

My Dear Parishioners,

A mother looks out of her kitchen window and sees her two sons fighting and it looks serious. When the sons see her hurry out of the house towards them, they disentangle themselves from each other's hold, hoping beyond hope that she will let the matter pass without comment. No such luck! She asks them: "What on God's earth is going on here?" She knows **what was happening** (they were fighting with each other) but she is determined to find out **what is going on** between them. Only when she discovers that answer will she understand **why** they were fighting in the first place.

It is always frustrating to witness an event without **knowing** what it is actually going on and what it actually means. From our own experiences we know the difference between **having an experience** and **knowing what it means** and **being part of an event** and **understanding its significance**. Jesus Himself made the distinction between those who "**see and hear**" and those who "**perceive and understand.**" Being part of an event is no guarantee that we will understand it. In today's Scripture readings we encounter some people who witness a specific event but do not understand the meaning of that event nor comprehend its significance.

In order to fully understand the meaning and significance of Peter's sermon in today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we must first look back to the event that took place immediately before his sermon. Peter and John were on their way to the Temple to pray when they noticed a lame man sitting at the temple entrance. In those days anyone with a disability was looked down upon. People believed that any disability was a result of sin and those who suffered with disabilities were being punished by God. The lame man asked Peter and John for money. Peter replied: "I don't have any money, but I will give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk." Then Peter helped the man to his feet and he was healed. The man was so excited that he danced, jumped with joy and praised God. Naturally this created quite a commotion and those gathered at the Temple wondered what had happened. They witnessed the miracle healing but did not understand its meaning nor comprehend its significance. Peter then takes the opportunity to explain its meaning and significance. He wants to make it clear that this miracle was **not** something for

which he and John could claim credit for. The source of this man's healing is Jesus Christ.

Today's first reading is part of Peter's explanation. Peter states that out of ignorance the people of Israel handed the ideal servant of God (Jesus) over to Pilate. Pilate wanted to release Jesus but the crowd insisted He be crucified. They refused to recognize Jesus as God's own servant. Peter then makes his point even more dramatic with a series of striking contrasts. First of all, they rejected the very person of God regarded as "the Holy and Righteous One." Secondly, they put to death "the author of life." Finally, they put Jesus to death but God raised Him from the dead. Peter's aim is not to condemn but to awaken the people to the terrible mistake they made in the past. Peter then reminds the people that all that had happened fulfilled **God's saving plan**. Peter credits Jesus' death and resurrection as the instrument of humanity's healing, forgiveness of sins and eternal life with the Father. He then invites the crowd to **repent and believe in the Lord** so that their sins may be wiped away.

In today's Gospel passage we see how the disciples cannot make sense of Jesus' recent death nor can they make sense of what is going on when He suddenly appears to them. When Luke wrote his Gospel he wrote it to strengthen the belief that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God. When he wrote his account of the Resurrection he chose to emphasize how only the Risen Christ could make sense of the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. By themselves the disciples cannot arrive at an understanding of what is going on. They need the Risen Christ to uncover the meaning of all that has happened. In today's passage the two disciples of Emmaus have returned to Jerusalem to be reunited with the assembly of Jesus' followers. Luke tells us that the two disciples "told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread." But the question remains: can the assembled disciples actually make sense of all that has happened?

Luke answers this question by stating that while the disciples were still talking Jesus appeared in their presence. Rather than rejoicing in Jesus' presence they become alarmed and frightened. Rather than recognizing Jesus they think and believe that they are seeing a ghost. They are unable to make sense of what is happening in their midst just as they were unable to

make sense of the recent events that had happened in Jerusalem. Luke serves notice that the appearance of the Risen Lord is not by itself a compelling demonstration of His reality. By **itself** the appearance of Jesus does not open the disciples' eyes. However, once Jesus appeals to the disciples' sense of touch, their sense of reason ("ghosts have no flesh") and once He opens their minds to the meaning and understanding of the Scriptures about Him, the disciples come to believe in Him. By interpreting what has happened the Risen Christ draws the disciples out of their confusion. The disciples cannot do that for themselves. They cannot see for themselves. By themselves they cannot understand what is going on. Only the Risen Christ can take the disciples from mystery into revelation and from confusion into understanding.

In their new understanding of Jesus' Resurrection the disciples become **witnesses** (not just eyewitnesses to what has happened) but **witnesses to the meaning of all that has taken place**. Our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection is based on the unique experience of these first disciples. We will always be indebted to them for their insight and courage. Happily, they did not keep their new experience to themselves nor did they hoard their new insight. Both were shared with anyone who had ears to listen. The first disciples turned their new experience into a message of Good News for everyone. Like those disciples we too must share what we have experienced and continue passing on the Good News to all those we meet. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUNDAY

Our parish second grade children will be receiving their First Holy Communion on **Sunday, April 29th** at the **11 AM** mass. Please keep these children in your prayers as they prepare to receive Jesus for the very first time in the Most Holy Eucharist.

Thanks, Fr. John

HEALING MASS

On **Sunday, May 6th** Fr. John will celebrate a Mass with the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** at **1 PM** in our Church. We invite all parishioners and their family members who are afflicted by illness and all our beloved **elderly** to attend this special Eucharistic celebration. Come and receive Jesus' healing power and love.



"Thank you to the Knights of Columbus Ladies Axillary for purchasing the new chapel decoration for the Easter Season

Lenten Appeal 2018-19 Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal "LOVE MADE VISIBLE."

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am asking you to consider making a **gift** to our 2018-19 Bishop's Annual Lenten Appeal. Our Parish assessment goal for the 2018-19 fiscal year is **\$101, 300**. As of March 26^h **328 households** have pledged **\$86,894.10** and we have collected **\$52,091.59**. There are **1368 households** registered in our Parish. I hope and pray that **every household** will contribute to our appeal, enabling us to reach our goal and support the mission of our Church. Remember, all **gifts** that **exceed** our assessment goal will be **returned** to our Parish and placed in our Parish Savings Account.

May you and your loved ones be abundantly blessed by our God for your continued commitment and sacrifices to Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish and to our Diocese of Harrisburg. Be assured of my prayers, blessings and love.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. John



YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

Discerning God's Will in my Life Designed for anyone in their 20s & 30s, single or married, this retreat taking place at **Refreshing Mountain Retreat Center in Stevens, PA** will begin with dinner on **Friday, May 11** and end shortly after dinner on **Saturday, May 12**.

Retreat directors, Father Brian Wayne and Sr. Geralyn Schmidt, SCC will explore the reality that discernment is an ongoing process in which God calls us to do something and how prayer allows and nourishes authentic discernment. During this retreat, you will learn about practical methods of discerning God's will, particularly following the rules of St. Ignatius. For more information and to register online, visit: <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/event/young-adult-retreat-discerning-gods-will-life/>

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, April 16

7:00 †Larry Lehmier
9:00 †Vocations

Tuesday, April 17

7:00 †Andrea Moskowski
9:00 †Andy Zipfel

Wednesday, April 18

7:00 †Zofia Szarnowska
9:00 †Zofia Szarnowska

Thursday, April 19

7:00 †Richard Dean
9:00 †Andy Zipfel

Friday, April 20

7:00 †Cathy King
9:00 †Bakjaza & Hoover Families

Saturday, April 21, St. Anselm, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9:00 †Jaxson Williamson
5:00 †Drew Roth

Sunday, April 22, 4th Sunday of Easter

7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 †Luther Shimp
11:00 †Maria Mannino

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.

April 2: Margaret Gardner, Jane Muldowney, Brenda Crawford, Jennifer Ranker, Janet Tomko, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Tonya Stoner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp, Joe Ferrara, Anna Leshner, Pat Frey, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Anna Mae Finkey, Susan Buchler, Danny McGuire, William Oktela, Bill Garcedau, and Gloria Reynolds. .

CHURCH  SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
4-8-18	\$13,260.88	\$14,950.00	(\$1,689.12)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
4-8-18	\$558,089.23	\$612,950.00	\$54,860.77

OMPH CYO ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2ND ANNUAL DESIGNER BAG BINGO

\$20 Ticket Price - 20 Bingo Games Raffles, Special Bingo Games Food and Drinks for Sale
Saturday 4/28/18

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Why would Peter be so unsurprised? Perhaps the answer comes in his words to the crowd. At least three times, Peter announces something more astonishing than this miracle: after all that we did to Jesus, God raised him from the dead and gave him back to us as our Savior. "The author of life you put to death," he says, "but God raised him". It was a stunning reversal that no one saw coming. God repaid our cruelty with his divine love.

Through the drama of Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Pentecost, Peter learned how merciful and generous God is. Remember, Peter had denied Jesus and fled at his arrest. He, the "Rock" of the Church, crumbled in fear. And still, Jesus forgave him and welcomed him back. So, after all this, nothing could astonish Peter any more. He knew that God wanted only good for his people.

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 Cherry Ann Wy.

All of the months of May, June & July the Sanctuary Lamp is available for you intentions.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY



The OMPH Benevolent Society's community food bank is in need of: Instant mashed potatoes, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, and canned vegetables: corn, peas, green beans, carrots, mixed vegetables. Please place these items in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church. The underserved families in our community served by our food bank appreciate your donations!

THE MUSEUM OF THE BIBLE



On **Saturday 12 May** we will depart at 7 AM (OMPH side parking lot) Return approximately 6 PM (leaving DC at 3 PM) **COST \$47, NON-REFUNDABLE** (this includes driver tip.)

THERE ARE 13 SEATS AVAILABLE

The Museum of the Bible is in Washington D.C. and documents the narrative, history and impact of the Bible. *The museum opened on November 17, 2017.*

There are 2 places to eat on the premises and a gift shop we will receive **20% off purchases at the gift shop.**

The **last day** to reserve and pay for your seat is **April 14th**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Rita Pfautz at 717-341-1211** or email at **ritapfautz@yahoo.com**

Check out the museum website, *you'll be glad you did.*
<https://www.museumofthebible.org/>

MARY'S PEACE PLAN FROM HEAVEN

Have you heard that Our Lady's peace plan for the world is the daily Rosary? Have you heard about Fatima, but didn't know the details? Do you want peace in your life? Do you want to learn how to pray the Rosary? Then join us! **May 5: 9:00 AM Mass followed by viewing of the Fatima movie, refreshments, and discussion of the movie/Rosary workshop, ending around 12:30.** See the poster in the narthex for details, and to RSVP or contact Susan Strosser at **susan@strosserfamily.com/717-203-1070**

LCHS SPRING MUSICAL

"Crazy For You" is a romantic comedy musical and is this year's Lancaster Catholic High School's Musical. "Crazy For You" will be hitting the Old Main Auditorium stage on April 26th-28th at 7:30 PM and **April 29th at 2 PM. Tickets are \$17** for reserved seating, \$15 for adult and \$7 for students. Please contact Tony Brill at **[717-509-0310](tel:717-509-0310)** for more information.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018

Mark your calendars and save the date for this year's **Vacation Bible School July 16-20, 2018!** At this year's VBS our kids will get Shipwrecked and discover how **JESUS RESCUES**. As we gear up for this great week we are looking for a few more adult volunteers to make it an amazing week for the kids. If you are interested in helping out please contact Laura Kauffman at (717) 575-8221.

Hersheypark Discount Ticket Offer!

Discount tickets to *Hersheypark* are available to the friends and families of the parish at a **significant savings**. Gate admission for Regular is \$67.80; our price is **\$34.85** (ALL ages 3+). discount *Hersheypark* Meal Tickets at a savings of up to 30% off retail prices - **\$11.99 each** and *ADD-ON snack Vouchers - **\$3.25 each**. Orders must be received at the parish by **Monday, April 30, 2018**. Parishes will receive tickets by Friday, May 25, 2018.



&



Religious Education Corner:

Isaac's Fundraiser To Benefit OMPH RE

On Wednesday, April 18, 2018, now all day from **10:00 AM – 9:00 PM**, Isaac's Famous Grilled Sandwiches (Ephrata) will host a fundraiser to benefit the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Religious Education Program. **BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY** to enjoy homemade soups, grilled sandwiches, and fresh green salads. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost of your meal will go directly to the OMPH RE Program. Dine-In, takeout and online orders apply! You will need the special form that has been inserted in the bulletin this week. Want to help us earn even MORE? Add an Isaac's Gift Card to your check and 15% of the gift card sale will be added to the fundraiser! Gift card must be used on future visit. Hope to see you there! Thanks!

Our RE Class Schedule For The Remainder Of The Year Is As Follows:

Sunday, April 15th – RE Classes In Session

NEEDED GOLFERS AND SPONSORS

For Our Mother of Perpetual Help School 26th Annual Benefit **Golf Tournament May 9** at Honeybrook Golf Club Enjoy a fun filled day of golf at a first class course. Prizes and contests including a chance to win a trip for two to the 2019 Super Bowl or \$
,000 cash.



A single golfer is only \$90 and includes golf at Honeybrook Golf Course, cart, range balls, contests, prizes, light breakfast, grilled lunch and refreshments.

Advertising through sponsorship reaches members of surrounding business communities as well as school families and friends and is available by contacting the School Development Office at 717-738-2414

RESPECT LIFE

Natural Family Planning and Strong Marriages

Would you like to strengthen your marriage? Practice Natural Family Planning, as couples who do have a divorce rate of **well below 5%**.

Why is that? NFP encourages mutual respect between husband and wife as they work as a team to chart fertility cycles. NFP helps a man to honor the natural cycles of his wife. NFP encourages real communication between spouses. NFP keeps God at the heart of the most sacred part of marriage, where a couple renews their marriage vows with their bodies.

The average divorce rate runs at about 50%, which is about the **same rate** as couples contracepting. There is a strong link between using contraception and marriage breakup.

Why is that? Contraception encourages a man to use his wife at his own convenience. Contraception cuts off communication. Contraception throws God out of the most intimate part of marriage. Contraception makes a lie out of marriage vows, saying in effect, "I will NOT give you my fertility."

NFP sets spouses free to truly love one another, and can transform marriages. Even if you are no longer able to conceive, healing from past contraception use is possible through the sacrament of reconciliation and will renew your marriage. See www.ccli.org for more information.

Dave Olszewski and 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.

OMPH SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2018-19

WE ARE ENROLLING! 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 an after-care program. Our full day Kindergarten program, for children who are 5 years old by September 1st, 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 also available.

Come see why so many families choose OMPH Catholic School for their children! Personal tours can

be scheduled by calling the Development Office at 717-738-2414. Financial aid is available to qualifying families through FACTS Grant and Aid Assessment. To learn more about our school, please **visit our website** at www.omph.org or call the school office at 738-2414 for further information. **Find us on Facebook** at OMPH Ephrata!

Exciting News!



Pennsylvania will follow the Federal tax legislation signed into law on December 22, 2017, which includes several new provisions related specifically to 529 plan accounts, beginning with the 2018 tax year:

- Account owners can use assets to pay for qualified K-12 expenses up to \$10,000 per year, per student.
- Account owners can treat K-12 withdrawals as qualified education expenses with respect to federal tax and PA PIT purposes.
- Account owners can roll over 529 plans to Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) savings plans (an IRC Section 529A plan), up to the ABLE annual contribution limit as determined under IRC Section 2503(B). However, a taxpayer may not claim a deduction for the rollover amount on their PA-40 return.
- Once again the Pennsylvania tax law follows the Federal tax law, the same as before, and allows the deduction for the expanded 529 plans. For more information, please see [https://revenue-pa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/3399/kw/529%20withdrawals/session/L3RpbWUvMTUxODYzOTc2MS9zaWQvWXBpOnJqRm4%3D](https://revenue.pa.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/3399/kw/529%20withdrawals/session/L3RpbWUvMTUxODYzOTc2MS9zaWQvWXBpOnJqRm4%3D).

Please feel free to share and contact the Development Office with any questions.

**PRINCIPAL POSITION
AT OMPH SCHOOL**

The Diocese of Harrisburg Catholic Schools Department has announced a Principal Opening for the 2018 – 2019 school year: for: Our Mother of Perpetual Help School, Ephrata (www.omph.org);

Qualifications: Practicing, knowledgeable Catholic; Thorough understanding of Catholic School Philosophy; Commitment to modeling the values of Catholic Educational Leadership; PA Administrators Certificate (or in process); Catechetical Certification (or in process) and 5 years teaching experience. For more information see the Employment listings on the Diocese of Harrisburg website: www.hbgdiocese.org.

Send resume and letter of interest to Livia Riley, Superintendent of Schools; Diocese of Harrisburg; 4800 Union Deposit Road; Harrisburg, PA 17111-3710 or by email: lriley@hbgdiocese.org.

**TEACHING POSITION OPEN
AT OMPH SCHOOL**

Our Mother of Perpetual Help School in Ephrata, PA is seeking a **fifth grade** teacher for the **2018-19** school year. Interested candidates must be a **practicing Catholic** holding a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree and PA Instructional I teaching certificate. Applicants **must** complete the online **Youth Protection Program of the Harrisburg Diocese** and **provide current** clearances (**PS State Police, Child Abuse Clearance and FBI Fingerprinting**) along with employment information compliant with **Pennsylvania Act 168 Regulations**. Benefits include medical coverage, dental plan, life insurance policy and 401K plan. For more information please contact Rev. John McLoughlin, C.Ss.R. (Pastor) at (717) 733-9641 or e-mail: johnmack57@hotmail.com

LCHS ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

Lancaster Catholic High School seeks 2 full-time English teachers for the 2018-2019 school year. Minimum qualifications include a PA secondary certification (or equivalent) in English and appropriate clearances. Preferred qualifications include a master's degree in English, and experience in teaching English at the high school level. Experience in teaching Advanced Placement and/or dual enrollment college classes a plus. A pastor's recommendation will be required.

Interested applicants should forward a cover letter, resume, certifications and list of references to Mrs. Cecile Carr, ccarr@lchsyas.org, by May 4, 2018.