

**A Letter from Our Pastor**

"I just want to be told that my children will be safe." On Wednesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> we held an open forum here at Lourdes, allowing the free expression of concern, anger, opinion and advice regarding the revelations roiling the Church this summer. Through the encouragement of a parishioner who felt the need to be heard, we set aside this evening so any parishioner could share his or her heart and mind. An estimated 100 of you were present and each expression in its emotion and angst helped me to know your real fears and concerns, as well as to see the depth of your faith. A comment that most hit home for me was criticism from a parishioner after Sunday Mass six weeks ago. I had addressed in my homily what I saw as a root cause of so much of the destructive behavior we find in society and which had crept into the lives of some members of the clergy. But my words did not satisfy his deepest need: to hear that his children will be safe in our church.

I vow to you anew my own commitment to safeguard our children. But words are meaningless without actions. Please allow me to point out what is being done to assure that Lourdes is the safest place possible for those entrusted to our care. Since 1986, this Archdiocese has had strict policies in place for the safeguarding of children, and made even stronger over time. Indeed, across the country, dioceses are required to screen all who teach and oversee minors on church property. This includes finger printing, background checks, and training workshops which focus on how to identify any hint of malfeasance and understand the obligation to immediately report to civil authorities. The Archdiocese also employs a full-time head of the Office of Child and Youth Protection. Courtney Chase can be contacted 24-hours a day. Additionally, each parish has a person responsible for protection policy, who must prove each year that we are fully compliant. For Lourdes, this is Ms. Sheri Golden. Anyone who has worked with her can assure you she is rigorous. The Archdiocese also goes through an annual audit by outside lay experts.

As for those applying to the seminary, since I started in 1990, they must undergo demanding psychological testing and spiritual examinations. Anyone shown to have disordered inclinations cannot be admitted. Scrutiny and an emphasis on clear moral teaching and human maturity continues through the seminary formation. All of this has been happening for almost three decades, but is rarely publicized. Again, our policy makes it clear that any accusation against a minor must be immediately reported to the police. I assure you this is a great relief to us, that any credible case will be met with zero-tolerance, which I could not agree more with. For example, a few years ago a pastor received a complaint about a youth minister relating to a teen. The pastor contacted the Archdiocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection which then reported it to the police. The perpetrator was arrested, prosecuted and now sits in a state penitentiary. Clear protocol is in place to investigate suspects, and structures are established that make it difficult for anyone to evade responsibility for such crimes.

What you may not know, is that evidence indicates that these reforms are working remarkably. If the Grand Jury report had come out two decades ago, it would largely state what it does now. The vast majority of the cases happened in the 1960s,70s, 80s.

**Masses for the Week**

<b>Monday, September 10th</b> (Gospel reading: Lk. 6: 6-11)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Antonio Fernandez	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Al & Margaret Delacroix	Msgr. Filardi
<b>Tuesday, September 11th</b> (G. reading: Lk. 6: 12-19)		
7:00 AM	+ Philip Martin	Msgr. Filardi
8:00 AM	+ Adelfa Fernandez	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	Victims of 9-11	Fr. Barbieri
<b>Wednesday, September 12th</b> (G. reading: Lk. 6: 20-26)		
7:00 AM	+ William Curtin	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Colette Primrose	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Jim Stouffer	Msgr. Filardi
<b>Thursday, September 13th</b> (G. reading: Lk. 6: 27-38)		
7:00 AM	+ Onyioza Maris Asuku	Msgr. Filardi
8:00AM	+ Mary Rawson	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Ann Fige Nawn	Fr. Barbieri
<b>Friday, September 14th</b> (Gospel reading: Jn. 3: 13-17)		
7:00 AM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Fr. Barbieri
8:00 AM	+ Nicholas Gallagher	Fr. Barbieri
12 NOON	+ Arnim Vaucrosson	Msgr. Filardi
<b>Saturday, September 15th</b> (G. reading: Jn. 19: 25-27)		
8:00 AM	+ Charles T. Magnetti	Msgr. Filardi
11:00-11:55 AM	Confessions	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	+ Eleanor Eason	Fr. Barbieri
4:00-4:45 PM	Confessions	Fr. Barbieri
5:00 PM	+ Joseph Can Ngoc Pham	Msgr. Filardi
<b>Sunday, September 16th</b> (Gospel reading: Mk. 8: 27-35)		
7:30 AM	Priest's Intentions	Fr. Barbieri
9:00 AM	Priest's Intentions	Msgr. Filardi
10:30 AM	People of the Parish	Msgr. Filardi
12 NOON	Priest's Intentions	Fr. Barbieri
1:30 PM	Priest's Intentions	Fr. Barbieri

The Priests' schedule is subject to change without notice.

Because of printing deadlines, Mass intentions requested less than two weeks ahead might not appear in the bulletin. Masses are offered for the names/intentions written in the parish intention book. The graces of each Mass are applied to the persons listed in the book regardless of whether they appear in the bulletin or are mentioned during the Mass.

I do not say this to discount the horror of each, the pain they caused, and the necessary demands for justice. And while some people might feel it is insensitive to point this out right now, the number of new cases of abuse from the last two decades has fallen steeply. This indicates that our efforts to protect minors are bearing fruit. And while only time will tell, I am aware of no allegation against an Archdiocesan priest from the last twenty years. If there is any institution doing more to identify, address and root out such evil, I would like to know who it is. We must continue our vigilance until there is nowhere for such darkness to hide in the Church. I welcome your response where I need correction. The fact is, and I say this with confidence, is that there is no place right now where children are safer than in our Catholic schools and parishes.

- Msgr. Edward Filardi

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Office of Religious Education 301-654-5954

During the *Reign of Terror*, the campaign to destroy Catholicism in France, the contemplative orders of monks and nuns were considered useless and selfish. On July 17, 1794, the Blessed Carmelites of Compiegne were guillotined. As they were loaded into the tumbrel and driven through the streets of Paris, they chanted the "Miserere", the "Salve Regina", the "Te Deum". When they arrived at the Place de la National, they sang the "Veni, Creator Spiritus", invoking the Holy Spirit.

Pausing at the foot of the scaffold each of the Choir nuns kissed a small statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, chanted "*Laudate Dominum omnes gentes*" (Psalm 117) and asked their Prioress, Mother Teresa of Saint Augustine, "**Permission to die.**" The Prioress said to each of the Blessed Carmelites of Compiegne, "**Go, my daughter.**" The youngest, Sister Constance, made her final vows just before she died. The chant ended when the Prioress was guillotined.

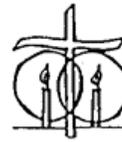
Ten days after the Carmelites' deaths by the guillotine, Robespierre fell, and with his execution on the same scaffold the *Reign of Terror* ended. The mystery of their vocation offered their lives to restore peace to the Church and to France. (In part taken from the National Catholic Register July 2017; Stephanie Mann & the back cover of *To Quell The Terror*, The True Story of the Carmelite Martyrs of Compiegne by William Bush; ICS Publications)

Recalling the chanting of the Blessed Carmelites of Compiegne in their martyrdom for the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, we are now in the midst of a massive crisis that begs us to pray and chant the beautiful prayers and hymns for our Church and for one another. Try to dedicate Thursdays, the day that Christ Jesus instituted the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Holy Orders, by fasting and praying for seminarians, priests, bishops, and cardinals.

**Catholic Singles of Greater Washington:** is an organization for single Catholics enjoying each other's company in a wide variety of social, religious, and cultural settings. Ages 21 to 65-plus; most members are 45 and older. Please find out more about us at: <http://CatholicSinglesOfGreaterWashington.org> or call Tricia at 301-460-9195.

**English Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL)**  
Would you like to learn English or improve your English language ability? Join us on **Sunday, September 9th** from 12:00pm to 1:30pm in the new vestibule space of Our Lady of Lourdes Church and register for the fall session of the English Speakers of Other Languages Program. A second registration session will be held on **Sunday, September 16th**, from 10:30am to 11:30am in the new vestibule space. The first class will be held on **Sunday, September 16th, 2018**. Classes are held each Sunday from 11:45am until 1:15pm. We look forward to meeting and speaking with you. If you have any questions, feel free to contact ESOL Coordinator, Maya Wilson, at 516-455-9169.

**Join us at Our Lady of Lourdes for the next Bible Study: *Psalms: The School of Prayer: Starting Monday, September 10th*** at 7:00pm in the Religious Education Office on the lower level of the school. The DVD Series is taught by Jeff Cavins and runs for ten weeks with opportunities for discussion. To register call the Religious Education Office at 301-654-5954. There is no cost for the class. If you wish to purchase a workbook the cost is \$25.00. Fliers are available in the vestibules of the church.



### *Banns of Marriage*

**First Time:** John Aylor of Spartanburg, South Caroline and Lea Biciocchii of Las Vegas, Nevada.

**First Time:** Charles Pollack of Rockville, Maryland and Claudia Diaz of Chevy Chase, Maryland.

**40 Days for Life: September 26th - November 4th:**  
You're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. Please contact: Deb VanLandingham at 301-351-5940 or Sandy Buffalano at 301-219-5912.

**MEN: Deepen your Faith, Friendships, and Relationships Within your Family: That Man Is You:**  
A program for men seeking to refresh their spiritual life and deepen their family commitments, meets in the Library Media Center from 6:25 to 7:55 on Saturday mornings, starting **Saturday, September 15th**. Please RSVP by contacting Paul Bizot at [pbizotpe@aol.com](mailto:pbizotpe@aol.com) or 301-648-5945.

**The Ladies of Lourdes:**  
The first meeting of the 2018-19 Session of the Ladies of Lourdes will take place on **September 18th** in the Library Media Center in the school, starting promptly at 7:30pm. Our speaker will be Julie Blatty and her presentation will be **From Playboy to Adoration**. All women of the parish are welcome and to bring a friend. For further information please contact: Barbara Black at [fsbbob@verizon.net](mailto:fsbbob@verizon.net) or 301-652-0749.

**RCIA - An Invitation to Come and See! -- Thursday September 13th, 2018 at 7:00pm in the School Library:**  
Through weekly gatherings, those attending gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the Catholic beliefs and practices. All are welcome, and there is no obligation to make any commitment to become Catholic. Please call the rectory office for more information.  
**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Classes in Spanish:** will begin on **Sunday, September 16th** from 11:30am-1:15pm. Registration is every Sunday following the 1:30pm Spanish Mass. Please contact Gilvar Morales at 301-788-9651 for more information.



**Altar Flowers:**

If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers for a special intention, a special occasion, or in memory of a loved one, please call the parish office or email:  
sgolden@lourdesbethesda.net or  
ctoms@lourdesbethesda.net The donation for the flowers is \$150.00.

**The Our Lady of Lourdes Class of 1968**

**50 Year Reunion:** To all alumni of the Our Lady of Lourdes Class of 1968: Our 50-year class reunion will be held at the school on **October 6th, 2018**. Please contact Bill Glacken at [william.glacken@yahoo.com](mailto:william.glacken@yahoo.com) for details.

**MEN'S RETREAT -- A LAST REMINDER:**

There is still room for the ANNUAL RETREAT at Loyola Retreat House this next weekend. How long since you've enjoyed the benefits of a spiritual check up? The cost is only what you make it and the dividends are highly rewarding. **For more details about the retreat, please pick up a flyer from the tables in the vestibule as you leave Mass today.** Reserve a place today by calling our retreat coordinator, Geary Fisher. He can be reached at 301-654-1806 or e-mail: [gandjfisher@verizon.net](mailto:gandjfisher@verizon.net).

**Adult Children of Alcoholics/Adult Children of Dysfunctional Families:**

Experiencing low self-esteem, inadequacy, shame, or abandonment? Do you struggle with intimacy, anger, or trust in your relationships? Such feelings may be connected with difficult or painful experiences in your family of origin. Family problems could include alcoholism, abuse, serious illness, death, divorce or separation. The first six weeks of a three part psycho-educational series to help you heal from your challenging childhood experiences will be offered at 4405 East West Highway, Suite 304B beginning **Wednesday September 26th, 2018**. Call Kathleen Scheg, JD, LCPC, LPC at 301-681-3590. The fee is \$360 for each six weeks.

**Fifth Annual CBN-DC Gala:**

The Board of Directors of the Catholic Business Network of Washington, DC cordially invites you to attend the Fifth Annual Gala supporting Catholic education and honoring distinguished members of our community. Join us as we honor Our Catholic Business Persons of the Year, **Bill and Mary Noel Page** of Page Honda and Our Religious of the Year, **Sister Mary Bader** of St Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families. **Thursday, October 4th, 2018: 6:00pm** at The Four Seasons: 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20007. Tickets and sponsorships may be purchased at: <https://www.cbndc.org/events/gala>. For more information contact Justin Silvers, [jsilvers@cbndc.org](mailto:jsilvers@cbndc.org) or 202-957-5188. We hope you can join us!

**Finance & Administration:**

*"How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?" (Psalm 116:12)*

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time 2018 Offertory: \$7,507**

**Second Collection for September 16, 2018: Building Fund**

**Our September Poor Box will be going to Bethesda Cares.**

**Bethesda Cares is a community outreach program for the homeless. Their mission is to respond with compassion and creativity to help the homeless and persons in need in the community and to help prevent impending homelessness in Montgomery County. Thank you in advance for your generosity.**

**On the Weekend of September 8th-9th, 2018, the Archdiocese of Washington will Take up The Catholic University of America Second Collection:**

The university provides an academically rigorous education, guided by Catholic intellectual tradition, to over 6,000 students, including clergy, religious, seminarians, and young lay men and women. It is committed to being a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church. For more than 100 years, this national collection has been a pillar of support for the University and, by helping fund financial aid and more, is critical to a successful academic year for both students and faculty. You may find information at [collection.cua.edu](http://collection.cua.edu), and thank you for your generosity.

**Ministry to the Elderly and Homebound:**

If a parishioner is ill or unable to attend Mass and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call our coordinator, Margaret Carroll at 301-325-6398.

**Moving In, Out or Within the Parish?**

Please help us keep our records up-to-date by filling out this form and dropping it in the collection basket or rectory mail slot. Thank you.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I/we am/are new to the parish. Welcome!

\_\_\_\_ Change of address within the parish. Thank you!

\_\_\_\_ I/we am/are moving out of the parish. God be with you!

Noticias en Español –Vigésimo Tercer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario– Setiembre 9, 2018

“Todo lo hace bien”



El evangelio de hoy nos presenta a Jesús que realiza otro de sus milagros, esta curación, esta sanación que realiza Jesús libera a la persona no solamente de las trabas físicas sino también de las más profundas, las heridas espirituales, de aquello que no deja caminar a las personas con felicidad, con libertad. Pensemos, reflexionemos a la luz de este texto que nos presenta la liturgia de hoy cuáles son esas trabas que tenemos nosotros aún hoy, qué falta que Dios me libere... pedirselo en la oración confiadamente al charlar con nuestras propias palabras, con el lenguaje del corazón. Teniendo en cuenta este evangelio que hemos escuchado pedirle al Señor que no nos abandone, al contrario, que Su gracia descienda sobre nosotros y que podamos ser sanados en aquellos lugares de nuestra historia personal que aún la gracia de Dios no ha podido encontrar. Ojalá podamos escuchar ese "¡Ábrete!" también como signo de libertad, de salvación en nuestras propias vidas. Por eso esta invitación de la Palabra de hoy "efatá-ábrete", resume muy bien el Evangelio y la Misión de Cristo en este mundo. Si hay algo que Cristo vino a hacer a este mundo fue justamente esto: destaparnos los oídos y despegarnos los labios, para que podamos abrirnos: **1) abrimos a la comunicación y al diálogo con Dios; 2) abrimos a la comunicación y al diálogo con los hermanos.** Todo a lo largo y ancho de la Biblia, incluso, ambas cosas son vitales:

**1) La escucha de la Palabra de Dios...**

¿Sabían cuál es la primera palabra que rezan los israelitas cada mañana? "Escucha, Israel". La encuentran en Deuteronomio 6: "Escucha Israel a Yahveh tu Dios... Amarás al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu alma, con todas tus fuerzas". ¡Sí! Cada día, al empezar la jornada, el buen israelita sabe que tiene que ponerse a la escucha de Dios. Por eso los profetas, por ejemplo, insistirán siempre en que detrás de todo pecado, lo que hay en el fondo es un apartarse de la escucha de la Palabra de Dios y, por tanto, de Dios mismo. A su manera, también Cristo ha insistido y mucho sobre este mismo tema, por eso sus palabras tantas veces repetidas: "El que tenga oídos para oír que oiga"; porque Cristo ha descubierto en carne propia, que la sordera es uno de los más grandes problemas de la Humanidad. Que tenemos oídos, pero ni nos oímos entre nosotros, ni oímos a Dios.

**2) La transmisión, el anuncio de la Palabra de Dios a los hermanos...**

Tan importante como abrirse a la palabra de Dios, escucharla, lo es también el abrirse al anuncio de esa Palabra, a la transmisión, a la comunicación de la palabra de Dios para que llegue a otros, para que llegue a todos. En esa misma línea, la oración del israelita que citábamos más arriba continúa con la invitación al anuncio. Es notable percatarse que la Biblia entera está repleta de personas que, para no dedicarse a la Misión de anunciar la Palabra de Dios, aducen su imposibilidad de hablar, de comunicar. Dos tremendos ejemplos son el de Moisés y el profeta Jeremías. Moisés llegó a decir: "Señor, no soy un hombre de palabra fácil, soy lento al hablar y torpe de lengua". Jeremías, por su parte dice: "¡Ay, Señor! Mira que no sé hablar, que soy apenas un muchacho". Ambos, como pretexto para eludir sus respectivas misiones señalan su incapacidad de comunicar, de hablar. ¡Cuidado! Esto nos puede estar pasando también a nosotros hoy. Que bajo diferentes formas de pretexto y auto-justificación, evitamos el salir a misionar, a anunciar a otros la Palabra de Dios (ya sea en nuestras familias, trabajos, grupos de amigos, etc.). Hoy más que nunca Dios necesita de nuevos San Pablos, hombres y mujeres que habiendo escuchado su Palabra nos animemos a comunicarla a los hermanos. Ojalá hoy meditemos con hondura en aquellas palabras del Apóstol: "¡Ay de mí si no evangelizara! (1 Cor. 9, 16).

**Avisos:** La Catequesis 2018-2019 empezara el 16 de Setiembre de 11:45 a 1:15pm

**Por favor actualice su información - Recorte el siguiente formato de inscripción y entréguelo en la Misa junto con colecta. Recuerde que los datos que usted nos suministre son confidenciales.**

- Soy (somos) nuevo(s) en la Parroquia. **Queremos inscribimoso.**
- Llevo (tenemos) ya tiempo asistiendo a esta parroquia y **queremos inscribimoso.**
- Estoy (estamos) inscritos y **esta es la nueva dirección.**
- Ya no podré volver a esta parroquia. **Favor eliminar mi nombre de la lista.**

NOMBRE: \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECION: \_\_\_\_\_ APTO: \_\_\_\_\_ CIUDAD: \_\_\_\_\_

CODIGO POSTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEFONO: \_\_\_\_\_ CORREO ELECTRONICO: \_\_\_\_\_