

Pastor's Notes



Our next listening session will be held on Tuesday, January 26th and will focus on ways to pay off our **Parish Debt**. This topic came from our floor at our second listening session. By that time, I hope to have a 6 month report so you can see how we are doing this year. As have done with the last 3 sessions, we will open the doors at 6:30 pm and begin our listening session at 7:00 pm. The night will be complete by 8:30 pm. No matter what age you are, all are welcomed to come and lend their voices as we build our futures together. Next up will be a convocation (Listening Session) of Youth of our parish. I am anxious to hear their voices.

Last Night I met with 9 parishioners, Carla Berkenkemper, Leo Callaghan, Mary Anne Callaghan, Lois Kirby, Bill Linthicum, Jim Ludwig, Barbara Pivonski, Brenda Ward and John Zimmerer, six of whom have been trained by the archdiocese, to lead our new **Parish Pastoral Council**. Gone are the days of budgets, buildings and maintenance, and governance. These areas of concern, have been handled by experts in Finance Councils, Buildings & Maintenance Committees and the board of Corporators. Gone are the days of argumentation and votes. Now we focus on consensus. Now the archdiocese has called us to see ourselves as **an oversight body to assure our Evangelization efforts are being effective**. We have adapted the name SAINT CLARE'S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL. That is the name the archdiocese is most comfortable with. The training we experienced on November 21st gives us the mission of EVANGELIZING the unchurched. I am aware that the term "unchurched" addresses a good amount of our brothers and sisters in the world for whom the church has little-to-no meaning or effect. There are 5 areas which will help the Council take form. They are: **Evangelization, Formation, Worship, Stewardship and Service**. More information will follow as the Council takes form. For now I have called on the 9 (and you are invited, too) to discern if this is a challenge they/you personally feel called to. If so, please let me know. We will meet on February 18th at 7 pm in the school.

Many of you have been mentioning that you have noticed our **facilities getting fixed up and in good working order**. Our new maintenance supervisor, Ed Hurley, has been working on it since the first of the year and its beginning to show. Toilets are being fixed, exit and emergency lights are put in right order, the roofs are being patched, ceiling tiles being replaced and the school floors are being washed and waxed in preparation for Catholic Schools week. He is also getting **volunteers** to help. **Matt Ludwig** has worked on the **outside lighting and their photocells** and is getting more and more of them in working order. The parking lot and buildings give the feeling of being safer. **Nick Hock** has worked on the **sound system in the hall** and replaced some of the equipment, which he himself donated. **Chris Bull and his crew**, who usually cut our grass, expressed a desire to volunteer some time to show their appreciation. They will be **cutting back the tree limbs** to get them off of the roofs and wires. **Art Hoffman** has been a jack of all trades, **volunteering for projects** like cleaning floors, shoveling snow and painting in the rectory.

Now comes the task of getting the boiler room in right order and the small room in front of it set up as a maintenance office. Our hope is to use what was the maintenance office as a **gift shop & bookstore**. We hope to work on this so that it can be open by Easter or sooner. After the room is emptied, it will need to be cleaned, walls and ceilings prepared and then painted. If any of you have time to spend on this project, it sure would be appreciated. In addition, we will need volunteers to move the shop's items from the Parish Center to the

new gift shop and perhaps put some finishing touches on the room to make it look welcoming and inviting. Also not too far down the road, we will need volunteers to cover the shop once it is open. I am thinking we would like to have it opened before and after weekend Masses for at least ½ hour so people can browse at their convenience. It would be good to have a team of people who would like to provide this service as a ministry to the parish community so that no one person or small group of people feels burdened by it. Please consider helping in all of these ways.

School News – I have several items to share with you.

- 1) Our **Challenge Appeal** has reached \$71,000, that's \$11,000 more than I asked for. God works in mysterious ways as we have discovered an additional \$60,000 shortfall in the budget centering around our Benefits package. Specifically, the new teachers and staff have opted for health insurance for themselves and their families. This is an expense our finance folks did not budget for. To date, we have paid all our bills for the school but still need an additional inflow of cash of about \$45,000 to cover the budgeting oversight. Our parishioners have been generous with this appeal and monthly second collection for the school. Please do what you can to help us. I assure you that whatever you give to the school will go directly to our school's cause and is tax deductible.
- 2) We are beginning a new marketing campaign to fill the 230 seats of our school for next school year. I am calling it **Project 230**. We know that if we fill each seat of the present classrooms, we can distribute the costs over more students. The more students we have the quicker we arrive at a balanced budget. We are hoping to not raise the tuition rate for next year. Now we need each of you to act as ambassadors. You have tremendous power to reach out to your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers and invite them to check out our school and consider it an option to educate their children in a Catholic/Christian environment. Open house will be on January 31st, and we will begin registering students for next year then. It is important that we have a strong registration effort as soon as we can to show how much we are backing up our desire to keep our school open by making it strong.
- 3) Our new marketing campaign involves a new logo. Here is the slogan: ***I believe in Catholic Schools, I believe in Saint Clare.*** It is simple and to the point. You will see this on Tee Shirts, bumper stickers, etc. I am going to ask each of you who share our appreciation for our school, to wear a shirt and put a bumper sticker on your car.
- 4) Last Saturday, we had our **Top 40 Reunion Celebration** – All Alumni of our school from 1962 to 2002 were invited, along with faculty and staff from the past. We began with the 4 pm Mass, followed by a Top 40 reception. The Food was simple: pizza, chicken wings and we had an open bar of beer, sodas and wine. The atmosphere was kind of electric as people lingered and reminisced about the past.

Remember God loves you and so do I! Have a good week!

Father Lou

410-299-6731 (Cell)

January 24, 2010
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
 Luke 4:21-30

Mass Intentions for the Week

1/25	Monday	8am	Vivian Pohl
1/26	Tuesday	8am	Eric Focht
1/27	Wednesday	8am	Vittorino Pierorazio
1/28	Thursday	8am	Communion Service
1/29	Friday	8am	George Rammel
1/30	Saturday	4pm	Steven Sochulak
1/31	Sunday	9am	Saint Clare Parishioners
		11am	

Prayer List: One of the most important gifts we give one another as a Christian community is the gift of our prayers. We join in praying for one another's needs, especially for the sick: Joseph H. Bangert, Marie Bray, Joseph Bucci, Michael Bucci, Lorraine Campbell, Jeanette Gleason, Donna Goetz, Ralph E. Greer Sr., William Grzech, John Hall, James Harper Sr., Maryann Holcomb-Dziennik, Doris Jones, Raymond Jones, Margaret Kalinowski, Gabrella Loprespi, Paul Mosmiller, Shelly Mulkern, Sandra Nuth, Edward & Anna Oldewurtel, William C. Ogden, Paula Piechocki, Chuck Plansky, George Prosser, Julie Rybczynski, Colleen Slifker, Pete Slifker, Charles Szmurlo, Jeff Vilkas, Cynthia Vollmer, Barbara Wancowicz, Louie Wancowicz, Peter Wancowicz, Sandy Wancowicz.

Prayer Line: If you or a loved one needs prayers for any situation, including terminal illness, critical surgery, loss of a loved one, severe emotional problems, loss of employment or any other intention, please call any of the following to have your intention added to the prayer line: Maryrose Scism 410-391-6337; Joanne Reiter 410-682-5126 or Betty Sinisi 410-686-9513.

Stewardship Corner

The U.S. bishops' pastoral on stewardship reinforces today's reading from 1 Corinthians: "Because its individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health and well-being are the responsibility of the members – the personal responsibility of each one of us. We all are stewards of the Church."

Thank you for your generous contributions to our Parish.

1/17/10	Envelopes	\$ 5,774
	Loose Money	\$ 1,648
	School Env	\$ 234
	Maintenance	\$ 1,148
	2 nd Coll. Loose	\$ 256
	Haiti	\$ 11,333

Many Thanks...

- ❖ To everyone who contributed to the Haiti relief efforts
- ❖ To our volunteer receptionists at the Parish Center – Sharon Tomko and Pat Hartline

For this and other random acts of stewardship, may GOD BLESS YOU!

THE WEEK AHEAD

1/25	Monday	10:00am	Riverview Service
		6:30pm	Boy Scouts - H
1/26	Tuesday	6:30pm	Cub Scouts - S
		7:00pm	Listening Session -H
		7:00pm	NARNON Mtg - PC
		7:30pm	Living Water - MC
1/27	Wednesday	6:30pm	Religious Ed & RCIA-S
		7:00pm	Adult Conf. Class - PC
		7:00pm	Legion Mary - MC
		7:00pm	High Sch. Youth Grp-PC
1/28	Thursday	11:00am	AA Mtg - PC
		6:30pm	Girl Scouts - H
1/29	Friday	4:30pm	Hot Meal - H
1/30	Saturday	10:00am	First Reconciliation
1/31	Sunday	9:00am	Catholic Schools
			Week Mass

This Week's Sanctuary Flowers
 Are in Loving Memory of
 Ann Nesbit
 From Connelly Funeral
 Homes of Essex



Upcoming Parish Events

.... Mark your calendar



Jan 31	Catholic Schools Week Begins
Feb 12	Family Movie Night
Feb 13	Men's Day of Recollection
Feb 17	Ash Wednesday
Feb 20	Kids' Bingo
Feb 23	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Mar 2	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Mar 5	Family Movie Night
Mar 9	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Mar 13	Annual School Auction
Mar 16	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Mar 20	Bunny Lunch
Mar 23	Soup, Salad & Speaker Series
Apr 4	Easter
Apr 9	Family Movie Night
Apr 17	Saint Clare Dance School Recital
Apr 24	First Communion
Apr 30	Spring Play
May 1	Spring Play
May 7	Family Movie Night
May 12-15	Annual Spring Carnival
May 23	Confirmation
June 11	Family Movie Night
June 12	Annual Flea Market
June 13	Annual Father Son Breakfast
June 21-25	Vacation Bible School

All Are Welcome to Join Our Parish Community

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please Check One:

- New Registration
- Change of Address
- Want Envelopes Mailed
- Moving Out of Area

Please cut out and drop in the Collection Box
or mail to the Parish Center.

Response to Child Abuse

Physical and/or sexual child abuse by anyone, especially those in a position of trust within our Church, is never to be tolerated. Please know that as a Church family, our Faith Community stands by you. If you have ever been abused at any time, please confide that in a person you trust – a doctor, counselor, social worker, priest, deacon, or staff member, etc. Please allow us to help you. If you hear of any such abuse, please remember that the law requires that you report it, and that you will be guaranteed anonymity. Call the Baltimore County Department of Social Services, 410-853-3000; the Baltimore-based Catholic Church Hotline, 410-547-5589; or any local city or county police.

Bringing the abuse to light is the first, courageous step in a long journey toward healing. Your Faith Community supports you in that journey, and holds you in our prayers.

Living Will & Testament



The future of St. Clare Church depends on YOU! Please remember your Church in your will. Our legal title is St. Clare's Roman Catholic Congregation, Inc., 714 Myrth Avenue, Essex, Maryland 21221

Sodality



Sodality celebrates Mass the first Sunday of the month at 9AM. If you are interested in joining our Sodality, please give me at call at 410-391-6360 or email me at Kjoyness@yahoo.com.

Listening Session

Topic – Debt Reduction

Tuesday, Jan. 26

Doors open at 6:30pm

7:00pm – 8:30pm Listening Session



Check us out on Facebook –

**Saint Clare School
St. Clare Essex Youth Ministry**



Couple things:

1) If you are planning on attending the Snow Tubing event please let me know as soon as possible. I need to make sure we have enough people for the bus.

2) We are on Facebook: **St. Clare Essex Youth Ministry**. Everyone is invited to join!

Have a blessed week!
Mr. Stebbings

Youth Ministry January Calendar

27th - High School YM meeting

31st - February 6th - Catholic Schools Week/ Mass on Sunday at 9am



School News

***"We are a community
shining with Christ's light"***

Thank you to all of the alumni who attended the Saint Clare Top 40 event last weekend. It was a wonderful evening to reconnect with old friends and hopefully make some new friends. A heartfelt thank you to the school board for all of their hard work to make this evening a success.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual School Auction on Saturday, March 13, 2010. The success of this event is largely dependent on the donations that we receive. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to the auction. Some popular donation items are: tools, electronics, jewelry, gift certificate/cards, sports memorabilia/items, small appliances, event tickets, personal services, home décor, and themed gift baskets. Thank you in advance for your support! Please see the flyer to order tickets!

Each Wednesday, the school will have an Open House for prospective families from 9-11 a.m. Please help us fill the seats. Our Catholic Schools Week Open House will be Sunday, January 31 after the 9 a.m. mass. Tuition and registration information will be available then.

Religious Education

Sacramental Information

Third Meeting - Sunday, January 24th

First Reconciliation-

Saturday, January 30th, 2010 at 10am

Inclement Weather Policy:

As a reminder, in the event of inclement weather our policy is as follows:

If Baltimore County schools are closed or have an early closing we will not have Religious Education classes

Scheduling Eucharistic Ministers I gave no thought to assignment *positions*, but left that to the assignees to determine; for the Lectors, however, I expect that the first name shown will read the Old Testament verse, and the second name will read the Epistle. If the Lectors choose to exchange places, that's all right, but, at least, they will be able to concentrate on one reading.

We are in need of other volunteers for all assignments, particularly at the 9:00 masses on Sundays. We would like to have a pool that permits assigning *three* Altar Servers for each mass; currently we have a struggle filling some of the slots, which is further aggravated when an assignee does not show. Call me or Mr. Carlo Stebbings, the Youth Ministry Chair, if you would consider helping. For Eucharistic Minister and Lector candidates our next meeting will be at 6:00PM, Tuesday, 1/26/10, in the church. Training for those candidates will be scheduled.

Frank Kernan (frankkernan@gmail.com)

Men's Day of Recollection

The Holy Name Society invites all men of the parish to join them on Sat. 2/13/10 for a day of prayer and teachings from the Word of the Lord. Father Bob Albright will be our guest speaker. We will start the day at 9:00 AM with registration, coffee and donuts. Lunch will be served as well for all attendees. We will conclude the day with the Celebration of Mass at 4:00 PM. For reservations and more information, call Tony Amrhein 410-686-7817 or John Kirby 410-682-5014. Please make all reservations before Feb. 9, 2010.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

WHEN I CALLED, YOU ANSWERED ME... (PSALM 138:3)

The **Archbishop's Annual Appeal** is now underway. Many of our parishioners have received a mailing from Archbishop O'Brien. He has asked that you make a pledge to the 2010 Archbishop's Annual Appeal.

The Appeal not only funds the operations of the Archdiocese, it funds services that are of great help to the ministries here in our parish.

This year, the theme of the Appeal is, "When I called, you answered me." Our contributions to our parish and our Archdiocese serve as a sign of our gratitude not only for God's answers to our prayers but also as a sign of our recognition that all that we are and all that we have are gifts given to us by God.

Your gift will enable archdiocesan support of ministry, education, and service that touch thousands of lives not only in our Archdiocese but throughout the world.

Our parish receives 25% of each dollar contributed up to our goal of \$49,500. Then, we receive 50% of the additional funds received.

Please answer the Archbishop's request and make a generous pledge. All pledges can be billed in ten monthly installments. Thank you in advance for your support.

Come Shine with Stars at the Saint Clare School Annual Auction

"A Red Carpet Affair"

Saturday, March 13, 2010-01-21
7pm – 11pm

Saint Clare Stallings Hall
\$25 per person or a table of 10 for \$200

McKinney Caterers
Heavy Hor D'Oeuvres, Carving Stations
Premium Open Bar

For more information: School 410-687-7787 or Barb Suehle 443-226-0950



Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Student Name & Grade (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

_____ tickets for \$25

_____ table(s) of 10 for \$200

Total Amount: \$ _____