

Fr. Dave's Den: **Do you hear** those bells ringing? That is the sound of the new school year. All around us students are entering classrooms to begin a new academic year. Thursday, August 26, 2004 marks the first day of school for our St. Bartholomew students. This is indeed a special year for our school as we celebrate fifty years of educating lives and hearts according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

If you are an alumnus of St. Bartholomew School be sure to circle the weekend of November 20, 2004 on your calendar. On Friday, November 19, 2004 there will be a dinner dance at the Penn Hills Comfort Inn. On Saturday, August 20th there will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at 5:00 PM with Bishop Donald W. Wuerl as presider and homilist. The day will also include an open house, family bingo and an alumni basketball game. For more information, please call the school at 412-242-2511.

We salute our principal, Mrs. Diane Fleet, our teachers and clerical staff of St. Bartholomew's School where, "We sow seeds for the harvest of life". We welcome all of our students and wish them God's blessing. And we thank Almighty God for the parents/guardians of our students for choosing Catholic Schools where, "Great beginnings last a lifetime". If your travels take you up to our grounds during school hours, please exercise caution driving so as to protect our children.

Do not forget the Festival Worker's Appreciation Dinner that will take place on Thursday, August 26, 2004 at 6:30 PM in our Parish Hall. This dinner is only for those workers who assisted with the setup, running and/or tearing down of the Festival. There will be some very nice door prizes awarded. Thanks to Chef George Beck and his lovely wife Ginny for volunteering to cook the dinner. This dinner will officially close the book on the 2004 54th Annual Festival. The dates for next year's festival are Wednesday, August 3rd through Saturday, August 6th.

Speaking of closing the book, it's time to bring a closure to our very successful St. Bart's Stocking Project. Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, we achieved not only our set goals (AED defibrillator, Parish sign and School sign, access door for Parish hall), but we also were able to make the following capital improvements: 8 glass block windows for the Rectory, 3 new garage doors for the Rectory, 2 entry doors for Church, sidewalk replacement at Convent, sidewalk and step replacement at School, pavement patching of parking lot, emergency lights for Cafeteria/Social Hall, painting of Parish hall, kitchen and vestibules, necessary repairs on school boilers and the painting of the Church stairwell and basement. In addition to these capital improvements, I believe there is a renewed sense of Parish pride and spirit that is ongoing. If you need a pick-me-up just get in your car and drive up to our Parish campus. It truly is beautiful! Thanks to everyone who participated in this great endeavor. And remember, "The best is yet to be!"

A recent study reported in the New England Journal of Medicine reveals that survival rates for heart patients increased dramatically when there is an AED (automated external defibril-

lator) present. In fact, during the past two years, because of a greater availability of AED's distributed in Washington, DC the survival rate for heart patients has increased ten-fold. Thank God for our defibrillator! We pray, however, that we never have to use it.

As was mentioned last week, we welcome to our Parish staff, Sister Dorothy Pawlus, CSFN as the new Social Service Director. Last week in the same space we heard a little bit about Sister Dorothy, but what about her religious community -- the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth?

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth are an international community founded by Blessed Frances Siedliska, some one-hundred-and-twenty-nine years ago. Today more than seven-hundred sisters serve throughout the world. More than seven-hundred sisters are members of the congregation's five U.S. provinces located in Des Plaines, Illinois; Grand Prairie, Texas; Monroe, Connecticut; Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The family is at the heart of this congregation's ministry as noted by the following statement from their founder, "We are called to extend the Kingdom of God's love among ourselves and others by imitating Jesus, Mary and Joseph, whose lives were centered in the love of God and one another, and by witnessing to that love through dedicated service to the Church, especially in her ministry to the family."

We welcome Sister Dorothy and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth to our Parish family.

In last week's bulletin insert, you may have noticed a lot of capitalization errors. These errors were truly not human error, but electronic errors. The copy was transmitted electronically to the printer, and in the process became garbled.

Tuesday, August 24, is the Feast of St. Bartholomew. On that day we will be having bagels and doughnuts in the back vestibule of Church after the 10:00 AM Mass in honor of our patron. This celebration will still go on if there is a funeral on that day. If you would like to attend, please put your name on the sign up sheet in the back of Church so that we have an idea of how many to expect.

Have a blessed week!

A Respect Life Meditation

(George Weigel, Commencement Address - Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio - May 8, 2004) "There is a profound lesson to be learned from watching Pope John Paul II, who now leads the Church from a wheel chair... In a culture that tempts us to think of people as disposable when they become burdensome or inconvenient, John Paul II is teaching by powerful example that there are no 'disposable' people. Human beings are not problems to be solved, or dismissed through the technological fixes of abortion or euthanasia. That is what John Paul II teaches us when he walks, in pain, in the footsteps of Jesus."

We pray that all followers of Jesus will bravely take up their crosses of illness and old age.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

Welcome back! I certainly hope that each and every one of you has had a joy filled and relaxing summer vacation.

Classes begin on Thursday, August 26, for students in grades kindergarten through eight. All students should be in homeroom by 8:50 AM. Dismissal on both Thursday, August 26, and Friday, August 27, is at 11:15 AM.

Full day school sessions begin on Monday, August 30, with a 3:15 PM dismissal time. The cafeteria will begin serving lunches on Monday, August 30, as well.

I am anxiously awaiting the arrival of each and every school family member. Make sure you wear a big smile every day.

Thank you to each and every one of you who helped to make the St. Bart's Festival such a tremendous success! Everything that you do to help our parish and school is deeply appreciated.

Religious Education News with Arlene Golden

The religious education office is closed for the summer. Classes for religious education will begin the third Sunday of September.

Life Teen - Leading Teens Closer to Christ

Welcome to Life Teen's newest member, Joseph Nathan LaMontagne, son of Sarah and Joseph LaMontagne, our core members. Joseph came into the world on the feast of the Assumption of Mary, August 15, at 5:18 AM, and weighs 6 pounds and 1 ounce. Congratulations Sarah and Nate!

Thanks also to all the parents that came to our first parent meeting last week. It was great to meet so many of you. Mark your calendars for September 11. Life Teen returns!

Music NotesWhy This Music Now?*The Communion Hymn*

The communion hymn should be the most sung hymn. There is no better way to bring people together than by singing. If we all spoke the same prayer at communion-time, you would find that everyone would have different rates of speaking, causing a breakdown in unity. We are called to make an attempt to sing the communion hymn together. This singing together is the very essence of "communion."

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal tells us why this is so important in Chapter 2, Paragraph 86:

"During the priest's reception of communion, the communion song is begun. Its function is to express outwardly the communicants union in spirit by means of the unity of their voices, to give evidence of joy of heart and to highlight more the "communitarian" character of the communion procession."

How can we improve our communion singing? There are two ways:

1. Participation
2. Memorization

Participation: We should try to sing the refrain as we approach the Lord's table. Last week, it was amazing to hear so many people singing the Responsorial Psalm. After singing it for three weeks, we were familiar with it and comfortable with singing it. We should always strive for such excellent participation.

Memorization: Most of us have the refrain for *On Eagles Wings* memorized. While *On Eagles Wings* is not considered "Eucharist based", songs like *One Bread, One Body* (MI #378), or *Song of the Body of Christ* (MI #360), are easy, repetitive, and can be sung (at least the refrain) without holding a hymnal.

It is my goal to choose familiar songs for the communion hymn that have an easy refrain that can be sung. This way, we are comfortable enough to sing while we are walking to receive communion. This allows our hearts and voices to praise God.

It would be great to one day see everyone on line for communion singing in unison with the rest of the congregation. That way, we would surely be in communion with one another and God.

BINGO

If you enjoyed playing Bingo at our Festival, join us every Monday night at 7:00 PM in Helzlsouer Hall for more of the same great fun!

Masses Sent to the Seminary

The following mass intentions have been sent to the Seminary to be said during the month of August:

Ursula & Joe Lazzaro (Family)
William Maguire (Wife Joanne)
John & Susan Gerdino & Frances Walsh (Daughter & Sister)
Norman DePaul (Husband)
Diane Llewellyn (Mom & Dad)
George & Mary Bernadette Bonnar (Rita Wilson Kane)
Seibel & Leiendecker Families (Family)
John Konchak (Stella Konchak - wife)
James F. Larkin (Mother)
Sister Anna DiLorenzo (Nino & Ida Sciulli)
Benjamin Cohn (Earl & Rita Secola)
Altar Society Members (Membership)
Margaret M. Hornick (Friends)
Teresa Pizzonia-Hawkins (Family & Friends)
Patricia Goth (Don & Jeanne Doyle)

FALL SHRINES TOUR

North American Martyrs Parish is planning an inspiring and scenic fall foliage journey October 11 to 14, 2004, into eastern New York and the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts to visit the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, New York, as well as the Shrine of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha at Fonda, the Divine Mercy Shrine, and Our Lady of Victory Basilica. There will also be a picturesque boat cruise in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. For more information, please call Katie Horvath at 412-373-1656 or Fran Fulkerson at 412-373-3785.

St. Vincent College Open House

High School juniors or seniors and their families are invited to Get Acquainted Day Open House at St. Vincent College, Latrobe, on Saturday, September 18. Registration is from 8:45 AM to 9:00 AM, followed by an introduction to St. Vincent College, campus tours, and opportunities to meet faculty, administrators, and coaches. There is also an optional brunch at 12:00 noon in the Community Center Dining Hall. Find out more about this top-ranked Catholic, Benedictine, liberal arts college. Listen to admission presentations, meet faculty, administrators, and coaches, and take a campus tour. For information or reservations, phone 1-800-782-5549, email admission@stvincent.edu, or register online at

Mass Intentions



MON., August 23 - St. Rose of Lima

10:00 A.M. Carone Family (Carone Family)

TUES., August 24 - St. Bartholomew

10:00 A.M. Gliatta Family (Gliatta Family)

WED., August 25 - Weekday

2:00 P.M. Penn Arbor: Mass

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., August 26 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Alvin Drozdowski (Wife Fran)

FRI., August 27 - St. Monica

10:00 A.M. Jim Hurley (Family)

SAT., August 28 - St. Augustine

10:00 A.M. Urban Dishart (Wife Theresa)

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

5:00 P.M. People of the Parish

SUN., August 29 - 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. Edwin, Gail, & Jill Slatery (Dave & Winnie Slatery)

10:30 A.M. Madaline & Joseph Bonacci (Lou & Josie Colapietro)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Weekly Offering: Total: \$8274.50 Env. Dist.: 1753 Env. Used: 609
Scrip Program Approximate Profit: \$299.27

Reflections on the Reign of God

A threefold message is developed in today's readings. First, everyone is called to proclaim God's glory and receive salvation. Second, salvation is not for the unprepared. Like a loving parent, God gently corrects and disciplines those who have been called. Often, suffering may be part of the formation process. We learn to accept it as Jesus once accepted his cross.

Third, some people who are treated with contempt and disdain by the self-righteous actually do have a place in God's kingdom. We need to take these lessons to heart. Recall your initial excitement upon hearing God's word. How has the Good News that once struck your fancy taken deeper root in your life?

Look again at the crosses you have been given. How are others transformed when they see how you have accepted and grown from your sufferings?

Finally, are there some people you imagine as not invited into God's kingdom? Why do you feel this way about them? For a moment, imagine them on the inside and yourself on the outside. How can this be possible?

Always try your best to enter by the narrow gate, gladly proclaiming God's glory.

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