

# BLESSED SACRAMENT

Winter 2008



Dear Friends,

For the people of Blessed Sacrament, Lent is a special time. It includes fast and abstinence, special sacrifices and a willingness to replace some of our weaknesses with new commitments to follow the Lord more faithfully on our spiritual journey.

Ash Wednesday comes as early as it can this year (February 6), and we have prepared a wonderful Lenten series of opportunities highlighted in this newsletter. Let me tell you about some of the ways Blessed Sacrament is trying to enhance your Lenten journey:

- Ash Wednesday Confessions will be heard from 7am until 9pm, except during the Masses. In the past two years, we have had at least 20 priests join us and over 1,000 adults receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please plan on beginning your Lenten journey with a good Confession.
- “The Light is ON for You” Confessions heard every Wednesday night of Lent from 6:30 to 8:30pm.will continue in every Archdiocesan parish.
- The Corbett Lecture is named after Msgr. Joseph Corbett, former BS pastor and priest leader who encouraged laity involvement just after Vatican II. Sadly, Msgr. Corbett died in the early ‘70s of cancer, but the Corbett Lecture has continued to remember him with wonderful speakers who challenge us to be better Catholics in the modern world. I am thrilled that Cardinal McCarrick will give the Corbett Lecture this year and will speak on his experiences of working for peace in the Middle East, bringing together Christians, Muslims and Jews to discuss our differences and our similarities. Two other noted speakers will speak this spring. Each will speak on his experience in the world -- one from a Jewish perspective, the other from a Muslim perspective. Please come to all of these lectures and reflect upon our role as followers of Jesus in achieving world peace.
- We are going to have a Parish Mission! Fr. Thomas McElroy will preach at all the Masses on the weekend of March 1st and 2nd and then lead an evening reflection each and every night through Thursday, March 6th. This parish retreat will start a tradition of a Lenten Parish Mission every year at Blessed Sacrament.
- Finally, I want to emphasize the blessing of our ongoing spiritual efforts. You will receive a Lenten brochure in the next few weeks with many opportunities for further spiritual growth. Please note particularly Br. Malachy Broderick’s Tuesday morning sessions on the Four Gospels. From February 5th through March 11th, he will be leading a reflection on the Gospel of Mark. Also, Br. Malachy continues to provide wonderful Saturday morning sessions, “Spirituality for a Saturday”. His sessions during Lent will be on Saturday, the 9th of February and Saturday, March 8th, from 8:30-10:30am.

These are our ways as Christians of continuing to grow by learning more and more about all that Jesus asks of us.

Sincerely,

*In this issue*

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## THE BLESSED SACRAMENT 2008 LENTEN SEASON

When I think of the season of Lent, I am reminded of Jesus' words in Mark 8:34-35:

*"Whoever wishes to come after Me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and lose his soul in the process?"*

Lent challenges me on a number of levels: first, I realize I have to deny myself, meaning I have to love God's will more than my own. Second, I have to take up my cross and follow Him. We all have our crosses to bear in life, and Lent reminds me that I need to take up my cross with love, not resentment. I need to trust in God and His perfect timing, recognizing that He knows what is best for me in every situation (even better than I do!): *"I will not leave you nor forsake you."* (Joshua 1:5) Finally, when I "lose my life" for the sake of the gospel, I can get myself off my mind and focus more on God and loving others. We cannot be selfish and truly happy at the same time. When we relinquish self-focus, and seek to bless others as Jesus did – we find our true happiness and begin to truly live. And yet, if we gain all the worldly pleasures, riches, friends, and status, etc., and lose our soul – what have we really got anyway...nothing! We are all on a journey home to our Father. In the end, our relationship with God is what really matters most.

*"For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's... So [then] each of us shall give an account of himself to God."*  
(Romans 14: 8, 12)

Exactly one month after the feast of Epiphany, Lent begins this year on February 6. This year our annual **Parish Mission** returns to Blessed Sacrament. This is a special time set aside for prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal of the entire parish. In addition to Sunday Mass, we will meet for four evenings, Monday through Thursday, (attend any or all the sessions) to hear a guest preacher. This can be a great way to "come after" Jesus this Lent (cf. Mark 8:34). Fr. Thomas McElroy, ss.cc. will lead the Mission as we talk about living your Faith and understanding conversion. Fr. Tom has worked over the last 15 years as a retreat master and preaches nationally and internationally. The Parish Mission begins with Fr. Thomas preaching at all the Masses on Saturday evening/Sunday, March 1 - 2, 2008. Throughout the week of Monday through Thursday, March 3-6, Fr. Thomas will preach for an hour in the mornings (TBD) and give the same talk for an hour in the evenings (7:30–8:30 pm). Some of the topics include: Baptism and our Journey of Faith, Why have Faith?, Reconciliation (with an opportunity for Confessions), Living our Faith, and Understanding Conversion.

Some other ways to foster your Lenten spiritual growth include our all-day opportunity for **Confessions on Ash Wednesday** and/or weekly **Wednesday night** opportunities for **Confession**, weekly **Stations of the Cross** (every Friday in Lent after 5:30 pm Mass) with pizza to follow in the Parish Center, and our **Single and Married Young Adult Bible Study** every Tuesday, 7:30 – 9:00 pm in the Parish Center. It is our hope that these programs will put you in the right frame of mind for Lent and help you renew your relationship with God. Please mark your calendar and make this your best Lent yet!

*By Rob Maro,  
Director of Religious Education*

## ADIOS PADRE WILLIAMS

Father David Williams has returned home to Austin, Texas where he will finish his doctoral dissertation and work at the diocesan tribunal. Father served the parishioners at Blessed Sacrament for three and a half years while he pursued a licentiate (JCL) and doctoral (JCD) studies in canon law at The Catholic University of America. By a strange stroke of coincident fate, Father left on December 12, the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to serve at a parish with that same name.

Fluent in German, Latin and Spanish, Father will be able to converse easily with his many new Spanish-speaking parishioners. An avid reader, Father noted that during his assignment here, he read more

than two hundred books. He also noted that he served at Blessed Sacrament longer than any other currently assigned priest, for a time making him the cleric with the institutional memory at the rectory.

Before entering the priesthood, Father had a career as a civil rights lawyer and in public service as an Assistant Attorney General of Texas. Thus, his sermons revealed critical insights for applying the gospel in the real world.

Father will now live closer to his family; his parents reside in Abilene and his sister lives in Houston. We wish him joyful days with them and the vitality of spiritual energy on his priestly journey and in his work.



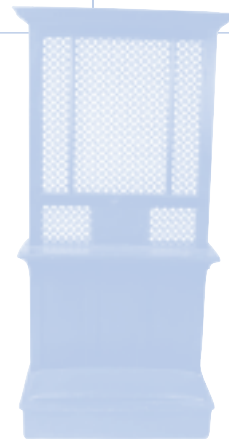
## THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU !!

All Catholics are invited on Lenten Wednesdays (6:30-8:30 pm) to stop by any Catholic parish in the Archdiocese to participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession.) Blessed Sacrament will participate in this program.

In most churches, reconciliation rooms have both options for confession: face-to-face or anonymous. The sacrament not only helps us to reconcile with

Christ when we have done harm, but also keeps us aware of our spiritual progress and provides grace to overcome sin. We acknowledge our sins, express sorrow, receive the forgiveness of Christ and His church, make reparation and resolve to do better in the future.

Consider this a “must do” part of your Lenten strategy!



## POPE BENEDICT XVI VISITS

After his arrival on the evening of April 15, Pope Benedict XVI will spend the next day visiting the White House and meeting with the bishops of the US at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

On April 17 the Holy Father will celebrate a public Mass at the new Nationals Stadium. Also, he will

meet with presidents of Catholic universities and heads of education at the Catholic University of America and with representatives of other religions at the John Paul II Cultural Center.

Pope Benedict will then fly to New York City for a visit that will include an address to the United Nations and a visit to ground zero.

CARDINAL MCCARRICK GIVES CORBETT LECTURE

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Ph.D., Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, will give the 2008 Corbett Memorial Lecture, scheduled for Sunday, February 10, at 3:00 pm in Blessed Sacrament Church.

The Cardinal's talk will serve as the keynote session of a lecture series designed to increase Catholics' and other Christians' understanding of Islam and Judaism. Among his many activities, Cardinal McCarrick serves on the Board of Catholic Relief Services and various Vatican agencies, including the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples. Part of his work required extensive visits to the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. In fact, in 2002, the President of Lebanon named Cardinal McCarrick an Officer of the Order of the Cedars of Lebanon.

In his lecture the Cardinal will share his experiences in the Middle East with the goal of providing an overview of the relations between Jews, Muslims, and Christians in that region. Cardinal McCarrick will share insights into the lives of the Jewish and Muslim people in the countries he visited. Growing up in the melting pot of New York City, the Cardinal



knew people whose parents came from all different cultures. He knows firsthand that if one really knows other persons, knowing their hopes and fears, it becomes easy to be at peace with them. By sharing the Cardinal's experiences, we will better understand our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters as we take one small step in bringing peace to our world.

"I am very excited that Cardinal McCarrick is able to join us," said Father John Enzler. "I really believe that one of the best ways we can build peace on a global level or at any level is by understanding that other people, no matter who they are, no matter what religion they are, are really just like us. Cardinal McCarrick's talk can help each one of us do that," Father John added.

Cardinal McCarrick completed his service as Archbishop of Washington in May 2006. Since that time, he has devoted himself to multiple causes including Catholic Charities, education, and human rights issues. He became Archbishop of Washington in January 2001 and was named to the College of Cardinals by Pope John Paul II in February of the same year. Prior to coming to Washington, he served as Archbishop of Newark for fourteen years, coming to that See after being the first bishop of the newly established diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey, a post he assumed in 1981. Ordained in 1958, McCarrick served the Church as assistant chaplain at the Catholic University of America, president of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico, associate secretary for education in the Archdiocese of New York and priest secretary to Terrance Cardinal Cooke. His academic background includes an M.A. in history, an M.S. in social sciences, and a Ph.D. in sociology.

*By Deacon Michael McCarthy*

## SCHOLARS DISCUSS INTERRELIGIOUS HISTORY

Led off by the Cardinal's delivery of the Corbett Lecture on February 10 (see article, "Cardinal McCarrick Gives Corbett Lecture") the 2008 BS Speakers' Spring Series boasts luminary lecturers who will focus on the relationships of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Each of these religions traces its roots to



Dr. John Borelli



Dr. Eugene Fisher

Abraham; thus, each is referred to as an Abrahamic Faith. On March 9 at 11:30 am, Dr. John Borelli will discuss the history of the relationship between Christianity and Islam and on April 13 at 11:30 am, Dr. Eugene Fisher will discuss the history of the relationship between Christianity and Judaism. Both sessions will be held in the Duffy Center. Both speakers are recognized internationally for their expertise and for their work in promoting dialogue and interreligious initiatives.

Dr. John Borelli is a skilled ecumenist and an expert in interreligious relations who serves as Special Assistant to the President for Interreligious Initiatives at Georgetown University. Formerly Dr. Borelli served

more than sixteen years as Associate Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Religious Affairs of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. There he staffed dialogues with Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus as well as dialogues with Anglican and Orthodox Christians.

A former university teacher whose articles, addresses and reports have been published in many magazines and newspapers, Dr. Borelli also serves as a consultant to the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

Dr. Eugene Fisher is the Associate Director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and consultant to the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews. As a consultant, he is one of ten such persons world-wide and the only American.

Serving the USCCB for thirty years, Dr. Fisher provided valuable collaboration in promoting and nurturing relations between Catholics and Jews. The recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Fisher recently received an award from the Anti-Defamation League honoring him for his pioneering role helping to further dialogue between Christians and Jews.

All lectures promise stimulating ideas and opportunities for understanding. Have you ever said, "Someone ought to do something about the lack of understanding among religions?" Here is an opportunity to do something about this void by increasing your knowledge of the issues.

*By Nan Levine*

Books and Articles about Islam

An Arab Christian Philosophical Defense of Religious Celibacy against its Islamic Condemnation: YAHYA IBN ADAM, by Therese-Anne Drouart, in *Chastity in the Middle Ages*, Leiden, Brill, 2007, 77-86- (forth coming).

Catholicism and Islam: Points of Convergence and Divergence, by the Most Rev. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Origins,

December 6, 2007, 406-411. *Islam and Christianity: One Divine and Human Language or Many Human Languages ?* by Therese-Anne Drouart, *Journal of Religion & Society*, vol. 9, 2007, 1-13. (Includes bibliography).

The Islamic View of Women and the Family by Muhammad Abdul-Rauf, New York, Speller, 1977 (297.27 A31 I4).

Israel and Ishmael, Fr. Luke,

## BS SCHOOL REPORT

### Buddies

*What I can do, you cannot. What you can do, I cannot. But together we can do something beautiful for God.*

*Mother Teresa*

Walking over to a school Mass last year, third grader Brendan Egan noticed that something seemed amiss. Most of the Blessed Sacrament middle school and primary school students who were headed to church were moving with their buddies. Such was not the case for grades 3-5, the only grades without an official buddy program. Brendan wondered, "Why can't we have buddies too?" This perceptive third grader's observation ignited a great idea when teachers Betty Lou McQuade, Sue Albertson, Elaine, Nortz, and Pat Finan created "The Buddy Project." The objective of this ongoing project is to generate a strong community spirit among 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades who share the first floor of Blessed Sacrament School.

The project's theme for the year, "Where Charity and Love Prevail" begins with a prayer service emphasizing the power of friendship, love, and charity, both in the school community and in the world. Two children from each of the three grades form a buddy group of six, work on various projects throughout the school year, attend weekday Masses together, and meet for recreation time. Activities include "An

Attitude of Gratitude," when the groups are assigned focus themes such as family, friends, environment, faith, and school. After discussions and brainstorming sessions, students create meaningful thematic collages.

Service to others is a major focus of the Buddy Project. During the Advent season, buddies work on a service project for Christ House. Gathering, sorting, folding and delivering clothes for the patients provides the opportunity to work together and to build community for a worthy cause. Operation Rice Bowl is the Lenten service project. Under the auspices of Catholic Charities, the children collect change in a small "rice" bowl, symbolizing the meager amount of food on which many people survive daily. Extensive discussions and various guest speakers offer much "food for thought" about global hunger and help students to distinguish priorities through knowledge, skills, and faith. These projects prepare students to become active Christian citizens.

The 3-4-5 Buddy Project is an endeavor to fasten a sense of community with shared values and goals in a spirit of friendship and mutual respect. Currently a fourth grader, Brendan Egan thoroughly enjoys the activities planned for the buddy groups. About his previous concerns about buddies, he says, "It just feels good knowing that now everyone has one."

*By Laura Graham Fetters & Pat Finan*

## WATERCOLOR EXHIBIT AT PARISH GALLERY

If you have not already visited Jane Cordes Simanis' exhibit, "Flowers," at the Day Star Gallery (Duffy Center, Blessed Sacrament Parish Center), make a resolution to do so. The exhibit of 14 watercolor paintings opened last month and is open daily from 8:30am – 5:00pm.

Jane has taught watercolor and calligraphy in the Washington area since the mid-'70's, teaching both small invitational classes and at The Torpedo Factory, the Smithsonian and Montgomery College. Originally from Chicago, she has a BFA degree from Loyola University.

After a decade as a State Department Consular Officer in New York, Paris and Warsaw, Jane settled in Washington to marry and raise two children. She has been a Blessed Sacrament parishioner for many years.

Jane has a strong interest in design and composition; she has exhibited in many one-person, regional and national watercolor shows in which she has won a number of awards. A long-time member and officer in watercolor organizations, Jane also was involved recently in a watercolor show in Japan.

Don't miss this exhibit so close to home!

## RETREAT FOR WOMEN AND MEN PARISHIONERS

### Come Aside With Me

*The prayer, meditation and silence of a retreat enable one to move closer to the core of one's own being and to God. With renewed vision and vigor, we move our ideas into actions, renewed by the energy of our experience.*

This year the retreats for both men and women parishioners will take place at Loyola Retreat House, located in Faulkner, MD, 35 miles south of the beltway. Loyola is situated on a cliff, has a majestic view of a 16-mile-wide expanse of the Potomac river and promises spectacular sunsets! The Jesuit-led silent retreats begin with an orientation on Friday at 6:45pm and conclude at 12:30 pm Sunday with lunch. Your reservation includes delicious home-cooked meals and a private room.

Father John points out, "Both retreats this year come during Lent, a wonderful time to get away and to renew your own spiritual journey. The experience will be a gift you give yourself in order to stay close to the Lord."

Information and registration forms for both the women's and men's retreats are available in the Quesada St. church vestibule and at [www.loyolaretreat.org](http://www.loyolaretreat.org). You can contact the BS chairpersons directly or the retreat house: (301) 392-0809 Mon-Fri 9am-3:30 pm, and by email at: [www.reservations@loyolaretreat.org](mailto:www.reservations@loyolaretreat.org).

**The Blessed Sacrament Women's Retreat Weekend**, scheduled February 15-17, 2008 will include a session by Fr. Dave Werning, Blessed Sacrament associate pastor. For information, contact Mary Lou Gomez: [Gomez.marylou@gmail.com](mailto:Gomez.marylou@gmail.com); (202) 362-7457 or Susie Kieffer: [susiekieffer@yahoo.com](mailto:susiekieffer@yahoo.com); (301) 765-2294.

**The Blessed Sacrament Men's Retreat Weekend**, scheduled February 29-March 2, 2008, is open to all men ages 10 and up. This provides a unique opportunity for fathers to spend quality time with their sons. For information, contact Dr. Jim Richeson: [jim@yourdentaldr.com](mailto:jim@yourdentaldr.com); (301) 657-2695.

Reserve early to get your choice of rooms! As Mother Theresa wrote, "We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness."

## spotlight on volunteers

If Blessed Sacrament had a Volunteer Hall of Fame, Edward Dent would be in the top tier. Close to being a centenarian, Ed Dent is a native of Washington who grew up on 38th Street, NW, and for the last 57 years lived on Runnymede Place, NW. There he and his charming wife, Elizabeth, raised 6 children: 3 boys and 3 girls. (Their daughters are still BS parishioners: Pat Delany, Penny Driscoll, and Libby Ellis.) The Dents have 19 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Educated as a lawyer, Ed spent his career as a trust officer at National Metropolitan Bank and American Security and Trust Bank, rising to the position of vice-president and senior trust officer. Over the years Ed merged his career, family, and BS volunteering in a life of seamless dedication: he was a member and president of the Holy Name Society; he was a founder of Troop 90 Boy Scouts; his children all attended BSS, so he served on the Home and School Association and became its president. Integrally involved in the life of BSS and the schools of his grandchildren, Ed served as a judge for science fairs. He nurtured mechanical and scientific interests, and after retiring he learned to repair clocks. Ed is computer savvy and an avid collector of family information located in his 52 scrapbooks.

Members of the current Chimes Committee speak about Ed as "the man who saved the chimes." Asked about this feat, Ed replied humbly, "You need a team. That gets the job done."

Saturdays found Ed working in the service of others at BS and Sunday mornings he served as an usher at the 7:30 am Mass.

Ed Dent is a modest man, dismissing the admiration of others. He summed up his thoughts about volunteering by enthusiastically asserting, "It was lots of fun! You can't take credit for doing something that is fun."

*Editor's note: Role model without peer, Ed Dent has provided a magnificent example to us all.*





# Chape

On early winter Monday nights, our *a cappella* group, The Chapel Singers, rehearsed in the chapel in order to spread Christmas cheer to local senior residences. Also, we'll be singing at the BS Twelfth Night party on January 6. Everyone loves to sing traditional carols, but we've expanded our repertoire to include some doo-wop and an Italian traditional carol.

The Chapel Singers started as a Christmas project, but if there is enough interest we will continue. To join, contact Ginny Curtin: [GUCurtin@gmail.com](mailto:GUCurtin@gmail.com)

*By Ginny Curtin*

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## SAVE THE DATE

### FEBRUARY

- 6 Ash Wednesday  
Confessions All Day
- 8 (and all Fridays in Lent)  
Stations of the Cross  
6:00 pm, followed by Pizza
- 9 Spirituality for a Saturday - am
- 12 (and all Tuesdays in Lent)  
Young Adult Bible Study  
7:30 – 9:00 pm
- 12 (and all Tuesdays thereafter)  
"Four Gospels" Sessions - am

### MARCH

- 1- 6 Parish Mission - Church
- 8 Spirituality for a Saturday - am
- 9 Lecture Series - 11:30 am
- 15 Irish Night, BSS Auditorium

### APRIL

- 13 Lecture Series - 11:30 am

# use new logo



## SHRINE OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

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