

From the Friars

In the midst of the recent scandals in the Church, unfortunately another issue is coming to the forefront, Clericalism.

Before the Second Vatican Council the image to describe the Catholic Church and its leadership was a pyramid. The Pope was at the top, then the Cardinals, Archbishops below the Pope, then the bishops, priests and at the very bottom were the laity, the average Catholic sitting in the pew.

Clericalism suggests that the ordained are better than the laity and occupy a privileged position in the Church. Clericalism suggests that the fullness of spiritual attainment is seen as largely reserved to ordained religious leaders. In this conception clerics are viewed as the only real example of spiritual life while lay people mostly occupy a second best helper status.

In the words of Pope Francis "clericalism nullifies the personality of Christians and leads to the functionalization of the laity treating them as errand boys or girls."

Clericalism can lead to clergy displaying rigid, uncaring, and sometimes even cruel behavior toward the laity they are suppose to be ministering to and with.

For these individuals faith is solely about rules and they see themselves not as the pastoral persons God has called them to be, compassionate, healing individuals, but rather as judges and admonishers.

Vatican II changed the pyramid and confronted clericalism. The Pope (St. John the 23rd), Cardinals, and archbishops and bishops assembled turned the pyramid upside down so that now the laity were on the top and the clergy on the bottom, recognizing the important and vital role of all the baptized in the Church, and the role of the clergy as ministering to and helping the baptized in that role.

As we now confront the terrible issue of clergy sexual abuse in our Church, most knowledgeable people would recognize that Clericalism has played a role in the Church not dealing with the issue in an aggressive effective way

A secondary issue and problem that is now developing is that there are elements in the hierarchy that want to reintroduce and strengthen clericalism in the Church. Unfortunately it had never totally disappeared.

You see this playing out in the attacks on Pope Francis by certain members of the laity and the hierarchy, reported in recent weeks by the news media.

If you want to read more about the danger of clericalism, I refer you to an article by Jason Blakely in the Jesuit publication, "America" magazine.

Sincerely,

Fr. John O'Connor, O.F.M.

**Save the Date, and
Please Plan to Help!**

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our **11th annual Francis Fest** on **Sunday, October 7th from 1-5pm** on the Parish

Grounds. Great food, activities for all ages, entertainment and comradery guaranteed!

Lots of assistance from parish members is needed to make the festival the great success it has been in past years. If you would like to join our **Planning Committee**, please attend our first team meeting this **Sunday, September 9th at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center Library**. Unable to join the Planning Committee? Here is what you can do to help:

- **Check your wine cellar for overstock and start perusing your favorite cake/cookie recipes for our Wine/Cake Wheels.** These two events are very popular and help to offset the cost of the festival. Look for further information in upcoming bulletins, but plan to drop off your wine donations the two weekends before the festival. Cakes/baked goods for cake wheel should be dropped off in the Parish Center Foyer the morning of the festival.
- **Volunteer to help for a shift at the festival.** We need set up and clean-up crews as well as assistance for the various activities during the festival. **Volunteer sign-up is simple and is done completely online. Please go to bit.ly/francisfest2018 to sign-up.**



Marriage Jubilee Mass

Are you celebrating your **Silver or Golden Marriage Jubilee this year?**

Were you married in
1968 or 1993?



Then please contact the parish office to make sure that you are registered for the "2018 Marriage Jubilee Mass." This Mass will be celebrated at **2:30 p.m. on October 14th** at the **Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington, VA**. The Parish Office must submit all registrations to the *Office for Family Life* as soon as possible. Registrations forms are available in the vestibule of the Church and on the parish website (www.stfrancis.org). Please contact **Chanel Marquis at cmarquis@stfrancis.org or 703-221-4044, ext. 222** with any questions.

Do not delay. **Registration is due no later than Thursday, September 13th.**

Altar Server Training



Norm Litterini will conduct altar server training on: **Saturday, September 22nd from 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.**

Rising 3rd graders and older boys and girls are eligible. Please **sign-up** for the training by contact **Norm Litterini at normredleg@hotmail.com.**



St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all of our parishioners, the items of the month have been very much appreciated by our clients. With your generosity we will continue to serve those that are in need.

Item of the Month: Dish Soap

- Hamburger Helper
- Spaghetti, Pasta, etc.
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit

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

Culture of Life

“What is urgently called for is a general mobilization of consciences and a united ethical effort to activate a great campaign in support of Life. All together, we must build a new culture of life.” Pope St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 95.

Saturday, September 15, 2018 at 9:00a.m., rain or shine, please join other members of the *Diocese in surrounding Landmark Towers (101 S. Whiting St in Alexandria, VA; near the intersection of I-395 and Duke St.)* in prayer. The site of the busiest abortion clinic in Northern Virginia. 2,263 babies were killed by abortion here in 2016. Let us pray for peace and stop the violence. **For more information, please contact a Marv Floom, at marv_floom@verion.net or 703-878-9243.**

Craft Ministry

If you like to knit, crochet, quilt, or sew to help spread God’s love and comfort to those in need, please join us:



What: Fellowship while working on our own “unplugged” projects for charity (no sewing machines or irons, please)
When: Thursday, September 20th, 6:30 p.m.– 8:00 p.m.
Where: Grade 5 Classroom (Parish Center)
Who: All Adults who sew, knit, quilt, crochet, etc. are welcome.

For more information, please contact Katy McClevey at ukkaty@gmail.com.

Please Pray For All those who are sick: Randy Ransom; Laurie Coligan; David Tekverk; Herb Harmon; Kathy Miracco; and Aaron Childs.

And for those recently deceased: Dorothy Seitz; William Zink (father of Kathy Walker); and Terry Traywick.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm’s way: Matthew Byron; Tyler Jones; Drew; Leo N. Company; S. Defibaugh; Brianna French; James Moore; Kyle McVay; Kyle Traylor; Marc Gendron; and Darryl Saungweme.

Boletín Semanal

Festival de San Francisco de Asís—Los invitamos a participar del 11 Festival anual de San Francisco de Asís el domingo, octubre 7 de 1pm-5pm en los campos de la iglesia. ¡Tendremos comida, actividades para todas las edades, entretenimiento y mucho más!

Misa Bilingüe—El domingo, octubre 7; día del Festival de San Francisco tendremos una misa bilingüe a las 12:15 PM y después daremos comienzo al festival. **Este día Octubre 7 NO tendremos misa en español**

Charlas Bautismales—Las próximas charlas bautismales en español serán el **viernes, septiembre 14**. Las charlas bautismales Son a las 7:00 p.m. 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—Gracias a las donaciones de todos nuestros feligreses el Artículo del mes ha sido bien recibido por nuestros clientes. Con sus donaciones podremos continuar ayudando a los más necesitados.

Artículo del mes: Jabón de Lavar Los Platos

- Ayudantes de Hamburguesa (Hamburger Helper)
- Espagueti, Pasta, etc.
- Tuna Enlatada
- Fruta Enlatada

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

SEASON OF CREATION



Walking Together this week, we can all care for creation by learning more about pollinators such as hummingbirds, bumble bees, butterflies, day moths, and flower beetles. (<http://audubonva.org/gardening-for-pollinators>) Pollinators are in peril, and we can help them out by planting pollinator gardens, or even just by planting more flowers. Here are a few simple tips for creating a pollinator garden:

- Use native plants and provide a variety of heights, colors, and bloom times for nectar.
- Minimize or eliminate pesticide use, especially those containing neonicotinoids.
- Create shelter: bee boxes and twig bundles, brush shelters, dense shrubs, standing dead trees, pocket meadows. patches of sandy ground.
- Include water: shallow containers, wet sand or mud.
- Provide larval food plants for caterpillars.
- Allow a few wild patches and unmanicured natural areas.
- Full sun should cover at least half of your pollinator garden site. Provide basking structures (rocks, fences, logs, etc.).

Keeping the insects, mammals, and birds that pollinate our plants healthy is vital to every conservation issue you can imagine. Few habitats can maintain themselves without an army of pollinators to keep their plants reproducing.

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 starts in One Week on
September 16th!



You can register your child(ren) online at
<http://www.stfrncis.org/welcome-and-introduction/>

Religious Education is in need of Sunday Catechists.
Please contact the RE office for more information.

Questions? Please call 703-221-3127.



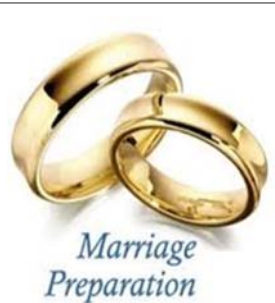
Dinner and Symphony Social Presented by the 55+ Ministry October 27, 2018

Our 55+ Ministry invites you to enjoy an evening out on **Saturday, October 27th**, beginning with dinner as a group at **Bella Vita Restaurant in Manassas at 4:30 p.m.**, followed by a performance from the **Manassas Symphony Orchestra at 7:30 p.m.** Symphony tickets must be purchased on your own through <http://www.manassassymphony.org/> and the performance will take place in the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas, near George Mason. Please reserve your seat for the group dinner in advance by contacting **Pat Koch** at pmkoch01@verizon.net or 609-217-3491.

Christ Centered Yoga classes begin on **September 11th Tuesday, evenings at 4:00p.m. and 5:45p.m. in the St. Catherine Room.** Please contact **Rita Evans** regarding the Tuesday evening classes at 540-270-0667 or at breathofheavenyoga@outlook.com.



Saturday morning classes will begin on **September 29th at 7:30a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room.** Please contact **Tracy Morgan** at 540-446-9426 or spiritualyogava@gmail.com. All Levels are welcome.



Marriage Preparation Workshop Saturday, October 27, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Br. Juniper Room

This will be our last workshop for this year.
The next workshop will be held on April 6, 2019. Please contact the parish office at 703-221-4044 to register.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Meg Czapiewski, Owner, Realtor
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Women's Group Begins Thursday, October 4th 9:15 a.m.– 10:15 a.m. Parish Center Dining Facility



Women of all ages are invited to join us for food, fellowship and discussion on two Thursday mornings a month, beginning October 4th. *Everyone is asked to pay \$20, and childcare is provided for an additional contribution of \$20 per family.* We will begin this year with the small group study, "What On Earth Am I Here For?" based on the best-selling book, *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. The book and study guide may be purchased through Christianbook.com or Amazon. More information is available on our website www.stfrncis.org/groups or contact **Mary Smith** erolmary@gmail.com 703-201-5681.

St. Francis High School Youth Ministry is 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, September 9th

6:30 PM—8:30 PM

St. Catherine Room

REAL TIME (Youth Group)

All Teens Grades 9-12

Sunday, September 16th

6:30 PM—8:30 PM

St. Catherine Room

REAL Fun—Cornhole Tournament

All Teens Grade 9-12

Sunday, September 23rd

6:30 PM—8:30 PM

St. Catherine Room

REAL LEADERSHIP

Leadership Team Only

Questions? Please contact **Brandon Jubar** at bjubar@stfrncis.org.



Fall Cleaning and Decluttering FUNDrive

Everyone is invited to drop-off donations of good condition used clothing and household items on **September 22nd from 8:00a.m. - 12:00p.m. in the St. Francis of Assisi Back Parking Lot.**

The donated items will be brought to Woodbridge Savers. St. Francis of Assisi School's Robotics Club and Sports programs will receive funds per pound of donations. Our collection goal is 400 bags/boxes of donated items.

We cannot accept large furniture, baby gear (strollers, car seats, etc), mattresses, large appliances, building materials, tires, cleaning supplies, flammable materials or auto parts.

Please contact **Durell Notz** at notzd.sfas@gmail.com with any questions about donations and for additional information.

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, September 8—Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM †Paul Krieger
†Helene Degan
†Cy Kelly

SUNDAY, September 9—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM †James E. Hamilton, Jr.
†Iris Hamilton
†Rhoda Brindle
9:00 AM †Everett Newman, III
†Deacon Kenneth Klear
†Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
10:45 AM †Philomena D'Souza
†Hugh Murphy
George McGrady
12:15 PM †George Beck
†Clara Kennedy
†Diane Marie Beck
1:30 PM Misa en español
5:30 PM †Michael Creegan
People of the Parish
†Eleanor Foushi

MONDAY, September 10—Weekday

8:45 AM †Terry Traywick

TUESDAY, September 11—Weekday

8:45 AM John Michael and Sofi

WEDNESDAY, September 12—Weekday

8:45 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
†Kathryn Gonsorcik

THURSDAY, September 13—St. John Chrysostom

8:45 AM Thomas Ryan, Jr.

FRIDAY, September 14—Exaltation of the Holy Cross

8:45 AM †Vincent Healy
†Paul Hrabsky, Jr.

SATURDAY, September 15—Our Lady of Sorrows

4:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation
5:30 PM †Marion and †Bill Richmond
†Cy Kelly
†Alice Tippit

Mass Intentions on Sunday, September 16, 2018

7:30 AM †Betty Jane Carmack
†Patricia Mooney
†Alice Tippit
9:00 AM †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
†Esther Jean Matochik
†Dr. William H. Walker
10:45 AM †Pham Quoc Viet
†Judi Schatte
12:15 PM †Clara Kennedy
†Dale and †Lena McCleary
†Paul and †Connie Arcudi
1:30 PM Misa en español
5:30 PM People of the Parish
Chris Maris
†Bill and †Margaret Ignatuck

Readings for the Week of September 9, 2018

Monday 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; Luke 6:6-11
Tuesday 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Luke 6:12-19
Wednesday 1 Corinthians 7:25-31; Luke 6:20-26
Thursday 1 Corinthians 8:1b-7, 11-13;
Luke 6:27-38
Friday Numbers 21:4b-9; Philippians 2:6-11;
John 3:13-17
Saturday 1 Corinthians 10:14-22; John 19:25-27 or
Luke 2:33-35
Sunday Isaiah 50:5-9a; James 2:14-18;
Mark 8:27-35

WANTED: CANDIDATES FOR PASTORAL COUNCIL:



The Pastoral Council of St. Francis of Assisi Parish is seeking to fill 6 seats in an October 20-21, 2018 parish-wide election. The Pastoral Council serves as a collaborative and consultative body to the Pastor as he carries out the mission, vision, and goals of the Parish. The Pastoral Council is comprised of the Pastor, select Parish Staff, and 12 representatives elected from the Parish at large.

The Pastoral Council meets monthly with the Pastor. Members serve a term of 4 years. In October we will elect 6 new members to join the 6 members elected in October 2017. Please consider putting yourself forward as a candidate or encouraging someone you know. Fill out a candidate questionnaire which may be found on the parish website (www.stfrancis.org); in addition, copies are available in the vestibule of the Church. Completed questionnaires must be returned to the Parish Office by September 30, 2018. If you are nominating someone other than yourself, please make sure they know and have them fill out the questionnaire.

All nominees will be reviewed by the Pastor and Nominating Committee and ten (10) will be selected for the October 20-21, 2018 election. Thank you in advance for considering yourself or someone you think would be a good candidate.

The Pastoral Council Nominating Committee.

LECTORS Do you get excited when you hear The Word? Would you like to learn to proclaim The Word better? There will be lector training on **September 15th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Br. Juniper Room** with practice in the Church for those who desire it. All are welcome as we work to make you a polished speaker. **For information, please call or email Pequette Schwerin at 703-590-8492 or wislady@comcast.net.**

Participate in the International Day of Prayer for Peace—Our Parish will be leading one of the prayers and songs at the International Day of Prayer for Peace at **St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Woodbridge, VA.** On **Sunday, September 23rd** all are invited to attend both the program, which runs from **3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**, and the dinner, immediately following. This is a wonderful opportunity for interfaith unity in prayer.

