

My Dear Parishioners,

Katherine Floyd shares with us the following story. As part of her lesson on the American Revolution a fourth grade teacher was showing her students a facsimile of the Declaration of Independence. The document was passed from one student to the next. It finally landed on the desk of a young boy who was a first-generation American. The boy's parents had immigrated to the United States from Vietnam when he was a baby. The boy studied the document reverently and intently. Then before passing it to the girl next to him, he took out a pen and enthusiastically added his own signature to the document.

Ms. Floyd points out to us that this young American has come to appreciate what his new citizenship requires of him and his family. Being an United States citizen is more than allegiance to the flag and observing the rites of patriotism. Being a citizen means taking on the **responsibility** and hard work of ensuring "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for everyone. In the very same way God calls all of us to understand what our baptism requires of us and challenges us to understand the meaning of **discipleship**. Our readings for today remind us that true **faith** is not simply a matter of memorizing a creed and performing a ritual but rather true **faith** means imitating the **Servanthood** of Jesus.

Our first reading is drawn from the most celebrated of Isaiah's oracles portraying the Lord's **special** servant. This servant suffers greatly for the sake of others. In this respect the servant is the exact opposite of the royal figures who so dominated the first portion of Isaiah's book. Today's passage is part of the fourth **Suffering Servant Song**. The figure of the **Suffering Servant** may be viewed as a corporate personality which represents the best of Israel. The Israelites recognize this and they are encouraged to imitate the servant. In today's passage the servant gives himself as a sin offering and he endures his agony so that others can be justified before God. His self-giving is in view of the people and will obtain for them reinstatement with God. By sharing with the sinful people in the experience of suffering and guilt the servant will thereby restore all of them to a living and loving relationship with God. Thus the servant's death will win life for others and in this way he will accomplish

God's will. The violence inflicted upon the servant is accepted, embraced, and put to rest. With the offering of this innocent scapegoat true reconciliation with God is accomplished.

Today's passage from the Letter to the Hebrews gives a more detailed and glorious picture of **the** Suffering Servant; Jesus in the reality of His humanity and the majesty of His Godhood. Today's passage offers us the comforting image of the Son of God who drew near to us and invites us to draw near to Him. The Letter's original audience was Christian Jews (people who were very proud of their former heritage; a group who weren't always at home in the larger Christian community; people who had experienced persecution, were fearful of more, and were faltering in their allegiance to Christ and His Church.) They were partially estranged because they felt a lack of community with the past, missed comfort in the present, and lacked security for the future.

In order to demonstrate Jesus' preeminence the author of the Letter to the Hebrews compares Jesus to the Jewish understanding of the great High Priest. Just as the High priest passed through the curtain into the presence of God in the Holy of Holies to sprinkle sacrificial blood on the mercy seat so too Jesus, exalted after shedding His own blood, passed through the heavens into the presence of God. Jesus' sacrifice far exceeds anything that the ritual performed by the High priest might have actually accomplished or hoped to accomplish. Unlike the previous High Priests (who approached the mercy seat alone and only on the Day of Atonement) Jesus enables each one of us to approach God and do so continually.

Today's Gospel passage from Mark depicts the disciples' response to Jesus' third and final prediction of His Passion. As in the case of Jesus' first two predictions the disciples appear to misunderstand what Jesus has told them. Jesus and His disciples are on a collision course. Jesus had been stressing His future suffering and death while the disciples have been portrayed as being preoccupied with and drawn to positions of status emphasizing power, honor and glory. That is exactly what they are seeking in today's passage. The two brothers James and John do not see Jesus heading for suffering and death. They see Him as moving directly towards honor and glory. They want to

make sure that they get a share of that same kind of status. James and John try to do themselves a favor by asking Jesus to ensure their privileged seating arrangements when Jesus comes into His glory. They want to sit one at Jesus' right hand and the other at His left.

Jesus responds to the brother's request by telling them that they don't know what they are asking or seeking. Jesus had already spoken to them about how he would be handed over to the religious authorities who would condemn Him to death. His "honor" and "glory" would be mediated through the cross. The brother's request is to share Jesus' power "when he comes into glory," timing their appointment to begin when the suffering is done. Jesus brings the conversation back to what happens before the "glory" since His kingdom is not about who wears the crown but who bears the cross. He asks James and John: "Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptized with the baptism with which I must be baptized?" Naively they boast they can and Jesus tells them that they will have a share in His sufferings but it is not up to Him to assign who sits where in God's kingdom. The message is clear: there is no shortcut to God's favor.

Not surprisingly, when the other disciples heard what James and John asked, they became indignant because they thought the brothers had received positions of status and they had not. So to avoid more conflict Jesus shares His own teaching of religious authority with the disciples. In his corrective teaching Jesus makes it clear that being a disciple and a leader is not about exercising authority, domination and power. That is how it is in Caesar's kingdom but it is not how it works in God's kingdom. In God's kingdom leading and ruling are deeply rooted in **servicing**. Thus Jesus is the preeminent model for this as He came **not to be served but to serve**. Jesus' **service** ultimately is seen in His giving of His life as a ransom for all.

To be an authentic disciple of Jesus means to put ourselves into the humble, demanding role of **servant** to others and to intentionally seek happiness and fulfillment of those we love regardless of the cost to ourselves. Only in imitating the **Servanthood** of Jesus do we experience the true depth of our **faith**. Only by our embracing of Jesus' sense of compassion and humility within our lives can we enable the Spirit of

God to renew and transform our world in God' life and love. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

2018 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL UPDATE

As of October 4th **378** families/households have pledged **\$98,877.00** towards the Appeal and we have collected **\$90,432.00**. A word of thanks to all who have already contributed to the 2018 Appeal. As you know our assessment is **\$101,300**. I am asking that if you have not already made a pledge, please do so. Funds collected will support the numerous Charitable, Pastoral, Educational and Spiritual Diocesan programs. Any funds collected that surpass our Parish Support Assessment will be returned to us and placed in our Parish Savings Account.

We received a **\$5,145** refund from our 2017 Appeal.

Thank you, Fr. John

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY
BE A MISSION VOICE**

Today we are called to offer at our Eucharistic celebration our prayers and our financial support (through The Society for the Propagation of the Faith) to continue the mission of Jesus. Today we "Speak up" through our prayers and personal sacrifices for our brothers and sisters in Missionary regions in our world.



As always your prayers are your most treasured gift to the Missions. Your financial support enables Missionary Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers, and Lay Catechists bring Christ's word to those in need of His healing love and peace. Please be generous. Thank you.

**CELEBRATING THE GIFTS
OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Diocese of Harrisburg's annual Mass Celebrating the Gifts of People with Disabilities will be held on **Sunday, November 18, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Catherine Labouré church in Harrisburg.** Bishop Ronald Gainer will be the Celebrant and Homilist. This year also marks the 40th Anniversary of the signing of the 1978 Pastoral Statement on Persons with Disabilities. A light reception will follow the Mass, which will include reflections on the 1978 Pastoral Statement. To assist with planning, it is requested that those attending from outside Saint Catherine Labouré Parish or in need of any special accommodations, kindly RSVP to LKiley@hbgdiocese.org or 717-657-4804 ext. 322 prior to November 9, 2018. All are welcome to attend.

**LARC DAY OF DIALOGUE
A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE**

The day will feature three speakers who will each discuss a different aspect of the topic: Christian Response to Gun Violence, Christian Response to the Violence of Racism, and Christian Response to Violence - Peace and Non-Violence. The day will also feature prayer together according to the three traditions represented by LARC, as well lunch together and time for dialogue and discussion. This will take place **November 5, at the Diocesan Center from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** For more information and to register online please visit www.hbgdiocese.org/larc

MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving a presentation concerning marriage, divorce and annulment according to Church teaching. This presentation will be helpful for divorced Catholics, those divorced who wish to marry Catholics, those parish leaders involved in the RCIA process and any others who may have a vested interest because of family or friends. This session will be held on **November 5, at 7 pm, in the Diocesan Conference Center** of the diocesan office building in Harrisburg. No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, ext. 304, visit www.HbgDiocese.org/annulments or email: tribunal@hbgdiocese.org



**HOLY HOUR
AND
HEALING SERVICE**

The Parish Pastoral Council and I would like to invite you to a time to gather in prayer for the survivors of clergy abuse, for their families, and for the reparation of the sins of the clergy and those in leadership roles within the Catholic Church **and** for the healing of all on **Wednesday, October 24th.**

We will have a Holy Hour and a Healing Service from **6:30-7:30** followed by some time to talk about and share our feelings about the Grand Jury Report. May God continue to bless us and Our Mother of Perpetual Help watch over and protect us as we move forward as a Eucharistic Community. Fr. John

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, October 22, St. John Paul II, Pope

7:00 Mary Crawford

9:00 †Peggy Koser

Tuesday, October 23, St. John of Capistrano, Priest

7:00 †Jill Cleary

9:00 †Daniel & Elizabeth Sellers

Wednesday, October 24. St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

7:00 Intentions in the Prayer Box

9:00 †Michael & Mary Lucky

Thursday, October 25

7:00 †Larry Hunter

9:00 Sandy Imperial

Friday, October 26

7:00 †Walter Pogwist Jr.

9:00 †Julia Weigner

Saturday, October, 27

9:00 †Robert & Janette Monath

5:00 †Richard Hornberger

Sunday, October 28, 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 For the Parishioners

9:00 †Joseph Bartycha

11:00 †Mary Bridgette Ward



&



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER:

Isaac's Fundraiser To Benefit OMPH RE

Thank you to everyone who dined at or picked-up takeout from Isaacs on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 to benefit the RE Program. You helped to make this another successful fundraiser for the RE Program. Hope to see you in April for our spring Isaac's Fundraiser.

Our October RE Class Schedule Is As Follows:

Sunday, October 21st

First – Fifth Grade Meet At Normal Class Time Along With The Seventh And Eighth Grade.

All Sixth Grade Students Will Attend The I AM Rally At LCHS Along With Any Seventh Or Eighth Grade Students Who Have Not Attended The I AM Rally Previously.

Sunday, October 28th

All Grades Meet At The Normal RE Class Time.

Confirmation Two Students Will Present

GROUP SHADOW DAY

Lancaster Catholic's 1st Shadow Day is approaching and all interested students are encouraged to spend a day at Catholic High. This allows students to experience our community for themselves. Students in eighth through eleventh grades in public schools, or **other private schools, are encouraged to join us for a Group Shadow Day.** Group Shadow Days for 2018-2019 are **November 8, February 7 and May 9**, though we are happy to accommodate students on any day that best fits their schedule. A FREE LUNCH is provided to all prospective students when they visit. You can register for a shadow day at www.lchsyes.org or by contacting Kyla Hockley at khockley@lchsyes.org.

FALL PLAY



Lancaster Catholic is proud to announce its Fall Play is the audience interactive murder mystery/comedy by Billy St. John, "Murder's in the Heir."

Turn the game Clue into a play and you have the masterfully entertaining Murder's in the Heir!



Almost every character in this hilarious mystery has the weapon and opportunity to commit the unseen murder. And it's up to your audience to decide who actually did it! Each of the heirs to the tyrannical billionaire Simon Starkweather has the motive to do away with him.

"Murder's in the Heir" will be taking the Main Auditorium Stage from November 15-17th at 7:30 PM. Tickets are \$13 for Adult General Admission and \$7 for Students. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door or in advance.

**LANCASTER CATHOLIC NEWS
OPEN HOUSE**

Who can you become in our colors? Our annual Open House will take place on **Sunday, October 28 from 2:30-4:30** PM. This is a unique opportunity to tour Lancaster Catholic with one of our students, observe our faculty and students in classroom activities and enjoy performances from a variety of our student ensembles. Register at www.lchsyes.org/open/.



The administration and faculty of OMPH School extends congratulations to members of our parish and to our school graduates who were recently inducted into the *St. Thomas Aquinas Chapter of the National Honor Society* at Lancaster Catholic High School. New members include: Anthony Andrews, Kevin Draeger, Adeline Hibshman, Rachel Houser, and Riley Smith. We are very proud of our students for their academic achievement!



Treasures Abound!

Find your treasure at
OMPH School's

Treasure Island Auction on
Saturday, November 3rd!

**Purchase your tickets in advance for \$20 and
receive 5 Treasure Tickets at the door! For more
information or to purchase tickets call or stop by
the School Office (738-2414). Bring your friends
and get ready for an evening of fun, food, and
winnings!**

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Auctioning begins at 7:00 p.m.

It is never too late to donate!

The list of items received this year is growing ...

Kalahari Resorts Stay, Coach Bag,

Large Screen TV,

Canoe Trip, Laserdome Party Orthodontics Gift

Certificates,

Go N Bananas Passes, Theme Baskets

Restaurant Gift Certificates

AND SO MUCH MORE TO COME!!!!

**If you have a treasure you would like to share
please contact the**

Development Office at 738-2414.

Tickets will be sold after all Masses the weekend of

October 27/28

in the Narthex!

Must be 21 or over to attend.