

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

The parishes of Charles County are sponsoring a workshop on evangelization on Saturday, August 4, from 9AM to 3 PM at Sacred Heart Church. The workshop is free and will include lunch. At the workshop participants will learn effective ways to share their faith in Jesus Christ with others, which is the mission our Lord has given to all of us. We do need a headcount for the workshop so if you would like to attend please let me know.

The article below from the *National Catholic Register* describes the important work of this wonderful organization.

With my prayers,
Fr. Conley

Taking the Gospel to the Street — and Beyond St. Paul Street Evangelization by Patti Armstrong

One evening, six years ago, Steve Dawson gave a Miraculous Medal to a waitress at a restaurant. She then proceeded to voice disagreement with Church teaching about abortion. "The Church teaches that we should love life," he told her. "Both science and the Church teach that we have new human life at conception. No one argues with that, and it's not up to us to decide who lives or who dies." That was the end of the conversation. Several months later, back at the restaurant, the waitress spotted Dawson and ran over to him. She revealed that when they met the first time, she had just found out she was pregnant and planned to have an abortion. But Dawson's explanation had convinced her not to go through with it. By the second meeting, she was obviously pregnant.

Dawson was pleased to learn that his counsel had done good for the mother and the baby — and he was grateful that he had been inspired by his saintly hero, St. Maximilian Kolbe, who often carried a pocketful of Miraculous Medals to give away. Other moments followed in Dawson's new mission, where he, his pockets full of Miraculous Medals, would tell people he encountered: "Hey, I felt inspired to offer you this free gift," Dawson told the Register. "Then I'd explain that Jesus sent his medal through his Mother, and she promised that anyone who wore the medal would receive great graces." People he encountered usually accepted the gift, and it often led to conversations.

So St. Paul Street Evangelization's mission had begun — the organization sends evangelists out in pairs to engage passersby in their local communities, striking up conversations about Jesus and the Gospel.

"I had a powerful conversion 10 years ago," Dawson, a Michigan native, explained of his time of reversion at Portland State University a decade ago. "I was discerning a religious life for a while, but realized that

God was calling me to evangelize — just like he calls all Catholics — to convert the world to Jesus Christ."

Soon, friends of Dawson started joining him to evangelize. What began as a few people walking around Portland's river walk spread rapidly. Dawson credits the Holy Spirit, whom they pray to before beginning their evangelistic encounters. "Not only is he working through the evangelizers, but he is also working in the heart of the person who is being evangelized — laying the groundwork in advance," he explained. The work soon took the effort to Michigan and then Indiana.

How to Evangelize

Adam Janke, vice president of programs and operations at St. Paul's and a former anti-Catholic Baptist, whose conversion began in a chat room, was attracted to St. Paul's mission after seeing a picture of Dawson evangelizing someone... "Two or more evangelists set up a table in a public area and offer passersby items such as a Miraculous Medal, rosary or holy card, to spark conversation," he said. "Team members are taught to ask questions and then to listen. If they're not Catholic, we'll ask if they've ever considered the Catholic faith before." Evangelizers briefly share their own story, providing reasons why they are Catholic. They will ask interested Catholics whether they currently go to Mass and talk about the importance of Mass and the sacraments and learning about the faith. Team members also offer to pray with visitors.

A team member explained "We will share the Gospel wherever we go, at all times. Once we build relationships, they will need to be disciplined, so the next step will be to do Bible studies." The ultimate goal, according to him, is salvation. "People are made for God, and we want everyone to recognize that for the salvation of their soul," he said. "The whole world is waiting to be evangelized!"

THE WELL OF GENEROSITY

An anonymous parishioner has pledged to match donations to our Well Fund up to the amount of \$61,250, which is half of the cost of the project. As of this week we have raised \$52,687.00.

So, if we can raise about \$8,000.00 more, the entire cost of the well project will be covered without us having to deplete our savings. Please, if you haven't contributed to the fund yet or can contribute a bit more, your donation will be doubled in value. As our generous donor put it, "Let's get this project done!"

PRAYER GROUP MEETING THIS THURSDAY

Our Prayer group meets this Thursday from 6:30 to 8:30 and dinner will be served. Everyone is invited to come and join us for Spirit-filled praise and worship of our Lord. If you can join us please contact Father Conley at frconley@comcast.net

CATHOLIC QUOTES

"My life is but an instant, a passing hour. My life is but a day that escapes and flies away. Oh my God! You know that to love You on earth I only have today!" St. Therese of Lisieux

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH

Our parish will be hosting an Outreach Priest on the weekend of July 28 & 29, offering us the opportunity to share in celebrating the success of the Church in helping the poorest of the poor around the world. Please give generously!

MOVIE "SEXUAL REVOLUTION"

Join us for dinner and a movie at St. Joseph Church, Pomfret on Friday, July 27. Food and fellowship begins at 6:30pm and the film begins at 7:30pm. Celebrating the beauty of the Church's teaching on married love, join us for a viewing of "Sexual Revolution: 50 Years Since Humanae Vitae", a brand new film that examines the effects of the free-love experiment on the Hippie Generation and the prophetic encyclical Humanae Vitae. Food, film and childcare are all FREE (donations gratefully accepted). RSVP to: <https://tinyurl.com/StJoesMovie>.

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE ON NOVEMBER 4-14, 2018

Join Fr. George Schommer, O.P., Pastor of St. Dominic Parish, Washington, DC on an Eleven Day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, "Following in the Footsteps of Our Lord." For additional information, please contact Father Schommer, O.P., at pastor@stdominicchurch.org or Elizabeth Grinder at (301) 740-9332. Reservation Deadline is August 4, 2018.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE –

The Social Concerns Committee collects food 52 weeks per year. Please help address the needs of our community with food donations. Bins are located in the back of the church. We are grateful for your continuing support.

BECOMING CATHOLIC OR "MORE"

CATHOLIC - If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church by receiving all of the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation, please contact Fr. Conley or Sue Wolfe. Classes begin in the Fall.

SENILITY PRAYER

God, grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway,
The good fortune to run into the ones I do,
And the eyesight to tell the difference.

TV MASS -

Do you know someone who can't get to Mass? Please tell them about the Sunday TV Mass, which is produced by the Archdiocese of Washington and taped in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It is a wonderful ministry for those members of our Catholic family who are unable to be physically present with a local worshipping community for the Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy. The Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30am on WDCW-50. Dish or Direct TV subscribers: Ch. 50. Comcast: Ch. 3 in Southern Maryland.

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
Dixon's Butcher Shop*

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Parishioners, 10am Maurice Long, Sr., 12N: Janet Joy Brillantes-Villegas, **MON:** 8am Betty Sasso, **TUES:** 8am Anna V. Garity, **WED:** 8am Maurice Long, Sr., **THURS:** 8am James Gibson, **FRI:** 9:30am Mary Theresa Bowen, **SAT:** 9am Joseph L. Jones, 4pm Maurice Long, Sr.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Stephen Balenger, Mary Bowes, Bill Branick, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Frances Card, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, James S. Dorsey, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, James Gibson, Zynae Green, 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, Eva Washington, Beth Weise, Tim Welch, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:

\$10,470.05. The unidentified donations totaled \$455.00. We received \$195.00 for our school support.