

My Dear Parishioners,

Have you ever written a really good love letter? How did it go? Did it express what you wanted to say to the one you love? Did it touch the heart of your beloved? Or was it merely dismissed off as simply being something cute or nice and put aside like an old outdated greeting card?

According to Tom Chiarella (a professor of creative writing at DePauw University) there is a special art to writing a good love letter. Tom chronicles his own successes and failures in writing love letters in an article he wrote for **Esquire Magazine**. He offers these tips to anyone trying to write a good love letter: “Remember first, that it’s a letter, not a card. If what you want to express is a sentiment that you can buy, then what you are feeling might not be love. Sit down and write. Letters take time; letters have a rhythm. There are no bullet points. No clipping and pasting. The words have to be **yours**. Keep in mind that the purpose of a love letter is to **acknowledge** the one you love. A good love letter is about **memory**. Let example precede sentiment. **Show** your beloved what you love about him or her before you **tell** them what you love about them. Don’t overdo the earnestness or the genuineness. Strive for clarity. And remember that a love letter is private. Therefore it can bear some risk. In this way, a good love letter is like love itself.”

A well-written and thought-out love letter requires the same totality and focus that Moses and Jesus speak of in today’s Scripture Readings. To love as God loves us demands every element of who we are—our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength, our full attention, our time and our gratitude. Like a good love letter, our **love for God** and **others** should begin with a commitment of time and attention and it should be expressed in words that come directly from our heart.

Today’s first reading comes from the Book of Deuteronomy. Moses is concerned for the well-being of the Israelites as the time comes for him to leave them. He has been their spiritual leader for the past 40 years as they travelled through the desert. Soon Joshua will replace Moses and lead the Israelites across the Jordan River into the Promised Land. When that day comes, the Israelites must not allow the bounty of that land make them complacent in their devotion to God. If they become self-reliant they will risk losing the gifts that God can only provide for them.

Moses prepared the Israelites to listen attentively to the “statutes and commandments” of God. Adherence to these directives would mean the difference between life and death. Moses urged the Israelites to be faithful to God’s law for two reasons: (1) It would bring them a reward and (2) they owe their faithfulness to God in thanksgiving for all the blessings they had received (including their current entry into the Promised Land.) Moses then refers to a number of advantages the Israelites would have from God’s goodness and bounty. If they obey God’s commands they will grow stronger and even be more prosperous in the land that God promised them (“a land flowing with milk and honey.”) Another advantage for them would be a long life.

Moses then reminds the Israelites that the proper response for all these blessings from Yahweh is heartfelt **gratitude**. They should never replace God with anything else in their lives. Such replacements would ultimately fail to satisfy. Moses reminds his people that they should love God with 100% of themselves. That is why today’s passage contains the keynote of Deuteronomy; the great and most significant Jewish prayer called from its opening word the “**Shema**”. This prayer begins with the basic principle of the entire Mosaic Law—Yahweh alone is God. Moses declared that Israel’s God is unique and so the basic response to God must also be unique and undivided: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The person is to love God who loves every person entirely.

Today’s second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews teaches us that Jesus has a priesthood that does not pass away. His priesthood is forever **active**. The author of Hebrews points out that since Jesus (as opposed to all other Old Testament priests) remains forever, His priesthood is **eternal**. What follows from this is that the intercession of the exalted Jesus in the heavenly realm continues His sacrifice on earth. The author of Hebrews also describes Jesus as the **victim** of sacrifice. Unlike the sacrifices in the Old Testament, this sacrifice is absolutely sufficient in itself; it took place once and for all.

Very often in the Gospel when Jesus has an exchange with the scribes, the dynamic is typically a controversy. The scribes would confront Jesus on a variety of issues (usually having to do with His observance of the purity laws.) However this is not the

case in today's Gospel passage from St. Mark. There is no major controversy. The scribe in today's passage seems genuinely interested in learning from what Jesus has to say and Jesus actually affirms the goodness of the scribe.

In today's passage a scribe came up and asked Jesus a question that people often asked rabbis: "Which is the first of all the commandments?" It is a question that people ask all the time: "What's **essentially** required of me to please God?" Pious Jews were confronted with 613 precepts of the Mosaic Law that were written down in the Torah and buttressed by thousands of man-made accretions in the Talmud. Some (like the Pharisees) held that all the precepts were of equal importance and the whole law had to be observed in its entirety to achieve salvation. Others felt some hierarchy had to exist among the precepts, permitting distinctions between grave and light, or what we would term mortal and venial. Still others hoped to discover some overarching principle embedded in the law that would tie together the many precepts and render them easier to remember and be put into practice.

Jesus did just that. In response to the scribe's inquiry Jesus goes straight to the **heart** of the Law and sums it up in two simple yet unique principles: **love of God** and **love of neighbor**. Jesus gathers up the traditional wisdom of Israel into one statement. The first part of the statement quotes the Judaism creed "**Shema**" (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) –to love the one God who is Lord with your whole person and everything in your power. No pious Jew could disagree with this part of Jesus' summary. But alongside this, Jesus places another scriptural passage (Leviticus 19:18)-to love your neighbor as yourself. For Jesus, it is a **combination** of these two separate texts that makes for the **essence** of the Law. It is that **combination** that has given Christianity its basic **commandment for life**.

In His reply to the scribe Jesus makes it clear that you cannot compose summaries of the Law while forgetting **love of neighbor**. The scribe is pleased with Jesus' reply and adds his own point-that the **love of God** and the **love of neighbor** are far more important than any offerings or ritual worship. In supporting the scribe's addition, Jesus places the demands of worship far below the demands of active love. This we see clearly developed in Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan where the priest and the Levite hurry past

the demand for love to attend to the demand for worship. As Jesus **combines love of God** and **love of neighbor**, the priest and the Levite **disconnect** them.

Jesus' summary of the Law is not an academic pastime but rather it is a personal challenge to **love God** wholeheartedly and have tender regard for our **neighbor** in actively promoting his or her good as we should want to do in our own case. That is not only Jesus' digest of the Law; it is also the Gospel portrait of Jesus.

To love as God asks us and Jesus teaches us requires a spirit of humility that realizes that we are all sons and daughters of the same God. To love as God loves demands every fiber of our being-our heart, our soul, our mind and our strength. Our **love for God** is not genuine unless it includes **love for neighbor**; commitment to **others** is incomplete without recognition of God as the Source of all love. It is in our compassion and kindness extended to others that our humanity resembles God. It is in the respect and honor in which we hold for others that we most praise the God of love. It is in the acts of charity and selflessness that we mirror the love of God in our midst. In the two-fold "**Great Commandment of Love**" we are able to discover a purpose to our lives much greater than ourselves and our own personal needs, interests, prejudices and biases. In **loving God in one another**, we find the ultimate meaning and purpose of the gifts of faith and life. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

P.S. This week we celebrate **National Vocation Awareness Week**. Everyone has a personal call to grow in **holiness**. As we live out our **vocations** as single persons, married persons, priests and Consecrated persons, may we always grow in our personal **holiness** and may we continue to serve God and His people. Also, let us pray that some of our young people may consider serving God and ministering to God's people by becoming a priest, a deacon or a Religious Sister or Brother. Let us also remember and pray for all those faithful priests, deacons, sisters and brothers who have in the past and continue in the present to minister to us in our Parish and Diocese.

**A MONTHLY POCKET PRAYER  
FOR NOVEMBER**

Keep this simple little prayer in your pocket and say, to help get you through each and every day.

Walk with me Jesus

My Jesus, my Friend, walk with me today.

Hand, in hand, guide me to learn and to know what is good.

Arm in arm, help me to grow in my faith and in love for others.

Side by side, stay by me to protect me and show me Your ways.

Heart to heart, help me pray...and to be all that you want me to be.

Thank You, Jesus for the special love you have for me. Amen.

Author Unknown

**REDEMPTORIST VOCATIONS  
COLLECTION**

We will have a Special Collection next Weekend **November 11-12<sup>th</sup>** to help support the education and training of Redemptorist Seminarians throughout the world. Thank you for your generous support. Fr. John

**OUR DEEPEST LONGING**

Looking for something interesting to do? Want to meet some interesting people? Come to the School Library on **Sunday, November 4 at 4:00** for a book study. The book is Prayer: Our Deepest Longing. Books are available at the gathering. Questions-Call Theresa at 717-738-5061.

**SPIRITUAL SWORD OF OUR LADY**

Join us on **Sunday, November 11 at 4:00** in the parish library to have the explanation of Our Lady's favorite devotion: the rosary. This film, *The Rosary, Spiritual Sword of Our Lady*, which surveys the entire history of the rosary, including its greatest victories and champions. With the rosary in your hands, you will have the power to transform the future, defeat the enemies of Christ and His Church, and be a warrior for truth. A rosary a day keeps the devil away! See you there, bring a friend!

**OMPH PARISH MINISTRY FAIR**

**November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>** after each mass in the Father Jackson Gymnasium. Everyone is welcome to visit with all of our Ministries here at OMPH- See displays and meet members. Religious, Spiritual, Social, Educational Athletic Ministries to name a few.

Please stop by, say hello and see the opportunities OMPH offers. Where Faith, Families and Community come together.

**ALL IN FOR JESUS**

The annual Diocesan Catechetical Conference is **Saturday, November 10**, at the Diocesan Center, 4800 Union Deposit Road, Harrisburg, 17111. **Doors open 8 am. The theme is All in for Jesus:**



Toward an Evangelizing Catechesis. The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Bob Rice. Bob Rice is Professor of Catechetics at Franciscan University of Steubenville, as well as the Director of the MA program in catechesis and evangelization. Rice is also well known in national Catholic circles as a speaker and musician. Bishop Ronald Gainer will act as Principal Mass Celebrant and Homilist. There will be 28 workshops presented over four sessions by a blue-ribbon panel of speakers. Conference fee is \$30, which includes breakfast and lunch. Registration deadline is November 5. While geared especially for catechists, this conference is for anyone interested in learning more about his or her Catholic Faith. Only the first 450 registrants are guaranteed admittance. For information or to register, please go to [www.hbgdiocese.org/cat\\_conference](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/cat_conference). Don't miss the grace...register now!

**RESPECT LIFE VOTE PRO-LIFE!**

The Pa Pro-Life Federation has a voter's guide available in print as well as at their website [www.paprolife.org](http://www.paprolife.org) I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. Choose life then, that you and your descendants might live! Deut (30:19) Will we choose the blessing or the curse? Religious freedom or persecution? Elections have consequences. What type of Supreme Court do we want to pass to our children?

This election will set the tone of the Court for a generation, as we saw in the recent confirmation hearings of Judge Kavanaugh. The contrast of those who support the rule of law and those who promote violence and anarchy was very clear.

Please pray and sacrifice for our country vote pro-life!  
**Andrea Ostrowski**

**PRAYER FOR ABUSE VICTIMS**

Source: USCCB.org

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just. You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of His cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breath wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith. Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, November 5**

- 7:00     ✠ Al & Frances Levine
- 9:00     ✠ Joan McEvoy

**Tuesday, November 6**

- 7:00     ✠ Joseph & Ann Notaro
- 9:00     ✠ Robert Snyder

**Wednesday, November 7**

- 7:00     ✠ Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary
- 9:00     ✠ Deceased Members of the Legion of Mary

**Thursday, November 8**

- 7:00     ✠ For those grieving the loss of a loved one
- 9:00     ✠ Intention of the donor

**Friday, November 9, Dedication of the Lateran Basilica**

- 7:00     ✠ Charles Marrone Sr.
- 9:00     ✠ John Wasko

**Saturday, November 10, St. Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church**

- 9:00     Joe Burke
- 5:00     45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fred & Carol McCrum

**Sunday, November 11, 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

- 7:30     For the Parishioners
- 9:00     92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday of Aden Dupont
- 11:00    ✠ Mary Healey

**CHURCH  SUPPORT**

| Date     | Amount       | Needed       | Difference  |
|----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 10-28-18 | \$15,822.32  | \$14,300.00  | \$1,522.32  |
| YTD      | Amount       | YTD Needed   | Difference  |
| 10-28-18 | \$226,317.60 | \$257,400.00 | \$31,082.40 |

**2019 DAILY MASS RECORD BOOK**

The parish office is ready to take your Mass Intentions and Sanctuary Lamp Intentions for 2019.

**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

Pauline Kohut.

**FOUNDERS' DAY**

**Sisters' Night – Saturday, November 10, 4 to 7 PM, Villa Maria House of Studies, 220 IHM Drive, Malvern, PA 19355** Come celebrate our Founders' Day with us! *Single young women ages 18-35* are invited to spend an evening of prayer, pizza, and Founders' Day fun with the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters and novices. This is a great opportunity for young women who may be curious or thinking about a vocation to the religious life to spend some time with the IHM sisters in a fun and informal setting.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

What does it mean to fear the Lord? Should we really be afraid of him? Well, we should never minimize these words since they appear more than three hundred times in Scripture. But fearing God is not the same as living in terror of him. It's more about having a proper reverence for him. At its heart, fear of God helps us to

say no to our sinful desires. It functions more as a way of protection than as a means of oppression. Parents instill a similar “loving fear” in their children. They teach their children to stay within certain boundaries of speech and behavior so that they can grow up to be responsible, respectful adults. For their part, children know that consequences will follow if they cross these boundary lines. And so a certain “loving fear” lays the foundation for wisdom in the children.

### 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.

Bishop Ronald Gainer, Phoenix Rann, Margaret Gardner, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Patrick Michael Ward, Carlos Luciano Sr., Margot Arden, Mary Kay Hensel, Gerald Gigliotti, Fr. Paul Bryan, CSSR, Gloria Kreider, Francis Gatti, Walter Benning.

### BENEVOLENT SOCIETY NEEDS



The OMPH Benevolent Society Food Bank is currently in need of peas, tuna, noodles spaghetti sauce, spaghetti, and pancake mix.

Please put items in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church. Thank you for your continued amazing support!

### 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.lchsyeh.org](http://www.lchsyeh.org) or by contacting Kyla Hockley at [khockley@lchsyeh.org](mailto:khockley@lchsyeh.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.



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CORNER:

**The Religious Education Program Would Like To Thank The Following Parishioners For Serving As Catechists/Aides And Other Helpers For The 2018/2019 Religious Education Year.**

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Deb Chisholm</b>      | <b>Lori McCormack</b>  |
| <b>Ben Dangelo</b>       | <b>Jill McGowan</b>    |
| <b>Pat Dangelo</b>       | <b>Mary Pentz</b>      |
| <b>Tammy Dissinger</b>   | <b>Kim Shirker</b>     |
| <b>Denise Duchesneau</b> | <b>Matt Shirker</b>    |
| <b>Stephanie Gee</b>     | <b>Colleen Smalley</b> |
| <b>Rosemarie Goss</b>    | <b>Carole Socie</b>    |
| <b>Robyn Hunter</b>      | <b>Walter Stahl</b>    |
| <b>Donna Kelly</b>       | <b>Steve Wissler</b>   |
| <b>Tim Lawrence</b>      | <b>Veida Wissler</b>   |
| <b>Mary Jo Maggio</b>    | <b>Gail Zimnoch</b>    |

**LET THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
BAKE YOUR HOLIDAY PIES!**  
OUR BAKER IS BROTHER KNIGHT TIM WEISER  
FROM WEISER'S MARKET IN AKRON!  
ALL PIES ARE "10"



Completed forms will be collected in the Narthex after  
Masses this week end, November 3/4.

Blank order forms are at our table.

Distribution will be on Tuesday, November 20  
from 3:00 to 6:00 PM in the hallway  
in front of the church office.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Knights of Columbus  
Father Daley Council 4191  
[www.kofc4191.org](http://www.kofc4191.org)**