

THE MESSENGER

JUNE 2018

A newsletter for the faith community of Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Church

From Father Joe

By Debbie Alberti

Last year, at this time, we had just begun work on our new space. As Father and I met for our conversation for this issue of The Messenger, one year later, he began, "We certainly have been enjoying our new space, the religious education classrooms, the adult education classroom, and the youth room that will we will complete outfitting shortly with bumper pool and foosball tables, many board games, and TV/video access. Our addition has opened up space for receptions and other special events. In addition to the pledges people have made to help pay for the project (please fulfill your pledges if you are still paying), a parishioner has donated a house that will be sold to help pay off the building project costs and keep us, as we have been, debt free."

"Our religious education continues to grow both in number and strength, as witnessed by 39 children receiving their First Reconciliation and First Communion and 26 receiving Confirmation. My sincere thanks to the catechists and parents for their commitment and support. I am very excited about our first-ever summer Bible Study offering for the youth and a separate one for our young adults. This program is under the direction of Hannah Kallenbach."

"This summer's Vacation Bible School, "Son West Roundup", will be held Monday, 25 June to Friday, June 29 from 9 am to noon. All children in grades kindergarten through grade 5 and their friends are welcome. The cost is \$10 per family. Our adults and teens do a wonderful job each summer."

In our meeting, I also learned about two new ventures. Father Joe shared that we are in the process of updating our internet and wireless capabilities that will allow us to broadcast our Mass on various social media sites, Facebook, You Tube, and our parish website. "We are catching up to participate on the "digital continent", as Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI referred to our world. Our coordinator of religious education, Claire McCrary, has been instrumental in finding the company we will use. It should be operational by the end of summer."

"Remember all those books belonging to Father Kaufman? Maureen Hayes and Hays Kiefner have begun the arduous process of cataloguing the 2000+ books. We are awaiting the arrival of four, 7-foot bookshelves to begin outfitting the Father James F. Kaufman Library and Research Center. Once established, we hope the site will benefit ODU, TCC, NSU, VWU, Regent University, or any of our local institutions of higher learning. Maureen and Hays will design and manage the use/lending of materials."

"This has been a very busy academic year. We have grown in parish membership, grown in the participation in spiritual offerings during Lent and Advent, grown in helping so many people through Justice and Peace, and, lastly, grown in terms of bricks and mortar. Everyone is tired. I hope that our Parish Feast Day will give everyone a chance to relax and enjoy. Please come, **TODAY, Sunday, 10 June, 4pm – 6 pm**, to share a dish and enjoy the cook-out!"

"After all the efforts, I hope everyone enjoys the summer. Remember, Jesus doesn't take a vacation from us, so we shouldn't take a vacation from him."

RELAX, RENEW, RECREATE

P.S. We will re-group on Sunday, 26 August, from 4 pm - 6 pm at our Ice-Cream Social.



By Derek Turrietta

The Blessed Sacrament Adult Faith Formation Committee offered two weekly classes: Sunday morning's 9:00 am Book Discussion Group and Wednesday evening's Spirituality Uncorked.

The Book Discussion Group completed two books: Mark Roebing's page-turning non-fiction Church of Spies about Pius XII's actions against Hitler and Robert Cardinal Sarah's God or Nothing. Cardinal Sarah's book was selected to provide insights into the mindset of the growing influence in the Church of the south equatorial world's concerns. Hosted by three ODU faculty members, this class is for all adults who are interested in issues of faith played out in the world. Spirituality Uncorked also offered two video based discussion courses: **The Wild Goose**, a series that examined the Third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, and Bishop Robert Barron's, **Jesus: Priest, Prophet, and King**. In addition to exploring two of the Trinity's Divine Persons, the group enjoyed open fellowship, wine, and other libations.

RCIA

by Derek Turrietta

The Blessed Sacrament RCIA team and our 23 members who received the Sacred Mysteries at the

Easter Vigil and are now recognized into the Body of Christ in full communion with the Catholic Church. We give thanks to the clergy, sponsors, catechists, musicians, staff, and parish community for all the support provided during this past year.

Has the Holy Spirit led you or someone you know to be interested in joining the Roman Catholic Church? Please join our Wednesday night RCIA program continuing next September on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in our Parish Social Hall. Let the Holy Spirit move you towards new growth and resurrected life.

ARE YOU SOMEONE OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- Has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic?
- Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized?
- Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

We offer an opportunity to come together in a small group to learn about our faith. Sessions focus on the teachings and experience of Church and prepare individuals to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist during the Easter season. There are separate sessions for children or youth. You are welcome to participate in the process with your questions, your insights and your faith story in a warm accepting setting. The Parish RCIA team meets most Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm in the Parish Social Hall. Childcare is provided.

In addition, if you are called to the joy of the Gospel and your Catholic faith with others, the RCIA team is soliciting new team members. Training begins now and continues in the spring and summer. We welcome any and all interested in this ministry.

For information, please contact Deacon Derek Turrietta at dturrietta@blessed-sacrament.com or 757-305-7755 or through the parish office.

Sharing Is Caring

By Mary Ann Fussell

Blood pressure screenings are conducted once a month from October to May by members of our Health Ministry Team. On the third weekend of the month, following all of the Masses we are available to take your blood pressure. We keep a record of everyone we screen and individuals can look back and see how they are doing; since many people are working on controlling high blood pressure with a balanced diet, exercise and sometimes medication. Please listen for Father Joe's announcement following Mass; come in and let us take your blood pressure. Over this past year, we have screened over 100 parishioners.

Thank you also to our awesome Team members who have screened blood pressures over the past year: Amy Cutter, Greg Coffman, Kim Moloney, Patrice Hage, Laura Hulse, Rizalle Manaois, Becky Browne, Kim Williams and Mary Ann Fussell.

Thank you to our outstanding team members who covered each evening during Blessed Sacraments' week of NEST – Chris Hilovsky, Greg Coffman, Kim Moloney, Carol Allain, Molly Lowther, Amy Cutter and Mary Ann Fussell.

We express great appreciation to members of the Health Ministry Team who have made it possible to reach out to many in our parish due to your caring and willingness to share your time.

The Health Ministry Team would love to have additional members. If you are interested, please contact Mary Ann Fussell, mafussell@cox.net or call the office, 757-423-8305.

St. Martha's Circle

by Judy Dewey

Following the model of St. Martha, our group assists in maintaining certain elements of the Lord's house. We wash and iron the purificators and corporals used on the altar, wash the finger towels

used at Communion, trim the candles and clean the glass globes, dust the Stations of the Cross and the statues, and wash and mend the altar servers' robes. Our meetings consist of praying, planning, and socializing.

St. Martha's Circle meets at 10 am on the second Wednesday of each month from September through May. Please come and meet our friendly group when we resume our meetings in September. All are welcome, and we look forward to meeting you.



Mary's Joy Ministry

by Kathryn Forrester-Thro, Obl.S.B

Your donations are ever appreciated! We have expanded to include deliveries to several new places, the Salvation Army Hope Center in Ghent received personal care items, socks and many snacks and a new branch of Mary's Joy Ministry in a Christian outreach center in Chesapeake. Our perpetual "Hope" trees continue to welcome donors to take a tag hanging on a branch and return the listed item to our table in the Mary's Joy room. Where are we located? As you exit from Mass, we are on the right, across from the Music Room. Peek through the glass and you will always see our joyful work in progress, with new baby bags, and new items for the homeless awaiting sorting and distribution. Printed on the tags are our "Most-Wanted" items, needed all year 'round, and include many baby care items, needs of the poor and homeless on the streets, and of the elderly as well.

Join us! There are never any required meetings or expectations in Mary's Joy! Send your email address to ajoyful1@cox.net, or call the office, 757-423-8305 to learn more about our joyful Wrap Parties and "At Home" opportunities. Do you have a student needing volunteer hours? Call us! Do you knit or crochet? We need new baby hats, booties and blankets. This summer, many homeless people

will be in need of mini bottles of water, combs, bar soap, wash cloths, personal size tissue, and sunscreen and lip balm. New mothers and their babies desperately need diapers and wipes. Diaper sizes most needed are size 1 and 2, and, if you please, our baby shower bags are best suited to small or medium sized boxes of diapers, not the giant economy sized boxes. (We cannot open or split apart the huge inner “sleeves” of diapers, as they must be sterile and un-opened.) We love getting donations of new bibs, toddler spoons, baby washcloths, wash/shampoo, “Onesies,” new infant clothing, small toys, etc.

We recently held our annual potluck dinner to celebrate our fifteenth year of ministry! Our charism is joy. Our motto remains “Mary’s Joy is Jesus. Together, they entreat us to share what we can with others in distress.”

Website: <http://marysjoy.com>.

Servant Leadership Award

by Sister Regina

Each year our parish nominates someone for this award given by St. Patrick’s Catholic School. It was our unanimous decision to nominate Sheila Jenkins for 2018. She has bravely and untiringly held our Youth Group together until Hannah was able to come on board. This has included coordinating the entire weekend retreat for our Confirmation Class 2017. That alone deserves a GOLD MEDAL! In addition to working with the youth, Sheila is our lector at weekday Mass, brings Eucharist to one of our retirees, is involved with the casserole program, etc. etc. We are blessed to have her with us and joined in her accolades. Thank you, Sheila!!!!

Unsung Heroes

by Sister Regina

Dot Neuens and her “crew” stuff bulletins every Friday morning. We give them all a “shout out” cheer! Also, Mark White and Bob Keesling keep our parish plant up and running at all times. That deserves two “shout out” cheers!

St. Mary’s Casserole Program to Benefit St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen

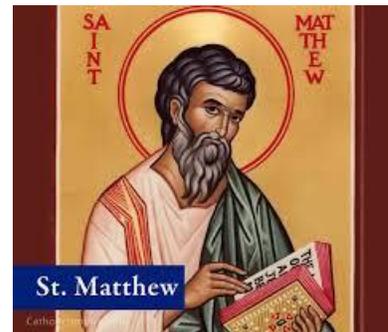
by Marybeth Dixon

St. Mary’s Basilica Catholic Church in downtown Norfolk has a Soup Kitchen that provides over 150

full meals three times a week. About 8 years ago, the Justice and Peace committee began the St. Mary’s Casserole Program to help provide meals to the soup kitchen to allow individuals and families a way to help the hungry that are part of our city. Some of our parishioners have been faithful to serving in this ministry, but, over time, many have moved or are unable to continue with this ministry and we are in need of new members willing to help the soup kitchen.

Your participation is simple. Our parish provides you with a 13” x 9” aluminum pan and lid and three different recipes. You then cook the recipe at home; freeze and place in freezer at church either on a monthly or quarterly basis. If, for some reason, you cannot make one of the recipes, just make the one you can.

Thanks for your interest. I appreciate your time and energy. If you have any questions regarding this ministry, please contact Marybeth Dixon, mbjdixon@cox.net.



Parish Community Life

By Carol LaFauci

"For where two or more are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20

Whenever I think of how to define Parish Community Life, this verse from Matthew always comes to my mind. I know Matthew is not referring to Sunday's coffee and pastries, but I cannot help but think God is with us in some way.

We organize the numerous events that allow for fellowship and growth of friendships throughout the year. Our staff is composed of dedicated women and men of our parish who are the hands behind such events as concert receptions, funeral

receptions, confirmation receptions, ice cream social, our annual Parish Feast Day, Mardi Gras, Sunday coffee and pastries, and the biannual rummage sale.

Some of our members have been with PCL for many years, giving countless hours of their time, and some members are new to the group and may be only able to help when their schedule permits. Whatever the amount of time, it is always appreciated by the parish staff and parishioners.

If you have a love of cooking and enjoy the fellowship of washing dishes with other like-minded people, please consider joining us. You may contact me at clafauci@verizon.net.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION K-5

by Claire McCrary

For me, the end of the school year is a reflective time; a time for taking stock of what I learned over my first year as Religious Education Coordinator. I currently am excited as I begin working on my plans to make the Religious Education program better this year. I wish to extend a special thank you to all the volunteers that have helped with the children through the school year, especially the Catechists and assistants who made my job a delight:

Mercedes Sullivan and Cordelia Aldridge (Kindergarten)
Leah Els and Grace McCrary (1st Grade)
Mary Beth Kopso and Eliza Dixon (2nd Grade)
Rob Hulse, Michele Cobas and Henry Oberley (2nd Grade)
Wilma Riddell and Anna Beaver (3rd Grade)
Ellyn Place and Melissa Scott (3rd Grade)
Donna and Jessica Daniel (4th Grade)
Daria and Eliza Glennon (5th Grade)

Our last day of Religious Education occurred Sunday, 6 May with our May Processional. During the 10:30 am Mass, Father Joe invited all First Communicants to bring in flowers and place them by the statue of our beloved Mary. Our 5th grade class was invited to join EDGE (6th- 8thgrade) for two weeks prior to the end of class.

CHILDRENS RCIA

by Claire McCrary

Our children's RCIA program (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) was a success thanks to our dedicated teachers, Jennifer Gant-Brush and Mark Checchia, as well as the families who committed themselves this year to full initiation into the Catholic Church. We had three Catechumens (those who had not been baptized) who celebrated the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. Congratulations!!!

BAPTISMAL INFORMATION

by Claire McCrary

The next Baptism class is scheduled for Sunday, 5 August. The next celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is scheduled for Saturday, 12 August. Active members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic parish who wish to have a child baptized will need to complete a baptismal form and attend the preparation class. Please call or email Claire McCrary, Monday – Thursday, 757-423-8305, or email: cmccrary@blessed-sacrament.com, to register.

Baptism Class (Sundays, 11:30 am):

5 August 2018
9 September 2018
7 October 2018
4 November 2018
2 December 2018

Sacrament of Baptism:

16 June 2018, 5:00 pm
12 August 2018, 10:30 am
15 September 2018, 5:00 pm
13 October 2018, 5:00 pm
11 November 2018, 10:30 am
15 December 2018, 5:00 pm

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

by Claire McCrary

This is a wonderful program of Liturgy of the Word adapted as a worship experience for children whom we divide into 2 groups (pre-k –Kindergarten) and a second group (Grades 1-3). This gives them the opportunity to understand the Gospel message and participate in the Eucharistic celebration at their own level. A heartfelt thank you to all the

volunteers who help with this ministry and especially to Sandra Dotolo who has headed this ministry for so many years!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

by Claire McCrary

Our Vacation Bible School theme this year is “Son West Roundup”. The dates are Monday, 25 June through Friday, 29 June starting at 9:00 am and ending at noon. We have had many successful years and we know this one will be tons of fun for the children. There is a \$10 fee per family. Children in kindergarten through grade 5 are welcome. Many thanks to our VBS Director, Manon Collins, and her team for putting this together every year!

EDGE and Life Teen

by Hannah Kallenbach

We have had a wonderful semester with our EDGE (grades 6-8) and Life Teen (grades 9-12) students. This semester, at Edge, we explored the life of Christ, taking the youth through the great drama of his life, from the very beginning at the Nativity, to his Death on the Cross, and all the way to His second coming. Our lessons brought to light who Jesus is and the great love that He shows through everything that He did while he was living and continues to do until the end of time. The youth came to a greater understanding of the greatness and power of Christ, as well as their own eternal destiny. During Lent, we celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday with ice cream sundaes.

At Life Teen, we took a deeper look at what it means to follow Jesus in high school. We talked about how the sacraments help us to live out our faith. The semester ended on Sunday, 6 May with a day of fellowship and exciting games. EDGE

(grades 6-8) enjoyed a morning of lessons in fellowship, and Life Teen (grades 9-12) had an exciting evening playing 9 Square. We thank all of our Core Team members without whom our youth program would not be possible.

If you are interested in helping out with either EDGE or Life Teen, please contact our Youth Coordinator, Hannah Kallenbach, at hkallenbach@blessed-sacrament.com or via phone at 757-423-8305.

Keep an eye out this summer for some fun youth events. Life Teen and EDGE will have a night of laser tag on Monday, 9 July. We plan to attend a Tides Baseball game on Friday, 13 July. We will also have a Life Teen and Edge Capture the Flag night here at the church on Tuesday, 17 July.

In addition to fun events, there continues to be a weekly youth Bible Study. This study will begin on Wednesday, 11 July and will be every Wednesday through the end of August. We will meet from 5:00 - 6:00 pm. Snacks and drinks will be provided. This summer’s Bible Study is entitled “Truth”. It will cover topics such as objectivism vs. moral realism, creationism vs. evolution, world religions and salvation, and many more hard-hitting topics. We would love to see the high school and middle school youth come out

Stay tuned for Open Hours in the new Youth room.

The youth group will also be doing service activities. Keep an eye out for the date to work the Soup Kitchen and participate in other service opportunities such as a ground’s day.

To close out the summer, we will have a youth group pool party and cookout at Lafayette Shores pool on Friday, 24 August. Make sure to bring your friends to all youth events. Everyone is welcome. Be sure to check the calendar and website/Facebook for other fun youth events this summer.



Catholic Heart Work Camp (CHWC)

By Hannah Kallenbach

We are expecting a great time at Catholic Heart Workcamp in Cumberland, Maryland from 17-22 June. This year we have 25 teens in grades 7 – 12

and 4 adults attending the work camp. It will surely be a wonderful and rewarding week as we serve the less fortunate. Please pray for the youth and the adult chaperones as they embark on the mission trip.

Golf Tournament

by Hannah Kallenbach

We thank all of you who were involved in the Golf Tournament last October. We appreciate all of your support in deed and prayer. The proceeds from the tournament each year fund the youth mission trip. Make sure you save the date of this year's tournament, Thursday, 18 October 2018, 10 am registration. If you are interested in helping or playing, please contact Hannah. We are looking forward to seeing you at the golf course.

Confirmation

By Hannah Kallenbach

We celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday, 30 May at Blessed Sacrament with the Basilica of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception and Sacred Heart. Bishop Knestout presided, and it was a wonderful celebration. Twenty six teens from Blessed Sacrament received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please continue to pray for all of our newly Confirmed youth.

Young Adults

by Hannah Kallenbach

Young Adult ministry at Blessed Sacrament is going well! We are a dynamic group helping 20 and 30 year olds strengthen their faith through fellowship and true personal interaction. In February, the Young Adults provided soup for the soup supper. In April, we prepared and served dinner at the Ronald McDonald House. This summer, we are going to start a few small group bible studies. Young Adult Bible Study will take place on Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, light snacks and drinks are provided. We will use a resource called “Leveled”. Leveled is a five part Scripture and Catechism study for college students and young adults on living a God-centered and balanced life. Pope Benedict XVI wrote about the new evangelization in a unique and beautiful way. He stated, “Human life cannot be realized by itself. Our life is an open question, an

incomplete project, still to be brought to fruition and realized. Each man's fundamental question is: How will this be realized — becoming man? How does one learn the art of living? Which is the path toward happiness? To evangelize means: to show this path — to teach the art of living.” What does this fully mean? What does it mean to live life the way God created us to live it? Is this possible today? It is with this heart that this study was born— a true heart to reach a generation with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested in being plugged into Young Adult Ministry at Blessed Sacrament, please contact Hannah for more information, hkallenbach@blessed-sacrament.com. Please join the Facebook group “Blessed Sacrament Young Adults” as well.

“Music, Music, Music”

by Gregg Marino, Director of Music Ministries

The lineup for our 2018-2019 Concert Series is being finalized. While some of our favorites will be returning, we will be welcoming a few newcomers. All of this information will soon be available on the parish website, www.blessed-sacrament.com, by clicking on the link for the Concert Series under Music.

We are called by the Gospel to share our gifts, and what better way than to share your talents as a member of the parish music ministry. The Adult Choir sings at the 10:30 am Mass and most of the major liturgical celebrations between Labor Day and our parish feast. Solo song leaders, called cantors, lead the singing at the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday and the 8:00 am Mass on Sunday. The Youth Choir and the Young Musicians provide the music for several Masses each season – they rehearse on alternating Sunday afternoons at 4:30 pm. We also have a Folk Group who provide the music a couple of times per semester, sometimes during the 10:30 am Mass and sometimes at the 5:00 pm on Saturday. If you are interested in joining one of these ministries, please contact me. My office hours are on Tuesdays from 8 am – noon, or on the weekends after Mass.

Echoing the message on the sign out front, have a “blessed summer: relax, renew, recreate,” and consider sharing your gifts through the music ministry.



Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church welcomed 18 new families to our community from 6 February 2018 through 3 June 2018. They are:

Patrick and Katherine Collins

Joe D'Angelo

Michael and Elizabeth Desmond

Karl and Margo Erickson

Lorraine Farre

Lawrence Geromin

Josephine Gilman

Daniel and Hali Hatting

Eric and Kelly Jones

Bill and Jessica Leigh

Maximilian and Hannah Leutermann

Karrie Maglicco

Brenda Michael

Matthew Muscara

Christian Regan

Teddy Robey

Christina Shawver

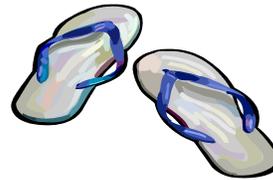
Robert and Mary Ann Shomaker

FABulous Senior Group:

The past few meetings of the FABulous Senior Group have been both interesting and fun. Two officers from the Norfolk Sheriff Dept. visited us in March to share some valuable tips on "Senior Safety". In April, Sonja Barisic from St. Mary's Home brought an informative slide program about the wonderful work done there. We finished this year's activities in May with our tea party. The group will not meet in June, July, or August. If

you are "50 or better", we hope to see you in September!

Sue Davis & Carole VanAalten



DRESS UP, NOT DOWN, FOR SUMMER MASS, EVEN IN THE SUMMERTIME

By Father Michael Van Sloun, pastor of St. Stephen in Anoka, MN.

Every year, this sensitive summer subject crops up: What to wear for church?

We Minnesotans [Virginians] spend much of the winter bundled up in jackets, sweaters, hats and gloves, and we relish the day when warmer weather lets us peel off all those layers. But how much is too much? What is appropriate dress for church?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that when it comes to the celebration of the Eucharist, "Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest" (No. 1387). Clothing ought to reflect respect and solemnity. When it comes to church clothing, it is time to "dress up," not "dress down."

When I served St. Benedict, the African Catholic Church on the South Side of Chicago, it was customary among African-American Catholics there to wear one's "Sunday-go-to-meeting-clothes," a slogan for the best clothes in one's closet. When people came to Mass, they looked sharp.

In the Holy Land and Rome, there are signs at many sacred sites and security guards that refuse admittance to those who are dressed inappropriately.

Consider how you may dress if you were invited to meet the president at the White House or attend a formal dinner.

Doesn't a visit to meet Jesus and attend his great banquet, the Eucharist, rank higher? Shouldn't how we dress reflect this? The Lord deserves our Sunday best.



DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING!

Our parish has been using an Online Giving system that is strengthening stewardship as well as making it easier for members to support our parish. We currently have an estimate of 145 families signed up with Online Giving; however, our parish's goal is to have 250 families involved. Please help us reach this goal! There are many benefits for the parish and for parishioners that choose to give online. Some of the benefits for the parishioner include: no need to write checks; you can give even if you are unable to attend services; and your contribution amount can easily be adjusted.

The benefits for the parish include: no check processing fees; more consistent giving with recurring contributions; electronic donation summaries for record keeping; reaches a wider demographic of givers; and accommodates all special parish collections and missions. Those who wish to continue to use traditional methods of offering may do so; however, we ask that you prayerfully consider Online Giving. If you would like to enroll, please visit our parish website, www.blessed-sacrament.com. If you have any questions about the program or about setting up your account, don't hesitate to call our parish office at 757-423-8305.



"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." Luke 6:38

The Road Ahead

My Lord God, I have no idea where
I am going.

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it
will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the
fact that I think that I am
following your will does not
mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to
please you does in fact please
you.

And I hope I have that desire in all
that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, you will
lead me by the right road though
I may know nothing about it.

Therefore, will I trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.

I will not fear, for you are ever with
me, and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

"You were created on purpose for a purpose." That may sound like pop psychology gibberish to you at first, but it is the truth. Modern studies into strengths and gifts, along with constantly new understandings of the complex wonder of DNA, lead us to conclude that each human being is truly unique. You hold within you

a unique set of gifts that cannot be duplicated in the same way by another. What your parents may have told you about snowflakes growing up holds true for people too: No two are exactly alike.

However, we often live our lives in such a way that gives testimony to a falsity, that is, anybody can do just about any job. Positions in the workforce and in our parishes are filled with people who only fulfill one requirement for the job: they have warm bodies. (Meaning, they are not dead.) There are two realities that create this problem. First, we ask people to do things they are not equipped to do. We tell them to work harder at it and eventually they will get it. But I can guarantee that no matter how hard I try, I will not be able to lead an NBA team to a title. Sounds ludicrous on that level. But I assure you, it is no more ludicrous than asking someone that doesn't really like children to teach elementary catechesis. Second, we ourselves sometimes believe that we have nothing special to offer. We go through life having no idea what our gifts are and how to give of them. We take dead-end jobs and rarely share ourselves with the community. But you may just be the answer to a business or parish problem that, to some, seems unsolvable.

On this weekend, thank God for the gifts you have received. Use them to elevate your labor, both in the workplace and in the

parish. If you don't know how, there is help out there. You are not like everybody else. God has given you a purpose.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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ATTENTION PARISHIONERS

Our bulletin needs ad sponsors. Please consider advertising your business or remembering a loved one in our weekly bulletin. Our parish bulletin is one of our main communication tools to our parish members. It provides inspirational words from Father Joe, Mass intentions, news, and events for the week ahead. We are thankful that this crucial communication piece is provided to our parish at no cost, thanks to the generous advertising support of our parishioners and community-minded businesses. Please let us know if you can help. Sponsors of our bulletin recognize the tremendous value of connecting with our church family, who in turn respond by supporting our sponsors! If you would like to advertise in the weekly bulletin, please contact Brian Williams at LPI, 1-800-477-4574, ext. 6310. Thank you!

Migrant Ministries Donation Drive

Our Vacation Bible School children will be partnering with Migrant Ministries on the Eastern Shore. This year, they will be collecting men's brimmed hat, soccer balls, toiletries, and Food Lion & Walmart

gift cards. Any help from our parishioners will be greatly appreciated!



Who: Migrant Ministries (Eastern Shore)

When: 24- 29 June

Where: Collection Bins will be:

Outside Office: Sunday, 24 June

Social Hall: 25-29 June

What: 1) Men's Brimmed Hats

2) Soccer Balls

3) Walmart/Food Lion Gift Cards

Freedom

Freedom is enshrined in our US Constitution. The First Amendment of our constitution protects our freedom of speech. However, our speech may not infringe upon another's freedom. Freedom does have its limits. And we must protect everyone's freedoms, not just ours. On this 4th of July, let us remember from whom all our freedoms originate, our good and gracious God.

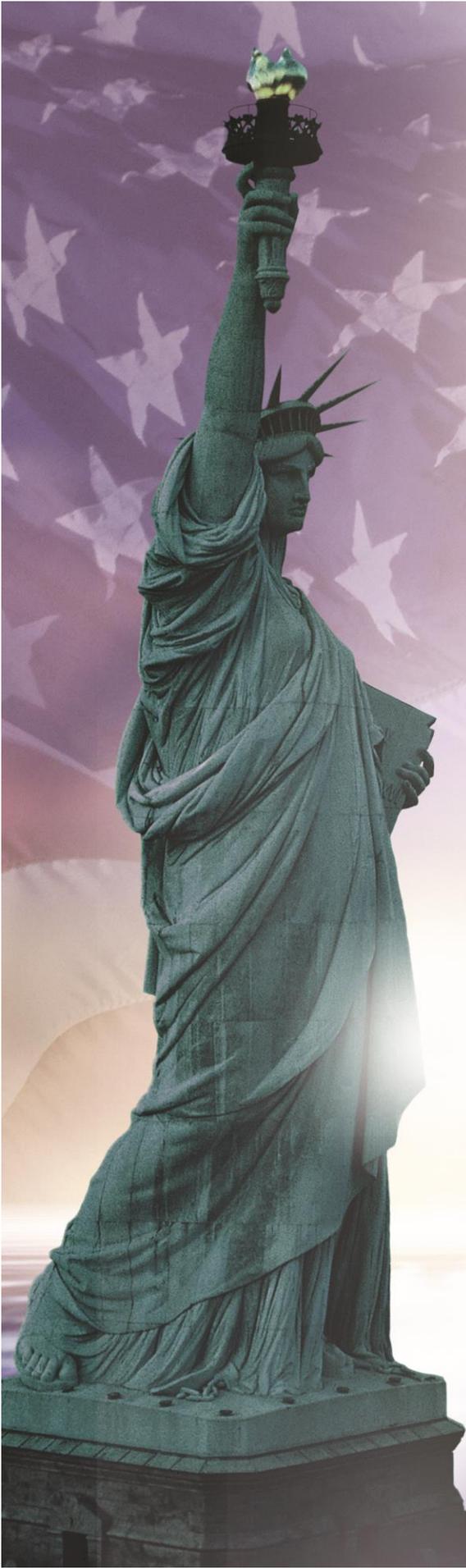
Let us pray...

God, giver of all good gifts,
Help us to be thankful for rest and food,
and remember that, in all we do or say,
you are with us, here this day.
We are thankful for all you do
and for everything you have given us.
But above all we are thankful for our freedoms
and the ability to protect others' freedom.
We are free because of you.
We ask for your continued blessing on all your creation.
Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



RELAX

RENEW RECREATE



FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

June 21–July 4

Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty

O God our Creator,
from your provident hand we have received
our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
You have called us as your people and given us
the right and the duty to worship you, the only true God,
and your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through the power and working of your Holy Spirit,
you call us to live out our faith in the midst of the world,
bringing the light and the saving truth of the Gospel
to every corner of society.

We ask you to bless us
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;
give us courage in making our voices heard
on behalf of the rights of your Church
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.

Grant, we pray, O heavenly Father,
a clear and united voice to all your sons and daughters
gathered in your Church
in this decisive hour in the history of our nation,
so that, with every trial withstood
and every danger overcome—
for the sake of our children, our grandchildren,
and all who come after us—
this great land will always be "one nation, under God,
indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.