



THE SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

PARISH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009



MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN

Dear Friends,

What issues concern you in the Church today? Are you worried about vocations, the ongoing debate on same-sex marriages, opportunity scholarships, the closing of Catholic schools or the declining attendance at Sunday Masses? Do you worry about the lack of knowledge of many people about their faith, the sex abuse crisis, the issue of life in the womb and the protection of life from conception to natural death, your own personal spirituality or the lack of resources to meet the needs of our parish community and our Church? Do you have a family member suffering from illness, and are you concerned for families who have recently lost loved ones--little ones--in the last several months such as the Murrays, the Duffys, the Schrubens and the Gormans? How about your parents, some of whom are dealing with cancer, and single parents raising their children? Are you concerned for widows and widowers, families dealing with the loss of their jobs and main source of income, and families who can't pay their school tuition bills?

All of the above challenge me to pray more faithfully, but I also worry about the completion of the Field of Dreams and maintaining our parish plant, which is showing signs of age in many places. Is the Church fulfilling your spiritual needs and sustenance through the Body of Christ?

All of these issues and more, whether personal, financial or spiritual, do not diminish my faith and trust in God. As I write this, I reflect on all God's goodness to me and the blessings he has showered on our parish and its members. Together, let us meet these worries, concerns and struggles with a greater faith and belief that we are surrounded by God's love. None of us goes through this life unscathed, but those with a strong faith meet these struggles and find they know Jesus more intimately as they walk the path of life with Him at their side. Perhaps we can continue to look for ways to build up our community as part of our journey of faith together.

Father John

SEMINARIAN WITH PARISH ROOTS JOINS BLESSED SACRAMENT THIS YEAR

Patrick Mullan is a seminarian in residence this year at Blessed Sacrament, and his roots in the parish go way back. His parents are children of the Mullan and McHale families, who graduated from Blessed Sacrament School, the school he now serves. It was here that his family members received the Eucharist that Patrick now administers; it was at Blessed Sacrament they received the sacraments at which he will assist.

Born in Connecticut to a Navy family, Patrick grew up in Rockville as a member of the parish, the Shrine of St. Jude. His mother home-schooled Patrick and two of his three sisters. In 2004, Patrick entered the college seminary in Yonkers, New York at Dunwoodie (formally known as St. Joseph's Seminary) while studying philosophy at St. John's University in Queens, New York. After receiving his degree, he moved to Mt. Saint Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland where he completed his first year of theological study.

This is Patrick's Pastoral Year, a time of in-depth, on-going experience in parish work. He will live at the rectory and spend this year in a variety of roles, working with the school, youth group, and other parish groups. Mentored by Father John, Patrick is quickly becoming an important part of the Blessed Sacrament team. "I consider myself very blessed to be here, and I hope that all of you will help me mature as a seminarian, love you as a brother, and, as a human being, forgive me if I ever offend."

ANNUAL SODALITY BAZAAR

Mark your calendars now for Saturday, November 14. You will want to be at the Annual Sodality Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to visit the many fabulous vendors, to check out the Chic Boutique of nearly-new clothing, to buy some diamonds-in-the-rough at the White Elephant sale, and to take your young shoppers to Santa's workshop.

You'll find lunch for purchase and a unique ambience, and you can solve some of your Christmas needs early. Be there!

ANNUAL ALL SOULS MASS – NOVEMBER 2

The annual All Souls Mass will be celebrated on Monday, November 2, at 7 p.m. at the Shine of the Most Blessed Sacrament. The Sanctuary Choir and chamber orchestra will perform the Fauré Requiem during the Mass, and a reception for attendees, hosted by the Sodality, will follow in the Duffy Parish Center.

Deceased members of the parish who passed away during the year will be specially remembered at the Mass and receive special mention in the program. Additionally, if any parishioner wishes to have a deceased relative or friend also remembered in the program, please e-mail the name/names to Jay Rader at jayrader@blessedsacramentdc.org by October 24.

This event is a recognized inspirational highlight of the liturgical year and one that many parishioners will want to attend. For further information contact Pat Kavanaugh at 202.966.6575 or at pkavanaugh@blessedsacramentdc.org.

JUST IN TIME

(This series returns by popular demand, thanks to the kindness of Dr. John Dluhy, parishioner.)

One of the most satisfying and mentally healthy emotions is gratitude. Have gratitude at the end of the day for God's gifts, as in St. Ignatius Loyola's **Examen** prayer. Take time to quietly go over the day's events. For instance:

- A child's smile
- A spouse's loving gesture
- A beautiful sunrise
- An observed random act of kindness
- An historical event discovered

See God's hand in this. Be grateful; feel grateful and say your gratitude to God. **Gratitude looks good on you!**

SUPPORT THE PARISH LIBRARY BOOK SALE OCTOBER 24 -25

Hilaire Belloc famously said:

When I am dead, I hope it may be said:
"His sins were scarlet, but his books were read"

He'd be pleased to know that his books, and those of his friend G.K. Chesterton, do a brisk trade on Amazon. In spite of the prophecy that a paperless society is imminent and that we can read almost everything on the Internet, the total number of books published last year, 2008, was 170,663 (Bowker Annual). That may be the reason for the large number of books always donated to the bi-annual book sale which offers an amazing range of subjects at prices that bear no relation to the pleasure they will provide.

If you have spare books (or tapes, or videos) please consider donating them to the upcoming library book sale. But, most importantly, don't forget to re-stock your own shelves the weekend of October 24/25. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. You might even find an early edition of Belloc's Cautionary Tales.

HANDS ACROSS THE CITY

Blessed Sacrament parishioners have always been generous, so it was not surprising that on September 23 Pat Kavanaugh and Wayne Straight drove a van full of boxes filled with school supplies donated by parishioners for the students of St. Thomas More's school in Anacostia. There were pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, markers, crayons – all the supplies one needs for a successful school year. There were even book bags for students! Additionally, Blessed Sacrament parishioners donated money so that the school can buy more supplies as students run low,

Picture smiling, appreciative faces; see youngsters eager to do well in school; witness the merger of generosity and hope as hands extended across the city met on the school parking lot with Blessed Sacrament School supply donations.

Thanks to all who donated supplies and funds. You made a difference!

HANDS ACROSS THE HEMISPHERE

On October 31 and November 1, Father Reginald Jean-Mary will speak to the Blessed Sacrament community at all the Masses, informing them of the spiritual and temporal needs of the people of Haiti. Father has worked for many years with the people of Haiti and is the pastor of the largest Haitian Catholic community in Miami. One of our own parishioners, Anne Devereux, has worked for many years with Father both in Haiti and in Barbados to address the many challenges of the people.

FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

Ellen Kenealy was born into the Dougherty family in Chicago where she grew up in the cathedral parish. Her grandfather was very active in Chicago politics. Ellen received her B.A. in economics from Mundelein College in Chicago and did accounting work before she was married.

After her marriage, she moved to Washington where she raised nine children: six boys and 3 girls. She returned to the workforce after her last child went to school.

Ellen has been involved as a volunteer in many Blessed Sacrament activities, and for more than twenty years she has been an active force in the work of social concerns. First working with Sister Mary Louise, Ellen has served in many roles and with many Directors of Social Concerns. Additionally, Ellen has reached out to other parishioners, getting them involved in this important work. Ellen explained, "People like to work, they just need to be asked in a personal way." No wonder so many have responded to her call!

Ellen served for several years as a member of "The Visitors", a no-longer-operative group who visited the funeral home expressing the sympathies of the parish when a parishioner died. Ellen had no car, so she took the bus to the funeral home. Ellen's most rewarding experience was visiting home-bound elderly parishioners once a week, offering them companionship, friendship and a connection with Blessed Sacrament.

Ellen served for three years representing Blessed Sacrament on the Iona Board, and she is still involved in the behind-the-scenes work of the parish doing the large and small jobs that are necessary for the proper functioning of Blessed Sacrament. Consider responding to Ellen's invitation to serve as a volunteer, either in social concerns or in another parish activity.

HISTORY OF ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(The following article is part of an on-going series focusing on the history of the Chevy Chase area.)



The first religious services in Chevy Chase were conducted in the spring of 1897 in a little public school house on the west side of Chevy Chase Circle. This was a mission church of All Saints Church. After several interim moves, by 1890, services were located in the Chevy Chase Library, then housed in the current location of the Chevy Chase Town Hall.

The Chevy Chase Land Company donated land at 3 Chevy Chase Circle to the church in 1901, and in June the ground was broken and the cornerstone laid. By December 1901, on the first Sunday of Advent, services began in the completed church. Church members had built the stone church in record time at no cost to the Episcopal diocese. At that time there were 49 residences in Chevy Chase, and there were about 60 church members.

Waddy Wood, the architect of All Saints Church, was well-known in Washington. Among the notable buildings he designed were the Woodrow Wilson house and the U.S. Interior Department.

For more than a century the church has contributed to the growing community and has witnessed the founding and growth of the parishes of three other faiths on the Circle: The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Chevy Chase Baptist Church and Chevy Chase Presbyterian.