

## Reflections on Scripture

The Roman Catholic Church has never considered itself a democratic institution. Although the pope has often called the bishops to a council in Rome to discuss and vote on various issues, including matters of doctrine, the laity have never been asked to cast a vote on these matters. This hierarchical structure of the church has had its foundation in the words of Jesus in today's gospel.

However, many people, especially feminists, have doubted that Jesus meant the church to be as patriarchal as it is today. Considering the prominent women mentioned in the gospels, the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul, it does seem that the church in the apostolic times was less patriarchal than it is today. It is encouraging that Pope Benedict has indicated that he intends to appoint women to positions of influence in the Curia. Perhaps we might see women as cardinals in our lifetimes.

Assuming the church has correctly read Jesus' mind in continuing its hierarchical structure, St. Paul advises us not to question the wisdom of our Lord's intention. He asks, "For who has read the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?" Being followers, however, does not necessarily mean that we are completely passive members of the Body of Christ.

Obviously being a leader means having at least one follower. There is no reason to obsess about leadership and spurn followership. Focusing too much on leadership is not only misguided, it is mistaken. Think, for example, of the American and French revolutions, the nineteenth century rallying cry, "Workers of the world, unite," and the twentieth century civil rights and women's movements. Each of these movements was about the redistribution of power from those higher up to those lower down.

This trend has by no means ceased. There is abundant evidence to believe that followers matter now more than ever. The Catholic bishop's cover-up in the sexual abuse scandal demonstrated that followers can rise up and secure their rights even when members of the hierarchy established a pattern of ignoring these rights. But increase follow-power is not only about toppling ineffective leaders but also circumventing them when necessary.

There is abundant evidence of follow-power. The Green Movement is surely a founds-up movement that has not depended on legislation. People for the ethical treatment of animals have pursued their goals without waiting for approval or even support from government officials. Gays and lesbians have not waited for legislation to secure their just treatment and rights.

Not all followers are alike, of course. Some subordinates go along mindlessly, while others are completely committed and actively involved. A wit once said, "There are three kinds of people. Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what happened."

The considerable attention that Jesus gives to the training of disciples makes it clear that he does not want passive disciples. St. Paul, using the metaphor of the Body, emphasize that ever member has a part to play in the life of the Body of Christ. Dead. Lifeless members do not contribute to the proper functioning of the Body but in fact are a burden and a hinderance to it.

As we celebrate this Eucharist today, we declare ourselves to Jesus and to each other in making God's love a reality in the world around us.



## Stewardship Report:

### Revenue



**Due to Tara's vacation and the early transmittal of this week's bulletin, we are unable to publish the regular stewardship report. This week's stewardship information will appear in next week's bulletin.**

**Every Penny Counts:** Donate your loose change to the "Every Penny Counts" Box which provides funding for the annual Father E. Albert Hughes Scholarship awards. These scholarship awards are given in the form of tuition assistance to deserving children and youth from our parish enrolled at St. Matthias School or a Catholic High School of the Archdiocese of Washington. Together our pennies, nickels, and dimes can make a difference by assisting someone in need with a Catholic education!



**Did you know?:** Our parish has more than 600 registered families in our database. Each Sunday we have *less than half* of those families coming to Mass and using their weekly offertory envelopes to give a gift to the Lord in joyful return for all the blessings He bestows in our lives! If you are among the missing half of our parishioners, we hope to see you soon! Your weekly sacrifice of treasure is vital to the missions of the church and our ability to help those in need, especially during this time of economic hardship which affects so many families. Please join your parish family at Mass this week and make a difference!

**Take Pride in Your Parish!** When you see trash and debris, please pick it up and place it in a trash can, don't be afraid to pull up a weed if your spot one, and as you leave church, help the ushers place kneelers in an upright position, remove papers, and place the hymnals back in their pew pockets. Together we show our community that all that we do reflects a reverence for God and the many things He has blessed us with in our church and school!



## St. Matthias School Raffle 2008

### **For the August 18th Drawing:**

Due to Tara's vacation and the early publication of this week's bulletin, the raffle winner was not yet drawn. The winner for August 18th will be published in the bulletin next Sunday.

## Votive Lights

**Sunday, August 24th through Saturday, August 30th:**

### Shrine of the Sacred Heart

#### **For the Special Intentions of:**

The generous benefactors of  
St. Matthias Apostle Parish & School



### Shrine of the Madonna & Child:

#### **For the Special Intentions of:**

Deacon Larry Murphy  
Bernadette Murphy  
"Special Intention"



**Faith Formation:**

**Faith Formation Registration:** This is a reminder that **ALL STUDENTS must be registered** before they can be placed in a class. Registration forms are in the back of the church or may be picked up at the rectory offices during working hours. If you are new to the parish make sure to fill out a Parish Registration Form as well.

**Calling All Catechists!:** Yes, we are still enjoying summer however we need to start making preparations for the fall. I will encourage you to take a few moments maybe once a week to look over your notes from last year and start making plans for the fall.

You should have received a letter from me regarding our **Training Session on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 10:00am.** Do contact me if you did not receive your copy. Please mark your calendar for this event.

We are still in need of a few dedicated and committed people to hand on the Catholic Faith to our young parishioners. Have you considered being a Catechist? Join us on Saturday, September 6 in the School Library to find out. Or better yet give me a call at 301-459-4814 x 205 to discuss this further. **The Archdiocese requires that TWO ADULTS be in each class.** Right now we have one adult per class so we do need help. You do not have to teach right away, you can actually be an observer for several months till you feel comfortable teaching. If we want our children to be fully equipped with the Word of God as they make major decisions in the future then *it is our collective responsibility* to at least ensure that they know the Catholic Faith.

**Baptism:** The next Baptism preparatory class will be held on Wednesday, September 3, at 7:00 pm in the School library. Parents must be registered parishioners and must also register with the Office for Faith Formation before the class. If in doubt call the office at 301-459-4814 x 205.

**RCIA –WELCOME BACK HOME!:** Are you or someone else you know interested in being Catholic or simply learning more about the Catholic faith? The Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is tailored to address such needs. This year we will be holding classes on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm to 8:15pm in the School Faculty Lounge. We will have our first session on Wednesday September 23, join us then.

**Other Items of Note:**

**LABOR DAY:** Please take note that the rectory offices will be **CLOSED** on **Monday September 1st** in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen on Tuesday September 2nd at 9am. We hope you all enjoy one last restful weekend as the summer concludes!



**BACK TO SCHOOL!** Our school children will be back in classes for the first day of the 2008-2009 school year on **Tuesday September 2nd.** Please be sure to observe traffic pattern rules and watch for kids in the parking lots, especially prior to the 8:30am Masses.



**Mass Intentions for the Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time**

**Monday, August 25: Joseph Calasanz, priest**

8:30 am Alfonso Luis Martinez (living)

**Tuesday, August 26**

8:30 am Daniel Enahoro

**Wednesday, August 27: Monica**

8:30 am Michael Nardozzi

**Thursday, August 28: Augustine, bishop, doctor**

8:30 am Father Augustine Kizito Abizi

**Friday, August 29: Martyrdom of John the Baptist**

8:30 am Dr. Michael E. BeBakey

**Saturday, Aug 30: Vigil – Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**3:30 pm to 4:30pm—Confessions**

5:00 pm Jane Radcliffe

**Sunday, Aug 31: Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 am Angelo Mancuso

9:30 am Michael Nardozzi

11:30am Michael Nardozzi

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

Virgie Azarcon; Barbara Brink; Audrey Brown; Linda Bryans; Fidel dela Cuesta; Lisa Cuthbert; Eleanor DeMarco; Lisa Farland; Karen Fisher; Jose Guevara; Joseph Harrison; Robert Hoke; Anne Mbimi Ifouini; Charles Jones; Paula Kelly; Robyn Kirby; Laura Elaine Kiessling; Nancy Maimone; Joe Makowski; Albertine Mandzo; Luke Martellotti; Bob Martin; Willie (Bill) Moore; Bernadette Murphy; Larry Murphy; Rosemarie Nardozzi; David Obi; Peter O'Neill; Thomas Opalski; Joseph Otero; Dawn Pearson; Evelyn Pierce; John Rampone; Jose Ocasio Rodriguez; Joe Sico; Marian C. Wahle; Judy Widdis; Jean Zanin; 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@smatthias.org](mailto:tguevara@smatthias.org).*



*Every day, God lets some of the water out so there's room to play on the beach!  
 Enjoy these last, leisurely days of summer with your friends & family!*