

## Š Reflection on the Gospel >

Flannery O'Connor, a noted Catholic author of the mid-twentieth century, wrote, tongue-in-cheek, "But for the grace of God, I could have been a social scientist." Social science, however, does provide us with a framework for organizing social relationships. It gives us the principle of management called the "principle of subsidiarity" or the principle of delegation. This principle states that a function that can be done effectively on a lower level should not be done at a higher level of an organization. In other words, a CEO should not take on the duties of a secretary. Parents often use this principle in teaching their children responsibility by assigning them small tasks such as cleaning their rooms or doing the laundry. This frees up the parent to do the higher duties, such as preparing meals.

Jesus did not invent the principle of subsidiarity, but he certainly practiced it. Throughout his ministry Jesus made it clear that his ministry was not going to be a one-person operation. St. Augustine described Jesus' practice in these words, "Although God created you without help, God will not save you without your cooperation." Besides the twelve apostles, Jesus chose many other disciples to carry his message to Galilee and other places. In today's gospel we hear Jesus naming Peter as the one who is delegated to head the group of disciples.

However, delegating someone else to carry out a project involves risks. The person doing the delegating is never absolutely sure that the person delegated will carry out an assignment satisfactorily. When you study the history of the Roman Catholic Church you find abundant evidence that the popes, the vicars of Christ, often failed in truly being "other Christs." They served themselves and their own personal ambitions rather than the people of God. The hierarchical structure of the church has not always functioned in the spirit of the gospels. It was this failure that made the Reformation necessary in the sixteenth century.

But if the church were to function without delegation of some responsibility the results could be even more tragic. Many responsibilities would never be met. Even more tragic would be the waste of the many gifts that God has distributed throughout the people of God, not just to the hierarchy. That is why being a Christian has always meant having a divine call and vocation. Each Christian, through baptism, is called to be actively engaged in spreading the gospel. Every Christian is an evangelical, though we seem reluctant to apply that word to us Catholics. Though it is true for everyone, it is even truer for a Christian that "a wasted life is a tragedy."

No baptized person can plead lack of personal gifts as an excuse for not engaging in the spread of the gospel. We can all make our own the sentiments of St. Paul, "The Lord stood by me and gave me strength." God does not give responsibilities without the strength to bear them. As in so many instances, attitude is just as important as aptitude, perhaps more important.

If we are **called** by the sacrament of baptism, we are **sent** by the sacrament of the Eucharist. For that is what the word MASS means: mission, or sending. When the priest dismisses the congregation, he is also sending all of us on the mission of bringing Christ's love to the world.



## Stewardship Report:



### Revenue

<b>June 22:</b>	<b>8,708.02</b>
<b>Faith Direct:</b>	<b>1,290.00</b>
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>9,998.02</b>
<b>Last Year:</b>	<b>9,104.65</b>
<b>Poor Box:</b>	<b>68.00</b>
<b>Every Penny Counts Box:</b>	<b>20.42</b>

Number of Adult Envelopes: 235  
Number of Children's Envelopes: 9  
Number of Faith Direct donors: 34  
Number of Registered Households: 623

**Weekly Offertory Envelopes:** Have you received your weekly



offertory envelopes for the months of **JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER??** If not, please contact Tara in the rectory. If you have

moved, please update your address so that you can continue to receive your envelopes and parish mailings. And don't forget that you can sign up for FAITH DIRECT and have your weekly gift automatically debited from a bank account or credit card! Information and forms are available in the rectory.

**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!

## Cross International Catholic Outreach

Under the direction of its chairman, Bishop Sam Jacobs, Cross International Catholic Outreach is working to establish a stronger spiritual relationship between America's Catholic parishes and their counterparts overseas— with the ultimate goal of helping the poorest of the poor.

**This weekend we welcome Reverend Richard Kunzman who comes to us on behalf of Cross International Catholic Outreach.**

Parishes in underdeveloped countries represent more than an important source of spiritual truth for their community. They also stand as a beacon of hope for impoverished families who have nowhere else to turn for help. Come and hear how we can make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in the Third World.

Father Richard's ministry has been quite diverse. Since being ordained in 1963 as a priest of the Diocese of Camden, NJ, he has received numerous degrees including a doctorate in Pastoral Counseling. His ministries have been quite diverse. He has served as a secondary school teacher, as a missionary in Brazil and has been engaged in hospital ministry. He has been a chaplain at Rosemont College in Rosemont, PA and has also served as a counselor for Catholic Social Services in Camden and worked with the Family Life Bureau. Since 1990, Father Richard has preached in more than 700 parishes throughout the USA for the poorest of the poor.

## Other Items of Note:

**LAST CALL FOR CALENDAR SUBMISSIONS:** 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](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org).

**Assistance Needed for Iowa Flood Victims:** The Greenbelt Rotary will be collecting canned goods, non-perishable food items, bottled water, household and personal cleaning products and paper goods for the victims of the Iowa flood. Camping equipment for cooking, sleeping and water purification is also useable as well as serviceable clothing and shoes and items for babies and small children. The collection will take place on **June 28th and 29th** as well as **July 5th and 6th from 11am until 5pm at SK Motors** located at 1805 Lanham Severn Road in Lanham. For information, contact Steve Kemp at 301-237-8098. Please help us make a difference to the flood victims and help us pack a trailer truck to send to Iowa on July 7th!

**Food Pantry Donations:** Please remember the less fortunate in our community through the summer months as more and more local families need assistance. The Ladies of Charity ask that you bring in your non-perishable food donations and leave them in the back of the church on the last Sunday of each month. Donations may also be dropped off at the rectory. Please be sure all foods are not nearing their expiration dates! Thank you for your continued support of the needy in our area!

**New Pamphlets Available in our Church Vestibule:** The "Good News Notes" series from Father Jude Winkler is now available in the following titles; The Origin of the Papacy in the Bible; Christian Parenting; Keeping Holy the Lord's Day; Learning to Read the Bible; Visions and Apparitions; The Power of Prayer; Learning to Pray; Expressing Reverence in our Celebration of the Eucharist.

**School Tuition Due:** Just a gentle reminder to plan ahead for your first school tuition payment, due Thursday, July 10th.

## 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 winner for this week will be published in next week's bulletin. We regret the inconvenience.



## Mass Intentions for the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time



### Monday, June 30: Protomartyrs of Rome

8:30 am Carl Levocek

### Tuesday, July 1: Bl. Junipero Serra, priest

8:30 am Virginia Craig

### Wednesday, July 2

8:30 am Carl Levocek

### Thursday, July 3: Thomas, apostle

8:30 am Frank Carpino

### Friday, July 4: Elizabeth of Portugal

### RECTORY CLOSED FOR JULY 4TH HOLIDAY

8:30 am Joe Makowski, Sr. (Living)

### Saturday, July 5: Vigil— Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions

5:00 pm Pampilo Buan

### Sunday, July 6: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Maria Jones

9:30 am Kelly Fredenburg

11:30am Christie Udejiofor

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

Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Linda Bryans; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Jose Guevara; 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 Nardoizzi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Evelyn Pierce; Jose Ocasio Rodriguez; Joe Sico; Veronica Verna; Marian C. Wahle; Ryan Zawada **†For Our Military Serving in Afghanistan or Iraq:** Spc. Michael J. Chiddo; Ryan A. Morgan **†For Our Deceased:** 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](mailto:tguevara@stmatthias.org).

## Votive Lights

The votive lights burning from  
**Sunday, June 29th through Saturday, July 5th:**



### Shrine of the Madonna and Child:

**For the Special Intentions of:** Melba Adams on the occasion of her birthday; Sister Ann on the occasion of her birthday; the Long Family and for other special intentions.