

Maneline

ST. Mark Catholic Community

May Is the Month of Mary, the Mother of the Church

By Mary Fisk

The Church honors the Blessed Mother in special ways each May. This year, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Mary to the three children of Fatima, we have a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the Mother of God and her words to us and on her special prayer, the Rosary. Mary appeared to Lucia Dos Santos, Francisco Marto, and Jacinta Marto on the 13th of each month, from May through October 1917, near Fatima, Portugal. Her first apparition was on the Feast of *Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament*, underscoring the Eucharistic focus of her life. Her message centered around the need to pray for peace to end the First World War and for the salvation of sinners. She specifically asked the children to pray the Rosary, a way that Catholics for 800 years have connected to the events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. The Rosary is a multifaceted tool: children can learn to pray it and become aware of the Scriptures while doing so; adults can pray the Rosary as a form of reflection and meditation.

The Rosary is divided into the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries. Of the 20 Mysteries, 18 are derived directly from the New Testament; Mary is specifically mentioned in nine of the Mysteries and may have been present at 12 of the events.

Joyful Mysteries

Mary is in all five of the Joyful Mysteries: She accepted God's invitation to be His agent to free His people from sin and death. She traveled to the home of her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist, who leapt in his mother's womb because he was in the presence of God. Mary completed the act of giving flesh to the Word of God

and brought her Child into the world that He would save. She gave him formally to the service of His Father, in accord with the Old Law. She and Joseph were reunited, after three days of searching, with Jesus, who had been discussing the Scriptures in the Temple.

Sorrowful Mysteries

The Gospels do not specifically mention Mary as one of the many who watched Jesus as He carried His cross, but it is plausible that she did. She was clearly present as He suffered and died on Calvary.

Glorious Mysteries

Mary may have been present at the Ascension, as Jesus returned to His Father, as well as in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit came. She entered eternity, body and soul, as her Son had done before her. She was crowned of Queen of Heaven and Earth, as befitting the mother of the King.

Luminous Mysteries

Mary interceded with her Son for the sake of the embarrassed newlyweds at Cana, saying to the stewards, "Do whatever He tells you." While not mentioned by name, it is reasonable to suppose she was present at the Last Supper as Jesus gave the gift of the EUCHARIST to His Apostles.

These events testify to Mary's central role as the Bearer of Christ to the world. We see her as a very real person whose journey contains elements with which we can all identify. At Nazareth, she questioned and eventually submitted to the will of God. At Elizabeth's home in Judah, she helped her cousin. She trusted in God's providence during her trek to Bethlehem



and the subsequent labor and delivery. She complied with the Old Law by bringing her Child to the Temple, and she pondered His response to her and Joseph when they found Him after three days "in His Father's house." She endured unspeakable agony as she watched Him die, and she was finally brought to the Father's everlasting home at the end of her life of faith.

So as we celebrate the Mother of God and the Church this month, we can be thankful for the beautiful and rich gift of the Rosary to guide us on our own faith journeys home. And Pope Francis's canonization of Francisco and Jacinta on May 13 reminds us that the need to pray for peace and for all people to be reconciled with God remains as great today as it was when Mary spoke of it 100 years ago.

† **Joyful Mysteries:**
Annunciation, Visitation, Birth of Jesus, Presentation in the Temple, Finding in the Temple

† **Sorrowful Mysteries:**
Agony in the Garden, Scourging at the Pillar, Crowning with Thorns, Jesus Carries His Cross, Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

† **Glorious Mysteries:**
Resurrection, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Spirit, Assumption of Mary, Crowning of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

† **Luminous Mysteries:**
Baptism in the Jordan, Wedding Feast at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom, Transfiguration, and Institution of the EUCHARIST

Students Receive First EUCHARIST

Second-grade students celebrated their FIRST EUCHARIST with their families on May 6, 7, 13, and 14. The Parish joined in the blessing of this Sacrament that truly IS the Body and Blood of Christ.

Abigail Mary Anstett

MariaJose Bartesaghi-Bartolini, Dominic William Best, Francesca Bjornstad, Dylan Thomas Bogar, Sophia Rose Bourdelais, Colin Bradley Boyd, Everette Charles Breitreitz, Anouk Chinonye Ifeatu Bun

Kellan David Counts, Andrew James Culipher

Gabriel Alejandro De La Torre Mendez, Skylar Karen DeLacy, Sydney May DeLacy, Aldo Fabian De Leon, Jack Vladislav Dreiman, Graciela Maria Dominguez, Maximo Antolin Dominguez, William Louis Dwyer

Olivia Jordan Engel

Abigail Grace Fay, William Henry Farrer, Blake Holden Fitzgerald, Addison Brielle Foster

Dylan Thomas Gaspard, Elena Anne Gecan, Reagan F. George, Brady Paul Gibson, Grace Victoria Gonzalez, Mason Lucas Grantz

Declan James Hathaway, Matthew Peter Hatheway, Noelle Rose Hayeck, Gianna Sicola Herd, Sebastian Cuevas Hill, Hayden Conner Hodges, Caitlin Grace Holtaway, Taylor Grace Kawa, Evelina Ania Kleczek, Andrew Walter Kociolek, Caroline Louise Kociolek, Martin Alfredo Koo

Gabriel Daniel Landau-Smith, Todd William Landwehr, Jaxen Sullivan Larsen, Sydney Colleen Lipari, Adrianna Victoria Lord

Davis Ssewakiryanga Mabirizi, Duncan Alexander Magowan, Molly Marie Martin, Katia Angela Maya, Kayleigh Madison McCarthy, Caitlin Reagan McCluer, Noah McWhirt, Madeline Grace Meade, Keira I. Mendis, Roja D. Mendoza, Leo Joseph Miller, Claire Lorehn Mukerjee, Maxwell Thomas Muller

Aidan Emery Smith Nestor

Ethan Patrick O'Connor, Giulia Bernadette O'Reilly, Andrea Elise Oh, Marco Andres Olmedo

Mary Kathryn Petersam, Andrew Steely Peterson, Chase Casimir Pointkowski

William Walker Rankin, VI, Rebecca Ann Ramia, Sophia Nicole Ramirez, Priya Adelina Abreu Robbins, Lucy Joy Rienzi, Marco Rocca, Stefano Rocca, John Christopher Romeo, Sonya Elizabeth Rooney, Millie Grace Rosen, Alessandro R. Rozo

Isabella Mabel Salas, William Beckett Sharma, Lidia Edan Shaw, Cadence V. Snow, Christina Nicole Spear, Nicholas Anthony St. Clair

Thomas Mark Sullivan, Matthew Thomas Taylor, Andrew John Thomas, Tala Tohmeh, Max Christian Tom, Milo Raymond Tom

Sofia Lillian Upchurch

Cooper Dominick Vaudo, Alexandra Van Voltz, Benjamin Thomas Vu

Clara Kathleen Wach, Liam John Wilcox, Jackson Joseph Wootten, Olivia Jane Worek, John Caleb Wright

Helping to prepare the Parish youth to receive First Communion were teachers, catechists, and those who helped with the PENANCE and EUCHARIST workshop: Amanda Gorog, Katherine Manetti; Carmen Hernandez Rosich; Ashli George, Karen Landwehr, Will Rankin, Judy Fisher, Claire Troy, Emily Serviess, Pam Burke, Pia Pell, Matt Housely, Deacon Charles Duck, Deacon John Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Fay, Mrs. Rosen, Jean Lupinacci, and Ana Lisa Pinon.

Students Receive CONFIRMATION

Matthew Allen, Karenna Allison, Olivia Allison, Catarina Antunes, Lia Elezabeth Arakal, William Avart

Valeria Beauchamp, Thomas Best, Rebecca Bjornstad, Amelia Therese, Bourdelais, Rachel Michelle Boyle, Aaron Bremser, Teresa Brinkmann, Salvador Buenadicha, Edward Burrows

Alexandra Rose Campbell, Sharon Castro, Julia Catherine Clerici, Madeline Clerici, Holland Cogan, Julia Colet, Michael Conforti, Cameron Counts, Rosalia Coz

Heloise De Walque, Hunter Delansky, Thomas Nguyen Desouza, Grady Dillon, Liam Robert Downing

Graeme Patrick Ebert

Thomas Feather, John Fileppo, Sean Michael Fitzsimmons, Andrew Franco, Alyssa Franco, David Nicholas Fronzaglia

Colin Gallagher, Kevin Gallagher, Nora Galvin, Jack Kilshane Garretson, Alexander Gemon, Kayla Gormley, Anthony Grimm

Brett Haas, John Michael Hatheway, Kristen Hilal, Rachel Anne Hirz, Cooper Hoffman, Madeline Mary Hurwitz

Rachel Ivany

Alexandra Janson, Griffin Michael Jiron

Isabelle Amanda Kane, Ruvarashe Kiara, Daniel Adam Kohls, Macallister Kopka

Camille Lamey, Kieran Leogue, Michael Thomas Lindner, Erin Lyons

Sean Mack, Caroline Jane Mchugh, Sean McShane, Owen Murphy Mead, Riley Patrick Mead, Ella Mink, Anne Mitchell, Delaney Mitchell, Leah Morahan, Brendan Michael Morrissey, Sarah Motiff, Stephanie Murphy, Matthew Musio

Garion Neuse, Andrew Nye

Ryleigh O'Connor, James O'Grady, Jay Christopher Oliver, Christine Paniszczyn, Kathryn Parr, Brooke Parrillo, Savannah Priebe, Katherine Reback, Keelin Reilly, Hayden Thomas Riddle, Lacey Rousseau, William Ryan

Esteban Salas, Adam Sarnovsky, Elizabeth Saunders, Jonathan Michael Scinto, Gwen Setia, Gregory Setliff, Teresa Setliff, Sophie Marie Shumway, Joseph Simoncelli, Audrey Spann, Nathaniel Suryabudi, Courtney Swan, Anabella Sweeney

Matthew Tan, Christopher Taylor, Emily Taylor, Katie Tognotti, William Tribble, Martin Thomas Troy, Kathleen Jordan Troy, Andrew Turner

Alessia Ucci

Wyatt Wade, Nora Wiktorowicz, Patrick Wilcox, Robert Williams, Alexa Wootten, Brendan Richard Wyka

On Friday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m., 116 young members of our Parish received the Sacrament of CONFIRMATION. Bishop Richard Higgins of the Archdioceses for Military Services presided. This was the culmination of two years of preparation, including Religious Education classes, retreats, and service projects with the Spirit Teams. With their parents' support and example, and our Parish's encouragement and witness, each of these young people have now made the choice for themselves, chosen a sponsor, chosen a CONFIRMATION Saint, and requested the Sacrament. As they accept the adult responsibilities of the faith and open themselves to the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, let us recognize them as adults in our Church and our community.

Panel Hears from Youth Seeking Refuge

By Ann Ramish

In March, a panel discussion with migrant youth was held at Marymount University in Arlington.

A key coordinator of the panel was Rachel from the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN). Refugees from El Salvador founded CARECEN in 1981 to assist the newest round of immigrants establishing a new life in the Washington, D.C. area. In the 1980s and 1990s, the immigration was driven by civil war; later, the cause was economic troubles, and now the exodus is driven by violence.

Marvin's Story

One of the panel members, Marvin, has been in the United States for four years. He came when he was 14 years old for two reasons. First, he was afraid of the violence in El Salvador. Many of his friends were in gangs and selling drugs. Second, he wanted to reunite with his mother, who had left him with his grandmother. So many people die crossing the border, but that did not matter. He was very glad to be reunited with his mother, and she was in the audience as he spoke.

Marvin made two journeys. The first time, he was stopped in southern Mexico. The second time, the smugglers put him in a box on the back of a trailer to go through roadblocks. It took three days to cross the desert. He was given a gallon of water and food for three days. The group walked for 18 hours straight. When he finally arrived in Washington, D.C., he was very skinny, only 80 or 90 pounds. But it was one of the best days of his life when he was reunited with his mother and his aunt.

He attended Washington, D.C., public schools, the second worst in the country, yet he still hoped to go to college. He spent eight months in middle school and then went to high school. After six months in the United States, he began to have nightmares about the journey. The recurring nightmare was that he had to cross the border again one more time by himself. He felt alone and isolated. Marvin eventually adjusted and did well in school; he was the salutatorian of his high school class. He encountered many difficulties getting to college because of his status, but he is now at Marymount.

Karina's Story

Rachel relayed Karina's story. Karina lived

in El Salvador with her grandmother; her mother left when she was three. Karina came to the United States when she was 14 years old. The journey was treacherous. She loved her grandmother, and she suffered leaving her behind. She was reunited with her mother after 11 years. "You don't know each other anymore. You don't know her and don't necessarily trust her. It's a broken relationship." Time and counseling are needed. There is a lot of pressure on youth to be happy because they are here and safe. But safety is only the beginning. Both the parents and children need support to have good relationships within families.

Deisy's Story

A second panel member, Deisy, is from Laredo, Mexico. In 2015, she applied for a summer job with the Office of Latino Affairs. She worked with Rachel and a lawyer and a photographer. Deisy said, "My story is the thing I have that represents who I am. People talk about Mexicans as criminals or as coming to take American jobs. Let people know who we are. I represent not just myself but also other youth. The story is powerful. No one can take it away. You can decide to share it and to try to make changes in the community."

In Mexico, Deisy's education would have ended with sixth grade. Her parents could not afford more than that. So her parents decided to come here for a better education for their children. She spent a month crossing the border. Her mother was pregnant when she crossed. It took another month to get to Washington, D.C.

The first thing Deisy remembers is the snow — she had never seen snow in Mexico. It was a little difficult to enroll in school because she had no papers from Mexico to show that she finished sixth grade; she had to wait five or six months before she could enroll. The first three months of school were happy because she met so many people from different countries. She did not understand the language, and she did not have an ESL teacher for three years. After three months, she began to be bullied for not knowing English.

She did not want to go to school anymore because she did not understand. She did not know how to do homework or answer teachers' questions. She started to hurt herself to distract herself because her

classmates were making fun of her. Her classmates were from Central American and spoke Spanish, but they did not help her to communicate with her teachers.

Then one day she stood up and remembered the promise she had made to her grandmother, now deceased, that she would never give up on her dreams. She explained her problems to her parents, and she no longer wanted to do damage to herself. Her parents spoke with the principal. The girls who were bullying said they were sorry, but that damage they had done could never be cured with just "sorry!" She started to see a counselor. Now, six years later, she has learned strategies to deal with challenges and difficulties. She finished middle school and transferred to high school. She has committed herself to helping others with similar problems and to helping the community.

She decided to tell her story so that others facing similar challenges will know that, together, they can confront the challenges. She will be the first one in her family to graduate from high school. She has the opportunity to attend college. This will show her brother and her younger sister that if they decide to work hard, they can do it, too.

Views on Immigrants

Clearly there is a misconception about immigrants, Marvin said. These are kids who did not have any other option. They did not come to take anything away from anyone but only to work hard. He started calling colleges and asking if they accepted immigrants. Many hung up. Others said "No — we don't want you here." He believed if you came and did your best, you would make it. He found an open door at Marymount. Still, he wonders whether even if he graduates that will change anything. He has given it all his best.

They are the best-case scenarios, the lucky ones who did not die or give up. They represent those who died on the way here. They do it for them and for those who are afraid. There is no giving up.

Our nation is not doing the best it can to provide for people who have suffered. We have inherited the problems. We are all in it together now.

Why Should Catholics Care About the Environment?

By Kathy Aquilina and Faith Roberts

[Editor's note: The following is a summary of a presentation at ST. MARK on March 18 by Dr. William Dinges.]

Trained in Augustinian theology, Dr. William Dinges, church historian and ecologist at Catholic University, encourages all Catholics to read the "signs of the times." He called this "heightening awareness of what is going on," which is very much in keeping with St. Augustine's understanding of living in fellowship with God while on this earth.

Like Dr. Dinges, we all hear about many crises popping up here and there. Pope Francis sees these as all related and asks us to respond. This is not about simply changing some habits; it is a call to address the challenges we see through conversion at a very deep level. Pope Francis calls us to listen, both to those who are enduring hardships induced by encroaching deserts, fierce storms, or rising tides and also to pay attention to the needs of our common home, the unique earth on which we live. We all want and need clean air and water. So how does that good outcome happen?

In his message on the environment called *Laudato Si' (Praise Be!)*, Pope Francis draws on the writings and thought of his predecessors, especially St. John Paul II, and highlights the life of our beloved St. Francis of Assisi, who is called the Patron Saint of the Environment, because of his great love for God's Creation. Exploring how to live the virtues of humility, restraint, and respect that St. Francis exemplified can bear fruit. The answer to clean air and water has something to do with our demand for more good things. Demand

creates pressure on everyone and even on what is around us.

Sadly, said Dr. Dinges, living our lives mostly as consumers can make us selfish and disconnect us from each other, the earth, and even God. As a spiritual step, we could explore where joy comes from; "things do not make us happy, virtue does."

Simple living does have benefits. For example, Dr. Dinges testified that sharing some of his abundant tomato crop each year has increased his friends at Catholic University. He credits his new habit of aiming to "live a lot on a little" (growing his own food and sharing it) has enriched his life with many unexpected dividends. In the process of answering this call to live more simply, he realized that the rather formidable term "asceticism" has taken on new meaning for him. He now understands it as "living simply as Christ intended."

Dr. Dinges created a course on religion and ecology 25 years ago. He was delighted to see Pope Francis building on the teachings of St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict on how care for the environment and the poor are connected. These faith-filled men are very interested in "Who suffers and why?" Perhaps, stated Dr. Dinges, "our greatest challenge will be when we see a moral dimension to the degradation of our common home."

Can we do something to ensure clean air and water for all? Dr. Dinges encourages us to start in our own neighborhood. "Go outside and see what is going on. Simply walk around your neighborhood. Perhaps there is a need for a trash clean-up day. Perhaps you

might ride a bike more rather than always taking the car. Have a meatless day. Put energy efficient siding on your house... These practical steps could lead one to ask and begin hopefully to answer basic important questions: Do you notice an unraveling of the natural world? And, do we care what sort of world our grandchildren will inherit?"

"Stewardship is care of God's gifts," he shared, summing up his message. "When someone gives you a gift, what is your relationship with that gift?"

ST. MARK will discern how we might reduce a wasteful expenditure of energy and promote ecological virtues. Along with some ideas from ST. JOHN NEUMANN'S Parish team, whose Care for Our Common Home ministry is inspiring, Dr. Dinges listed some ways his Parish has done this:

- Energy audit for the Parish
- Highway clean up service project
- Gardening classes
- Blessing of animals in the liturgy on the feast of St. Francis
- At least one talk on the environment during Lenten suppers
- Petitions for prayers of the faithful, quotes, or statements in the bulletin
- Parish-sponsored field trips to learn more about local environmentalism.

The "Clean Bin Project" Movie Shown in April

By Kathy Aquilina and Betsy Zolper

Shut your eyes if you do not want to read bad news: Albatross nest on Midway, a remote island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and bring back food for their chicks. Sounds like an interesting wildlife documentary, right? The only problem is that it is hard for the birds to determine what is food and what is plastic. So in the course of a year, they bring back five tons of plastic

to disgorge into the stomachs of their babies, who then die of starvation.

One question arose from the 38 people watching "The Clean Bin Project" shown at ST. MARK on Sunday evening, April 23: Why is there trash out so far in the ocean? To answer this, you might want to look up The Pacific Garbage patch: [http://www.national-](http://www.national-geographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/)

[geographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/](http://www.national-geographic.org/encyclopedia/great-pacific-garbage-patch/).

The good news is that we can start the cleaning up process in our own homes and neighborhoods! The film's rather humorous story revolves around a Canadian couple who compete with each other over who can create the

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Clean Bin Project Movie

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least amount of trash. One night, the husband, Grant, sat up in bed with the idea of making a connection between consumption and waste. So they determined to obey three important rules for a year:

- No buying stuff.
- No producing garbage.
- Take responsibility for waste—recycle or compost.

They could buy food in bulk (no plastic packaging). When they ran out of toothpaste (packaged and not recyclable), Jenny looked toothpaste up online and made it from baking soda, salt, and glycerin.

Heartening too was the discussion facilitated by Helene of the Virginia Green Baggers (<http://vagreengbaggers.blogspot.com>). People had lots of suggestions and curiosity about what works for others. “Why are we not educated about this?” questioned Rena

Baker, who told this interviewer about her son-in-law, who works on cutting the carbon footprint of individuals, starting with himself. Please check our Parish’s Care for Our Common Home ministry website for suggestions from people who are challenging themselves to reduce the myriad amount of trash in their lives. We have grown used to purchasing what we want. For example, one person brought bags of chips to the event. She offered the leftover chips to a friend. This friend took the bag, admitting that her children would enjoy them, but then asked, is the bag recyclable? This was humbling to the person offering the chips, because she had never thought about whether chip bags were recyclable! We learn from each other. In the spirit of reducing our throw-away one-use items, the organizing team voted for using china cups for the coffee and washing them up afterward, which did not take a lot of time.

The Kramer-Wong family deeply absorbed “The Clean Bin Project” film and were stunned about the extensive impact of plastic on the environment. Simon, age 11, said, “It’s very surprising about Midway Island and birds being killed.” Monica, age 9, shared that she had heard about tiger sharks with cans of paint in their stomachs. Imagine the hearts and minds of these and other children who want a clean and beautiful world and who are brave enough to face the reality of the state of the earth and speak up about it.

At the end of the discussion, Helene asked everyone to think of one thing they can do to start reducing consumption and caring for creation. Giving up plastic and paper bags by using reusable bags whenever you make a purchase is a good start. If you like to sew or have fabric you want to donate, please contact Helene at <http://vagreengbaggers.blogspot.com/>. What one thing can you do?

Why Is Listening a Virtue?

By Kathy Aquilina

We could wax eloquent on how listening to each other could improve the world. But nothing is more compelling than hearing it from three *ST. MARK* First Graders. I was fortunate to interview them the day after their presentation to the whole School, which they emphasized with their eyes wide with excitement! Each month, a class at School highlights a virtue; after much thought and debate, they develop a strategy to illustrate what they have learned.

So what is so important about listening? “Well,” said one, “if you don’t listen, you don’t know what you are supposed to do, and you will get a bad grade.” “If you are not a good listener,” chimed another, “you get into trouble, and you don’t understand each other.” “When people are trying to tell you something, and you don’t listen, you will end up not helping them. For instance, if your mother asks you to set the table, and you are not listening, then you are not helping your family,” insisted the third.

They definitely are astute; through their

siblings, I was given a lesson in some tactics for avoiding listening:

- Delaying—“one minute, one minute,” while you keep on doing what you want to do.
- Stonewalling—“I don’t want this! No, no, no. I don’t want to do this!”

Why did they choose to also have a green theme? Their response took my breath away: “Listening to our environment is a way of taking care of it.” A cascade of practical applications followed—If you throw a lot of things on our beaches, they will be covered in trash. Trash might just wash away, and if an animal eats it, it will die. Then there will be a lot less animals. When swimming, you could get scratched. You would be smelly with trash all over you!”

They offered suggestions for what we could do:

- Pick up an area of beach, even if it is a small bit.
- Turn off water faucets in our homes.
- Turn off lights when we leave a room.

- Wash and re-use plastic silverware if we have to use it.
- Use our own water bottles.
- Recycle plastic.
- Do a neighborhood cleanup, or plant a tree.

They mentioned listening to Pope Francis, who wants us to care for our common home.

Then to finish off the interview with a flourish of inspiration, one student shared this parable:

A young person was standing on the beach throwing back into the sea, one starfish after another. Why do you spend your time throwing starfish back into the sea when there are so many and you can’t save them all? Well, it makes a difference to that one I am throwing! And that does make a difference!

I was dizzy from the intensity of their enthusiasm and challenged by it. Afterward, I did go out to clean up trash along the trail behind my house. “Got ta” start somewhere to care for God’s creation!

Catholic Charities Volunteer Update

By Sally O'Dwyer

Catholic Charities has over 140 volunteer opportunities, so please tell your friends to go to our website at www.ccca.net and click on the Volunteer Button. We have 2,577 active volunteers in our database, with more groups and youths participating. Additionally, we have 2,197 volunteers with logged hours, which amount to 37,555 hours so far this fiscal year. Thank you!

The VA estimate of \$26.09 per volunteer hour of that donated time is close to 1 million dollars—\$979,826. The programs that have the most volunteers are the following: Hogar Immigrant Services, 905 volunteers; the St. Lucy Project, 886 volunteers; and Christ House, 833 volunteers. These numbers include groups who have donated their time in the past fiscal year.

We have a vibrant prison ministry program. Bishop Burbidge recently celebrated Mass with the inmates at the Fairfax Jail. For more information about volunteer opportunities in Prison Ministry, contact Bill at whall@ccda.net.

Check out our new video, called “Uplifting Families Is at the Heart of What We Do.” Learn how Phyllis and her five children finally found dignity and home ownership through Catholic

Charities. Also, find out about our pregnancy and adoption support, transformational housing, family counseling, and family reunification programs. The video is on the home page of our website www.ccca.net, or you can copy and paste this link into your web browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjgNCqsLNK8>

Critical Volunteer Needs:

■ **College Student Summer Volunteers** for Office of Volunteers: We are looking for college students to volunteer during the summer to help with program marketing and logistics; conduct research; help plan a Prison Ministry Aftercare Awareness event; liaise with our Parishes; write articles about our programs; keep our social media platforms updated, and more. These volunteers need to be available during workdays, at least 20 hours per week, and have excellent computer and writing skills.

■ **Event Planners:** These volunteers help us one weeknight a month to plan and implement workshops and other events at our Parishes. Workshops include financial literacy and employment skills, the struggles ex-offenders face when they return to the community.

Bring Catholic Charities to your workplace! Catholic Charities would love to

hold a fun and meaningful service work day for your corporation or office. We have many opportunities, and we will happily work with you to customize a corporate event.

Parish Youth to Join Annual Conference at Steubenville University

There is still time to sign up for the annual **Summer Youth Conference** from July 14 through 16 at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. The conference is open to all rising 9th graders through graduating seniors. This year's theme is “ELEVATE” from Revelations 21:5 (“Behold, I make all things new...”).

Nearly 2,500 youth and adults will be in attendance — praying, singing, dancing, and having fun! Live music, dynamic speakers, daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, and Confession make this a great opportunity for youth to nurture their faith over the summer.

For more information, contact **Kevin Flores** in the Youth Ministry office.

ST. MARK Hosts Easter Egg Hunt

The Parish held the first Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 23, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



The Maturing Matters (M&Ms) toured the Library of Congress and the United States Capitol on April 18.



Congratulations to Our Newest Catholics!

We congratulate our Neophyte, (newly Baptized and fully initiated), whom we welcomed to our Parish community at the EASTER Vigil on April 15:

■ Tommy Bryan

We congratulate and welcome those received into full communion:

- Christi Eggstaff
- Emmanuel Kendricks
- Melissa Smith



- Ward West
- Bud Wykoff

We congratulate to our adult Confirmandi:

- Justin Eggstaff
- Diana Tellez

Free Concert May 28

We are pleased to welcome another talented young musician to *ST. MARK*. Mairead Flory is a 17-year-old home-schooled cellist from northern Virginia who will attend Northwestern University in the Fall. She has performed with the Piedmont Symphony, Richmond Symphony, and National Philharmonic and has had several solo performances at the Kennedy Center. Mairead will present her graduation recital in the Church on May 28 at 3:00 p.m. The program includes works by Bach and Schubert, as well as a new work by Alistair Coleman. Please join us for an afternoon of great music followed by a reception in the Cassidy Activities Center. The concert is free. Please consider a free will offering to benefit Music for Food, a musician-led initiative to fight hunger in our communities.

Annual Baby Shower on May 20-21

The *ST. MARK* Annual Baby Shower to benefit local pregnancy support groups will be held after Masses during the weekend of May 20-21. Donations of baby items are welcome. Volunteers are needed to help to help sort and deliver the items collected; please contact Maureen Barrett at (703) 251-0447 or email her at mbarrett25@gmail.com for more information.



Milestones

NEW PARISHIONERS

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

- John and Jennifer Black
- Pete Jutin and Erica Roque
- Kevin Landers
- Patrick and Bridget Maldonado
- Marian Pflaumer
- Alicia Rocconi
- Greg And Melissa Smith
- Nicholas and Melissa Suek
- Robert and Catherine Zappi

BAPTISM

- Thomas Gregory Brian
- Andrew Patrick Kennedy
- Mackenzie Jordan Proctor
- Hazel Josephine Smith
- Anna Kathleen Steare
- Lucy Rose Velardw

DEATHS

The following Parishioners entered into eternal life:

- Judith Bucy
- Martha Lavey
- John D. Turner
- Terry Roeder
- Conception Elafano

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Parish Holds Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The Parish hosted the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner following the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, April 29, in the Msgr. Cassidy Activities Center. All who participated enjoyed an evening of good food, fellowship, music, and dancing.



Mark Your Calendar

May

- May 26 *ST. MARK* Pre-School “Move-Up”
May 28 *Solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord*
(transferred from May 25)
May 28 Mairead Flory Recital



June

- June 2 First Friday Adoration 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.
June 3 Diaconate Ordination—*ST. THOMAS MORE* Cathedral
June 4 Solemnity of *Pentecost*
June 4 Youth and Family Mass 6:00 p.m.
June 6 *ST. MARK* Kindergarten Closing Prayer Service
June 6 *ST. MARK* SCHOOL 8th Grade “Clap-Out”
June 9 *ST. MARK* School Baccalaureate Mass and Graduation 9:15 a.m.
June 9 Home School Graduation Mass 7:00 p.m.
June 10 Priesthood Ordination—*ST. THOMAS MORE* Cathedral
June 11 Solemnity of the *Most Holy Trinity*
June 14-17 Forty Hours Devotion
June 18 Solemnity of the *Body and Blood of Christ* (“Corpus Christi”) and Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
June 24 Workcamp Mass 1:00 p.m.
June 24-30 Workcamp in Spotsylvania County
June 25 Farewell Reception for Father Innocent

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