

## Sixth Sunday of Easter May 17, 2009

### Stewardship is a way of life.

### Tithing is God's Plan for Giving:

Tithing income: May 10, 2009	\$ 2099.00
Income for May 11, 2008	\$ 1964.00
Student Offerings	\$ 5.80

**Next week's tithing:** Due to computer problems, we could not access this information in the computer for the bulletin.

**From the pastor:** As pastor and spiritual leader of the parish, I am most grateful that so many people are trusting God to adopt His biblical Plan for giving and are thereby reaping the spiritual and material benefits thereof. God has greatly rewarded our parish for your trust in His goodness.

**Comments on Tithing from the pews:** "I have been tithing without calling it that all my adult life. My mother always believed if you give to the church, no matter what problems come your way, you will overcome them. My experience convinces me that this is true."

**My Good Deed for the Week:** Here's what several of our young people offered as their tithe, in addition to their financial gift: A kindergartner and 4<sup>th</sup> grader said: "I gave my Mom flowers for Mother's Day" and "I wished her a happy birthday." A 6<sup>th</sup> grader said: "I set the table for the whole week. A 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup> grader said: "We helped move our sister back in from college."

### FROM THE PASTOR

**Weekly Reflection:** The Gospel command to "love one another" demands a different kind of love than is projected by the media and society in general. Our love for one another is to emulate God's love – a love that is total, demanding, self-emptying, self-giving. Jesus doesn't ask us to do anything that He hasn't done first. Yes, the command is simple: "love one another." But the demand is imposing: lay down our lives. Keeping God's commandments is laying down our lives – also a dying. Doing the little things every day, not because we have to but because we see the other as the beloved of God, is dying. We choose all these and other ways of dying because we know this is love and love is risen. Life rising to kiss us with a share in divinity.

**Announcement of Transfer:** Last weekend, I announced that Bishop Rhoades had asked me to become pastor of another parish, and that I had accepted that appointment. Let me share with you a few things about this new assignment and my decision to accept it. I received the "letter" this week officially assigning me as the pastor of **St. Andrew Parish in Waynesboro, PA** (in Franklin County). Also, I purposefully worded the announcement to say that Bishop Rhoades asked and I accepted. Let me explain my part of the decision...

I have loved my 6 years here in Mifflintown & Lewistown. As a new pastor, I've certainly made my share of mistakes and I've learned a lot from the experience of being a pastor. Bringing a spark to dry wood produces a fire – and together we've been able to bring a parish that was dry and turn it into a pillar of fire burning brightly to the glory of God. It is thrilling to see the flame of Christ alive in the hearts of the people in the parish!

My decision to accept the assignment was not without much prayer and discernment. As much as I love it here and enjoy being

part of the community, the assignment has been difficult for me spiritually. The priests of our diocese have a unique bond and brotherhood. Our parish is very remote from the other parishes of the diocese. It has been spiritually and emotionally difficult for me these 6 years, being so far removed from my brother priests and their friendship and support.

Also, St. Andrew needs a pastor with particular abilities and skills, and this is why Bishop has asked me to go there. I recognize that to remain here at Sacred Heart and St. Jude (while it would be enjoyable and that I'd be able to enjoy the fruits of my labors), it is time for me to move to the next assignment to sow seeds of the Kingdom in another part of the Diocese.

I am already grateful for your calls and notes and emails and tears expressing your affection and gratitude. My prayer is that, as you look to a new beginning with a new pastor, that the seeds which have been sewn in your hearts will grow 100-fold into a rich harvest for the Lord.

**Parish Welcomes New Pastor:** Bishop Rhoades has appointed the Rev. William Weary as the new pastor of the parish, effective June 18. Some of you may remember Fr. Weary – he was stationed at St. Jude and Sacred Heart for a short time back from 1989-1990. Due to some prior engagements, Fr. Weary will not actually arrive in the parish until after June 25. We welcome our new pastor. Please remember him in your prayers during this time of transition.

### PARISH NEWS

**Attention CCD Parents:** Don't forget!! Even if CCD is over for the year, it is still an obligation for all Catholics to attend Mass every single weekend. The Church continues to teach that purposefully missing Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of Obligation is *mortal sin*. As you have brought your children to CCD all year, so continue to teach them the importance of our faith by bringing them to church all summer long!

**Congratulations to George & Janet Derr** who celebrated their 71<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary on Friday, May 15. Thank you for your witness to the sanctity and blessings of marriage!

**St. Jude 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration RESCHEDULED** for the day of our Eucharistic Devotions, Sunday, July 26. Plan now to attend the afternoon devotions and our famous picnic style celebration.

**Vacation Bible School at St. Jude:** Dates for our vacation bible school, "St. Patrick and the Holy Trinity," are June 22 through June 26. CCD children were given registration forms in class to bring home. Forms will be available in the social hall for those who did not get one. VBS is for children who were in Pre-K through 6th grade during this school year. There is also a sign-up sheet in the social hall for anyone who can volunteer to help out. **We need helpers!**

**Ascension Thursday, May 21: Holy Day of Obligation:** Masses for the Holy Day will be Thursday, May 21 at 9am & 7pm. (at Sacred Heart in Lewistown: Wednesday, May 20 at 7pm and Thursday, May 21 at 7am and 12noon.)

**Olivia Meldrum Receives K of C Scholarship:** The Pennsylvania State Council, Knights of Columbus, awarded 20 scholarships to sons and daughters of Knights of Columbus at their May 1, 2009, Education Loan Foundation meeting, held in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia and Pittsburgh Dioceses received four scholarships each, and the remaining six Pennsylvania

Dioceses received two each. The scholarships are in the amount of \$3,000.00 to be distributed over four years. Locally, one of the Harrisburg Diocese scholarships was awarded to **Olivia Meldrum**, daughter of Linus and Dianne Meldrum. Linus is a member of St. Jude Council, #10842, Mifflintown. Congratulations, Olivia!

**Graduation Mass:** Sunday, June 14 during the 9:15am Mass. If you are graduating from high school this year, please contact Mary Zangrilli so that we can honor you during this Mass.

**Coffeehouse – May 31.** The next St. Jude "Coffeehouse" has been scheduled for Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>. More details to come...

**Fr. Bateman Farewell Pot-Luck:** Sunday, June 7 at 6:30pm in the social hall. We will provide meat, please bring a covered dish to share. There is a sign up sheet in the social hall so that we can have appropriate seating.

**Attention 60+:** The next get-together is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19 from 12:30 until 3pm in the social hall of the parish. There will be bingo in addition to cards and other games. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call Frances Schilling at 463-3078.

### MASS SCHEDULE



**Sun. May 17** – (Acts 10:25-35; 1 Jn 4:7-10; Jn 15:9-17)  
9:15am – In Celebration of Allie Manbeck's Confirmation

**Mon. May 18** – (Acts 16:11-15; Jn 15:26-16:4a)  
9:00am – Anne Kivlin

**Tues. May 19** – (Acts 16:22-34; Jn 16:5-11)

**Wed. May 20** – (Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Jn 16:12-15)

**Thurs. May 21** – (Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:17-23; Mk 16:15-20)  
9:00am – Millie Lunger

7:00pm – Robert Walsh

**Fri. May 22** – (Acts 18:9-18; Jn 16:20-23)

9:00am – Intention of Patricia Gamble

**Sat. May 23** – (Acts 18:23-28; Jn 16:23b-28)

5:00pm (English) – Mildred Rocco

6:30pm (Spanish) – Frederick Mitchell

**Sun. May 24** – (Acts 1:15-26; 1 Jn 4:11-16; Jn 17:11b-19)

9:15am – People of the Parish

### OTHER NEWS

**The Truth of Jesus Christ** – is passed on in the life of the Church in a special way by the ministry of priests and deacons. Our annual Pentecost Collection provides for the formation of seminarians, the continuing formation of priests and permanent deacons, and the retirement of priests many of whom continue to serve God's people. Please continue to generously support the Pentecost Collection this year so that what has been entrusted to the Church may be guarded and passed on to future generations.

**Keith Carroll to be Ordained a Priest:** Do you remember Keith Carroll, our summer seminarian from several years ago? He has invited the parish to join him for his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday, June 6 at St. Patrick Cathedral in Harrisburg beginning at 10am. Then, on Sunday, June 7, he invites us to his first solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish of Saint Rose of Lima in York, PA beginning at 2:15pm. All are invited.

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Oberammergau Passion Play – July 14-23, 2010:** If you would like to join us on this pilgrimage,

note the deposit deadline of July 1, 2009. Brochures are available in the pamphlet rack or you can contact Fr. Bateman directly. Join us on this wonderful pilgrimage as we visit Israel, walking the same shores, streets and towns Jesus walked during his ministry on earth. Then we complete this "once-in-a-lifetime" journey with the Passion Play in Oberammergau. Package price is all-inclusive out of Newark (EWR): approximately \$4,600, but costs are fluctuating a great deal. Information and registration forms are available on the parish website and the pamphlet rack in the entryway. Fr. Bateman's transfer does not affect the trip – as we will all just meet in Harrisburg and, together, journey to Newark to begin our pilgrimage. **Remember, the deadline for deposits is July 1, 2009!**

**Quo Vadis Days 2009 "Where are You Going?"** Attention all Catholic young men ages 15-25. Our Lord has a great plan and mission for you! You are invited to attend the Diocese of Harrisburg's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual *Quo Vadis Days* vocation camp to spend time with other young men your age as you listen to the Lord's call in your life while having fun. Activities include – Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, hiking, sports, games, great food, talks and more. Priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Harrisburg staff *QVD*. Bishop Rhoades will join us for a day. *QVD* will be held from June 14-18, 2009 at Mount St. Mary's Seminary and College. Cost is free! Contact Fr. Bateman, Fr. Thoms or the Office of Vocations at 657-4804 x 282 with questions or for a registration packet.

### SACRED HEART SCHOOL

**SHS** is looking for a school secretary. Computer and people skills are a must. Applications will be accepted through Friday, May 22. Please send resume to Sr. Marlene, SCC, at Sacred Heart School.

**Middle States Accreditation Update:** Back in April, a visit from the Middle States Team concluded our involvement in the accreditation process of Sacred Heart School. The purpose of the visiting team was to witness the accuracy of a two year self-study by faculty, staff and members of the parish and local community.

Concluding comments of three Catholic School professionals who conducted a three day intense investigation of the school philosophy, academics, leadership aspects, and evaluation of the existing facility, were presented to the faculty and administration. Their positive report filled each of us with deep joy and contentment! It was obvious to them that our school "abounds with a genuine nature of Christian values." We were commended for the care and concern we have for the children and each other. Notification of accreditation will be forthcoming in a few months.

"Accreditation status provides a means of accountability to the school community, church community and the general community at large. It validates to all that the educational program meets high academic standards which justifies the faith and resources that others place in the school. It is truly a badge of honor to say a school is accredited and meets high standards." The Steering Committee thanks everyone who contributed to the success of this undertaking. Sincerely: Chairpersons of the Steering Committee, Nora Torquato and Steve Dedmon

**It's Not Too Late** to register for Sacred Heart School for Fall 2009! Registration is ongoing, and scholarship opportunities continue to be available. The Bravo Scholarship Foundation applications **must be postmarked by May 29**, so **don't delay!** We encourage all families to consider a Sacred Heart School education for your children, where we offer a faith foundation, excellence in academics, free busing, low-cost After-School Program, National School Breakfast and Lunch programs, and a friendly, safe, family-oriented environment in which to grow and learn. Call for an appointment today!