

St Paul Catholic Church

P A R I S H N E W S L E T T E R

November 2015



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by Marty Catalano

November...

20

Thank you God, for cinnamon and cloves and all the other spices that put an interesting zing into so many foods.

21

Thank you God, for wrist-watches, all different types, sizes (and prices!) to keep us on time.

22

Thank you God, for dishwashers, mechanical and human, who get the job done.

23

Thank you God, for nutritious nuts, all varieties, that add crunchy goodness to so many foods.

24

Thank you God, for this wonderful Thanksgiving season, uniting families and friends over a bountiful table filled with the gifts of food You have given us.

25

Thank you God, for the autumn-brown weeds along the roadside, wagging their bent heads in the wind.

26

Thank you God, for electricity, our invisible servant who runs thousands of appliances and machines.

27

Thank you God, for the joy of spending an evening reading a good book and forgetting all else in the absorption.

28

Thank you God, for automatic washers and dryers that make any day an easy wash day.

29

Thank you God, for ears, odd-looking organs You fashioned and placed just so, to let us learn and enjoy so many wonderful sounds.

30

Thank you God, for the starlings who sit around the chimney tops, just warming their feet.



My nephew, a couple of months ago, told me I should listen to an interview with a young man living in New York City named A. J. Jacobs; he said I'd probably get a kick out of it. And I did – the basic situation is that A.J. explained he was Jewish but he was never raised in that religion or indeed in any religion; as a matter of fact, he didn't even believe in God. But now that he had a son of his own, he thought he maybe should learn a bit about his heritage. The way he proposed to do this was to get a Bible and try to carry out all the commandments and exhortations found in it for a year. (As an aside, this *modus operandi* illustrates the pitfalls of trying to do things theological as an individual on your own, rather than as a member of a believing community, a point he said that he learned himself through the course of the year.)

In any case, the interview was mostly light-hearted and humorous (he describes the problem he had trying to carry out the commandment to stone an adulterer, for example), but the part that sticks with me even after all these months was his observation of how his life changed in trying to carry out the biblical injunctions. Specifically, and quite apropos to our observance of Thanksgiving this month, he mentioned in a kind of wondering way how transforming it was to try to live out the biblical admonition to be grateful always.

For a whole year he made the conscious effort to be thankful for the things and happenings in his life. And he kept using the word, how “transforming” it was – it's a hassle to go to work in downtown NYC, but to push an elevator button and be conscious that...it works! What a marvelous convenience – it brings you right to your floor, saving you climbing all those flights and flights of stairs. And today, when I got in and pushed the button, it didn't go plunging down 20 flights; it took me quickly

“Give thanks always and for everything *in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” (Eph 5:20)

up 20 flights, etc., etc. How transforming it is, he kept remarking, to focus on the hundreds, even thousands of things that *work* each day and that we take for granted, rather than on the three or four that don't ...

That certainly hit home with me. Far too often I find myself focusing precisely on those three or four things that aren't right, that didn't go my way, and just take for granted the hundreds or even thousands of things that work out amazingly well, that bring satisfaction, contentment, beauty and peace into my life – or would, in much greater degree, if I only noticed them.

Every Thanksgiving we are urged to notice what we take for granted and be grateful. But up till now, I think I mostly focused on the Big Things – my health, my priestly vocation, my family and friends, all you wonderful parishioners, etc. And of course they all remain still major things to be majorly grateful for. But A.J. made me conscious of all those teeny-tiny things – flipping a switch and the light goes on; pressing a gas pedal and a car moves me at 65mph down smooth ribbons of highway; the magic that somehow allows me via the web to be

in contact with what's going on in real time clear on the opposite side of the globe; to know with a fair amount of accuracy what the weather is going to be; the Kindle app on my phone that allows me to carry in *my pocket* more books

than Thomas Aquinas had available to him in the whole monastery library at Monte Cassino in the 13th century, etc.

I recommend that we take a tip from A.J. – this week leading up to Thanksgiving, instead of focusing on the things that go wrong, make a conscious effort to notice and be grateful for all the thousands of things that go right – and be prepared to be transformed!

Mgr. Ken



Please join us as **We Give Thanks...**

For our parish volunteers and ministry members

Mass of Celebration and Gratitude

Tuesday, November 17 @ 7:00 pm

For our God and the many gifts He has bestowed on us

Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 26 @ 9:00 am

Mass of Remembrance

Parish Family BLESSINGS

*We prayerfully remember these parishioners
who passed away this year.*

*Michael J. Leimeister
Douglas A. Colvin
Eugene J. Foti
Jack G. Weisenberger
Anna Mae Obermiller
Barbara J. Fritz
Marilyn T. Pennington
Jeanette E. Wurth
Ronald Barron
Kevin F. Doyle
Robert D. Stoll
Marjorie E. Rody
Raymond L. "Red" Lescher
Evelyn R. Jenkins
Beatrice Strimpfel
Shirley J. Lee
Virginia A. Stoll*

*Joan K. Kiser
Lina Castro
Robert N. Mansfield, Jr.
Andrew P. Waldron
Dorothy M. Bienz
David M. Dunham
Richard Puglisi
Jose L. Saucedo-Cena, Sr.
Rosemary E. Wise
Alfred J. Weisenberger
Mary Ann Creamer
William C. Meese
Dr. Robert Spettel
Charles W. Stibil
Edward R. Franklin
Howard A. Riley*



New Members:

Bersain & Nelva Escobar
daughter, Aranza

Joan Fox

Shawn & Heather Hemenway
son, Emmett

Maurilia Lopez Perez

Mary Ellen Sowers
Children, Mallorie, Marlaina & Jacob

Mary & Zeb Worcester

Baptisms:

Ricardo & Elisa, Children of
Ricardo & Marisela Santiago

Jesus Alberto, Son of
Alberto & Anabel Rodriguez

Owen Nathaniel, Son of
Joe & Betsy Pertner

Rylan Grace, Daughter of
Ben & Kaitlyn Barman

Emmett Michael, Son of
Shawn & Heather Hemenway

Jacob Philip, Son of
Mary Ellen Sowers

Aranza Sofia, Daughter of
Bersain & Nelva Escobar

Deaths:

Elmer F. Luke

Weddings:

Mr. & Mrs. Brian & Monica Barman

Mr. & Mrs. Ryan & Tiffany Hauler

Saints of God

*Saints of God, come to their aid!
Come to meet them angels of the Lord!
Receive their souls and present them to God,
present their souls to God most high.
May Christ who called you, take you to himself;
may angels lead you to Abraham's side.
Receive their souls and present them to God,
present their souls to God most high.
Give them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may your light shine on them forever.
Receive their souls and present them to God,
present their souls to God most high.*



World Meeting of Families Pilgrimage 2015

We thank all those who prayed for us during our journey. We certainly felt you lifting us up the whole trip! What a blessing it was to be able to represent the St. John Neumann deanery at the World Meeting of Families for the Toledo Diocese! I remember talking with Shawn about wanting to go and then applying for the scholarship back in March. Shawn told me "Sure! We won't get it anyway, so why not?" Little did we know that going was exactly what God's plan for our family was, and GO we did!

Each of us had a different reason for wanting to go, from seeing the Pope to visiting Philadelphia to gathering tools to help the parish in family ministry. None of us knew exactly what to expect. How does one prepare to attend a conference with more people than our town and celebrate Mass with a population of Cleveland and Columbus combined (and all in one parkway!)?

We were fortunate to be assigned a Mentor for our Pilgrimage, Dr. John Wood. Did you read the book the parish gave out last Christmas, Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission? He authored that book and is just as inspiring in person as he is on paper. We met with Dr. Wood and his family along with some of the other scholarship families to prepare our hearts and minds for the journey.

Then came the "pep talk" from the Bishop. Bishop Thomas always called this trip a Pilgrimage. A few weeks before our departure he spoke to the people going on this journey and told us of how this was not a vacation. It would be hard. We would struggle. But we would grow. We would realize blessings beyond our comprehension. Shawn and I looked at each other almost regretfully thinking "what have we gotten ourselves into?" Sure, going on a pilgrimage with each other might be a challenge, but we are adults and we can handle it. Taking our family was a different story. Determined to make it a great week, we packed our bags with plenty of

provisions, and bright and early on Monday, September 21, we drove to Fremont to meet the bus. We were off on our pilgrimage!

The entire week in Philadelphia, Love was our Mission and Our Family was Fully Alive. Rising before 6 am and getting back to the hotel around 11 pm, we spent every moment soaking up all the information we could. We listened to speakers from around the world: bishops, cardinals, priests, pastors, lay people (and even the mayor of Philadelphia) talk about the family. They all had some variation of the same message: As a family we must find our purpose and bring glory to God. We are all called to a vocation. We are all called

to be evangelists. We are all called to serve God and each other. Topics ranged from how to bring the faith into your home every day to how to understand each other when our families look different, to how to forgive each other when we

wound one another. Even the boys attended their own Youth Congress where activities were planned just for their ages. They packed food to be sent around the world, made rosaries for missionaries to give away on their journeys, and sang songs of praise.

The blessings we received were profound. We witnessed our children embracing evangelization without knowing it or being self-conscious of such a word. We met sisters from all over the country and regretfully had to tell them we would not be sending any of our children to them (once they found out we only had boys, they understood!). None of us could walk ten feet without bumping into a priest, bishop, cardinal, brother, or sister. Confessions happened in the hallway when someone would just grab anyone with a collar and ask if they would hear their confession. No one was turned away. We even visited Bishop Thomas' home parish, Church of the Holy Family, where his parents were engaged at the communion rail, were married, he was baptized,



received his first communion, and confirmation, said his first Mass after ordination, and where he buried both his parents. Our family also chose to attend a special Mass honoring those with disabilities and their caretakers, where the homilist was deaf and signed his homily! As Fr. Mike Depcik from the Archdiocese of Detroit said, "we have all been called to preach the Gospel – no exceptions!"

The weekend of the Francis Festival and Papal Mass was long security lines and plenty of waiting around, but also many blessings with all the people we were able to meet while standing around waiting. Most people were kind, patient, and just

as ready as we were to get where we wanted to go – to see Pope Francis! We did get to see him! We were on the fence when his pope-mobile drove by on Saturday, a mere 15 feet away! Sunday we did not get as close, but we did receive the Eucharist along with over 500,000 other believers. One of the Deacons in our Diocese was a Eucharistic Minister for the Papal Mass! He was overwhelmed (as we all were) and could only say "what a tremendous blessing." That is how we felt about the whole week and the whole experience. What a blessing!

~ Rachel & Shawn, Anthony, Dominic, Matteo & David Cefalu



*Pictures clockwise from top right:
 September 20 - Philly bound!
 David having his handmade rosary blessed
 to give the bus driver
 Anthony serving Mass at St. John Neumann Shrine
 Anthony, Dominic, Matteo and David*



A Church with Open Doors: Pope Francis, Vatican II, and the Best of Catholicism

~ An evening with Edward P. Hahnenberg, Ph. D.

Thursday, December 3 @ 7:00 pm
St. Paul Gathering Space

"To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), Pope Francis has called for an *Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy*. As the Pope reminds us, the council remains relevant today because it offers large themes with lasting values – pointing us toward the very best of our Catholic faith. We gather to reflect on some of these themes, what they have meant in the life of the church, and what they might mean for us as we move into the new future Pope Francis invites us to enter".

The Second Vatican Council ended on December 8, 1965 after 3 years of work and the writing of 16 documents. The above words of Dr. Hahnenberg describe his plan for our evening together celebrating this extraordinary event.

Our presenter this evening is Dr. Edward P. Hahnenberg, Ph.D., the Jack and Mary Jane Breen Chair in Catholic Systematic Theology at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Hahnenberg previously taught at Xavier University in Cincinnati and at the University of Notre Dame, where he received his Ph.D. in Systematic Theology in 2002.

All are welcome!



Feed the hungry ~ Give drink to the thirsty ~ Clothe the naked ~ Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick ~ Visit the imprisoned ~ Bury the dead ~ Admonish the sinners
Instruct the uninformed ~ Counsel the doubtful ~ Comfort the sorrowful
Bear wrongs patiently ~ Forgive offenses ~ Pray for the living and the dead

Year of Mercy

"I have decided to announce an Extraordinary Jubilee which has at its center the mercy of God. It will be a Holy Year of Mercy. We want to live in the light of the word of the Lord: "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (cf. Lk 6:36). And this especially applies to confessors! So much mercy!

This Holy Year will commence on the next Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8, 2015) and will conclude on Sunday, 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father's mercy." ~ Pope Francis

Our Advent devotionals this year will prepare us for Christmas as well as lead us into this extraordinary Year of Mercy. At Mass we will pray together Pope Francis' prayer for this Jubilee Year. Also, additional opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be announced. Look for more ways to celebrate, experience and share Christ's mercy in the coming months.



Serving the Needs of Others in Our Community

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP)

Norwalk St. Paul Conference

Annual fiscal report October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 (12 months)

Adults	1049
Children	918
<hr/>	
Total Applications	457

Rent	\$ 71,388.75
Electric	\$ 20,385.87
Gas	\$ 4,911.44
Propane	\$ 764.45
Water	\$ 5,888.68
Food(1)	\$ 8,500.00
Lodging	\$ 924.32
Gasoline	\$ 834.15
Office Expenses	\$ 300.00
Comm/SVDP(2)	\$ 15,971.33
Office Exp(3)	\$ 865.00
<hr/>	
Total(4)	\$130,733.98

(1) Large portions of this line item are regular and seasonal donations to the Norwalk Area Food Bank (NAFB). While we do some direct aid in the form of food vouchers, most food needs are referred to NAFB.

(2) This line item is comprised of donations to SVDP International Disaster Fund, Senior Citizens programs, Salvation Army and other community donations. We feel these programs address community and national SVDP type needs that we do not, which are very worthwhile.

(3) It should be noted that over 99% of your donations go directly to people in need.

(4) Includes a large expenditure to one individual (spread over all expense categories) covered by a substantial designated donation, which is not part of our normal funding guidelines or funding sources. This funds a true need. When operationally possible, Saint Vincent de Paul International directs local conferences to handle a true need, which is outside of our normal guidelines if there is a willing donor. Situations like this are very limited for us, because our conference does not have the staff, procedures or the more sophisticated record keeping system to handle it, except on occasional basis.

Vincentians can provide immediate help with food, rent, the threat of a utility disconnection and other related needs. We offer hope to individuals giving them a chance to recover from their financial problems. In addition, we refer them to other agencies for additional temporary and longer term assistance, which is also a very important part of our mission.

We call ourselves Vincentians in tribute to St. Vincent de Paul. What Vincentians have in common is a desire to serve those who are poor and suffering. In other words, Vincentians embrace the lonely, forgotten and alienated by providing services to anyone in need. Our motto is: **"There is no work of charity that is foreign to the society."**

To respect the wishes of those who donate to us and support our work, we do our best to verify the legitimacy of our clients' claims of need before providing any assistance. We also have to keep in mind the spirit of Christ, who leads our ministry, which means **we help our neighbors based on need without judging them.** The St. Vincent de Paul committee would like to thank you, our generous parishioners, for the financial support you have given us.

The Norwalk St. Paul conference is in need of volunteers to help in our mission. If you are interested in this worthwhile ministry, please call the St. Paul parish office at 419-668-6044.

Many blessings to you,
Vincentian Members

Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Norwalk St. Paul Conference



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Enter into the Season...
with Advent/Christmas Evening Prayer

Evening Prayer will be celebrated on Wednesday evenings throughout the Advent and Christmas season at 7:00 pm in the church, beginning December 2 and continuing through January 6.

At the end of day's light, we come before the Lord in prayer, celebrating Christ, who is our light, and evoke God's strong protection through the hours of the night. Through Scripture, song, petition, gestures, silence, incense, and symbols of light and darkness, we raise our prayers to the Father. In the busyness of this time of year, Evening Prayer can be a time to slow down, catch our breath and share in the joy, hope and anticipation of Christ's holy birth. Our gathering together in prayer lasts about one half hour. Come join us for this special time of grace.