

§ Reflection on Scripture >

George Gamow, a Nobel prize winning physicist, records in his autobiography that as a youth he once took the consecrated bread into a laboratory. He wanted to see whether the bread had really been changed into the body of Christ. When he found that it was ordinary bread after all, he gave up his religious beliefs and practices. Of course, he is one of many Christians who has abandoned their beliefs in the Real Presence.

Flannery O'Connor, noted Catholic writer of the mid-twentieth century, tells a different story. She took a Protestant friend to Mass a few times and her friend decided to become a Roman Catholic. Asked why she reached this decision, her friend answered, "The sermons were so terrible, there had to be something else there to make them want to come."

For us believers, the power of the Eucharist to attract people is justification enough to believe in the Real Presence. As much as Catholics love the Eucharist, many of us do not celebrate it as fully as we should. We focus our eyes and ears on the consecration of the bread and wine and after the elevation of the consecrated species we bow our heads in reverence. But after the elevation, there is another consecration, another transformation. The priest immediately prays a prayer of consecration and transformation over the congregation. He prays, "Grant that we, who are nourished by his body and blood, may be filled with his Holy Spirit and become one body, one spirit, in Christ."

It would be entirely appropriate for the priest to extend his hands over the congregation, as he could not elevate it! But this prayer surely can express the elevation we experience spiritually because of our transformation. This second consecration expresses the ultimate purpose of the first consecration. The entire purpose of the consecration at the altar is for the sake of the consecration that takes place in the pews. St. Thomas, who composed the lovely hymn in honor of the Blessed Sacrament, *Lausa Sion*, which is printed after the second reading, expressed it concisely in these words: "The purpose of the sacrament of the Eucharist is to achieve unity among the members of the Body of Christ." The Body of Christ is the church.

In other words, that Body on the altar is for the sake of this Body in the pews. One theologian puts it this way, "The Eucharist is for eating." St. Paul tells us that the load on the altar is food for the one Body in Christ. We are that Body. Food, of course, is the whole theme of this feast. This first reading takes us back to the Israelites on their journey in the desert, when God fed them with manna. In the gospel, Jesus tells us six times to eat his body. Six times he says, "Eat, Eat, Eat."

Consequently, we come here not just to *receive* Communion, but to *enter* into communion: with Jesus, with one another here present, with the whole Body of Christ, with all of God's creation.

Stewardship Report:

Revenue

May 19th :	7,692.06
Faith Direct:	1,296.25
Total Offertory:	8,988.31
Last Year:	9,761.83
Poor Box:	80.75
Every Penny Counts Box:	18.15

Number of Adult Envelopes: 245
Number of Children's Envelopes: 12
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34
Number of Registered Households: 623



We are pleased to announce that we recently received a check in the amount of \$12,833.00 for our parish sharing. Thank you for your generous support of our Archdiocesan and our parish!



First Communion and Confirmation Pictures:

There is still time to order pictures if you forgot to do so. The First Communion Pictures will comprise a set of four; receiving the Host, Group picture with class; family picture with Fr. Jeff and communicant with Fr. Jeff. Please call the Office or send forms in as soon as possible. Confirmation pictures will also include family pictures with Bishop Holley. We will take the final count this week and process the pictures so do please get in touch with Dorothy Aggrey in the rectory (ext. 205) as soon as you can if you will like extra copies, to update an order or place a new order.

Visits to the St. Matthias Convent Chapel

From January 19, 2008 through January 21, 2009; the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine (in Vietnam and the USA province) is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. During this grace-filled year, the Apostolic Penitentiary has granted plenary indulgences to all those who visit to their chapels on certain feast days under the usual conditions.



The "usual conditions" for a plenary indulgence are sacramental confession, prayer for the Pope's intention and the absence of attachment to sin.

The Convent Chapel will be open for visitations from 9:00am until 7:00pm on Sunday, May 25th and Monday, May 30th. Please join our Sisters as they celebrate during this time with a visit to the chapel.

Faith Formation:

Faith Formation: Our School year has ended and we are most grateful to all the catechists and helpers who gave of their time and talent to assist with this year's program. We hope you will have a wonderful and restful summer and return to us refreshed for yet another year of Faith Formation. God bless you!

Registration for 2008-2009: Forms have been mailed home via regular mail. Please make sure to fill and return them to the Office for Faith Formation before June 30th. If you do not receive any letter from us please check with the office to make sure that we do have the correct address for you.

Gratitude: Thanks to all the catechists and helpers who have assisted in various ways through out the year with the Faith Formation program: *Magdalene Ibebuchi; Edward Johnson; Sandy Midgley; Kevin Butler; Tony Okolo; Innocent Nwadije; Suzanne Pouliot; Nwaneka Onuaku; Cosmas Nwokefor; Marilyn Lovett; Emmanuel Amanyeiwe; Christine Idedevbo; Ingelise Gordon; Joan Peto; Evangeline Ndigwe; Natasha Andrews; Rosemary Ferrera; Chinwe Amazu; Michael Nwadije; Brian Nwadije; Chinedu Nwokefor; Chidimma Nwosu; and Golden Okolo.* Thank you all for a job well done!

Other Items of Note:

Find Support and Understanding As You Grieve: For those who have experienced significant losses in their lives, St. Matthias Parish offers an opportunity to obtain grief support. Sessions are held at 9AM each Saturday in the school library. For more information please contact - Miriam Jacik MSN, MSPsy at (301) 345-6054.

Camp St. Charles: Drop in during the Open House to see how your children can experience two fun-filled weeks at Camp St. Charles for a reasonable price and see how close we are. For 56 years, thousands of children have been making friends, learning to work together and developing an appreciation for creation while camping out, horseback riding, challenge courses, archery, arts and interactions with animals! Located in beautiful Southern Maryland, Camp St. Charles is fully accredited with American Camp Association, certified by the State of Maryland and run by the Salvatorian Fathers and Brothers and Lay Salvatorians. For more information or directions, go to www.campstcharles.com or call 301-934-8799.

2008 Retreats for Young Men: Vocations retreats for young men will be held at Our Lady of Mattaponi Youth Retreat Center. Retreats will be run by Fr. Mark Smith, Assistant Director of Priest Vocations and are designed for young men who are open to the priesthood or are interested in learning more about the life and spirituality of the priest. For more information, please contact the Office of Priest Vocations at 301-853-4580 or email them at vocations@adw.org.

Memorial Day Mass: You are invited to join Bishop Holley at Resurrection Cemetery to celebrate the forty-first annual Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 26, 2008 at 10:00am. In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be held under tents.

Knights of Columbus Summer Camp: Registration is now under way for the eight summer of camp in College Park, MD. Swim lessons, crafts, games, sports and free swim are all offered at the extensive facility. Forms can be downloaded at <http://kofccamp.blogspot.com>. Questions can be directed to Ann Irwin at 240-393-2468 or apberard@juno.com.

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for Monday, May 12th:
Mr. John P. Kelly of Mitchellville, MD **won \$350**
He is the winner AND the seller!



Mass Intentions for the Eighth Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, May 26: Philip Neri, priest

8:30 am Carl Levock

RECTORY & SCHOOL CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 27: Augustine of Canterbury, bishop

8:30 am Carl Levock

Wednesday, May 28

8:30 am Manuel Patrick Prieto

Thursday, May 29

8:30 am Virginia Craig

Friday, May 30: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

8:30 am Virginia Craig

Saturday, May 31-Vigil: Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions Fr. Bob

5:00 pm Anthony & Stephanie Bello Fr. Bob

Sunday, June 1: Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Mary & Tony Lunney (lvng) Fr. Stan

9:30 am Evan Carlton Richardson Fr. Jeff

11:30am Carl Levock Fr. Jeff

Please Pray for: †The Sick and Homebound In Our Parish:

Pearl Aitcheson; Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Linda Bryans; Dan Comeaux; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Mary Ennis; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Ferris (Bo) George; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Charles Jones; Katie Kennedy; Robyn Kirby; Nancy Maimone; Bob Martin; Carol McDonagh; Willie Moore; Bernadette Murphy; Larry Murphy; Michael & Rosemarie Nardozi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Evelyn Pierce; Joe Sico; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Brian A. Densmore; Ryan A. Morgan **†Names will be placed on our prayer list for three weeks. To add a name or to request continuing prayers, call Tara Guevara at 301-459-4814 or email tguevara@stmatthias.org.**



Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from
Sunday, May 25th through
Saturday, May 31st:



At the Shrine of the Sacred Heart: **For the Special Intentions of:** Joyce Klein; Donna & Willie Moore (healing) and **For the Happy Repose of:** Manuel Patrick Prieto; Scott McInroy

At the Shrine of the Madonna and Child: **For the Special Intentions of:** Peter O'Neill (healing); Dennis George (birthday) and **For the Happy Repose of:** Mary Sico Forish