

Dear Parishioners,

Barbara Cartland (a prolific writer of popular romance stories) came into remote contact with royal circles when her daughter Raine became the Princess of Wales in 1981. When Mrs. Cartland was interviewed for the BBC radio program entitled **Today** the interviewer asked her if she thought that class barriers had broken down in Great Britain. “Of course they have,” replied Mrs. Cartland, “or I wouldn’t be sitting here talking to someone like you!”

Some of us may dismiss Mrs. Cartland’s snobbish response as harmless stupidity or (depending on your point of view) we may interpret her statement as further evidence that a class division does still exist in Great Britain. We may chuckle or smile at her statement but in reality she speaks for others as she is not a minority of one. We all know that personal **prejudice** forms part of our way of looking at each other and the world. Each of us has inherited a mixed bag of beliefs and suspicions, some of which we have grown to discard, others we have adopted and made our own. The **prejudices** that serve to prop up our sense of superiority, while keeping others in diminishment, are particularly difficult to tear down. We can all decorate our insecurity by regarding as inferior those who are different from ourselves for reasons of class or race or political belief or religion or sexual orientation or whatever. But if our own sense of pride and worth is maintained at the expense of destroying other people’s dignity, what value is that? Our Scripture readings for today remind us that God cares and loves all people but God does have a **special preference** for the sick, the marginalized, the forgotten and the poor.

Our first reading is from Isaiah 35 and it is commonly accepted that the author of this reading is the prophet of the exile known as “Deutero-Isaiah” or Second Isaiah who lived in the sixth century during the Babylonian captivity. The Israelites had ended up in captivity because their kings and religious leaders refused to listen to the various prophets God had sent to them. God sent prophets as agents of life committed to giving Israel every advantage to grow stronger in her faith. Rejection of the prophetic word weakened the kingdom of Israel. Eventually it would collapse and its people were exiled and placed into captivity.

Today’s passage is an oracle in which Isaiah presents a message of **hope** to the discouraged and fearful exiles. Isaiah seeks to impress the Israelites of God’s **loyalty** to His covenant with them despite their disloyalty to God. Isaiah reminds the exiles that God has not forgotten them. God has **not** abandoned them but comes to save them. In fact God promises to lead them home once again. The journey home will be a Second Exodus. Isaiah depicts two ways in which the renewal promised by God is manifested: those who

suffer physical maladies (the blind, the deaf, the lame and the mute) will be healed of their infirmities, and the barren wilderness will be filled with the promise of new life. Just as deprivation and infirmity were considered signs of evil in the world so too this restoration was perceived as a sign of the transformation that only God can effect.

In today’s second reading (which comes from the Letter of St. James) we are given some simple advice: “My brothers and sisters do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people.” In broad and clear strokes the author paints a picture of **unacceptable discrimination**. The author condemns the preference for the man dressed in fine clothing and the contemptuous way the poor man is treated; exposing the community’s bias. Such **discrimination** is not only an example of social snobbery but also it is in direct opposition to the basis upon which the church was founded, namely the gathering of all people into the reign of God. Such behavior is condemned for two reasons. First, the people are reestablishing distinctions where God has eliminated them. Secondly, their partiality jeopardizes the justice that they are called to administer. If preference is going to be made it should reflect the **declared preference of God**. God chose those who are poor according to the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the Kingdom He promises.

Jesus’ ministry consisted mostly of preaching and teaching about the advent of the Kingdom of God **and** healing people of their illnesses and infirmities. However Jesus is very clear that He does **not** want to be known merely as another successful miracle worker. Below the surface of all that Jesus does lays a deeper reality pointing to His divine identity as the Son of God. Today’s story about Jesus’ healing of a gentile deaf man (who also has a speech impediment) reveals some of the deeper reality of Jesus’ true identity.

**God’s preference** for those who are underprivileged, poor or disadvantaged according to the world is seen clearly in today’s Gospel passage from St. Mark. Jesus comes face to face with a deaf man who has a speech impediment. In an oral culture those who cannot hear or speak are at a great disadvantage. They are marginalized in ways that others are not. The man is doubly afflicted: not only physically but he is a gentile and hence regarded by Orthodox Jews as unclean. Jesus takes the man aside away from the crowd and cures his ailments. The man is now able to hear God’s words and be open to God’s message and proclaim it. Mark emphasizes the response of the crowd who publish their judgment that Jesus had done all things well. Thus the messianic prophecy of Isaiah heard in our first reading seems to

be fulfilled: “the ears of the deaf are unsealed and the tongues of the mute sing for joy.” Hence the messianic age has arrived in the person of Jesus.

Today’s Gospel passage shows us that out of His infinite passion and mercy Jesus’s love is available to everyone; without any presuppositions or any conditions. Jesus is not disconcerted by those with disabilities. Neither is Jesus **prejudiced** against those **not** of His own race or religion. Jesus’ own uniqueness is not employed to lord it over others but to be of **service** to them. In His presence no one has to conceal his or her disability; no one has to remain isolated or marginalized in a wordless world; and no one has to be rejected because of his or her difference. Jesus’ acceptance and love opens up new possibilities for everyone.

We all know that people shrink under **indifference**. We know that people are wounded by **discrimination** and **prejudice** and they feel hurt when they are **rejected**. **Discrimination** and **prejudice** handicaps everyone it touches. It allows fear to dress up as social and religious propriety. It sneaks its way into our laws. Let us all try and remember that whoever we encounter or meet God has first loved them and God is present within them. Let us all be challenged and live by the following words of wisdom:

“Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion is to take off our shoes for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we may find ourselves treading on another’s dream. More serious still, we may forget that God was there before our arrival.” Have a blessed week.

Love & Prayers,  
Fr. John

### 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.

### 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**. 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.

### EUCCHARISTIC 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**. 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)

**DIOCESAN YOUTH PROTECTION**

It is important that the websites of all entities in our Diocese have a prominently displayed link to the Diocesan Youth Protection website where people can find out how to report sexual abuse and learn how to prevent it. The adding of this link is a recommendation of the most recent independent audit of our Youth Protection program. We ask that you use this link to our new Youth Protection site at: <https://www.youthprotectionhbg.com/>

**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!

**DIOCESAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE**

Registration is now available at [www.hbgdiocese.org/women](http://www.hbgdiocese.org/women), for the **4th annual Diocesan Women's Conference**, taking place **Saturday, October 20, 2018, at Bishop McDevitt High School**. Theme is *Women of Life and Love: Celebrating the Beauty of Humanae Vitae*. Keynote Speaker is **Jennifer Fulwiler** of Austin, TX, well-known Catholic radio personality, speaker, and author. The title of her keynote address is: "**Pro-Choice to Pro-Life Conversion**." This conference includes **36 workshops** from a blue-ribbon panel of speakers, a **Eucharistic Holy Hour** with Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction, **Confession** available throughout much of the day, beautiful music from "**Women at the Well**", lots of **Catholic exhibitors**, good food, **Mass with Bishop Gainer** as Principal Celebrant and Homilist, and fellowship with hundreds of women. **Last year, 900 women attended** this conference. Besides the online registration, registration brochures are also available at the church. This conference is available for all women both within and outside of our diocese. We expect another large crowd this year. We would love to see you there! Thank you!

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Monday, September 10**

- 7:00 †Deceased members of the Eichorn family
- 9:00 †Deceased members of the Eichorn family

**Tuesday, September 11**

- 7:00 †Deceased members of the Eichorn family
- 9:00 †Norissa Dando

**Wednesday, September 12**

- 7:00 †Deceased members of the Eichorn family
- 9:00 †John Semmer

**Thursday, September 13**

- 7:00 †Deceased members of the Eichorn family
- 9:00 †Deceased members of the Eichorn family

**Friday, September 14**

- 7:00 †Deceased members of the Eichorn family



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 RE Regular Tuition Rate Expires  
Soon On Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup>.**

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

**Kelly Lawrence**



**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 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 [omphreled@dejazzd.com](mailto:omphreled@dejazzd.com)

**Attention Previous I AM Rally Attendees:**

**Any Seventh Or Eighth Grade Student Who Would Like**

**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)



**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, 2018 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](mailto:susan@strosserfamily.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!**