

My Dear Parishioners,

People in the world of business used to be proud to proclaim the motto: “My word is my bond.” Once when someone’s word was given on a deal it was considered binding. A transaction worth millions could be completed with a few words or simply by a hand shake. That action of a few moments would receive written confirmation a day or two later. Today unfortunately one’s word is frequently **not** trusted as one’s bond.

What seems to be missing in today’s world is one’s personal **integrity**. That is one of the qualities we should want to carry with us always in our life. Personal **integrity** is surely one of the criteria on which we are judged. **Integrity** means wholeness, being complete and not divided in any way. **Integrity** means that you have every quality that you should have and nothing is in the wrong place. **Integrity** means being well-rounded: that you are as poetic as you are rational, as visionary as practical, as imaginative as realistic, as artistic as hardheaded, and as magnanimous as sturdy. Personal **integrity** is an uncompromising adherence to a code of moral values, utter sincerity, incorruptibility, honesty and candor. **Integrity** of character avoids all kinds of duplicity, deception, artificiality, or shallowness.

Our Scripture readings provide us with good sound advice and this is ever so true with today’s readings. Our Scripture readings for today give us a peek into what is the true meaning of personal **integrity**.

Our first reading is taken from the Book of Sirach. Written almost 200 years before Christ, this book is a collection of helpful, holy and wise teachings. The author, Ben Sira, devotes part of his book to the theme of testing human qualities. In today’s passage Ben Sira takes up the ways in which the gift of **speech** (debate and argument) reveals a person’s true character and **integrity**. **Speech** allows us to communicate, to share thoughts, to express our reality, and reveal what is really within us. The gift of **speech** is to be revered and used appropriately in wisdom and discernment. Today’s passage is a very good example of the widespread emphasis on **speech** in the Wisdom literature of the Ancient Near East as well as in the Jewish Scriptures.

Ben Sira claims that people’s faults appear when they speak, especially when they are not considering their words. He uses the examples of a sieve, a piece of pottery, and a piece of fruit from a tree to emphasize his point. When a sieve is shaken the grain falls through only leaving the husks. So too when one begins to speak a person’s faults become all too obvious. In the pottery-making process, flaws show up when the pot is fired. Similarly, conversation reveals our inner-most thoughts no matter how careful we are to dissemble. The fruit from a tree shows the care or lack of care on the part of the grower. In like fashion, one’s speech demonstrates the speaker’s whole outlook. Speech is a means of testing the inner character of a person because what comes out in speech enforces **or** betrays what is in one’s heart. The climax of today’s passage is the last line (v.7) saying that what a person says is clearly the test of that person.

If we need motivation towards personal **integrity**, today’s reading from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians provides it for us. In today’s passage Paul continues his discussion of the resurrection. Paul asserts that belief in Jesus’ Resurrection implies belief in the resurrection of all the faithful. Paul’s own experience of the Risen Lord and his life of hardship focused Paul’s attention on the life beyond the present world. Paul claims that one’s new life in Jesus renders insignificant the physical death that appears so final and complete to those who don’t see life in terms of the eternal risen life of Jesus. Paul then describes sin as being scorpion-like as it contains a sting which injects poison. That poison is death, moral if not physical. Being so personally self-satisfied as to be constantly criticizing others and lacking true **integrity** is a result of that poison. Paul concludes his teaching to his Corinthian brothers and sisters by giving them a strong challenge. This challenge is a demand for action: be firm, steadfast, always devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that they will have all the glory of their resurrection to look forward to.

In today’s Gospel, St. Luke shares some advice regarding human interaction and **speech**. Today’s passage is a series of three unrelated separate sayings of Jesus harvested into one place (either because St. Luke strung them together that way or because Jesus had adapted Himself to the Jewish way of preaching.) The three sayings have to do with “the

blind leading the blind,” “the splinter in a brother’s eye,” and “a good tree and its fruit.” These three sayings are part of St. Luke’s “Sermon on the Plain” (6: 17-49). Unlike the first part of the Sermon on the Plain’s prophetic tone (6: 17-38) this section uses a wisdom teacher’s style with instructions for how one lives in the kingdom of God. The three sayings are Jesus’ short list of the absolutely essential components of true and authentic Christian living. Jesus’ three sayings tell us that if we want to be His true disciple then we must be compassionate, have personal **integrity** and **not** be judgmental with others.

Jesus applies the above mentioned principles to several particular areas. For one thing (v.39f) there isn’t much sense for leaders trying to guide others to a place until and unless those leaders have been there themselves. For another thing (v.41f) one ought to have enough **integrity** to see both themselves and others honestly. Jesus must have been exercising His sense of humor when He compared a splinter in a neighbor’s eye with a whole wooden beam in one’s own eye. To the disciple who’s concerned with the faults of another and ignores his own faults, Jesus applies the word “**hypocrite**,” a designation He had given only to the Pharisees and scribes. Lastly using the analogy that “a good tree doesn’t bear rotten fruit, nor a rotten tree good fruit (v.43f), Jesus states that so it is with people’s character. Jesus’ meaning is that internal dispositions reveal themselves in external actions. People show their true character when they are simply being themselves.

Many so called educated and highly successful people in today’s society often appear to lack the **integrity** to find meaning, direction, and contentment in their own lives. As Christians, our entire goal is to respond to God’s call to new life with the Risen Lord Jesus; a life that results both from His gift and our efforts. Fulfillment of that goal is infinitely worth the struggle involved in retaining our **integrity**. We cannot fake **integrity** or hide it. Therefore let all of us try and deliberately continue developing a deeper Christ-like personal **integrity** in our lives. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers, Fr. John

FORMED
ACCESS CATHOLIC FAITH ON THE GO

As we prepare for the Lenten and Easter Seasons I would like to make you aware of the many excellent Catholic programs that are available to you for **free** thru our parish program FORMED. Lenten and Easter movies, video studies, inspiring talks, audiobooks, testimonies and e-books are available for your spiritual enrichment. Lenten programs such as **Forgiven, Presence**, and the **Footprints of God: Jesus** are now available to you to ensure that this Lent and Easter will be a truly rewarding spiritual journey for you and your family. New books written by notable Catholic authors Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Edward Sri, Paul McCuskey, and Jennifer Fulwiler are now available for you and your family’s Catholic faith development. To access these Lenten and Easter programs and other amazing Catholic materials simply visit **omph.formed.org** and click “**Register**” and enter your name, email address and desired password. You will then be ready to access all the inspiring and engaging Catholic content on **FORMED**. Enjoy and God bless. Fr. John

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6th is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. It is also a day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics age 14 and older. Mass will be celebrated at **7am, 9am, and 7pm** with **ashes** being distributed after the homily.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We will begin praying the Stations of the Cross on Fridays in Lent beginning on **March 15th** at **2pm** (Children Stations) and **7pm** (St. Alphonsus Version).

2019 DAILY LENTEN DEVOTIONS

The Redemptorists have published a Daily Lenten Devotion Book for 2019 in English/Spanish. Copies are available in the Church Narthex. Suggested donation for this book is two dollars. Thanks Fr. John

2019 DIOCESAN ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

The **2019 Diocesan Annual Campaign**, previously known as the **Bishop’s Lenten Appeal**, will begin **next week** with the in-pew solicitation. The theme for this year is **Faith Forward**. During these challenging times, our faith is central to who we are. Like the Disciples, we are called to remain **faithful**, demonstrate our **commitment** to our **faith** by word and deed, and spread

Good News. You will be receiving a letter from Bishop Gainer asking for your support. I have pledged to Bishop Gainer my assistance in achieving our Parish goal of **\$101,300**. As you prayerfully consider your support of both our Parish goal and the overall Diocesan goal, I hope you will join me in supporting these important ministries and services that the Diocese provides to our Parish, parishioners, and community. By our collective efforts from parishioners and parishes throughout the Diocese, a multitude of programs and ministries are offered to those in need. We are relying on your generous support to insure that these programs and ministries continue. Bishop Gainer and I thank you in advance for your loyal and steadfast support.

Monies collected by our Parish support the programs and ministries that are Diocesan led, Parish implemented and Parishioner supported. **No funds given to the Diocesan Annual Campaign are directed to the Survivors Compensation Fund or legal fees.** Any funds collected in excess of our Parish goal of **\$101, 300.00** will be returned to our Parish Savings Account. Thank you and God bless.
Fr. John

MARRIAGE ANNULMENTS

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving 2 presentations within the diocese concerning marriage, divorce and annulment according to Church teaching. These presentations 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. No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, extension 304, or email: tribunal@hbgiocese.org

BLESSING OF CHILDREN



Lord, our God, out of the speech of little children, You have fashioned a hymn of praise. Look with kindness on these children whom the faith of the Church commends to Your tender care. Your Son, born of the Virgin Mary, gladly welcomed little children. He took them in His arms, blessed them and held them up as an example for all. We pray that You, Father, will also send Your blessing on them so that they may grow in Christian maturity and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's witnesses in the world, spreading and defending the faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We welcome these recently Baptized children into our Catholic Family: Lily Elizabeth Graybill, Cameron

Reynold Haeusler, Jackson Blake Berry, Lydia Marie Pannebecker, Joseph Michael Hoover, Adaline Rose Rinnier, Aubree Faith Garman, Gilberto Lopez Colon, Yamilka Lopez Cotto & Yabriel Cotto Colon.

Ben & Pat Dangelo

MUSIC IN THE PARISH ACCOMPANISTS NEEDED

The OMPH Music Ministry is in need of an accompanist, preferably piano or organ, for the Adult Choir. Practice is only once a week (Tuesdays from 7-8 pm) and we sing at 1 or 2 Masses per month. The music ministry is a great way to meet other parishioners and to become more involved in our faith community. If you are willing to share your talent, please call or email Jill McGowan at 717-336-5578 or jmcgowan333@yahoo.com.



YOUTH CHOIR NEEDS YOU

Our Youth Choir is currently taking a short break while we find someone to take over directing duties. If you love music and want to help inspire the children of our parish, this is a great opportunity. Music is a wonderful way to get kids more involved in Mass. This position does require clearances but I will happily help you get them if you are interested. Please contact Jill McGowan at 717-336-5578 or jmcgowan333@yahoo.com.

DIOCESAN MEN'S CONFERENCE

Men of the Diocese of Harrisburg and beyond...the **Diocesan Men's Conference** is Saturday, **April 6, 2019**, at Bishop McDevitt High School. The theme is ***Men Called to be Saints***. The Keynote Speaker is **Dr. John Bergsma**, noted Catholic author, speaker, Bible expert, and theology professor at Franciscan University of Steubenville. The title of his keynote address is ***The Top 3 Reasons I Became Catholic and Always Will Be: Perspectives from a Former Protestant Pastor***. Besides the keynote, the Men's Conference includes 40+ workshops from a blue-ribbon panel of speakers, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with benediction, opportunity for Confession, beautiful music, good food, numerous Catholic vendors, Mass with Bishop Gainer as Principal Celebrant and Homilist, and fellowship with up to 1,000 men from around the Diocese of Harrisburg and beyond. Each of the past two years we have had 1,000 men attend this conference. We expect another large crowd this year. Please register now at

www.hbgdiocese.org/men. We'd love to see you at the Men's Conference on April 6th!

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 4, St. Casimir

- 7:00 ✦ Tonya L. Colatta
- 9:00 The Dresch Family

Tuesday, March 5

- 7:00 ✦ Tadeusz Jancki
- 9:00 ✦ Ben & David Kolenski

Wednesday, March 6, ASH WEDNESDAY

- 7:00 ✦ Betty Jean Henry
- 9:00 Day of Prayer and Penance
- 7:00 ✦ Stephanie Mash

Thursday, March 7, St. Perpetua & Felicity

- 7:00 ✦ Charles & Lucy Marrone
- 9:00 ✦ Gerald Kennedy

Friday, March 8, St John of God, Religious

- 7:00 ✦ Al & Frances Levine
- 9:00** ✦ Thomas Pagerly

Saturday, March 9, St. Grances of Rome, Religious

- 9:00** ✦ Mary Hensel
- 5:00 ✦ Ann Orloski

Sunday, March 10, 9th Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 7:30 For the Parishioners
- 9:00 ✦ Carol Maggio
- 11:00 ✦ Greg Fitzpatrick

to get service hours needed for Confirmation students. We are blessed to be able to serve the parish. Also, starting this Spring, Radiate Youth Group will be taking over the care of the flower garden at the OMPH Memorial Monument in Cedar Hill Cemetery. It's a great way for us to give back to the parish for all their generosity in the past years with monetary support towards our Steubenville trips. God bless! **In His Service, Denise Ives**

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

Only God sees the true big picture. And because he does, he treats us with unending patience, grace, and mercy. What a comforting truth this is! You can rest peacefully, [secure](#) in the faith that your heavenly Father has you in the palm of his hand. But here too is where a major challenge lies: God sees everyone's big picture. He has every person in the palm of his hand—even the people you understand the least. This means that you can leave everyone else to his care. You don't have to worry about changing them! Of course, you should love the people around you and be involved in their lives. But try to do it by treating them with the same merciful, loving approach that God has. Seek to understand and empathize, not condemn and over advise.

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 *Spiritual Growth of our parish.*

There are 22 openings for you to have the Sanctuary Lamp burn for your intention.

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.

Fr. Paul Bryan CSSR, Margaret Gardner, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds,

CHURCH SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
2-24-19	\$14,645.37	\$14,300.00	(\$345.37)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
2-24-19	\$444,056.56	\$500,500.00	(\$56,444.44)



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to set your clock forward one hour ahead on Sunday, March 10th at 2 AM!

YOUTH GROUP

News from Radiate Youth Group: Our Youth Group has been running the OMPH coffee and doughnut corner the first Sunday of each month during the school year. All teens in the parish, grades 7-12, are welcome to join us to help serve in this way. It's also a great way



Patrick Michael Ward, Carlos Luciano Sr., Gerald Gigliotti, Francis Gatti, Antonia Scribani, Jean Mash, John Mento, Joe Lewis, Joe Ferrara, Joan Dever, Alicia Craig, Robert Bevans, Chris Hohowski, and Jody Shimp, Kathy Snyder, Jennifer Ranker, Jean Mack, Gloria Kreider, and Lori Ritz.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!!



Any girl or boy in grades fourth and up that would like to become an altar server should contact Ben Hoover at 717-808-1115. This is a great way for

RE and LCHS students to achieve required service hours. There is a commitment involved with being an altar server, but the schedule can be planned around sports, work and any other activities if known in advance. Training will begin in April and the new schedule will come out in May.

YEARLINGS NEWS

The Yearlings will meet for lunch at **11:30 on March 12, at Bright's Restaurant** in Ephrata. Please call Gloria for reservations at 717-733-9098. All seniors are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE OMPH School's Benefit Golf Tournament



It's time to Par-Tee at OMPH's 27th Annual Golf Tournament! **Our Mother of Perpetual Help School** is hosting its 27th **Annual Benefit Golf Tournament** on **Wednesday, May 8, 2019** at Honeybrook Golf Club, 1422 Cambridge Road, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania. The cost for the Tournament is \$90.00 and includes greens fee, cart, range balls, contests, prizes, thank you gift, light breakfast, lunch, beverages and the **satisfaction of knowing that you helped OMPH School.** while having fun! Don't miss Fr. John's last Golf Par-Tee for OMPH School!



Religious Education Corner:

Beginning This Week, Over The Next Six Weeks, We Will Give A Brief Explanation Of Each Of Corporal And Spiritual Works Of Mercy During The Lenten Season Which Begins On Wednesday, March 6th With Ash Wednesday.

This Week's Corporal Work of Mercy Feed The Hungry:

Donate to the Food Bank and/or other food drives.
Volunteer to help at the Food Bank.
Try not to be wasteful with the food you have.

This Week's Spiritual Work of Mercy Counsel The Doubtful

Let your life be rooted in Christ so that advice that you may offer may be rooted in Christ.
Let your actions show your love of Christ.
Help a relative or friend who is struggling with his/her beliefs.

Our RE Class Schedule For The Month Of March Is As Follows:

Sunday, March 3rd – RE Classes In Session
Sunday, March 10th – RE Classes In Session
Sunday, March 17th – RE Classes In Session
Sunday, March 24th – RE Classes In Session
Sunday, March 31st – RE Classes In Session

Kelly Lawrence

FAITH'S HEALING POWER

The Knights of Columbus Council 4191 are pleased to welcome Jennifer Hubbard, whose life was forever changed on the day of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, CT. On December 14, 2012, Jennifer was the parent of two children in that school, 8 year old Frederick, and 6 year old Catherine. Catherine was one of twenty 1st graders and six adults who lost their lives that day.

Jennifer shares a message about the mercy and hope that God provides even in the face of unimaginable life events. You will learn how she turned to her faith to find peace and found that God provided the answers that she needed.

Jennifer is a contributing writer for the Magnificat magazine and founder of the Catherine Violet Hubbard Foundation, an animal sanctuary.

Jennifer will be speaking at OMPH Church, located at 320 Church Avenue, Ephrata, PA on **THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 8 beginning at 7 PM.**



A free-will offering will be taken up to cover some of the expenses. We look forward to seeing you and your friends, to start the Lenten season by benefitting from this wonderful message.

SAVE THE DATE

OMPH CYO *Athletic Association* will be having a Designer Bag Bingo on Saturday, **April 27** 1-4pm. Ticket **Price \$25**

TEXT-TO-GIVE SECOND COLLECTION CODES

Second collection text-to-give is easy! Just text the amount you would like to give followed by the “code word” for each specific collection. For example, “10 flowers”, makes a gift of 10 dollars towards our flower collection. Each week before a second collection, the “code word” will appear in the bulletin for your convenience.

The code words for the next few weeks:

<u>Collection Name</u>	<u>Collection Date</u>	<u>Code Word for Text-To-Give</u>
Catholic Relief	April 7th	Catholicrelief
Easter Flowers	April 14th	easterflowers
Holy Land	April 19th	holylan
Catholic Home		
Missions	April 28th	homemissions
Easter	April 21st	easter

Reminder the Text-To-Give phone # is **717-401-4159**.

LEGION OF MARY NEWS



Legion of Mary ACIES (Rededication Service to the Blessed **Virgin Mary**) will be held at **Holy Trinity**, Columbia on **23 March at 1 PM**. All active and auxiliary members are encouraged to attend. Calls will be made to determine attendance.

OMPH SCHOOL'S LOTTERY CALENDAR RAFFLE

The OMPH School Development Department and PTO are excited to announce a new and exciting Fundraiser - The May 2019 Lottery Calendar! Purchase a raffle ticket for \$10 and if your ticket number comes out straight on the Pennsylvania Lottery Pick 3 Evening Drawing in May, you win the amount marked on the calendar for that day. Tickets can be purchased through any OMPH School family, after masses in February in the Narthex or in the Parish Office, or in person at the school office. Sales end April 24th.

LCHS NEWS

On Saturday, **April 6**, from 6-11 pm Lancaster Catholic will celebrate its 5th Annual Purple & Gold Gala at the Lancaster Country Club. This is Lancaster Catholic's biggest fundraiser event and there will be live and silent auctions in addition to great company and excellent food.

This year, we will celebrate The Saint John Paul II Excellence Award Winners, Father Allan Wolfe and Marilyn Berger '50. These remarkable individuals have made a difference in the lives of Catholic High students through their hard work and dedication to their professions.

All are welcome to attend! Tickets are on-sale now and can be found at www.lchsyeh.org. Questions? Please contact Lori Wagner, Special Events Coordinator, at 717-509-0313.

Outstanding Professional Achievement

- Joseph E. Besecker '75
- Beth Ellen DiPaolo '83
- Lisa Senkowski Murphy '78
- Service to Humanity**
- Shannon Hickey Lapp '08

Service to Humanity and Service to LCHS



Dr. J. Albert Schulz '56
Service to Catholic Education
Mary F. Schreiner '59

Join us on Saturday, April 13, 2019 starting at 11:00 a.m. for brunch at the Hamilton Club, to celebrate this year's honorees. If you are interested in purchasing tickets for \$30 per person, please contact Lori Wagner, Special Events Coordinator, lwagner@lchsytes.org or call the Advancement Office at (717) 509-0313 by April 3.

**OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP
SCHOOL REGISTRATION
TUITION ASSISTANCE DEADLINE**

MARCH 15TH



Families registering at OMPH School for the 2019-2020 school year are advised the deadline to apply for tuition assistance scholarships for the upcoming school year is March 15th. Funds are available through the Diocese of Harrisburg's Neumann Scholarship Foundation, funded through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program, and the George and Mary Kremer Foundations. FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment is used to conduct the financial needs analysis and tax credit program eligibility verification.

The Preschool program, for children who are 3 and 4 years old by September 1st, provides developmentally appropriate activities in a Catholic environment. It also offers an extended day program including lunch. Our full day Kindergarten program, for children who are 5 years old by September 1st, provides daily instruction in Religion along with skill development in Language Arts and Math, and special classes in Spanish, computer, art, music, library and physical education. Students in grades 1 through 8 experience an education rich in STEM learning noted for academic excellence in an environment which reinforces our Catholic identity. An on-site afterschool program is available for all students in Preschool through 8th grade.

Come see why so many families choose OMPH Catholic School for their children! Please call the School Office if you have questions regarding financial assistance or the schedule a personal tour. To

learn more about our school, please visit our website at www.omph.org, call the school office at 717-738-2414, or find us on Facebook at OMPH-EPHRATA!

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join us for our annual St. Patrick's Day Party on **Saturday, March 9th** in the Bernadine Center. Doors open at 6 PM and there will be live, authentic Irish music by The Mashed Potato Heads from 7-10 PM. Cost for the event is \$15 and includes beverages and light snacks. This is a 21 and over event. For tickets or more information contact Brian Heisler by email (preferred) at jenbri363@gmail.com or by phone at (717) 954-2310.