

In Denise's Den: **Now that school is in session,**

how about a multiple choice question for your consideration. Here it is: "When I witness someone committing something wrong and sinful, my response is one of: (a) confrontation and correction, (b) awareness, disappointment, but silence, (c) total ignorance, (d) delight.

How did you respond? If we were to take a survey of responses we just might find that the most common response would be "b." While we may be aware that something is wrong and we might be deeply disappointed by it, many of us no doubt fail to speak up. Often in the midst of a wrong act we remain silent so as not to make waves or face the wrath and rejection of another. In this case, silence is definitely not a good thing. Suffice to say, there is a time for silence and a time for speech. The Word of God today acknowledges the importance of speaking up in the face of wrong-doing. In fact, the prophet Ezekiel states, "If you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself."

When we are the personal recipients of this wrongdoing we are obliged to confront the person. For Jesus says in today's Gospel, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone."

Sometimes when someone harms us we talk to everyone about it except the person in question. Jesus, however, calls us to confront and correct. Thus, the correct answer to the above question is letter "a."

Tomorrow, September 5, 2005, is Labor Day. In June of 1997 Pope John Paul II spoke to his native people in a homily about human labor: "Human labor cannot be treated merely as a resource for production, the so-called 'work-force.' Men cannot be regarded as a tool of production. Man is the creator of work and its craftsman. Everything must be done to ensure that work does not lose its proper dignity. The purpose of work—of all work—is man himself. By means of his work he should be able to perfect and deepen his own

personality."

On this Labor Day we thank almighty God for the wonderful gift of work which offers us all the promise of growing more fully into the person God has called us to be. Everyone is welcome to celebrate the gift of work at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Mass will take place at 9:00 AM.

Speaking of work, I wish to salute all of our volunteers who labor diligently for our parish. Thank you for your dedicated service.

To those who worked in any way with the 2005 Parish Festival, there will be an Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 17, 2005, following the 5:00 PM Mass. In addition to a delicious spread of food, there will also be some door prizes. Please call the rectory at 412-242-3374 to make your reservation.

The Bishops of Pennsylvania just published a booklet "Questions and Answers on Stem Cell Research." There are a limited amount of copies available in church. Copies can also be obtained by calling the rectory.

Here is a list of some upcoming events:

September 25—Blessing of *The Inviting Jesus* sculpture,

September 27—Clergy Convocation—St. Paul Seminary,

October 2—Anointing of the Sick Mass, 12:30 PM,

October 3—3rd Annual St. Bartholomew School Golf Outing, Edgewood Country Club,

October 29—Oktoberfest.

Have a blessed week!

Reading Group

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 powerful, 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.

School News with Mrs. Fleet

There is no school and no extended care on Monday, September 5, due to the Labor Day holiday.

There will be a Suzuki violin demonstration for students in grades Kindergarten through three at 12:30 PM in the gym on Wednesday, September 7.

Please join us for Mass on Friday, September 9, at 10:00 AM. Mrs. Smith and our seventh graders will help to plan our liturgy.

We welcome all of our three- and four-year-old preschool students on Friday, September 9, as they begin their educational journey this year. Hats off to our youngest students!

Our SBAA will hold a tailgate party after the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, September 10. Please contact Mr. Rick for further details.

Extended Care is in need of a Nintendo video game system for times when we are unable to go outside or to the gym. If anyone has one they are able to donate, please contact the school.

We continue to save all Campbell product labels, Box Tops for Education, and Shop n' Save receipts. Thank you for your help!

Registrations are still available for Preschool, half-day or full-day Kindergarten, and all grades one through eight. Please call the school office for further information.

Lancaster Bus Trip

We will be going on an over-night trip to see a performance of *The Miracle of Christmas* at the Millennium Theatre. 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 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.

Religious Education News

Additional forms are available in the rectory if needed.

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!

Bell and Youth Choirs

Bell and Youth Choirs resume this week. The practice schedule is as follows:

Senior bells will practice Tuesday, September 6, at 3:30 PM. We are in need of senior bell players, so do not hesitate to come to practice.

Youth choir will practice Wednesday, September 7, at 3:30 PM.

Beginner bells practice Thursday, September 8, at 3:30 PM.

Junior bells practice Monday, September 12, at 3:30 PM.

For anyone who attends public school and is interested in joining one of the choirs, please do not hesitate to do so. If you are unable to make the 3:30 PM practice time, we are more than willing to work with your schedule.

A Respect Life Meditation

(Catechism of the Catholic Church #2258)

"Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involved the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end."

May all married couples participate in God's plan of creation which manifests the superabundance of His love.

Card Party

The St. Bartholomew's Women's Group is sponsoring a Card Party and luncheon on Saturday, September 24, in the school hall. There will be a silent auction and raffles also. Don't care for cards? Come for lunch! Prizes will be accepted. Tickets are \$8.00. Call Katherine at 412-798-9819 for reservations.

Speaking Out in Love

In the final verses of today's Gospel reading Jesus says that when two or three are gathered in his name, "there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). So we understand that fraternal correction is always undertaken in the presence of Jesus Christ.

Likewise, encouraging the good in others is not only the right thing for us to do, it is a necessity. The LORD tells the prophet Ezekiel that if he does not speak out to dissuade a person from evil, then he too will be held responsible.

We live in a "do your own thing" age where objectivity is often ignored. Clearly when the message we share with others is rooted in love, our motives cannot ever be misinterpreted. As St. Paul writes, "Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10).

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Treasures from our Tradition

In the early years of the church, most people never availed themselves of once-in-a-lifetime penance. Yet penitents were highly visible. They wore distinctive garments or chains, and they were relegated to special zones in the church. They might be dismissed from the Sunday assembly after the Word, forbidden to join in the Prayer of the Faithful or the Eucharist. This dismissal was done with great affection and tenderness as the bishop laid his hands on the heads of the sinners. During Lent almost everyone would identify with penitents by clothing, insignia, or by following the penitents' regular diet. Rather than sit in judgment over them, the church desired to intercede for them before the Lord. "Let Mother Church weep for you and wash away your sins with her tears," said St. Ambrose to his penitents in Milan. Ambrose liked to think of them as Jonah in the whale, meditating on his errors. In a letter to his sister he said that Jonah is also a sign of Christ in the tomb, and so he had great faith in the penitents' future proclamation of the Resurrection with their reclaimed status in the assembly.

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Mass Intentions



MON., September 5 - Weekday (Labor Day)

9:00 A.M. Albert, Sr., John, & Duane LaFrance (Kay LaFrance Wharton)

TUES., September 6 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Stella Orgero (Tony & Marie Ciccotelli)

WED., September 7 - Weekday

7:00 P.M. Holy Hour

THURS., September 8 - Nativity of Mary

10:00 A.M. Frank & Mario Santamaria (Maria Santamaria)

FRI., September 9 - St. Peter Claver

10:00 A.M. Diane Llewellyn (Mom & Dad)

SAT., September 10 - Weekday

10:00 A.M. Alvin Drozdowski (Wife, Fran)
5:00 P.M. James M. Noone (Wife, Kitty)

SUN., September 11 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 A.M. People of the Parish
10:30 A.M. Robert Harris (Donna, Frank, & Stacey Lamanna)

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

Prayers are also requested for the faithful departed:

Elizabeth Burkhart, Victor Porco, Robert Sabo, Maxine Riley, and John Grasso

Life Teen—Leading Teens Closer to Christ

We are BACK! Life Teen starts again next Saturday, September 10. Join us for Mass at 5:00 PM (sit up front) and then stay for the Life Night. Come and help us welcome our new freshmen!

Women's Group General Meeting

All women of the parish are invited on September 6, 2005, at 7:00 PM to the General Meeting of the St. Bartholomew Parish Women's Group. We will be meeting in Helzlsouer Hall. Our guest this evening will be Jesse Talotta, renowned pastry chef and parishioner of St. Bartholomew's. Jesse will be demonstrating some of his skill and I am pretty sure that there might even be some taste testing! Hope to see you there!