

upcoming events

November 5 & 6, 2016
5-6 Thanksgiving Food Drive

November 6, 2016
St. Ambrose
Family Day 10:00 a.m

November 7, 2016
St. Ambrose
Liturgy Com., 7:00 pm

November 8, 2016
Election Day – Don't forget to vote!

November 8, 2016
St. Agatha
Holy Name - 7:00 pm

November 11, 2016
Veterans Day... Parish Office Closed

November 14, 2016
St. Ambrose Worship Site
Disciples in Training, Grades 1-5 & Adults, 6:15 p.m.

November 20, 2016
Holy Family
Spaghetti Dinner - noon

November 21, 2016
St. Ambrose
Disciples in Training, Grades 6-10 & Adults, 6:15 p.m.

November 22, 2016
St. Ambrose
Buildings/Grounds 7:00

November 24, 2016
Thanksgiving - 9:00 a.m.
Mass at Holy Family

the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 34, number 9

November 2016

The View from a Pew

By Steve Banko

November is a month during which I will hear this refrain dozens of times: "Thank you for your service." People are genuine in their respect and appreciation for those who have served in the nation's armed forces, especially during wartime. But no matter how well intentioned those comments are, I still feel a bit torn in trying to adequately respond. For you see, I did not choose to be a soldier and thus, did not choose to be a veteran. It was a role chosen for me. It was something that I had to do as part of my responsibility as a citizen of this country. So nowadays, when someone thanks me for my service, I often respond, "it wasn't my idea." That response is equal parts humor and honesty.

I think about that this month and wonder how many of us in the parish had to embrace missions, professions, tactics, or responsibilities that weren't our idea? How many dads like mine labored their whole lives in the gloom of places like the steel plants? How many moms were denied the luxury of staying home and devoting full time to the care of children because of financial burdens? How many kids couldn't go to the high school of their choice because the cost was just too high? So many people still honor those obligations though, regardless of whether or not they choose that path. We all do things we'd rather not do when the greater good is involved.

Allow me to extend that thinking a bit farther. How many among us do we think choose to be poor? How many people like being utterly dependant on others for their very subsistence? How many people like being sheltered at places like the City Mission? So often these days, I hear people speak of the poor and needy as though these folks chose that path, that dependency was an acceptable role in society.

The office I guided always adopted a needy veteran family for the holidays. The folks I worked with were exceedingly generous and the recipients of that generosity always responded with tears. Some of those tears were joyful tears but others were tears of shame that they couldn't provide a decent Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas toys for their families. Those recipients didn't choose to be where life left them. They need others to be there with more than words.

We're getting into that holiday season now. For those of us who accepted a different path than what we had envisioned and came out whole, let us be thankful that we did and mindful that others didn't. Our faith demands prayer from us but it also demands action. I can't improve on what the early Christians said when they told each other "let them know us by our love." We will have lots of opportunity to prove our devotion to Christ by our devotion to each other. Let's not let them pass.

Election Reflection

By Bishop Richard J. Malone

It's a common experience for bishops after we have addressed a controversial moral issue, we get mail. This intensifies during an election season. No surprise there.

It is happening these days. Right now I have two small stacks of mail on my desk:

Stack #1: "You are too weak on defending the right to life of the unborn. You tell us we must also be concerned about the plight of refugees, racism, care of the earth, and more."

Stack #2: "You are a single issue guy. All you care about is the unborn. You are obsessed with the prolife cause."

I understand this seeming contradiction in people's perceptions of my comments...to a point. In our U.S. Bishops' document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, www.FaithfulCitizenship.org, we speak of two temptations in public life. The first is a "moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of human life from the moment of conception to natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed." This is crystal clear Catholic teaching on the sacred inviolability of human life from the moment of conception to natural death.

The second temptation is the "misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity." Racism, the use of the death penalty, unjust war, torture, failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or lack of health care, pornography, redefining civil marriage, compromising religious liberty, environmental degradation, and unjust immigration policy are all serious moral issues - "not optional concerns which can be dismissed."

As we prepare to vote in a few days in the most polarized, chaotic and alarming election season I

have ever witnessed, it is critically important to heed the guidance of the bishops who are the Church's chief teachers of the faith. The following paragraph from *Faithful Citizenship* accurately reflects official Catholic teaching (not just my own "opinion" as an individual bishop):

A Catholic cannot vote for a candidate who favors a policy promoting an intrinsically evil act, such as abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, deliberately subjecting workers or the poor to subhuman living conditions, redefining marriage in ways that violate its essential meaning, or racist behavior, if the voter's intent is to support that position... At the same time, a voter should not use a candidate's opposition to an intrinsic evil to justify indifference or inattentiveness to other important moral issues involving human life and dignity.

St. John Paul II emboldens us to remain true to the fundamental teachings of the Church: "Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture—is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination."

Essentially, it all comes down to one question: as I prepare to vote, how well formed is my conscience in the principles of Sacred Scripture and the Church's teachings as these relate to and illuminate candidates' positions and their "commitments, character, integrity and ability to influence a given issue?" This, then, is a decision to be made by each Catholic, who is guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching.

Conscience is the key. If it has been properly formed, it must be trusted and prayerfully followed. Pope Francis noted in his apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, "we (the Church) have been called to form consciences, not to replace them."

At a recent discussion with very committed laity, I sensed some real frustration because I cannot and will not promote one presidential candidate over the other.

Wayside
Family Restaurant
2301 South Park Ave.
Serving Homestyle
Specials Daily
Breakfast, Lunch & Supper
Your Host...
Dennis Spinelli
10% Senior Discount on Dinners
826-2279



DAVE'S
Service Center
Auto Repairs of All Types
- Foreign & Domestic

826-8390
2365 South Park Ave.



 **Day & Night** 
Plumbing Co. LLC

SEWER & DRAIN CLEANING
SPECIALIST

Water Heaters • Water Services
 Sold, Installed and Repaired
824-4408

"Can't you see what's at stake? Don't you realize the next president will choose nominees for the Supreme Court, which will make critical decisions impacting both national policies and individual lives for years to come?"

I see and realize those concerns. I share them!

I will tell you only one thing, repeating what I have said before: my conscience has never allowed me to vote for a pro-choice candidate. If you have done the hard work of forming your conscience in preparation for this election, now is the time to pray. Please join me in praying for our beloved nation and our fellow citizens as we get ready to vote. In the words of the USCCB's prayer to God our Creator, let us pray "that with every trial withstood and every danger overcome – for the sake of our children, our grandchildren and all who come after us – this great land will always be 'one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'" May God bless America!

All Saints Day

By Ann DiFlavio

My earliest memory of All Saints day was related to Halloween. At the time I was attending a Catholic School and we had a school holiday celebrating this event. My focus was on resting on the day after a night of trick-n-treating, which was afforded me thanks to all the saints.

I wondered why we gave tribute to the saints twice when all the saints were honored on their own feast day. It was then explained to me that it was also a celebration of all the good people who are saints, but aren't known to the general public.

Possibly, most of us could come up with a name

or two; some right here in our own parish. A few years ago I was diagnosed with cancer and had to have chemotherapy. The facility I had to be treated at was several miles away and the treatment lasted five hours. Although my husband was quite willing to help me it would mean a loss of work hours. An anonymous, via a friend, offered to drive me for treatment. Fortunately, my family was able to assist me. This woman wanted no thanks except for me to help others when it was needed.

I've crossed with other people in our parish who reached out beyond of what was needed. In the last three years I lost my husband and youngest son. If it weren't for the minister of the sick in our parish, and our former pastor I don't think I could have moved on successfully.

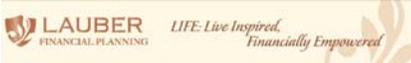
Not all saints die for their faith or perform miraculous deeds, but they share one unique trait and that is the capacity to love God and to share His love.

All Souls Day

By Ann DiFlavio

In John's gospel (6:37-40) Jesus speaks of His identity as the Word Incarnate. Jesus says that anyone who believes in the Father believes in me and they will be raised up on the last day and given eternal life.

Biblical scholars believe this a strong testimony of God's desire for our salvation and Christ's effort (His sacrifice of death) on our behalf. It deepens our memory of all the Faithful Departed since it focuses on Jesus' mission working with the Father for human salvation.



LAUBER FINANCIAL PLANNING *LIFE: Live Inspired. Financially Empowered.*

- Objective, professional, experienced financial advice
- Specializing in comprehensive and holistic financial planning, coaching and guidance
- No products offered or sold, so no conflicts of interest
- Fee-only (hourly, flat-fee, retainer); sliding scale fees available for spending plan/debt coaching

Amy Jo Lauber CFP®
 Certified Financial Planner™
 Lauber Financial Planning
 3976 Seneca Street, West Seneca, NY 14224
 (716) 430-1634
 ajlauber@lauberfinancialplanning.com

Nightengale Funeral Home

1884 South Park Avenue
822-4371

AFFORDABLE PRICES

CREMATION SERVICES

Price Guaranteed Pre-Plan Services
Nursing Home/Medicaid accounts

Family Owned and Operated Since 1926
Marty Nightengale - Licensed Manager

"Ask the Families we have served..."

Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

*Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and president of
Lauber Financial Planning*

“For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.” Mathew 7:8

This is one of my favorite scriptures because I feel it gives me permission to ask God – and to keep asking – for what my heart desires. After all, if you don’t ask, you won’t receive. Asking does not make you greedy nor does it guarantee receipt of what is desired, but it will help you clarify what it is you desire and – moreover – why.

Examining your goals and priorities can be mentally taxing but is crucial in order to determine your next steps; without goals and priorities that align with your faith and values, you’ll remain stuck.

So, go ahead and ask, seek, and knock.

We welcome into our parish family:

Newly Baptized

Bennett Paul Maczuga
Loa Kristine Scarsella
Kaelyn Rose Connolly
Lillian Benedict Meeks
Jordan Andrew Dzierzanowski, Jr
Emily Theresa Hunt

New Parishioners

Derek Kania & Stephanie Ubaldini
Margaret & Howard Webster
Kathleen & Michael Coyle
Eric & Eileen Kline
and their children Leah & Lindy
Stephanie & Anthony Sterlace, Jr.
and their children Sydney & Sienna

Thank You Notes

The Sisters of St. Francis were thankful for our recent gift that supports the Timau Mission in Kenya.

Sister Janet Biemann, RSM, Focus on Haiti Volunteer, sent a note to thank us for our donation that will support their efforts to help the people of Haiti.

The Consolata Missionaries were grateful for our gift to support them as they preach the Word of God and help the people of Kenya who are in desperate need.

A thank you note was received from the Sisters of St. Mary Africa-Brazil who indicate that our gift will provide food for the hungry.

Via International thanked us for our generous donation that allows them to continue to grow their programs aimed at building leadership skills and fostering self-sufficiency in under served populations.

Sister Margaret O'Donnell, RSM sent a note to express her gratitude for our gift to help the Mercy Missions.

The Midwest Jesuits are able to continue their apostolic works in Nicaragua because of our generous gift.

The Sisters of Mercy sent several letters to acknowledge our gifts that support the Philippine Education Expansion Fund, Philippine Missions, Missions in Peru and Focus on Haiti Mission.

The Congregation of Holy Cross thanked us for our generous gifts that support the Lord of Hope Parish in Peru.

the bridge

Published by
Our Lady of Charity Parish Council
<http://ourladyofcharityparish.com>
65 Ridgewood Road
Buffalo, NY 14220
822-5962

Fr. Bryan Zielenieski, Moderator
Shirley Banko, Editor
submit articles to: sabanko@roadrunner.com

Staff

Steve Banko Pat Margerum
Amy Jo Lauber