

My Dear Parishioners,

The imposing figure of G.K. Chesterton (a witty English writer) was often seen squeezed behind a table in London restaurants. Chesterton always joked about his large bulk, saying that it gave him the consolation of offering his seat on the train to three ladies. During one of his literary lunches Chesterton was expounding on the relationship between **power** and **authority**. He described the difference: “If a rhinoceros were to enter this restaurant now, there is no denying it would have great **power** here. But I should be the first to rise and assure it that it had no **authority** whatever.”

**Power** without **authority** always looks dangerous; **authority** without **power** always looks comical. If **power** is the ability to cause or prevent change, to influence people and events, it is important that those who exercise it also enjoy the **authority** that justifies them in what they do. For many people (particularly those who have suffered under military regimes or oppressive dictatorships) **power** is associated with force, compulsion and violence. The **power** that identifies itself with force or violence makes victims of all its subjects. That is the **power** of Chesterton’s rhinoceros.

In today’s Scripture readings, we encounter Moses, Paul and Jesus, all of whom were invested with the **power** of God’s spirit and acted and spoke with **authority**. A prophet is one who speaks in God’s name and is invested with God’s **power** and **authority**. Moses was the greatest prophet in Israel, handing down all that he heard God say to the people God had brought out of Egypt. God’s promise to raise up a prophet like Moses is fulfilled in Jesus, whose **authoritative** and **powerful** word elicits the obedience of all who encountered Him. Paul was the great prophet to the Gentiles. He named the **powerful truth** for them in given situations and explained the logical consequences of a course of action for them.

Some people would not consider Moses to be a prophet but today’s reading states that he is in fact a prophet. In fact Moses is considered to be the prophet par excellence. He received the **powerful** Word of the Lord in the form of the Law and acted as God’s voice, promulgating God’s Law to the Children of Israel. God put His Word in Moses’

mouth and thereby charged Moses to communicate His Word to God’s Chosen people. Whoever disregarded Moses’ word disregarded the Lord’s Word and was held accountable. In today’s passage Moses while on his death-bed promises that God would not leave the Israelites without a mediator and that God would raise up another prophet for them. This promise of a future prophet led people down through the centuries to wonder whether or not particular individuals might in fact be this promised prophet. We know that this promise refers to Jesus, who is the Great Prophet in whom the prophetic office finds its fulfillment.

Paul was another prophet who spoke with **authority**. In today’s portion of his Letter to the Corinthians Paul was answering some questions which they had posed to him concerning marriage and sex. At the time of his writing, Paul and other Christians were expecting the Second Coming of Christ at any moment. In light of that Paul seems to be opposing marriage and it seems that he is saying that virginity was a far nobler calling than marriage. However, in reality the contrast that he makes is between commitment to the Lord and over-involvement in the things of the world. Paul knew that those involved in the things of the world could be committed to the Lord but could also be easily distracted. They could possess a very shallow spirituality. He was more concerned with the quality of one’s commitment rather than any particular state of life.

Mark begins telling his story of Jesus’ ministry by showing us how Jesus is invested with the **power** of the Spirit at His baptism. Therefore, Jesus speaks and acts with **authority**. The **power** that moves Jesus has its source in God. The **authority** that Jesus displays, both in His words and actions is the **authority** of God Himself. When Jesus begins teaching people are deeply impressed. They can see for themselves the difference between how He teaches and how their other religious leaders taught. When Jesus teaches, something actually happens. It is not just a matter of words simply decorating the air. Jesus’ teachings create an impression because people can see the change for good it affects in the broken, the crippled, the wounded and dispossessed.

In today's Gospel passage Jesus' teaching is seen in action. In the first public work of His ministry there is a confrontation between two **powers**: the **power** of God (good/light) and the **power** of Satan (evil/darkness). While Jesus is teaching with **authority** in the synagogue He is interrupted by the shouts of a possessed man. This man has no **authority** over his body or spirit. The man is not in charge of his own life. When Jesus speaks He commands the evil **power** that dominates this man's life to leave him alone. At Jesus' **authoritative** command the man is freed and liberated from his demons. The people in the synagogue are astonished and marvel at Jesus' action: "Here is a teaching that is new and with **authority** behind it." They heard Jesus' fresh, new, clear message. It is one of love and forgiveness. It is an encouraging message- **God is with us**. It is a healing message, casting out evil and bringing new life. Jesus' action points out the fact that He is committed to using His **power** for good. He exercises His **authority** to liberate His brothers and sisters who are bound up.

True **authority** and **power** is propelled by love and persuasion, not coercion. Effective leadership is a matter of articulating a shared goal rather than individualistic desires. Jesus' **authority** inspires rather than enforces. Jesus as a teacher and prophet possesses an **authority** and **power** that is centered in the example of His own compassion, empathy and mercy for those He has been called to serve. Jesus sees His **power** to lead as a responsibility to serve others by revealing the God who calls us to compassion and mercy for the sake of His kingdom of peace, instead of a God of judgment and revenge. May all of us seek to possess the **authority** and **power** of Jesus' Gospel message and become men and women of empathy, mercy and compassion. May we all realize that we are called to guide, lead, teach and serve others with **authority** and **power** that is centered in Christ-like values. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

P.S. This week we **celebrate** National Catholic Schools Week. We are so **proud** of our Parish Catholic Grammar School and Lancaster Catholic

High School. For 60 years Our Mother of Perpetual Help School has been educating and **empowering** children in academic studies in a Christ-like atmosphere and enabling them to strengthen and deepen their Catholic faith. For almost 90 years Lancaster Catholic High School has been educating and **empowering** young people and strengthening and deepening their Catholic faith. May our gracious God continue showering blessings upon O.M.P.H. and L.C.H.S. as these faith-filled academic institutions go forward into the future providing students with a top-notch Catholic education.

**DAILY MASS:** In the event of bad weather during the week, *if school is cancelled, know that Mass also is cancelled.* If school is delayed, then we will only have a 9 o'clock Mass but please use your judgment whether or not to attempt to attend.



#### SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH



By our Baptism, we are ambassadors for Christ, called to share our faith with our family and friends, with our neighbors, indeed, with the whole world.

Next Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> we are invited to make a special commitment as missionaries. We are invited to join the worldwide mission of Jesus by joining the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, reaching out to the people of the world in more than 1,150 mission dioceses worldwide.

In making this commitment, we pledge to...**PRAY** daily for the missionary work of the Church, offering our personal crosses for the missionaries and those they serve.

**OFFER REGULAR FINANCIAL HELP** in support of those who bring the "Good News" of Jesus to our brothers and sisters throughout the Missions.

Please say "yes" to this special missionary call next weekend.



**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, January, 29**

- 7:00     ✦ Philip Cardin
- 9:00     ✦ Luther Shimp

**Tuesday, January, 30**

- 7:00     ✦ Special Intention
- 9:00     ✦ Michael Frazier

**Wednesday, January, 31, St. John Bosco, Priest**

- 7:00     ✦ Luther Shimp
- 9:00     ✦ Dolores Saunders

**Thursday, February 1**

- 7:00     ✦ Carl Puschauer
- 9:00     ✦ Souls in Purgatory

**Friday, February 2, Presentation of the Lord**

- 7:00     ✦ Ethel Ross
- 9:00     ✦ Thomas O'Reilly

**Saturday, February 3, St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop**

- 9:00     ✦ Souls in Purgatory
- 5:00     ✦ Brandon & Mary Ellen Phillips

**Sunday, February 4, Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 7:30     For the Parishioners
- 9:00     ✦ Philip Cardin
- 11:00    ✦ Michael Hamilton

**IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

We will be publishing the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. After the period of one month their names will be removed. For example, names announced in the bulletin the third week of the month will be removed the third week of the following month. If at that time prayers are still needed, please feel free to contact the parish office, and we will be more than happy to re-publish your loved one's name.

January 7: Maria Mannino, Margaret Gardner, Jane Muldowney, Brenda Crawford, Stephen Stanavage, Jennifer Ranker, Janet Tomko, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Jim Lehmier, Tonya Stoner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp.

14 January: Declan Morgan, Anna Leshner

**CHURCH SUPPORT**

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
1-21-18	\$11,437.65	\$14,950.00	(\$3,512.35)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
1-21-18	\$402,687.69	\$448,500.00	(\$45,812.31)

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

*With authority* That's how Jesus speaks to our hearts. Not with the false authority of a bully trying to scare us into submission. Not the insecure authority of a man trying to convince us of something he doesn't believe in himself. No, he speaks with the humble authority of a Messiah motivated by nothing but love for us. It's the authority that a person displays when helping a close friend through a difficult time—talking gently whenever possible, but firmly if necessary, and always with respect and affection. When Jesus speaks to us this way, his words sink into our hearts, and we know he is speaking out of love.

**SANCTUARY LAMP**



You may have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for a sick or deceased loved one for a donation of \$5 to defray the cost of the candles. This week the candle burns for the Joseph Held.

**RADIATE YOUTH GROUP**

Radiate Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, February 11th, at 5:30 pm in the church for a short prayer service followed by a service project. Grades 7-12 are welcome to join us. Bring a friend! It is encouraged for all youth who are registered for Steubenville conference this summer, to attend this meeting. We will be doing some planning on the group t-shirt designs for the trip. Hope to see you all there. Any parishioners who care to join us for the prayer service are also welcome. God bless you all! In His Service, Denise Ives

**BENEVOLENT SOCIETY**



We are constantly reevaluating our needs at the OMPH Community Food Bank run by our parish Benevolent Society. We are

currently in need of Peanut butter, jelly, boxed dinners, egg noodles, & tuna. Please place items in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church. We are amazed and thankful by the support of our parishioners.

**NURSERY VOLUNTEERS  
AND COORDINATOR NEEDED**

The OMPH Church Nursery is in need of adult volunteers during the 9:00 Mass on Sundays. Volunteers are needed for one mass a month or as little as four times a year. **Diocesan Youth Protection Clearances area required.**

The Nursery is also looking for a new coordinator, who would schedule volunteers and help maintain the nursery. If you are interested in volunteering or coordinating please call Laura Kauffman at (717) 575-8221 or email [omphnursery@yahoo.com](mailto:omphnursery@yahoo.com) to get more information.



**Religious Education Corner:**

**The Religious Education Program Would Like To Wish The Students, Staff, And Parents Of OMPH School A Happy Catholic Schools Week!**

**Religious Education Upcoming Events:**



**Valentine's Basket/Bake Sale After All Masses  
Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> And Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Our Religious Education Class Schedule  
For The Remainder Of January And  
The Month Of February Is As Follows:**

**Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> – RE Classes In Session  
Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> – RE Classes In Session From  
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM This Week Only**

**Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> – RE Classes In Session  
Second Weather Make-Up Class If Needed Otherwise**

**WINTER/SPRING  
ADULT FAITH FORMATION  
OPPORTUNITIES**

The Diocesan Institute schedule of Winter/Spring adult education offerings is now available. Visit [www.hbgdiocese.org/institute](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/institute) to access the schedule and registration information. Courses and sessions are available via live webinar, allowing you to participate remotely, and recordings of sessions enable you to access formation at your convenience. Contact Ryan Bolster at [rbolster@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:rbolster@hbgdiocese.org) or (717) 657-4804, ext. 225 for information.



**YEARLINGS NEWS**

We will meet for lunch on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. Join us at Gus's Restaurant on Rothsville Road. Please call Gloria at 717-728-9098.

**OMPH COMMUNITY MEALS FOR 2018**



As we start another new year, we would like to thank all of our Community Meal Volunteers for saying yes and making a commitment to lend a hand for our 2017 meals. You all did an outstanding job. We welcomed and served a lot of hungry people and it couldn't have been done without your commitment and support. Please save these dates for our new Community Meals for 2018. They are as follows:

1. **May 31, 2018** at *First United Methodist Church*, Ephrata. 68 N. Church Street, Ephrata.
2. **June 7, 2018** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 167 East Main Street in Ephrata.
3. **October 11, 2018** at Bethany United Church of Christ 140 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA.

It has been a blessing and a privilege to have worked with such a great group of folks. We are look forward to working with you again this year. Thank you for serving our God, our church and our community.

Until we see each other again; May God bless you and give you peace.

### ONE DAY OF GIVING

On **Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**, OMPH will provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff, families, and businesses throughout our community to participate in the **ONE DAY OF GIVING**. This is an online event being held across the nation by NCEA to raise much needed funds for Catholic education. **Please see our website <https://www.omph.org/omph-school-overview> or Facebook page ON JANUARY 30<sup>TH</sup> for the link in which to donate to OMPH School.** Remember, it's not how much you give, but that you give to the Annual Appeal on this One Day of Giving. Any questions, please contact Jeanne McAleer, Development Director, OMPH School at 717-738-2414 or [jmcaleer@omph.org](mailto:jmcaleer@omph.org).



**SAVE THE DATE**  
OMPH CYO Athletic Association  
Fundraiser, Designer Bag Bingo,  
\$20 Ticket Price, Saturday  
4/28/18

1-4pm. More details to come!

### OMPH BENEVOLENT SOCIETY 2017 WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO, HOW YOU HELP



For over 40 years the OMPH Benevolent Society has been providing food and emergency financial assistance to families in need in the Denver/Ephrata area. There are over 90 volunteers who donate their time to this important ministry.

The main objective of the Benevolent Society is the management of the food bank, which is open every Wednesday evening from 5:00-6:30pm. The food bank is located in the white building on the grounds of St. Clements Mission House. We served an approximate average of 140 households from the northern Lancaster County area per month distributing approximately 1752 boxes of food in

2017. One box of food has approximately \$35 worth of food in it so we distributed over \$61,000 in nonperishable food items last year. Some of the food is purchased, some obtained from Central Food Bank in Harrisburg through grants and some food comes from various food drives. However, a huge share of the food we hand out each week comes from the generosity of our parishioners. The Benevolent Society crate in the church lobby is filled every week by YOU! And, we are EXTREMELY grateful. We also receive perishable food each week from Redners, Target, Weisers, and Weis Markets. We are excited to announce that we recently began receiving donations from Aldi and Four Seasons. The items received from these local businesses range from fruits and vegetables to bakery items to frozen foods to dairy products. So, in addition to the \$35 in nonperishable items our participating families receive, they can receive double or even triple that in perishable items depending on what we receive that particular week. We are so grateful to these businesses for the ability to offer a wide variety of items to our food bank visitors.

In 2017, our volunteer numbers increased dramatically. Our call for new volunteers is always answered and we have many of these volunteers taking on various roles in the administration of the Benevolent Society and the food bank. The teamwork is impressive as everyone puts the goal of community service in the forefront.

A goal for 2018 is to continue increasing our volunteers to meet the needs of the increasing number of donations we receive. We also will be creating an O.M.P.H. Community Food Bank brochure to offer information to the community at large regarding our ministry and alter the public mindset that our food bank serves only our parish.

A secondary mission that the Benevolent Society provides is financial help in emergency situations. We received \$33,840 in donations and memorial contributions in 2017. Every single donation, no matter how small has enabled us to provide the following assistance:

- \$ 8,868 utilities (fuel, electric, water, etc.)
- \$14,467 housing (rent, mortgage)
- \$ 1,639 medical expenses

\$11,188 food  
TOTALING \$36,162 in assistance provided

The OMPH Community Food Bank expenses are met entirely from poor box contributions and other donations. Thank you for allowing us to manage this ministry and provide our services without an organized fundraiser! The generosity of our parishioners never ceases to amaze us. Please know that every can of food and dollar that you donate goes directly to use at the OMPH Community food Bank or assist our neighbors in need. Because of you, we are able to serve the underserved in our community and our parish. We are extremely grateful.

### LANCASTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ONE DAY OF GIVING

Save the Date! **On Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>**, Catholic High will provide opportunities for students, faculty, staff, families and businesses throughout the community to participate in the One Day of Giving.

Every dollar raised will go directly to the students that are attending LCHS. You get to make an impact in the lives of these students by helping to provide them a well-rounded and God-filled education. With each contribution, the next generation of cross-bearers, critical thinkers, community leaders and global citizens is empowered by you: parents, alumni, family and friends.

#### **Donors are Matching Your Gift**

Thanks to some very generous benefactors, the contributions we receive on January 30th will be matched dollar for dollar! So when you give online on your contribution will be *doubled!*

#### **The Goal? 100% Participation**

Lancaster Catholic is asking for 100% participation from its alumni, families, students and classes. Remember, it's not how much you give, but *that* you give to the Annual Fund on this One Day of Giving.

#### **Sponsors of the Day:**

Throughout the One Day of Giving, generous sponsors have donated items to be raffled off at various points. To be entered into the raffles, all you need to is donate! If you want to become a sponsor, please contact Joe Sahd at [717.509.0313](tel:717.509.0313) (ext. 206) or [jsahd@lchsyes.org](mailto:jsahd@lchsyes.org).



2018 Girls Crusaders  
Spring Softball ages 7-12  
(age as of 1/1/2018)  
Registration and more  
information online at

<https://stleosathletics.com/>. St. Leo's Athletic Association invites your daughter to play the great game of softball with the 2018 season of Crusaders Girls' Fast-Pitch. Our program is open to any girl attending a Catholic school or parish within Lancaster County. The program is for all levels of skill, with an emphasis on confidence and instruction. Girls new to the sport are welcome at any level: 8U, 10U, 12U. Your daughter's age on January 1 determines her eligibility. Registrations accepted now through 2/9, late deadline 2/16. For program information call/text Jude Krady 717-314-5965 or email [jdkrady@msn.com](mailto:jdkrady@msn.com).

### RESPECT LIFE

In the year since President Trump has taken office, he has accomplished much for the pro-life agenda:

- \* Trump appointed conservative, pro-life Justice Neil Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court.

- \* He has effectively denied public money to those who commit and promote abortions around the world.

- \* The Trump Administration Department of Justice has launched a formal investigation into Planned Parenthood's illegal baby parts trafficking scheme.

- \* He has actively supported pro-life legislation, such as the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which is currently held up in the U.S. Senate.

- \* He supports legislation to defund Planned Parenthood in the U.S., and removed an Obama-era mandate that forced states to continue funding Planned Parenthood.

- \* Trump's administration has taken active steps within the Health and Human Services and other agencies to establish pro-life policies that protect the pre-born.

- \* He has provided protections for those of religious and moral convictions from paying for abortifacient drugs through Obamacare, and continues to work to repeal and replace it.

See [www.lifesitenews.com](http://www.lifesitenews.com) for more information on this year's amazing March for Life.

Andrea Ostrowski

Please add the clip art you have been using. If you are able to forward it to me I will add it each week.

To learn more about our school, please visit our website at [www.omph.org](http://www.omph.org) or call the school office at 738-2414 for further information. Find us on Facebook at OMPH-Ephrata! Financial aid is available to qualifying families.

## OMPH SCHOOL 2018-19 REGISTRATION

Selection of your child's school is among the most important choices you will make. OMPH School partners with parents in providing a faith-based education for the children of our parish. We have a strong tradition of academic excellence, but more importantly, the gospel message and spirit of Catholicism permeate the school day. Our children are blessed to have daily interaction with the Redemptorist Fathers serving our parish.

Registration is now open to all parish families **for Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2018-2019** school year. The Preschool program, for children who are 3 and 4 years old by September 1st, provides developmentally appropriate activities in a Catholic environment and offers a Munch Bunch school lunch program. **Our full day Kindergarten program, for children who are 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>,** provides daily Religion class along with skill development in Language Arts and Math and special classes in computer, library, physical education, art, and music. Students in grades 1 through 8 experience an education noted for academic excellence in an environment which reinforces our Catholic identity. An on-site after school program is available for all students in Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Interested parish families are encouraged to **register by February 1<sup>st</sup>; registration will then open to non-parishioners.**

Please join us on **TODAY, January 28<sup>th</sup>** as we celebrate the gift of Catholic education in our parish at the 9 AM Mass. Following the liturgy, there will be an Open House and the opportunity to meet the faculty and visit the school. You can also schedule a personal tour of the school for any day, at your convenience, by contacting the Development Office.