



The Weave

February 2010

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

Separated But Not Separate

by Sarah Drake

The Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW) is one of the newest ministries at St. Mary's, having launched its initial run on September 13. Coordinated by a committee of five volunteers, the CLW began as a way to address the needs of two very different groups attending Mass at the same time - young children and all others.

Since Mass is a time for our parish family to come together to celebrate the Eucharist, it didn't make sense to have two separate Masses. So the Worship Committee was charged with establishing a Children's Liturgy of the Word that would allow the children attending 9:00 Mass to experience the liturgy of the word at their level while the adults and other parishioners could enjoy the homily designed for them. The CLW committee of Sarah Drake, Marty Deitrich, Deidre Doherty, Tara Rohatgi and Karen Tardif was formed. The group researched Catholic resources for preparing homilies and worked through the logistics of moving 50+ children to the lower church and back in a safe and orderly fashion.

After just a few months, the group came back together with an outline for the current format. After the opening prayer, the priest calls the minister of the word for children to the front of the church where he does a blessing and invites all

children, and their parents if they like, to process downstairs. This "presenter" leads the children down the stairs and guides them to seats in the front of the church. Once seated, the reader reads the first reading, responsorial and Gospel from the children's lectionary, prompting the children with the appropriate responses. After the Gospel, the presenter delivers a mini-homily, prepared using the Catholic resources provided ahead of time. This part of the liturgy is very interactive - children answer questions, offer insights and ask questions of their own. When the homily is finished in the main church, the children return to the upper church to rejoin their families for the remainder of the Mass.

The beauty of this format is that the children can get up and move around and really become engaged in the first part of the Mass. The Liturgy of the Eucharist becomes more meaningful to them because they have already become connected to the Mass. And for those who are distracted by fidgety and restless children (their own parents included!), they are able to enjoy the Liturgy of the Word in a peaceful manner.

While the content is designed for
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Pennies from Heaven

By Joan McGuire

Recently there was an old movie on TV that had a song with that title in it. God made us to know and love Him but if He presented himself to us in all His power and glory we would be completely overwhelmed. So he leaves little pennies from heaven around to reveal himself to us gradually. They may be persons, places, events or occurrences that jolt us out of our spiritual comfort level.

Twice a year the Church sets aside time for us to prepare ourselves to recognize and embrace these encounters. Advent prepares us to receive Christ as a human baby. This is a less fearsome encounter - everyone loves a baby. In our Lenten preparation we are asked to acknowledge and embrace a suffering Savior who asks us to "Come follow me" This can a daunting experience.

The Scottish veterinarian author Herriot (All Creatures Great and Small) tells of his class learning about horses. He spent days learning about their anatomy and physiology. After class he went out and saw a horse tethered nearby. Feeling very confident in his knowledge he went over and petted the horse who promptly butted him across the road. He learned a valuable lesson: to really know someone or some animal you have to be personally involved with them.

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Our Blessing Cup is Overflowing!

By John Ristaino

2010 is now in full swing. As I looked back upon 2009, we saw so many wonderful accomplishments for our St. Mary Parish Family. 2009 brought with it many changes. For people, change is scary. And yet, when I look at St. Mary Parish, I see our Blessing Cup overflowing with wonderful gifts, people and faith.

It is easy to criticize. It is easy to pick out problems. It is easy to complain. I know because I am guilty of all three! I committed to myself to make 2010 a year of positive view points. My resolution in 2010 and forward is to see the good, and great in what we have and to celebrate that. This is what I see at St. Mary Parish in Franklin:

We are a growing faith community. I don't have an exact count of people in the pews. I know that I do see many more people in those pews each week though. I know our parish family is gaining in numbers. I see parishioners lingering longer after Masses and smiling more. We are a growing faith community that appears to be enjoying each others company and the presence of God in our lives.

We are a youth-filled faith community. If you have not yet attended a 5:00 Mass on a Sunday afternoon do so in the near future. What you will see is young people; lots of them! You will see families; lots of them! You will see parishioners of all ages; lots of

them! They gather to celebrate with contemporary music and a little bit more noise than found at other Masses. Is that noise a problem? I find it terrific! Think about it; young people in Church, getting ready to celebrate Mass. Wow! It's great that they are there. I think it's better to have young people in church and have the church noisy than to have the young people at home and the church quiet.

We are a musical faith community. I have noticed an increase in the number of people singing at Mass, especially during Communion. Instrumental music playing prior to Mass has prompted many people to remark positively about it. The diversity of people singing at the 5:00 Mass is inspiring. Each week there are different voices, and groupings of parishioners sharing their talents in song. This, added to our traditional music program has people in the pews singing their praise.

We are a parish led by a wonderful team. Father Brian and Father Frank are wonderful leaders of our faith community. Over the past year, their leadership and spiritual support of our parish family has taken root. They lead and manage a team of wonderful professionals who support them and us.

We are a generous community. The Giving Tree at Christmas, the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Arise Program's Call To Action, and the Rock's outreach efforts are just a few examples of St. Mary parishioners making a difference in our community and world. We are a community always poised and ready to help. We don't hesitate, we love.

We are an active and vibrant faith community. St. Mary Parish is truly blest with a myriad of truly wonderful, caring and loyal parishioners. The annual Feast of St. Rocco, the CYO Youth Basketball Teams, our very large Religious Education Program, the very active RCIA and Arise Programs, the very busy, comforting and supportive Bereavement Committee, as well as the Pro-Life Committee and parish prayer groups are all ex-

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Families' Corner

By Katherine Ginetty

Youth Ministry at St. Mary's Church is most public in the Youth Mass, now offered weekly on Sundays at 5 PM. The choir and the ministers involved in the liturgy represent a good number of young parishioners at work during the sacrament of the Mass. Outside Mass time, there are more young people engaged in the important activities of the parish, and their work is coordinated by a number of adult volunteers. As we enter the penitential season of Lent, it is a good time to reflect on all that God has given us, and to pray about offering our time and talents in service to His Church. Whether we are young people or adults, there are always opportunities to serve.

In this column, parishioner David Wiech, the St. Mary's Service Coordinator for youth, explains the background of "Service from the Rock" and provides direction for those who will answer the call to serve.

Service from the Rock is the new name of what was formerly called the Youth Service Corps. The name was changed in 2009 as part of an overall effort to expand and coordinate all the youth activities at St. Mary's. Service from the Rock is now a part of the overall St. Mary's Youth Ministry called The Rock, which is comprised of Service, Spiritual, and Social activities. With the addition of a weekly Youth Mass, we hope to continue the growth of opportunities for and involvement of our parish youth.

Although we have changed our name, our purpose and mission remains the same. We continue to provide several service related opportunities for middle and high school age children of our parish. As we transitioned to our new name, I volunteered to take on the coordinator role. I saw this opportunity as an extension of my professional life – helping people, organizing, and directing. The coordinator role is actually the

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Reflections from Father Brian

By Fr. Brian Manning

Time moves along so very, very quickly. I have been Pastor of Saint Mary's for almost eight months. I feel very welcome and at home here. I have been delighted by the sense of faith and community that is part of Saint Mary's. There certainly is a lot of energy and vitality in our Parish. The Parish Pastoral and Financial Councils have helped me a great amount. Wisdom and good advice is always needed, and sometimes hard to find. I thank both these Councils for possessing these two gifts. I thank the various working Committees and Groups of the Parish for their time and dedication.

Being a senior and experienced pastor and administrator, I have cooperated and participated as much as possible with the pre-existing life of Saint Mary's. Since last May, changes that have been made have been few and of necessity. Many of them were in process before I arrived. Indeed, the change of the Sunday Mass schedule was the most requested by so many, many Parishioners. The 5 PM Sunday Mass has been greatly appreciated. The new Young People's Liturgy of the Word at the 9 AM Sunday Mass has added a positive and special element for families in our Parish. The policy change to allow 10 AM funerals was a correct and wonderful policy change. With so many funerals, well over 110 a year, this change has had a major positive impact on Parishioners and their loved ones. We are blessed that these changes and a few other smaller ones have worked out. The advice of the Financial Council in downsizing some staffing at the Rectory resulted in a great savings for the Parish. We are only two priests and the amount of staff to answer the phone, cook and even the hours of cleaning became too many. Our budget is balanced (barely) without a loss of major direct service positions to you.

I know it is difficult for Parishioners to recognize on a practical level that Saint Mary's Parish is a two, and only, two

priest Parish. There are no longer three or four priests at St. Mary's. The implications for the celebration of the Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Office Calls, our presence at Parish groups etc are very serious. All of us will need time for "a two priest parish" to be understood and worked out. Patience and kindness will help the most.

Certainly in the next six months there will be more changes coming in the Parish. I hope that you will recognize that the major and minor changes that have been made, have been overall effective and good. I have sought the wisdom and advice of Parishioners who understand the need to look at the "good of all" and also to look at the data and facts, instead of just a personal "theology" or preference. Change happens no matter what. If we work to have "our changes" contribute to the well being of our Mission to "grow in Jesus Christ," then all will be well.

Fr. B.



...Blessing Cup

(Continued from page 2)

amples of St. Mary Parish being alive and well and thriving! None of these would be possible if not for wonderful, prayerful and dedicated volunteers; hundreds of them!

Can we get better? You bet! Is there room for improvement? Always! Is our cup half full or half empty? From my point of view, our cup, our Blessing Cup is overflowing and there is always room for more!

View From the Pew

By Joan McGuire

A Radiator's Warmth

A fond memory of my childhood is watching my mother come into my room on cold mornings, pulling a chair close to the radiator and putting my shoes and clothing on it to warm them before I put them on after my morning bath. Even today, when I come in on cold days I warm my hand over the radiator. Problems do not seem as insurmountable, chores don't seem as tedious, and I'm less grumpy when I am warm. The radiator is only a piece of metal. It doesn't even make the heat, it only reflects it but it certainly affects my attitude.

Lent is the time when we try to connect more deeply with God. Unfortunately, we all live such busy lives that sometimes the good "Ash Wednesday" intentions fall along the wayside. This Lent how about being God's radiator? Each morning ask God to use us as His conduit. As His instrument we will reflect His light, life, love and peace to everyone we meet each day. It is not as if we are doing something extra. We are living through the same minutes and meeting the same people each day. God is doing all the work. We must try to truly present to the people we meet and allow the joy and peace that is a proof of God's love to flow out to them. This is called "the sacrament of the present moment." Just as the warmth of the radiator subtly lifts the spirits so will your presence effect everyone you meet.

As a small child I met an old woman who had been in Auschwitz. She didn't talk about her three years of unspeakable cruelty but she did tell me about the day that the camp was liberated. A young soldier came to her and asked to see her living quarters. As they arrived at the barracks he reached out and opened the door for her. That simple act of kindness restored her faith in humanity and gave her the will to live.

You too can make a difference!



Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Feb. 17 Ash Wednesday**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 7:30pm
Prayer Services: 12:10pm, 4pm
- Feb. 18** CWC Meeting
- Feb. 20** Prayer and Play 10am
- Feb. 21** Baptisms
- Feb. 22 Penance Services:**
4pm, 7pm
- Feb. 23** Mass at Central Park Terrace
- Feb. 24** Confession 6:30-8pm
- Feb. 28** Baptisms
- Mar. 3** Confession 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 7** Confession 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 12** Mass at Forge Hill
- Mar. 13** Respect Life Baby Shower
- Mar. 14** Respect Life Baby Shower
- Mar. 14** CWC Communion Breakfast
9am Mass
- Mar. 14** Baptisms
- Mar. 17** Marriage Prep
- Mar. 20** Prayer and Play 10am
- Mar. 20** RCIA Potluck Supper
- Mar. 21** Marriage Prep
- Mar. 23** Mass at nursing home
- Mar. 24** Confessions 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 28** Marriage Prep
- Mar. 31** Confession 6:30-8
- Apr. 1 Holy Thursday**
Mass at 7:30pm
- Apr. 2 Good Friday**
Services at 3pm & 7:30pm
- Apr. 3 Holy Saturday**
Easter Vigil 7:30pm
- Apr. 4 Easter Sunday**
Masses: 7:30, 9; 10:30, 12
- Apr. 9** Mass at Forge Hill
- Apr. 10** Baptismal Catechesis 11am
- Apr. 11** Baptisms
- Apr. 15** CWC Meeting
- Apr. 17** Prayer and Play 10am
- Apr. 18** Baptisms
- Apr. 24 First Communion**
10am, 12pm, 2pm
- Apr. 28** RCIA Closing Mass and
Reception, 7pm
- May 1 First Communion**
10am, 12pm
- May 7** Mass at Central Park Terrace
- May 9** Baptisms
- May 9** Baptismal Catechesis
- May 11** Healthy Eating Series, 7pm
- May 12** CWC Banquet
- May 12 Vigil Mass at 4pm**
- May 13 Ascension Thursday**
Mass: 7am, 9am, 7:30pm
- May 14** Mass at Forge Hill
- May 15** Prayer and Play 1pm
- May 16** Baptisms
- May 18** Healthy Eating Series, 7pm
- May 23** Pentecost

Book Review



Dayspring
Harry Sylvester
Ignatius Press

Ignatius Press recently republished the novel, *Dayspring*. Originally published by D. Appleton-Century in 1945, the novel was not received well by critics at the time. The *New York Times* literary critic of that day dismissed it by reporting it as “only a religious tract spiced with plenty of sex.” This remark seems quaint today, but the book’s vision seems more relevant today than it did in the mid twentieth century.

Author Harry Sylvester was a prolific journalist and short-story writer. He often wrote of sports and was compared to Ring Lardner and Ernest Hemingway. Sylvester was one of the most frequent and best paid contributors to *Collier’s* and *Scribner’s* magazines. He also contributed to *America and Commonweal* and was considered prominent in American Catholic thought alongside Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton in the 1940’s.

He produced three novels, *Dearly Beloved* and *Moon Gaffney* being the others. When Sylvester died in 1993, he was largely forgotten. It has been said:

Forgotten writers often deserve their oblivion: Either they were not all that good in the first place, or their work

- May 24** Grade 10 retreat
- May 25** Mass at Nursing Home
- May 25** Healthy Eating Series, 7pm
- May 30** Baccalaureate Mass


made sense only in the context of a particular era. Neither applies to Harry Sylvester or his three Catholic novels, *Dearly Beloved* (1942), *Dayspring* (1945), and *Moon Gaffney* (1947). To read them today is to recognize their relevance for modern audiences. In the mid-1940’s, a generation ahead of their time, Sylvester’s novels were already exploring such themes as Catholic social activism, church involvement in civil rights, Christian mysticism, and Hispanic religious practice.

Dayspring is the story of Spencer Bain, an anthropologist doing field work in a small town in New Mexico. Sylvester masterfully describes the area and its Spaniards and Indians. Bain’s struggles with living for long periods separated from his wife and his coming to a realization of a need for redemption are movingly described. Bain joins a community of Penitentes, a brotherhood of local men who engage in severe penances, including flagellation and a dramatic Good Friday procession. I was not always sure of Bain’s sincerity in his religious activity and wondered to the very end how this novel would end. For me the ending has a St. Paul quality to it. *Dayspring* primarily is a novel of conversion, of “how the rising sun of faith begins to ‘enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death’.” Hence, the book’s title. One wonders: If *Dayspring* becomes popular, will Sylvester’s other two novels be republished, as their themes are relevant today.

As usual, a copy of this novel is available at the Olive Branch. *Dayspring* does not seem to have come to the attention of public libraries. A copy can be purchased at www.ignatius.com, www.bn.com, and www.amazon.com. Nearby bookstores will also assist in securing a copy. Reading this novel would be an excellent Lenten activity.

Clara Lodi

The new **St. Rocco Cookbook** is available at both the Rectory and Religious Education Office during regular business hours.



The cost of the cookbook is \$20.

It makes a great gift!



Caring for Your Heart

By Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

As we begin our Lenten journey this February, why not take time and prepare your heart. February is also "American Heart Month" so this is also a gentle reminder to take good care of your precious heart. Scripture reminds us, "A heart at peace gives life to the body." (Prov.14:30)

Did you know the leading cause of death among men and woman is heart disease? Between 32% and 38% of women will die from coronary artery disease and it is predicted that 38% of woman and 25% of men will die one year after their first heart attack. Our heart needs to be cared for physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Physically:

Here are five simple ways to love your heart:

Celebrate life with an annual check-up

Quit smoking in four steps

Get off the couch and get moving. Exercise 3-5 times a week for at least twenty minutes. (Check with MD prior to starting any exercise program.)

Cut calories. (Cutting out just 200 or 300 calories a day can help you lose 1-2

pounds a week) Eat a balanced diet reduced in fat, cholesterol and salt
Begin to reduce your stress by eliminating one stressor in your life.

Emotionally:

St Peter encourages us to love one another deeply from the heart." (I Peter 1:22)
Unconditional love comes with a lesson in acceptance and is a work in progress. Practice the gift of forgiveness and you may be the first person you need to forgive. The sacrament of Reconciliation can help you to begin the process of forgiveness and healing your heart.

Spiritually:

We can pray the words of the psalmist, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do

not cast me from your presence, restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant to me a willing spirit to sustain me. (Ps. 51:10-12) We share the good news that it is God who creates wholeness in our hearts. At the same time, we must understand the need to nourish our spirits; we can care for our spiritual health by setting aside a regular schedule to pray, worship, meditate, and celebrate Eucharist.

May your Lenten experience bring you a heart of healing and peace.



...Pennies

(Continued from page 1)

To grow in our knowledge of God we must know His Son and know ourselves.

The medical device –the CAT scan might help.

C- Characters: Who are the characters (people) most important in our lives. How do we act with them? How do they affect my life?

Who were the Characters in Jesus' life? How did He treat them? How did they treat Him? How did He react?

A- Actions: What are the activities in my life? How do I handle them? How do the activities in my life affect my relations with God?

What were the activities in Jesus' public life? How did He show His relations with His Father?

T - Themes: what are the basic themes (ways of acting) in my life?

What were the basic themes in Jesus' life - compassion, and forgiveness? "I do always the things that please my Father."

As we make an effort each Lent to match ourselves to our model Jesus Christ we will be more attuned to see the pennies from heaven that are left as graces for us - a sign of His Love.

Healthy Eating Series

Coming in May



May 11, 18, 25
7pm in the lower church

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 and rectory staff:

Father Brian Manning: bmannings@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Frank Campo: fcampo@stmarysfranklin.org

Paula Coughlin: parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

Claire Perry: cperry@stmarysfranklin.org

Paulette Thomas: pthomas@stmarysfranklin.org

Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

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, rectory or school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is very important 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.

Lenten Recipes from the St. Rocco Cookbook

Baked Scallops

1 lb. scallops, washed and drained
 1/2 c. light cream
 1/2 c. butter
 1c. Ritz crackers or cornflake crumbs or
 1/2 of each

Pour half of the crumbs in bottom of casserole. Top with scallops and cover with remaining crumbs. Pour cream and butter on top and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Anna Duffy

Seafood Continental

Blend 2 cans cream of celery soup with 1/2 cup water and 2 tablespoons white wine (more if you like). Add 4 cups of either lobster or crabmeat or combine both. Add 1 cup mild cheese and 2 tablespoons of parsley. Pour into a casserole dish and bake for 15-20 minutes. Put some bread crumbs on top if desired.

Marilyn Cluff

Baked Fish Italian Style

Fish, flounder or haddock
 4 tbsp. tomato, canned
 3 fresh peppers 2 tbsp. olive oil
 2 stalks celery 1 tsp. salt
 1 onion pepper, if desired

Arrange fish on baking dish, and add peppers which are cut on length strips, cubed celery and sliced onions and other ingredients. Bake for 1/2 hour in 350 degree oven.

Sue Arcaro

Prayer of St Bonaventure

Christ on the cross bows His head,
 Waiting for you,
 That He may kiss you,
 His arms are outstretched,
 That He may embrace you,
 His hands are open,
 that He may enrich you
 His body spread out,
 That he may give himself totally
 His feet are nailed,
 That He may stay there
 His side is open for you
 That you may enter there.

Fettuccini Princess

2-3 cloves garlic, crushed fine
 2 sticks margarine
 2 chopped onions
 1/2 chopped green pepper
 1 lb. shrimp 1/4 c. olive oil
 1 c. white wine parsley
 4-6 sliced mushrooms
 1/2 lb. fresh asparagus
 Salt and pepper to taste

Saute ingredients in margarine and olive oil; add shrimp and wine last. Saute about 10 minutes. Pour over 1 lb. fettuccini which has been cooked according to directions on package, al dente. Add grated cheese.

Lucy Negrone

...Separate

(Continued from page 1)

children approximately 5-10 years old, all parishioners are welcome to join. Older children and even adults are likely to learn something as well. Younger children are accompanied by an adult or responsible older sibling, as determined by their parents.

Speaking to the kids at their level really helps them to feel a part of the Mass and brings the message to life. They truly feel a part of the liturgy and we, as volunteers, truly feel the Holy Spirit working through us.

In order for this ministry to continue successfully, for both the children who go downstairs and those who remain upstairs, volunteer presenters are needed. We try to schedule readers and presenters once every two months, so the commitment is minimal. Copies of the readings and three different resources are provided to the presenter ahead of time to prepare the 5-8 minute homily for the children. No experience is necessary. The audience is very open and forgiving. And the rewards are endless! Please contact Sarah Drake at sdrake508@earthlink.net if you can volunteer as a presenter.

Unbelievable Macaroni and Cheese

Cook 7-8 ounces of macaroni. Mix cooked macaroni with:

2 c. Velveeta cheese, cubed
 2 beaten eggs 2 c. hot milk
 2 tsp. salt 1/4 c. butter
 1/4 tsp. pepper
 2 tbs. each of: parsley, minced onion,
 chopped pimento
 2 c. soft bread crumbs

Set dish in a pan of water and bake 30-45 minutes at 350 degrees.

Ann Rutter

Vegetable Pie

2 c. broccoli 1 1/2 c. milk
 1/2 c. onion 3/4 c. Bisquick
 1/2 c. green pepper
 1 c. cheddar cheese
 3 eggs salt and pepper

Grease a 10 inch pie plate. Mix broccoli, onion, pepper and cheese together and put into pie plate. Beat milk, Bisquick, eggs, salt and pepper until smooth. Pour into pie plate over broccoli mixture. Bake at 400 degrees for 35-40 minutes until golden brown and knife comes out clean when inserted. Let stand for 5 minutes before cutting.

Florence Bussaglia

Tuna Chow Mein Casserole

1 tsp. butter or margarine
 2 tbsp. chopped green pepper
 1 can cream of mushroom soup
 1/2 can (5 1/2 oz.) chow mein noodles
 1 c. cut up celery 1/4 c. milk
 1/4 c. chopped onion 1/4 c. water
 1/8 tsp. pepper
 3/4 c. salted cashews
 1 can (6.5 oz.) tuna, with liquid.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Melt butter in large skillet. Add celery, onion and green pepper; cook and stir until onion is tender, reserving 1/4 cup chow mein noodles. Stir in remaining ingredients. Pour mixture into ungreased 1 1/2 qt. casserole. Sprinkle reserved chow mein noodles over top. Bake uncovered for 30 minutes. 4-6 servings.

Guilia Signoriello



By Father Frank Campo

During this year of the priest, Pope Benedict encouraged priests worldwide to be especially generous, at all times, in making the Sacraments available to the faithful. He encouraged, as well, the faithful to take advantage of the Sacraments: those outward signs which bring us inner grace, as given to us by Jesus Christ. The Sacraments are there for our good use, all seven of them, according to our respective states in life. It is ungracious, to say the least, not to take advantage of them.

The importance of the three primary sacraments, (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), was highlighted at the RCIA preliminary celebration at Mass last Sunday. A divine intimacy encompasses the other four: Reconciliation; Holy Orders; Marriage; and to the Anointing of the Sick, formerly known as *Last Rites*, or *Extreme Unction*, terms that can cause, at

times, a certain holy shudder due to the finality formerly associated with them.

It is this Sacrament, the “last” of the seven, which has been misunderstood. Actually, the “last” Sacrament is for the living and not necessarily at the “last moment.”

The misunderstanding arose since the sacrament of penance could only be received once in days long past. From the beginning of the ninth century until the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), the sacrament was thus primarily associated with death. Some delayed the sacrament until they were on their death beds, thus being sure of being reconciled with the Church. The reception of the Eucharist, as one lay dying, called *Viaticum* (“food for the journey”) combined with anointing and penance form the “Last Rites” for the dying.

Vatican II happily re-named *Last Rites* and *Extreme Unction* the “Sacrament of

Anointing of the Sick.” It restored the original intention: a sign of Christ’s healing presence in the world, not just for those close to death, but for anyone whose health is seriously jeopardized. The early Church’s community-based prayer of healing has come back to us today. It is perfectly valid to receive the sacrament before undergoing a serious operation; and/or to receive its benefits in a variety of serious health matters, including mental or spiritual illness. A move from a strictly private affair back to a community-based sacrament is restored. Similar to penance, it is not a one-time event. Some aged and infirm request a “spiritual oil change” several times a year by way of this Sacrament.

Prayers for the sick by the community, and Eucharistic Ministers bringing *Viaticum* to the dying, are part of this liturgical revival, while the priest is the proper minister for the rite of the sacrament itself. When death is near, healing occurs by way of forgiveness of sins, of uniting of the sick person with the passion of Christ, of bringing to the sick person the fortitude of rising above depression, of undue anxiety, of freedom from death’s terrors. An Apostolic pardon can accompany it, granting a full pardon and remission of all one’s sins. At other times, the restoration of health can occur. All in the conditional will of God who decides what particular effect the Sacrament brings with it. The effects in either case are wondrous.

St. Mary’s St. Rocco’s *fešta* last August was a witness of this. At the festive outdoor Mass, Fr. Brian and I went among the elderly, the middle aged, and the young, bringing them the generosity of the Sacrament, praying for God’s healing, mercy, and grace.

The Sacrament of the Sick is, above all, Christ walking among us, his heart “moved with pity.” The words of the apostle James call to us, **“If there is anyone sick, let him call the presbyters (priests) of the Church, and let them impose hands upon him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and if he be in sins, they shall be forgiven him.”**

...Families Corner

(Continued from page 2)

easy part; it’s the team of adult volunteers that help run the activities that enables us to do what we do. And what is it that we do? We have various opportunities throughout the year including some of our recent activities like the changing of missalettes, decorating and filling of gift bags for the residents of the Wrentham Developmental Center, and packing of food boxes for the Friends of Franklin at Thanksgiving and Christmas. I have two main goals for 2010 – add more service activities and get more of our parish youth involved in our service activities.

So how does someone get involved? First, they can contact me via email at wiechd@comcast.net. The Rock also has a bulletin board near the right rear entry of the church, a website, <http://youthsite.stmarysfranklin.org/>, and we have information in the weekly bulletin. Our next service activity takes place on Super Bowl weekend where we collect money for the Woonsocket Soup Kitchen. We will be having opportunities to sign up for our spring and summer activities starting in February. Stay tuned for more details in the bulletin, our website, and our bulletin board.

Lenten and Easter Liturgical Celebrations

Ash Wednesday
Feb. 17th

Mass with distribution of ashes
7am, 9am, 7:30pm
Prayer Service
with distribution of ashes
12:10pm, 4pm

Confession
Feb. 24,
Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
6:30-8pm

Holy Thursday
April 1st
Mass at 7:30pm

Good Friday
April 2nd
Services at 3pm and 7:30pm

Holy Saturday
April 3rd
Easter Vigil at 7:30pm

Easter Sunday
April 4th
Masses:
7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12 noon



Good News!

By Anne King

Where is your good news? The hope is to make "Good News" a feature of each edition of "The Weave." That can happen only if you, the parishioners, are willing to share your glad tidings. Tell us about a special happening, birthday, anniversary, graduation, promotion, activity achievement, or happy or unique occasion.

There are two ways to get in touch with us.

If you do not use a computer, write a note, include your phone number, and send it to Good News Column, St. Mary Rectory, Church Square, Franklin, MA 02038.

Those using e-mail, please forward your good news to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org. Please use "Good News" as the subject line.

Patty Favara started the Good News rolling.



She and her husband, Fran, are grandparents of twin boys, Benjamin Edward and Ryan Francis, born December 31, 2009. The twins are the sons of Marc and Jennifer Favara.

Howie and Anne King became great grandparents November 30, 2009 when Adam Love was born. He is the son of David and Adrienne Love.

Adrienne is the daughter of Russel and Anne-Marie (King) Rhoads.

Margaret Adams reports on her 5th and 6th grade girls CYO basketball team! "I have the pleasure of coaching fourteen wonderful young ladies and this past weekend we won our most thrilling game yet -- a double overtime win against St. Bartholomew's, Needham.

The girls also worked hard these past two weeks to raise over \$200 to help the people of Haiti.

Kudos to Olivia Truenow, Katie McCarthy, Nicole Walsh, Nellie Adams, Lucy Hemingway, Amanda Genatossio, Nikoletta Karayan, Caila MacNeil, Samantha Jette, Dayna Brothers, Katherine Buck, Julia Rein, Jennifer Ayotte, and Elizabeth Foley -- talented athletes with generous spirits."

The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

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