

CALLED TO BE FRIENDS

Reflection

Friendship has an extremely important role to play in all of our lives. Without real friends, life loses much of its appeal. It becomes dull, lonely and, at times, even quite depressing. True friendship is not just useful. It is, in many ways, the staff of life, a necessity for human living. In the encyclical, *The Redeemer of Man*, Pope John Paul gave us these remarkable words: "Man (or woman) cannot live without love. He remains a being that is incomprehensible to himself, his life is senseless, if love is not revealed to him, if he does not encounter love, if he does not experience it and make it his own, if he does not participate intimately in it."

What could be clearer? Life without love makes no sense whatever. One of the most common forms of love that we find in our lives is found in our friendships. There may be people who have no family or any close relatives. But we would surely pity the person without even one friend. The power of deep friendship is truly remarkable. Think of your closest friends; some of them might be from grade school, others from university years. But a true friend is more than someone who just has history with you, and knows where the bodies are buried! But, as with all valuable things in life, we need to actively take care of our friendships. To have a friend, we must be a friend.

"Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for it is one of God's best gifts." Thomas Hughes (British reformer, jurist and writer; 1823-1896)

Is friendship a ministry? Yes, if it is a true service of love to others. While we are still in the Easter season, it is good to talk about what happens when we make the decision to love our neighbor. We not only give new life to someone else, but our own life is refreshed and renewed.

**THE MAY CROWNING
IN HONOR OF MARY**

It has become tradition at Corpus Christi School for our second and eighth graders to lead the May Crowning prayer service and rosary in honor of Mary. It marks the beginning of the graduation activities for the eighth graders. We ask our 8th grade girls to write a short essay on what crowning Mary would mean to them. This year Gina Sambucini has the honor of crowning Mary. Her essay in the next column tells us why. Everyone is invited to our May Crowning on Monday evening, **May 10** at 7:30 pm in the Chapel. Please join us.

Michelle Murillo

MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

The Virgin Mary exemplifies all that I aspire to be. To say that Mary is simply a role model to me would be an understatement. The Virgin Mother is a prominent figure in my life who guides me down the road as I face difficult and challenging obstacles. She answered God's call when Gabriel came and told her she was to bear the son of God, defying her confusion and fear and following her faith. Even though she was just a young girl not much older than me, she said yes without knowing what was to happen or why she was chosen for such a great task.

Mary possesses many of the characteristics that I wish to obtain. She had an unmatched strength of character. She called upon an inner peace to help get through the roughest moments in her life; this peace helped her to find a significant amount of courage to persevere. The Virgin Mary was faced with the largest challenge in her life when she witnessed her only son being nailed to the cross and dying. To be able to stand by and watch something as horrid as that, her will power must have been extremely strong. Her emotional stability is also astonishing, considering how she made it through that and many other difficult events in her lifetime.

The Blessed Mother is a strong inspiration in my life and in my faith. By praying to her each night, I hope to acquire even an ounce of her strength and character. The prayers mean a great deal to me, and I include them in my daily routine. I look to her for guidance, and my prayers help me to ask her for that guidance. No matter what life may bring, I can always call on Mary in times of distress. Also, I pray that maybe I could imitate her qualities so that I will become a better Catholic and a stronger person.

Of all the religious figures, Mary is quite possibly the most influential in my life. The world may be becoming less religious, but holding on to my faith is important to me. The Virgin Mother proves to be a model for my life as I try to reflect her faith and not lose hold of that importance. She personifies the ideal role model, and following her example is an essential part of my life.

We crown the Virgin Mary with flowers each May because of her importance in our faith as the mother of God, who in turn is our mother too. I long for the opportunity to honor my greatest role model in the highest way possible, and by crowning her I would be able to do so. Just as the Blessed Mother may have felt she was unworthy to carry the Messiah, I hope I am worthy enough to crown the Mother of God. By being granted the chance I will be giving tribute to the greatest mother of all who deserves abundant praise.

Gina Sambucini
Eighth Grade

**TRIP TO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE
WITH FR. JUREK**

Tuesday Oct 19 – Tuesday Nov 2, 2010

The "Land of the Bible" pilgrimage is an exciting trip into the lands of the history of our Lord. It will include visits to Catholic sites in Egypt, the Sinai Peninsula, Israel and Jordan.

Cost \$ 2,799 plus airline taxes and other fees.

For more information please contact Margo Abad, travel consultant, at 973 325 0024 Ext. 3008 or fax 973 325 8449.

ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The next General Meeting of the Rosary Society is Thursday, **May 6**, in the school cafeteria following the recitation of the Rosary at 7:15 p.m. and Mass in the Chapel which will include induction of new members. Sign-up sheets will be available at the meeting for our **May 8th** visit to Bergen Regional Medical Center for the recitation of the Rosary and refreshments for the residents. Appeal letters for the "Bakeless Cake Sale" were mailed to all members in April. Your donations will support our Annual Scholarship Award to two Corpus Christi eighth-grade girls who will be attending Catholic high schools.

PLEASE SIGN THE MANHATTAN DECLARATION

This past November, a group of Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and Evangelical Christian leaders released the Manhattan Declaration, a document reaffirming and promising to defend fundamental truths in three areas:

1. the sanctity of human life
2. the dignity of marriage as the conjugal union of husband and wife; and
3. the rights of conscience and religious liberty.

The Declaration reminds the nation as well as the church that the Christian conscience is bound to Christ.

Copies of the Declaration and its signature sheet are available in the back of the Church and in the vestibules of the Chapel and Adoration Chapel. Please take one home, read the declaration, and if you agree, add your signature.

You may also sign on line at www.manhattandeclaration.org or via mail by mailing to Manhattan Declaration, 44180 Riverside Parkway, Lansdowne, Va. 20176

YOUTH MINISTRY

ACCTM will meet on Sunday night at Assumption Parish's Hayes Center at 7pm. All **high school** teens are invited to attend.

MESSAGE FROM EMILY WALLACE

Part 1

To everyone at Corpus Christi Parish: Heri ya Pasaka! Happy Easter! As most of you probably know, I was blessed to have my family come visit me here in Tanzania. I have now been here for 16 months and it was wonderful to have them finally see the people I have been talking about, visit the places I have shared stories about and see a little bit of what my life here has been like. We spent a lot of time visiting with my friends and family here in Mabibo and I was utterly amazed (as usual) at the amount of unquestionable hospitality that they showed us. They have known me for this long and have welcomed me as their sister, but they also welcomed 4 other complete strangers, just because they were my family. My family will probably tell stories about how my friends' houses may not have electricity or water, but they made two pots of rice and beans for us to eat, only us! I am constantly humbled by the example of Christ my friends are to me. I realized with my family's visit how accustomed I have become to the culture here, for example greeting people 10 times before you get to the actual conversation, holding the right elbow with the left hand while shaking someone's hand and curtsying, expressing gratitude for the work of cooking by eating all that is given, and also the importance of visiting friends and family often (no excuses, being "too busy" does not suffice). I am so thankful that my family got to experience a little bit of what I feel so called to dedicate these two years of my life.

WINE, HOSTS AND CANDLES FOR THE WEEK

The wine and hosts to be consecrated at all Masses this week and the candles to be burned on our altars were donated in loving memory of **Robert J. Dinallo** with Love from Mother.

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY TRICKY TRAY

The date for this event, May 16, is now postponed to May of 2011.



ANTICIPATED MASS/SAT MAY 1

5:00 PM John Curran

SUNDAY, MAY 2

7:30 AM Leocadia B. Zazula
 9:00 AM Patrick Power
 10:30 AM Jerry and Ann Enrico
 12:00 NN Robert Joseph Dinallo - Birthday
 6:00 PM People of the Parish

MONDAY, MAY 3

6:30 AM Farley and Weismiller Families
 8:00 AM John Stun and family

TUESDAY May 4

6:30 AM Guido W. Trause
 8:00 AM Lucy Fantaccione
 1st Anniversary

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

6:30 AM Jadwiga and Bronislaw Drozd
 and Viola Bove
 8:00 AM Anna Meyers

THURSDAY, MAY 6

6:30 AM Santa Matera
 8:00 AM Blanche De Mio

FRIDAY, MAY 7

6:30 AM Francis Calton
 8:00 AM Kathleen Mallon

SATURDAY MAY 8

8:00 PM John and Kitty Mallon

ANTICIPATED MASS/SATURDAY

5:00 PM Thomas Newell Hayes

SUNDAY, MAY 9

7:30 AM Elena Contreras
 9:00 AM Raul and Mabel Romero
 10:30 AM Mary Zacharski
 12:00 NN Rose Donovan
 6:00 PM People of the Parish

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED

Please remember the deceased members of our families, friends, community and the Corpus Christi Parish especially, **Rev. Msgr. Frederick Eid and Rev. Joseph A. Stulb.**

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER (Ecumenical)
 Thursday May 6**



*May the **Holy Spirit** sustain those who are poor and oppressed, the sick, suffering, and sorrowing of all ages, especially, Joseph Cairns, Irene Diverio, Josephine Gurrisi, Peter Lentini, Frank Lydon, Arshie Nebbia, Michael Niekrewicz, Nancy Panieczko, Kenneth Schafer, Leighann Sweeny and Elvira Urgo.*

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Liturgy of the Word with Children - 10:30 AM Mass

MONDAY, MAY 3

Adoration – Noon to Midnight/Adoration Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 4

Adoration – Noon to Midnight/Adoration Chapel
AA Meeting – 8:00 PM/Msgr. Fitzpatrick Hall
Bingo – 7:30 PM/Cafeteria

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5

Adoration – Noon to Midnight/Adoration Chapel

THURSDAY, MAY 6

Adoration – Noon to Midnight/Adoration Chapel

FRIDAY, MAY 7

Adoration – Noon to Midnight/Adoration Chapel
First Friday Devotion – 7 to 10PM/Church

SATURDAY MAY 8

Bingo – 7:30 PM/Cafeteria

SUNDAY, MAY 9

Liturgy of the Word with Children - 10:30 AM Mass

BINGO WORK SCHEDULE

The following is the schedule for the upcoming week:

Tuesday, May 4

Kahrer,6A
 Contreras,5A
 Pinto,6A
 King,6A
 Brownlee,6Bb
 Kryceski,6B
 Cascone,6B
 Deluca,5B
 Boyaci,6A

Saturday May 8

Marrero,5A
 Catania,5B
 DeFelice,7
 Boccia,6A
 Santangelo,6B
 Risquet,6B
 Gomez,2A
 Mohin,2B