

***Fr. Dave's Den:*** In this month of October, all that was sown is now being gathered as we commemorate the harvest. What a harvest we are enjoying as a parish family, with our new sign, heart defibrillator, new access door for Helzlsouer Hall, as well as a rebuilt school boiler, a beautiful new sidewalk, freshly painted Church inside and out, and the anticipation of new carpeting for the entire Church. There is also the harvest of goodness and hardwork throughout our parish family. This harvest is all the result of your hard work and generosity.

**As I mentioned previously**, the parish finance council unanimously accepted my recommendation to initiate another St. Bartholomew Stocking campaign to help defray some of the costs of this project. After much prayer and thought, however, I decided not to proceed with the Stocking Project at this time. We have been blessed as a parish family and I believe we can make due with what we have at this time.

**Nevertheless**, as we identify future capital improvements, particularly the sidewalks, coupled with the increased cost of living, we will probably need to establish a Stocking Fund in the Fall of 2005. Some parishioners have already freely given donations for the paint and carpeting for which I am most grateful. In lieu of the Stocking Fund, and in the spirit of gratitude, I simply invite parishioners to consider one of the following courses of action:

1. Give a one time donation.
2. Increase one's weekly Sunday offering.
3. Begin using the Scrip program more regularly.

All of these efforts benefit our parish family. Remember, as your costs at home increase, so, too, do ours.

**Very soon**, at the recommendation of the Parish Finance Council, I will be sending a letter to our parishioners who, for whatever reason, have not been using their Sunday envelopes informing them that we can no longer afford to send these envelopes. The cost of the envelopes and the postage therein is very expensive. At the present time we send out over 1700 envelopes, but only 600 are presently

used. While these people will no longer receive envelopes, they will continue to be on our parish rolls and will never be denied sacramental service, because we are a family.

**Once again I thank everyone** for their generosity and support of our parish where "The best is yet to be."

**As we celebrate the harvest**, do not forget about the Harvest Sweepstakes. The drawing will take place at the Monday Night Bingo on November 22, 2004. Please be sure to return your completed ticket stubs to the rectory as soon as possible.

**Today we have added a 12:30 PM Mass** for the Anointing of the Sick. We welcome in a special way all of our sick and elderly parishioners who are joining us for this celebration. Thanks to Sr. Dorothy Pawlus and the Ladies of Charity for their hospitality.

**The Blood Drive** will take place next Sunday, October 24, from 8:00 AM till 1:15 PM, in Helzlsouer Hall. Come and give the gift of life.

**There will be a Pastoral Council meeting** on Monday, October 25, 2004, at 6:30 PM.

**The annual Memorial Mass** for deceased parishioners will take place on Monday, November 8, 2004, at 7:00 PM.

**Please give a warm welcome to Mr. Gary Caskey** as he joins our parish staff. Gary assumes the duties of head of maintenance. Gary began this past Monday. He is a native of Penn Hills who is happily married and well qualified for this position.

**Have a wonderful week!**

### ***Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ***

Our Fall retreat is *only* four weeks away! The first discount deadline has passed and the cost of retreat is now \$60.00, but this offer is only good until the October 23 Life Night. If you miss this offer, the final deadline for signing up is November 1, with a final cost of \$65.00. So hurry and get in to the savings! Remember scholarships are available if needed. See any Core member for details. Next Life Night is October 23. Come ready to eat, drink, and be merry! It's all about fun this night. See you for Mass at 5:00 PM.

**School News with Mrs. Fleet**

**There is a parent/guardian meeting** at 7:00 PM in Church on Monday, October 18. Mrs. Golden will review *The Catholic Vision of Love*.

**Market Day pick up** is scheduled for Tuesday, October 19, from 5:15 PM to 6:00 PM in the gym.

**Please keep our eighth grade boys in prayer** as they journey to Youth for Peace Day at Mt. Alvernia.

**There is an 11:15 AM dismissal** scheduled for Friday, October 22, with a faculty meeting to follow. Extended Day will be available for both AM and PM sessions.

**We continue to save** Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup labels, Shop N' Save receipts, and copy paper in white and any color.

**Thank you** for your continued support of our school!

**BINGO**

Join us every Monday night in Helzlsouer Hall at 7:00 PM for Bingo St. Bart's style!

**COFFEE & CATECHISM**

Our in-depth study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church will resume Thursday, October 24, 2004, after the 10:00 AM Mass in the Pastors Conference Room. For more information, call Bob Wheeler at 412-241-0524.

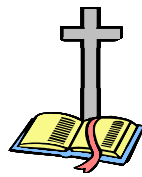
**Men's Club**

Please note that there has been a change regarding the next Men's Club meeting. Instead of meeting on November 14, at 6:30 PM, we will meet November 21, at 6:00 PM. Our guest speaker will be Dr. DiGioia, a noted orthopedic doctor.

**A Respect Life Meditation**

("Voting Can be Faith and Prayer in Action" by columnist Frank Morriss, April 1, 2004) "By our vote we can help our brothers and sisters do good and live in a reign of justice, or we may assist them to do evil and see many deprived of justice... as unborn children certainly are. In a democracy or republic those eligible to vote bear moral responsibility for the misrule and oppression resulting from their vote."

**We pray** that all voters will repudiate the "culture of death", and vote for the best choice... life!

**Religious Education News with Arlene Golden**

*This week we are told to stick to what we believe.*

**Religious Education:** Religious Education families, please note if your child is to receive a sacrament this year he or she needs to have attended religious education classes at least one year prior to receiving a sacrament.

**Baptism Class:** Parents wishing to have their child baptized are to attend a class prior to scheduling the baptism. The next class is Tuesday, November 9, at 7:00 PM, in room 206 of the school. The next upcoming baptisms will be held Sunday, October 31, after the 10:30 AM Mass, and Saturday, November 6, at 1:00 PM.

**First Reconciliation:** Parents/guardians of children who are to make their first confession this year were to attend a meeting this past Monday. Anyone who missed this meeting must contact Arlene Golden at 412-242-7207.

**CVOL:** Catholic Vision of Love is a diocesan program that presents Christ's vision of love and sexuality. Parents/guardians of youth in grades five through eight, both school families and CCD, are to attend a meeting Monday, October 18, at 7:00 PM, in the Church. At least one adult per family is expected to attend. Anyone who has attended this meeting in the last five years is exempt.

**Blood Drive**

The biannual Parish Blood Drive will be held next Sunday, October 24, 2004, from 8:00 AM until 1:15 PM. Please contact Marcia Irr at 412-731-0639 to schedule your opportunity to help those in need of one of the most vital gifts we can offer.

**Central Catholic High School Open House**

Central Catholic is holding an open house for grade school students and their parents on Sunday, October 24, from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM. If your son is in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, please take this opportunity to see the school first hand. The admission/placement test for eighth graders who wish to attend Central Catholic starting in autumn of 2005 will be administered on Saturday, December 11. There is a \$10.00 fee for this test. Registration will take place at the open house, or by contacting the Admissions Office at 412-621-7505.



## Persistent Prayer

To the best of our knowledge, the authors of the New Testament did not spend much time in each other's company following the Resurrection. They took their charge to go to the nations and spread the Good News seriously. Paul and Luke are an exception to this, having travelled together on missionary journeys. It is no accident, then, that perseverance in prayer is a favorite theme of both authors. Luke's Gospel (which speaks most frequently about Jesus' own prayer), Acts, and the Pauline letters all exhort us to unceasing prayer.

Paul's personality was certainly tenacious; he most likely would have admired the persistent widow in today's Gospel passage. The purpose of these passages is not to make us think—as infants and toddlers do—that if we keep asking or yelling or crying we will eventually get our way. No, the point is that when true disciples believe in something, we will persist in following that belief whether it is convenient or not, even when we come up against seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

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## Treasures from our Tradition

Although the hours of daylight are rapidly dwindling, many people would say that these October days bring the year's most splendid weather. Americans are riders and joggers, not strollers, and so the pleasures of the season are often lost on us. This is not the case with many Jewish people, who observe an ancient rule in walking to synagogue on the Sabbath. On city streets and suburban sidewalks in many cities, we may notice around sunset the nicely dressed families walking and chatting on Friday afternoon. After a short prayer at dusk, the families stroll home again for a relaxing and festive meal. They return to synagogue in the morning, and then spend an afternoon in family leisure until three stars appear in the night sky and Sabbath ends.

Catholics, on the other hand, pile into the car and drive even a short distance to Mass; some even divide the family to participate at different hours. For Jews, the leisurely walk marks a dividing line between hectic life commitments and a day of abundant joy and enrichment. Before we became an automobile culture, Catholics embraced a similar pace, and in most places walked to church. These lovely days of fall invite us to tap into an old and life-giving tradition. If you live within a mile of your church, walk next week. If you must drive, park at a good distance and walk the rest of the way. Talk about

## **Mass Intentions**



### **MON., October 18 - St. Luke**

10:00 A.M. Mary Ann Werner (Family)

### **TUES., October 19 - Sts. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, & Companions**

10:00 A.M. Ruth Ruppel (Husband John)

### **WED., October 20 - St. Paul of the Cross**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

### **THURS., October 21 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Francesco & Nicolette DiNardo (Nino & Ida Sciulli)

### **FRI., October 22 - Weekday**

10:00 A.M. Michael F. Insogna (Judy & Larry DeLuca)

### **SAT., October 23 - St. John Capistrano**

10:00 A.M. Ann Esposito (Rose McMeekin)

11:00 A.M. Confessions heard until 12:00 noon

5:00 P.M. Tony Giuliano (Daughter Mary Grace Giuliano)

### **SUN., October 24 - 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Marcella Maizie (Husband)

Please remember in your prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of the Parish.

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

**Dennis Bradley**

Weekly Offering: Total: \$8921.50 Env. Dist.: 1753 Env. Used: 640  
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$215.73

Next weekend's second collection is for Diocesan Mission Sunday.

## Masses Sent to the Seminary

The following Mass intentions were sent to the Seminary to be said during the month of October:

George & Mary Bernadette Bonnar (Dr. & Mrs. Bernie Bernacky)

Margaret M. Hornick (Friends)

Teresa Pizzonia Hawkins (Family & Friends)

Deceased of the McQuillan Family (Kenneth McQuillan)

Amodeo Ranallo (Ann Marie Pella & Family)

Anthony Pavlovic (St. Bartholomew Altar Servers)

Giuseppe Riga (Tom Klocko & Patty Howard)

Robert Stitzel (Friends)

Joe Snyder (J. Carter Tackett)

Mario Santamaria (Alayne & Jerry Harris)

Max Muenzer (Prayer Partners In Christ)

Richard Neal (Family)

Evelyne Iervalino (Henry Herman)

Rita Deet (Barbara Allen)

Joe Rihn (Family)