

§ A Father is Reminded of True Charity by One of His Daughters >

Last weekend my reflection was one of gratitude to those who continually sacrifice weekly in order to make the mission of our parish, which is the commission given to us by Christ, to proclaim and teach His gospel a reality in our own community. I also encouraged those who were not with us in supporting the temporal and spiritual works of the parish to join us. Every disciple is needed; every parishioner can make a profound difference in the amount and degree of what we do for Christ within the span of our days on earth. Now, having celebrated my twentieth anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, one would assume that I have seen or heard just about everything within parish life over those two decades. However, if I have learned anything at all it is that just when you thought you had heard or seen it all, something or someone comes along and, for good or bad, shatters that assumption.

On this Fathers Day weekend, I share with you a true and profound act of kindness and charity that reveals the depth of goodness in the soul of one of our young people. Your Pastor, or as one could say, your spiritual father, was deeply moved and humbled by the actions of one of my spiritual daughters, a parishioner who is in her teens. I will not reveal her name or anything about her, for in many regards she could be anyone's daughter or son reflecting a deep-seated faith and wisdom gained through God's grace alone, and by the nurturing of parents who have taught consistently that what you give to God, He will return to you a hundred-fold or more!

On Easter Sunday, March 23rd of this spring, I was exhausted after the Easter Vigil and the Masses of Easter Sunday. I looked forward to resting in the afternoon and enjoying the quiet and solitude the rectory affords me when drained. Before propping up my feet, I opened a few cards that were given to me after Masses or had been slipped through the rectory door mail slot. One was a brief letter that had been written by this young parishioner who is only fifteen years old. The note read: *"Dear Father Jeff: My name is (omitted) and I am 15 years old. For Easter I wondered what I should give you because I did not give you anything for Christmas. So I finally figured it out. In this envelope is \$100.00. I hope you will accept my gift. Spend it on anything you want. I pray you have a wonderful Easter and I want to thank you for being my priest. You have been wonderful and I pray that God blesses you all the days of your life, Sincerely, (name omitted)."*

Never before in a singular moment had I been so befuddled. Yes, I have received gifts of all shapes and sizes and in all denominations but never one accompanied by the loving and sincere sentiments of a young teenage girl who practices stewardship. I later came to discover that she also takes an envelope from the pamphlet rack nearly every week, dutifully writes her name and address on the exterior and then places her sacrificial gift inside for the collection. Far above and beyond the sacrifice of her treasure she has embraced and made a tenet of her life the belief that we give back to God not because God needs, or the parish needs, but because it is proper and just for us to return something of what He has blessed us with. I decided to wait until this weekend to express my thanks to her through this column and through a note delivered to her home. I am exceptionally proud as a spiritual father to have such a daughter counted among the members of my parish. She is an inspiration to many and a living challenge to many of our parish who claim to be older, wiser, and richer. She is a beacon of hope to this spiritual father and after twenty years as a priest, a reminder that God still sends messengers into our lives who announce His love and faithfulness to those who await completion of his Kingdom!

It is my hope that you will share this marvelous story with others, and if every parent instills in his/her children this sense of returning to the Lord a portion of what He has given to each child, then the world would truly be a better place, and Christ's reign would not be far off. It is my prayer that every father in church today would know this sense of pride in his sons and daughters, and bask in the Lord's goodness for he has done marvelous things in our sight!

A Celebration in Honor of Father Bob: Please plan on joining us next weekend on Sunday June 22nd at the 9:30 AM Mass as we bid farewell to Father Bob, our parochial vicar. His new assignment at Saint Bernadette's in Silver Spring as a parochial vicar begins on June 25th. After Mass there will be a reception for Father Bob in Friendship Hall. Come join us in saying "thank you" to Father Bob for his two years of service and ministry to the parish. We wish Father Bob an abundance of blessings and graces from heaven above as he begins this new assignment!



Stewardship Report:



Revenue

June 8:	9,393.74
Faith Direct:	1290.00
Total Offertory:	10,683.00
Last Year:	10,119.72
Poor Box:	166.00
Every Penny Counts Box:	29.36

Number of Adult Envelopes: 239

Number of Children's Envelopes: 8

Number of Faith Direct donors: 34

Number of Registered Households: 623

Some Expenses

Monthly Property Insurance:	1,980.00
A/C Repair:	8,885.00
Roof Repair:	1,369.00
Total:	12,234.00

2008 Archbishop's Appeal: The Archdiocese of Washington will be conducting telephone follow-up calls to parishioners who have given to the Archbishop's Appeal in previous years, but have not yet pledged their support in 2008. A gift to the Archbishop's Appeal will touch the lives of many throughout the Archdiocese of Washington in a very positive way. If you would like to learn more about the ministries, services and educational programs that are funded by the Archbishop's Appeal, you can find information by going to www.adw.org and clicking on "Archbishop's Appeal." Please contact the Appeal office at 301-853-5376 if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response!

Summer Stewardship: Please remember that your parish counts on your weekly sacrifice of treasure, joyfully given to the Lord in gratitude, and that treasure is needed even when you're away from us on vacation. Please remember to mail your offertory envelope to the rectory before you go away on a well-deserved holiday or drop it in the collection basket the week before you leave. Thank you for being a faithful steward!



Other Items of Note:



Calendar Planning: The rectory office staff is beginning to plan the calendar for all parish committee/organization meetings, events, and activities for the second-half of 2008 (July through December). All committee chairpersons and parish organizations/groups are asked to submit in writing, requests for use of Friendship Hall, school classrooms, playing field, and other spaces on parish property for July through December. Please do not assume that your group will be automatically scheduled. When making your request for meeting space, please be sure to include the name of the committee or organization; a chairperson/contact person along with their complete mailing address; home and work telephone numbers as well as e-mail information. Conflicts in scheduling will be settled by the pastor and chairpersons will be notified if changes are necessary. Please submit all requests to the rectory, attention Tara Guevara, no later than Monday, June 30th. You may also e-mail your requests to: tguevara@stmatthias.org.

Feed the Homeless: Volunteers are needed to help prepare and/or serve a spaghetti dinner to area homeless residents at First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville on Wednesday June 18th. If you are interested in more information or in signing up to help with this worthy cause, please contact Gwen Johnson at 301-249-1109.

Jubilarian Celebration: Last Sunday, June 8 at 2:00pm, Archbishop Wuerl presided at the annual Jubilarian Celebration at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception honoring couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 or more years of marriage. Congratulations to the following couples who received personalized certificates from the Archbishop: **Raymond & Lottie Krok, Sr**— 69 years; **Robert & Nancy Faas**— 55 years; **Raymond & Barbara Zanin**— 50 years; and **Edward & Elizabeth Kin**— 45 years. We wish you all many more blessed years together!



Faith Formation:

Pictures and DVDs: The First Communion DVDs are in, so if you ordered one, please call the office to arrange for pick up. The pictures for both Confirmation and First Communion are also in, and you may call the office to arrange for pick up.

Faith Formation Registration: Registration for the 2008-2009 school year is in progress. Remember that there will be late fees of \$25.00 after July 1st so please be sure to register on time.

St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

The Raffle Drawing for Monday, June 9th:
Mrs. Mary Sykes of Bowie, MD won \$350
She is the WINNER & SELLER!

Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from

Sunday, June 15th through Saturday, June 22nd:

At the Shrine of the Sacred Heart: **For the Special Intentions of:** In thanksgiving to St. Jude; **For the Happy Repose of:** Maria Ibal and Hans Ibal

At the Shrine of the Madonna and Child: **For the Special Intentions of:** Michael Nardozi and Michael Nardozi, Jr. and **For the Happy Repose of:** Maria Ibal & Hans Ibal



Mass Intentions for the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time



Monday, 16

8:30 am Father's Day Novena

Tuesday, June 17

8:30 am Father's Day Novena

Wednesday, June 18

8:30 am Father's Day Novena

Thursday, June 19: Romuald, abbot

8:30 am Father's Day Novena

Friday, June 20

8:30 am Father's Day Novena

Saturday, June 21: Vigil Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions Fr. Stan

5:00 pm Father's Day Novena Fr. Stan

Sunday, June 22: Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Father's Day Novena Fr. Jeff

9:30 am Angelica DeLeon & All Fathers Fr. Bob

11:30am Father's Day Novena Fr. Stan

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

Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Linda Bryans; Dan Comeaux; Al Craig; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Anne Mbimi Ifouini; Charles Jones; Robyn Kirby; Nancy Maimone; Albertine Mandzo; Bob Martin; Willie (Bill) Moore; Bernadette Murphy; Larry Murphy; Michael & Rosemarie Nardozi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Evelyn Pierce; Joe Sico; Veronica Verna; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; 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.**

Youth News:

Youth Graduation Mass: Each year St. Matthias acknowledges all of the graduates high school age and above during a graduation ceremony to be held the last Sunday in June. This year that celebration will be held on Sunday, June 29th. Any member of St. Matthias who has graduated or will be graduating during the 2007-2008 term is welcome to be a participant in the Mass celebrating all high school and college/university graduates. If you would like to participate in the graduation Mass, please contact Tara Guevara in the rectory office at extension 201.

College Bound Shower: This year we have (6) young men and women who have been active in Youth Group for whom we will be sponsoring College Bound Baskets. From Sunday, June 8 through Sunday, June 22nd, there will be a College Bound Shower Box in the back of the church. Please bring items listed on the **WISH LIST** and deposit them in the box before or after the Mass. Monetary donations are to be made payable to St. Matthias Youth Ministry. We know that there are others in the parish who will be graduating, if you desire to be a part of this process, please contact Mrs. Donna Stewart Moore at the rectory at 301-459-4814 or Mrs. Zita E. Givens on 301-577-1853.