

Maneline

ST. MARK Catholic Community

A Call to Care for Our Common Home

By Mickey Edwards

When Pope Francis issued *Laudato Si'* on May 24, 2015, it made history as the first Papal Encyclical wholly devoted to environmental depredation. Its opening lines were in Italian: “*Laudato si', mi' Signore*” – from St. Francis of Assisi’s *Canticle of the Creatures*: “Praise be to you, Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us....”

“This Sister,” warns the Pope, “now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and misuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.” As a consequence, she is “among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor.” Pope Francis then explores the causes and cures for this condition in 246 paragraphs with 172 footnotes.

Here are three points for reflection from *Laudato Si'*, just a small sampling of its riches.

Necessary Dialogue of Faith and Science

Before he discerned his call to the priesthood, young Jorge Bergoglio was a chemist. With this background and education, he developed a respect for scientific knowledge and a healthy skepticism of the notion that science has all the answers. Pope Francis begins the letter with a reminder that the Church’s social teaching represents a synthesis of faith and reason (par. 63) and that synthesis must guide our thinking and action on the issues of environment and climate change.

Faith helps us to understand the difference between “nature” and “creation.” “Nature” is “a system which can be studied, understood, and controlled,” whereas “creation” can only be understood as “a gift from the outstretched hand of the

Father of all, and as a reality illuminated by the love which calls us together into communion” (par. 76). When we look at nature, we see creation.

Creation in the Gaze of Christ

If Pope Francis has a favorite word in his writing and his preaching, that word is “gaze” — both as verb and noun. At the heart of his theology is the idea that we are always in the loving gaze of God — whether the Pope is talking about Jesus gazing at Matthew the tax collector, or assuring catechists that even if they fall asleep during Eucharistic adoration, God is looking at them with love! So it is hardly surprising that he speaks of the “gaze of Jesus” in *Laudato Si'*. When the Word became flesh, the Second Person of the Trinity “entered into the created cosmos, throwing in his lot with it, even to the cross” (par. 99). Pope Francis recalls how Jesus paid attention to the natural world, regarding it with tenderness. We are invited to “direct *our* gaze” to that future day when creation — now imbued with the radiant presence of the risen Lord — will be delivered to the Father (par. 100).

Call to Ecological Conversion

Pope Francis repeatedly points out the connection between climate change and the plight of the poor, calling for global and national solutions. However, the Pope also speaks encouragingly of the important work that is being done by local groups and individuals in their communities and homes — especially in education (pars. 209-215). Each of us must undergo “ecological conversion” to make the effects of our encounter with Jesus Christ truly evident in our relationship with the world around us, especially in our use of the world’s resources. ***“Living our vocation to be protectors of God’s handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is***

Saying Grace

Pope Francis urges believers to adopt an “attitude of the heart” that is lovingly attentive to everyone and everything. “One expression of this attitude is when we stop and give thanks to God before and after meals. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom. That moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation; it acknowledges those who by their labors provide us with these goods; and it reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need.” (*Laudato si'* par. 227)



not an optional or secondary part of our Christian experience” (par. 217).

Conclusion

What will nourish us for this conversion? Pope Francis notes that the Sacraments themselves are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of grace (par. 235). This is especially true of the EUCHARIST: “The EUCHARIST joins heaven and earth; it embraces and penetrates all creation. The world which came forth from God’s hands returns to him in blessed and undivided adoration; in the bread of the EUCHARIST, creation is projected toward divinization, toward the holy wedding feast, toward unification with the Creator himself” (quoting Pope Benedict) (par. 236).

As we make this journey with all of creation, Pope Francis — like his joy-filled patron saint — urges, “Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope” (par. 244). And so the Encyclical begins and ends with a song.

Junior High Ministry: Sacraments, Service, and Community

By Eric McDade

While summer is a break from school, the Junior High Youth Ministry program at *ST. MARK* offered numerous activities for Junior High students to stay involved. As always, rising sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders from the Parish participated.

The Summer Youth Wave program featured four activities—attending a Nationals game, going rock climbing at Earth Treks, visiting Splashdown Water Park in Manassas, and attending the Diocesan Kings Dominion Day. Rock climbing and participation in the Diocesan Kings Dominion Day were new additions to the Summer Youth Wave series to keep things fresh and new.



Junior Highers enjoying rock climbing at Earth Treks



Junior High Workcampers eating breakfast

the late morning and early afternoon, the crews depart with their adult crew leaders to serve at local area homeless shelters, thrift shops, churches, and

The Junior High Workcamp took place at nearby *ST. LEO the GREAT* Church from Wednesday, July 22, until Saturday, July 25. Junior High youth from *ST. MARK* joined forces with kids from *ST. LEO the GREAT*, *ST. MARY of SORROWS*, *ST. VERONICA*, and *ST. JAMES* to serve their local community, grow in faith, and have fun!

The Workcamp theme was “Age of Heroic Virtue,” and focused on the recent Avenger movies, including Iron Man, Hulk, and Thor. The Junior High Workcamp talks examined different aspects of the Avenger movies and heroes, leading toward more inspiring themes of the Communion of Saints, sin and repentance, and our universal call to holiness.

The Junior High Workcamp strikes a nice balance of service, spirituality, Sacraments, and fun! Each morning begins with Mass and is followed by breakfast and organizing the youth into their different service crews. During

neighbors in need. Later in the afternoon, the kids visit a local pool or return to the Church for a couple of hours of games and recreation. The evening features dinner, a brief talk, and some opportunities to engage the Sacraments through Confession or Eucharistic Adoration.

Many thanks to everyone who helped with the summer fun!



Junior High Workcampers working on mulching the *ST. MARK* playground

Parish M&Ms

M&M is Maturing Matters, the 55+ Group of *ST. MARK*. All Seniors are welcome.

October

- Wednesday, October 7: After 9:15 Mass Coffee Social, Fr. Paul will talk on the Rosary
- Friday, October 9: *ST. JOHN NEUMANN* Oktoberfest, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 11: Donut Sunday
- Wednesday, October 14: Trip to Antietam Battlefield, Maryland, with lunch at the Bavavian Inn, West Virginia; trip to Ferry Farm on return
- Wednesday, October 21: Potluck lunch and Bingo with Dick Blank

November

- Wednesday, November 4: Coffee Social
- Wednesday, November 18: Potluck Thanksgiving Dinner. with Bishop Justs

December

- Wednesday, December 2: After Mass Coffee Social, Bishop Justs (tentative)
- Wednesday, December 9: “Oliver” and lunch at the Arena Stage
- Saturday, December 12: Annual M&M Christmas Party at the home of Joe Kolasch

ST. MARK Welcomes New Parish Receptionist: Crystal Sheehan

Originally from Annapolis, Crystal attended parochial elementary school and then Wroxeter on Severn College prep school. She went to college in Florida.

After college, she moved to New York, where she met Dan and they eventually married. They raised their five children in Valley Stream and joined the *HOLY NAME of MARY* Parish, where the children attended school. They moved to Smithtown before settling in Tampa, Florida.

Crystal has managed dental offices and small businesses for more than 20 years. After moving to Northern Virginia, she obtained her real estate license and began a successful business. Wanting a closer day-to-day relationship with Christ and her community, she searched for a more stable work environment and schedule via a position within the Arlington Diocese. She believes the Holy Spirit led her to *ST. MARK*. Crystal says, "I am thrilled and blessed to be a part of such a welcoming

Parish family. I cannot begin to express my gratitude to God and *ST. MARK* for allowing me this privilege."



Crystal Sheehan

As Parish Secretary/Receptionist, Crystal is happy to help answer any questions pertaining to the Church and School Community. She looks forward to helping individuals and families grow in Christ and our Parish.

On the weekends, she likes to explore Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia with her family. "I love the museums, landmarks, monuments, and the rich history that our area provides. The many cultures that come together in our area provide me with tons of inspiration to satisfy my passion for cooking and trying new cuisines."

Her two Belgian Tervuren Shepherds are a constant source of learning for her as they continue to be a work in progress in spite of being "older" dogs. Training and playtime for her furry "kids" is as important to her as it is to them.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends for Men and Women

The Cursillo, or "short courses in Christianity," is a Lay Catholic movement to help bring people closer to Christ in the course of a weekend retreat, with ongoing groups available.

A weekend Cursillo for men will be held October 15-18, at White Post, Virginia. The weekend for women will be November 19-22, also at the White Post facility.

For more information, visit <http://www.arlingtoncursillo.org>, or contact Bill Grossman in the Parish office at 703-938-1936.



Concert Series Continues

September

The ongoing Concert Series continues to brighten the 50th anniversary celebrations. On Sunday, September 6, the Christopher Schmitt Piano Trio featured the works of Beethoven and Brahms.

Christopher Schmitt is a classical concert pianist, teacher, and chamber musician and lives in Washington, D.C. He is completing his Doctorate of Musical Arts in piano performance at The Julliard School in New York. He performs regularly at the White House and throughout the metropolitan area.

Violinist Henry Flory, a native of Washington, D.C., studied at the Conservatoire de Montpellier, the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, and The Julliard School. He has an international solo and chamber music career, and he is Concertmaster of the American Pops Orchestra.

Caroline Bean, cellist, performs as a soloist and as a member of chamber groups and orchestras. She is a member of the President's Own Marine Band. She has degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Indiana University.

October

■ Sunday, Oct. 11, 3:00 p.m., in the Church: The *ST. MARK* Young Artists will perform classical, liturgical, and contemporary works.

■ Sunday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m., in the Church: The Choirs of *ST. MARK* and *ST. JOHN NEUMANN* will perform Vivaldi's "Gloria."

November

■ Sunday, Nov. 15, 7:00 p.m., in the Church: Dereck Scott will perform "Cold War Era Music" of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Adult Religious Education Opportunities

Sunday Morning Program

The Sunday Morning Program, following the Year of Mercy, is held in the CFC Gym, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

October 4: Carol Fennelley, Director of Hope House: Compassion to children whose parents are incarcerated

October 18: Paul Renard: Compassion to the Poor, Thanksgiving Clothing Drive

October 25: Deacon John Allen: Holy Year of Mercy, Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy by Pope Francis

November 23: Jean Lupinacci: Mercy in the Gospel of Luke

Little Rock Scripture Study

October 8: The group will begin the study the Letter to the Hebrews, with two sessions, 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Joy of the Gospel

October 6: The group will begin the study of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation at 10:00 a.m.

To register for the Little Rock Scripture Study or the *Joy of the Gospel* study, contact Jean Lupinacci at jlupinacci@stmark.org or 703-938-1948, extension 2.

Join the 40 Days for Life in October

Each year, *ST. MARK* participates in the nationwide campaign to witness to the Gospel of Life and express opposition to the culture of death in the form of abortion.

This year's 40 Days for Life will be held from September 23 through November 1. During this time, all are invited to join other Christians by praying and fasting.

ST. MARK will witness and pray on Thursdays from September 24 through October 29. Each person will take one hour to pray and witness, either alone or with a group.

Fr. Paul will lead the Parish in a peaceful assembly and prayer in the public right-of-way outside of the Planned Parenthood clinic at 303 S. Maple Avenue, Falls Church on October 1, 8, and 15.

We need your help to spread the word about this important community outreach. Prayer, sacrifice, and witness can save lives. Women do change their minds and decide not to have an abortion when they encounter a peaceful witness against abortion.

Please sign up in the Narthex at the information desk or at the Respect Life table.

ST. MARK

50th Anniversary

■ Sacraments ■ Choirs ■ Outreach

1965 — 2015

As we prepare for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of *ST. MARK* on Sunday, November 22, at the 11:45 a.m. Mass celebrated by Bishop Loverde, here are three pages of photos recalling our founding and growth, our celebration of the Sacraments, and our many community programs and activities.



ST. MARK
builds and grows.



Fr. Robert Walsh



Msgr. Tom Cassidy



Fr. Anton Justs



Fr. Stewart Culken



Fr. Pat Holroyd



ST. MARK

1965 — 2015

50th Anniversary

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Prayer Is the Key to Muslim Hearts

Father Bill McIntire, M.M.

In the homily I gave at *ST. MARK* on July 24 for the Feast of St. Sharbel Makhlef (1828-1898), I mentioned that this holy Lebanese Maronite Monk and Hermit was esteemed by Muslims as well as by Christians, both before and after his death. I invoked St. Sharbel's intercession for the very difficult situation now prevailing between Christians and Muslims in Lebanon and in other parts in the Middle East. It is good to remember that until about 50 years ago, Muslims and Christians (each group comprising then about 50 percent of the Lebanese population) lived for the most part in peace and harmony and respected one another's beliefs.

In my 36 years of work as a Catholic Missionary in Bangladesh, which is 90 percent Muslim, I rejoice to report that mutual respect and concern for the other still prevail among the huge Muslim majority and the tiny minority of Christians; Christians number only about 500,000 of the total population of 160 million. Personally, I have not once had a bad experience in my numerous friendly encounters with Muslims in Bangladesh. I have found that my willingness to pray for them and for their families, or even with them, is the key to Muslim hearts.

When Muslims ask me to say a prayer before meals, I use the Arabic prayer 'Bismillah al rahman al rahim' [in English, "In the name of God, most Gracious, most Compassionate!"]. When I am asked to pray at the end of a meeting, I paraphrase Saint Paul's First Letter to Corinthians, Chapter 13: "Only three things last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love." A prayer such as this at a meeting where Muslims are present is invariably well received!

When I am asked to name the children of Muslims, I suggest names that are common to both of our monotheistic traditions: Ibrahim (Abraham) or Yusuf (Joseph) for boys, or Morium (Miriam, Mary) or Fatima (daughter of the Prophet and, of course, Our Lady of Fatima).

In our first years in Bangladesh, my holy colleague Father Larry Schanberger, M.M., was unsure whether to plan a public procession with the Blessed Sacrament on *Corpus Christi*

Sunday at *HOLY SPIRIT* Parish, in Tuital. Larry asked his Muslim boatman Sultan to discuss the matter with the leaders of the Mosque at Tuital. Sultan came back to Larry saying, "The leaders of the Mosque said: "YOU MUST have the procession!" And indeed on *Corpus Christi* Sunday that year, Muslim men reverently stood on both sides of the route of the procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

"Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow your love. ..."

Once, on a trip from Dhaka to Kolkata, as I was about to cross into India on foot at the Bongaon crossing point, the Bangladeshi Muslim official caused me a little apprehension when he asked me to step into his office. The official asked me if I was a Christian. When I said I was, the Muslim border official said: "I am grateful to Allah and all of you for the wonderful treatment my wife received when she recently delivered our first son at the Fatima Catholic Hospital in Jessore." Then he showed me a prayer in Bengali on his desk that the Sisters at the Fatima Hospital had given him. He had on his desk Saint Francis of Assisi's prayer: "Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow your love. ..." The Muslim official stamped my passport and we shook hands cordially. With a lightened heart, I crossed the border into India.

A holy friend in Ohio had sent me material from negative websites, so I said to her: "Sharon, when you next meet a Muslim, offer to pray for them! So soon after that, Sharon, on a business trip to Chicago, noticed that the name of her taxi driver from O'Hare Airport was Abdul. So Sharon said to Abdul: "May I pray for you and your family?" When Abdul said yes, I can vividly imagine how charismatic Sharon must have prayed: "Lord God, protect and care for this holy man and his family!..." When Sharon and Abdul reached their destination, Sharon was astonished when the very moved Abdul refused to accept a penny of the \$50 taxi fare!

So that is my advice to all of you: Pray daily for and with the Muslims you meet personally, and for all our sisters and brothers throughout the world!

[Editor's note: Fr. McIntire's email is wmcintire@maryknoll.org.

Milestones

BAPTISM

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

William Benjamin Wenrich
Harrison Kip Meyers
Elle Elizabeth Powers
Arthur James Scheimer
Victoria Lorna Bronson
Kendall Elizabeth Nickerson

New Parishioners

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

Adam and Katharine Rosenbaum
Byron and Marcelite Marine
Ryan and Jody Delaney
Keith and Kristeen Roessig
Brian and Allison Gagnor
Jose and Wendy Dominguez
Craig and Melanie Tremaroli
Patrick and Sherri Francescon
Nancy Hannan
Michael and Mary Moen
John Bolino
Paul Tortora
Christian and Mia Manansala
Ashley Carter
Todd and Sherri Hoffman
Aaron and Sharon Kawa
Gary Colyar
Jeffrey and Monica Jozefski
Taylor Smith
Joseph and Stefanie Petrucci
Bastian and Bing Bing Wibowo
Joel and Alicia Mack
Thuy Nguyen
Jorge and Lara Rosa
Ryan and Erin Grover

Deaths

The following parishioners entered into eternal life:

Chester Francis Maruszewski
Pat Schardt
Patrick Rowland
John Hornak
Mary Jane Morin

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Mark Your Calendar

October

- October 2 First Friday Adoration 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.
- October 2 Junior High Youth Kickoff
- October 4 Respect Life Sunday
- October 4 Youth and Family Mass 6:00 p.m.
- October 9 Movie Night
- October 11 Donut Sunday
- October 12 Columbus Day: Daily Mass at 10:00 a.m.
- October 18 Parish Breakfast
- October 18 Vivaldi Gloria Concert
- October 25 Newcomers Lunch
- October 30 Trunk or Treat

November

- November 1 *Solemnity of All Saints*
- November 1 Youth and Family Mass 6:00 p.m.
- November 2 *Commemoration of All Souls*
- November 2 Mass of Remembrance 7:30 p.m.
- November 6 First Friday Adoration 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.
- November 8 Donut Sunday
- November 11 Veterans Day Daily Mass at 10:00 a.m.



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