

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Parishioners,

A number of you commented that you found my homily last Sunday helpful. So I decided to print it in the bulletin this week. Let us continue to pray for our beloved Church. Let us also continue to pray for our leaders that they will truly be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and always have the courage to trust in the Lord and not just themselves.

With my prayers,  
Father Conley

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus tells the man seeking eternal life, who has already said that he keeps all the commandments, that there is one thing lacking in his life. One thing that was lacking is complete trust in God. Instead of trusting completely in God, the man trusted in his wealth as his security. This incident in the gospel should lead us to question whether we ourselves are putting our complete trust in the Lord. For the man in the gospel, it was his wealth that claimed his real trust. This is a common temptation for us, to put our trust in material things or our bank accounts. There are other things that we can be tempted to rely on instead of putting a complete trust in God. We can be tempted not only as individuals but also as communities to trust in things other than the Lord. I think that this misplaced trust, which comes from a lack of faith, was a major factor contributing to the current crisis in the church regarding clergy sexual abuse of minors.

As we now know, for decades Church officials tried to cover up instances of clergy crimes against young people. Rather than treating these crimes as crimes, and reporting them to legal authorities, they tried to cover them up. They covered them up for two reasons. First they didn't want people to know that priests were committing crimes. Secondly, they covered up these crimes because they didn't want it known that there are active homosexuals within the clergy. The bishops making these decisions knew that if people knew about the crimes, and that they are active homosexuals within the clergy, it would hurt the reputation of the Church and the priesthood in particular. So, rather than trusting in the Lord, and dealing with these issues honestly, they attempted to hide them. As a consequence, some of the priests committing these crimes were able to strike again and more children were victimized. Additionally, priests who were active homosexuals continued to be protected by the official silence regarding this issue.

I think finally, the lesson has been learned when it comes to clergy abusing children. In 2002 the Church in the United States adopted a very strict policy which requires that all reports of abuse be reported to civil authorities. Since that time the incidence of clergy abuse of children has been reduced dramatically. Of course, even one such crime is one too many. But things have

improved significantly. I ask you to bear this in mind in the months ahead, because we are sure to hear more reports of past clergy crimes. The scandal is far from being over but clergy crimes against children are now extremely rare.

However, there is one aspect of this crisis that is still not being dealt with complete honesty. In 2002 the American bishops commissioned an independent study of clergy sexual abuse. The report is called the Jay Report and it is online. The report indicated that 80% of the victims of clergy abuse were boys between the ages of 11 and 17. In spite of this data, many of the bishops then and now maintain that the problem isn't a result of active homosexuals among the clergy. To take this position in spite of what the study shows is just plain dishonest. Bishops who take this position do so for two reasons. Some of them are afraid of being criticized by the liberal media which is very pro-gay. So these bishops do not want to say anything negative about homosexuality for fear of being criticized as being "intolerant." Once again, instead of trusting in the Lord and telling the truth, they're looking for security in popular opinion. The second reason why some bishops are not being honest about the role of homosexuality in the clergy criminal abuse is because they themselves are homosexuals. This we know from the shocking story of Theodore McCarrick, who, even though it was known by many that he was an abusive homosexual, rose within the hierarchy to become a cardinal. Let me be very clear. I'm not saying that all or even most men with homosexual tendencies are child abusers. But what is clear is that 80% of the priests who abused children had homosexual tendencies. It should be obvious that priests and bishops who are themselves active homosexuals have not and will not deal with the abuse of teen age boys. And as long as we don't face that issue the church will continue to have problems with clergy sexual abuse of minors. I do not know what the answer is to this but I do know denying that there is a problem only makes it worse.

And this is the lesson I think all of us can take from this terrible crisis. Honesty is always the best policy. But more than that, honesty is what the Lord expects and what the faithful deserve. The church and its leaders need to be honest about our sins and failures. And every one of us as individual needs to be honest about our sins and failures. We need to face them directly and put our trust in the Lord who will help us to overcome them.

**FALL DINNERFEST**

The Annual Parish Dinnerfest is 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.

**MUSIC FOR 8 AM MASS SUNDAY**

I am happy to announce that we will now be able to have a pianist/organist and a cantor for most of our Sunday 8 o'clock Masses. Kaye Oliver, Director of our music program, will play and Shelly Ward, who is new to our parish, will be the cantor. I'm sure that you will agree that Shelley sings beautifully. Please make her feel welcome.

When I first came here nine years ago I was told that those of you who come to the 8 AM Mass would never sing. Happily, we have proven the "naysayers" wrong and our 8 AM congregation sings very well. So, just because we will now have trained help, don't stop singing. Kaye & Shelly are there to lead us, not perform while we become spectators. This principle of course applies to all of our Masses. So, whichever Mass you attend, remember what St. Augustine tells us, "when you sing, you pray twice." And we have all been called to sing joyful songs to the Lord! Fr. Conley

**ST. MARY'S HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY**

The mission of our healing prayer ministry is to help people to have a personal encounter with the Lord and experience his healing love. We do this by praying with people who are seeking physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Our healing prayer ministry is founded on our confidence in God the Father, who was given us every spiritual blessing in the heavens; Jesus Christ the Son who has redeemed us by his blood; and the Holy Spirit who fills us with the fire of his love. Persons seeking prayer from the healing prayer ministry will be given the opportunity to make an appointment with a prayer team for one or two confidential prayer sessions. To make an appointment to meet with one of our healing prayer teams, please contact Kaye Oliver at 240-682-0646 or Sam Oliver at 301-848-3206. Email can be sent to Samuel\_Oliver @comcast.net. If you have any questions about this new ministry in our parish, Father Conley would be happy to speak to you about it. You may call him at 301-870-2220, ext. 13 or email at [frconley@comcast.net](mailto:frconley@comcast.net)

**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL \$60,000 RAFFLE** You may purchase a ticket on your own for \$100 or consider purchasing a ticket with your friends, family or co-workers. Split the ticket cost and the winnings. There are 20 opportunities to win cash prizes adding up to \$60,000. Your ticket enters you in all 20 drawings. **Our second drawing for \$1,000 will be held on Sunday, November 4th<sup>th</sup> at the Fall Dinnerfest.** The Grand Prize Drawing of \$20,000 will be held on March 1, 2019.

**ENCOUNTER GRACE** is hosting a Catholic women's event in Southern Maryland. Ladies ages 21+: Join the Encounter Grace team (Mrs. Penny Bailey and Mrs. Laura Roland), a new Catholic women's ministry organization in Southern Maryland, for a faith-filled fun evening on Friday, November 9, 2018 from 6 pm - 9 pm at the Waldorf Jaycee Hall. **Encounter Grace: Reconnect** features Catholic speaker and author Mary Lenaburg and musical guest Marie Miller as they share their wit and wisdom about staying connected to your faith - and each other - in the business that is life! Tickets are on sale at [www.encountergrace.co](http://www.encountergrace.co) For more information contact the Encounter Grace team at [encountergraceco@gmail.com](mailto:encountergraceco@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your support.

**RETIRED PRIESTS COLLECTION**

The second collection for November 3 and 4, 2018 is for the Retired Priests of the Archdiocese of Washington, who have selflessly served the faithful and the community to continue Christ's mission for decades. Let's join together to help to provide care and housing for our retired priests so they can live in dignity. Please use the envelopes that have been mailed to your homes from the Archdiocese and/or the special collection envelopes that will be placed in the pews for the weekend of November 3 and 4.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:**

**SUN:** 8am Russell Hintze, 10am Ana Waldy Lopez, 12N: Parishioners, **MON:** 8am Jane E. Swann, **TUES:** 8am Ernest J. Keller, Jr., **WED:** 8am Kathleen Conway, **THURS:** 8am Edna Wills, **FRI:** 9:30am Maurice Long, Sr., **SAT:** 9am Loretta Hurysh, 4pm Shirley Hardy.

**PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY**

**PRAYERS:** Stephen Balenger, Mary Bowes, Brenda Callahan, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Susan Welch Day, Kendall Farrell, Keith Van Gadson, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, James Gibson, Zynae Green, Judy Istvan-Windsor, Irma Johnson, Regina Kijesky, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Ryan Myers, Mary Reeves, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Jean Turner, Eva Washington, Beth Weise, Pat Werner, Brice Zimmer.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND:**

\$8,666.85. The unidentified donations totaled \$508.00. We received \$221.00 for our School Support.