

My Dear Parishioners,

Someone once said that a **leader** is a person “who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” It also has been said “that management is efficiency in climbing the ladder of success; **leadership** determines whether the ladder is leaning against the right wall.” Yet the idea of a **leader** varies from time to time and place to place. In the past on the American frontier a leader was a two-fisted gun-slinging defender of the wronged. In the business world a leader is a person making crisp decisions, single-handedly setting far-ranging policies, in command of many subordinates. In the sports world a leader is a person who develops a game plan, communicates with his or her players encouraging them to do their best and directing them towards victory. In the military a leader is a person who can get others to follow them through thick and thin.

Leadership involves asking questions. Since leaders are human at times they tend to ask the **wrong** question: “What’s in it for me?” rather than the **right** question: “What’s in it for you?” Since leaders can be weak they are prone to ask: “What can you do for me?” rather than “What can I do for you?” Since leaders experience temptation they are likely to ask: “How can you serve me?” rather than “How can I serve you?”

Today’s First reading is taken from the Book of Jeremiah. God sent the prophet Jeremiah to preach the word and thus build up the Kingdom of David. But Jeremiah could get no hearing from the king or from the religious leaders. As a result the spiritual condition of Judah so declined that God made this startling announcement: “Even if Moses and Samuel stood before me, my heart would not turn toward this people.” (Jer. 15:1) However in today’s passage (Jer. 23:1-6) God seizes the initiative to restore Judah to its former glory.

The prophet Jeremiah challenged the kings and religious leaders of Judah to rule their people by God’s standards. Their primary task was to serve God as good shepherds over the people, leading them along the path of faith. However the leaders of Jeremiah’s day were weak and cruel as they only took good care of themselves and neglected their people. Jeremiah’s indictment of those leaders is terse and decisive. They not only neglected the people of God but they actually misled them. Today’s passage is a tract that is concerned with King Zedekiah (597-586 B.C.) who

was merely a puppet in the hands of his wicked advisors. Zedekiah’s vacillation and rebellion precipitated the fall of Jerusalem. Jeremiah begins his tract with a **woe** (a literary form which originated in funeral celebrations.) Jeremiah tolls the death knell for Zedekiah and his cohorts because they were shepherds who misled. Jeremiah predicts that the long line of kings (leaders) who succeeded David was coming to an end. The vacillating Zedekiah (heedless of Jeremiah’s advice) would eventually be taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar and the children of Israel placed into Babylonian Captivity for a long time.

However all is **not** loss as God will eventually **restore** the kingdom of Judah to its former glory. In the second section of today’s passage Jeremiah predicts that God the true Shepherd would intervene and raise up in David’s line a future king of justice and honesty who would genuinely be interested in his subjects. God would rise up a Davidic king who would truly understand the implications of **leadership**. He would govern and rule wisely and do what is just. Finally Jeremiah predicts that God, the true Shepherd would eventually bring home all the exiles in Babylonian Captivity back to the Promised Land.

That Jesus fulfilled the eternal plan of God is a major thought of the Letter to the Ephesians (our Second reading). Today’s passage refers specifically to that part of God’s plan to bring Gentiles (those “who once were far off”) and Jews (those “who have become near”) and to make a new universal Church; all under the **leadership** of the God Shepherd-Jesus Christ. The author of Ephesians states that Jesus’ self-giving (shedding of His blood) had broken down the dividing wall of enmity that separated Jews and Gentiles and now has created a new people. To bring all together, there’s no better **leader** than Jesus Himself. His cross was the rite of passage for a new humanity. As a result all people have access to the Father through Jesus in the Holy Spirit.

Today’s Gospel passage actually sets the stage for St. Mark’s version of the feeding of the 5,000 people. That miraculous feeding will be the subject of next Sunday’s Gospel but the liturgy will use St. John’s version and not Mark’s. The best approach to Mark’s version is for us to focus on what we can learn from Jesus, His disciples, and the people to whom they are ministering.

According to St. Mark people were coming to Jesus in great numbers and He and His apostles had no

opportunity to eat or rest. For Jesus, a religious **leader's** life is a series of goings from the presence of people to the presence of God and back again. But Jesus knew that there were dangers in each of the alternatives. One could spend too much time in the activities of people and thus gradually lose the vision of God or one could go to God to escape the companionship of people. The **good** religious **leader** knows the middle way; being refreshed by God to have something to offer to people and loving people enough to help them with their lives. And so Jesus seeing that it was time to get away from people and go to God, extended an invitation to His apostles to come away to an out-of-the-way place to rest. The place Jesus and His apostles headed for was four miles across the Lake of Galilee by boat. Some people saw Jesus and His apostles leaving by boat and spread the word so that others hurried to the place on foot arriving ahead of Jesus and His apostles.

As He disembarked from the boat Jesus saw the vast crowd. A sham **leader** would have been annoyed. His private space had been invaded, his much-needed rest denied, his special time spoiled. But Jesus' heart was "moved with pity" for the people because "they were like sheep without a shepherd," searching for someone that they could follow. Seeing that the people were bereft of strong and dependable **leadership**, Jesus began to teach them. Jesus action of teaching implied the following questions: "What's in it for the sheep (people)? What can I do for them?" However at the same time Jesus' action is designed to teach His disciples to identify **service** with **leadership**.

The shepherd image that Mark uses to describe Jesus is a common metaphor used through all of Scripture. It conveys the notion of **leading** and governing and is used frequently for kings, priests, and prophets as they protected, provided for, and guided the Jewish people. The image indicates that the authority of such **leaders** isn't to be equated with power or with the ability to impose their will upon the people they govern. The shepherd's role is one of **service**. The shepherd must set directions, enable a community to function smoothly, and try to create conditions that will enable people to live with dignity. Equally important the ancient Hebrews applied the metaphor of the shepherd also to God (Yahweh). Some religions believe in a God who is a creator who merely makes the world and people and sets things in motion. One of the distinctive understandings of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures is that God (who created us in love and nurtures us) continues to reach

out to us and cares for us as a "shepherd with His sheep."

No matter what your idea is of a great leader is, you will see and find it in Jesus. Those who partake of Jesus' **leadership** are not only the ordained and appointed officials in the Church and the elected officials in the State but also shepherds at such other important levels as parents, teachers, coaches, and mentors. These leaders help develop youths' character, lay the foundation for growth, and communicate values by which people live, and foster faith and commitment. Today more than ever we need good shepherds/**leaders** in our community. Let us pray and ask God to provide us with good **leaders** who will ask the **right** questions and who will help us find our way back to peace and justice so that all can live in harmony, joy and love. Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,
Fr. John

DON'T GET SCAMMED!

Scammers are now posing as priests and other clergy. In this latest scam, you might receive an email that appears to be from your Pastor or another priest that you may know. The scammer would ask you to help someone in need by purchasing a gift card, and then providing the codes to that card to the scammer who is posing as clergy.

Here's how to protect yourself from being scammed:

1 – Know that scammers are out there. Be suspicious of any request for funds of any type via an email message. Verify any request with a call to the person who supposedly sent it.

2 – Know that any email from a priest should be from a diocesan or parish email account. *Messages sent from free services, such as Gmail or Yahoo, are more likely to be scammers.*

3 – Know that priests will NEVER ask for financial transactions via email.

For more information on how to protect yourself visit: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0003-phishing>

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, July 23, St. Bridget, Religious
7:00 •Ed & Pam Karpinski

Tuesday, July 24, St. Scharbel Makhluf, Priest
7:00 •Intentions in the Prayer Box

Wednesday, July 25, St. James, Apostle
7:00 •Anne Valentini & Russ Pierce
9:00 •John Semmer

Thursday, July 26, Sts. Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
7:00 •Jill Cleary

Friday, July 27
7:00 •Gerald Kenney

Saturday, July 28
9:00 •Stephanie Mash
5:00 •Anastasia Bieranoski

Sunday, July 29, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 For the Parishioners
9:00 •Joan Ann Elizabeth Eberly
11:00 Missionary Sisters of St. Benedict

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.

June 24: Phoenix Rann, Margaret Gardner, Brenda Crawford, Jennifer Ranker, Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp, Joe Ferrara, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Susan Buchler, William Oktela, Bill Garcedau, Gloria Reynolds, Tracy Yeakel, Paula Karem, Greg Garred, and Mary Hohowski, Don Tellam, George Seuber, Jeff Gorman.

CHURCH  SUPPORT

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
7-15-18	\$9,962.98	\$14,300.00	\$(4,337.02)
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
7-15-18	\$38,248.37	\$42,900.00	\$(4,651.63)

"I didn't know that!" - Listeners often comment on how entertaining and informative the programs are on WHYF AM 720, Catholic Radio for the Diocese of Harrisburg. A mix of devotional offerings to aid in your prayer life along with call in



programs in the afternoon help you to learn more about your faith. Tune in while driving or at home for an opportunity to grow in your faith. You can also listen to this independent non-profit station online at www.720whyf.com

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Isn't it amazing how Jesus can take something horrible and make it a source of blessing? The devil had created a false and feeble unity in order to eliminate Jesus, but his plan backfired. This mock unity brought about the true unity that the Ephesians—and Christians everywhere else—were now enjoying. Where once there was Gentile versus Jew, slave versus free, and woman versus man, now there were only brothers and sisters witnessing to the Spirit's power to heal ancient divisions. If Jesus can overcome centuries of division between Jews and Gentiles, surely he can heal the divisions in our lives. It may not happen overnight or in the way we expect, but it can happen—especially if we work toward it ourselves. So take one relationship today, whether you need to offer forgiveness, let go of resentment, or ask for forgiveness, and see what you can do to break down the walls. It won't happen overnight—just as it took time for the early Church. But if you persevere, it will happen.

"Come, Lord, and heal every division and wounded relationship."

SANCTUARY LAMP

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 Rodger Family.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us at Immaculate Conception BVM, New Oxford for our annual Adult Faith Formation retreat on **August 25** from 8am to 3pm. This year's event features author, speaker, and Breadbox Media show host Allison Gingras. Allison will share easy and powerful ways to incorporate Prayer, Sacrament, and Scripture into our everyday ordinary lives. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch. Contact Pete Socks at pete.socks@gmail.com or 717-521-3137 (please leave a message) to register.

FORMED

Enjoy a free subscription to formed.org – an incredible online gateway to the best Catholic content, all in one place!

1. Visit formed.org with a web browser
2. Click on Register (lower right of page)
3. Enter Parish Access Code: **4BGYH2**

4. Enter your email and create a password
(you need this to log in later)
5. Go to STUDY and watch FORGIVEN
Episode

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
We are asking for volunteers to wash windows in
the church. If you can help call Sandy at 717-733-9453



**THANK YOU FROM
YOUR....**

Have you ever looked at the food bank crate in the narthex as you walk into mass on the weekend? The crate is

ALWAYS overflowing with non-perishables donated by YOU, the OMPH parishioners.

We are extremely humbled by the unending support of our parish in our quest to help those struggling in Northern Lancaster County. So, THANK YOU!

Our food bank is open on Wednesday evenings from 5-6:30pm on the grounds of St Clement Mission House. If you know of any local families who can use help with food, please send them to one of our distributions to see if they qualify. Any parishioner who needs help with food is welcome at any time without any need for financial qualification.

Our current needs are: instant mashed potatoes, green beans, canned corn, and baked beans.



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.

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 717-738-2414 for further information. Find us on Facebook at OMPH Ephrata! Please feel free to share and contact the Development Office with any questions.

TREASURE ISLAND DONATION WISH LIST

The Development Office of OMPH School is starting to plan for their annual Treasure Island Auction on Saturday, **November 3**. The event benefits the students of OMPH School. Anything you can donate to assist in making these events successful is appreciated.

Vacations/House Rentals
Parties/Events
Once in a Lifetime Experiences
Tickets
Travel
Electronics
Jewelry
Sports & Leisure
Outdoor Equipment
Accessories
Art
Amusement Parks
Theme Baskets
Gifts Certificates
Donations can be dropped off to the Development Office. Any questions, please call the Development Office at 717-738-2414. All Donations are tax deductible. OMPH School thanks you for your generosity!

Religious Education Corner:

The Early Bird Rate Deadline Is Tuesday, July 31st!

New Registration Forms (Blue) Can Be Found In The Narthex Of The Church On The Small Blue Table.

The New RE Registration Forms Should Be Used If:

Your Oldest Child Is Entering Into Public First Grade For The 2018/2019 School Year.

Your Child Is In Grades 1-8 And Does Not Attend Catholic School.

You Are New To The Parish And Your Child Is In Grades 1-8.

We Are Also Running Our Kindergarten Home-Study Program Again For The 2018/2019 RE Year.

This Program Is Intended For Families Whose Oldest Child Will Be Attending Public Kindergarten This Year.

To Register For This Program Please Complete The Pink Registration Papers Found In The Narthex Of The Church On The Small Blue Table And Return Them To The RE Office.

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 Easily Obtained Through The RE Office.

Email: omphreled@dejazzd.com

Phone: 717-738-4517

Kelly Lawrence

ST. ANNE'S EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

St. Anne Catholic School in Lancaster is seeking a full-time Junior High Math Teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. Candidates must be practicing Catholics with a Bachelor Degree and Active PA teaching certificate. Experience with Junior High age children is desired; but not required. Qualified candidates should forward a resume and cover letter to: Suzanne Wood, 108 E. Liberty Street, Lancaster, PA 17602. Materials may also be emailed to: woodsuzanne@stannelancaster.org

St. Anne Catholic School in Lancaster has cafeteria openings for the 2018-2019 school year. Qualified candidates should forward a resume and cover letter to: Suzanne Wood, 108 E. Liberty Street, Lancaster, PA 17602. Materials may also be emailed to: woodsuzanne@stannelancaster.org

**This Year's I AM Rally Theme:
"made to love"**

Please Save The Date

**Attention All Families Of Students In 6th
Grade For The 2018/2019 School Year:**

On Sunday, October 21st Lancaster Catholic High School Will Host The 6th Annual I AM Rally.

All OMPH 6th Grade Students Will Be Expected To Attend The Rally Including RE Students, OMPH School Students, And Home School Students. There Will Be No 6th Grade RE Classes That Week So That All 6th Grade RE Students Can Attend The Rally.

Please Note: Any Seventh Or Eighth Grade Student Who Was Unable To Attend Last Year's Rally Is Expected To Attend This Year's Rally.

A Mailing About The Rally Will Be Sent Out Soon!

Please Contact Kelly Lawrence In The RE Office With Any Questions omphred@dejazzd.com

Attention Previous I AM Rally Attendees:

Any Seventh Or Eighth Grade Student Who Would Like To Attend The Rally Again This Year Is Highly Encouraged To Do So. Please stay Tuned To The Bulletin For More Information.

Kelly Lawrence