

**Reflection: Martin Luther King's Promised Land**

by Henry Fulmer, OFM | Written for the Holy Name College Newsletter on January 15, 2017

*As the nation observes Martin Luther King Day, a friar writes about the changes in race relations he has witnessed in the last few years and the effects of the current political climate in the United States.*



On the night of Tuesday, July 27, 2004, the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention was given by then Illinois State Senator Barack Obama. He said, "There is not a liberal America and a conservative America. There is the United States of America. There is not a black America and a white America and Latino America and Asian America. There's the United States of America." This seems so long ago.

On Nov. 4, 2008, Barack Obama became the 44th president of the United States and the whole world was in shock. African Americans, whites, Latinos and Asians saw a change in attitude and behavior from the American people.

But that didn't last very long. Congressmen and other officials seemed to try to plot how to make him a one-term, ineffective president while blocking the policies that he wanted to enact. The hope and excitement from this election seemed to uncover old wounds of racism and negative attitudes.

It looked as if the hard work of passing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the many protests by Martin Luther King had finally paid off for America. The lives of the many people who demonstrated for racial equality and died 30, 40 and 50 years ago, had finally burst forth.

**Treating All with Respect**

However, the violent incidents around the country – in Ferguson, Baton Rouge, Charleston, Orlando and Chicago – have brought out people's prejudices.

So much had been done to heal our country until these things happened, and I ask myself, why? The United States of America is supposed to be the melting pot of the world. It doesn't seem so evident when we see and hear the ugly rhetoric, name calling and labeling of people of different cultures.

Tell me, where are these attitudes in a constitution that says, "We, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity"?

All men and women deserve to be treated with respect. Better yet, we are called to a New Commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." This commandment was set forth by Christ, and followed by people like Martin Luther King Jr., Archbishop Oscar Romero, and Mother Teresa. It is in their suffering, dying and giving of their lives and blood for those who were discriminated against, because they were black, poor, or just different.

**Putting Faith to Work**

When asked if I'm concerned seeing the behavior and the attitudes of our leaders and the people of the United States, I say yes. There has been a drastic change in American behavior toward people of color.

Lack of courtesy toward others who are different because of religion, color or language is fair game to those who feel threatened or feel like they are a minority? Where has common decency and respect for the human person gone? Have we forgotten that we are all created in God's likeness and image? Until we truly live out our baptismal call of Christ, we'll see one another as stumbling blocks and a challenge to attaining our goals.

As we look to what is ahead of us as a nation, we have to believe that God is in control. If we truly believe and put our faith to work in our lives, this will lead us to pray for our leaders, more than ever before.

Let us always remember the words of Martin Luther King Jr., "I may not get there with you, but we as a people {black, Latino, Asian, gay, bisexual and transgender} will get to the promised land."

My fellow Franciscans, we have to continue to be counter-cultural for our brothers and sisters who have no voice or power. Not to speak is to agree with the behavior and actions that are not Christian, or Christ-centered.



— Br. Henry, who professed his first vows as a Franciscan in 1988, is a pastoral associate at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Triangle, Va.

## St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our Parishioners we were able to provide food for **60** families this week. Because of the increase of families in need we are in need of:



- **Item of the Month:** Cooking Oil (Small Bottles)
- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Cereal
- Spaghetti & Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta
- Canned Fruit

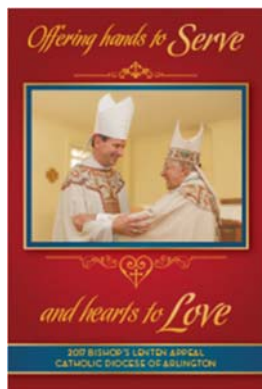
For more information, please call Francia at 703-221-6344. Thank you for your continuing support!



Please join us on **Thursday, February 9, 2017, from 9:30 to 11:00 in the Br. Juniper Room for our second session of Cyber Seniors.** These are entry level sessions and designed for seniors who want to become more comfortable with the electronic devices that are now part of all our lives. No prior computer experience or vocabulary required, and you need not have attended the first session!

## 2017 BISHOP'S LENTEN APPEAL BEGINS!

This month many of us will receive a mailing from Bishop Burbidge regarding the 2017 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA). The theme for the 2017 BLA is "*Offering hands to serve and hearts to love.*" After reflecting upon the many blessings that God has given you, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to this important appeal that funds many programs and ministries that serve the people in our diocese. Through your support of this important appeal, you become the hands and heart of our Lord Jesus!



**Please Pray For** All those who are sick: Loreto Paredes; Joan Komatsoulis; Nancy Brown; S.J. Defibaugh; Renato Torrijos; Emerenciana Bernardo; and Charissa Bernardo.

**And for those recently deceased:** Clyde Richardson; Valerie Shaw; Rita Lapinski; ; and Eric Smith.

**Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way:** Nicholas Tsougas; S. Defibaugh; Josh Bookout; Brianna French; Glenn Harms; Joseph Sheridan, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

## Boletín Semanal

**Charlas Bautismales**—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español **serán el viernes, febrero 10.** Las charlas bautismales **son a las 7:00pm en el Salón del Hermano Juniper (Br. Juniper Room).** Para más información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francisco—gradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a **60** familias.

En estos momentos estamos necesitados de:

- **Artículo del mes:** Aceite para cocinar (botellas pequeñas)
- Crema de Maní Y Mermelada
- Cereal
- Pasta
- Fruta en Caneca
- Espaguetis & Salsa Para los Espaguetis

**Muchas gracias por sus donaciones. Para mas información contactar a la Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**



## Cena Romántica de San Valentín

Los invitamos el sábado, febrero 11, 2017 a una Cena del Día de San Valentín. Las puertas y el bar abrirán a las 6:30pm, la cena se empezara a servir a las 7:15pm y el baile durara hasta las 10:30pm. El vino y la

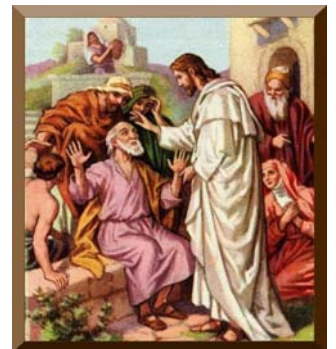
cerveza se pagaran en efectivo. La comida estará a cargo Darlene y la música por el DJ Slable Powerful Solutions. El costo es de \$38 por persona o \$75 por pareja si se compra en avance. El costo será de \$45 por persona si se compra en la puerta.

Este evento es Una Cena Romántica de Los Días de San Valentín. Este evento tuvo excelentes críticas el año pasado. El Menú incluirá entremeses, plato principal, ensalada y postre.

## Misa de Sanación Oficiada por el Reverendo José Eugenio Hoyos

La Renovación Carismática Católica Y el Grupo de Oración De San Francisco de Asís los invita el viernes, febrero 24 del 2017 a las 7:00pm en Nuestra Parroquia San Francisco de Asís.

¡Te Esperamos!



¡Dios tiene grandes bendiciones preparadas para ti!

## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank

**Dr. James E. Lupi, DDS**

for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

### **Faith Formation Office**

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246  
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: **8:00 am—2:00 pm**  
Friday: **Closed**

### **Religious Education for 2016-2017**

- Jan. 29** Bread for Life (Year I-7th Grade) Service Project  
**29** Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm
- Feb. 2** Thursday RE Session 5-6:15pm  
**5** Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm  
**9** Thursday RE Session 5-6:15pm  
**12** Sunday RE Session 10:30am-11:45am & 4-5:15pm  
**16** NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday  
**19** NO RE—Presidents' Day Holiday

**Change in RE Schedule 2016-17** effective January 8, 2017. **The Summer Program 2017 is being cancelled.** A letter with all the details went out to all RE students. **Please contact the RE office with any questions** [lizb@stfncis.org](mailto:lizb@stfncis.org) or 703-221-3127.

**Religious Education is still in need of Catechists** for the Sunday Session at 4pm-5:15pm, Thursday 5pm-6:15pm, and substitutes for all sessions. If you are interested please contact **Marianne Hayes** at [recoor@stfncis.org](mailto:recoor@stfncis.org).

St. Francis High School Youth Ministry is now called **REAL**! **REAL** stands for Respect, Engage, Accept, Live! **REAL** is open to all High School teens. It is a place to connect your life and your faith, to share, support and have fun with other teens who are trying to live out God's call in their everyday lives. Please come see what **REAL** is all about!



**Sunday, January 29th**  
6:30 PM—8:30 PM  
St. Catherine Room  
**REAL Leaders**  
Leadership Team Only

**Saturday, February 4th**  
3:00 PM—5:15 PM  
St. Catherine Room  
**Lenten Cross Making**  
All teens grades 9-12

**Sunday, February 5th**  
**NO REAL ACTIVITIES**  
Enjoy The Super Bowl!

**Sunday, February 12th**  
6:30 PM—8:30 PM  
St. Catherine Room  
**REAL Time (Youth Group)**  
All teens grades 9-12

**Baptismal Preparation Class**—Our next class will be held this **Sunday, February 12, 2017 from 1:30p.m.—2:30p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. **Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.**



**Men's Retreat: March 10 – 11, 2017**  
**Women's Retreat: March 24 – 25, 2017**

**Cornerstone is a 26-hour retreat**, held on separate dates for men and women ages 21 and over. It provides the opportunity to get away from all the stress of the outside world and enjoy all that God has to offer, while meeting others in our Christian community.

**The retreat begins on Friday evening** at 5:00pm and ends at approximately 7:00pm on Saturday evening with Mass. Cornerstone will take place at the San Damiano Spiritual Life Center in White Post, VA. Sleeping accommodations, all meals and snacks are provided. During the weekend, there will be time for prayer, Scripture reading and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.


Registration and payment is online today at <http://www.stfncis.org/cornerstone/>.

**Rates are:**

**\$130 for a double room and \$145 for a single room.**

**St. Francis of Assisi Elementary, Middle and Preschool** will host an open house for new prospective families on **Sunday, January 29th at 1:00 pm**. Please plan to join us for a tour of our facility and to meet our wonderful teachers. **For admission questions, please contact Shari Phillips at 703-221-3868 or [phillipss.sfas@gmail.com](mailto:phillipss.sfas@gmail.com).**



 The **Lion's Club** has **2 donation drop boxes located on the window sill in the vestibule**. Please consider donating your used eyeglasses to the Lion's Club. Your unwanted glasses will help someone see better. Thank you for always being so generous.

### ***Project Bread for Life***

This weekend, **January 28th-29th**, our parish will host **Project Bread for Life**, a grassroots Catholic effort which sells bread in order to raise funds to support the work of the Sister of the Community of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. The Sisters operate the HIV/AIDS Orphanage and Clinic of St. Clare in Kltui and Meru in Kenya, Africa.







## Mass Intentions

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>SATURDAY,</b>  | <b>January 28—St. Thomas Aquinas</b>                                     |
| 4:00 PM           | Sacrament of Reconciliation  |
| 5:30 PM           | †Lorna Casey<br>†Marian Mitchell<br>†Castilu Tvarez                      |
| <b>SUNDAY,</b>    | <b>January 29—4th Sunday In Ordinary Time</b>                            |
| 7:30 AM           | †Gwen Barton Aliferis<br>Paul and Pauline St. Germain<br>†Helen O'Connor |
| 9:00 AM           | †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik<br>Special Intention<br>†Laurence O'Brien           |
| 10:30 AM          | Orlanda Rendon<br>Lucila Hurtado<br>Alba Lucia Tamayo                    |
| 12:00 PM          | †Clara Kennedy<br>†Kathleen M. Doehner<br>†Dan Morris                    |
| 1:30 PM           | Misa en español  |
| 5:30 PM           | People of the Parish<br>†Francisca Miravalles                            |
| <b>MONDAY,</b>    | <b>January 30—Weekday</b>  |
| 8:45 AM           | †John Carroll  |
| <b>TUESDAY,</b>   | <b>January 31—St. John Bosco</b>   |
| 8:45 AM           | †Bernard V. Moran  |
| <b>WEDNESDAY,</b> | <b>February 1—Weekday</b>  |
| 8:45 AM           | †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik<br>†Kathryn Gonsorcik<br>†Irene Stout               |
| <b>THURSDAY,</b>  | <b>February 2—Presentation of the Lord</b>                               |
| 8:45 AM           | †Janet Sarsfield   |
| <b>FRIDAY,</b>    | <b>February 3—Weekday</b>  |
| 8:45 AM           | †Julia Lack<br>†Austin Herr, III<br>†William Jean Strati                 |
| <b>SATURDAY,</b>  | <b>February 4—Weekday</b>  |
| 4:00 PM           | Sacrament of Reconciliation  |
| 5:30 PM           | †Paul Krieger<br>†Rita Lapinski<br>†Clyde Richardson                     |

### Mass Intentions on Sunday, February 5, 2017

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 7:30 AM  | Thomas Lee<br>Dorothy Lee                                     |
| 9:00 AM  | †Francis X. Burke<br>†Mary Hickethler<br>†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik |
| 10:30 AM | †Eileen Bolen   |
| 12:00 PM | †Numeriano Tornes<br>†Clyde St. Clair, Sr.<br>†Clara Kennedy  |
| 1:30 PM  | Misa en español   |
| 5:30 PM  | People of the Parish  |

### Readings for the Week of January 29, 2017

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Hebrews 11:32-40; Mark 5:1-20                              |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Hebrews 12:1-4; Mark 5:21-43                               |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Mark 6:1-6                          |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:14-18;<br>Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32 |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Hebrews 13:1-8; Mark 6:14-29                               |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Mark 6:30-34                      |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | Isaiah 58:7-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;<br>Matthew 5:13-16    |

### Romantic Valentine Dinner Dance

February 11, 2017

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center

Doors and bar open at 6:30 PM with dinner starting at 7PM

Dancing until 10:30 PM

Wine and beer cash bar

Catering by Darlene

DJ music by Stable Powerful Solutions

**Cost \$38 per person or \$75 per couple; \$45 at door**

Reserved table for eight, the first round of drinks on us

*Tickets will be on sale after all the masses on January 28th-29th; February 4th-5th or please go to [yapsady.com](http://yapsady.com).*

**Questions, please call Irene Sullivan at 703-670-6858.**

This event is a Romantic Valentine Dinner Days. This event had rave reviews last year. Menu will include Hors d'oeuvres, main course and salad and dessert.



**Car Raffle 2017**—All Saints Church (Manassas, VA) has invited us once again to participate in their **5-Car Raffle**.

Prizes include five 2017 vehicles from Koons of Manassas. **Each \$5.00 ticket offers the purchaser a chance to win all five vehicles plus \$20,000 in cash prizes.**

An information letter and tickets will be arriving at your home very soon! Thank you in advance for your support of the largest parish fund raiser. **Any questions please contact Kathy Greene at [the school office](http://the school office) 703-221-3868.**



**St. Francis' Cub Scout Pack 1385 and Boy Scout Troop 138** will be holding their 4th annual **Undie Sunday** to collect [mens and/or womens underwear \(new-still in the unopened packages please\)](#). Boxes will be located in

the vestibule for your generous contributions of these items (underwear, thermals, t-shirts, socks, etc.) on **Scout Sunday, February 12, 2017**. These clothing items will be delivered to those in need at the Bill Mehr Drop-In Shelter.