

Fr. Dave's Den: "You are cordially invited to attend..."

Does this phrase sound familiar? These words typically signal a personal invitation to something.

When was the last time you received an invitation? How did you receive it? Was it viewed as a burden or a blessing? How did you respond?

The Gospel today contains an invitation from Jesus. He says, "Follow me." What is striking about this invitation is that there are no pre-requisites, background checks or special qualifications. Jesus invites all—even sinners to come and follow him, for he says, "I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Quite simply, Jesus invites us as we are, with all of our warts, weaknesses, mistakes and idiosyncrasies. He does not ask any questions, nor does he force himself on us. He just says, "Follow me."

Every invitation demands a timely response. To respond to this invitation is to surrender ourselves to Jesus with the realization that we are all sinners in need of his love and mercy. It is in the reception of that love and mercy that we can go forth and share mercy and forgiveness with one another. For Jesus says, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice." If we really seek to follow Jesus in the true sense, we need to love and forgive as He loves and forgives. This week's homework is to respond to Jesus' invitation by forgiving the person and/or persons who hurt us.

This weekend marks Will Smith's final weekend with us as music director. Although Will has agreed to play at a few Holy Hours in June, he is for all practical purposes finished with his responsibilities at St. Bart's. In his two years of service, Will has brought much life and vitality to our parish and school. We will miss his fidelity to his profession and passion for music, as he prepares to embrace his "dream job" in his home parish of St. John the Baptist, Plum. It has been a joy working with Will and having him as our organist/pianist. We wish him all the best and pray that he will continue to trust in his many gifts. May God bless you, Will! Know that you hold a special place in our hearts!

During the remainder of the month Wanda Weber and Jayne Sheldon will be filling in as organists. It is my hope to have our new music director on board the first weekend in July. We cannot announce the hiring of the new music director until we receive official diocesan approval.

If you are a male, twenty-one years of age or older—you do not want to miss our Men's Club gathering tonight in Helzlsouer Hall. We will have an old fashioned cook-out and view the 2004 Pittsburgh Steelers Highlight Tape—"A

Remarkable Run." The requested donation is \$5.00.

Please call the rectory to make your reservation.

Thanks to Barb, Katelyn, and Lizzie Cowell as well as Donna and Jessica Troup for their hard work in building a beautiful cement garden around the St. Bartholomew School sign. The engraved cement blocks are the handiwork of some of our school children from Fun Day.

Thanks to everyone!

Have a wonderful week!

Hospice Volunteer Opportunities: ***Forbes Hospice***

Hospice is a program that serves terminally ill patients and their families. Volunteering for hospice could be a very rewarding experience. Forbes Hospice extends its reach from caring for a one month old child who may have congenital birth defects to a 105 year old person with end-of-life complications. Volunteers work in a variety of settings and there are many ways to become involved: patient care volunteers who work in the in-patient unit, or volunteers who visit in the home; being a friend to someone is sometimes all it takes, visit patients in nursing homes; sometimes these people have no one to be with them. Administrative support: volunteers who work in the office: putting packets together, help with large mailings, computer work, telephoning, help in our education department. Also available is spiritual care giving, working with our chaplains, bereavement volunteers who are interested in helping people through their grief and loss of a loved one. You can participate in special events, fund-raising, community outreach, and speaker's bureau. You may contact Forbes Regional at 412-858-2000. Volunteers are a vital part of our program - their work is priceless!

Heartland Hospice

Some people touch our souls and stay in our hearts forever. Help provide an invaluable service to our community, be a Heartland Hospice Volunteer. All talents are welcome, training is local and starting soon. You just need the desire, we will provide the "how to." Please call Marilyn at 724-834-2424 or 1-800-427-7572 for more information.

Festival News

Summertime is just around the corner, and so is St. Bart's Festival Time. It's also time to start saving your items for our festival flea market. Items may be dropped off at the school library entrance Monday through Friday starting on Tuesday, July 5, 2005, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Can you spare a couple of hours helping sort and store our flea market treasures? If you can help, please call the rectory at 412-242-3374 and leave your name and phone number so someone can contact you.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

Monday, June 6, will be a dress down day and cleaning day for all students in grades one through seven.

Our last day of school is scheduled for Tuesday, June 7. All are welcome to attend our prayer service at 9:00 AM in Church. Mrs. Smith and our seventh graders have helped to plan this event.

Dismissal on Tuesday, June 7, will be at 10:15 AM. Report cards and our final monthly envelope will be distributed on this day as well. All boys are to wear dress shirts and ties on this day. Extended Care will be available for both AM and PM sessions.

The PTG has scheduled their final gathering for 6:30 PM in the library on June 7.

Throughout the summer, please continue to save Box Tops for Education, Campbell's product labels, and Shop n' Save receipts.

Thank you for all that you did to help make our 50th anniversary so very special. All of you are a blessing to all of us.

B-I-N-G-O

Bingo is back after the holiday weekend this Monday, June 6, 2005, at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall.

St. Vincent College

High School juniors or seniors and their families are invited to Get Acquainted Day Open Houses at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, on Saturday, July 9, Sunday, August 7, or Sunday, August 14. Registration is from 8:45 to 9:00 AM on Saturday, July 9, and 11:30 to 11:45 AM On Sunday, August 7 and 14, followed by an introduction to St. Vincent College and a student panel. Early arrivals for the Sunday programs may also attend Mass in the historic St. Vincent Basilica or enjoy brunch in the student dining hall. Find out more about this top-ranked Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college. Listen to financial aid and admission presentations, meet faculty, administrators, and coaches, and take a campus tour. For information or reservations, phone 1-800-782-5549, email admissions@st.vincent.edu, or register online at www.stvincent.edu.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

Jesus said, "I care more about love and mercy than about your sacrifices." Matthew 9:13 Jesus came for all of us, even the sinners. We are called to love all people.

First Communion Videos: The religious education office will notify families when the videos are available.

Vacation Bible Camp: Listed are the neighboring parishes offering Vacation Bible Camp this summer:

St. John, June 13-17, contact Greg Callahan
412-795-6376

St. Irenaeus, June 20-24, contact Joe Killian
412-828-9450

St. Maurice, June 20-24, contact Joann Guiffre
412-271-6606

Word of God, July 11-15, contact Joe Markowski
412-351-0670

Our Lady of Joy, July 18-22, contact office at
412-795-4389

St. Susanna, July 25-29, contact Leann Hrubetz
412-798-3591

Pittsburgh Symphony

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Sir Andrew Davis present the season finalé, *The Dream of Gerontius* by Sir Edward Elgar, one of the greatest British composers, at Heinz Hall on Friday June 10, at 8:00 PM and again on Sunday, June 12 at 2:30 PM.

Joining Sir Andrew Davis and the orchestra for this performance are mezzo soprano Michelle DeYoung, tenor Marcus Haddock, bass Alan Held, and the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh under the direction of Robert Page.

Based on a poem by Cardinal John Henry Newman, this dramatic oratorio for vocal soloists, choir, and orchestra is a spiritual classic and regarded as one of the Elgar's three or four finest works. It lets us share the journey of a soul to God, moving through confusion, doubt, and fear until at last it finds peace.

More details about this special concert can be found in the June 3 issue of the Pittsburgh Catholic, or on the Pittsburgh Symphony website, www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

To order tickets at a special 20 percent discount to the Catholic community, call 412-329-3320.

Treasures from our Tradition

Every rectory office has received a panicked phone call from a person who has been invited to serve as a godparent, or from someone newly engaged, who suddenly “needs to get confirmed.” While the lack of confirmation is not an obstacle for marriage, it is for godparenting. Many are surprised that the Church seems to be looking for a kind of sacramental “seal” on one’s baptism before the door opens fully to this ministry. Yet if you think about it, would you want someone to guide you to a place that he or she had not yet been? A godparent has to be someone who has “been there” and knows the way.

Although signet rings and wax seals have passed from use, our society depends on “seals of approval” ranging from certificates of quality to the familiar safety seals on medicines and foods. While Eucharist is the “seal” of the sacrament of baptism, there is a sense in which one’s Christian initiation is also incomplete without confirmation. Have you been confirmed? Perhaps it’s time to inquire now, before you have to make that dreaded phone call!

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Everyone’s Invited

One question for the original audience of Matthew’s Gospel had to center on what it meant to follow Jesus. In today’s Gospel two seemingly unrelated events throw this question into stark relief. The author of this brief passage answers the question on the listeners’ minds by linking Jesus’ ministry of meal-sharing with the call to follow him and then explaining it in terms of the Jewish scriptural tradition. Matthew’s mostly Jewish audience would have understood that following Jesus would mean inviting everyone—even tax collectors and sinners—into the reign of God. It would mean actually rubbing elbows with the outcast and not simply spouting pious platitudes about how God loves everyone.

Hosea’s writing makes it clear that this is not the first time God’s people have needed to be reminded that it takes more than external ritual actions to do God’s will. Sacrifices and holocausts are intended to express one’s inner attitude as well as external actions of justice and good, otherwise they are nothing but empty gestures.

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Mass Intentions



MON., June 6 - St. Norbert

10:00 A.M. Maria & Louis Longo (Family)

TUES., June 7 - St. Ephrem

10:00 A.M. Yolanda Rinchiuso (Earl & Fran Schomberger)

WED., June 8 - Weekday

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., June 9 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Shawn Patrick Noone (Noone Family)

FRI., June 10 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Mike Fornicoia (Friday Morning Stuffers)

SAT., June 11 - St. Barnabas

10:00 A.M. Anthony Bruens (Mary Kay Kuenzi)

5:00 P.M. Deceased Tarasi & Leo Family (Family)

SUN., June 12 - 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. William Widman & Dianne Zacchia
(Clara Widman)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:
Rose D’alo and Mary Price, sister of Ray Vrscak

WHEELING DOWNS DAY TRIP

Have you signed up for the day trip to Wheeling Downs yet? If not, call the rectory today! On Tuesday, June 21, 2005, we will be leaving from the Church at 9:00 AM and we will return at 6:00 PM. The cost is only \$18.00 per person, and you get \$7.00 of that back at the casino!

Summer Language Camps

The Department of Modern Languages and Literature at Duquesne University will be offering summer one-week language camps in French, Spanish, Italian, German, and Japanese for students in grades kindergarten through eight. Please call the Department of Modern Languages at 412-396-6415 for more information or an application.