

My Dear Parishioners,

Few of us go through life without ever joining some kind of group, club or organization. Joining a particular group (religious, political or social) can enlarge our world and introduce us to new people and new possibilities. It can help us move within a relatively secure network of relationships. That sense of belonging is important to our identity; membership is proof of how others accept and recognize how we see ourselves. People take great pride in their membership in “**selected**” groups. The more **select** the group or organization the better they feel. Close ties can enrich life, whether due to blood, loyalty, or social status. However, any close tie can become overly **exclusive**: “She won’t fit into our family.” “He is not qualified to join our group.” “Those people don’t measure up to our standards.” Sometimes people of faith (Church-goers) become overly **exclusive** as they want to draw lines, decide who is “in” and who is “out”. Thank goodness our God does not work that way. Our God is a many-splendored loving God. Our God is **inclusive**. The disease of our human condition is to set limits for God as **we** allow God to function in only a few people, usually the “in-people” or the “in-crowd.” We determine a priori which manner of speech God will use and how He will conduct Himself through such people. Somehow or another we have forgotten that our God is a master of disguises who can manifest Himself beyond our power to control. To restore God’s freedom to operate in and through a variety of people means to acknowledge that our God is a many-splendored loving God. Today’s readings affirm that fact. Today’s first reading from the Book of Numbers is part of a narrative about God’s care for Moses and the Israelites. What should be noted in today’s passage is that the author of the Book of Numbers condemns the attitude of **elitism** (an evil wherein some people see themselves as the best and others as being inferior.) **Elitism** is an evil that is centered on narcissistic egoism. **Elitism** dismisses other’s opinions and diminishes their God-given rights.

The prophet Moses had a rough time keeping the Israelites in line and faithful to what God was asking of them. Overwhelmed Moses pleaded with God to take his life so that he could be free from his misery. Instead of granting this request, God provides Moses with some much needed assistance. God tells Moses that he does

not have to do God’s work alone. God tells Moses to choose seventy elders to help him in his work. God then bestows some of His Spirit that was upon Moses onto these elders- even upon two men (Eldad and Medad) who had been absent from the formal gathering. What a modern moment this is in the Hebrew Scriptures. We might even call it a kind of democratic intervention. As soon as all the elders received the spirit they begin speaking God’s word as the prophets do. Then Joshua, Moses’ aide, becomes upset of the fact that the spirit of God has been given to Eldad and Medad who were not present at the appointed place and time. Joshua felt that their absence from the group disqualified them. Moses questioned the sharpness of Joshua’s opposition. Moses (who knows what it means to be both “in and out”) has the wisdom to know that God will give His spirit to whomever He wishes. When asked to stop them from prophesying Moses responds: “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the people of the Lord were prophets! Would that the Lord might bestow His spirit on them all.” Moses was about extending boundaries as he believed the work of God took precedence over the institutional ordering of the community.

In today’s second reading St. James warns the community about being obsessed with earthly things. According to James, the wealthy have **foolishly** and **ravenously** hoarded the treasures of the earth. They have been busy accruing money rather than sharing it with the poor. James states that this **selfish attitude** will become a testimony against them. Some of the rich have gained their wealth at the expense of those whom they employ. Such victimization was and still is detrimental to the Christian community. James depicts the unscrupulous people **foolishly** enjoying their wealth and comfort and being oblivious of the fact that they are being fattened for the day of slaughter-the impending Day of Judgment.

Today’s Gospel passage from St. Mark is a collection of Jesus’ pronouncements on the topics of acceptance, hospitality, scandal, greed and elitism. The apostles tried to **exclude** those who were outside their own “in- group”. The apostles refuse to recognize the authority of an exorcist who doesn’t belong to their group. The apostle John sees someone driving out demons in Jesus’ name. This person is not one of the apostles and John reports this to Jesus: “Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your

name and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.” The exorcist has been successful in his ministry and that clearly worries the other apostles. Recall earlier in Mark’s Gospel there was a story of a father who appealed to Jesus’ apostles to free his son from an evil spirit of muteness. This anxious father told Jesus: “I asked your disciples to cast it out and they were unable to.” The apostles (who have been noted as unsuccessful exorcists) now see an outsider successfully exorcising in Jesus’ name. They don’t want this man to function as an exorcist so they hope that Jesus will refuse to recognize him and admonish him. If this happens the man’s whole identity will be suspect. The apostles are obviously threatened by the outsider’s success. Are they apprehensive about being displaced? Are they fearful of being supplanted? Do they see ministry in terms of rivalry? Seeing the man’s success the apostles seem to feel diminished, reduced and lessened as Jesus’ disciples. It is as if their self-esteem will only be reinforced if the outsider is rejected and admonished.

Jesus’ response to the apostles’ request is much like Moses’ response in our first reading. Jesus invites his fragile apostles to a larger vision of God’s goodness. He commands them to leave the outsider in peace: “Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will surely not lose his reward.” Thus Jesus authenticates the right of the outsider to cast out demons and do good. It is important that the work of the reign of God be done; it is not important **who** does it. Jesus justifies all works of mercy that are performed in His name. Jesus is not threatened by goodness outside His own chosen circle. If His passion is for the good of others, that passion will be served by **anyone** who does God’s work. In that sense Jesus is indiscriminate when it comes to goodness-**anyone** will do. Like Moses, Jesus is about extending boundaries as He can function through others apart from the “in-group”.

Jesus’ lesson is instructive for all of us. The cause of Catholicism is not served by the rejection of other ways of Christian discipleship. The case for Christianity is not reinforced by those who claim that no real good can happen beyond the boundaries of faith. We can all take pride in the community or faith group

in which we belong without denigrating the good work of those who are not “one of us”.

Jesus responded to people and situations with an open and tolerant heart. As His followers, Jesus calls each one of us to have an open heart and to be tolerant of others. Christian tolerance is **not** a weakness or a lazy acceptance of whatever movement happens to be in vogue. Christian tolerance is a reverence for the truth that is always larger than us. Christian tolerance recognizes the charity that flourishes beyond the reaches of our borders, groups, and **select** organizations. Christian tolerance is a profound respect for the freedom of God to move in His chosen ways. Christian tolerance is our humility before the greatness of our many-splendored God. After all, if God risks placing His hope in us, why should we deny Him the right of placing His hope in others? Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,

Fr. John

Redemptorist Convocation

The Redemptorists of the Baltimore Province will be gathering for Convocation on Tuesday, October 2 thru Thursday, October 4. Please keep us in prayer. Please note the Mass will **only** be celebrated at **7:00** am on those days and there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, October 3rd.

Thank you, Fr. John

Fr. John

Fr. Ed’s Letter to our Parishioners

Dear Parish Family of OMPH:

On September 17th I was asked by our Redemptorist Provincial Council to relocate to our Redemptorist Parish at St. Clement's in Saratoga Springs, NY. The present pastor there has an illness

which he needs time to address. Since the Redemptorists are so strapped with personnel, I have been asked to act as Administrator of the parish for the next 11 months. The Redemptorists have already informed the parish of St. Clement's that we can no longer provide a pastoral presence there (after over 100 years of service) since we no longer have the personnel. The Redemptorists will be leaving St. Clement's in August of 2019. My job over the next several months will be to oversee a smooth transition from Redemptorist pastoral ministry to the Diocese of Albany. Please pray for the pastor, Fr. George. Please pray for the parish of St. Clement's during this difficult transition. And please pray for me, as I pray for wisdom and strength during this process.

During my short time here at OMPH, I have been warmly welcomed by so many of you. Thank you so much for that. Our Parish Vision Statement says that we aspire to be a welcoming community. I have certainly felt that, and am most grateful for all the kindnesses received from you. Please know that OMPH Parish will remain in my thoughts and prayers. I pray that you will continue to grow as a community of faith and that you will experience God's presence with you on every step of your journey.

Gratefully,
Fr. Ed Faliskie, C.Ss.R.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE

The Beginning Experience Team for the Harrisburg Diocese announces that they have booked Camp Hebron, Halifax, PA for a Beginning Experience Weekend, **November 9-11th**. The ecumenical Beginning Experience weekends are an approved program designed for those suffering the loss of a spouse through death, divorce or separation. Hundreds of persons have been helped to move towards successful, productive, happy lives by attending one of these weekends. The weekend is led by persons who have lost a spouse through death or divorce and are trained in facilitating a weekend. Each Beginning Experience Team is certified by the International Organization.

FORTY HOURS EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS



After the conclusion of the 11:00 am Mass on **Sunday, October 7th** we will begin our Annual Forty Hours Eucharistic Devotions. Our devotions will continue until **Tuesday, October 9th** ending at 7 PM. During these

Forty Hours of Eucharistic Devotions we all will have an opportunity to do what St. Pope John Paul II challenged us to do in his Encyclical on the Eucharist: "Renew our amazement and gratitude for the great gift of Jesus' Sacramental Presence in our lives."

We will have Eucharistic Services on **Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings at 7 PM**. We will also have **ALL NIGHT EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT** on **Sunday and Monday nights**. Please come out and spend some quiet time with our Jesus present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

We ask that our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and our Altar Servers to be present for our closing service on **Tuesday (October 9)** at **7 PM**.



HOLY HOUR AND HEALING SERVICE

The Parish Pastoral Council and I would like to invite you to a time to gather in prayer for the survivors of clergy abuse, for their families, and for the reparation of the sins of the clergy and those in leadership roles within the Catholic Church **and** for the healing of all on **Wednesday, October 24th**. We will have a Holy Hour and a Healing Service from **6:30-7:30** followed by some time to talk about and share our feelings about the Grand Jury Report. May God continue to bless us and Our Mother of Perpetual Help watch over and protect us as we move forward as a Eucharistic Community.

Fr. John

Registration is now available at www.hbgdiocese.org/women, for the **4th annual**

LEGION OF MARY NEWS



There is a one day retreat Saturday, October 6, at St. Joseph Parish in Lancaster. Registration is at 9:30 am the day ends at 2:30 PM and includes Mass, lunch, Benediction, and talks. Auxiliaries and prospective members are welcome. For additional information call Mary at 484-706-0627.

OCTOBER THE MONTH DEDICATED TO PRAYING THE ROSARY

Come a little early before Sunday mass, bring your rosary beads (or get a pair from the ushers) and pray the rosary with your fellow parishioners. Surely, Our Mother of Perpetual Help will smile upon us, and her son will pour out abundant blessings on everyone who honors his mother!

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Like a lamb led to slaughter or a sheep silent before shearers, he did not open his mouth". This is a strong contrast to everything we have seen Jesus do so far. From the moment he burst onto the scene, Jesus was at the center of attention—healing people, contending with opponents, calming storms, and multiplying bread. He always took the lead. He always spoke with authority. He was the one shaping the story. But at the cross, where it matters the most? Jesus remained quiet, humble, and vulnerable.

The truth is, this is what Jesus intended all along. He came as God's gift to us. A gift doesn't tell the recipient how to use it. He left it up to us to decide how we were going to receive him. We didn't have to reject him as many of his people did. We didn't have to deny him as Peter did. We didn't have to kill him as the Romans did. We could have embraced him and accepted his message of salvation. But we didn't.

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 Anton Krupa.

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.

Bishop Ronald Gainer, Phoenix Rann, Margaret Gardner, Brenda Crawford, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Michael Lillis, Richard Warner, Kevin Kaiser, Anna Leshner, Florence Windish, Gloria Reynolds, Susan Buchler, Bill Garcedau, Tracy Yeakel, Paula Karem, Greg Garred, Don Tellam, George Seuber, Jeff Gorman, Wanda Rutt, Pat Fry, Robert Bevans, Bob Eisenbise, Carlos Luciano, Margot Arden, Patrick Michael Ward, Jennifer Ranker, Neil Gruber, Mary Kay Hensel, and Tillie Bocabello.

ROSARY RALLY! HELP OUR LADY'S PEACE PLAN!

As human efforts fail to solve America's key problems, we turn to God, through His Holy Mother, imploring His urgent help. There will be a **Rosary Rally on October 13 at 12:00 noon at Ephrata Pizza, 43 E. Main St., Ephrata, PA.**



This Rosary Rally is one of an estimated 23,000 held nationwide in response to Our Lady's request at Fatima to pray the Rosary for peace in the world. Please join us! For further info, please contact Susan Strosser at susan@strosserfamily.com.



Religious Education Corner:

RE Classes Began On Sunday, September 16th.

Religious Education Classes Will Take Place
On Sundays From 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM.

RE Registration Will Remain Open
Through This Sunday, September 30th.

RE Registration Will Be Closed
As Of This Monday, October 1st.

The Late Tuition Rate Is Now In Effect

New Registration Forms (Blue) Can Be
Found In The Narthex Of The Church
On The Small Blue Table and Will Be
Accepted Through The End Of September.

The New 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.

Kelly Lawrence

On Sunday, October 14, we will present our first discussion and film about Mary. The film is Mary 101. We will explore the mysteries and wonders of the Blessed Mother. We will discover how Mary helps us become holy and guides us to faithfully do God's will. **THIS WILL BE HELD IN THE PARISH LIBRARY BEGINNING AT 3:00.**



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 A Previous 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

YOUTH GROUP NEWS



Radiate Youth Group plans to attend Fan the Fire Youth Rally in York, PA again this year. **Grades 8-12** may attend with us. The date is **November 17th, from 9:30 am-8:00 pm**. Fan the Fire is an exciting, one-day Eucharistic-centered retreat for young people that includes nationally-known speaker Roy Petifils, praise and worship led by Sean Malloy, awesome workshops by regional presenters, Reconciliation, a powerful Holy Hour, pizza dinner, concert, and a reverent closing Mass with our main celebrant and homilist Bishop Ronald Gainer. Contact me at 717-989-8900 or by email at deniseives89@yahoo.com by **September 30th** to have me sign up your teen. Cost is \$22 per teen. Thanks. 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 Started

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.

FOOD BANK NEWS



Did you know that our OMPH Community Food Bank is a member of Central PA Food Bank which is a member of Feeding Pennsylvania which is a member of Feeding America??

You can of food or monetary donation goes directly to feeding the food insecure in Northern Lancaster County but also is part of the nationwide push to curb this national crisis.

The Feeding America website states, *"The economy may be improving since the Great Recession, but the recovery is still leaving many of Americans who were hit the hardest behind. Millions of people are still*

struggling to get by because of underemployment, stagnant wages and rising costs of living. In fact, more than 46 million people still turn to the Feeding America network each year for extra support."

Our food pantry and YOU are that support and we are thankful to serve the community with your help.

We are currently in need of instant potatoes, noodles, and

Spaghetti sauce. Please place your donation in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church.

OMPH SCHOOL ANNUAL PHONATHON



Our dedicated volunteers from OMPH School will be calling friends, alumni, and parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes, OMPH, and St. James Parishes **Saturday, September 29th through Wednesday, October 3rd**. These volunteers are your neighbors and fellow parishioners, calling as a follow-up to the Annual Appeal for the 2018-2019 school year. Your generous gift will help support the immediate needs of the school, provide tuition assistance, and help secure the future of the school through our endowment fund. Your tax deductible gift of any size will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your support. Any questions, please contact The Development Office at 717-738-2414.

OMPH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



It's that time of year; OMPH Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Basketball is holding registration for the 2018/2019 Season. In addition, we are trying to form a cheerleading program

All boys and girls in 2nd – 8th grades are eligible to participate in Basketball and Cheerleading at OMPH as long as they are members of OMPH, OLOL or St. James parishes and are enrolled in either OMPH School or Parish Religious Education Program.

The OMPH basketball teams are members of the Lancaster CYO League and offer students the opportunity to play in 20 to 30 games depending on the level of play. In addition, students will be playing in both tournaments and league play.

OMPH coaches have over 50 years of coaching experience. Our CYO Coaches not only teach children the fundamentals and skills of basketball, but they also stress the importance of Catholic morals, values, responsibility, commitment, leadership & sportsmanship.

There will be a registration night on October 1st from 5:30-8 pm in the lobby of the Father Jackson Center. This will be an opportunity to meet your child's coaches and address any concerns and answer questions that you may have. There will be laptops available to register online at that time.

We are looking forward to a great season! Any questions or concerns please contact Chris Sheaffer chrisjsheaffer@gmail.com or 717.471.4994 320 Church Avenue, Ephrata, PA 17522

Services, 131 S. 8th St., P.O. Box 707, Lebanon, PA 17042-0707, Attn.: Dani Ginder; or email Dani at dginder@svps.org Please direct questions to Dani at (717) 274-5128 x 312.



TREASURES ABOUND!

Find your treasure at OMPH School's Treasure Island Auction on Saturday, November 3rd! Purchase your ticket(s) in advance for \$20 and receive 5 Treasure Tickets at the door! For more information, or to purchase tickets, call or stop by the School Office (717-738-2414). Bring your friends and get ready for an evening of fun, food, and winnings! Doors open at 6p.m. Auctioning begins at 7 p.m. If you have a treasure you would like to share, please contact the Development Office (717-738-2414). Must be 21 or over to attend.

**SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY PREGNANCY
SERVICES**

Columbia Pregnancy Services is seeking a secretary to greet clients, answer telephones, enter client data, and perform other administrative duties. We desire a responsible "people person" with strong telephone and verbal communication skills who is detailed, organized, computer proficient (Windows and Microsoft Office 2016), and able to handle a diversity of projects simultaneously. Position is part-time (25 hrs. a week), Monday through Thursday. Wages commensurate with experience.

All applicants must be in agreement with SVPS Statement of Faith and Pro-Life Standard. Send resumé and cover letter to: Susquehanna Valley Pregnancy