

My Dear Parishioners,

**Hospitality** has been defined as “friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.” Yes, even **strangers**. These days when there are so many reasons to protect and preserve ourselves, families and our communities and borders because of fear of terrorism or criminals, “welcoming” a **stranger** is a rather difficult task. However in Scripture **hospitality** given to **strangers** was considered an important virtue. Scripture contains numerous stories reminding us that we are called to be “welcoming” to everyone including **strangers** (i.e. new immigrants and refugees.) The Mosaic Law taught the moral obligation of **hospitality**. It was not simply charity to feed and house a passing **stranger**; it was one’s **duty**. In Scripture **hospitality** was seen as a beautiful form of kindness which sometimes came from surprising sources and produced unexpected results. This is seen in today’s readings.

Our first reading is from the Second Book of Kings. The book (as the name implies) tells the story of the kings of Israel with their failures as well as their faithfulness. In today’s passage we are introduced to the prophet Elisha. In the days of Elisha there were no guesthouses or fast-food stops. Those who travelled beyond their own family or tribe had to depend on the **hospitality** of **strangers** to survive. In today’s passage Elisha encounters a wealthy woman from Shunem who is not an Israelite. Being a Shunemite the woman would usually despise any Israelite as being a **stranger** and not attend to his needs. However this woman invited Elisha into her home for a meal. Her **hospitality** towards him was so extraordinary that Elisha eventually makes it a habit of stopping by her home on his many excursions.

Over time the woman recognizes that Elisha is indeed a “holy man of God.” She had apparently been searching for someone like him for a long time. She asked her husband for permission to build a room on their roof and furnish it so that Elisha could stay with them. Her husband agreed and Elisha is “welcomed” into their home and is invited to stay overnight. By “welcoming” this “holy man of God” into their home this couple enjoyed advantages only God could give them.

Elisha seeks a way to recognize the woman’s **hospitality** and repay her for her kindness. He asked his servant Gehazi for some ideas. Gehazi responded that “she has no son and her husband is getting on in years” suggesting the real possibility that one day she will be without a husband and will need someone to look after her. By the word of God Elisha declared the woman **will** indeed have a son within the year. Just as the childless woman’s **hospitality** went beyond what was expected of her, her reward went beyond her wildest hopes: the gift of a long-desired baby boy. Because of her kindness the Shunemite woman received her reward. In the words of Jesus in today’s Gospel: “Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward.” The woman’s reward for welcoming the holy prophet is the best she can have—a family.

The foundation of Jesus’ requested commitment is recalled in today’s section of St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans (second reading). Christians, in a world of sin, **must** live out their baptism. In Paul’s time, baptism was by total immersion. This symbolized dying to sin so as to rise and live the new life Christ intended: a life of liberation from the power of sin and death. This involves incorporation into Christ and into His body—the Church. Thus a new creation takes place whereby we begin the life-long process of dying to sin and becoming alive for God with the new life of the Gospel.

Today’s Gospel comes from the second major discourse of St. Matthew’s Gospel (Mt.10:1-42). This discourse is often referred to as the “Missionary Discourse.” This discourse contains Jesus’ instructions to His Twelve Apostles. The special focus on today’s passage sets forth some of the difficulties the apostles can expect to encounter in their missionary endeavors.

In the beginning of today’s Gospel passage Jesus warns His apostles that they will have to make sacrifices if they want to follow Him. Suffering is part of being an apostle. Jesus gives His apostles a series of commands. If they are to be His true disciples they must love Him more than their parents and family. They must choose between their closest

ties on earth and their loyalty to Him. Jesus then tells His disciples that they must take up their crosses each day if they want to follow Him.

Having given a series of commands to His apostles Jesus then promises a series of rewards to them. The reward He promises is far greater than any earthly land or inheritance. The reward Jesus promises them is eternal life in the kingdom of God. Jesus then reminds His followers that God bestows rewards on those who believe the Gospel message and put it into practice. God also promises that anyone who helps another in spreading the Gospel message will share in that prophet's reward. Thus the cost of being called by Jesus and of being sent by Him to engage in apostolic activity may be high but in the end it will reap great rewards for those who accept and answer Jesus' call.

Today's readings remind us that we become fully alive through the generous giving of ourselves. It is important that we give of ourselves to people in the way we speak about them, in the way we think about them, in the way we forgive their failings, in the way we encourage and support them and in the way we show them **hospitality**. In reality there are no guests, visitors or **strangers** in God's family. Those who accept us and offer us their **hospitality** are acknowledging the Jesus that is in us and they will be rewarded for doing so. Likewise when we accept and "welcome" so called **strangers** (new immigrants and refugees) we are acknowledging the Jesus that is within them and we too will be rewarded with eternal life. Have a blessed and **hospitable** week.

Love & prayers,

Fr. John

THE MISSIONARY COOPERATIVE  
COLLECTION

This weekend, a Missionary priest Rev. Francis Patrikson of the Society of African Missions, will be here to preach at all the masses and share with us his work, ministry and missionary experiences. We can make a difference and help Fr. Patrikson with our prayers and financial support. Your generous offerings in the Second Collection next weekend make possible the continuation of his ministry in mission lands. Please be generous.

Thank you,  
Fr. John

**SUMMER WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

Please note that beginning on **Monday, July 3 till Friday, August 25** we will be on the Summer Mass Schedule. Mass will be celebrated on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays **only** at **7AM** On Wednesdays mass will be celebrated at **7AM** and **9AM**. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be on Wednesdays following the **9AM** until **12 noon**. Saturday morning mass will still be celebrated at **9AM**.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- Monday, July 3, St. Thomas, Apostle**  
7:00 †Muscavage Family
- Tuesday, July 4**  
7:00 Blessings upon our county
- Wednesday, July 5, St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest:  
St. Elizabeth of Portugal**  
7:00 †Deceased Redemptorists  
9:00 †Deceased Parishioners
- Thursday, July 6, St. Maria Goretti, Virgin &  
Martyr**  
7:00 Aleyda Butrago
- Friday, July 7**  
7:00 Vocations to the Redemptorists
- Saturday, July 8**  
9:00 Attendance at Wednesdays Adoration  
of the Blessed Sacrament to increase  
5:00 †John & Helen Phillips
- Sunday, July 9, 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
7:30 For the Parishioners  
9:00 †Mary Ann  
11:00 †Regina Pushauver

**There are quite a few Mass times available for your intentions, over the next several weeks. Most are week days.** Stop in after Mass today or call the office at 733-9641.

**IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS**

We will be publishing the names of your dear loved ones who are seriously ill or injured. *We will keep them in the bulletin for one month.* 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.

**July 2:**

Melissa Kurtz, Janet Tomko Alex Masluk, Elizabeth & Jack Farnquist Sr., Jean Givler, Abigail Lowe-Critchfield, Richard Warner, Brendan Holbitter, Anthony Tassa, John Griffis, Duane Hartman, Byron Gift, and Jack McGowan, Declan Morgan, and Phyllis Schmook.

**CHURCH  SUPPORT**

Date	Amount	Needed	Difference
6-25-17	\$12,586.00	\$14,326.00	(\$1,740.00)
<b>YTD</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>YTD Need</b>	<b>Difference</b>
6-25-17	\$720,407.71	\$744,952.00	(\$24,544.29)

Going on vacation? Please use online giving to catch up on offertory contributions. Go to [www.omph.org](http://www.omph.org) and click on the Online Giving link it's quick and easy! Your support during the summer months helps sustain our parish.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Scripture is clear that we are saved by Jesus alone, not by our actions. But it's also clear that God rejoices when we give our time, our treasure, and our talents in service to his people. Our acts of generosity move his heart, and he responds by pouring out his grace. Does this mean that we should try to be generous so that God will reward us? Not exactly. Our generosity is a response, a reflection of the good he has done for us. We give generously so that we can show the world what God's generosity looks like. We go out of our way for people because we want to bring his love to them. This is why Pope Francis keeps urging us to give, to reach out, and to show God's love.

**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 Rick Hull.

**Please Save The Date**

**Attention All Families Of Students**

**Entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade This Fall:**

On Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> Lancaster Catholic High School Will Host The 5<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

**ATTENTION MUSICIANS**

The OMPH Music Ministry invites you to share your musical talents with our parish family. We always welcome new singers, guitarists, pianists, organists, etc. The music ministry is a great way to meet other parishioners and to become more involved in our faith community. If you are interested in learning

more about the many different opportunities we have available, I'd be happy to discuss details with you. Just email me, Jill McGowan, at [jmcgowan333@yahoo.com](mailto:jmcgowan333@yahoo.com)

**YEARLINGS**

Join us at 11:30 on July 11 for lunch at

**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

We Are Running Our Kindergarten Home-Study Program Again For The 2017/2018 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.

Every Year the Religious Education Program is in need of Catechists, Aides, and Occasional Substitutes for the up-coming Religious Education year.

There are three different grade levels in which to volunteer and they are as follows:

Calling all inventors! The Maker Fun Factory Robot is “gearing “up for a fantastic VBS July 9-13. However, the Robot really wants a name. Can you help? Create a name for our Robot and place your “name invention” with contact information in the Think Box by the Robot in the narthex. If the Robot likes your name invention best, you will receive a \$10 gift card to Dairy Queen. Enter as often as your imagination allows. Tune in the first week of July to discover the results!

**ALTAR SERVER TRAINING**



Any girl or boy in grades fourth and up that would like to become an altar server should contact Ben Hoover at 808-1115. We will start training in

August and will get them on the schedule that comes out in September.



**HELP WANTED**

OMPH Church cleaners are looking for a couple of volunteers to clean the windows in the doors to the church. If interested call Sandra at 733-9453



**RESPECT LIFE**

Planned Parenthood’s 2014-15 annual report shows that they perform a meager 1 percent of the nation’s pap smears, and less than 2 percent of all clinical breast exams. The pro-choice Guttmacher Institute [reports](#) that over 80 percent of teens receive sex education instruction from somewhere besides an abortion clinic, and contrary to repeated claims by Planned Parenthood’s leadership and advocates, they perform a grand total of [zero mammograms](#). In other words, all 650 Planned Parenthood-affiliated clinics in the U.S. barely participate in real healthcare.

Recent footage from undercover investigator David Daleiden captured affiliates at the National Abortion Federation conference who spoke openly of Planned Parenthood “selling” fetal body parts to “increase revenue.” Some also joked about pulling unborn babies apart and how “gross” it is when tiny eyeballs fall into their laps.

YouTube quickly removed the video, and now U.S. District Judge William Orrick is considering contempt sanctions against Daleiden, who’s already facing fifteen felony charges for taking this undercover footage in the first place.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**





[www.liveaction.org](http://www.liveaction.org) & [www.lifesitenews.org](http://www.lifesitenews.org) Pray for an end to abortion.  
**Andrea Ostrowski**



A Woman's Concern is seeking a part-time receptionist for our N. Duke St. location. The receptionist is the first connection person for individuals seeking pregnancy help and support and must be passionately pro-life and have excellent communication and computer skills.

We are also seeking a Marketing & Events intern from September-November. This person must be either a current college student or recent graduate.

Please contact our office for a full job description and application for either position at 394-1561.

### SENIORS 55 AND OLDER

Would you enjoy a 5% discount on your car insurance for the next three years? Who wouldn't! Well, in Pennsylvania it is mandatory that if you take the AARP Smart Driving Course, the insurance company must give you a 5% discount. To get the discount, all you have to do is show up at the course, spend two four hour sessions and at the end you will get a completion certificate to give to your insurance company, There are no tests. You cannot fail. It is all in the classroom — NO on the road driving. The cost per person is \$15 for AARP Members and \$20 for non-members. If both husband and wife are on the insurance policy, both must take the course. For example, if your insurance cost for the year is \$1000 you would get a \$50 Discount for each of the next three years. So, for an investment of \$15 or \$20 you would save \$150. If you are interested in saving some money and learning about ongoing changes in yourself, vehicles, the roads, the driving laws and refreshing your memory on some safety strategies you might have forgotten, call the number below to register. We have now set up an eight-hour course for OMPH on Saturday, July 29, 2017 and Saturday, August 5, 2017 from 8:00 am to 12 noon. You must attend both days. If interested call Charlotte and Bob Galgon at 717-733-4369

### OMPH COMMUNITY MEALS



OMPH will be hosting our second Community Meal of 2017. 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. This meal will be held on

**July 20 at Bethany United Church of Christ, 140 East Main Street, Ephrata, PA.**

There is no special expertise required. Volunteer 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 serves anywhere from 120 to 180 people so we usually need around 25 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 [jazzcat9@ptd.net](mailto:jazzcat9@ptd.net) or contact Pat or Georgia Hogan at 738-0825.



### OMPH ALUMNI

We will be having a school reunion Saturday, September 16 in the gym for anyone in the classes of 1960-2009. This is a 21 and over event. Flyers are available in the narthex. More information can be found on our Facebook page: OMPH Reunion or by calling Lauren (DePaul) Caramenico (Class of '94) at 314-1806.

### OMPH SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2017-18

WE ARE ENROLLING! Registration is now open to all parish families for Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2017-2018 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 738-2414.

To learn more about our school, please visit our website at [www.omph.org](http://www.omph.org) or call the school office at 738-2414 for further information. Find us on Facebook at OMPH Ephrata!



### LCHS HONOR ROLL

The Faculty of OMPH extends congratulations to graduates of OMPH School and members of OMPH Parish who were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement at LCHS. We are very proud of our students who received honors for the fourth quarter of the 2016-2017 academic year.

Distinguished Honors: Morgan Caramenico, Kevin Draeger, Meghan Flynn, Devon Gerhard, Rachel Houser, Johann Imperial, Rachael Loretan, Siobhan McShea, Ava McTamney-Prexta, Anthony Quagliata, Sheridan Schreyer, Riley Smith, Miles Titzer, Camille Zapata and Christian Zapata.

Honor Roll: Anthony Andrews, Georgia Blodgett, Kayla Lipson, Taylor Geiss, Jillian Gentile, Maria Guevara, Mathias Hummer, and Angeline Rann.

### VOLUNTEERS WITH TRUCKS NEEDED!



The OMPH Benevolent Society has some needs that involve needing a pickup truckdriver. We have teams of people who go to



**Lancaster on Tuesday** mornings to pick up food and another group who picks up from **Target and Redners each Wednesday**. It is **NOT a weekly commitment but perhaps once or twice a month on these days**. If you would like to work with an incredible group of volunteers, this just may be the job for you! Please call **Bonnie Brown at 824-1054** or email [bbjnb@ptd.net](mailto:bbjnb@ptd.net) for more details.

Also: our food bank is in need of instant potatoes, canned pasta, jello/pudding, cake mixes, and frosting! Please consider picking up one of these items next time you are in the grocery store. Place items in the food bank crate in the narthex of the church! We are always humbled by the generosity of the OMPH parishioners.