

Fr. Dave's Den: **In his encyclical letter** *On the Eucharist* Our Holy Father Pope John Paul II devotes an entire chapter to the dignity of the Eucharistic celebration. One of the words that John Paul uses again and again in this chapter is "mystery." The Eucharist is an awesome mystery that is not only to be received but also adored. The Eucharist as a mystery commands a proper respect and reverence. John Paul states, "No one is permitted to undervalue the mystery entrusted to our hands: it is too great for anyone to feel free to treat it lightly and with disregard for its sacredness and its universality."

Earlier this year during his homily on the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, Pope John Paul II announced a special year of the Eucharist to begin with the World Eucharistic Congress which will take place October 10 through 17, 2004, in Guadalajara, Mexico. This Year of the Eucharist will conclude during the synod of Bishops that will be held in Rome, October 2 through 29, 2005.

Recently Bishop Wuerl released a pastoral letter, *The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church*. In this document, Bishop Wuerl calls us to examine our relationship with the Eucharist. He writes, "In this year of the Eucharist we should be attentive to our own devout participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We should take this time of reflection on the Eucharist to renew our own commitment to a renewal of our own personal fervor in devotion to the Eucharist."

As Pastor, I invite everyone to deepen their awareness of and relationship to the Eucharist in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and Adoration at weekly Holy Hour. Holy Hour takes place every Wednesday from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM. Let us pray that we might all become what we receive, the Sacred Body and Blood of Christ.

And as we prepare to receive Jesus in the Eucharist remember there is no better way for us to ready our hearts than to periodically celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation which is held every Saturday from 11:00 AM until 12:00 PM, or by appointment.

The 2004 Clergy Convocation which took place this past week at Oglebay began the consultation process to examine how we as a local Church will continue to provide effective ministry in the future. In his recently released pastoral letter, *Envisioning Ministry for the Future*, Bishop Wuerl reminds us that fewer priests does not necessarily mean less ministry. In the coming weeks, each Deanery will be asked to reflect on this matter. Bishop Wuerl encourages everyone to work together in this

process. "Our Diocese is blessed with so many people who commit themselves to carrying out the mission of the Church. What is needed now is a recommitment by lay faithful, religious, and ordained ministers to work together in order that qualified and effective ministry is guaranteed in sustaining the work of the Church."

Enclosed within this week's bulletin please find the parish calendar for October. Please pray for good weather for tomorrow's Golf Outing at Alcoma Country Club, the proceeds for which benefit St. Bart's School. Please keep the following dates in mind: October 9, the SBAA Night at the Races; October 11, the Parent/Guardian Meeting for second grade parents at 7:00 PM in the Church; October 16, Oktoberfest (for which you must obtain a ticket, please call the rectory for information); October 17, the 12:30 PM Anointing of the Sick Mass; October 24, the Parish Blood Drive; and October 25, the Parish Pastoral Council meeting at 6:30 PM.

Finally, painting will commence this week on the interior and exterior of the Church by Cugini Painting, which has painted 27 Churches as well as many other Diocesan facilities. We hope to continue having weekday Mass in the Church during this project, nevertheless, funerals may be held at St. Susanna. We are grateful to Fr. Barkin and the people of St. Susanna for their hospitality.

Have a blessed week!

La Roche College Scholarships

La Roche College is offering scholarships of \$6000.00 to academically talented high school seniors through the Parish Scholarship Program. To be considered for this program, the student must be a member of a parish in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh and must be recommended by his or her pastor. To qualify, students must have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. Any student receiving the award must enter La Roche College in the fall semester as a full-time freshman, and the award is annually renewable if the student meets the college's required standards. Please contact the parish office if you are interested in more information on the program or if you wish to be nominated. Applications are due to La Roche by December 15, 2004.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST FALL CRAFT SHOW

To be held Saturday and Sunday, October 9 and 10, the craft show includes over 40 crafters from the Pittsburgh area, Kids Kraft Korner, food, baked goods, and a Chinese auction. Free admission! Please contact 412-793-4511 or youthministry@adelphia.net for information. Sponsored by St. John's Youth Ministry.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

I am looking forward to seeing a lot of you on Monday, October 4, at our golf outing at the Alcoma Country Club. Thank you in advance for your support in this most worthy fund raiser for St. Bartholomew School.

School pictures will be taken on October 5 for students in grades kindergarten through third and on October 6 for our preschool students and students in grades four through eight. Our outdoor photo will hopefully be taken on Tuesday, October 5. All students may dress up on October 5, and those students scheduled for their individual pictures on either day may also dress up.

You are most welcome to join us for Mass on Friday at 10:00 AM as our Student Council members will be inducted into office for this school year. Mr. Heid and our Student Council will help to plan our liturgy.

Are you looking for an evening of fun and excitement? If so, why not attend the SBAA Night at the Races on Saturday evening, October 9. Doors open at 6:00 PM and a delicious dinner will be served from 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

Congratulations to our Junior Varsity and Varsity football teams, as they both won their games this past weekend against St. Cyril. The Junior Varsity score was 35-0 and the Varsity score was 21-8.

Why not come out to Friendship Park on this Sunday, October 3, to see our teams play against St. Louise de Merilac.

We continue to save Box Tops for Education, Campbell's product labels, Shop N Save receipts, and elementary school friendly copy paper.

Thank you for all that you do for us. God bless you.

BINGO

St. Bart's Bingo is every Monday night in Helzlsouer Hall at 7:00 PM.

A Respect Life Meditation

(Bishop Robert Vasa, Bishop of Baker, Oregon - CatholicOnline.org - August 2004) "Preborn human life in our country is under constant and vicious attack and those lives must be defended.... These little ones have no vote but mine and I will use it for them at every opportunity.

We pray that all voters will emulate Bishop Vasa and make the best choice - a vote for life!

Coffee and Catechism

Our tenth year will begin on Thursday, October 14, 2004, in the Pastors Conference Room following the 10:00 AM daily Mass. Everyone is welcome.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

Jesus tells us that faith in God gives us the strength of God to do what we would not otherwise be able to do.

Religious Education: Classes for children in Kindergarten through eighth grade have begun. Children meet on Sunday morning in the school from 9:00 AM until 10:15 AM. This will be the last chance to register your student. Please note that if your child is to be receiving a sacrament this year he or she must have attended religious education classes at least one year prior to receiving the 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, October 12, 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 are to attend a meeting Monday, October 11, at 7:00 PM, in the Church. At this time the sacrament will be explained and the workbooks will be presented. At least one adult per family is requested to attend this important meeting. Please contact Arlene Golden at the Religious Education office at 412-242-7207 with any questions or concerns.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

The early bird gets the discount? What's this about? RETREAT! The fall retreat is November 12 through 14 at St. Emma's Monastery in Greensburg. The cost is \$65.00, but if you pay before the deadline the cost is reduced. Pay on or before October 9, and the cost is \$55.00. Pay between October 10 and 16, and the cost is \$60.00. All reservations must be in by November 1. Also, remember that we have to have at least eight teens signed up or we will have to cancel the retreat. In the event that there are any Friday night high school play-off games, the retreat will start Saturday morning. So don't wait to sign up! Scholarships are available. If you have any questions, please see any Core member or call Colleen at 412-242-3277.

Fontbonne Academy

Organizers of an all-class reunion for Fontbonne Academy are searching for students from the all-girls Catholic high school, which had been located in Bethel Park. A reunion for students and staff is tentatively planned for 2005. Alumnae are encouraged to contact committee members: Sister Karen at 724-869-6592, Susie Ryan Gillespie at 412-257-1039, or Loretta McClintock (former Sr. Loretta Josephine) at 310-916-8666.

Today's Gospel passage falls under the category that has come to be known as the "hard sayings" of Jesus. Hard to understand, hard to apply to life today. The Apostles' request, "increase our faith," is in response to a previous "hard saying" about how frequently we are called upon to forgive others. Curiously, Jesus seems rather unforgiving in responding to their request, or in describing the manner in which they are to serve others.

Jesus uses exaggerations to wake us up to how God is present in our lives, and how we are urged to live if God is with us. None of us is called upon to uproot trees or cast mountains into the sea. The faith we have is adequate for the task we are called upon to do: spread the gospel by our witness. And living that witness is done not for self-gratification or recognition, but out of the joy of helping the world to hear the Good News.

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Treasures from our Tradition

Sometimes human relationships go awry, but Christ's choice for us is irrevocable. In marriage celebrations, the Church always recalls God's faithfulness to help prepare married couples for enduring the inevitable rough spots. The Byzantine liturgy does this by adorning the couple with crowns that remind them of the martyr's crown. The couple therefore takes on a vocation of witnessing to the sacredness of life in all of its suffering and joy, and of keeping their eyes fixed on the banquet of heaven.

In Eastern theology, people have a liturgical vocation to give God praise, and marriage fits within that plan. It is not so much saying prayers that counts, but becoming prayer. Interestingly, in this liturgy the couple never utters a word other than joining in the community's chants; there are no marriage vows as such. There is therefore not a hint of our Western Christian sense that marriage is a legal contract. Rather, it is all about living out one's baptismal vocation, embracing the cross, pouring oneself out in love, and opening to the grace of the Holy Spirit.

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Mass Intentions



MON., October 4 - St. Francis of Assisi

10:00 A.M. Frank Talotta (Wife Lena & Son)

TUES., October 5 - St. Bruno

10:00 A.M. Arthur Mulach (Marie & Family)

WED., October 6 - Weekday

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

10:00 A.M. Sr. Rosemary McLain (Sisters of St. Bartholomew Convent)

FRI., October 8 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Marian & James Hackett (Mr. & Mrs. Richard Wolf)

SAT., October 9 - St. Denis & Companions

10:00 A.M. Margaret Ennis (Rose Marie Kietter)

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

5:00 P.M. Samuel Bagnato (Wife Rose)

SUN., October 10 - 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Sr. Roberta Swarczkopf (Verosky Family)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Richard Tresman, Jennie D'Ambrosio, and Sylvia Scherger

Weekly Offering: Total: \$ 7345.50 Env. Dist.: 1753 Env. Used: 606
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$220.42

Angel's Closet



From now until November 11, 2004 the Christ Child Society of Pittsburgh will be distributing new winter jackets, hats, and gloves to needy children 15 years of age and under. Call Sr. Dorothy at 412-242-7357 to set up an appointment to fill out necessary paperwork and to set up an appointment with the Christ Child Society. The child/children in need will need to be present for outfitting.

Blood Drive

It is nearing time again for the biennial St. Bartholomew Parish Blood Drive. The Blood Drive will be held on 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.

Growing in FAITH

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

October 2004

St. Bartholomew Parish
Rev. David J. Bonnar, Pastor

One Minute Meditations

Blame Adam and Eve

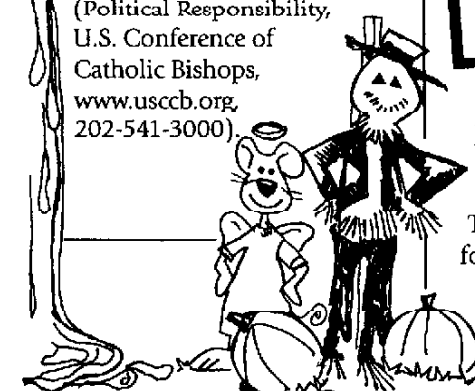
God originally made us holy and just. But Adam and Eve lost that holiness for us through their sin. Now human nature is weak, subject to suffering, and inclined to sin. However, Christ's victory over sin has given us greater blessings than those which sin took away.

A great love

God is the creator of the universe, the one who made everything from nothing. Yet, he is not a remote, uninvolved God. Nor is he an unforgiving judge waiting for us to make a misstep. Rather, God is our Father who loves us more than we could ask to be loved. He is with us and near us always.

The bishops on racism

"Racism is a particularly serious form of discrimination. . . Racism is not merely one sin among many. It is a radical evil dividing the human family."
(Political Responsibility, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org, 202-541-3000).

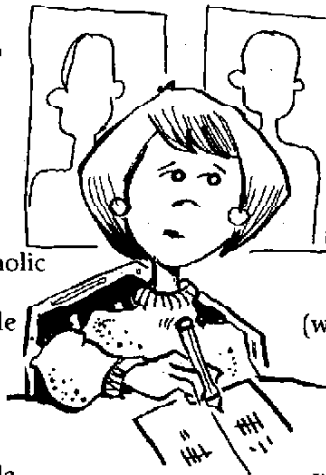


How will you vote next month?

Our right to vote is one of the greatest blessings in this country, yet many of us are tempted not to vote next month. Since neither political party and few candidates conform completely to a Catholic conscience, we're at a loss. But the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops tells us that, "Every act of responsible citizenship is an exercise of significant individual power."

Don't give up! Try these tips for responsible voting:

1. Choose four or five important issues. These can include protecting human life, economic justice, education, health care, etc. Using the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, the *Bible*, guidance from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (www.usccb.org, 202-541-3000) or your



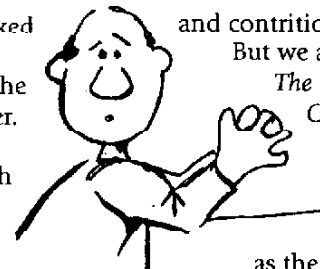
favorite Catholic resource, craft a position on each issue that is consistent with your faith.

2. Find out where they stand. Contact candidates' campaign headquarters to obtain a printed candidate survey. Or, you can contact organizations like Project Vote Smart (www.vote-smart.org, 888-868-3762) that compile candidate biographies, issue positions, and voting records.
3. Eliminate candidates who are on the wrong side of important issues. If you end up eliminating all the candidates, you may consider voting for the one who takes the fewest such positions.
4. Don't forget to make prayerful consultation with the Holy Spirit. Then you'll be sure to make the right choice.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics say set prayers such as the "Our Father" or "Hail Mary"?

When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he taught them the Our Father, a set prayer. The Catholic Church follows his example with other prayers to help us profess our faith, hope, love,



and contrition.

But we also pray from our hearts. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls prayer "the raising of one's mind and heart to God" (CCC 2559). The form doesn't matter as much as the desire for God it expresses.

Look for Christ in the faces around you

Each year, thousands of immigrants land in the U.S. to escape poverty or persecution in their homelands. Once here, they may find that their unfamiliar ways make them unwelcome or distrusted.

From the time Jesus fled to safety in Egypt with his parents (Matthew 2:12-23), he was often a foreigner. So Christians feel a special compassion for immigrants because we can imagine how Jesus and his family felt. Remember that we are all made in



God's image and likeness. Do your best to see Jesus' face in the one before you no matter what the skin or

eye color. Speak up when friends or colleagues criticize other cultures. The diversity in the communion of saints has always been a blessing.

Join in parish or community celebrations of other cultures. What a great way to learn about and celebrate diversity.

Be welcoming. Imagine what it must be like to be far from all that you know. To an immigrant or a foreigner, you can become a beacon of Jesus' light.

from Scripture

Luke 19:1-10. Jesus is the friend we want to become.

Jesus included in his inner circle people others often excluded. He was open to others, forgiving, and accepting. This scripture story of Zacchaeus illustrates Jesus' forgiving nature.

Zacchaeus was not a popular man. As the chief tax collector in Jericho, he probably took more than his share and was wealthy as a result. Even so, he was so anxious to see Jesus that he climbed a tree to get a better look. Imagine the crowd's reaction when Jesus spotted



Zacchaeus in the tree and invited himself to dinner. It didn't bother Jesus that Zacchaeus was unpopular and dishonest.

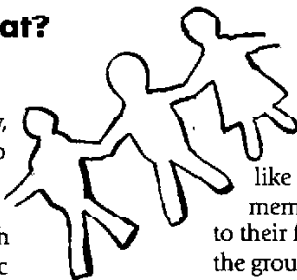
He made a point of befriending the most unlikely people. And, because Zacchaeus was open to Jesus' friendship, his life was changed forever. He was moved to make generous amends for his past sins.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to be open, forgiving, and accepting of other people. It is important to look beyond the gossip and public perception. Try to adapt Jesus' habit of being quick to forgive and welcoming in your relationships with others.

A friend at a neighboring parish invited me to join a small faith community. What is that?

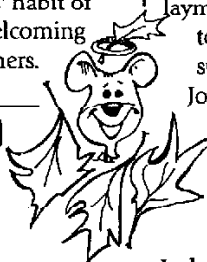
In many parishes throughout the country, small groups of eight to twelve adults meet regularly to pray, study Scripture, and help each other live their Catholic faith. Some groups are seasonal and meet only during Lent or Advent. Others meet throughout the year and cover more general topics and concerns.

The focus of each small faith community depends upon its members. Some groups are dedicated to enriching members' prayer lives. Others come



together for Bible study with the intent of living the lessons members learn. Some are more like support groups in which members bring challenges they face to their faith and solicit solutions from the group.

No matter what the focus, the goal of small faith communities is to personalize and articulate members' faith, find support and give support to others, become better informed about Scripture and doctrine, and put their faith into practice with others who are trying to do the same.



Feasts & Celebrations

Oct. 1 - St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1897). At fifteen years old, Thérèse Martin needed special permission to join her older sisters at a Carmelite convent. There, she offered her life in "little ways of love." Her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, tells how we can all become saints by doing ordinary things with love.

Oct. 19 - Saint John de Brébeuf and Saint Isaac Jogues and their companions (1652). Six Jesuits and two laymen were unwelcome missionaries to Native North American tribes and suffered harassment and torture. St. John de Brébeuf won the Iroquois' respect with his courageous death. St. Isaac Jogues escaped but was murdered when he returned to his ministry.

Oct. 28 - Saint Simon and Saint Jude (1st century). St. Simon was a Zealot—Jews who believed that the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After being called by Jesus to be apostles, they eventually ended up in Persia where they evangelized until they were martyred.

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