

My Dear Parishioners,

Organizations and business companies that want to send people out to represent them and sell their products give candidates for the job substantial training: lectures, panel discussions, seminars, videotapes, simulations and exercises. It is important for the organizations and companies to be able to stand behind the people who represent them. Countries do the same with their diplomats so that their diplomats abroad won't misrepresent (either intentionally or unintentionally) what their country stands for. Christianity is very much similar. Christian representatives are sent out on "mission" and its personal are "apostles." Everyone who is baptized and believes in Jesus is an **apostle**- one sent, a salesperson, a diplomat, a representative of Jesus.

Our readings for today deal with the call to **apostleship**. Our readings point out the need for others to carry on Jesus' work of bringing the Gospel to everyone. Our readings challenge us to recognize and acknowledge our role in carrying on the ministry of Jesus through His Church.

In today's passage from Acts, we see that the author (St. Luke) is preoccupied with the problem of continuity. With the betrayal of Judas, the circle of twelve apostles had been broken and had to be restored. Continuity was necessary for the Church to establish its roots in a genuine and carefully traced **apostolic witness**. Therefore a successor for Judas was necessary. Peter assumes leadership and announces the theology of "Divine necessity" as indicated in Scriptures: Judas' defection was part of God's plan, not merely an isolated act of human malice. Peter then announces that Judas' successor had to be one who was among the company of disciples from the time of Jesus' baptism to His ascension. He had to be someone who personally followed and witnessed the ministry of Jesus and witnessed Jesus' Resurrection. The assembly nominated two men, Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. The assembly prayed for God's guidance in choosing Judas' successor. The prayer preceding the casting of lots illustrates the faith of the assembly. Since only God could read the human heart, only God knew which of the two should be selected. The assembly was confident that God would

determine the outcome. The lot was drawn and Matthias was chosen to fulfill the role of **apostle** and the circle of twelve was restored.

One of the qualifications of an **apostle** is that they must be a person of **love**. An apostle must love Jesus and love others. St. John reminds us that just as God's love manifested itself in the unselfish and redeeming, saving sacrifice of Jesus, so Christians must love others with an unselfish and forgiving love. St. John tells us this in today's Second Reading (one of the jewels of the New Testament.) John was an elderly man when he wrote his Letter to the community. In his Letter-sermon he spoke of things which he considered to be important. He wrote about his favorite theme, the virtue that fascinated him most, the virtue that shows that we belong to Jesus: **love**. John applies love in the context of both God and people. With respect to God, he repeats what we heard in last Sunday's reading: "God is love." John then reminds us that Jesus is the means by which we know God's love. God's love sent Jesus into the world to become a person with heart. With respect to people, John then reminds us that our life is to be in imitation of Jesus. We are called to exercise some measure of the same kind of love that Jesus shows. John indicates that it is only by knowing Jesus that we learn to love and only by loving others that we learn to know Jesus. Hence a true **apostle** is one who loves God and others.

Today's Gospel passage is the center section (Jn.17:11-19) of the famous lengthy prayer (Jn. 17:1-26) that Jesus offers to the Father in John's Gospel. This priestly prayer is known as Jesus' Farewell Discourse. In His prayer Jesus consecrates all who will carry on His work- His **apostles**. Jesus' concern for His **apostles** is plainly stated in His High Priestly Prayer. His prayer parallels the Lord's Prayer as both prayers address God as "Father" and both put a strong emphasis on the priority of doing God's will.

In His prayer Jesus prays for His present **apostles** and He prays for all those who will one day believe in Him and carry out His work (future **apostles**). Four key concepts are present in Jesus' prayer. The first is **protection**: Jesus had been with the **apostles** and promises that He would remain with them forever. He promised them and He promises us that He will always defend and protect all when the

going in the world gets rough. The second concept is the **world**. On this, Jesus is paradoxical. On the one hand, the world is the object of God's love and on the other hand the world is a kind of anti-God, a Satan which is opposed to everything that Jesus' **apostles** represent. A third key concept for those who go into the world representing Jesus is **joy**; an aspect we frequently forget. An **apostle**, in spite of the pain and suffering present in the world, must be a carrier of Jesus' **joyful** message of real and lasting hope. The fourth key concept present in Jesus' prayer is **truth**. Jesus speaks of His **apostles** as being consecrated in **truth**. Consecration implies intentionally participating with God. Consecration requires that an **apostle** must trust more in grace than in their personal capabilities. It calls for a giving of oneself to a power greater than one's own-giving oneself to God. Thus **apostles** are to be holy because of their mission and because they are consecrated in the **truth** (God's Word-Jesus).

As Christians we have been chosen and elected by God to carry on the message and ministry of Jesus. We are called to be Jesus' **apostles**- His representatives in our communities. Christian **apostleship** means not to withdraw from life but to become better equipped for life; not a release from problems but a way to solve problems; and not an avoidance of troubles but facing and conquering them. Christians can never make the Age of the Church better until they take their divine election for **apostleship** seriously. That means their awareness of Jesus' **protection** of them, the bubbling out of their inner **joy, love** for people in their world, and their constant search for **truth**. Unless Christians have those qualities, they are not even good trainees, much less **apostles**. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

P.S. I want to wish a Blessed and Happy Mother's Day to all our beloved mothers. May God send blessings upon you today as you continue to live out your very special vocation of motherhood.

**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 May 10th, **361** households have pledged **\$95,012.10** and we have collected **\$69,888.09**. There are **1368 households** registered in our Parish. We still need **\$6,288.00** to accomplish our goal. 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. Fr. John

PARISH EDUCATION COLLECTION

A Second Collection will be taken up at all the masses this weekend. This special collection is our Annual Parish Education Collection and funds collected support our Parish School, Parish Religious Education Program (CCD) and Adult Education Programs. Thank you, Fr. John

KITCHEN HELP WANTED

We are in need of good cooks for *St. Clements Rectory*. If you are interested in a part time position cooking for 10-15 priests, brothers and guests at the parish rectory, please call *Kim at 717-733-6596 ext. 111*. We would love to speak to those willing to provide fresh and nutritious meals and *serve with a smile*.



LEGION OF MARY



In the Legion of Mary there are active members and auxiliary members. **Active members** attend a Legion meeting once a week and perform works of service. **Auxiliary members** pray the rosary and the prayers of the Legion of Mary (the Tesserà) for the intentions of the Blessed Mother and support the efforts of the active members through their prayers.

If you have an interest in joining the Legion of Mary visit the table in the narthex **Pentecost weekend May 19/20**. For additional information call Mary Leffler at 484-706-0627.

QUO VADIS DAYS 2018

Attention all Catholic young men ages 15-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg's Annual *Quo Vadis Days* vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other young men your age as you listen to the Lord's call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more.

Quo Vadis Days will be held from June 24-27, 2018 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. There is a \$50 registration fee; all other expenses are funded by the Diocese of Harrisburg. Registration forms can be found on our website at www.hbgdiocese.org. You may also contact the Office of Vocations at (717) 657-4804, ext. 282 or email vocations@hbgdiocese.org with questions or for a registration packet. Deadline for registration is June 17, 2018.

FIAT DAYS 2018

Attention all Catholic young women ages 15-25. Our Lord Jesus Christ has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg's Annual *Fiat Days* vocation discernment retreat to spend time with other young women your age as you listen to the Lord's call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, sports, games, great food, talks and more.

Fiat Days will be held July 1-3, 2018 at Mount St. Mary's University and Seminary. There is a \$50 registration fee, all other expenses funded by the Diocese of Harrisburg. Registration forms can be found on our website at www.hbgdiocese.org. You may also contact the Office of Vocations at (717) 657-4804, ext. 282 or email vocations@hbgdiocese.org with questions or for a registration packet. Deadline for registration is June 24, 2018.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, May 14, St. Matthias, Apostle

7:00 Intention of the Donor
9:00 †Janet Tomko

Tuesday May 15

7:00 †Janet Tomko
9:00 †Andy Zipfel

Wednesday, May 16

7:00 †John Falcone
9:00 †Our Parish Priests

Thursday, May 17

7:00 For those who feel forgotten

9:00 †Nina Tollis

Friday, May 18, St. John I, Pope and Martyr

7:00 For those who feel forgotten
9:00 †Margaret McGowan

Saturday, May 19

9:00 †Pauline Kohut
5:00 †John & Helen Phillips

Sunday, May 20, Pentecost Sunday

7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 †Charlotte Rozario
11:00 †Horace Shirker



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, Brenda Crawford, Jennifer Ranker, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Tonya Stoner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp, Joe Ferrara, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Anna Mae Finkey, Susan Buchler, Danny McGuire, William Oktela, Bill Garcedau, Gloria Reynolds, Tracy Yeakel, Paula Kareem, Greg Garred, Carolann Capizzi, and, Byron Gift.

CHURCH SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
5-6-18	\$16,321.06	\$14,950.00	\$1,371.06
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
5-6-18	\$614,187.335	\$672,750.00	(\$58,562.65)

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
SACRAMENT**

Just before he left Jesus promised, "You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit". He promised that "the love of God" would be "poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit". Finally, Jesus' ascension creates a longing in us for him to come back. At the ascension, the angel promised, "This Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will return in the same way as you have seen him going into heaven". It assures us that a time will come when sin, pain, and suffering will be no more. It promises us that Jesus will keep watch over us until that great and awesome day.

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 Bernie Mack.

Will the person that requested the weeks of May 13 & 27 please call the parish office? Those weeks were already scheduled when your request was received. There are 5 weeks available for your intentions.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

While we greatly appreciate each and every donation, below are some do's and don'ts for food bank donations:

DO: if you are buying more than one item, consider buying all of the same item. It is easier for volunteers sorting if we receive 6 cans of tomato soup rather than one can of tomato, one can of chicken noodle, etc.

DO: Buy nonperishable items you regularly serve to your family.

DON'T: donate any items that are opened, dented, leaking, or expired. Unfortunately, we cannot use these items and take up valuable volunteer hours sorting and discarding unusable items.

Currently, our food bank is in need of instant mashed potatoes, noodles, and any canned vegetables. Nonperishable food items can be placed in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church.

As always, we are humbled by our parishioners continued generosity!

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.



Religious Education Corner:

The RE Program Would Like To Thank The Following Local Vendors For Their Generous Donations During The 2017/2018 RE Year.



Please Look For Registrations Forms For The 2018/2019 RE Year Towards The End Of May Beginning Of June. Please Stay Tuned To The Bulletin For More Details Regarding Registration.

OMPH RE Not Only Needs Our Mother's Perpetual Help, But Your Help As Well!

Please Consider Joining The Exciting Adventure Of Passing On Our Wonderful Catholic Faith To The Next Generation By Assisting The RE Program As A Catechist, Aide Or Occasional Substitute.

Please Contact Kelly Lawrence In The Religious Education Office If You Are Interested In Volunteering For The 2018/2019 RE Year. Thanks!

Please Note: All RE Program Volunteers Must Have Their Required Diocesan Clearances Which Can Be

LCHS CROSS COUNTRY

All boys and girls who will be in grades 7-12 in the fall and their parents are invited to attend a no-obligation informational meeting for the fall 2018 LCHS junior high and high school Cross Country seasons. The meeting will be held on Sunday, May 20th at 5 p.m. in the Catholic High School cafeteria. Contact Coach Simpson at tsimpson@lchsyses.org with questions."

according to the rigor of Divine justice, but might be saved with the help of her sweet mercy and powerful intercession.
-*St. John Chrysostom*

If you love her, she will shower on you many graces in this life, and be an assurance to you of Heaven hereafter.
- *Our Lady of Fatima -St. John Bosco, pray for us!*

Andrea Ostrowski

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!

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



RESPECT LIFE

Thank God for Mary our Mother! May we earthly mothers strive to imitate her in our everyday lives. Here are some great quotes by famous saints:

Mary obtains salvation for all who have recourse to her. Oh! If all sinners had recourse to Mary, who would ever be lost? ... He who is protected by her will be saved; he who is not will be lost.
-*St. Alphonsus Maria Liguori*

Mary was made Mother of God to obtain salvation for many who, on account of their wicked lives, could not be saved

OMPH COMMUNITY MEALS

OMPH will be hosting our first and second Community Meals of the year. We are once again looking for volunteers to help. Our Community Meal Program provides free, freshly prepared and nutritious meals, to hungry residents of the Ephrata area. Our meals will be held on:

- 1. May 31, 2018** at First United Methodist Church
68 N Church St, Ephrata, PA
- 2. June 7, 2018** at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
167 E Main St, Ephrata, PA

There is no special expertise required so if you can help out at either meal it would be great. Our volunteers will have varied duties from helping to set up the dining area, serving meals to our guests and of course cleaning up after the meal. Our meal program has been serving anywhere from 120 to 180 people so we usually need around 20 or so volunteers. Without our volunteers it would be difficult if not impossible to accomplish our mission. Whether you have helped in the past or this is your first time we would love to have you join us for this worthwhile and rewarding experience.

For those individuals who are unable to volunteer some of their time but still want to help out, monetary donations are always welcome for the "OMPH Community Meals". If you are interested in volunteering or want more information please email Tara Montgomery at jazzcat9@ptd.net or contact Pat or Georgia Hogan at 717-738-0825.

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA



Check out the selection of pamphlets, books, audio CD's in the display, especially new ones about Divine Mercy. They make great First Holy Communion gifts! The talks are perfect for listening in the car, whether you are running errands or going on a long drive. Thank you for your generous donations supporting this ministry. Andrea Ostrowski