

The Weave

November 2013

Volume 18 Issue 1

A Quarterly Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

Disciples in Mission

by Father Brian

Our Archdiocese and all of our parishes under the leadership of Cardinal Sean are presently engaged in a great and graced church work called "Disciples in Mission." This great church work seeks "to revitalize the Church in Boston by positioning our parishes more solidly for the task of evangelization, the work of reaching out to our brothers and sisters and drawing them more fully to Jesus Christ. The foundations ... are that our parishes are Eucharistic communities of God's faithful people, entrusted with the mission given by Jesus Christ to the Church." This great work is indeed a holy and noble work worthy of all of our prayers and efforts.

The planning document (*see website disciplesinmission.com*) for this great enterprise has two parts: Strengthening Parishes for the Work of the New Evangelization and Strengthening the work of New Evangelization. Since the time of Pope John Paul II, the world-wide Church has been engaged in "New Evangelization." New Evan-

gelization is "the particular work of reaching out to Catholics who are not currently active in the Church." In the United States, the largest religious group is Roman Catholics and the second largest is non-practicing Roman Catholics. No other group of any Christian denomination comes near these two groups in numbers.



Archdiocese of Boston

Disciples in Mission, our pastoral plan, reminds us that we are not a business or a regular not-for-profit association. We are, in fact, disciples on a mission of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. Sometimes every one of us forgets what we are about. We are fol-

lowers of Jesus Christ. We walk along with Him and invite others to do so. This plan is trying to help us walk foot-by-foot along with Jesus and all the other disciples. The plan recognizes the centrality of parish life in our journey and attempts to address the three serious challenges facing our parishes. These are: "the continuing decline in participation by Catholics in their parishes; fewer priests, religious, and trained laity

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Follow the Baby

by Joan McGuire

I was in High School when I received my first invitation from Fordham University to attend a symposium by a panel of Biblical scholars from all over the world to discuss the Nativity. I found a seat close to the front and sat next to an Irish priest who looked half asleep. For hours they argued over whether Mary and Joseph really came from Nazareth to Bethlehem or whether they lived in Bethlehem. They went on to further confuse me as to whether there really were Magi or if they were reverting to an Old Testament story of three magicians coming from the East to kill Moses but ended up blessing him instead, thus connecting Jesus as a second Moses. At the end of the session I was so confused by these variations I turned to the priest next to me and asked "What should I believe?" He looked at me with a twinkle in his sharp blue eyes and wisely said. "There was definitely a Baby! Follow the Baby."

When reading the two gospel versions of the birth, putting aside the very different story lines between Matthew and Luke, both gospels tell of annunciations to one parent (as expected in Luke it is to Mary and in Matthew to Joseph); and an annunciation in which the angel reveals the coming of one who is to be the Messiah. (Matthew to the Magi and Luke to the

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How Silently The Wondrous Gift Is Given

by John M. Ristaino

It is once again that time of year; Advent followed by Christmas and the start of another new year. Popularly, this time of year is known as "the Holidays." It is a season of anticipation. For some, this anticipation is one of great joy. For others, this season of great despair, depression, confusion and aggravation. For still some others this anticipation starts as one of great joy and ends in great despair. This anticipation tempts us to strive for perfection; a perfect home, perfect gifts, perfect parties, perfect family, perfect decorations which all make perfect memories.

"The Holidays" enter our lives now in early summer. Stores begin to build our anticipation with early merchandising of goods to purchase. We barely let the July 4th fireworks cool before we begin seeing and hearing about Christmas. Christmas programs are shown on television and sold as "Christmas in July." With the anticipation turned "on," our joy turns to fear, our fear turns to aggravation and our aggravation turns to despair. Is despair the meaning of the Christmas?

The following play on St. Paul's Letter to the Corinthians was given to me as a Christmas gift many years ago. It is framed and placed near my crèche each Christmas as a reminder.

*1 Corinthians 13, Christmas Version,
Author Unknown*

*If I decorate my house perfectly with
plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights
and shiny balls, but do not show love to
my family, I'm just another decorator.*



Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

Luceat Lux Vestra (Matthew 5:16) *Let your light shine.* This verse is a fitting reflection for parents at Advent time as they, like the anticipatory season itself, move with their children toward Christ. On a beautiful September day this past fall our youngest child was confirmed at St. Mary's in a moving ceremony witnessed by an assortment of relatives who remarked on the large number of confirmandi (three Confirmation groups). These relatives praised the parish of St. Mary for harvesting a "bumper crop" of young adults who had grown up in the Church and continued to be attracted by holiness at a time when their own parishes had not.

St. Paul says, in the second letter to Timothy, "I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have..." Candles are the most obvious visual indicator of the Advent season, the three purple and the one pink candle signaling the approach of Christmas. As parents, how can the Advent season help us prepare for the birth of our Lord and help us instill in our children the courage to let the light of Christ shine through them?

At Confirmation, the bishop reminded the young people to grow in virtue through the ordinary things of everyday life. He reminded them that there would be opportunities, as they prepared to live away from home, to give evidence of their confirmation as Catholics, through their daily living, speaking, relationships, activities and work. Basically, he said, they were being called to be holy, and they should let God fill them with his love so they could share it with others.

At Advent time, in the glow of the wreath's candlelight, when we gather our families to pray, "O Come, Emmanuel," we know that in the four weeks of the preparatory season we can put renewed emphasis on living patience, hu-

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend myriad holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids and pets to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust.

But giving the gift of love will endure.


This passage inspires me. It inspires me and allows me to focus on the simple fact that Christmas celebrates the great love of God for us. This great love is God's son; Jesus in the form of a human being, sent to save all of us.

A phrase I often try to remember when harried by the anticipation of Christmas is "remember, Jesus was born in a manger." Jesus, God's great gift of love given, received and remembered each Christmas, was born in a manger (a barn) surrounded by animals. The

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The Weave
Published quarterly
(February, April, August
and November)
by Saint Mary Parish, Franklin MA



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...Disciples in Mission

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available for parochial service; and an increasing number of parishes that are unable to sustain themselves financially.

Thus the 288 parishes of the Archdiocese will be organized into 135 Parish Collaboratives, usually consisting of 2 or 3 parishes. Because of the size and numbers of Saint Mary Franklin, we will be a 'stand-alone' singular parish collaborative. These Collaboratives will be phased in over a period of (now determined) seven years with a newly appointed Pastor with a pastoral team (an appropriate combination of parochial vicars, deacons, lay ecclesial ministers (examples: pastoral associates, directors of religious education, music directors, business managers etc.)). Each collaborative will have one Parish Pastoral Council and one Finance Council. The Collaborative team and councils will receive extensive development and training for the designing and writing of a new pastoral plan for the collaborative.

This is happening now throughout the Archdiocese and will be continuing for 6 more years. Phase One parishes have begun their journey and Phase Two parishes have now been designated officially as "disciples." Saint Mary's time is in the future at some point after June 2015.

So, what do we do in between?

First off, we pray. We pray for those parishes as they enter into this formation process and start the journey. We pray for ourselves that we may join the journey with faith and hope. We also invite others to come along on the journey now with us.

If we are all disciples now on the way with Jesus, it does not mean that we have to wait for "an official time" to invite others to come to Church with us. Some folks are standing by the edge of the road now as we walk by and we should say hello and invite

them along. People who want to return to the Church often do not know how.

The way to return is "simply to show up!" It is like the missing person at the family Thanksgiving Dinner. Someone needs to reach out and warmly invite the missing person(s) to Sunday Mass. Then welcome them when they arrive or come along with them. As we know, the rest works out. After you come to family gatherings a few times, you know what to do. After coming back to Mass for a few times, you know what to do.

I think Pope Francis has helped all of us to see and understand what matters more. He has helped us refocus our thinking and understanding on the Lord Jesus and his journey.

We may forget that the definition of a "follower" is one who simply follows and the definition of a "disciple" is one who learns, converses, acts and follows. We are disciples, so part of the journey for us is listening and reading, then thinking and reflecting. This year the Parish Pastoral Council will be actively growing in knowledge and understanding. They are being asked to read and delve deeper into the written works about being a disciple in mission. I, also, invite you to consider reading two wonderful books that will help you grow in faith and understanding. "rebuilt" by Michael White and Tom Corcoran (Ave Maria Press) and also "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic." In the next issue of The Weave I will discuss the books.

Wonderful and graced things are happening at Saint Mary's. Can you feel them? Are you part of them? Come along and bring others with you as we walk along with Jesus.



A New Sound of Music

The Parish welcomes a new Director of Music, Terry Kerr. If you have attended the 10:30 Mass you may have seen an energetic man playing the organ in the choir and then suddenly appearing at the piano in the front of the church to lead another song. That was Terry.

He grew up with his three brothers and sisters in Dedham where he learned the organ. He was a graduate of Xaverian H.S and Bridgewater State College. Over the years he has served as organist/music director in St. Thomas, Millis; St Joseph, Medway; and St Edward's, Medfield. He has also served as the Director of Contemporary Choir at the 6pm Mass at St Edwards. His personal musical interests are eclectic including new music as well as the classics such as Mozart, Bach, and Faure.

Terry's goal is to expand the already flourishing parish program. He hopes to make Thursday Music day at St. Mary's.

The Adult Choir will sing at the 10:30am Mass and will rehearse from 7:30-9:00pm on Thursday.

The Children's Choir will sing at the 9am Mass as soon as they are ready. It is open to students from the 3rd grade to the 8th grade and will rehearse on Thursday from 5:15-6:00pm.

To quote Terry: "It is my hope to further the music program at St. Mary's. A parish of this size and vibrancy has the talent to support sizable music groups. It will benefit from the variety offered by how the individual members choose to express and enhance their worship."





Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Nov. 16 Winter Coat Collection begins
- Nov. 17 Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Food Collection
- Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Food Collection
- Nov. 24 Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 26 Mass at nursing home
- Nov. 28 Thanksgiving
Mass at 8am
- Nov. 30 Pageant Rehearsal, 9am
- Nov. 30 3rd Grand Annual Collection
- Dec. 1 Baptisms, 1:30
- Dec. 7 Pageant rehearsal, 9am
- Dec. 8 Baptisms, 1:30
- Dec. 8 **Caring Gifts due**
- Dec. 11 Mass at Forge Hill
- Dec. 14 Pageant rehearsal, 9am
- Dec. 15 Baptisms, 1:30
- Dec. 17 Mass at nursing home
- Dec. 22 Baptisms, 1:30
- Dec. 22 Prolatio Concert, 7pm
- Dec. 24 **No morning Mass**
- Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve**
Masses: 4pm (3), 6pm, 7:30pm, Midnight
- Dec. 25 **Christmas Day**
Masses: 9am, 10:30am
- Dec. 29 Baptisms, 1:30
- Dec. 31 **Mary, Mother of God-Vigil**
Mass: 4pm
- Jan. 1 **Mary, Mother of God**
Masses: 9am, 10:30am
- Jan. 5 Baptisms, 1:30
- Jan. 8 Mass at Forge Hill
- Jan. 12 Baptisms, 1:30
- Jan. 19 Baptisms, 1:30
- Jan. 26 Baptisms, 1:30
- Jan. 28 Mass at nursing home
- Feb. 2 Baptisms, 1:30
- Feb. 4 First Penance
- Feb. 9 Baptisms, 1:30
- Feb. 12 Mass at Forge Hill
- Feb. 23 Baptisms, 1:30
- Feb. 25 Mass at nursing home
- Mar. 2 Baptisms, 1:30
- Mar. 5 **Ash Wednesday**

* NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR *
* * * * *

Advent and Christmas Information

Advent and Christmas Liturgical Celebrations

Prolatio Concert
December 22
7pm

Christmas Eve
Masses:
4pm (3 Masses); upper church, lower church, Horace Mann Auditorium with the Children's Pageant
6pm, 7:30pm

****Midnight Mass****

Christmas Day
Masses: 9am and 10:30am

New Year's Eve
4:00pm

New Year's Day
Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God
9:00am, 10:30am

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

The Present of Your Presence

When I was young and anxiously waiting some future event my mother would quote a popular ditty to me:

the future's a mystery
the past is history
We have only today
That's why it's called
the present.

Christmas gifts are filling the shelves of stores before Halloween. Christmas music will fill the air in stores before Thanksgiving. TV and radio messages remind us of how many shopping days are left.

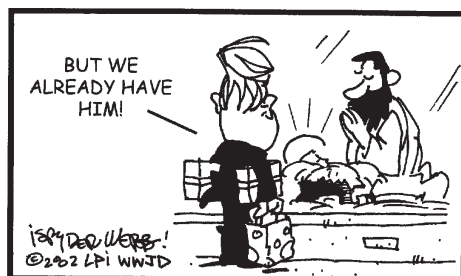
Is this truly the meaning of Christmas? As a child I remember my mother stressing that we were all God's children. During Advent we each had a calendar made to look like a stable and we wrote in one nice thing we did each day for one of God's children. It was always something simple - minding someone's baby, going to the neighborhood store for bread for the older Jewish couple across the street, reading to the blind people in the nearby nursing home, and helping the Sodality ladies distribute gifts at the Veteran's Hospital.

Until the school closed last June, the students of St Mary's Religious Education brought gifts to a less fortunate school in Boston. Although I'm sure the gifts were appreciated, the personal touch of going to the school and interacting with the students was the greatest "Present" of all. There are many ministries at St Mary's who visit the sick and, like St Vincent de Paul, serve the physical needs of the poor.

There are many people under the radar. And if we look about we see them. The greatest gift we can give Jesus this Christmas is the one that He practiced in the Gospels - to be present to the physically, psychologically and emotionally needy. The gift of your unhurried, attentive and peaceful presence is truly the greatest present you can bestow on your brothers and sisters in Christ.



CHRISTMAS





Spiritual Motherhood

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

As we enter into the Advent season, I have found myself reflecting on Mary saying “yes” to becoming a mother. Without a script for the future, she must have clung to the angel’s words “Do not be afraid” as her openness created an inner space that would bear nourishing fruit.

Her answer to Angel Gabriel had enormous implications, demonstrating openness to God’s plan for us... “be it done to me according to your will.” (Luke 1:38)

Many women are called to physical motherhood; those who give birth and raise their own biological children or raise children as adoptive mothers, step-mothers or foster mothers. However, we are all called to be spiritual mothers, those who nurture the spiritual, emotional and moral life of others through their own maternal gift.

In his 1988 apostolic letter *Mulieris Dignitatem* (“*On the Dignity and Vocation of Women*”), Pope John Paul II describes

the universal vocation of woman, not just women who bear children, but all women by reason of their call to care for humanity. Maternal care, in a spiritual way, is not limited to child care but should be active and alive in all phases of a woman’s life.

By saying “yes” to God, a spiritual mother recognizes, affirms and protects human dignity; she offers encouraging words, provides charitable service, practices the art of friendship and hospitality and performs spiritual and corporal works of mercy. A spiritual mother prays for others and keeps Jesus close to her heart by imitating Mary.

Mary’s answer led to a lifetime of “yes” which included an uncomfortable journey, discrimination, insecurity and pain... a long path that led to the saving “yes” of Easter.

We are somewhat reluctant to say yes to the new and change our lives, yet Mary knew of God’s fidelity and trusted Him with her life and new path. Her “yes” demonstrates openness to a life of surprise which is crucial in following Je-

sus.

Spiritual mothers are in our midst... mothers are those who gave birth, those who are religious sisters and those who are single laywomen. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, founder of the Missionaries of Charity is a powerful example as she displayed spiritual mothering in her action, words and prayers mothering millions of people in need.

God calls us woman to enrich others’ lives by bringing love, hope, faith and encouragement to our homes, our church, our community and our world.

God’s plan to entrust humanity to womanly care encourages us to reflect the love and life of the gospel answering “yes” to His call... “*for nothing is impossible with God*” (Luke 1:37)



A Christmas Blessing for the Home

Loving God, as we gather at Christmas around the manger, which reminds us of the birth of your Son, we ask you to dwell in our hearts and our home.

Bless every member of our family, and strengthen the bond of love among us.

May we joyfully praise you like the angel choir that announced the birth of your Son to the shepherds watching over their flocks.

May we show your love to others with the same brightness of the star that guided the Wise Men to offer gifts to the newborn King.

Make our family holy, just like Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, so that we may always live in peace and love. Amen.

PARISH COMMUNICATION

This parish is very large and active. It is important for us to be able to give you accurate information and for you to be able to contact us as needed. If you wish to contact anyone at the rectory we can be reached by phone, 508-528-0020; Fax, 508-528-1641; or email. Here are email addresses for the clergy, Religious Education and rectory staff:

Father Brian Manning: bmanning@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Jack Sullivan: jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Anthony Le: ale@stmarysfranklin.org

Karen Ackles: reled.grades1-6@stmarysfranklin.org

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Paulette Thomas: pthomas@stmarysfranklin.org

Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

Terry Kerr, Music Director: terry.kerr@att.net 508-541-3286

If your parish group or organization would like to place a notice in the bulletin, we must receive it **in writing** by 5pm Sunday afternoon for the following weekend. Information can also be submitted for inclusion on the parish website at any time. Bulletin or website information can be emailed to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

If your organization is planning to use any parish facilities, such as the church, church hall, lower church meeting rooms or the school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is **necessary** that you call and reserve the time and place that you want. This is the **only** way that you can be assured of having your activity at the desired location.

CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarysfranklin.org. There is a wealth of information available there.

Our Neighbors-in-Need

by Father Jack Sullivan

As children grow in their experience of praying to God, they begin to wonder: how does God, who always listens to our prayers, keep track of all the prayer-requests throughout the world each day? Adults frequently pose a more urgent question: how does our loving God answer people's prayers for food and other everyday necessities?

If we look at our local experience here in Franklin, we discover one way to reply to these profound questions.

God relies upon our talents in organizing the relief efforts of the Franklin Food Pantry and the Friends of Frank-



lin. Our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society depends upon your continued generosity so that each week they may distribute bags of groceries and cash-grants for everyday necessities.

Friends, by your continued generosity, you are answering people's prayer-requests. You are responding to the cries-for-help of our neighbors-in-need. You are keeping the command of the Lord Jesus - "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

Each time we tell again the story of Jesus and his tender care for other people during his earthly life, we

grow in devotion and fall more deeply in love with Jesus. Each time we draw near to the altar-table, our Risen Lord Jesus Christ gives us himself as food, the Holy Eucharist, and strengthens us to continue to work as the hands of Jesus in caring for our neighbors-in-need.



...How Silently The Wondrous Gift Is Given

(Continued from page 2)

Christmas lullaby 'Away In A Manger' reminds us that there was "no crib for a bed." Jesus, the perfect gift, came in a most imperfect way to save the imperfect.

Jesus comes for ALL of us; and for the imperfection in EACH of us. Jesus comes to save those with addictions, those with physical ailments, those who are homeless, those who are hungry, those who are in prison and for those who suffer. Jesus comes to save those who hate, those who sin, those who cheat, those who are angry, and those who steal. Jesus, the perfect gift of love, comes for those who are unloved and forgotten. Jesus comes for the unemployed and downtrodden. Jesus comes for each of us who are battered and bruised by life. Whatever our imperfection is; Jesus comes to save.

God's great gift of love in Jesus is in each of us when we take action. When we visit the housebound we are Christ in action. When we help feed the poor and clothe the naked, we are the hands of Christ. Each time we take time for others we are the heart of Christ. These need not be grand gestures requiring lots of money but rather simple actions. Donations in any amount

to food banks are always welcome. Donating unwanted and extra clothes is always appreciated. Visiting those in nursing homes throughout the year is always welcome (especially at Christmas). Giving up a parking spot to another when out at malls is priceless. Simple gifts, simple acts which are Christ in action; these are what make Christmas and every season special.

The third verse of 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' is one of my very favorites. It sums up this great gift of love:

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

Advent is the season of preparation. This preparation calls us to create souls which are meek so we can receive the Blessed gift of God's great love; Jesus. In your Advent this year, as the anticipation of joy turns to aggravation and despair, remember "Jesus was born in a manger."

And stop, find the silence of the season and think "...how silently the wondrous gift is given."

Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS



Helping Those in Need Is Caring for the Body of Christ

by Claudia Moccia

Poverty is a growing problem around the world. Across the United States, approximately 47.5 million people live in poverty. Nearly a third of all working families aren't able to meet their basic needs because their minimum wage jobs don't supply enough support. Poverty also affects people throughout Massachusetts. These families face many hardships, including not having enough money to provide food for dinner each night, or buy necessities like clothing, electricity, and other utilities. They also aren't able to enjoy luxuries we take for granted, such as having a television and a bed.

Thankfully, people of all ages in our parish can help these people in need. There are many organizations around

Massachusetts, including some in Franklin, who provide service and assistance to those in need. Local organizations include the Franklin Food Pantry, Friends of Franklin, and St.

Vincent de Paul. We can help by donating food, clothes, or even furniture to these organizations depending on what they need.



*With Christ as our example,
we serve His people*

Donating your time by volunteering at an organization can be even more effective. Over the past year, I have committed 30 volunteer hours to My Brother's Keeper, a non-profit organization in Easton that

delivers furniture and food to local people living in poverty. Their mission is "To bring the Love and Hope of Jesus Christ to those we serve." They not only provide basic necessity items such as food, refrigerators, and beds to people in need, but also present a crucifix and prayer to the people they

serve. By helping to deliver hope and spread the love of God, I have witnessed how touched the recipients are to know that "we are just the delivery people" of God's love. Although donating items or time greatly helps those in need, prayer is something everyone can offer, no matter one's age or situation, that unites us all in caring for the Body of Christ.



...Families Corner

(Continued from page 2)

mility, forgiveness. As the writer Matthew Kelly said, "If we wish to raise up a new generation of saints... we must strive to grow in holiness, to become more perfectly the person God created us to be." His shorthand for that courageous quest is to become "the best version of ourselves." Kelly suggests that to model holiness for our children, we should share stories of Catholic heroes, reading biographies of Padre Pio, Mother Theresa, Pope John Paul II, or watching *A Man for All Seasons* so that the children can be inspired by real people who allowed Christ to transform them into the best version of themselves. These family activities are perfect for Advent focus. In Advent, we can pray for inspiration, for ourselves and for the next generation, that we may not only be shining lights, but also that we may ignite in the hearts of others the yearning to be the people God desires us to be.

*God, who gives us the grace
to wait in hope for the revelation of
our Lord Jesus Christ,
Sanctify us in mind and body,
Make us walk this day in holiness,
and live upright and devout lives
in this world.*

(Creighton University's Online Ministries)
[http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/
CollaborativeMinistry/online.html](http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html)

...Follow the Baby

(Continued from page 1)

Jewish shepherds) In both accounts, after they offer homage and praise, the shepherds return to their fields and the Magi return to their own country. This event did not seem to change their lives! These hearers in the infancy narrative are like those in the parable of the seed – "They hear the word, receive it with joy, but they have no roots." (Luke 8)

There is an exception to the hearers – Mary, who kept all of these things in her heart. As in the parable she heard the word and held it fast. Mary is the only adult in the infancy narrative who will follow the baby into His public life. Jesus said of her "Who are my mother and brothers? Those who hear the word and keep it." And so she did. In the Acts she is part of

the believing community, supporting the apostles as they wait for Pentecost.

I still enjoy putting up the manger scene in a place of prominence in my home and feeling the warmth and security that goes with sitting near it and listening to the Christmas Carols. But when it comes to incorporating the nativity into my spiritual life I still remember the words of the Irish priest, Father Doyle. "Follow the Baby."

Don't Forget

**Caring Tree presents
are due back**

**by
December
8th.**



Welcome our Visiting Seminarian - Jorge Rocha

by Joan McGuire

For the past three years St. Mary's has welcomed seminarians from Blessed John XXXIII Seminary. This program, that extends from September to May, allows seminarians to experience the various ministries of the Church. The men may choose to spend time in prison, hospital, nursing home or parish ministry. Under Nan Rafter's guidance those who choose the parish ministry here at St Mary have the opportunity to visit Milford Hospital, the area nursing homes as well as visiting our parishioners at their homes. They also have the opportunity to visit with members of the "caring ministries" to see how we try to support the needs of our parish family.



Jorge Rocha

This year St. Mary welcomes Jorge Rocha. He was born in the Republic of Cape Verde, a Portuguese speaking island country spanning an archipelago of ten islands located in the central Atlantic Ocean off the coast of West

Africa. He came to the United States when he was ten years old. Two of his sisters Carla and Eunice live in Portugal. Eunice is a member of a religious community. His third sister Gloria lives in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Jorge is in his second year of theology and when he is ordained in 2016 he will serve in the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island. In his time here at St Mary's he is anxious not only to experience all facets of the church's ministry but develop the pastoral sensitivity needed to support those who seek out his ministrations. Those parishioners who have met him feel he is well on the way to accomplishing his goals.

The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

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