

My Dear Parishioners,

I am sure that we are familiar with the phrase “**talk is cheap**”. Perhaps we have used this phrase in dealing with others. “**Talk is cheap**” is a cliché not only because it is repeated time and time again but most especially because it expresses an experiential truth. Nowhere is this more evident than the case in politics and religion. People love to talk about politics and religion from all perspectives. Political and religious arguments and disputes are commonplace in all areas of society. However, quite often the **words** end up being simply that-just **words**. The **words** used do not lead to **actions**, behavioral changes, or significant deeds. This is not something new nor was it something about which our ancestors were ignorant. In today’s liturgy all three readings address the issue of **words** related to **actions**.

Today’s first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy takes us back about 13 centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ. The tribes of Israel (after their escape from Egypt and their 40 year sojourn in the desert) are getting close to crossing the Jordan River and entering the Promised Land. At this point the tribes dwell in tents on land east of the Jordan. Moses was still with them and he knew that he would die before they crossed the Jordan so he decided to present to the tribes some last words instructing and encouraging them before his departure.

Moses feared that the abundance of gifts in the Promised Land may weaken the Israelites relationship with God rather than making it stronger. Moses is concerned that the Israelites may succumb to the illusion of self-reliance; forgetting that they **must** rely on God in the Promised Land as they did in the wilderness. In today’s passage Moses gives the Israelites a final review of their covenant commitments before they cross into the Promised Land. Moses places great emphasis on the fact that the Israelites must hear and respond to the statues and decrees of the Lord. Yahweh’s sacred words are important as they are the seeds of salvation for the Israelites. Yahweh loves His People and he wants them to prosper. However, it is not enough for the Israelites just to hear God’s words. They must observe Yahweh’s statues and decrees and put His words into **practice**. The Israelites will not be judged by their wonderful **words** but rather they will be judged by their **actions**.

Our second reading is from the Letter of St. James. The authorship of the Letter is disputed. Some hold that the author is James, “the brother of the Lord” (Gal 1:19), who was the head of the Jerusalem Church who died around 62 A.D. Others think that the author is an anonymous Jewish Christian who wrote around the end of the first century A.D. The recipients of the Letter were probably Jewish Christian communities living outside of Palestine. In today’s section of James’ Letter the author (who is the great apostle of Christian action in the world) presents to his listeners some good advice. He reminds his audience that first they must welcome the Gospel with a truly teachable spirit: humble enough to learn, able to face the truth even when it hurts, not blinded by prejudice, and sufficiently self-controlled to accept discipline. Secondly they should **practice** true religion. As James states: “Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.” For James being a doer of the word has specific connotations. It means doing deeds of justice symbolized by the phrase, “to care for the orphans and widows in their affliction.” For James our Christian faith is not just a philosophical theory. Christian faith is not merely an abstract assent but rather a practical application in human living. Christian faith is not about saying the right **words** in the correct fashion. It is not even about arguing issues of religion in a convincing and persuasive manner. Rather Christian faith is first and foremost a **way of life** rooted in Jesus Christ. As such it is a way of life of caring for others.

Today’s Gospel reading from Mark approaches the issue of **words** and **actions** from a slightly different point of view. Today’s passage describes a controversy between Jesus and the Pharisees and the scribes. The controversy focuses on the meaning and validity of religious tradition (referred to as “the tradition of the elders.”) This tradition was a collection of Jewish practices and understandings that had developed and grown over the years but were **not** actually found in Scripture and were **not** always interpreted in the same way. By the time Jesus came around this tradition had become very burdensome both to understand and to implement. The tradition seemed more concerned with periphery matters and not with the greater moral issues of the time.

In today’s passage Mark discusses the problem of ritual purity involving the washing of

hands and the distinction between clean and unclean foods. The Pharisees criticize Jesus and his disciples for the lax way they deal with the Jewish purity laws regarding hand washing before a meal. Mark in an exaggerated way portrays the Pharisees as being extremely conscious of the purity regulations regarding washing not only the hands but all of the utensils used during the meal. In response to the Pharisees' criticism, Jesus challenges them with a quote from Isaiah 29:13: "This people honor me with their lips but their hearts are far from me." In quoting Isaiah, Jesus is declaring that the Pharisees have all the right **words** and ritual practices but they never get below the surface of things. The Pharisees have placed purely human traditions on a higher level than the Word of God. The Pharisees were all about external observance but Jesus says that **real** and **authentic** observance comes from the **heart** and is the result of personal internalization of divine teaching. It is from the **heart** that **authentic actions** flow. Mere external observance for show is no observance at all. All of this is simply another way of looking at the relationship of **words** and **actions**. Empty **words** and empty **ritual observances** are the basic **actions** of a hypocrite or someone merely playing a part.

It should be noted that Jesus does not belittle the Jewish purity laws or indicate that they have no value. Instead He offers an alternative view regarding what constitutes defilement. Jesus indicates that serious defilement is not something that comes from the outside. Real defilement comes from within; it is a matter of the **heart** and cannot be cleansed by external behavior. Serious defilement (evil thoughts, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, and arrogance) comes from within a person and such internal defilement can only be changed by internal transformation- **a change of heart**.

Our readings today remind us that **words** matter but **putting those words into action** fulfills their intent. Christianity is about "praxis"; that is putting our faith into **practice** and **action**. Perhaps some of us are getting annoyed or numb from hearing all the harsh and critical words being exchanged by politicians, religious leaders and others. Perhaps some of us are upset with people who claim that they are Christian but their actions and life-style says something else. Perhaps some of us are tired of all the **cheap talk** and we want **action** now. So what can we

do? Instead of name calling or passing judgment on others we can take some quiet time and look within ourselves and see and name what defiles us. We can consciously commit ourselves to being **doers of the word** and **putting our faith into practice** and **action**. We can ask God to open our consciences, hearts and spirits so that we are able listen to **His voice** speaking to us and calling us to become people of compassion, forgiveness, joy and love. Have a blessed week.  
Love & Prayers,  
Fr. John

### NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR ABORTED CHILDREN

When: Saturday, September 8 at 9:40 a.m.  
Where: At the memorial stone in front of OMPH Church 320 Church Ave. Ephrata, PA 17522

Americans throughout the country will gather at the gravesites of aborted babies and other memorial sites dedicated in their honor for the fifth annual National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

Solemn vigils will be held at these sites to commemorate the more than 59 million children who have lost their lives to legal abortion since 1973, and to remind our society of the humanity of the unborn child. Please join us for the memorial service in our community:

More Info: Call Marty Long at 717-381-8538 or email at [mcllong@gmail.com](mailto:mcllong@gmail.com)

Together let us remember the victims of abortion and pray for a final end to this injustice in our land during the National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children.

### ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS



The Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg is hosting a night for **young adult's ages 21 to 40** from throughout the region called **Get Connected on Saturday, September 22**. The evening will begin with a 5 pm Vigil Mass at Saint Rose of Lima Church, York, followed by lite fare and a social at the Veranda Room at the York Fairgrounds. Registration and detailed information may be found at: [www.hbgdiocese.org/getconnected](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/getconnected) or follow this event on Facebook.

### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

In celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Harrisburg, a diocesan-wide pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. is planned for **Saturday, November 3, 2018**. This pilgrimage will be led by our own Bishop Ronald Gainer. The Pilgrimage will last from **9 AM** until **4 PM** and will include a visit to the Shrine and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance. Buses will be departing from various sites in our Diocese for the Pilgrimage. Additional information about the Pilgrimage can be found on the Diocesan web site, [www.hbgdiocese.org/150](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/150). If you are interested in attending the Pilgrimage please see or contact Mrs. Rita Pfautz (717) 341-1211 for more information.

### EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

The local Catholic Parishes of Historic St. Mary's, San Juan Bautista and St. Joseph's are organizing a Eucharistic Procession to take place on the eve of St. Padre Pio's Feast Day on September 22, 2018. Procession will be approximately one mile long and will last for two hours. The Eucharistic Procession will start with Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Parish (440 Saint Joseph St, Lancaster) at 8:15am. The procession itself will begin promptly at 9am with stops at Historic St. Mary's Parish (119 S. Prince St., Lancaster) and the Lancaster County Courthouse (King Street steps) and will finish at San Juan Bautista Parish (425 S. Prince St., Lancaster) at around 11am. There will be free food and fellowship immediately following the procession (location TBD). Please join us for this beautiful, spiritually uplifting event and remember to keep the endeavor in your prayers! For more information, please contact Annie Celotto at San Juan Bautista Church, 717.392.4118, ext. 311.

### MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND ANNULMENT

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Harrisburg will be giving 3 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.

September 10 - Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, 7 pm  
September 12 - St. Philip Parish, Millersville, 7 pm  
September 17 - St. Joseph Parish, Hanover, 7 pm

No prior registration is required. For further information, please call 717-657-4804, extension 304, or email: [tribunal@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:tribunal@hbgdiocese.org) or visit [www.HbgDiocese.org/annulments](http://www.HbgDiocese.org/annulments)



### STEWARDSHIP:

**A MISSION OF FAITH FALL CONFERENCE**  
Stewardship: A Mission of Faith, invites you to join Fr. Michael Gaitley, Jason Evert, Christopher West, Damon Owens, Msgr. John Esseff, Marty Rotella, Devin Schadt, Mark Forrest, Megan Murphy, Bishop Alfred Schlert and many more, for an adult conference this fall.

The event will be held on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. One and two-day tickets are available. The conference will be held in Elizabethtown, PA, at the beautiful Stone Gables Estates which features the historic Star Barn Village and Ironstone Ranch ([www.stonegablesestate.com](http://www.stonegablesestate.com)). In between the 6 keynote talks, 24 workshops, daily Mass and evening adoration, you can enjoy 275 acres of God's creation including horseback riding, wagon rides, campfires, an outdoor stations of the cross, Marian grotto, vineyard and more! For complete information, visit us at [www.stewardshipmission.org](http://www.stewardshipmission.org) and click on the Fall Conference link. We'll see YOU in September!

### BLUE MASS

The OMPH Knights of Columbus Council and the Ephrata Police Department invite all to attend the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Lancaster County Blue Mass** which will be celebrated on **Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11 AM**.

The Blue Mass acknowledges the loyal service of all **First Responders-Law Enforcement, Firefighters, and Emergency Medical Service Responders** and our **Military Personal**. We gather to pray in thanksgiving for their good works and pray for their safety and protection. We will also remember those First Responders who lost their lives in the service of our community this past year. Come join us as we ask for God's blessings upon all those who protect us.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, September 3, St. Gregory the Great, Pope  
and Doctor of the Church**

7:00 †Fr. Thomas Loftus, CSSR  
9:00 †Judy Reynolds

**Tuesday, September 4**

7:00 †Kathy Kilkuskie  
9:00 †Fr. Thomas Loftus, CSSR

**Wednesday, September 5, St. Teresa of Calcutta,  
Religious**

7:00 Our family members that have left the  
faith

9:00 Linda & Steve Aisenbrey

**Thursday, September 6**

7:00 †Fr. Thomas Loftus, CSSR  
9:00 Joseph Ward Jr.

**Friday, September 7**

7:00 †Regina Pushauver  
9:00 †Horace Shirker

**Saturday, September 8**

9:00 Our family members that have left the  
faith

5:00 †Paul & Anna Kwaitkoski

**Sunday, September, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary**

**Time**

7:30 For the Parishioners  
9:00 †Mary Patricia Hamer  
11:00 Ethel & Joe Burket

**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, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Kevin Kaiser, Jody Shimp, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Susan Buchler, Bill Garcedau Tracy Yeakel, Paula Karem, Greg Garred, Mary Hohowski, Don Tellam, George Seuber, Jeff Gorman, Wanda Rutt, Pat Fry, Robert Bevans, Bob Eisenbise, Carlos Luciano Sr., Margot Arden, Patrick Michael Ward, Matilda Boccabella



Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
8-26-18	\$10,501.28	\$14,300.00	\$3,798.72
YTD	Amount	YTD Needed	Difference
8-26-18	\$112,423.59	\$128,700.00	\$16,276.41

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED  
SACRAMENT**

In today's second reading, James compares the Scriptures to a mirror. When we read the word of God, or when we hear it proclaimed at Mass, we often see ourselves in the stories and teachings it contains. Scripture helps us "discern reflections and thoughts of the heart," both the good thoughts and the not so good ones. Scripture can expose our pride, confront our resentments, or uncover our deception, greed, or lust. But at the same time, Scripture assures us that God made us in his image. It convinces us that God loves us and that his grace is more than enough to change our lives.

But no matter how much grace God has for us, James tells us that it's not enough just to hear the word of God—not if we want to see any significant changes in the sinful areas of our lives. Just hearing the word of God won't result in a growth in our gifts and virtues. We have to be "doers of the word" as well as "hearers".

**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 Ron Barranco.

**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

**WHO IS MARY**

Who is Mary, the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth? The Adult Faith Formation group will be presenting, for your growth in faith, three films this year (2018-2019). We will discuss how Mary is truly the gateway to Jesus, the power of the rosary, and how our society, in spiritual crisis, can be transformed through *the power of Mary and the rosary*. Our parish has Mary as our patron. We hope you will attend all or some of them as they are presented. The first will take place in October. Watch the bulletin for more information on dates and times.



**Religious Education Corner:**

**RE Classes Will Begin On Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**RE Classes Will Take Place On Sundays**

**From 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM This Year.**

**The Late Fee Tuition Rate Is Now In Effect.**

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](mailto:omphreled@dejazzd.com)

Phone: 717-738-4517



**This Year's I AM Rally**

**Theme: "made to love"**

**Please Save The Date**

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

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

All OMPH 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Will Be Expected To Attend The Rally Including RE Students, OMPH School Students, And Home School Students. There Will Be No 6<sup>th</sup> Grade RE Classes That Week So That All 6<sup>th</sup> 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 Was Sent Out Recently!**

Please Contact Kelly Lawrence In The RE Office With Any Questions [omphreled@dejazzd.com](mailto:omphreled@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. . The Fee Per Student For The Rally Is \$10. Please Contact Kelly Lawrence In The RE Office For Permission Forms.**

**Kelly Lawrence**

### WE NEED ACCOMPANISTS

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](mailto:jmcgowan333@yahoo.com)



### SISTERS' NIGHT

**Discernment Retreat-September 7, (6pm)-September 9, (1pm), Villa Maria House of Studies, 1140 King Rd., Malvern, PA 19355.** Experience a weekend retreat at the IHM Motherhouse with the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary sisters, novices, and postulants. Single young women ages 18-35 are invited to come for a weekend of prayer, spiritual conferences, meals, and times of recreation with the sisters. Daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, and Eucharistic adoration are included in our weekend retreat.

**Contact: 610-889-1553 or [ihmvoc@gmail.com](mailto:ihmvoc@gmail.com)**

### YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Radiate Youth Group is attending Abbeyfest again this year on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a Catholic praise and worship day in Paoli, PA. We still have one \$30 ticket if any youth still wants to attend with us. Contact me at 717-989-8900 for more details.

Radiate Youth Group meetings will kick off again on Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-5:30 in the Bernadine Center. God has great things in store for us again this year! Praise His Holy Name...In His Service, Denise Ives



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process whereby adults enter the Catholic Church.

The goal of RCIA is the preparation of adults who wish to enter the Roman Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. You will learn about beliefs, practices and truths of our Catholic faith with a focus on spiritual growth.

### Classes Start

Monday, September 17 at 7 PM

If you would like to attend or would like more information please contact or call Linda at 733-2676.

**CALLING ON YOUNG ADULTS!**  
**We need you!**  
We are looking to form a Youth Council for OMPH  
We need talented, outgoing, and creative young adults  
We'll be hosting an information session soon!  
Want to hear more?  
Contact: Megan Williams, [Megan207@gmail.com](mailto:Megan207@gmail.com)



**Get Involved!**