



ALL SAINTS

A Stewardship Parish

Volume 16, Issue 5

A Letter from Our Pastoral Administrator

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Honoring *Our Lady* in May

Dear Saints,

As people of faith, we often refer to May as “the month of Mary.” For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have included special devotions to Mary in their activities during this month. Best known, I’m sure, is the widespread and ever-popular practice of May Crowning — crowning an image of Our Lady with flowers.

May is certainly a beautiful time — it is, after all, a month full of renewal and celebration. For many Americans, cold March winds and dreary April showers have given way to blooming flowers and trees. Yet, it’s not only flowers and trees that reflect the newness and joy of



May. Many students in junior high, high school and college are celebrating their graduations, and will soon be moving on to new phases and exciting opportunities in their lives. And of course, it is the month when we celebrate Mother’s Day, honoring and extending our gratitude to the women who have faithfully raised and nurtured us.

And May is most certainly a month of joy for all of us who claim the Church as our spiritual home. This year, we spend the whole month in the Easter season, which closes with Pentecost in June. Thus, the joy of the Resurrection and the glory of the Ascension are the themes that fill our Christian calendar this month.

As we rejoice with Mary at her Son’s triumph over sin, Satan and death, we also remember her faithfulness to God’s will throughout her life.

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Our Parish Newsletter:

Spreading the news of Christ at work in our community.



FORMATION

Transformed Through Christ

This month, we are emphasizing the third pillar of parish stewardship — formation. Formation is the process of studying Christ’s teachings and incorporating them deeply into our lives. It is a lifelong effort by which we “put on Christ” (Rom 13:14) and are “transformed by the renewal of our minds” (Rom 12:2).

Above all, our formation should include studying Scripture and Church teaching. It should also include discussion with other Catholics and honest self-assessment. Its goal is to “discern the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect” (Rom 12:2).

Because formation helps us understand God’s will, it therefore leads naturally to good stewardship. When our minds are transformed through Christ, we become like Him — as Christ gave His life for us, so we give our lives to others.

Formation is not just an individual task. Instead, it is a communal responsibility that, when applied, will further help All Saints to grow as a stewardship parish. Each one of us has an inherent need to give — to move from “selfishness to selflessness,” as the Diocese of Wichita’s document *The Pillars of Parish Stewardship* aptly states.

Formation is a process of spiritual growth, and it leads to a deeper understanding of loving others as God loves us.

Naturally, then, our Catholic formation should not end upon celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation, or turning 18 years old. Formation is a formidable task that we as Catholics should participate in for the duration of our lives. It involves “education of the mind and conversion of the heart” (*The Pillars of Parish Stewardship*), and helps us to lead the stewardship way of life rather than just understand it.

If you have free time this summer, why not make formation a part of your routine? Start off by reading 10 minutes of Sacred Scripture a day, or by studying a chapter of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on a daily basis. Read a biography of your favorite saint for an example of an individual who lived as a disciple of Christ, and use this person as a role model when tending to your daily tasks. Keep an eye on our weekly parish bulletin for faith formation opportunities at the parish. Before long, your commitment to formation will lead you to naturally live the Catholic faith and understand stewardship in ways that you never imagined before.

Reporting Child Abuse

All adults have a moral and legal obligation to report suspected child abuse. However, when you suspect a child is being abused or when a child tells you about an abusive situation, it can be terrifying. If you ever find yourself in that situation:

1. Remain calm. Assure the child that he or she has done the right thing by telling you and believe the child! Children rarely lie about such painful topics.
2. Report to the proper authorities. If the situation is an emergency, call 911. Alternatively make a report to the Texas Department of Family and Protective services at 1-800-252-5400 or www.txabusehotline.org within 48 hours. Your obligation to report abuse cannot be delegated to another person. If the incident involves someone from our All Saints community, additionally contact our Safe Environment Director, Elizabeth Horsley at 972-778-0311 or ehorsley@allsaintsdallas.org.

For more information on what to do when you suspect child abuse, visit the Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center website at www.dcac.org.



Rooted in the Love of Jesus, this Easter Season and Always, at All Saints

By Shana Druffner, Principal

"And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight." — Luke 24:30-31

Happy Easter Season! I have to admit, the Easter Vigil is a long service. Two and one-half hours at a minimum — sometimes three. We go every year. I recall my first Easter Vigil in Dubai when I was 4. I remember arriving just before the procession and having to stand in the back of church for three hours! I also remember all the catechumens and candidates coming into the Church that evening. This year, one of our school moms came into the Church. Wow!

Last year, Fr. Alfonse started a new tradition of publishing each catechumen and candidate's spiritual journey in a small book. It's pretty cool to read about how and why these special individuals arrived at this moment in their lives. It's a privilege to witness when Father baptizes and confirms them, sealing them with the gift of the Holy Spirit. Many didn't grow up in definite religious traditions, but came to know

Jesus and the Catholic Church through their relationships with other people. We have evangelists all around us, bringing Christ to us simply by the example of their lives. How amazing is that?

And so it is for our students. They are surrounded each day by loving teachers and staff that bring Christ to them, so that they can help them be the best version of themselves. Recently, at the Virtue of the Month lunch, I asked some of the primary girls what they would have thought upon arriving at the empty tomb on Easter morning. All three girls had the same answer. They would have surmised that someone removed Jesus' body from the tomb. I agreed.

"But maybe we would have recognized Him when He appeared on the road to Emmaus," I said.

One adorable second-grader exclaimed, "That's right! That was the Gospel we read in class." How cool is that?

We then segued into a discussion of First Communion, summer vacation, and what we wanted to be when we grow up — I am still working on that one!

At the Intermediate lunch 30 minutes later, we discussed Fifth-Grade's Shark Tank, the fourth/fifth-grade field trip to the AT&T Foundry, robotics, artificial intelligence, and the new Innovation Lab. I was amazed at how much the students already know about coding and robotics! And Middle School lunch brought a discussion of upcoming graduation and thoughts of high school.

One thing is constant — the students are eager and excited. They are learning and making connections. They have beautiful hearts and are rooted in the love of Jesus. This is due to the angels all around us — loving, caring teachers and staff who want each child to develop their individual gifts for the glory of God. They lead simply by the example of their lives. How amazing is that?





..... Carrying One Another's Burdens

Suffering is, unfortunately, part of our human condition. We all experience moments of tragedy and difficulty at some point in our lives — the loss of a loved one, being laid off from a job, divorce, financial struggles or a battle with chronic illness. And though there is often an outpouring of support at the onset of such troubles, as time marches on it's easy for us to feel isolated or alone in our suffering. This, says ministry leader Ruth Chenault, is why Stephen Ministry plays such a vital role within parishes, providing parishioners with caring support during times of need.

"I think in any church, you have so many people all experiencing the normal struggles of life — deaths of loved ones, the breaking up of a relationship, or the loss of a job," Ruth says. "People are always there to support you right at the beginning of these times, but even the pastor can't stay with the person long-term. They don't

have the ability to meet regularly with each person for however long it takes them to get through that crisis. So Stephen Ministers are trained to help fill the gap, providing that care more long-term — to just walk the journey with them for however long is needed."

Ruth first experienced Stephen Ministry around 20 years ago at her former parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Plano, Texas. It was there she felt inspired to learn about Stephen Ministry, eventually helping to start it at the parish. Based on St. Paul's words, "Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2), Stephen Ministry is a one-on-one ministry of care. Facilitated by trained lay ministers, it provides high-quality, confidential and Christ-centered support for struggling individuals.

"Led by the Stephen Leaders — which here at All Saints is myself, Ruth Chenault, and Nancy Crowe — Stephen Ministry is comprised of

trained laypeople," says Deacon Michael Bolesta. "We are not counselors, psychologists or psychiatrists, but we are trained to help people during various life crises. This could be a death, a serious illness, a job loss or divorce, someone battling chronic illness or the caregiver of someone with chronic illness. It's for anyone who is under additional stress and could use someone to walk the journey with them."

Stephen Ministry care receivers are carefully paired with a trained Stephen Minister, taking into consideration their gender, personality and particular situation. Not there to fix things or provide professional support, the Stephen Minister comes to serve as a listening ear — to lovingly help bear the person's burdens and share the love of Christ with them.

"We are all called to become Christ to others and I think through this ministry we are able to become Christ specifically for those who



Left to right: Julie Pastor, Frank Coy, Laurie Welsch, Aby Flores, Linda Bazaco, Santina Ippolito, Nancy Crowe*, Shari Bolesta, Jane Williams, Ruth Chenault*, Deacon Michael Bolesta*, Debbie Wilkes, Pat Leavey, Terri Malloy and Adair Ahrens. Missing: Sue Karpathy. *Stephen Leader



Through Stephen Ministry

are going through a difficult time,” Nancy says. “We’re not there to fix a person’s problems or to tell them what to do. Rather, we’re there to ask leading questions in order to help them solve their own problems and to seek out God’s healing. We’re there to listen and express God’s love for them. And sometimes just having that listening ear and being able to talk about our issues like that can truly make all the difference.”

“God is the one who brings the actual healing,” Deacon Michael adds. “We are just there to be the presence of Christ to another person — to listen, to support and to express Christ’s love.”

After a lengthy period of training and preparation, the Stephen Ministry will officially begin here at All Saints on Sunday, May 26, following the 11 a.m. Mass when 13 parishioners will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers. These ministers will then continue meeting twice a month with their Stephen Leaders for continued supervision and training so that the ministry can ensure the best possible care to its recipients.

Yet, rather than being limited to any single group or person, Stephen Ministry is meant to be for us all. We all have a part to play in it, whether that’s as an actual minister, a spiritual supporter or a care receiver.

“We want the parish, as a whole, to be aware that this ministry exists and to pray for us,” Deacon Michael says. “Please pray for the ministers and the leadership. We invite parishioners to support it, not only with their



prayers, but also with their eyes and ears. If you see someone, be it a family member or a parishioner, that’s in need, please refer them to the ministry. From there, we’ll contact the person directly to see if they are open to receiving from the Stephen Ministry.”

“I think oftentimes people are just toughing it out, going without that support when they are struggling,” Nancy adds. “So, I hope that this helps people know that they have this opportunity of support. Stephen Ministry is a really non-judgmental kind of support that doesn’t cost anything and I hope that, in time, our parish will fully embrace it.”

If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry or to make a referral, please contact Deacon Michael Bolesta at either 972-778-0369 or stephenministry@allsaintsdallas.org.



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Drawing From the Traditions of Spirituality in Our Catholic Church

If you knew that the person who loves you most in the world was longing to spend some time with you, would you want to meet with them? What if this person was also the only one capable of saving your soul for all eternity, not to mention blessing you abundantly on earth?

It would seem ridiculous to say “no” to getting to know them just a little better, right?

That being said, you may wonder how you can best go about getting to know this particular person. To do just that, as Catholics, it is important that we seek out and read things from our Catholic Christian tradition — immersing ourselves in the spiritual works of those who have found Christ in a very deep way in accordance with the Church. Indeed, there are many great saints who have flowered out of the community of believers, and we can turn to them to get to know God better.

Over the centuries, the Catholic Church has been profoundly touched, enriched and enlightened by spiritual masters whose works are powerful enough to convert souls. It is also important to recognize that the spiritual traditions in the Church express many of the same ideas but in different ways, bearing witness to the ineffable, mosaic-like beauty of Catholicism.

St. Benedict began the first formal monastic tradition in the western Catholic Church, basing it on the *Rule of St. Benedict*. To this day, Benedictine spirituality is centered around the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours, simplicity and the appreciation of the Holy Eucharist.

The Franciscan spiritual tradition began with St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi. These saints brought about the Counter-Reformation that still marks the Church with splendor today. St. Francis is widely known for his Gospel-centered living, love of poverty, devotion to Christ Crucified, and mercy for all men and creatures. *The Life of St.*

Francis of Assisi by St. Bonaventure, as well as *The Little Flowers of St. Francis* both help one to learn more about this magnificent saint.

Similar to St. Francis, St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila also sparked a critical reformation within the Carmelite Order, which later influenced the entire Church in a positive way. Carmelite spirituality is a desert spirituality, which bases itself on silence, deep contemplative prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, outstanding penance, and various traditional Catholic devotions. *The Story of a Soul*, which is the autobiography of renowned Carmelite St. Therese of Lisieux, the *Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila*, and the works of St. John of the Cross all capture the essence of Carmelite spirituality.

Furthermore, Salesian spirituality stems from the great life and work of St. Francis de Sales. *The Introduction to the Devout Life* is a fantastic primer for those desiring to enter more profoundly into a life of union with Christ.

Ignatian spirituality is known for educating people on the discernment of spirits. *The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola*, as well as *The Discernment of Spirits* by Fr. Timothy Gallagher are excellent resources for learning more about this powerful spiritual tradition.

Last but not least, *The Fulfillment of All Desire* by Ralph Martin is modern-day spiritual work that can help those who are seeking Christ, to find Him.

The rich variety of spiritual traditions we have in the Catholic Church are an indication of how diverse our Church is. There are so many different ways of following Christ and praying — and to do so, we can draw from the spiritual “greats.” But of course, we must always pray in the way that God is leading us, in a way that we can truly encounter God in conversation.



Funeral Reception Ministry Provides Food and Support During a Difficult Time

When our Funeral Reception Ministry serves a meal to the mourners after a funeral, they are providing much more than food. They are offering their support and Christ's love through one of the Corporal Works of Mercy.

"The Church teaches the Corporal Works of Mercy, including burying the dead," says Terri Gorman, ministry coordinator. "Part of burying the dead is taking care of everyone who's come to the funeral service. It's just an incredible feeling to help the families on a day that's very difficult for them. It warms my heart. We're showing Christ's love to them in such a small way. It makes a difficult day a little easier."

Pat Weaver had organized the ministry when she realized there was a need after a personal experience.

Preparation for a funeral luncheon held in our fellowship hall begins when the family of the deceased speaks with Mary Davis about their wishes for the meal. Mary lets Terri know how many guests are expected. The ministry has four teams of 30 women each, plus a leader. The luncheons are rotated through the teams. Terri is herself a team leader.

Terri informs the particular team leader of the guest numbers so the food can be prepared. The leader emails her team so the members can let her know what they will bring. Preparations also are made at this time for team members to set up the fellowship hall and to handle cleanup.

"We usually have three to four days' notice," Terri says. "This is done at no charge to the family. Mary tells the families that if they would like to make a donation, they are welcome to do so. Most people do, but there is no obligation.



Left to Right: Team Lead and current ministry coordinator Terri Gorman, Team Lead Sandy Gala, immediate past ministry coordinator Jackie Calabrese, Team Lead Rose Harder and Team Lead Cynthia Farnham.

The ministry provides all the food and through its funds provides the plates, utensils, potato chips, tea and coffee."

At the same time that the ministry members are preparing food, serving the guests and cleaning up after the luncheon, they are also strengthening their faith.

"You are giving yourself to those you don't always know," Terri says. "You are giving of your time and trea-

sure. I'll say each one of the ladies would say that. They are not reimbursed for the food they bring."

The ministry also enables the members to act in stewardship by providing hospitality, one of the pillars of stewardship.

"I heard from a funeral director that All Saints has the reputation for hosting lovely receptions," Terri says. "Word has gotten out."

In many cases, the ministry members themselves have been those receiving the ministry's care.

"We've buried many of our own, or a spouse or other family member," Terri says.

Although there are 120 women in the ministry, there always is a need for additional members. While there can be months between funerals, at other times there are a number to care for within a short period of time. This past December, for example, the ministry provided luncheons for four funerals within nine days. But there also was a four-month period without any funerals.

"We're always looking for women to join," Terri says. "You don't have to be in the All Saints Women's Organization to volunteer."



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Weekend Liturgy:

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
11:00 a.m.

Teen Mass, 5:00 p.m.

Weekday Liturgy:

Monday - Friday, 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.

Address Service Requested

Honoring *Our Lady* in May *continued from front cover*



Indeed, she can be viewed as the model of Christian stewardship. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops pointed to her in their pastoral letter on stewardship: “After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently” (*Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*, 41).

During the month of May, let us take the time to gratefully reflect on the newness and joy that surrounds us. And in doing so, let us follow the Blessed Mother’s example of total dedication to God as we rejoice in the blessings He gives us, this month and beyond!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Alfonso

Fr. Alfonso Nazzaro
Pastoral Administrator