

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Parishioners,

Through the course of our lives every one of us encounters suffering. Some of our suffering has physical causes like aging, injury and disease. At other times our suffering has emotional and spiritual causes. Whatever the source of our suffering, we can be certain that Jesus will help us to meet it. WE know this because we know that He loves. The book excerpt below describes a way that we can bring our emotional & spiritual suffering to Jesus for what is known as inner healing. Inner healing will also be one of the subjects addressed at our **Retreat Day for Divine Healing on Oct 6.**

With my prayers,  
Fr. Conley

from **YOUR WOUNDS I WILL HEAL**

by Fr. Robert Faricy, S.J. and Sr. Lucy Rooney, SSND

**THE CROSS** is a statement to us, a “word” about God and about ourselves; it reveals God, and in his light we too are revealed. The word of the cross reveals its power, the power made perfect in the weakness of the Crucified. Because the word of the cross speaks God’s power in weakness, it is a word of wisdom that appears as foolishness (see 1 Cor 1:18-25).

To proclaim the cross appears foolish. Further, how could anyone be healed through the cross? To speak of the healing power of the cross seems a contradiction, for the cross at first glance means weakness. In the eyes of the world, the cross seems more than foolish, it appears as folly, as lunacy.

For St. Paul, the cross marks the definitive triumph of God’s wisdom; the words of Isaiah, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will bring to nothing,” come true in a radical way in the suffering and death of Jesus, in the triumph of the cross (1 Cor 1:19; referring to Is 29:14). By the cross, God has made foolish the wisdom of this world (1 Cor 3:19a). Because of the foolishness of the cross, Paul becomes a fool for Christ’s sake (1 Cor 4:10).

So too, in praying for inner healing, an attitude of “being a fool for Christ” is a help. The qualities that go with being a fool – simplicity, openness, complete trust – make one more receptive to God’s healing power. At the same time, inner healing is not a matter of scientific or psychological wisdom, not of self-knowledge; it is a matter of grace, of the love of God poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, a love that heals us. The wisdom of God transcends human wisdom, goes so far beyond it as to look like lunacy, and so far that human wisdom itself is, by comparison, foolishness. The power of the inner healing that comes through prayer goes way

beyond the power of psychology and of every merely human approach. It is a question of going to the Lord like a child, or like a fool, simply, and asking for healing. One way to do this is to put our own hurts into the context of the cross of Jesus so that they may be healed. Looking on him whom they have pierced, I can see his love for me, and – at the same time, in his light – see myself with my interior hurts, my weakness, my neediness. This “looking” can free me, heal me, make me more whole.

Jesus was like us in everything except sin, so it comes as unsurprising that he suffered through the typical process of those close to death.

Each of us has one or more crosses to carry. It might be a cross connected with work; it could be a person or a few people who, wittingly, or unwittingly, make life difficult for me; it could be an illness, or a physical or emotional handicap; it could be a pattern of sin that resists being done away with. It could be something I carry from the past: a memory that needs healing; past failure or disgrace; an unhappy childhood; a loss through death. I can ask the Lord to guide me as to what cross to carry, in prayer, in union with his suffering, so that his wounds may heal mine.

**Taking Up the Cross & Following Jesus in Prayer**

*“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mk 8:34b).*

I can deny myself the luxury of self-pity and of hanging on to resentment or hurt, and I can take up my particular cross, in prayer, with Jesus

**Prayer to face our suffering with faith & hope**

Lord Jesus, help me to face my cross squarely. You were completely realistic in facing yours; give me the grace of sharing in that realism. Let me see my cross, my situation as you see it, through your eyes. Thank you for the growth involved, for whatever is good in the situation. I ask you to strengthen me to see my own hurt with my eyes open, not denying any of the more painful aspects.

*(At this point I can describe the situation to the Lord in my own words, speaking as to a friend who understands perfectly.)*

**Prayer to work through resentment and anger**

Lord, help me to recognize any anger in myself about this situation. You were not afraid of being angry; help me to recognize and to feel the anger or rage or resentment or bitterness or sullenness inside me. I unite that anger to the anger that you felt during your last time in Jerusalem, knowing how it would end. Show me what anger lies inside me, and against whom. Show me where I am hurt and what was and is the reaction in me to that hurt and to what hurt me or continues to hurt me.

**RETREAT DAY ON DIVINE HEALING ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 FROM 9:30A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.** The day will focus on Healing Prayer with presentations on praying for physical and inner healing. The retreat day will conclude with the evening Mass and opportunities to receive Prayer for healing and the Sacrament of Anointing. You can register at [www.eventbrite.com/e/healing-prayer-retreat-tickets-49560541915](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/healing-prayer-retreat-tickets-49560541915)

**“FOLLOWING JESUS: PRIEST, PROPHET AND KING” continues this week.** *You can still join us!* Our Thursday classes are on September 27, October 11 and 25, November 8 and 29, and December 13. The Sunday sessions are on September 30, October 14 & 28 and November 11 and 25. This DVD series will be presented by Bishop Robert Barron. He is a very popular speaker and has many presentations on YouTube. The cost is just \$10 for the series to defray some of the food costs. You may sign up in the foyer or by contacting Fr Conley at [frconley@comcast.net](mailto:frconley@comcast.net)

**MASS PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM** - The little ones of the parish are invited to join us for some Sunday fun and learning at the St. Mary's Angels, Mass Pre-school program for ages infant-five years (infant spots limited) at the 10:00 am Mass. Parents can attend Mass each Sunday, while your children interact with other children in a religious atmosphere. Don't miss out on the fun and a free service. RSVP: Lisa Shumaker [smbacct@comcast.net](mailto:smbacct@comcast.net), or (301)870-2220 ext. 11.

#### **RELIGIOUS GOODS STORE NEEDS HELP**

We need some help to work after the 4 PM & 12:00 Masses. Please call Ellen Walls at 301- 579-2557 or Fay Adriani at 301-645-3531.

**OUR CHOIRS NEED YOUR HELP!!!** *We are now asking SMB members to consider joining our 10 AM or our Noon choirs. Our music ministry provides beauty, joy, comfort, inspiration, and prayer. This is possible only with the generous sharing of the time and talent of our committed choir members. If you can carry a tune and want to join a group of loving, caring Christians, please consider joining us! If interested, please call Kaye Oliver at 240-254-2463.*

#### **FALL DINNERFEST**

Mark your calendar as the Annual Parish Dinnerfest is fast approaching. This year's event will be on Sunday, Nov. 4th. If we are to continue this wonderful Parish event we **NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS** to help with the planning and running of the event. For more info please contact Ellen Bowles @ 301-472-4247 or [heresellen@hotmail.com](mailto:heresellen@hotmail.com)

**TEXAS ROADHOUSE AND ST. MARY'S ARE WORKING TOGETHER.** Starting **Sunday, Sept 30<sup>th</sup>** and every **Sunday** thereafter, present our Bulletin while dining at the Texas Roadhouse in La Plata, and they will donate 10% of the proceeds from your check to St. Mary's. **“Excludes alcohol, tax and gratuity”.** To celebrate this new venture, Texas Roadhouse will be here, on the 30<sup>th</sup> distributing free samples of their delicious bread following the 10 a.m. Mass. For more information please contact Ellen Bowles at 301-472-4247

**HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO BE A GODPARENT OR SPONSOR?** If so, **congratulations!** It is a great honor because you have been asked to help someone else to grow in faith as a Catholic. To assist those of you who are asked to be godparents or sponsors, we have a two-class course called **"Preparing for the Sacraments for Parents and Sponsors."** The free course is required for our parishioners who need a recommendation in order to be godparents or sponsors at other parishes. It will provide a good overview of our Catholic faith. The classes for October are October 3 and 17 from 7- 9pm. The classes will meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month. For more information contact Fr. Conley.

#### **MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:**

**SUN:** 8am Maurice Long, Sr., 10am Parishioners, 12N: Jimmy Estep, **MON:** 8am Betty Sasso, **TUES:** 8am Anna Stonestreet, **WED:** 8am Clarence Davis, **THURS:** 8am Donald Bollich, **FRI:** 9:30am Shirley Hardy, **SAT:** 9am Mary Ann Higgs, 4pm Ray Mindrup.

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY**

**PRAYERS:** Stephen Balenger, Mary Bowes, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Frances Card, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Susan Welch Day, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, Keith Van Gadson, 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, Pat Werner, Gary Williams, Brice Zimmer.

#### **OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:**

\$8,492.50. The unidentified donations totaled \$356.00. We received \$106.00 for our School Support.