

*Fr. Dan's Den:* **Keys**, where would we be without them? They open doors, start cars, and unlock safes. We do not usually appreciate keys until we lose them.

**While keys give a sense** of ownership and security, they also signify power, authority, and responsibility. Meanwhile in today's Gospel, after Peter professes his faith, Jesus says, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

**The keys here** refer to the authority of the Papacy. From Peter up until Benedict XVI, the Pope has held those keys. Today we behold this responsibility passed on by Christ to Peter and his successors and we pray for Pope Benedict.

**Tuesday, August 23**, we welcome to our Church Fr. Edward Yuhas and Sister Patricia Rogan who will be here to conduct a workshop for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. All of our Eucharistic Ministers are expected to attend this evening of enrichment which begins at 7:00 PM.

**Wednesday, August 24**, is our patronal feast. Bartholomew was born at Cana. He was brought to Jesus by the Apostle Philip. After the ascension of the Lord, Bartholomew is believed to have preached the Gospel in India where he was subsequently martyred for his faith. Come and join us as we celebrate our patronal feast this Wednesday night, August 24, at 7:00 PM, with Mass. A reception will follow in the back vestibule.

**Sometime this week** our long awaited sculpture will arrive. This sculpture is based on the biblical phrase, "Come to me those of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you." This sculpture will be blessed by Bishop Paul Bradley, auxiliary Bishop, on Sunday, September 25, during the 10:30 AM Mass. In anticipation of that date, I invite everyone to this celebration. And

please, I ask that we refrain from wearing shorts, tennis shoes, and jeans. Let's all put on our Sunday best and give thanks to God for his many graces and blessings.

**As we prepare** for this glorious day, we have begun to strip and wax the floor under the pews. Over the next few weeks as this work is being done the kneelers will be temporarily removed section by section to make it easier for the cleaning machinery to be used. This will also allow us to fix and tighten the kneelers as well. If you are in a pew without a kneeler, please feel free to sit when it is time to kneel.

**Thanks to everyone** who participates in our scrip program, we were able to purchase a new outside light at the corner of the rectory property and a new ice machine for the kitchen. I wish everyone would get on board with scrip. It is easy money for the Church.

**Speaking of money** for the Church, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the Stocking Fund. You are making a difference. What a joy it is to be able to use all of the entrances of our Church now. At the present time, we have collected almost \$60,000.00, but the project thus far because of overruns, etc. has cost \$75,000.00. We still need to purchase two lights for the new steps (\$1500.00 each) and two lights for in front of Church. If anyone would wish to remember a loved one by purchasing a light, please call me. In the meantime, because of the overrun we have received permission from the Diocese to raise our goal from \$70,000.00 to \$90,000.00 for the Stocking Fund. All of this money is exempt from Parish Share, so if anyone wishes to make donations in memory of or in honor of someone between now and the end of the year, please direct it to the Stocking Fund.

**Have a glorious week!**

### School News with Mrs. Fleet

**Remember**, we are still accepting registrations for preschool through eighth grade. Please call the school office at 412-242-2511 for more information.

**Please continue** to save all Campbell product labels, Box Tops for Education, and Shop n' Save receipts. Thank you for all that you do for our school family.

**School** is less than 3 three weeks away, beginning Thursday, August 25, 2005, and it is a half day.

### Mandatory Workshop for Eucharistic Ministers

As the Church continues to observe the "Year of the Eucharist," the Institute for Ministries and Department for Worship will be hosting a deanery enrichment evening for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on August 23, 2005, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, here at St. Bartholomew Parish. All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from St. Bartholomew Parish are expected to participate. Registration is required in order that materials may be prepared for expected participants. There is a \$10.00 donation that will be collected from all participants at the meeting to cover the cost of materials. Please register by calling the rectory office at 412-242-3374.

### Prayer

The "foreigners" as Isaiah calls them, the "Gentiles" as Paul calls them, or the "Canaanites" as Matthew calls them are all invited to worship the one true God in prayer. At times, we may be tempted to ask, "Why pray?" The question is rhetorical; it is tantamount to asking why friends should talk to one another or why people in love should embrace one another. Prayer is a way of relating to God, a way of talking to God. The apostles had the opportunity to talk directly to Jesus. Our opportunity to talk to Jesus is through prayer. John Donne, a fifteenth-century poet, knew about the qualities of good prayer. The poet did not want God merely to "knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend," but rather to "break, blow, burn, and make [him] new."

It takes a dynamic faith on our part to come to God in prayer. Jesus told the woman in today's Gospel that because of her great faith, her daughter was healed. If we are as persistent as that woman, who knows what results may follow?

### Religious Education News

**Registration forms were mailed** to families of students who attended CCD this past year. Additional forms are available in the rectory if needed.

**We are in need of CD players** that are gently used and in working order. Music is essential to our faith; we would like to be able to share this with the children. If you would be able to help, or if you have music to contribute, please call the CCD office.

**We are still in need** of those who are feeling the call to teach our young ones, experience not necessary! Please call the CCD office or rectory.

**Blessings to all!**

### A Respect-Life Meditation

(Pope John Paul II, Address to Diplomats, January 10, 2005) "The Church proclaims 'The Gospel of Life.' The State's primary task is safeguarding and promoting human life.... Today, there are conflicting views regarding abortion, assisted procreation, stem cell research, and cloning. "The Church's position is clear. The human embryo is identical with the human person that will be born. Whatever violates the integrity of the embryo is ethically unworthy of man, as is any research that treats the embryo as a laboratory specimen."

**We pray** that all people will recognize the personhood of even the tiniest unborn baby.

### Choir & Cantor News

There will be a special practice for all cantors on Wednesday, August 17, at 8:00 PM in the Church. New music for the remainder of the Church year will be given out at this time. New members are always welcome. Please call Mary Ellen if you will be unable to attend. Also, Choir practice will begin on September 1, 2005. Rehearsal times are 7:00 PM for Cantors and 7:45 PM for Choir. New members are invited to join in this special ministry.

## St. Bart's Women's Group News

### Lancaster Bus Trip

The St. Bart's Women's Group is sponsoring a bus trip to Lancaster, Pa. The bus will leave St. Bartholomew's parking lot at 7:45 AM on Friday, November 18, 2005 and return on Saturday, November 19, at 8:00 PM. Reservations are now being accepted until August 20, 2005 and must be accompanied by a \$50.00 deposit. Oh yeah, the cost of this momentous excursion is a price of \$195.00 per person, double occupancy. Gentlemen are welcome on this trip as well. If you have any questions, please contact Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357 or Jessica at 412-242-3374.

### Quilting and Card Party

Quilting class will begin on September 13, 2005, at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. Please call Sue Luxbacher at 412-731-9281. Sue will be able to give you the details and sign you for the class. Also, the Fall Fantasy Luncheon and Card Party is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, 2005, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM, in Helzlsouer Hall. The ticket price is \$8.00. There will be a silent auction and raffles, too. For reservations, call Katherine at 412-798-9819. We are also asking for donations of unused door prizes, if you have any to give, please call Joan at 412-731-2655 for pickup. Thank you!

### WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

A new Reading Group is forming! The #1 Best Seller, *The Purpose Driven Life*, is the selected book for study and discussion beginning Sunday, September 11, at 7:00 PM in the school library. Registration is \$15.00 and includes your copy of this power, life enriching best seller! Group size is limited, please register early by calling Sister Dorothy at 412-242-7357, or Denise Ludovici at 412-371-3715.

### Mass Intentions



#### **MON., August 15 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

10:00 A.M. Rosina & Vincenzo Tropiano (Maria Baggetta) - Not a Holy Day of Obligation

#### **TUES., August 16 - St. Stephen of Hungary**

10:00 A.M. Cecelia Dugan (Bebe Habina)

#### **WED., August 17 - Weekday**

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

#### **THURS., August 18 - St. Jane Frances de Chantal**

10:00 A.M. Al Smith (Daughter & Son)

#### **FRI., August 19 - St. John Eudes**

10:00 A.M. Michael & Michelle Wentworth (Mary Wentworth)

#### **SAT., August 20 - St. Bernard**

10:00 A.M. 50th Wedding Anniversary: Osvaldo & Rose Marie Fontecchio (Children)

5:00 P.M. Peter Nuzzo (Leo & Anne Rindt)

#### **SUN., August 21 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish

10:30 A.M. Dorothy Breit (Denise Verosky)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

**Mary Petrilli**

We welcome in baptism:

**Kenneth William Boyle, Joseph Richard Ferrari,**

**Emily Catherine Golightly, Baley Victoria Irwin,**

**Nicholas John Knoll, and Ta Maya Nichole Wolford**

### From the Sisters of the Divine Redeemer

"Dear Fr. Dave, Friends of St. Bartholomew Parish, School, and Community: My sincerest thanks and praise come to you, ever faithful and true, for all you have done for me and the Sisters of the Divine Redeemer over the past fifty years. As I pray my Rosary I think of you and the children. Each decade is a decade spent with you. The reception was so appropriate and lovely. My heart couldn't have been happier meeting so many of you. Please remember me in your prayers and if you wish to write, my new address is Divine Redeemer Motherhouse, 999 Rock Run Road, Elizabeth, Pa. 15037, 412-751-8600. Thank you and God bless all of you abundantly."

- Sister Mary Ann Dujanovic, S.D.R.

"I would like to thank you - the people of St. Bartholomew Parish for the love and kindness you have shown me these past twenty-five years. I take with me nothing but the fondest memories of St. Bart's. Thank you for your presence at the farewell reception and for your kind words and wishes. God bless the ones who prepared the refreshments. It is not easy to leave St. Bart's so I ask for your pardon and prayers that I may 'incline my heart according to your will, O God.' With love and prayers,"

- Sr. Geraldine Vargo, S.D.R.