



## Word, Worship & Witness

St. Jude the Apostle  
St. Mary Gate of Heaven  
Parish Social Ministry  
Newsletter

<b>Volume II</b>	<b>Advent, Christmas and Ordinary Time</b> November 27th 2011—February 21st 2012	<b>Issue One</b>
<p>“The social mission of the church is defined in God’s word, worshiped and celebrated in our liturgies and sacramental life; and finally, carried out in all the ways that we witness.” Sister Joan Jurski (RET), OSF Office of Peace and Justice/ Parish Social Ministry Diocese of Raleigh</p>		

<b>From the Editor</b>	<b>Mary Keesee</b>
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I always look forward to the start of the school year here in Hampstead because when I drive past South Topsail Elementary School on Hoover Road the marquee in front of the school features the “character trait of the month”. Through this method of communication the larger community sees that our children are being taught the values and virtues of self discipline, teamwork, compassion, and respectfulness to name a few. Inasmuch as your generosity is the subject of my editorial in this issue, needless to say I was delighted to see that this year the character trait being talked about during the month of December at South Topsail Elementary School is “generosity”.

While outreach to the poor and vulnerable is part of the mission of Parish Social Ministry here at St. Jude and St. Mary, it is supported and enhanced by various other ministries in both parishes and organizations such as the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters. This past fall we took a chance and “piggy backed” a number of outreach efforts. I am amazed that during these tough times so many of you have stepped up and responded so generously to all of our outreach efforts here at St. Jude and St. Mary.

PSM sponsored its “Share the Harvest” food drive to support both our local 4 C’s Food Pantry and the Catholic Charities Food Pantry at St. Joseph the Worker in Burgaw. The Pro-Life Committee held their “Annual Baby Bottle Campaign” to support the efforts of the Catholic Charities Cape Fear Deanery Office. The faith formation program collected food and bought gift cards to provide holiday baskets for six local needy families through the Community Holiday Assistance Program (CHAP) at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Catholic Daughters annual “Giving Tree” Christmas program collected gifts to give to families helped by Cape Fear Catholic Charities and our parish also collected toys for local families as part of CHAP a well. The response and support from all of you was overwhelming. Each program meet and even exceeded its goals.

As I travel about the deanery and diocese I have come to learn that our church has a reputation of being very very generous. I have heard it said that our parishes are known to give with abundance. I want to share this with you not to boast but to encourage you to feel good about how we as a parish witness to those among us who are struggling and in need. Hopefully when generosity is being promoted at school and witnessed in their family and faith lives, our children will come to view caring and sharing and giving as a priority throughout their lives.

<b>From Our Pastor</b>	<b>Rev Terrence Collins</b>
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A few years after my ordination - by December of 1974 - the Catholic population in the eastern half of the State had reached nearly 70,000 persons. Here is a list of the most current statistics that reflect growth and initiatives in our Diocese. By 2006, an additional 52 new churches and missions had been opened and the Catholic population in the Diocese of Raleigh tripled to 201,657.

The current registered Catholic population of the Diocese of Raleigh is 214,066 persons, a 28% increase in the number of the faithful compared with just ten years ago. This growth does not include an estimated number of over 200,000 Hispanic parishioners. The Diocese has 128 active priests. Of the number of priests, 63 are Diocesan priests, 18 are Diocesan priests from another Diocese, and 48 are Religious Order priests. There are 95 churches and missions. Catholics comprise 4.6% of the population of the Diocese of Raleigh, where the Catholic population was below 1% of the population just two generations ago. In the last year in the Diocese of Raleigh, there were 6,614 baptisms (a growth from 4,261 baptisms in the year 2000), 4,606 first communions (a growth from 2,878 first communions in the year 2000) and 2,349 confirmations (a growth from 1,470 confirmed in the year 2000). In the 24 Catholic Schools and 8 Early Childhood Centers in the Diocese of Raleigh, 8,887 children were enrolled in the 2010-2011 academic year.

Outreach to the poor and vulnerable has also increased over the years. In the past year, responding to our call as disciples of Our Lord to serve the poor and those most in need, Catholic Charities attended to over 58,000 people, regardless of religious affiliation or station in life. 85% of the families served were below the federal poverty line. I am proud to have served St. Jude the Apostle and St. Mary Gate of Heaven as well as the Diocese of Raleigh during this time of great growth and change and have always admired the generosity of our parish family especially during Advent and the Christmas Season. God bless all of you.



## Catholic Social Teaching—A Review

Over the past year this publication has used this section to feature monthly themes of Catholic Social Teaching and to recognize that these themes are indeed supported by scripture and the traditions of our faith. The USCCB presents these beliefs as the **Challenges and Directions of Catholic Social Teaching**.

Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. Its roots are in the Hebrew prophets who announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ, who came "to bring glad tidings to the poor . . . liberty to captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind" (**Lk 4:18-19**), and who identified himself with "the least of these," the hungry and the stranger (**cf. Mt 25:45**). Catholic social teaching is built on a commitment to the poor. This commitment arises from our experiences of Christ in the Eucharist.

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains, "To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren" (no. 1397).

Catholic social teaching emerges from the truth of what God has revealed to us about himself. We believe in the triune God whose very nature is communal and social. God the Father sends his only Son Jesus Christ and shares the Holy Spirit as his gift of love. God reveals himself to us as one who is not alone, but rather as one who is relational, one who is Trinity. Therefore, we who are made in God's image share this communal, social nature. We are called to reach out and to build relationships of love and justice.

Catholic social teaching is based on and inseparable from our understanding of human life and human dignity. Every human being is created in the image of God and redeemed by Jesus Christ, and therefore is invaluable and worthy of respect as a member of the human family. Every person, from the moment of conception to natural death, has inherent dignity and a right to life consistent with that dignity. Human dignity comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment.

Our commitment to the Catholic social mission must be rooted in and strengthened by our spiritual lives. In our relationship with God we experience the conversion of heart that is necessary to truly love one another as God has loved us.

December: theme of the month: Options for the Poor and Vulnerable

Exodus 22:20-24; Matthew 25 31-46; Matthew 18:1-5;  
Luke 14:12-14; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15)



A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. (source: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))

January: theme of the month: Rights and Responsibilities

(Deuteronomy 5:17; Psalm 146:5-8; Jeremiah 22:16; Galatians 6:25; Matthew 25:31-46)



The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities — to one another, to our families, and to the larger society. (source: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))

February: theme of the month; Solidarity

(Isaiah 32 16-17; Philippians 2:1-11, Matthew 25:31-46)



We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor as global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice". The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict. (source: [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org))



**Liturgical Year 2012**  
**Advent, Christmas Time, Ordinary Time**  
*“Teach us to count our days aright,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart” (Psalm 90:12)*

Father Thomas Keating, OSB in *The Mystery of Christ: The Liturgy as Spiritual Experience.* suggests that each period of liturgical time “emphasizes a particular aspect of the mystery of salvation, God’s gratuitous self-communication ... The Liturgical Year begins with the theological idea of divine light. During Advent we are preparing to experience this divine light in our lives. We receive glimpses of it in the liturgy as we listen to the readings, and we sense it in our hearts as we meditate on the one for whom we wait. Much of our world may be dark, ravaged by the sins of war, greed, persecution, and degradation. Yet as Christians we once again commit ourselves to embracing and embodying the Light, which not even the darkness can overcome.

Light permeates Christmas Time. Meditating on these images and experiences of light strengthen our understanding of the meaning of Christmas Time and help us live more deeply liturgical time. As we explore the history of the solemnity, our worship should focus on scripture readings and consider the meaning of Christmas for us today, we will see that “light” is a recurring motif. Often Christmas is a time that lights shine brightly and remind us of the power and potential of the light of the Gospel message. We might recall the “Christmas truce” of World War I, when British soldiers in the trenches saw the lights from small candles the German soldiers across the line had lit and heard the Germans singing carols. The British soldiers began to sing carols as well, and for a brief time those two warring foes were at peace.

Christmas Time closes with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which this year is observed on Monday, January 9. The feast serves as a bridge between Christmas and Ordinary Time.

The liturgical term ordinary refers to the ordering or counting of Sundays. This is not an imposition of an arbitrary calendar, but recognition of our human need for time to grow in understanding of the mystery of the Incarnation. We remember the psalmist prayer that learning to number, or count, our days can lead us to wisdom (see Psalm 90). It is in this spirit that we understand Ordinary Time; we are given a period of time to learn more about Jesus’ life, to meditate on the meaning of the Gospel for our lives today; and to practice our Christian vocation to be Christ in the world. (excerpts from 2012 Sourcebook For Sundays, Seasons, and Weekdays)

**Change Brings Renewal and Re-Focus**

**by Melinda Hall**

The long talked about, taught about, worried about perhaps even dreaded day has come and gone. The first Sunday of Advent and the implementation of the new Roman Missal was survived here at St Jude’s with only minor bumps and bruises! Alas, it was only day one of a long journey ahead of us, a journey of dealing with and accepting change.

On the Sundays of Advent we hear in the scripture; **Wait! Watch! Be Patient! and Be Prepared!** These proclamations and teachings from the Liturgy of the Word can certainly be applied as we struggle with and ultimately accept change!! Just as God’s people waited patiently, watched vigilantly, made preparations for the greatest change humanity ever experienced - the coming of our savior Jesus Christ!!

As we **waited** all year long for the implementation fears and worries arose about how the changes would affect us, the church, the Mass etc. Listed below are a few of those fears and concerns of the priests and bishops regarding the implementation of the new Roman Missal.

- There will be lots of negativity about the last forty years
- It will create confusion with Christmas/Easter and wedding/funeral Catholics
- It will minimize active participation of the faithful
- **The people of God will not want to change, no matter how good it may be; that some Catholics won’t care**
- A lack of catechesis in parishes will lead to disunity in dioceses and the Church

(Today’s Liturgy Ordinary Time 2/Sept 4 - Nov 26, 2011 Parish Liturgists and the New Roman Missal by Dr. Dolly Sokol p 15-16)

Perhaps some of the concerns are relevant for you and/or for our Parish. You may have an even longer list! Many and varied resources are available to aid us in deepening our understanding of the new Roman Missal. One resource in particular offered here at St. Jude is the Magnificat Roman Missal Companion. Father Terry purchased them to help facilitate catechesis among our parish family. Available in the gathering area, please take advantage of this wonderful gift from Father to you! Don’t take them home only to stick them on a shelf!! Read! Study! **Prepare!** Take the time to understand the transformation taking place before you and in time within you! The booklet eloquently teaches the prayers of the mass, the previous version and the new and explains the reason for the changes made. **The new translation strives to be as faithful as possible to the Latin original and understandable in every region where English is the language of the sacred liturgy. The new translation is meant to bring our prayers not only closer to the original Latin but to what our brothers and sisters throughout the world have long been saying in their languages.** The Magnificat Roman Missal Companion can help ease your transition from the old to the new.

Just as the bishops and priests discussed their fears during the process, they also expressed their hopes about the new translation:

- It will stimulate interest in liturgy and deepening of prayer
- It will renew faith and move hearts and minds toward God in the celebration of a more dignified liturgy

- New music will be composed for the parts of the Mass
- It will energize the faithful to engage in learning and will re-focus all on what we are praying
- It will help all celebrate Mass unified with the universal Church
- It will draw people into beauty and biblical images

(Today's Liturgy Ordinary Time 2/Sept 4 - Nov 26, 2011 Parish Liturgists and the New Roman Missal by Dr. Dolly Sokol p 15-16)

The revised English translation of our Roman Missal gives us a chance to purify and deepen our communion in the Body of Christ, the Catholic Church, in two ways. First, it invites us to attend more closely (**Watch**) to the words and spirit of the apostolic tradition of our sacred liturgy. Second, it confronts us with the need to work at our common prayer and approach the liturgy as disciples rather than masters. For all the English speaking faithful, the new Missal is a challenge that demands our time, practice, and **patience**. The new Missal provides a chance for us to encounter the words of the liturgy anew. We become liturgical novices or children again. (Magnificat Roman Missal Companion "Liturgical Language and Communion" by Father Bernard Mulcahy O.P. p 11)

Hopefully I peaked your curiosity to learn more about the sacred Liturgy. In conclusion I just wanted to point out some parallels regarding our parish and the timing of the implementation of the new Missal.. Our parish is soon facing significant administrative, worship, and ministerial changes. Father Terry, our pastor for 12 years is retiring. We are installing a new pastor on January 15th. We are entering a new year as well as a new liturgical year. This is a time for renewal and for re-focus in our parish life just as it is in the prayers of the Sacred Liturgy. By and through these changes we are afforded the opportunity to deepen our faith and grow as a church family together.

"The Lord Be With You"

"And With Your Spirit"



## January is Pro-Life Month

To witness is to make a public statement  
about your religious beliefs.

**Wilmington March for Life 1/28/2012 (See bulletin for details)**

The Pro-Life Office for the Diocese of Raleigh was begun in July 2010, with the focus on the protection of the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death, especially the unborn, the elderly and those most in need—all who are vulnerable in society today. In July 2011, the Diocesan initiatives with regard to the teaching of the Church on justice issues were added to the ministry of the Office. The Office provides catechesis and advocacy on Pro-Life issues, as well as resources for evangelization of the faithful, in accord with the teaching of the Catholic Church, regarding the following priorities: abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia, death penalty, immigration, homelessness, hunger and poverty. The office also works in collaboration with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Raleigh to provide resources and formation to parish based communities or groups beginning or engaged in outreach ministries to those most in need.

The Pro-Life committee here at St. Jude and St. Mary is very active. Their ministry includes but is not limited to; regularly scheduled praying of the Cenacles of Life Rosary to defeat the culture of death, praying for our military families, visiting the home bound and nursing home residents, attending pro-life vigils, raising money to help needy mothers and their babies at the Cape Fear Deanery Catholic Charities office in Wilmington, erecting crosses along highway 17 to remind people to pray to end abortion, and hosting our anointing mass in December.

On Wednesday, November 9, 2011, the Pro-Life committee sponsored a luncheon for the military spouses in our parish. Melinda Hall is forming a Support Group for our military spouses and the committee held the luncheon to support her efforts. There were 11 wives and 5 children in attendance and good food and friendship was enjoyed by all. The committee hopes to continue this activity and support for Melinda and her group many time over.

The 39th Annual March for Life will be held in Washington DC on January 23, 2012. Immaculate Conception Parish Respect Life will be sponsoring a bus to Washington DC. Bus fare will be \$60 per person. Lodging at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center will be \$50 per person which includes a private room, continental breakfast and a bagged lunch to take to the march. The bus will leave at 7:00am sharp on Sunday January 22, 2012.

If you can not go, maybe you could sponsor someone. If you have never been to the Basilica it is an inspiring, beautiful place. The energy and reverence of the youth who join the march is contagious and gives one hope for the future. You can contact Ann Allocco (270-6170) from our parish, or Loretta McManus (799-0392), or Millie Poletti (452-2131) from Immaculate Conception.

On Saturday, January 14th, 2012, the Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge will celebrate the annual Mass for Life at St. Joseph Catholic Church at 8:00am. The address is 624 South Peartree Lane, Raleigh. For more information you can contact Jackie Bonk at 919-465-4438 or at Jackie.Bonk@raldioc.org.

Following the morning mass there will be a Pro-Life Rally for high school students "Love My Life" (LML) at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Raleigh from 11:00am to 12:45pm. All high school students and parish youth groups are invited to participate and celebrate God's Gift of Human Life. Following that event the students can participate in the Annual Rally and March For Life scheduled at 1:00pm on the corner of Hargett and McDowell Streets with headline speakers, followed by a procession to the state legislative building.