

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

This Saturday, May 26, was the feast day of one of my favorite saints, Philip Neri. He was a priest who lived in Rome in the 1500's and was devoted to the Holy Spirit. This explains why he was loved by his contemporaries for his sense of humor and cheerful disposition. One of his sayings was; "A servant of God should always be happy." In the article below, Fr. Michael Rennier explains how the example of St. Philip Neri can help us in our relationships with others.

With my prayers,
Fr. Conley

Four secrets of St. Philip Neri can help us be more successful at life.

Dale Carnegie, in his influential book *How to Win Friends and Influence People*, writes, "Winning friends begins with friendliness." Simple, right? So, shouldn't I be positively drowning in the adoration of my masses of faithful friends by now? I must be less friendly than I think. I never linger long enough to find out, but I'm sure there are plenty of folks who find me to be a notch below friendship material. This is probably because I can be sarcastic and thoughtless, I don't always listen well, and I often neglect to consider others' feelings.

That's me at my worst – not friendly at all.

Friendliness is a character trait that's made up of many other good traits. Carnegie talks about being interested in others, listening, never criticizing, remembering names, and smiling. Knowing, however, that these habits take a lot of practice and people like me are very bad at them, he warns, "If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the beehive." In other words, the quick, easy way to get what I want from other people isn't at all the best way. Friendliness has its rewards.

Carnegie is well known for writing about friendliness, but there are plenty of people out there who are shining examples of how it's actually done. One is St. Philip Neri, whose feast day is celebrated on May 26. Philip was a priest living in Rome in the 16th century who had a talent for acquiring random and diverse friends. Louis Bouyer begins his biography of Philip by writing, "It was said of St. Philip Neri that he drew people to himself as iron is drawn to a magnet."

What was Philip's secret? Here are a few practical lessons from his life about how we, too, can be known as a friend to many ...

Don't Expect a Reward

Philip somehow gathered a group of dedicated followers without trying to do so. He never manipulated people or had ulterior motives in being friendly. He ended up founding and leading a movement called an oratory, which is a society dedicated to certain spiritual goals, but he never wanted to be the leader. In fact, his friends had to drag him out of the tiny room where he lived and

forced him to move into the larger building that the oratory had created.

When we meet someone for the first time, it shouldn't matter to us whether they could be useful to us or a good connection in the future. Friendship isn't networking, so let's offer our goodwill without any desire for a return on investment.

Treat everyone equally

Not thinking — at least a little bit — about how a potential friend might be a good social connection is tough. Even if it's hard to admit, it's a challenge to not be more deferential with people who have money and social position. Philip solved this problem by refusing to draw any social distinctions whatsoever, making every single person he met his friend. The group of people he gathered around him included street urchins, noblemen, musicians, and former thieves. Carnegie says that it's rare for a person to be completely unselfish with friendships. I want to be that sort of rare person.

Invite people in

In a Pinterest-obsessed era, the simple act of having guests over is as anxiety-riddled as staring into the oven and hoping your chocolate and sea salt souffle doesn't collapse. Everyone worries that the silverware isn't shiny enough or the house isn't clean enough. Philip lived in a tiny cell, but he would regularly invite friends over and show them hospitality. I doubt anyone ever complained that his swan napkins weren't good enough. In my experience, the best place to really get to know people is by inviting them into our homes and spending time with them, so I say don't worry about if the house or cooking isn't perfect and enjoy hosting new friends.

See the best in everyone

Philip never judged anyone unworthy of being invited into his home or joining his circle of friends. He always saw the potential in each person he met and ignored their reputation. He often found that human kindness brought out unusual responses. For instance, a new friend named Caesar who had moved to Rome from the mountains was so lacking in social graces and his manners were so rough that Philip jokingly nicknamed him, "The Barbarian." Amid the joke, though, he always treated him with respect and friendship. Eventually, Caesar became a very successful, cultured man. He was even almost made pope!

In his famous book, Carnegie says that instead of condemning people, we should understand them. That's what Philip Neri did. And if all of us took a little more time to understand and see the best in those we meet, our lives would be far more joyful and, yes, far more friendly.

MEMORIAL DAY MASS will be Monday at 9:30am. Come & pray for those who gave their lives for our nation.

“I WAS ILL AND YOU CARED FOR ME...” NOT RECEIVING COMMUNION? If for some reason you are attending Mass but not receiving Holy Communion I would like to talk to you about it. Perhaps there is a solution to your dilemma that will enable you to receive our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Please give me a call or email me at fconley@comcast.net

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO ASSIST WITH OUR SPIRITUAL OUTREACH TO THE SAGEPOINT and GENESIS nursing homes. Our Lord Jesus teaches us that loving Him means loving the least of his brothers and sisters. And some of His least brothers and sisters are the elderly in nursing homes. Local parishes offer Mass and Communion services at these homes on Wednesdays at 11 AM. Volunteers are needed to assist with bringing residents from their rooms to the services. Volunteers who are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are also needed. If you can assist with this ministry whether it's once a month or every week, please contact Father Conley

THIS FRIDAY IS FIRST FRIDAY AND WE WILL HAVE ALL DAY EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. Adoration will begin following the 9:30 Mass and continue until 7pm. Our school children will be coming to adoration by classes throughout the day. Volunteers are needed to sign up for adoration times from 10 to 11 and from 3 to 7. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer. Come and pray in the presence of the Lord in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“WELL-WISHERS-”We have been informed that we should replace the well system for the parish before it breaks. The current system is over fifty-years old. We would like to take care of this issue over the summer. In order to do so we will need to raise \$50,000 as a special fundraiser. This effort has been endorsed by both the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils. A letter is going out next week to every household registered in the parish asking for your support of this effort. *We know we can count on your generous support!*

BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER - Please support the ministry of The Catherine Foundation today by taking home a baby bottle to fill with coins, bills, or a check made payable to the organization. Baby bottles should be returned on or before Sunday, June 17, Father's Day. Your generosity enables The Catherine Foundation to provide free medical, educational, and material support for men and women dealing with an unexpected pregnancy. Please contact Janet Beck at: outreach@catherinefoundation.org.

ARE WE OBSERVERS OR "DOERS" IN THE ABORTION DEBATE? Are we doing enough? The answer is an emphatic "no" as it is so easy to simply tune out and put this horror out of our minds and sight. Yet, nearly all violence done against human beings involves three types of people: the Perpetrator, the Victim and the Observer. This is sometimes called the "Tragic Triangle" With abortion, the abortionist, in collusion with the parent(s) is the perpetrator, the child is the victim, and the observers are all the rest of us. Some believe that we as observers have an equal or greater responsibility than the perpetrators because we can be more objective and if we were really motivated, we could stop this daily slaughter of the innocents. We can start by making sure we vote for LIFE in the forthcoming elections.

RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE NEEDS HELP

We need some help to work after the 4 PM Mass. Please call Ellen Walls at 301- 579-2557 or Fay Adriani at 301-645-3531.

KNOW OF PARISHIONERS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND? Please contact Fr. Conley or Sister Theresa at the rectory so we can minister to their spiritual needs.

Please support our advertising sponsors. This week we recognize Arba Graphics

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Parishioners, 10am Larry Wood,
12N: Msgr. James Beattie, **MON:** 9:30am Mary Helen Tippet, **TUES:** 8am Louis L. Plater, **WED:** 8am Carol Ann Chagnon, **THURS:** 8am Mike Wells, **FRI:** 9:30am Doris Gross, **SAT:** 9am Mary Theresa Bowen, 4pm Taylor Halbleib.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Mary Bowes, Bill Branick, Frances Card, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, Judy Istvan-Windsor, Irma Johnson, Regina Kijesky, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Jim Middleton, Mary Emma Middleton, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Ryan Myers, Joseph Quade, Mary Reeves, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Beth Weise, Tim Welch, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND: \$9,334.72. The unidentified donations totaled \$813.72. We received \$128.00 for our School Support.