

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

Giving Thanks

Dear Parishioners,

We start this month of November celebrating the Communion of Saints. On the Feast of All Saints, we rejoice in all the good women and men who have lived out their faith with such great confidence in the presence of Jesus Christ. We are blessed by their witness. We are also blessed by our family and friends who have gone before us as we remember them on the Feast of All Souls. And later in the month, we will gather with our families and friends to give thanks for all the blessings in our life. And even in a difficult economy there is still much for which to give thanks.

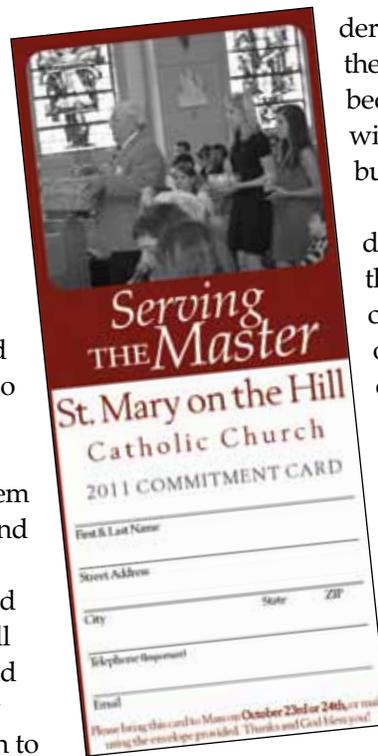
As I face the challenges of balancing the budget when our offertory doesn't seem to be keeping up with our expenses, it is good for me to hold onto a grateful heart. I am so very grateful for all the support and encouragement that you have given me over the past year. I am grateful to the best parish staff in the country. I am grateful for all who have worked so hard to make Catholic education such a won-

derful reality in our parish for the last 50 years. I am grateful because I know together we will find a way to balance the budget.

I am grateful for the deepening of the spiritual life that has occurred in this faith community because so many of us have given ourselves over to stewardship as a way of life. As most of you already know from experience, stewardship is not primarily a fund-raising mechanism. It is a pattern for a whole way of life, a way of life that is guided and energized and given meaning by the generosity of God and by our

response to that generosity.

Stewardship is the practice of gratitude. It involves putting our thanksgiving into practice through the way we use the gifts that God has given us. Although the term "stewardship" is relatively new in the realm of Catholicism, its reality is as old as our Faith. Stewardship, gratitude, thanksgiving, responding in kind to the kindness of the Lord: It all constitutes a fundamental element of our Christian life.



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Habitat House Takes Shape

For the past four months, many in the community have given of their time and talents to support the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in Barton Village. With most of the work taking place on the weekends, the house has slowly – but surely – begun to take shape. In August, the foundation was poured, and in September, framing was completed and the roof installed. In October, the “dry-in” was complete, and workers began to fit together the interior of the home.



While the work has been completed by a variety of groups, committees and organizations, the common thread among all volunteers has been a spirit of charity. Those who have spent their weekends building the house know that with each strike of the hammer or turn of the screw, they are doing their part to fulfill God’s work on Earth.

Parishioner and architect Anna Avrett has contributed much of her time and organizational skills toward the effort. Rather than participate in actual job-site endeavors, Anna has played a behind-the-scenes role coordinating volunteers from the parish to complete the work each weekend. Over the past four months, Anna says she has been struck by the generosity of St. Mary’s parishioners as well as God’s providence.

“It is amazing how God steps in,” she says. “On so many occasions, Habitat will cross my mind and I’ll think of something that we need. Then, before I know it, I’ll get a phone call from someone who wants to help out. It’s all in God’s hands!”

Anna regularly hears from parishioners who want to help in some way. But lately, she’s had more trouble finding work for eager volunteers than finding volunteers to do the work. For those who’ve expressed interest in the

project, but haven’t been able to help out, Anna says the time will come soon when additional workers will be needed.

According to parishioner Rich Dimenna, who is coordinating St. Mary’s construction efforts with Habitat for Humanity, construction on the house should be finished by December – just in time for Christmas. This month, Rich plans to complete the HVAC, electrical and plumbing, as well as the interior painting, cabinets, fixtures, flooring and more. Volunteers skilled in these areas are encouraged to donate their time for the cause.

Thanks to all who have and continue to give of their time and talents in benefit of the Habitat for Humanity project – a true expression of God’s love and work here on Earth!

Anniversary Celebration Draws Many

On Oct. 9, 50th anniversary celebrations continued at St. Mary School with the “Saints Run for Gold” (half-mile, one-mile and 5K races through Summerville), Mass celebrated by Bishop Boland and Msgr. Costigan, and a special reception in the school gym.

Congratulations to Joseph Ardrey and Shannon Fair, overall male and female winners of the 5K race. More than 100 individuals registered to compete.

The Mass and reception were also well attended, as many St. Mary’s alumni participated in support for our parish school. Thank you to all who helped make this day such a success, especially the members of the 50th Anniversary Committee.

Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin for announcements regarding additional school anniversary events taking place later in the year.



St. Mary's Celebrates 13 Years of Perpetual Adoration

If you've ever spent any length of time with a frequent Eucharistic adorer, you begin to notice subtle differences that set them apart from others. Their eyes sparkle just a little brighter, their demeanor is more joyful, and their hearts more at peace. The reason is simple: Jesus.

When we spend large amounts of time in the presence of another person, we begin to adopt certain characteristics of that individual. The same can be said about spending time before the Blessed Sacrament. For those who visit with our Lord, exposed in the Monstrance, it is natural to gradually adopt elements of His personality: graciousness, compassion, courage, and love.

Over the years, many St. Mary's parishioners have grown deeper in love with Christ through regular visits to the Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapel, located adjacent to St. Mary School. On Nov. 17, at 7 p.m., our community celebrates 13 years of Perpetual Adoration with a special Adoration and Benediction service in the church. (The actual anniversary is Dec. 8, but the parish celebrates this event in November each year in order to avoid interfering with Advent and Christmas activities.) All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Parishioner Annie Purcell, who attends Adoration every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, comments on how the chapel has transformed our parish over the years.

"The Adoration chapel is such a blessing," she says. "Since it is attached to the school, it is a wonderful blessing for the next generation of children to learn about Christ's Real Presence."

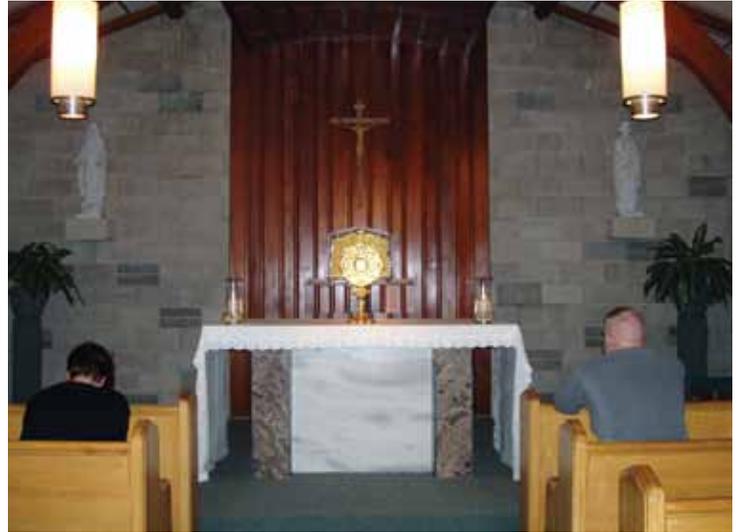
For Annie and her mother, Lydia Porro Milham, Adoration has been a regular part of their Thursday schedule for approximately 13 years. The two began attending together soon after the chapel opened in 1997. Over the years, Annie says that spending time before the Blessed Sacrament has done much to deepen her faith in Christ.

"Adoration has become a source of enlightenment and security," she says. "It amazes me how I leave with clear, logical solutions to my everyday problems."

While in Adoration, Annie says she usually spends time praying the Rosary or reading from her Bible study, *Teachings of the Catholic Faith*. As a result, she has developed a strong devotion to Mary, our Blessed Mother.

"I now strive to be more like Mary – she is a good role model for me as a woman and a mother," Annie says.

Parishioner and frequent adorer Paul Zielinski participates in Eucharistic Adoration each Tuesday from mid-



"Adoration has become a source of enlightenment and security. It amazes me how I leave with clear, logical solutions to my everyday problems."

– Annie Purcell, parishioner

night to 1 a.m. The chapel, says Paul, is very serene at this hour. He finds peace in the silence.

"I can clear my mind of all distractions," he says. "It is my time to revitalize myself – both spiritually and physically. I have the opportunity to speak directly to God: to tell Him my problems, ask His advice, pray for my special intentions and have a discussion with Him."

As our community celebrates 13 years of Perpetual Adoration, consider incorporating Adoration into your weekly schedule. If you already regularly attend, strive to share this gift with those around you by inviting a friend or family member to also spend time before the Blessed Sacrament.

"Adoration has enriched my life," Annie says. "The chapel is my favorite place on Earth!"

Sign up for a weekly Adoration hour by calling Paul or Mary Ellen Zielinski at 706-228-5115, or simply stop by the chapel whenever your schedule allows.

St Mary on the Hill

Gratitude, the Heart of Discip



Our Family: We are a community of 2,489 registered households. On average, 789 families contribute weekly to the support of the parish through the use of church envelopes. We have a total of 4,543 ministry commitments (talent), 3,841 prayer commitments (time), and 871 offertory commitments (treasure).

Our Income: In Fiscal Year 2010, parish income totaled \$4,316,517 from the following sources:

- Weekly Offertory: \$3,784,077
- Stocks, Bequests, Memorials, Restricted and Annual gifts: \$238,759
- Special collections: \$110,613
- Interest and dividends: \$14,819
- Program and other Revenue: \$168,249



Our Tithe: Our parish is dedicated to stewardship, and we give generously throughout the year to national and international collections (as defined by the Diocese of Savannah) as well as other organizations in need. Our parish tithe committee reviews these requests and presents them to the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee annually. Please see the detailed tithe account report on pages 6 and 7. Our total parish giving was \$249,325 in Fiscal Year 2010.



Diocesan Assessments: The Diocese of Savannah assesses a percentage of all parishes' income for the administrative works of the DOS. Our assessment for Fiscal Year 2010 was \$225,300. Our parish is also assessed by the *Southern Cross* based on a percentage of registered parish families. The assessment for Fiscal Year 2010 was \$25,503, while our *Southern Cross* collection was \$7,487. Over and above these assessments, 664 of our families have pledged \$247,038 to the Bishop's Annual Appeal which supports the Bishop's ministries throughout South Georgia.



Education: Education is a major priority for our parish. In addition to the \$1,968,840 for our elementary school, which in Fiscal Year 2010 had 439 students enrolled in kindergarten through the eighth grade, the church education and formation budget includes \$40,709 for other religious education including our pre-school, CCD program, and adult education. Our Vacation Bible School had 64 preschool and 163 elementary school participants, CCD educated 270 students and there were 200 kindergarten, first- and second-graders from CCD and SMS who were involved in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Our youth and young adult program expenses were \$37,641 and their ministries continue to grow in numbers. We had 28 join our Church this Easter after completing our RCIA process.

St. Mary Catholic Church Community: 2010 Annual Report

Overhead: Personnel costs for religious, lay salaries and all benefits were \$708,679 (amount reflects 27 pay periods – the payroll processing company withdrew the first payroll for Fiscal Year 2011 on June 30, 2010). General overhead for utilities, maintenance, liability insurance and other needs was \$311,775. Capital improvements (renovations and equipment) totaled \$12,903. Because of the economy, no improvements were undertaken even though there is an ongoing list of needed projects for the church and school campuses.

Sacramental Activities: As a parish family, we baptized 72 children, 41 young adults and adults, had 88 students prepared for First Communion, Confirmed 80 young adults and four adults, witnessed 24 marriages, performed 10 convalidations and provided funeral rites for 36 of our loved ones.

Our School: Besides the church support of \$1,968,840, the other main sources of revenue for the school are from tuition, which was \$352,787 and registration of \$119,050. Development income was a transfer of \$12,000 from the endowment fund for computer upgrades and software; the annual PJC golf tournament, a grant and bequests and memorials. The annual PJC golf tournament netted \$15,400, which was transferred to the School Endowment Fund in June. Other income includes supply fees, book fees, field trips and PTO support.

Personnel costs are 75 percent of the expenses of the school. Through attrition and reduction in salary increases, the actual dollars spent were less than the previous year for Fiscal Year 2010, and again there is a reduction in the budgeted amount for Fiscal Year 2011. While the percentage remains the same, this offsets the reduced revenues (due to lower enrollment). There is a standing committee that has been in place for the past two years that reviews the budget details and reports to both the Pastoral Council and Finance Committee.



Giving Thanks *continued from front cover*

If you have not returned your Stewardship Renewal Card, I would encourage you to do so today. When we practice stewardship, sharing our time, our talent, our financial resources, it is not primarily in order to respond to the needs that we find around us - in the church, in the world, in our local community. Stewardship does lead us to respond to those needs, but the primary need is the need that is within us, the need to be grateful and the need to express our gratitude. That's what stewardship is all about. So, this month I give

thanks for all of you who make up the Communion of Saints that is St. Mary on the Hill Parish. You have been such a great blessing in my life.

God bless you,

Fr. Jerry Ragan

Fr. Jerry

Tithe Account: 2009-2010-2011 Budget

	2009-2010 Actual	2009-2010 Budget	2010-2011 Budget
<u>Augusta Deanery (Quarterly Assessment) Deanery submits budget</u>			
Aquinas High School	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 42,975
Immaculate Conception School	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 33,544
Hispanic Ministry	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 8,595
Augusta Deanery Misc - YAM, Retrouvaille, Advertising	\$ 450	\$ 900	\$ 2,579
Augusta Deanery Total	\$ 87,650	\$ 88,100	\$ 87,693

	2009-2010 Actual	2009-2010 Budget	2010-2011 Budget
<u>National & International Collections as determined by Diocese of Savannah (Parish Tithe 5 % of the weekend collection)</u>			
Latin America (08/09/09, 08/08/10)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
World Missions (10/19/08, 10/18/09)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Campaign for Human Development (11/22/09, 11/21/10)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Black/Native American Missions (01/10/10, 01/09/11)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Catholic Relief Services (03/28/10, 04/03/11)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	-
Catholic Home Missions Appeal (04/25/10, 05/15/10)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Catholic Communications Campaign (05/23/10, 06/12/11)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
Peter's Pence (06/27/10, 06/26/11)	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500
National & International Collections Total	\$ 28,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 24,500

	2009-2010 Actual	2009-2010 Budget	2010-2011 Budget
<u>Other Gifts as determined by the parish</u>			
Catholic Social Services	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000	\$ 52,000
Birthright	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400	\$ 2,400
St. Bernadette Mission Fund, Millen, GA	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
St. Teresa Church, Cordele, GA - Fire renovation fund	\$ 1,000	-	-
Mission Parish, Folkstone (\$30,000- 3 years 08, 09, 10)	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	-
Aquinas Tuition Assistance	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 8,000
Golden Harvest Food Bank / Outreach to Migrants	\$ 2,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500
Kairos Prison Ministry	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Hispanic Ministry, Non Deanery	-	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000
Golden Harvest Food Bank / Masters Table	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 4,500
St. Vincent dePaul	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
AHS Building Fund (\$200,000 - 4yrs 07,08,09,10)	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	-
Fisher House	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000
Emergency Requests & Local Charities (interfaith, habitat)	\$ 4,787	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Total	\$ 143,686	\$ 154,400	\$ 108,900

	2009-2010 Actual	2009-2010 Budget	2010-2011 Budget
<u>New for 2010-2011</u>			
Habitat for Humanity Home - Service Commission Recommendation			\$ 38,000
Veterans Services - Service Commission Recommendation			\$ 5,000
Lydia Project			\$ 6,000
TOTAL GIFTS from PARISH TITHE	\$ 259,336	\$ 270,500	\$ 270,093

Tithe Account *continued*

	2009-2010 Actual	2009-2010 Budget	2010-2011 Budget
<u>National & International Collections (Actual Special Collections)</u>			
Mission Co-op (09/27/09, 09/26/10)	\$ 12,222		
Religious Retirement (12/13/09, 12/12/10)	\$ 14,532		
St. Mary Home - Savannah (Christmas) DOS has not named a new recipient	\$ 12,408		
Aid to Eastern Europe (Ash Wed 02/17/10, 03/09/11) 3500 CRS, Bal to Eastern Europe	\$ 4,410		
Holy Places Palestine (Good Friday 04/02/10, 04/22/11)	\$ 4,225		
Priests' Retirement (Easter 04/04/10, 04/24/11)	\$ 19,703		
Catholic Relief Services-Special, as needed for natural disasters HAITI	\$ 33,884		
Additional Special Collections (additional donations for collections that are parish tithe)	\$ 1,120		
Operation Rice Bowl	\$ 372		
Actual Special Collections Total	\$ 102,876		

2010 Bishop's Annual Appeal
Goal \$218,094 Pledged \$247,038 Gifts \$215,305 (10/01/10)
27.5% (664) St Marv Families Pledaed
2009 Bishop's Annual Appeal
Goal \$219,427 Pledged \$261,740 Gifts \$248,525 (11/30/09)
28.5% (742) of St Marv Families Pledaed
2008 Bishop's Annual Appeal
Goal \$211,892 Pledged \$269,182 Gifts \$237,409 (09/02/08)
29.4% (761) of St Mary Families Pledged

Ad Placement

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Recent Gifts to St. Mary on the Hill

St. Mary on the Hill Church

The Miranda Family

In memory of Dr. Victor Casella

Mr. and Mrs. H. Allen
Strickland

*In memory of Paul
SantaBarbara*

Louis and Linda
SantaBarbara

In memory of Mrs. May Perry

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Bailie, Jr.

In memory of Tweet Green

Scott and Rhonda Wallace
Kathryn Rhodes and William
Rhodes

St. Mary on the Hill

Leave a Legacy Program (Pew Plaques)

The Thomas Victor Casella
Family

*In Memory of Philip Gregory
Weigle*

Dr. and Mrs. William B.
Strong

St. Mary on the Hill

Air Conditioning Unit Fund

Larry Pittman &
Associates, Inc.

St. Mary on the Hill Senior Center

In memory of Kitty Murray

Albert and Nancy Gary

In memory of Dr. Victor Casella

Albert and Nancy Gary

St. Mary on the Hill School Softball Program

William and Elaine Whatley

St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment Fund

In honor of Fr. Jerry Ragan

Paul and Mary Zielinski

*In memory of Erin Kelly
Caulkin*

Mrs. Claudette Boskovich

In memory of Madeleine Nardo

Mrs. Claudette Boskovich

Baptisms

Makayla Clare White

daughter of Michelle and Bill

Annabel Vaughn Martin

daughter of Anthony and Brooke

Philip Christian Belcher

son of Jonathan and Meghan

Abigail Grace Ryan

daughter of Matthew and Kristin

Brycen Robert Kerr

son of Robert and Jennifer



Sept. 26, St. Mary's choir traveled to St. Paul the Apostle Church in Cleveland, Ga., to sing at the Sunday liturgy.