

Maneline

ST. MARK Catholic Community

Christ Waits for Our Acceptance of His Invitation

By Fr. Paul Grankauskas

[Editor's note: The following is based on Fr. Paul's homily to the First Communicants and their families in May.]

In the neighborhood where I grew up, there was an old house that sat upon a little hill next to the road. Every time my family took a walk to a nearby baseball field, we had to pass right by it.

If ever a house looked haunted, this was it.

It was a white wooden thing. Parts of it were covered with growing vines and creepers. Weeds grew in the front yard. Maybe somebody lived there, maybe not. It was kind of hard to tell. Sometimes I would hear noises coming from inside or see cars parked out front. There just was not a lot of visible movement. If someone did live there, they seemed to be unable to take care of the place.

What does a creepy old house have to do with First Holy Communion?

Today, you will be receiving, for the very first time, the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Your eyes will tell you it looks like bread and wine. It will taste like bread and wine. Faith tells us that we are receiving much, much more. On the night before he died, Christ took bread in His hands and said, "This is My Body." He took a cup filled with wine and said, "This is My Blood." Christ's words are powerful words. When He called to Lazarus, dead in a tomb for four days, he came to life again. Christ calmed a storm at sea with a word. With a word, He could heal those who were sick. When Christ speaks, things happen.

His words from the Last Supper will be repeated here at this Mass. We believe that when they are spoken, those powerful and

creative words of Our Lord bring about a wondrous change. Bread and wine truly yet mysteriously become the Body and Blood of Christ. It is not a question of what you will receive, but Whom you will receive.

One of my favorite images of Christ is one where He is standing at a door and knocking. The man who painted the picture did something rather unique. He did not paint a doorknob. While Jesus stands at the door knocking, He cannot open the door. It can only be opened by the person inside.



In this moment of Holy Communion, which you are about to experience for the first time, Our Lord wants to come and make His home with you. St. Therese, the Little Flower, once said that Jesus' great joy is not to dwell simply in tabernacles made of gold. His joy is to dwell in souls made in His image and likeness. Jesus wants to make a home in your heart, but you have to open the door.

You can do one of three things. You can leave the door closed and just ignore Jesus. You can open the door just a crack and say you will let him in just a little bit but no more. Or you can throw the door wide open and say, "Come on in. Make Yourself at home." You can guess which one the Saints do. They allow Christ to come in and pretty much take over, allowing themselves to be transformed by Him.

How will people know if you have chosen to let Him in? By the way you live your lives. Those who allow Christ to live in them are the ones who keep His commandments:

Do not take the Lord's name in vain, Keep holy the Sabbath, Honor your father and mother, You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Those who keep the Commandments love as Christ loved, since He himself kept them. Those who keep the Commandments Christ teaches us can be said to have the heart of Christ.

People will see you receiving the EUCHARIST, but they should not have to ask whether Christ truly lives in you. We do not want to be like that old, creepy house: maybe occupied, maybe not. They should know you belong to Christ by your lives.

Today, is not just a big day for you. It is a big day for Mom and Dad, too. On the day you were Baptized, they made a promise to raise you in the Catholic faith. Today they are taking a big step in keeping that promise. But, parents, today is your child's first Holy Communion. The implication is that there will be a second, and a third, and a fourth, possibly hundreds of such moments. But they need you to bring them to Christ. You are the

most important teachers these children will ever have. You can bring them to Religious Education; you can send them to ST. MARK School. The reality is: yours will be the voice that speaks loudest. That you brought your children here today indicates that this is important to you. We try to

teach your children the importance of the EUCHARIST, but if you say that we are too busy to come every week, that is what they will take away in the end.

The same Jesus who stands knocking at the door of your child's heart is knocking at yours, too. What is it you want for your child?



Speaker Addresses Wealth and Income Inequality in the U.S.

by Ann Ramish

Prof. Michael Heslop spoke at *ST. MARK* on “The Super Rich and the Super Poor: The Case of Growing Wealth and Income Inequality in America.” He teaches economics at NOVA. A native of Jamaica, Prof. Heslop earned his undergraduate degree in economics and accounting in Cuba. He has two Masters Degrees in Economics. He was a Fulbright Scholar and spent a summer studying at Oxford.

He declared that the topic of income inequality is of paramount importance, because it is “incompatible with civilization itself.” He recommended Jeffrey Sachs’ book, “The Price of Civilization: Reawakening American Virtue and Prosperity.” He stated that Americans spend \$16 trillion on goods and services every year (GDP), while millions of people live in grinding poverty, unable to buy food and with failing schools. “If we claim to be civilized, we can’t have this kind of income inequality,” he said. “We are destroying millions of lives.”

The middle and lower classes face rising debt from education; consumer debt is \$900 billion, but student debt is \$1.3 trillion. This situation “forces people to have two or more jobs to pay the bills — and they often still can’t pay the bills; in Europe and the better-off Asian countries, people only need one job because there is relatively more income and wealth equality.” In the U.S., it is more difficult for children from poverty and even for some middle-class children to be socially mobile.

He cited figures from the Pew Research Center. He started with the wealth gap at median net worth of upper- versus middle-income households:

- 1983: 3.4 x greater
- 1989: 4.2 x greater
- 1992: 3.6 x greater
- 2010: 6.2 x greater
- 2013: 6.6 x greater

He also provided information showing who is considered middle-income or upper-income, using the minimum income for each category in 2013.

Family Size	Middle-Income	Upper-Income
1	\$22,000	\$66,000
2	\$31,100	\$93,300
3	\$38,100	\$114,300
4	\$44,000	\$132,000
5	\$49,200	\$147,600

Source: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/12/17/wealth-gap-upper-middle-income/>

A Widening Wealth Gap

In recent decades, upper-income families have received the overwhelming share of the gains in household wealth. Pew figures show that when there is a breakdown by race, the disparity is greater.

Median Net Worth by Household

Year	1983	2007	2013
Black	\$10,000	\$19,200	\$11,000
White	\$100,000	\$192,500	\$141,900
Hispanic	\$10,000	\$23,600	\$13,700

Source: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/12/12/racial-wealth-gaps-great-recession/>

He presented five facts regarding income and wealthy inequality from Pew Research:

- U.S. income inequality is the highest since 1928. In 1982, the top 1 percent earned 10.8 percent, and the bottom 90 percent earned 64.7 percent, of pre-tax income. In 2012, the top 1 percent earned 22.5 percent, and the bottom 90 percent earned 49.6 percent.
- The U.S. is more unequal than most peers. The U.S. is 10 of 31 before taxes and transfer payments are deducted.
- The black/white income gap has persisted. In 1967, median black household income was 55 percent of median white household income. In 2007, the ratio was 63 percent. In 2011, the ratio was 59 percent.
- Americans are relatively unconcerned about the wide income gap. The upper fifth of the income distribution has 16.7 times as much as those in the lowest fifth. We have the worst income distribution, and only 47 percent of Americans care.
- Wealth inequality is greater than income inequality. Edward Wolff of New York University found that while the highest-earning fifth earn 59.1 percent of the income, the richest fifth has 88.9 percent of the wealth. (<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/01/07/5-facts-about-economic-inequality/>).

Why does the average CEO earn 1,000 times what the average worker earns, say \$20,000,000 versus \$20,000? The boardroom and shareholders determine how much the CEO makes, and he puts them on the board. They say the free market determines the salaries, but there is a nepotistic relationship between the CEO and those who set his salary. Prof. Heslop stated

that policies are primarily responsible for the skewed income distribution. Instead, he argued that policies should distribute wealth and spend more money on education, health care, and housing. The government should work to improve lives.

Just as the commandment “Thou shalt not kill” sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say, “thou shalt not” to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills. How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion. Can we continue to stand by when food is thrown away while people are starving? This is a case of inequality. Today everything comes under the laws of competition and the survival of the fittest, where the powerful feed upon the powerless. As a consequence, masses of people find themselves excluded and marginalized: without work, without possibilities, without any means of escape.

Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. We have created a “throw away” culture, which is now spreading. It is no longer simply about exploitation and oppression, but something new. Exclusion ultimately has to do with what it means to be a part of the society in which we live; those excluded are no longer society’s underside or its fringes or its disenfranchised — they are no longer even a part of it. The excluded are not the “exploited” but the outcast, the “leftovers.”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 53

The Importance of Affirmation Affirmed

By Fred Heinzelmann

Affirmation allows us to inform others that we recognize and admire the positive traits in their lives. Affirmation is mutually beneficial; it creates goodwill in the persons we affirm, as well as in ourselves. Unfortunately, this is not a common practice in our society and merits more attention.

At a recent Mass of the Resurrection that I attended, the priest gave a short eulogy in which the deceased person's positive traits were highlighted. Then the priest stopped and asked, "How many of us have ever told this person that we admire him for the very qualities we are highlighting here today?" This underscores the missed opportunities that keep us from enriching our relationships with others.

The Scriptures clearly underscore the importance of affirmation for all of us. On at least two occasions, God the Father informs us that Jesus is His beloved Son in whom He is well pleased. What more powerful example can be provided?

We know that affirmation can have an important influence on persons we know and care about. This is especially true when those persons are forced to deal with serious crises or challenges. Our affirmation can serve as an instrument of Christ's peace by reminding them of God's love and support when they face grief, serious illness, or major disruptions in their lives.

A simple mental exercise can demonstrate the ease of affirmation. Think of a particular friend, and ask yourself what two or three positive qualities come quickly to mind in reference to that person. For example, the response might be faith-filled, a good sense of humor, a person of integrity, or very caring and kind. Every person has some positive attributes that we can recognize and appreciate. We can then use these thoughts as a basis for

action by conveying our admiration of those qualities to the person in mind. A variety of situations can make this possible, including our informal conversations

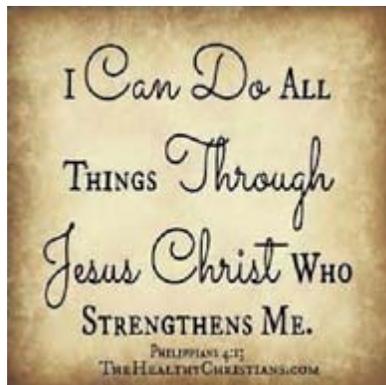
with them, cards sent on birthdays or holidays, and letters or short notes, as well as comments to others about the person we admire.

The persistent effects of affirmation can be demonstrated by the experience of a teacher who decided to provide her high school students with a lesson

in affirmation. She asked each student to stand for a moment while each class member wrote down the two or three qualities that they most admired in that person. Without sharing the personal information with the entire class, she simply gave each student the list of those qualities that the others in the class had written about them. The teacher suggested each person reflect on the experience and said no more. Ten years later, the teacher attended the funeral of one of the students in that class who had been killed in Vietnam. After the service, the mother of the young man told the teacher that when she was given her son's wallet, she found it contained the wrinkled listing he had been given by the teacher with the affirmations he had received from others.

As Christians, we are reminded that we truly are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. We know that our actions can have a positive influence on the Faith Journey and well-being of others. One of the most useful ways in which

we can exercise our commitment to serve others is to make affirmation an important part of our daily routine. Affirmation can be a real blessing for those we affirm, as well as for ourselves.



Milestones

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following new Christians into the community of the Church:

Sophia Isabel DePaulo
Emma Clare Downs
Louis John LaRocque
Adriana Gabrielle Lucchese
Reagan Marie McIvor
Michael Alan Tan
Archibald Alexander Trudel

New Parishioners

ST. MARK welcomes the following new parishioners to our Parish family:

Beth Hoffman
Sean Kim
John and Christine Foreso
David and Katrina DeCelles
James and Nora Walliser
Sidharth Nazareth
Constance Shannon
Christopher Commerford
Kenneth and Colleen Monahan

Marriages

Paul Christopher Hanna and Marguerite Lane Stephen

Deaths

The following parishioners entered into eternal life:

Judye Valliere
Jullian Raymond Sparrow
Carol Doyle

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The Traders Hotel: Lessons from China

By Ann Ramish

Over spring break, my husband and I traveled to China and joined 41 others for a tour of Beijing and Shanghai. Our hotel in Beijing was the Traders Hotel, so I was compelled to consider what I was trading or living without. The most complained about items were the squat toilets. Some people had trouble using chopsticks; some missed American food, so had to visit McDonald's or one of the many other American chains. We were told the McDonald's menu was only in Chinese—one had to ask for a translation!

I wore my winter coat nearly every day. Email access was via spotty wifi at the hotel. The language barrier was something to contend with, although some signs were in English as well as Chinese. We learned to read the characters for "exit!" Most people did not speak English, but many were accustomed to dealing with Americans. Fortunately, our guide spoke excellent English.

And what did we gain? We had the opportunity to visit the Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. We climbed and hiked the Great Wall, then took slider cars back down. We observed Shanghai from the 263rd floor of the Pearl Tower, walked along the Bund River waterfront, and visited the Shanghai Museum.

We also learned about Chinese culture and religion. We visited the Temple of Heaven, where the Emperor prayed and sacrificed twice a year for a good harvest in this agrarian country. We learned that the Chinese worship gods, ancestors, and spirits. They particularly celebrate the gods on feast days or when they have special requests, such as the success of their children on examinations. They are always careful to pair request visits to the temple with return thank-you visits.

They have a god in the kitchen to whom they light incense at breakfast, because the gods watch over them. Even the architecture can have religious significance. A structure may require a hole to allow energy to pass

through or a screen for protection. Spirits cannot turn corners, so a zigzag path is desirable. Even locations must be carefully chosen. It took two to three years to find a suitable place for the Emperor's tomb, one with good Feng Shui, which is similar to karma. The spot chosen had mountains with auspicious names on three sides, forming a chair facing south where there was a river, which is essential.

We visited the Jade Temple in Shanghai. We saw worshippers with burning incense sticks. There were many Buddhas, including two famous jade Buddhas and a female Buddha who is often pictured with her 1,000 arms, each ending with an eye to watch over the faithful. The laughing Buddha will take on your problems, and you will be happy.

The main religions in China are Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, and Christianity. Since our first day on the tour was EASTER Sunday, we asked the guide for help finding a Mass that would fit our schedule. My husband thought we could go to the West Cathedral at 4 p.m., but the tour guide sent us to the South Cathedral at 3 p.m. He said it was the only one.

The South Cathedral or Church of the *IMMACULATE CONCEPTION* or "Xuanwumen Church" is the oldest Catholic Church in Beijing because its foundation is very old. The current Baroque church, the fourth church on this site, was built in the early 20th century. The present Archbishop is one of the few Chinese Bishops approved by the Vatican as well as by the Chinese government. (Maybe that is why we were told this was the only church.) The 3 p.m. Mass was in English. There were large monitors with song lyrics and prayers displayed at the appropriate times. The hymns were familiar, and the Mass was well-attended.

So, in a country half way around the world, we were able to celebrate EASTER as we normally would. There are things to trade, and others to hold close. Alleluia!



Vacation Bible School Coming in July

The 2015 Vacation Bible School will be held from July 13-17. The theme is "Conquering Challenges With God's Mighty Power."



Kids will embark on an icy expedition to overcome obstacles with God's awesome power. They will be anchored in rock-solid Bible truths that will guide them through life's challenges. The new and improved format includes Daily Scripture themes:

- God provides for Elijah (1 Kings 17)
- God speaks to Elijah (1 Kings 19)
- God heals Naaman (2 Kings 5)
- Jesus dies on a cross to take away our sins, then comes back to life (Luke 22:31-24:12)
- Jesus promises us an eternal home (John 14:1-3).

God has the power to provide, comfort, heal, forgive, and love us forever. Easy for leaders: each leader prepares only 20 minutes of material. Easy to remember: the single daily Bible point is reinforced at every station. Easy for making friends: small multi-age groups stay together in the same "Climbing Crew" throughout the day and week.

Kids will visit Base Camp Sing and Play, Bible Expedition, KidVid Cinema (amazing stories from real kids), Imagination Station, Glacier Games, and Mountain Top Treats. There will be Preschool Peak and Connecting Kids to Justice options.



American Catholics Observe Annual Fortnight for Freedom

By Mary Fisk

■ “Religious freedom is not just a matter of thought or private devotion. It is the freedom to live—both privately and publicly—according to the ethical principles that are a consequence of the truth found.”

Pope Francis

■ “Keeping the spirit of the Gospel means that Catholic institutions are to bear witness in love to the full truth about the human person by providing social, charitable, and educational services in a manner that fully reflects the God-given dignity of the human person.”

Archbishop William E. Lori, Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, on the Freedom to Bear Witness

Each year, the Catholic Bishops in the United States set aside two weeks to pray, reflect, fast, and inform Americans of the essential nature of religious freedom and its pivotal role in the nation’s history. This year’s observation of the national Fortnight for Freedom opened on June 21 with Mass offered by Archbishop William Lori at the *Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary* in Baltimore and closed on July 4 with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl at the *Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception* in Washington, D.C.

During this two-week period, the Liturgical Calendar celebrated a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, St. Peter and St. Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year’s Fortnight focused on the “Freedom to Bear Witness” to the truth of the Gospel.

Bishop Loverde noted in the *Arlington Herald* that the Fortnight for Freedom is a time to reflect on how each of us can best use our own unique gifts and talents to bear witness to Christ in our lives. However, he added that we need to pray with “great urgency” that God will protect our religious freedom. “Together with one voice, we must ask the Lord to preserve our fundamental right to live in accord with the dictates of His divine law and the prompting of our consciences.” He said that from the beginning as a nation, America “has served as a sanctuary for countless people seeking refuge from oppression. It has been a place in which people from diverse religious backgrounds experience what Pope Francis has termed ‘a culture of encounter.’”

Religious Freedom’s Communal Dimension

The Bishop underscored the Pope’s message that religious liberty is more than freedom to primarily worship or pray. American Catholics for over 200 years have provided education and health care and other services to people in need. Bishop Loverde said, “Although it is our faith that compels us to care for our neighbors, we serve all of God’s children, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. We have only asked to care for others in accord with the fullness of Gospel

teachings. We can’t afford to give them anything less.”

He said, “This particular Fortnight comes at a time in which current threats to religious liberty in our own country are numerous, and religious persecution and restriction abroad are staggering. I encourage you to use this period of time for prayer, study, and advocacy so that you are equipped with the spiritual and practical resources you need to bear witness to the fullness of your faith in our culture.” More information is available at www.arlingtondiocese.org/religiousliberty.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) lists the following examples of ongoing threats to religious freedom in the United States:

■ **Department of Health and Human Services mandate for sterilization, contraception, and abortion-inducing drugs.** The mandate forces religious institutions to facilitate and/or fund a product contrary to their own moral teaching. Further, the federal government tries to define which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit protection of their religious liberty.

■ **Catholic foster care and adoption services.** Boston, San Francisco, the District of Columbia, and Illinois have driven local Catholic Charities out of the business of providing adoption or foster care services — by revoking their licenses, by ending their government contracts, or both — because those Charities refused to place children with same-sex couples or unmarried opposite-sex couples who cohabit.

■ **State immigration laws.** Several states have passed laws that forbid what they deem as “harboring” of undocumented immigrants — and what the Church deems Christian charity and pastoral care to these immigrants.

■ **Discrimination against small church congregations.** New York City adopted a policy that barred the Bronx Household of Faith and other churches from renting public schools on weekends for worship services, even though nonreligious groups could rent the same schools for many other uses.

■ **Discrimination against Catholic humanitarian services.** After years of excellent performance by the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in administering contract services for victims of human trafficking, the federal government changed its contract specifications to require MRS to provide or refer for contraceptive and abortion services in violation of Catholic teaching.

■ **Christian students on campus.** In more than 100 years of its history, the University of California Hastings College of Law has denied student organization status to only one group, the Christian Legal Society, because it required its leaders to be Christian and to abstain from sexual activity outside of marriage.

Sign up for New Parish Directory Photographs

As part of the celebration of **ST. MARK** the 50th anniversary, and in keeping with the publication of a new directory every five years, plans are underway for the next edition. In addition to the print book, an online directory will be available to everyone whose photo is included.

People can schedule appointments online at www.stmark.org. The next week is July 21-25.

Volunteers are needed to help the receptionist on photo days or to staff the tables after all Masses. For more information, please email Claire Fontaine at aime-claire@gmail.com or call (703) 560-4313.

DIRECTORY

PHOTOGRAPHS

Lord's Prayer Awakens a Soul

By Bill Dalgetty

When was the last time you listened closely to the words of the Lord's Prayer?

On Sunday mornings once a month, I take Communion to Catholic residents at a nearby nursing home, including a few residents in various stages of Alzheimer's. Some of the Alzheimer residents are not able to receive the EUCHARIST, or they are often asleep when I arrive, so I usually just say a short prayer with them.

Last Sunday, when I came to one of the women who had her eyes closed (let's call her Alice for the sake of privacy), I gently touched her on the shoulder and asked her if she would like to say the Lord's Prayer. She opened her eyes in a kind of blank stare. I knelt down beside her, put my hand on her hand, and started to slowly recite the Lord's Prayer. Her eyes began to open wide and she started to say the words with me. Her eyes became wider and wider as she saw herself remembering the words. A slight smile spread across her face. She appeared as if she were proud of herself for remembering the words. As we finished a small tear appeared in the corner of one of her eyes. I said, "Alice, would you like to receive

Communion?" "Yes," she nodded, and I placed the EUCHARIST on her tongue.

This was the first time that I had ever seen Alice receive Communion. It was as if the Lord's Prayer had awakened her soul and memory, enabling her to recite the entire prayer. It made the back of my neck tingle.

I, too, was affected seeing the power of Jesus's words on Alice, words Jesus suggested to his disciples when they asked him how to pray (Luke 11:2). For many of us, the Lord's Prayer has become so familiar we may recite the words, but their meaning may no longer penetrate our mind and heart.



I must confess that I was affected in one additional way. When I first started to take Communion to the residents of this nursing home, I was very uncomfortable with the Alzheimer's residents. In fact, on my second visit I skipped going to their floor. But after seeing the impact of Jesus' words on Alice and watching how those words awakened God's presence in her, I received a new love for Alice and

all her fellow residents. God was moving in my heart as well as Alice's. I will never skip her floor again.

Prayer for Safe Travels this Summer



"O God, You are the preserver of men, and the keeper of our lives. We commit ourselves to Your perfect care on the journey that awaits us. We pray for a safe and auspicious journey. Give Your angels charge over us to keep us in all our ways. Let no evil befall us, nor any harm come to our dwelling that we leave behind. Although we are uncertain of what the days may bring, may we be prepared for any event or delay, and greet such with patience and understanding. Bless us O Lord, that we may complete our journey safely and successfully under Your ever watchful care." AMEN.

Summer Book Club Invitation

Pope Francis is coming to Washington, D.C., in September! To get ready for his visit, the Peace and Justice Committee is sponsoring a Summer Book Club to read and discuss *The Joy of the Gospel*. This Papal Exhortation is also known as *Evangelii Gaudium*.

According to the Vatican Radio, the document outlines the Pope's vision for a missionary Church, whose "doors should always be open." The Pope speaks on numerous themes, including evangelization, peace, social justice, the family, respect for creation, interreligious dialogue, and the role of women and the laity in the Church.

We will meet on Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m. starting on July 9. All are welcome to join us! The first meeting will be an orientation, and the study guide will be distributed. For more information, contact Ann Ramish at ramishteam@outlook.com.

Annual Baby Shower Collection to Support Life

The annual Baby Shower Collection was held during the month of May to raise funds to support the services of Hope of Northern Virginia, A Woman's Choice, and other pregnancy help centers.

People brought their donations to the Msgr. Tom Cassidy Activities Center during the weekend of May 30-31. Donated items included the following:

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Bottles, formula, and Similac blue
- Toiletries (baby shampoo, diaper cream, baby lotion)
- Clothes sizes six months up to 24 months new and gently used
- Blankets, umbrella strollers, and pacifiers
- Gift cards for stores to buy formula and other necessary items
- Large equipment, including new or very recently used cribs or carseats, travel beds, swings, and seats

Once again, the Prayer Shawl volunteers provided beautiful handmade blankets and booties and other lovingly worked gifts for babies.



The M&Ms enjoyed a visit to the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center at the National Harbor, Maryland, on June 24.



Franciscan Monastery Trip



Fr. Paul led Parishioners on a visit to the Franciscan Monastery, Washington, D.C., on Sunday, May 31, so they could enjoy the Monastery's hidden treasures and architectural marvels. Following the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the Monastery, they toured the beautiful gardens, visited the gift shop, and had a picnic with box lunches, as well a guided tour of the Monastery.

Mark Your Calendar

July

July 3	First Friday Adoration 10 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
July 4	Independence Day
July 5	Concert 3:00 p.m.
July 10-12	Steubenville Youth Conference
July 12	Concert 3:00 p.m.
July 13-17	Vacation Bible School
July 21-25	Parish Directory Pictures
July 22-25	Junior High Workcamp

August

August 1	<i>ST. MARK</i> Parish 50th Anniversary
August 7	First Friday Adoration 10am-10pm
August 26-27	Staff Retreat
August 31	<i>ST. MARK</i> School First Day of Class

A Celebration in Music 50th Anniversary Concert Series

Sunday, July 5: Nancy Novelly, organ,
3:00 p.m., Church

Sunday, August 2: Denise Argote and
Friends, 3:00 p.m., Activities Center

Sunday, October 18: Sacred Music,
10:00 a.m. Choir, 3:00 p.m., Church

TBD: “Common Ground,” college women’s
a cappella choir

TBD: young music students’ classical
concert — piano, organ, voice

TBD: *ST. MARK* School Choirs and Bands

TBD: Composers’ Concert

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