



The Marian Messenger

Bi-monthly Newsletter of the Sodality of Our Lady

“Mary, Our First Disciple, Show Us The Way To Jesus”

Volume 2, Issue 2

November 1, 2009

Prefect's Perspective

The Fall season is upon us and most of the trees now are arrayed in hues of gold and red. It is easy to recognize God's love for us and the world in which we live as we take in the natural beauty around us. Just as the trees shower the ground with a richly colorful carpet, God blankets us with his love during this season and every season throughout the year. If we take just a few moments each day to open our hearts and our minds to it, we will see His love and glory surrounding us. His love is in the faces of the children as they earnestly study and energetically play. It is in the smile of a stranger we pass on the way. It is in our morning cup of coffee and in our daily bread. It is there in the evening as we kneel by the bed. Yes, the signs of God's love are all around us. Let us give thanks to God for His love of us and everything He has created.

One way to show our thanks is to take to heart the message in Pope Benedict XVI's latest encyclical, Charity in Truth. As the Day of Recollection we sponsored on October 10th unfolded, Dr. Maggie McCarty, President of Education for Parish Service, gave us some thought provoking insights into the Holy Father's teaching. I hope you will take a few moments to read a summary of the ideas shared that day in this edition of the Marian Messenger. Even better would be to make time to read and ponder the entire encyclical.

With God's love freely given to those who are open to accepting it, the next step is to let His gift pass through us to others. In truth, this sharing of God's gift to us with others is the kind of charity the Holy Father has in mind. Our Sodality members strive each day to receive the gift of God's love and let it flow through them to help others. From baking and serving desserts for Parish fund raisers like the Oktoberfest and Support our School Bake Sales, to collecting toiletries and coats for the homeless and needy, we demonstrate in simple ways our charity in truth.

During these days of economic uncertainty and hardship, let us continue to seek ways to reach out to those who are troubled or in need. Let us continue to nurture peace in our families both at home and within our Parish. Knowing as we do, that significant changes lie ahead for our Parish school, let us remember to show charity in our thoughts, words and deeds. In the challenging days ahead, we will grow stronger as a community if we help each other through them with charity in our hearts.

Through our prayers, and in all our works, and with the help of the intercessions of our Blessed Mother, let us be examples of Charity in Truth.

Cindy Perry

Important Dates:

- Nov 1 8AM Mass & Mtg
Nov. News Published
- Nov 7 SU Mtg
- Nov 7-8 Parish Bazaar
- Nov 10 EC Mtg @7PM
- Dec 5 SU Mtg
- Dec 6 8AM Mass
New member initiation
Christmas Party
- Dec 13 Joyful Sunday
Coat Drive
- Dec 15 EC Mtg @ 7PM
- Dec 18 Jan News Items Due
- Jan 3 8AM Mass & Mtg
Jan News Published

Happy Birthday To Sodalitys:



- | | |
|----------------|--------|
| Gloria Wilson | Nov 01 |
| Vickie Claflin | Nov 21 |
| Eunice Barbar | Nov 25 |
| Anne Chukwu | Dec 16 |
| Mary Moien | Dec 27 |

Day of Recollection Focuses on Charity in Truth

During a day of communal reflection on October 10th, our retreat director, Dr. Maggie McCarty, provided an enlightening overview of Pope Benedict XVI's latest encyclical letter, entitled "Charity in Truth." With Dr. McCarty's guiding remarks, participants explored the Pope's teaching that "Charity is love that is received and given; it is grace." Together we contemplated the Pope's statement that charity is at the heart of the Catholic Church's social teaching. Participants learned that in an era of globalization, truth needs to be sought, found and expressed within an economy of charity, rather than expressed (or not) in terms of a global economy.

According to Dr. McCarty, the Pope teaches that charity, in its turn also needs to be understood, confirmed and practiced in the light of truth. In a society that tends to relativize truth, the encyclical discusses how charity often degenerates into mere sentimentality. Using Christ as a model of charity moves us beyond sentimentality into moral action. This moral action is focused on justice and the common good. The Pope teaches that justice cannot be separated from charity. To love is to offer what is mine to the other. With charity in truth, what we give out of love is what is due to the other in respect for the innate dignity of the life of the human person. So in essence, by striving for the common good, we are loving our neighbor effectively.

In considering scripture for examples of justice, many of the 30 participants who attended readily identified the parable of the workers in the vineyard who were paid the same wage regardless of the time they labored. In further considering the concept of justice, some expressed that justice is even-handedness or an evening of the playing field so that all are starting at the same place and finishing with enough.

Participants explored how the abilities and failings of others will affect their need for charity. In a similar way, the group explored what the common good would look like. One suggested description of the common good was that everyone gets some benefit without harming anyone. Another described it as respect for every person and consideration of others in all that will affect them. Still another saw it in terms of pooled resources with no individual holding property apart from others.

What became evident during the course of the mini-retreat was that there is much more to the encyclical than a one-day retreat could hope to explore. The above concepts were primarily taken from the first chapter of the six chapters in the Encyclical.

During the afternoon session, Dr. McCarty helped the participants consider how practicing the habits of the cardinal virtues prompts us to do good and how our actions form our lives. One particularly memorable saying from the afternoon's discussion was this:

Plant an act, reap a habit.
Plant a habit, reap a virtue or a vice.
Plant a virtue or a vice, reap a character.
Plant a character, reap a destiny.

Following a lively discussion of virtues, values and faith, Dr. McCarty concluded the retreat by having us

Prayer Corner

Please remember in your prayers all the intentions listed in the Sodality Prayer book found at the entrance of St. Hugh's Church. **Also**, please pray for the health and comfort of these Sodalists and friends of the Sodality.

Margaret Kivlin

Ruth & Joseph Morris

Gloria Winfrey

Shirley Dwyer

St. Hugh's School Students, Faculty, Staff and Alumni

All priests, especially Father Tappe, Father Hurd and those at the Dominican House who assist our Parish

Please pray for the peaceful repose of the souls of

Doris Lockett

Walder Pedersoli

All Deceased Sodalists

focus on the role of our conscience. She said that our consciences provide us with our innate sense of right and wrong and our need to be informed by the truth. All of us have a moral obligation to inform and follow our conscience by reading scripture, learning church teachings, and by listening and praying to the Holy Spirit.

If you missed the Day of Recollection but would like to know more about Charity in Truth, you may want to purchase a copy of the encyclical. It is also available for free from the Vatican website (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/encyclicals/documents/hf_ben-xvi_enc_20090629_caritas-in-veritate_en.html)

Cindy Perry and Marti Galvin

Remembering Father Dowgiallo

--by Kathleen McFarland

August 12, 2009, was the 40th anniversary of the death of the founding pastor of St. Hugh's, Father Victor J. Dowgiallo. I said a little prayer in his memory.

I was in my late teens when Father came to Greenbelt . I'd moved here with my parents and two siblings when the town was new, in 1938. We had lived in Washington , and I'd made my First Communion and Confirmation in Nativity parish. Catholics in Greenbelt went to Mass in the Greenbelt Theatre. We were a mission church of Holy Redeemer in Berwyn , and Father Fealy came every Sunday to say Mass. The altar was set up on the stage.

We had a choir, even then. My girlfriend Pat Brown and I sang alto, along with Mrs. Fern. The choir sat in the first rows of the theatre, down on the left-hand side. Mr. VanCamp was the director, and later Mrs. Callanan. At first, Mrs. Madden played a little pump organ. Later a small electric organ was obtained. Pat and I were in the town band, and one year Pat convinced Mr. VanCamp to let us bring our band instruments and play carols before the Christmas Eve Mass. Pat had her flute, I my clarinet, and Billy Baxter his trumpet. That was a "first"!

It was at choir practice that I first heard the rumor that we were finally getting our own priest in Greenbelt . "He has a strange name," one of the men said. "I think it's Italian." The first thing Father Dowgiallo did when he arrived in 1947 was to set us straight about his name. It wasn't Italian, it was Polish. At every Mass, he taught people how to pronounce it: DUV-GALLO. Father was a large man with slicked-down black hair, piercing blue eyes, and a powerful voice. He was a native of Baltimore . He had an uncle who was a priest of that Archdiocese.

A Ladies of Charity unit had already been established in Greenbelt by Father Fealy, and the ladies had prepared the end house in 58 Court of Crescent Road for Father's Dowgiallo's use as a Rectory. They outfitted the kitchen and washed the linens. Mrs. Wisner, who lived nearby in 56 Court with her family, was Father's cook for many years.

Father's first task was the building and staffing of the school. Land had been set aside in the original plan of Greenbelt for this purpose. There were pledge drives, and soon the school was built. Chairs with folding kneeling benches were supplied, so that Mass could be held in the auditorium. It did double duty as both church and school

The Sisters of the Holy Cross came to staff the school. The convent took up the rest of the row of four units in 58 Court of Crescent Road . Classes started in the fall of 1949. At first, the sisters were not allowed to drive, and mothers of the school children took turns driving them from their convent to the school. Later on, when the rule was changed, Father obtained a car for them.

Then came the fund-raising for the new church. Father had the Rectory built first, to make room for himself and his first assistant, Father Liston. Construction was started on the church in 1962, and the formal dedication ceremony was held on April 12, 1964. The blessing was said by Archbishop Philip Hannan, the priest who had given the sermon at John F. Kennedy's funeral Mass in St. Matthew's Cathedral only a few months earlier.

This was shortly after Vatican II, and everything seemed so different in the new church: Mass was in English. Women didn't have to wear hats to church anymore. We had a folk choir with guitars. Everyone was surprised that Father D. took to the new changes so easily. He was so proud that he'd accomplished his tasks of building a new school and a real church in Greenbelt that he seemed to me more mellow and easy-going. Or perhaps it was I who had matured.

Father was our pastor for over 20 years. He died suddenly, of a stroke, while visiting relatives on his summer vacation. He was 66 years old. Now I not only remember him fondly, I almost think of him as a saint. Every year on August 12, I pray for him and to him.

The Marian Messenger
Sodality of Our Lady

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Visit us
on the parish website:
www.sthughs.com

Second Annual Coat Drive

Did you know that nine out of ten homeless adults need a new, warm coat each winter because they have no storage over the summer months? It's not just homeless people who need help with acquiring coats; many people are forced to make a choice between buying a winter coat and paying the mortgage or putting food on the table. Research suggests that about 11 percent of parents in the United States have borrowed or received a winter coat for his or her child from a friend, family member or community organization. Bergmann's annual "Share the Warmth, Coats for Kids and the Needy" drive, in conjunction with The Salvation Army, has gained national recognition. Now in its 17th year, the "Share the Warmth" campaign, held the last three weeks of the calendar year, is the most successful coat drive in the country, delivering over 465,000 coats since it began.

During the last coat drive, Bergmann's and The Salvation Army collected, cleaned and distributed over 15,000 coats to needy kids, their families, and the homeless in the greater Washington DC area. Last year, over two hundred fifty of these coats came from St. Hugh's parish. A single coat can mean a warmer winter for someone in need. We appreciate our parish's generosity, as we collect coats again this year at the Gaudete dinner (December 13). If you have any questions, or need a special pick-up, please call Suzanne Lomax at 301-441-3670.

An Oktoberfest to Remember

What a spectacular array of desserts! What delicious German fare! And let's not forget the music that had everyone tapping their feet! Surely someone out there has a picture of Marguerite Kincius and Cindy Perry cutting the rug with their polkas. By all measures, the 5th Annual Oktoberfest held at St. Hugh's on October 4th was a great success. The Sodality Dessert table alone brought in nearly \$500.00. After expenses, the proceeds went directly into the Parish treasury to benefit Parish fundraising efforts. Many thanks to all those who contributed baked goods, ice cream toppings or who helped with set up, serving, and clean up. Our two Junior Sodalists, Lisa and Erin Donn, (see photo) were among those who helped with serving and clean up. What a blessing they are to our Sodality.



Cindy Perry

photo by Mary Wade

Reminder:

Our lector for the **December 6th Mass** will be **Guillermo Olivos**.
The gift bearers are **Marti Galvin** and **Cindy Perry**.
Flowers for the BVM statue will be donated by **Marti Galvin**.

Our lector for the **January 3rd Mass** will be **Suzanne Lomax**.
The gift bearers are **Laurie Njoku** and **TBD**.
Flowers for the BVM statue will be donated by **Bridget McDermott**.