

Saint Mary

ON THE HILL
CATHOLIC CHURCH



News and Notes from Fr. Jerry

All Things and All People Are Made New

Dear Parishioners,

We associate the Easter season with springtime — a time of new life and new beginnings — and Holy Scripture addresses this idea of newness many times. In one of our readings during April, God declares, “Behold, I make all things new.”

This idea of being “new” is important to us as Catholics, and it is important to our parish. We need to strive to do this on a regular basis — even on a daily basis. Think of the fact that all was once new. Regardless of how you view the development of this earth and those of us who occupy it, all was once new.

During this ongoing Easter season, we need to retain that idea of being “new.” And being “new” means conversion, and we have often pointed out that conversion is at the heart of a life of stewardship.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (§654) puts it, “The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life.”

In other words, Christ’s Resurrection is the source of our new life — our own future resurrection. St.

Paul wrote about it to the Romans in the following words (Rom 6:5): “For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.”

Hope for a new life beginning now and extending on into heaven

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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.



Teaching By Example

The Importance of Prayer in a Child's Life

“I want to be just like Mom!”
“I want to be just like Dad!”

Perhaps nothing lifts a parent's heart like hearing these words. While certainly affirming, such words also remind us of the great responsibility that comes with parenthood.

Children often examine the lives of their parents when making decisions that will affect their own lives. For example, a young boy may dream of becoming a physician one day, just like his father. Or a young girl may hope to become a veterinarian, just like her mother. Could the same be said about their parents' faith lives?

Just as children learn traits and values from their parents, they should also learn the importance and great joy of developing a personal relationship with Christ. And the foundation of such a relationship is prayer — conversation with God.

How should we go about teaching our children to pray? There are several methods, but none works as well as teaching by example. Begin teaching the importance of prayer by praying openly with your spouse. This teaches children that prayer is meaningful and important, and not just a ritual. Also, pray with your children — in the morning and in the evening. Show your sons and daughters the importance of beginning and ending each day in prayer.

While a fortunate dilemma, it's a dilemma nonetheless — Catholics face the challenge of discerning which prayers to use, considering the thousands available. A good rule of thumb is to start simple — maybe an *Our Father* or *Hail Mary*, and then move

into something more complex — *Hail, Holy Queen* or *Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel*, among others. Begin with prayers your children can pick up fairly quickly. Not only will this show them that praying can be fun and easy, but shorter prayers are also usually easier to understand.

Teach your children the importance of spontaneous prayer, rather than just prescribed prayers. Spontaneous prayer is any prayer that is created at the same time it is offered. Another way to think of spontaneous prayer is “praying in your own words.” Structure spontaneous prayers according to the ACTS acronym — Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. In layman's terms, this means beginning each prayer with words of adoration, such as “You are the Lord God Almighty. I love you.” Move into a period of contrition, asking God's forgiveness for the sins you have committed. Then give words of thanksgiving, thanking God for the gifts He has given. Finally, spend time sharing with God your heart's desires. These intentions can be personal or on another's behalf. Following this format ensures that spontaneous prayer “covers all the bases,” and doesn't become just a mental wish list. Remember, all God wants is your prayers.

The best time to begin praying with your children is right now. The sooner they learn about prayer, the sooner they can begin cultivating their own relationship with Jesus. Many parents even pray with their children before birth, hoping their unborn son or daughter can hear their words in utero. Remember, there is no better way to teach one's children about the value of prayer than by example.

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“The Eucharist Is a Comfort for Them”

Parish Visitation Team

Through our words and actions, we are called *to be* Christ for others – yet there are also men and women in our community who give their time literally *to bring* Christ to others.

Twenty years after Linda Cook became a St. Mary’s parishioner, she suffered from a severe health crisis. It was during this illness that Linda became familiar with the Parish Visitation Team. Members of the team brought Communion to her, not only during her hospitalization and rehabilitation, but also for a few weeks after she returned home.

“Later, I informed the pastor of my sincere appreciation for this ministry,” says Linda, who serves as Parish Visitation Team Coordinator. “He then asked if I wanted to join the ministry. I was thrilled to do so and have been doing it for the past 22 years.”

The Parish Visitation Team consists of 20 faith community members who bring Communion to those who can no longer attend Mass because of sickness or advanced age. As members of the early Church carried the Eucharist to each other, these ministers continue the tradition of physically transporting the Body of Christ to members of the faith community.

“The parishioners are separated physically from the parish family but are connected spiritually when a minister brings the Eucharist to them,” Linda says.

These ministers are personally invited to serve on the Parish Visitation Team by the pastor, and they regularly visit 10 nursing homes and approximately 16 homebound parishioners.

Any family member may call the parish office to request that Communion be brought to a loved one who is either at home or in a nursing home. The office passes the information on to Linda, and she contacts one of the team



Bob Barnett, a member of the Parish Visitation Team, visits with Mrs. Florence Sujanski at Elmcroft Assisted Living

members who will get in touch with the individual desiring Communion and set up a day and time to visit.

“The Eucharist is a comfort for them,” Linda says. “They have Jesus right there to share their problems and console them, and ultimately to heal them for all eternity.”

Ministers bring Communion to other members of the community and also frequently enjoy some fellowship time together. Friendships frequently form between the ministers and those they visit.

“I have visited siblings who are in their late nineties,” Linda says. “I’ve met their extended family members and feel like I’m part of the family. They are real historians and can give you the genealogy of just about every family in Augusta!”

Let us keep all the members of our faith community, whether physically present at church or not, in our prayers. We are all united in sharing the Body of Christ.

“I have grown spiritually through this ministry because I feel such an overwhelming sense of God’s presence whenever I give them the Eucharist,” Linda says.

If you would like more information about the Parish Visitation Team, please reach out to the parish office at 706-733-6627.

Claudette Boskovich, Fort Gordon *Reflecting on a Lifetime of Love*

We are thrilled to announce that one of our parishioners here at St. Mary on the Hill has received the Fort Gordon Volunteer of the Year award for 2015! It is often said that God has a way of putting people in the right places at the right times, and it has certainly been a blessing to our parish that the path of world traveler Claudette Boskovich eventually led her here to Augusta and St. Mary on the Hill.

The daughter of a French military officer, Claudette spent her childhood in various countries – such as Morocco, Algeria and Germany – in addition to her native France. Later, as the wife of an American Army soldier, she passed even more time overseas, in Iran and Thailand, before she and her husband settled in Augusta following his retirement from the military. Since then, she has worked tirelessly as a Red Cross volunteer at Fort Gordon, giving back to God for the many blessings received over the years.

Claudette traces her love of God and close relationship with the Church back to her mother, who was devoted to instilling the Catholic faith in her children. Once a week, Claudette and her brother would sit with their mother to receive instruction in sewing, knitting and embroidery. These quiet moments together became an opportunity for the family to read Scripture aloud and talk about the faith.

“My love of God, Jesus and Mary, comes from my mother when I was very young,” Claudette says. “My spiritual being was first developed with my mom read-

ing the holy stories – that is what we called the Bible. So, I’ve always been close to the Church.”

Even Claudette’s father, who rarely prayed aloud, had his own way of recognizing that all of life’s gifts come from the Lord.

“My father never sliced the bread without first making a cross with the knife on the back of the loaf,” Claudette says. “He didn’t pray – we always prayed with my mother – but this was his way of saying ‘thank you’ for the bread.”

After Claudette met and married Steven Boskovich in her hometown of Saumur, France, in 1957, spending time in stewardship with the church became a natural part of the newlyweds’ life together. When the couple first came to Augusta in 1958, they rented a house on Lumpkin Road within walking distance to St. Joseph Catholic Church. It was fortunate that they lived so close to the parish, since they tended to spend most of their free time there!

“I remember Father used to say, ‘Why don’t you two just bring a pillow and sleep here at the church?’” Claudette laughs. “We were there almost every day. There was so much going on and we were so involved.”

Everywhere Claudette and Steven were stationed during his military career, they found a way to serve God’s people, whether they were singing with a group of friends at Mass in Iran or playing with the children at a local orphanage in Thailand.



Claudette and Steven Boskovich in Fort Myers, Fla., in 1989.



Claudette and Steven Boskovich in Fort Myers, Fla., in 1990.

Fort Gordon's Volunteer of the Year Living God and Serving Others

It was in 1972, during their time in Bangkok, Thailand, that Claudette trained to volunteer with the Red Cross.

"We were a big group of girls studying to become Red Cross volunteers," she says. "We had terrific training. [After training], I was in charge of all the x-rays of all the Army people in Thailand because that was the biggest hospital. There was a lot of tuberculosis at that time, so there were a lot of X-ray tests that needed to be done. I actually had 15 ladies working for me so they could come and take care of all the filing. That was important because when a doctor came for a file, you had to find it quickly!"

When her husband Steven retired from the U.S. Army in 1975, the couple decided to make Augusta their permanent home. This time, they lived in a house closer to St. Mary on the Hill and became parishioners here, lending their voices to the choir and forming close friendships with other parishioners.

Before returning to the Red Cross, Claudette devoted some time to perfecting her spoken English.

"My husband wanted me to watch television to learn English, and it was funny because I was picking up the accent from Georgia," Claudette laughs.

Whether it was with a French or an Augustan accent, Fort Gordon was certainly blessed to have Claudette join their team of volunteers at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center, when she decided to go back to volunteering with the Red Cross.

"When I first worked at Fort Gordon, we had just a handful of nurses," she says. "So I even helped doctors as a chaperone. I would pass the doctor things that he needed or hold the hands of somebody who was hurting."

During her decades of service as a Red Cross volunteer at Fort Gordon, Claudette has also helped by preparing the exam rooms, guiding patients through the check-in process, and ensuring that important documents were delivered from the doctors to their patients. These days, she spends the majority of her time there sorting and delivering mail.

"Once the mail has been in my hands, I want to make sure that I give it to the people in their hands – I don't want it to get lost," Claudette says. "Everybody, if they don't know where [a piece of mail] goes, they put it in my box! This is where I have the most work, and I enjoy doing it."



Claudette Boskovich has been awarded for her 22 years of volunteer service with the Red Cross at Fort Gordon.

At 85 years young, Claudette treasures her close relationship with the Church and the 43 years of marriage she shared with Steven before his passing in 2000. And for this French-born world traveler who has long made Augusta and St. Mary on the Hill her home, decades of work with the Red Cross have been a deeply fulfilling way of giving back for blessings received.

Claudette does not hesitate to recommend volunteering with the Red Cross to anyone interested in serving others.

"It is a great way help," she says. "The doctors, the nurses and the clerks love to have extra help. There are volunteers practically everywhere in the clinics. Whenever someone needs something, the job of the Red Cross person is to do anything!"

The 24th Annual Msgr. P. James Costigan - St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, May 6, at the Forest Hills Golf Club. The tournament is a fun day for all, with proceeds benefiting the school's Endowment Fund. Thank you to our school families, alumni, parish families, friends, and sponsors for making the tournament a huge success each year!

Get Ready
for
This Year's

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The entry fee is \$125 per person. Sponsorship levels are as follows:

- **Hole Sponsor** – \$150 (sponsor sign on a hole)
- **Team Sponsor** – \$500 (four-person team)
- **Team and Hole Sponsor** – \$650 (four-person team and sponsor sign on a hole)
- **Tournament Sponsor** – \$1,000 (four-person team, two mulligans per player, sponsor sign on a tee box, name in the Church bulletin, and name on school website)

Send in this form if you are interested in being a part of the tournament:

____ I would like to enter the tournament at \$125 per person.

____ I would like to be a Hole Sponsor at the \$150 level.

Please put the following on the sponsor sign: _____

____ I would like to be a four-person Team Sponsor at the \$500 level.

____ I would like to be a Team and Hole Sponsor at the \$650 level.

Please put the following on the sponsor sign: _____

____ I (list company) _____ would like to be a Tournament Sponsor at the \$1,000 level.

Please make your check payable to St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School and mail it to 1220 Monte Sano Ave., Augusta, Ga., 30904. Please call the school at 706-733-6193 if you have any questions.

All Things and All People Are Made New

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is the result of Jesus' Resurrection. What greater grounds for thanksgiving can there be than this Easter hope? We should sing with joy about God's promise to us: "Behold, I make all things new!" (Rev 21:5).

St. Paul also wrote (Col 3:1-2): "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth." Jesus' Resurrection and His promise of a new life for us means that we need to live in conformity with our status as adopted children of God.

How do we show our joy and our gratitude to God for this amazing gift He has given us? We join in worship, and praise God by word and song. We share the Good News of Jesus' victory over death

with our family, friends and neighbors. And we offer back to the Lord a portion of the time, talent and treasure He has entrusted to us.

Yes, the Easter message is that we share in the benefits of Christ's Resurrection, which indeed makes all things new — the ultimate foundation for all Christian stewardship.

The Lord is risen, alleluia.

God bless you,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Fr. Jerry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Jerry

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