

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL

CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

We Are Truly a Family

Dear Parishioners,

Later this month, Pope Francis will be headed to my hometown, Philadelphia, to celebrate the closing Mass for the World Meeting of Families. I am excited that several of our parishioners will be there. But I am even more excited at the possibility of renewal that this gathering could have for all of us. The theme of the World Meeting of Families is "Love is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive." Inspired by the words of the early Church father

St. Irenaeus, the theme reflects the central role of the family in teaching people how to receive and give love. I pray that you reflect often on how the presence of God is experienced in your family. Families praying and eating together, talking about what are proper and improper ways to act, and having a crucifix or other sacred images in the home are all important ways of connecting with the great mystery of a God who loves us so much that he is always with us. Families are the foundation for faith formation.

But there is a bigger picture. In his letters, St. Paul often began by greeting his "brothers and sisters." Every time I read one of these letters, it reminds me that you and I truly are sisters and

brothers in the Body of Christ, the Church, but especially here in our own faith community. We need to understand that we are indeed a family, and the way we see and treat one another is fundamental to the health and happiness of this family.

Our spiritual family doesn't stop at the walls of our church, but rather, extends to include every man and woman created in God's image and likeness. You may be familiar with the term "Catholic Social Teaching," which is built on a commitment to the poor. These are the beliefs that guide Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and they lay the framework for the Church's teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life. Once we make a commitment to be disciples of Jesus and pursue stewardship as a way of life, the principles of Catholic Social Teaching become very easy to incorporate into our lives.

Catholic Social Teaching has been around since those first followers of Jesus tried to balance their new faith with the realities of living in a world of Roman oppression. Jesus reminded His disciples then, just as He reminds us now, that caring for and administering to the poor should be at the core of all

Mass Schedule

Sunday, 7:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m.,
12:15 p.m. and 5:30 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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Ladies Out to Lunch: *A Welcoming Ministry*

There are no dues, membership rules, member lists, or meeting requirements for the Ladies Out to Lunch group.

All you must have is a desire to meet other women in the parish and a free second Thursday of the month!

"I wouldn't know any of these ladies if not for this," says Jane Cashin, ministry founder.

Ladies Out to Lunch began when Jane moved to Augusta as a retiree 17 years ago.

"There was no way to meet any ladies at church unless you had children in school," she says. "There was no national Catholic group. So, I started going to the Augusta Newcomers group, and they had a Ladies Out to Lunch. I asked the priest if I could start one."

Jane placed a notice in the next church bulletin that the group would meet once a month and go to lunch at a local restaurant.

The group varies between 10 to 30 persons and meets on the second Thursday of the month – with the exception of April, when the Masters event dominates the local scene. Those interested in attending are asked to call Jane so the appropriate restaurant reservations can be made. Ellen Burroughs assists Jane in keeping a headcount of those planning to attend, and choosing the restaurant each month.

"We've formed a lot of friendships," Jane says. "But no one comes each time. There's a different group each month. We encourage young people and newcomers. But it's not just for newcomers."

Jane says the group serves as a ministry to women, enabling them to form friendships and discuss matters in the Church.

"We also support each other if a member is ill," she adds.

The Ladies Out to Lunch has no projects or events that need volunteers. The one exception to not having a planned program is the Christmas luncheon, which is held in January at the parish hall, with a speaker, and sometimes a door prize.

"Everyone is busy at Christmas," Jane says.

Otherwise, there is the understanding that most everyone who takes part already is involved in her own volunteer activities of choice.

"There's no dues or memberships," Jane says. "It's just open each month to who feels like coming. We have a good time talking and eating lunch. You can't have too many friends!"

Those interested in learning more about Ladies Out to Lunch may call Jane Cashin at **706-733-4257**.



The Consolation Ministry: Walking Alongside Those Who Are Grieving

At St. Mary on the Hill, when someone loses a loved one, they don't have to make it through alone. In order to make things easier for those who are grieving, our parish has a Consolation Ministry to walk alongside of them.

"The Consolation Ministry is present to help and support the family of the deceased, and to answer any questions that they may have about service," Consolation Ministry member Joann Sosnoski says.

The Consolation Ministry is dedicated to providing spiritual, emotional and practical support to those who have had a death in the family. Ministry members meet with the grieving family and help them to plan everything that has to do with the funeral, such as who will fulfill the liturgical ministries at the funeral Mass. They also help them choose the readings and the music, or will even do the readings themselves if the family wishes. Furthermore, they come to the Mass itself to help make sure all runs smoothly.

Whenever a funeral Mass is going to take place at our parish, Coordinator of the Consolation Ministry Barbara Kareis is notified. She then sends out an email to members of the ministry notifying them of the time and date of the funeral, along with a request for volunteers. Usually, at least two to eight ministry members are able to help. They arrive about an hour early to set up for the Mass, arrange the altar and

liturgical books, and prepare the pews and offertory gifts. As the family starts to arrive at church, ministry members stand by the door and greet people as they come in. If many people come to the Mass, they will serve as ushers, as well.

"Some of the grieving families have never been part of a funeral before," Joann says. "We are here to take the worry of planning away from them. By covering the business of the funeral itself, we also free up the priest so that he can just be there for the family in a spiritual way and visit with them."

The Consolation Ministry was officially launched in 2002, and currently has about 25 dedicated members.

"I am very glad to be part of this ministry and to be able to help families through such a difficult time of need," Joann says. "All of the ministry members say the same thing! The ministry helps me as well, because the funeral Mass is such a good reminder of God's promises and what our Catholic faith is truly about. It is very poignant."

Those who are interested in consoling others through this ministry of Christ's mercy may contact Barbara Kareis at bkareis53@gmail.com.

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“Love Is Our Mission: The United States We

Pope Francis has traveled to Israel, Brazil and Turkey, among other countries throughout the past 30 months of his papacy. This fall, the first pope of the Americas arrives in the United States to meet with world leaders and schoolchildren alike.

Last fall, Pope Francis announced his intention to travel to the United States for the 2015 World Meeting of Families. In light of the pontiff’s sweeping international and inter-religious appeal, this papal visit will be a historic event for the United States. Many expect Pope Francis to speak about immigration and our responsibility as stewards of creation, along with other current topics of interest.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 22, the pontiff will travel from Cuba to the United States. The following day, the leader of our Church and the leader of our country will convene at the White House. President Obama has called Pope Francis “transformative,” publicly thanking the pontiff for his moral example and his instrumental role in furthering relations between the United States and Cuba.

After midday prayer on Sept. 23 with bishops at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Junipero Serra, the Spanish Franciscan instrumental in establishing the California missions,



at a Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

In keeping with his reputation for the unprecedented, Pope Francis will then speak to a joint session of the United States Congress on the morning of Sept. 24, thus becoming the first pope to address Congress.

Afterwards, Pope Francis will visit St. Patrick in the City and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington before departing for New York City and arriving to participate in Vespers at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

On Sept. 25 Pope Francis will become the fourth leader of the Catholic Church to visit the United Nations and speak to the United Nations General Assembly.

From the United Nations, Pope Francis will travel to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center site. There, he will lead an interfaith service for peace.

Despite his limited days on American soil, Pope Francis designated time to visit Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem. The pope will be received by a largely immigrant student population at this Partnership School, which is one of a six-school organization devoted to urban Catholic education in the communities of South Bronx and Harlem.

As we prepare for the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis’ actions exemplify for us the Corporal Works of Mercy. Let us remember our call as Christians to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us pray for the fruits of the World Meeting of Families, for it is within the family that we first foster stewardship.

The Family Fully Alive" Welcomes Pope Francis

The celebration of Mass at Madison Square Garden concludes this last full day in New York City.

After arriving in Philadelphia on Sept. 26, Pope Francis will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, and then speak at Independence Hall on immigration and religious freedom.

In the evening, the pope will at last arrive at the World Meeting of Families 2015, the theme of which, chosen by Pope Francis, is "Love Is Our Mission: the Family Fully Alive." That evening, he will be the guest of honor at the Festival of Families, a joyful and global celebration of family and community that will include performances from the Philadelphia Orchestra, Andrea Bocelli and the Colombian icon Juanes, among others.

On Sept. 27, the pope will convene with bishops at St. Martin's Chapel at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary before visiting the Curran-Fromhold Correc-

tional Facility, where he will meet with select prisoners and their families.

In the afternoon, Pope Francis returns to the World Meeting of Families to celebrate the concluding Mass at Benjamin Franklin Parkway before departing in the evening for Rome.

During his visit, Pope Francis will meet with renowned political figures, but he also will openly visit with the underrepresented and marginalized members of our communities, from the children in urban schools to the prisoners in state penitentiaries.

As we prepare for the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis' actions exemplify for us the Corporal Works of Mercy. Let us remember our call as Christians to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Let us pray for the fruits of the World Meeting of Families, for it is within the family that we first foster stewardship.





Carnival Pre-Party Rounding Up Great Evening

Yeeee-haw! It's time to cowboy up! The St. Mary's Carnival Pre-Party is corralling a whole herd of fun from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., Friday, Oct. 16 at the school gym.

Mariah Sellers, Pre-Party Chair, says the theme this year is "Wild, Wild West Hoedown."

"I've been doing this for a couple of years," she says. "It's a lot of fun, you get to meet new parents, and it's a great time for fellowship. It's our school's only fundraiser, and the only time we can all be together."

Pre-Party-goers will enjoy some delicious barbecue and a specialty cocktail. There will be a DJ, and for \$5, you can try your luck riding a mechanical bull.

"The mechanical bull will be at the Carnival on Saturday, too, but there will be no charge to ride it then," Mariah says.

Dress is casual, jeans are just fine – and if you have cowboy boots and a hat, now's the time to break them out!

Tickets are being pre-sold at \$65 a couple, and will be \$70 per couple at the door.

"We'll have baskets and lots of auction items," Mariah says. "We'll also be auctioning off a brand new golf cart. So don't forget your wallet – there will be lots of great things to buy!"

The best part about the Pre-Party is the opportunity for us to help St. Mary's School.

"Yes, every bit goes back into St. Mary's School," Mariah says. "This year, we did some bathrooms and bought some new playground equipment from past proceeds. We only have one fundraiser a year, and this is it!"

John Markwalter, the founder of the Pre-Party, says that although the Carnival had always been fortunate to have good weather, there always was the chance that the proceeds would suffer if Carnival day were rainy. So, the Pre-Party was organized as a financial "cushion" in case the Carnival was rained out.

"It all benefits an institution we support. It's a great combination to do that. It's one opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners and the people who support the school. It's a two-prong effect, and I love that."

– John Markwalter

"The biggest issue was, however, that there was a need for the Pre-Party," he says. "The Carnival is all kid-centered, and although the parents help and attend, there wasn't really an opportunity for fellowship time for the adults. The gym was already set up for the Carnival, and the baskets were ready for the auction. So, the day before the Carnival, on Friday, we already had a platform for a party. This was a real opportunity for the adults to have time to have grown-up fun and fellowship, get to know each other. The [first Pre-Party] turned out to be a lot of fun."

Both Mariah and John concur that the focus for the weekend is the support of Catholic education.

"It all benefits an institution we support," John says. "It's a great combination to do that. It's one opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners and the people who support the school. It's a two-prong effect, and I love that."

Mariah says Andrea Donald is her assistant this year, and next year, the Pre-Party's reins will be handed over to her.

"And we're always looking for volunteers," Mariah says. "We need help decorating, and help the day of the Pre-Party with set up and clean up. I'm also looking for auction baskets and auction help."

Those who would like to volunteer for the Pre-Party may call Mariah Sellers at 706-231-2738.

We Are Truly a Family *continued from front cover*

we do. Recall when the Lord said in Matthew, “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you gave me clothing; I was ill and you cared for me; I was in prison and you visited me.”

This is our foundation as we seek to embody mercy and justice to our fellow man, and should be one of our major goals as a faith community. Many of our parish ministries provide for us an opportunity to do just as Jesus asked – to serve those most in need. The Consolation Ministry that is featured in this newsletter is a great example of how we as a faith community pull together to share the compassionate love of Jesus with those who are hurting. And I am so often humbled by the generosity that we are able to show to those beyond our own faith family. It amazes me that in the past year, our parish contributed over \$35,000 to help the AIDS orphans of Gola, Ethiopia.

As we move into the fall season, with Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas soon to follow, now is a good

time for us to recommit ourselves to addressing the needs we see around us – both as a parish society and as individuals. I am proud of our collective efforts in assisting and serving the poor, but I also know that we can do more. Many of us personally need to get involved in these efforts. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has a great love and regard for the poor and, like Jesus, he reminds us often of what we need to do. In a recent homily, Pope Francis said, “The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.” Together, we can make a difference.

God bless you,



Fr. Jerry

Ad Placement

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St. Mary on the Hill Church

*In Memory of Jerry Pardue
Martha and Ernest Odom, Jr.*

*In Memory of Mary Battey
Jane and Bleakley Chandler*

*In Memory of Arlene Kelly
Dr. and Mrs. F. Marion Dwight*

*In Memory of Robert Carstarphen
Fran and Donald Bailie*

St. Mary on the Hill School Endowment Fund

2015 Mulherin Family Reunion

*In Memory of Virginia Long
Susan and Chris Bowles*

Men on a Mission Outreach Ministry

*In Memory of Chris Wisner
Michael J. Rucker
Carol and Dennis LaBissoniere*

Baptisms

May 10, 2015

Jude Campbell Poteet
*Son of Greg and Ashley
Poteet*

Cason William Coppess
*Son of Kyle and Daniela
Coppess*

May 23, 2015

Penelope Catherine
Sherman
*Daughter of Devin and
Tricia Sherman*

June 7, 2015

Mason James Williams
*Son of Michael and Cassie
Williams, Jr.*

June 14, 2015

Sara Jacqueline LeNouail
*Daughter of Philippe and
Gloria LeNouail*

June 18, 2015

Benjamin Daniel Aldredge
*Son of Norman and Maria
Aldredge*

June 19, 2015

Elise Cecilia Hartley
*Daughter of Jeremy and
Natasha Hartley*

June 20, 2015

Riley Nicole Prestifilippo
*Daughter of Biagio and
Kristen Prestifilippo*

June 21, 2015

John Harrison Owensby
*Son of John and Susan
Owensby*

Carter Joseph Bertling
*Son of Philip and Carolyn
Bertling*