



The Weave

February 2012

Volume 16 Issue 2

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

Pastoral Planning

by Father Brian

When I was very young, I would ask my mother “When are we going to the beach? Or when are we going into Boston? Or when are we going ...,” My mother would say either “I have made the plans and ...” or “I am making the plans ...” I did not understand that in a family the parents had to plan things. I thought everything simply happened. All I had to be was good and then everything else took place. Early childhood is full of magical thinking. As I started to get a little older, I learned that I had to cooperate and even sometimes do some of the work for the plans for the family. I also learned that I had to wait to have my turn or my say. I also learned that I had to be responsible for what I said or did, or did not say or do. Essentially I learned that for my parents, trying to balance the common good of the family and for each one of us six children, was a difficult process to plan and decide. I did not always understand that it really was usually not about me or what I liked, wanted, preferred, or found convenient or easier, it was usually about all of us, or my brother or sister in need.

Some people still think things simply happen in the Church, even in their parish church. Whether it is because they never learned some of life’s les-

sons or it is easier not to know that planning and responsibility are involved, I do not know. I am certain that some of the difficulties that we have at present in the local Church are the results of not planning a long time ago. I know most of us would simply like to come to church, say our prayers, sing a few beautiful hymns to God, hear a sermon that helps, receive Communion and then go on our way. I would certainly love that too! But, faith, God, life, etc. are a lot more involved. None of what we want can happen if people do not pray, think, plan, accept responsibility and just as importantly, act or do.

Because of the great shifts in demographics in the Archdiocese of Boston, the prolonged and continuing decline in the number of priests and also the major negative shift in church attendance, practice, and commitment, over three years ago Cardinal Sean began the Office of Pastoral Planning with Fr. David Couturier as the full time Director. With the Mission of the Archdiocese *to share the Good News*, Pastoral Planning is “the process we use to make preparations to carry out that work.” This Office is the critical tool in helping us understand that task and together to manage our

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Family Resemblance

by Joan McGuire

In every religion there are time periods of introspection to enable members to evaluate themselves in relation to the tenets of their faith. Our liturgical season is divided into two introspective seasons Advent and Lent. Advent is the time when we are wrapped in awe-filled reflection of our God taking on our human nature. During Lent we are more centered on Christ's ministerial life and on His Salvific death and Resurrection. This is the time of introspection when, by fasting, prayer and alms-giving, we can mold ourselves in Christ's image. Fasting calls us to be aware of life beyond our own bodily needs. Prayer calls us to a relationship of trust and loving submission to the will of our compassionate God. Alms-giving calls us to selfless dedication to the needs of others. These are not practices for forty days but rather a blueprint for a pattern that we will work on the rest of our lives.

We often say there is a family resemblance between parents and children and between siblings. Even in families where the children are adopted and there is no biological resemblance such as facial features or hair coloring, as they live together they pick up similar gestures, figures of speech, ways of standing and even outlooks on life. How wonderful it would be if people could look at us and

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I Like Lent!

by John M. Ristaino

I like Lent! Lent is much like gardening. As Lent begins it is time to repair the earth and soil of our spiritual gardens from the ravages of fall and winter. As Lent ends and Easter appears it is time to enjoy the flowering bounty of the work and effort that was put into preparing for its arrival in our hearts and souls.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.
~Dorothy Frances Gurney, "Garden Thoughts"

This poem by Dorothy Frances Gurney really strikes a chord with me as I look forward to Lent. It is deep in the darkened heart of winter as I write this article. Christmas, although just recently passed, seems like ancient history. The days do grow longer but the chill grows daily. Where is the joy of Easter? It awaits like the barren frozen earth awaits the warmth of Spring.

Lent starts in late February this year. Ash Wednesday always makes me glad as I know it is the harbinger of Easter. As a gardener, Ash Wednesday heralds to me the first day of spring when I can begin to tend my garden. Lent is like the start of the gardening cycle. Lent allows us to start by clearing away all the pain, hurt, and dead aspects of our lives and spiritual beings.

Lent starts and challenges us, as the left over dead stems in the garden do each spring in the garden. Lent is the time of year to clear away all the dead aspects of our Faith. It is time to apologize to those who we have wronged and to forgive those who have wronged us. Lent includes a healthy supply of "I am sorry." Lent also calls for us to give and to receive the message "you are forgiven." Such statements and sentiments from the heart allow us to get to the part of gardening where we can rough up the soil.

Lent continues and with the dead remnants of last year's garden pulled away, we can kneel down and begin to till the soil as life warms as a result of our forgiving ourselves and others. On our knees tilling the soil reminds us to pray daily for the joys of Easter. Perhaps our Lenten tilling and toiling involves attending a daily Mass or two during the week, visiting the sick, participating in the weekly Stations of the Cross, saying extra prayers, preparing meals for the unemployed or sick, or receiving the sacrament of reconciliation. The more we do, the richer the soil of our soul becomes. Lent rolls on and with the soil tilled, it is now time to plant.

We plant words of kindness and perform random acts of kindness as Lent unfolds. Our garden is planted with the extra love we show others. The understanding we give others who disagree with us is part of the love we plant. It is time to keep the garden weeded by examining our hearts. We weed out unkind thoughts, malicious words and gossip.

Then Lent evolves into Holy Week. Our spiritual backs are sore from the work and our spiritual hands are blistered and cracking from the tilling and weeding. Though we have worked hard, and feel it in our back, hands and knees, our heart is gladdened. There is a sense of euphoria looming. Lent was a lot of work. Holy Week is upon us and the garden appears ready. Will it ever bloom? Yes! Yes, our spiritual garden breaks forth in bloom on Easter. The Easter Triduum is

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Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

For this issue of the Weave, I am reprinting the *Easter Story Cookie* recipe parishioner Lisa Buccella shared with me ten years ago. The cookies are prepared Holy Saturday evening and left in the oven overnight. On Easter morning the oven is opened, echoing the opening of the risen Christ's tomb. The Scripture readings listed at the end of the recipe may be read in stages along with the baking preparation steps.

Ingredients: 1C whole pecans; 3 egg whites; 1 tsp vinegar; pinch of salt; 1C sugar.

To illustrate the Easter story, each of the ingredients symbolizes something: eggs represent life, vinegar represents the bitterness of sin, salt represents the tears shed by Our Lady; the white color of the peaks represents purity and the broken nuts stand for the rocky tomb.

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Place pecans in a zipper baggie and break them into small pieces. Put 1tsp vinegar into a mixing bowl. Add egg whites to the vinegar. Sprinkle the salt into the bowl. Add 1C sugar. Beat with mixer on high speed for 12-15 minutes until stiff peaks are formed. Fold in the broken nuts and drop by teaspoon onto wax-paper covered cookie sheet. Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door and turn the oven off.

The recipe suggests having children who are helping with the baking seal the oven door with tape to remind them how Jesus' tomb was sealed by the authorities. In the morning open the oven and notice the cracked surface of the cookies. Take a bite. The cookies are hollow, just as Jesus' tomb was empty on Easter morning. He has risen!

Readings: John 19:1-3, John 19:28-30, John 19:10-11 ; Luke 23:27; John 3:16; John 3: 1-3; Matthew 27: 57-60, 65-66; John 16:20 and 22. Easter morning reading: Matthew 28:1-9

The Weave



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Parish Publishing

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Young Writers Appreciated

by Joan McGuire

Two of our young parishioners, Samantha Moccia and Grace Bower have contributed articles in the last two editions of *The Weave*.

Last edition Samantha Moccia wrote about her experiences volunteering at a local homeless shelter.

In this issue we have Grace Bower's thoughts about her experience in Religious Education's very successful safety program for our students.

Both of these writers expressed their thoughts wonderfully and are an asset to *The Weave*.

We encourage other young people who have an interest in writing to consider submitting articles relevant to the parish for future editions of *The Weave*. For example, an article about helping out at the St. Rocco Festival could be submitted for the edition that comes out just before the feast.

We are looking for articles that touch on faith experiences within the parish.

As with all newsletters, the decision to publish an article depends on time sensitivity and space availability. Articles should be no longer than 200-300 words.

All articles should be sent electronically with *The Weave* in the subject line to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org.

The deadlines for the upcoming issues are: Easter/Pentecost - April 20th; St. Rocco - July 2nd; Advent - October 29th.



Lenten and Easter Liturgical Celebrations

Ash Wednesday
February 22nd

Mass with distribution of ashes
7am, 7:30pm

Prayer Service
with distribution of ashes
12:10pm, 4pm

Daily Mass
Mon. - Fri. 7am, 5:15pm
Saturday 8am

Confession
February 29th
March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
April 4th
6:30-8pm

Stations of the Cross
Fridays after the 5:15pm Mass

Holy Thursday
April 5th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Mass at 7:30pm

Good Friday
April 6th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Stations of the Cross at 3pm
Good Friday Service at 7:30pm

Holy Saturday
April 7th
Morning Prayer at 7am
Easter Vigil at 7:30pm

Easter Sunday
April 8th
Masses:
7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12 noon



View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

The Call to Serve

These days whenever we turn on the news we hear political hopefuls maligning their opponents, and spending thousands of dollars misconstruing the actions and intentions of other members of the same party all in the name of serving their country.

Lent is a time for us to review our Baptismal call to serve. Instead of high tension activities, critical judgments of others, and elaborate agendas we are called to deep quiet. By our Baptism, Peter tells us we are invited to be a royal and priestly family. Within this initial call there are many other personal calls during the passage of our lives. God's expectation for us far exceeds our wildest imagination. We are called to be His prophets. A prophet is a conduit through which God acts at any given place and in any given time. To do this the prophet must be quiet, always listening to the Spirit of God. The circumstances will be different but the work is in general the same "by kindness and compassion to help the people they meet to find peace in the nitty-gritty of their lives." A prophet is not called to be successful but to be faithful. God always makes up the difference.

In Scripture our prophetic models - Mary, Joseph, John the Baptist and the Apostles were not called to an institution but to a person - Jesus Christ. St Catherine of Siena said it best. "As long as we do what we are called to do, we will set the world on fire."





Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday**
Masses: 7am, 7:30pm
Prayer Services with ashes:
12:10pm, 4pm
- Feb. 24** Stations of the Cross after the
5:15pm Mass
- Feb. 26** Baptisms
- Feb. 29** Confession 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 2** First Friday Adoration
- Mar. 2** Stations of the Cross after the
5:15pm Mass
- Mar. 4** Baptisms
- Mar. 4** 10th grade Rel. Ed.
- Mar. 5** Rel. Ed. Penance Services
4pm & 7pm
- Mar. 6** **First Penance**, 3:30 & 5pm
- Mar. 7** Confession 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 9** Stations of the Cross
after the 5:15pm Mass
- Mar. 11** Baptisms
- Mar. 11** Baptismal catechesis, 1:30
- Mar. 11** Rock Night
- Mar. 12** Parish Council meeting
- Mar. 14** Confession, 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 14** Rocco booth chairs meeting
- Mar. 16** Stations of the Cross
after the 5:15pm Mass
- Mar. 18** CWC Communion Breakfast
- Mar. 18** Wedding Music Presentation
2pm
- Mar. 18** 9th grade Rel. Ed.
- Mar. 21** Confession, 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 23** Stations of the Cross
after the 5:15pm Mass
- Mar. 25** Baptisms
- Mar. 27** Mass at nursing home
- Mar. 28** Confession, 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 30** Stations of the Cross
after the 5:15pm Mass
- April 1** 10th grade Rel. Ed.
- April 4** Confession, 6:30-8pm
- April 5 Holy Thursday**
Morning Prayer, 7am
Mass, 7:30pm
- April 6 Good Friday**
Morning Prayer, 7am
Stations of the Cross, 3pm
Good Friday Service, 7:30pm
- April 7 Holy Saturday**
Morning Prayer, 7am
Confessions 3-5pm
Easter Vigil, 7:30pm
- April 8 Easter Sunday**
Masses: 7:30, 9, 10:30, 12
- April 11** Mass at Forge Hill
- April 12** First Communion Practice
- April 14** Anointing Mass at Central
Park Terrace, 10:30am
- April 15** Baptisms
- April 19** Bereavement Support group
begins; preregistration req'd

Anointing Mass for Healing

A special healing Mass will be held on Saturday, April 14th starting at 10:30am at the Community Center at Central Park Terrace.

Anyone who is experiencing a health problem, anticipating surgery and is in need of healing is invited to attend. Also, anyone who would like to pray for those in need of healing are invited to this special Mass.

This Mass is sponsored by St Mary Health Ministry and The Legion of Mary.

Light refreshments will be provided. For additional information, please call Nan Rafter at the rectory, 508-528-0020 or

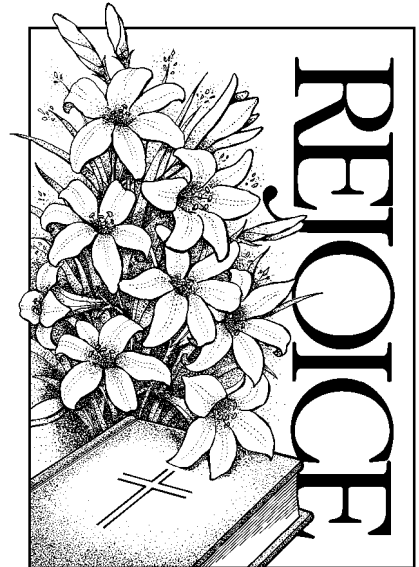
www.narafter@stmarysfranklin.org



- April 22** Baptisms
- April 22** Baptismal catechesis
- April 23** First Communion Practice
- April 24** Mass at nursing home, 1:30
- April 24** First Communion Practice
- April 25** First Communion Practice
- April 26** First Communion Practice
- April 28 First Communion** 10am, 12pm
- April 29** Baptisms
- May 2** First Communion Practice
- May 3** First Communion Practice
- May 4** First Friday Adoration
- May 5 First Communion** 10am, 12pm
- May 6** Baptisms
- May 6** Rock Night
- May 9** Mass at Forge Hill
- May 13** Baptisms
- May 16** CWC Banquet
- May 16 Vigil Mass 4pm**
- May 17 Ascension Thursday**
Masses: 7am, 9am, 7:30pm
- May 20** Baptisms
- May 20** Baptismal catechesis, 1:30
- May 22** Mass at nursing home
- May 27** Baccalaureate Mass
- May 27 Pentecost**
- May 28 Memorial Day**
No 7am Mass
9am Mass at cemetery
- June 3** Prolatio Singers Concert

Bereavement Support Group Scheduled

A seven week bereavement support group will begin on Thursday, April 19th from 7-9pm in the lower church. This faith-based support group is open to anyone who has experienced a recent loss. There is no charge for this program, however space is limited. To register, please call Nan Rafter at the rectory.



... I Like Lent

(Continued from page 2)

the pinnacle of our spiritual growing season. Fragrant blossoms of joy abound. Our spiritual backs no longer ache. Our chapped and blistered hands are healed. Our hearts leap for joy; Easter Sunday! He is Risen!

Gardens take time, tasks and patience. Plant your spiritual Easter garden all during Lent. The work will take discipline. It will not always be easy. Neither was Christ's journey to Golgotha. I like Lent because it allows me to clear away the dead aspects of my spiritual garden to prepare the glory of the Cross found in the same garden on Easter Sunday! Remember all good gardens require time, care and tenderness... but the results are worth the effort!



by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

Did you know that the greatest gift we can give to our children is the healthy sense of self? Of course you knew this, but sometimes we get caught up in life events and we need a gentle reminder. The family plays a major role in the development of a child's self-esteem.

Much of our self-esteem can be traced back to how we were treated as children. Children are not born with self-esteem; rather self-esteem is really a reflection of another's opinion of us. As adults, we may need to forgive our parents if they were not able to help us feel lovable, capable and valued.

With my own children, I try to see them both as individuals, each with their own gifts and honor and respect them for who they are. I look in awe at my granddaughter and how she goes through each day happily as she experiences new adventures and builds up a positive sense of self. Each visit I try to bring the love and values I grew up with.

Growing up as an only child, I was the center of my parent's universe. Yes, I admit I was spoiled but I was taught some wonderful values and lessons. I

Nurturing Our Children

was taught to respect myself and others, I was encouraged to do my best and I was loved no matter what. My parents' expectations were reasonable and they gave me healthy and positive life examples which I continue to use today. There are several ways we can foster self-esteem in our families:

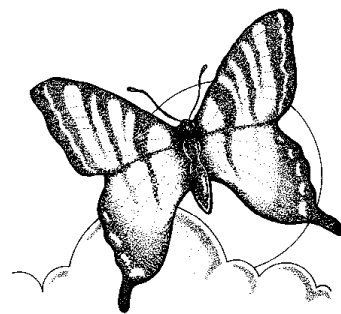
First, we can provide our children/grandchildren with unconditional love. This is the love we learn best from God. It is easiest for adults to share this love with their children if they themselves know of this love. (Romans chapter 5 and I John chapters 3 and 4.) Unconditional love speaks loudly to children that they are valuable because they are who they are and not what they do. Each person is precious and an irreplaceable child of God.

Second, we can provide the structure and guidance that children need. Love without guidance, really isn't love. Children need to have a sense of their role and position in order to experience a world that is not logical and predictable. It helps them to feel safe, so they can focus on the real work that comes in our life.

Third, we can provide a positive envi-

ronment that affirms one another. Children learn a great deal from watching their parents interact. In this scripture which is read at weddings, we are taught what love really is...*Love is patient, love is kind....it is not rude....it is not easily angered...it always protects, trusts hope and perseveres.* (I Cor.13:4-7)

During this Lenten season, instead of giving up chocolate or gummy bears why not spend some quiet time with God and some time without any expectations with your children and grandchildren, sharing your love and kind support.



...Family Resemblance

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see a strong resemblance to Christ in the way we act, our tolerance of one another, the concern we have for each others needs and our total respect and rejoicing we have for each others differences. This was how the early Christians were known to the people around them. It was not in the prayers they said or by the religious books or art that they displayed in their homes or even the sacred symbols they wore. It was in the essence of their daily lives that people could look and see the resemblance to Christ.

Each Lent as we try to set up patterns of imitation, our resemblance to Christ will grow.

As our lives on earth come to an end our guardian angel will say "It's time to go home. I can see the resemblance. You act just like your heavenly Father and your brother Jesus."

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 Frank Campo: fcampo@stmarysfranklin.org

Karen Ackles: director_grades_1-6@stmarysfranklin.org

Jayne Malonson: director_grades_7-10@stmarysfranklin.org

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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, church hall or new meeting rooms or 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.

Putting Children First

by Karen Ackles

"To those victims and their families, we beg forgiveness and assure them that the Catholic Church is working to create a safe environment for young people in our Churches, school, and agencies. It must never be business as usual, but rather a firm commitment of every diocese, parish and school to do all we can to avoid the mistakes of the past and create safeguards for the future."

--from Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley's Installation Homily, July 30, 2003

The aftermath of the clergy sexual abuse scandal has left many parishioners feeling angry, confused, fractured and disappointed. In an ongoing attempt to help bring about healing and partial resolution, many programs and initiatives have been implemented throughout the diocese. One such program is a safety program geared towards children, to help bring an awareness of child abuse to parishioners in a non-threatening, faith based manner. We at St. Mary's are very fortunate to have this Safety Program for children in Grades 1-6 (more information for Grade 1 will be available soon) and the "Created For Love" Program for students in Grades 7 & 8. Last year, to continue to fulfill the mandate by the Archdiocese, Fr. Brian, through his sensitivity of the subject and desire to provide a comprehensive program, expressed a desire to reach outside of the Religious Education Curriculum to provide a professional program. Barbara Brunelli, M.Ed., a parishioner with over twenty-five years of experience in the field of child abuse and domestic violence has designed and implemented a program that has already exceeded Fr. Brian's initial expectations. As a former Religious Education teacher and mother of three sons, Barbara has been able to combine her Catholic faith and professional knowledge to bring important skills and messages to our children in a fun and highly interactive manner. The goal of the program is to lay a foundation for children to begin to understand their relationship with God outside of the Mass or Religious Edu-

cation classes. Children hear what a wonderful gift they are from God and the things God wants them to do to always take care of themselves, no matter their age or the situation they may find themselves in. Children are empowered to trust their inner voices and learn ways to speak up when they are scared or confused. Videos, stories, games and role playing are just some of the methods used to help the children practice what they learn. Each session is different for each grade level and parents are encouraged to send their children every year so the important child protection message is continually reinforced. The program is delivered in a way that will help reinforce discussions about family rules that may already be taking place or help initiate a process some parents may find difficult.

Children in Grades 2-6 meet three times per year for this special component of the Religious Education Program. In the fall the younger children come together to review basic safety rules regarding fire, guns, phones, etc., while the older grade lessons talk about rules to follow when they are home alone, basic first aid, peer pressure and trusting their inner voice. Over the winter, all grades will discuss grade level material on the use and abuse of the internet. In the spring, age appropriate instruction is given on good touches vs. bad touches and what children should do if they find themselves in a situation where they are confused or scared. The children's relationship

with God is continually woven throughout the lessons.

The program for students in Grades 7 & 8 is divided between males and females and discussion focuses on how their sexuality affects their character development and the importance of making good choices now.

Although participation in the program is not mandatory, attendance has already doubled this year and feedback has been extremely positive. Parents who attended the parent information meetings held in the fall, left feeling assured their children were participating in a high quality, much needed program and were grateful it was being offered at our parish. The children

have also expressed a high level of enthusiasm and one child went so far as to discuss her experience in a school writing assignment. Grace Bower, a third grade student at the Kennedy School, wrote the following essay about her experience with "Safety Week":



Safety Week ~~day not week~~
Bang! Doors shut. I was at a program with kids like me, Catholics. I love stuff like this. I sat down with Christopher Brown. I was waiting for safety week to start. Then a lady with short dark brown hair came in. I'm Mrs. Brunelli, you can call me Mrs. B. because it's hard to remember Mrs. Brunelli, she said. I remembered though. Mrs. Brunelli talked about the three sacraments. One: love others. Not like hugging even you see and stuff like that. Two: Love God. Like "Good Morning God" and stuff like that. Three: Love yourself. Like taking care of yourself. Then Mrs. B. talked about if your home alone you have to be careful. If you have a younger sibling you have to keep an eye on them so they're fine too. We watched a video about being home alone too. It said to never talk to people if you walk alone. You should normally either have a sibling or buddy to walk home with. After we were done with the video we made a support tree. Piece of paper Mrs. picked me up and we went home. After I was home I got in my pajamas I watched Hawaii-5-0 and went to sleep.

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...Pastoral Planning

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resources. All this is a prayerful and participative process.

As we have been reading in the bulletin in the past two months, a major plan for the Mission of our Archdiocese has been developed. The plan has a long name, but a very important name, "Strengthening our Parishes as Primary Communities of Faith." If you have not read it as requested, you can find it at:

www.planning2012.org.

Our world has changed greatly in the last decade. If you ask a person in their early twenties, he or she will tell you how much the world has changed in their lives. Twitter, Facebook, I-Pads, 4G, Skype, etc. has dramatically altered our lives. Imagine: cell phones, microwaves and jet engines! Who would believe those realities if you were twenty years old in the 1930's? However, never have we had so much communication taken place with so much loneliness and isolation as the result. The great economic malaise that we are enduring with all its frustration and fear has changed our society. The famous 1% versus 99% radicalized people's feelings and actions. Our educational system seems constantly to be in trouble. The great and painful scandal of our Church has even more painfully damaged our lives. There is great anger constantly behind some people's interactions with the Church, especially its Bishops and lay leaders.

Yet, no matter what, the Church is "the bearer of the good news of salvation." Despite ourselves and our profound human frailty, the Church is the instrument of God's grace in our lives. Yes, we can pray privately at a beach, a mountain or at home, but only together we celebrate the Memorial Banquet, the Mass. The words of the Lord Jesus "Do this in memory of me" have great meaning in our Church. We call ourselves an "Eucharistic People." Today it is fashionable to be spiritual which means having feelings of things celestial, whereas people of substance also have religion which is the living out in real daily ways the 'way of faith and spirituality.'

Yet, how does all that happen today in concrete, practical terms in our Archdiocese and in our own parish? How does all this happen in terms of our own personal faith and commitment? Have we learned the life lessons regarding planning, saying, doing and being responsible? A Planning Committee of all the major elements of our Archdiocese was organized and spent many months, praying, thinking, consulting, asking, learning, reflecting, and deciding. The Pastoral Plan comes from this long process.

Now we have come to the stages of critiquing and refining the plan. Some parts have been decided and some are still in process because part of the planning requires continuing consultation with everyone, priests, deacons, religious, pastoral ministers and associates, religious education personnel, parish councils, finance councils, business managers, parish administrators, etc. The plan recommends that at the present time every church stay open and that the parishes be formed into a geographical collaborative (groups of 1, 2, 3 or 4 parishes) depending also upon numbers of people served. Usually with a newly assigned priest appointed as pastor (and if the numbers warrant, a second priest) with a deacon and a pastoral associate or assistant, with also religious education personnel and support staff, the "Pastoral Service Team" would serve the usually multiple parishes. There would be one Parish Council and Finance Council for the entire "collaborative." Within a reasonable period of time, this Pastoral Service Team with the advice of the Parish Council and Finance Council would then create a new Plan for Mission and Evangelization. This would realign all staff and schedules etc. All the many moving parts of the collaborative parish would be under review and modified to serve the people. This plan places almost all the decision making locally. The parishes of each collaborative will decide "the how, the who and also the what."

During the last two weeks of January, Phase Two of consultations have been taking place. The West Region met and

we learned that our Parish of Saint Mary's is one of the seven to be recommended as a single parish collaborative. This recommendation means that we will not be in a shared Pastoral Service Team with any other parish.

More will be going on for us. We will, in fact, be re-shaping the pastoral and support staffs over time. Via the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Council we will be writing a pastoral plan for our parish and also be participating in more regional and archdiocesan wide planning.

I will be writing more in the Weave over time about all this. I hope this gives everyone a beginning and fair understanding of what is going on, why and how. It makes sense to read the Plan document and the FAQ memo which can be found at www.planning2012.org.



...Putting Children First

(Continued from page 6)

As Barbara brings her program to other parishes, parishioners of St. Mary should be pleased to know that by offering a professional, comprehensive program, our Pastor, Fr. Brian, is committed and dedicated to protecting and educating his most vulnerable parishioners-OUR CHILDREN!



Hometown Author Jennie Coughlin

by Joan McGuire

St Mary's Book Club hosted a book signing by Jennie Coughlin. Her short story collection *Thrown Out: Stories from Exeter* is available from amazon.com in both Kindle and paperback editions.

Ms. Coughlin is a Franklin native who graduated from Franklin High in 1996. Following graduation from the University of Missouri in 1999 with a journalism degree, she joined the *Country Gazette* staff covering Franklin, Bellingham and Medway. She also covered Medway and Millis for the *Milford Daily News*.

Presently Ms. Coughlin is working for the *The Staunton News Leader* in Virginia and writing prolifically on her first novel in the Exeter series, which will be published later this year. Future plans include six more installments, (novels, novellas, or short sto-

ries) of the characters introduced in the first book.



The characters and mode of action in this first book is reminiscent of her favorite book "To Kill a Mockingbird." The lawyer in her book reminds one of the wise laid-back lawyer Atticus Finch.

Ms. Coughlin's experiences in small town living is clearly shown in the development of her characters. She portrays them with their virtues and flaws and they are accepted in the neighborly way that townies accept one another but would critically judge strangers. Her reporting of conversations in her early days as a reporter has given her a deft touch in writing dialogue. This keeps the story moving along and gives insight into the characters.

Ms. Coughlin tells us that as she writes, the background stories of her characters keep bubbling up. The characters clamor to have their personalities defined by their life experiences just as it is in all our lives. So the contents of each book may change as she writes and rewrites but her readers can expect the same hours of quality reading.

The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

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