony are making connections and developing friendships each week. Elaine says that there is always something going on at the Senior Center, and she and Tony visit at least twice a week.

"Everybody's made to feel welcome; everybody's just so nice," Tony says. "It's just a wonderful, warm place where people can go."

The community of St. Mary's has become a treasured part of Tony and Elaine's life together. In fact, the couple plans to spend their honeymoon with others in the community as participants on the pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes this November.

Are you searching for a group of fun-loving seniors who enjoy fellowship and community? Consider stopping by St. Mary's Senior Center this week. For more information, please contact Patty LeZotte at 706-262-0340.

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta *Helping Fight Homelessness One Family at a Time*

For parishioner Cherie Wright, volunteering with Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta has opened her eyes to how easily poverty can sweep in and wreak havoc upon ordinary families.

“One time, there was a family with two children, and the mother, a schoolteacher, was divorced,” Cherie says. “She still had her job, but because of the divorce, she lost her home. It could be any of us who can’t make a house payment. I looked at her and saw someone who could easily be me.”

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta (IHNA) seeks to support and minister to homeless families in Augusta and the surrounding areas. The primary goal of IHNA is to help its clients get back on their feet and into secure housing and steady employment. The organization provides a variety of services, which are possible through the help of many local churches. Services include temporary housing, transportation, free childcare, personal services (such as financial counseling), and services that transition transient families from the streets into permanent housing.

St. Mary’s, one of 13 churches involved with IHNA, has partnered with the organization for nearly 15 years. Twice a year, each July and October, our parish provides temporary housing for IHNA families. The families are housed in the Annunciation House, located on the corner of Central and Arsenal Avenues.

Cherie, who is on the Board of Directors for IHNA, has volunteered with the organization along with her

family for 13 years. She and other volunteers from St. Mary’s serve guest families in many ways, with hospitality as the primary focus. Among other tasks, volunteers prepare and serve meals to the guests, as well as spend the night with them in the Annunciation House.

Cherie acknowledges that many feel hesitant to serve IHNA families. However, all families enrolled in IHNA undergo drug screenings and background checks. Plain and simple: the families aren’t dangerous, just homeless.

“To some, this might sound too difficult, too much out of their comfort zone,” Cherie says. “But we would never ask for volunteers if it wasn’t safe.”

Working with IHNA has become an enriching experience for Cherie and her family. Cherie says she feels grateful for all the gifts God has given her. Even her children have come away from the experience with positive feelings.



The Annunciation House

“[IHNA] has done so many positive things for my children,” she says. “There is no price that can be put on the lessons of learning how blessed we are. It has really changed my life, too. I tend to forget how much I have, and I feel God’s blessing from helping with IHNA. I feel His tangible love. It’s [proof] of what His Church can do if we follow His word.”

Over the years, IHNA has helped countless families find independence and escape the chains of poverty. But none of the organization’s

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Cherie Wright and her family volunteer with Interfaith Hospitality Network of Augusta.

Congratulations 2011 College Graduates!

Names	College Attended	Degree Received
Brian Maleck	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	B.S. Civil Engineer
Kate Bowles	Augusta State University	B.A. Criminal Justice
James William Purcell, Jr.	Auburn University	B.S. Building Construction
Lauren Ducey	University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine	D.V.M.
Matthew Thomas Cranford	Mercer University	B.S. Industrial Engineering
Allison Elizabeth Kelley	Georgia College & State University	B.S. Education
Theodore Padezahn	John Carroll University	B.S. Marketing
Brian J. Spensley	Augusta State University	B. S. Chemistry
Ashleigh Lauren Rhodes	Mercer University	B.B.A. Marketing
Jason Purucker	Purdue University	B.S. Mechanical Engineering
Tyler Duncan Werrick	Augusta State University	B.A. Marketing
Katie Werrick Martin	Medical College of Georgia	Doctor of Physical Therapy
John Edry	Medical College of Georgia	M.D.

Mass Attendance *continued from cover*

means that Mass is a part of me. But I also go to set an example for my children; I want them to know God and to learn how to become Christians who serve a community. In order to do this, they must have repeated experiences of Mass attendance. And I am not the only role model they have in this regard: their friends who attend Mass and CCD with them also are models of what it means to be a part of the Catholic Christian community.

4. Why do I attend Sunday Mass? For the love of God! It seems such a little thing to do for all the blessings I have received.

5. I attend Sunday Mass because I think that if the Lord can give me a whole week, I can at least give Him an hour! But most of all, I go because He deserves to have me there, to have my love. After all, His love for me is so great that He spread his arms out wide and gave His all for me. My life is so much happier when I share it with the Lord and depend on Him for all things!

6. To call oneself Catholic without faithful attendance at Mass is like trying to raise a bed of flowers without water, fertilizer, and light. In both cases, the essentials are missing.

7. Sunday Mass shouldn't be an "obligation," but a responsibility. One's presence – whether convenient or inconvenient – is a responsibility one should freely choose in order to grow in his or her own faith, and to help build the Body of Christ within his or her community.

Obviously, the above Catholics have found a value in the Eucharist. This is a good column to pass along to family members or friends who no longer go to Mass. Also, consider sharing the column with family members who attend Mass sometimes or all the time. I believe the following reflections will help to reinforce a good practice. Also, if you would like to share with me why you go to Mass, I'd love to hear from you. A big challenge for each of us is to *internalize* the values and beliefs that our Church teaches. This usually takes time, effort, reflection, reading, practice, prayer and sometimes dialogue with a priest or other committed Catholics. Today, you might ask yourself: to what extent is your weekly celebration of the Eucharist an *internalized value* for you? If it is not, are you willing to do anything concrete to come to a conviction about the Mass? If the Mass is an important value for you, how would you express the meaning it has for you? Hopefully, this column will help you to reflect more on this central prayer, which is the source and summit of our Faith.

Finally, don't forget, if you are planning an out of town vacation this summer, check out www.masstimes.org to find a Mass wherever you travel.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Congratulations 2011 High School Graduates!

Names	High School Attended	College
Anna Bowles	Lakeside High School	UGA
Bernard Bowles	Lakeside High School	Auburn
Benjamin Brooks	Lakeside High School	UGA
Kathleen Ann Stevens	Augusta Prep	UGA
Emily Leszczynski	Greenbrier	Georgia Southern
Bradley Miller	Cross Creek	Undecided
Joanne Stoner	Lakeside High School	University South Carolina
Connor Callaghan	Aquinas	University of Mississippi
Wesley Allen Sharp	Aquinas	Savannah College of Art and Design
Palmer Douglas	Aquinas	Gainesville State College
Mary Ellen Fain	Aquinas	UGA
Ashleigh Miller	Grovetown High School	ASU
Holley Avrett	Aquinas	Salem College
Kate Crow	Davidson Fine Arts	UGA
Joanne Stoner	Lakeside High School	University Of South Carolina
Aidan Klebba	Aquinas	Savannah College of Art and Design
Coeli Janiak	Aquinas	Georgia Southern
Philip Kelly	Aquinas	ASU

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Interfaith *continued from page 5*

success would have been possible without the help of host churches and their parishioners. How will you help IHNA fight homelessness?

Currently, Cherie is searching for adults and families interested in volunteering for July's IHNA week. Volunteers are especially needed to stay overnight with the guests. Confirmation students, this is a wonderful opportunity to fulfill your service hour requirement. Please contact Cherie Wright at 706-231-3743 for more information.

And the single mom with two children that Cherie encountered? Cherie says she's doing well, and still works as a schoolteacher – living proof of how just a little generosity and love can help someone get back on his or her feet.

"I tend to forget how much I have, and I feel God's blessing from helping with IHNA. It's [proof] of what His Church can do if we follow His word."

- Cherie Wright

Baptisms

Marianna Danielle Platte
Teresa and William Platte