

# Our Parish Visitor

## *Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Newsletter*



### "HABEMUS PAPAM"

As did many of you, I eagerly wanted to see white smoke pour from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel. When it did, I rushed to our church and rang the bells for several minutes. I returned home and waited with the whole world for these words: "We have a pope." Pope Francis is now the Bishop of Rome, the Vicar of Christ, and the Servant of the Servants of God.

It seems like only yesterday that our church bells rang out to announce the election of Pope Benedict XVI. One of his gifts to our church is the recent revision of the Roman Missal. I remember how moved I was when those gathered for Mass at Nationals Park renewed their baptismal promises before the successor of Saint Peter himself. Of course, I will never forget my mother's excitement as the Holy Father passed within inches of us as he walked down the aisle of St. Peter's Basilica for the Papal Mass that was part of the consistory for newly elevated Donald Cardinal Wuerl. (I have to admit, I also liked it when the Swiss Guards would salute me as I walked around the Vatican.)

On a prior pilgrimage to Rome, I was asked to lead prayers for a small group kneeling at the tomb of St. Peter. As we were climbing the steps to the level where many popes are buried, a Vatican official took me by the arm and led me away from our group to the tomb of Blessed Pope John Paul II. He removed the red velvet rope in front of the pope's tomb, and, with a whispered "Prego", gestured for me to approach the tomb. I knelt, prayed, and then kissed his tomb before rising. (I have learned that it is always helpful and advantageous to wear a clerical collar when in Rome.) Several years earlier I

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### HOLY WEEK SERVICES



#### HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

7:00 p.m., 28 MARCH 2013



#### GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION

7:00 p.m., 29 MARCH 2013



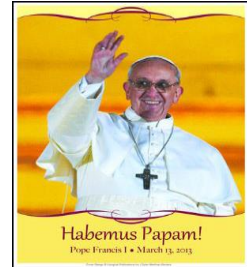
#### HOLY SATURDAY THE EASTER VIGIL

8:00 p.m., 30 MARCH 2013

#### EASTER SUNDAY

31 MARCH 2013

7:00 a.m. – Sunrise Liturgy  
9:00 a.m. – Family Liturgy  
11:00 a.m. – Special Music



Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected Pope on 13 March 2013, the second day of the 2013 papal conclave, taking the papal name Francis. Vatican deputy spokesman Thomas Rosica said the same day that the new Pontiff had chosen the name in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi, and had done so because the new pontiff was a lover of the poor. Timothy Cardinal Dolan confirmed that the new Pope said, "I choose the name Francis, in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi".

On the day of his election, the Vatican clarified that his official papal name was Francis, not "Francis I". A Vatican spokesman said that the name would become Francis I if and when there is a Francis II.

His choice of "Francis" marked the first time in papal history that this name had been used and the first time since Pope Lando's brief 913 reign that a serving pope held a name unused by a predecessor; in 1978, Pope John Paul I took a new combination of names, but he chose names in honor of his immediate predecessors, John XXIII and Paul VI.

Pope Francis is the first Jesuit chosen to be Pope. He is also the first Pope from South America, the Americas, the New World, and the Southern Hemisphere. He is the first Pope from outside Europe in 1,272 years. The previous non-European Pope, St. Gregory III, was born in Syria and was pope from 731 to 741.

Pope Francis is fluent in Spanish (his mother tongue), Latin, Italian, German, French, and English.



**DC 'Hood Coming to OLVP  
SAVE THE DATE!**

OLVP Faith Formation is hosting the DC 'HOOD for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders through High School at the Katie Fitzgerald Center of Mary of Nazareth Catholic School on **Friday, 17 May 2013, at 7:00 p.m.**

There is nothing unusual about Catholic children learning basketball skills at school clinics, but, when the instructor is a priest, their game is brought to a much higher level. A few years ago Father Greg Shaffer started a basketball team of priests and seminarians called DC 'Hood (as in priest-HOOD) that would offer to play parish kids in order to promote vocations and to show another side of parish priests.

The team has been a huge success playing at a variety of parishes in the Archdiocese of Washington. At each game there is a talk at halftime where a priest or religious sister speaks to the young people present (as well as their parents) about their call. Although the 'Hood doesn't always win (actually, they do most of the time), it is always a great event for families and the promotion of vocations. Only this time at OLVP...they're going down?????  
- Fr. Scott Hurd

**ADW Synod Input**

From 27 January 2013 through 21 April 2013, our parish will have conducted five listening sessions to provide input to the Archdiocese of Washington for its 2014 Synod.

If you have been unable to attend any of the listening sessions, you may participate through an online forum. You have an opportunity to provide input in five key areas: worship, education, community, service and stewardship/administration. You are asked to evaluate where the ministry of the Archdiocese of Washington is successful and those areas where more can be done. Your answers are anonymous.

To participate in the online forum, go to [www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com](http://www.mycatholicfaithdelivered.com). You will be led through an online survey. Your participation in the parish listening sessions and/or the online forum is an important component to the successful preparation for the Synod.

**IMPORTANT EVENTS**

**ASCENSION**  
Sunday, 12 May 2013  
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy

**PENTECOST**  
Sunday, 19 May 2013  
9:00 a.m. Family Liturgy



**CONFIRMATION AT THE SHRINE**  
Saturday, 25 May 2013  
2:00 p.m.

This year, our confirmands will have the honor of being confirmed by the Archbishop of Washington, Donald Cardinal Wuerl, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The confirmands from Our Lady of the Visitation Parish will join confirmands from several other parishes in the Archdiocese for this special occasion. Each year, the Cardinal gives several parishes in the Archdiocese the opportunity to receive Confirmation from the Archbishop at the National Shrine. This year, our parish was blessed to be given this opportunity.

**OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION  
PATRONAL FEAST DAY**  
Sacred Liturgy  
Friday, 31 May 2013  
9:15 a.m.



**CORPUS CHRISTI**  
Sunday, 02 June 2013  
9:00 a.m. Procession



**PARISH PICNIC**  
Sunday, 02 June 2013  
3:00 – 6:00 p.m.  
Pavilion



**Adopt-A-Family**

**New Sign Up Process**

A program called Sign Up Genius will now be implemented for Adopt-A-Family collections. The Sign Up Genius program is simple to use and is rapidly being utilized by many churches, teams, families and schools. The website will list all the items needed by the families and the due date for returning the donations to the church.

Please email Marianne Beattie, Chair of the Social Concerns Committee at [OLVPSocialConcerns@gmail.com](mailto:OLVPSocialConcerns@gmail.com) if you are interested in making a donation or would like to simply find out more about the program. There is no obligation to donate.

Marianne will add you to the new Social Concerns email list and will provide the link to the Sign Up Genius website. She will also notify you each time there is an Adopt-A-Family collection or an OLVP social concerns opportunity.

This new method of sign up will make the process more efficient and save paper and time for the coordinators and the donors. It will also open up the donation process to all parishioners, not just those who are available on the day the slips were traditionally handed out after Mass.

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of updating our approach to providing for the needs of the poor.

**Co-Coordinator Requested**

The Adopt-A-Family program needs coordination assistance. This collection is one of OLVP's longest running direct service programs. It is hoped that the parish can continue providing this much needed service to families in great need within our own community.

The new Sign Up Genius program will greatly streamline the time needed to coordinate the process. Please consider volunteering for this role. Please contact Marianne Beattie at 301/869-6898 or [OLVPSocialConcerns@gmail.com](mailto:OLVPSocialConcerns@gmail.com) if you would like to discuss coordinating this very important ministry.

- Marianne Beattie

## HABEMUS PAPAM™

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had the awesome and unexpected privilege of concelebrating a private, daily Mass with Blessed Pope John Paul II at Castel Gandolfo. I still treasure the rosary he handed me as we spoke briefly after Mass. I am forever grateful to James Cardinal Hickey who made it possible for me to celebrate Mass with Blessed Pope John Paul II at his summer residence. Watching the journey of Pope Benedict XVI to Castel Gandolfo brought back a flood of feelings.

Pope Paul VI was pope when I was ordained a priest. Although recently revised, the Roman Missal promulgated by him is the one all Roman Catholics still use today. Blessed Pope John XXIII called for the Second Vatican Council, but he died before it could be held. Pope Paul VI presided over every session and signed every document. It was an exciting time to be in the seminary. Because it was so important to read every new teaching and all new directives that were coming from Rome, I acquired the habit of doing so until this day.

Last Wednesday morning at daily Mass, I offered the Votive Mass for the Election of a Pope. By that afternoon our prayers were answered. Before he offered his Apostolic Blessing to the city and to the world, Pope Francis asked all to pray for him in silence. A little earlier, he asked us to join him in offering an "Our Father", a "Hail Mary", and a "Glory Be" for Pope Benedict XVI. I am only the pastor of a small parish; the pope is the pastor of the whole world. From time to time, perhaps we should all say a prayer or two for Pope Francis. - Fr. Ray

### Vacation Bible Camp

In proclaiming the Year of Faith last October, Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy." The Kingdom Rock experience is unlike anything your kids have done before. As they're surrounded by God's Word, the reality of God's love gains new meaning and relevance to their everyday lives. VBC kids come away with more than just a good time; they are learning in their early years what it means to live their faith. Join the fun at Kingdom Rock the week of 24-28 June 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Register online at [www.groupvbapro.com/vbs/ez/FaithKidsO](http://www.groupvbapro.com/vbs/ez/FaithKidsO) LVP or contact [molewack@olvp.org](mailto:molewack@olvp.org).



### The Scrutinies

When adults are preparing for Baptism at Easter, the Scrutinies are celebrated on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent. Because they are asking for the three sacraments of initiation, the Elect (as these adults are called now) must have the intention of achieving an intimate knowledge of Christ and his Church, and they are expected particularly to progress in genuine self-knowledge through true repentance and serious examination of their lives (scrutiny). The celebration of these ancient rites at Visitation Parish has served as an inspiration and source of renewal for us all on our Lenten journey.

On the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the A Cycle readings contain the "Gospel of John". These readings may be used every year, as stated in the Lectionary of the revised Roman Missal. However, when the Scrutinies are celebrated in a parish, the A Cycle readings must be used.

After the homily, the Elect were invited to come forward with their sponsors and to kneel down. Then, the whole assembly was invited to pray for them in silence. It is a very solemn moment. Our parish has cared for these Elect for some months now on their journey. We have asked them to reflect more and more deeply on the Word of God, and expressed to them our longing for the day on which they would join us at the table of the Lord. Now we pray for them in this sacred silence, deeply asking God to protect them and heal them in the weeks ahead.

Then, I prayed that they might be freed from the power of the Evil One and protected on their journey. The theme of the prayer is taken from the Gospel of the day. Their spirit is to be filled with Christ the Redeemer, who is the living water (Gospel of the Samaritan woman in the First Scrutiny), the light of the world (Gospel of the man born blind in the Second Scrutiny), the resurrection and the life (Gospel of Lazarus in the Third Scrutiny).

In a silent ritual deliberately reminiscent of the rite used for ordination in the Sacrament of Holy Orders, I laid my hands for a brief moment on the head of each of the Elect. It is a solemn act of

calling down the Spirit of Jesus to be with them and protect them.

The Elect, although not yet able to receive the Eucharist, were invited to remain with us in prayer, and to present themselves for a blessing at the time of Communion. - Fr. Ray



### Spring "Spruce-Up" Day

**Saturday, 13 April 2013**  
**8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Rain date: 14 April 2013  
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Parishioners are needed to help with our annual spring cleaning of the parish grounds. All parishioners and children are encouraged to help weed, mulch, sweep and perform other tasks that will help our parish grounds look their best for the spring and summer. However, confirmation students and their families are especially encouraged to volunteer.

Individuals should bring their own work gloves, safety glasses and small gardening tools and should dress for the weather. Come and make our parish grounds look beautiful!

### Please volunteer

For further information, please contact Tony Glander, Chair, Facilities Committee: (301) 460-6404.



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**14135 Seneca Road**  
**Darnestown, MD 20874**

Phone: (301) 948-5536  
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Email: [parishoffice@olvp.org](mailto:parishoffice@olvp.org)

Look for more information in our weekly Parish Bulletin or on the Parish website [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org)

## St. Nicholas Catalog

In Advent, Our Lady of the Visitation parishioners generously donated \$8,415 to five different charities through the 2012 St. Nicholas Catalog.

Funds were raised for the Little Sisters of the Poor, So Others Might Eat, St. Ann's Home, the Anugraha School in India and the Baltimore Haiti Project which provides the funds to our sister parish, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish in Gonaives, Haiti.

The five charities are very grateful for the donations received from OLVP parishioners. The Social Concerns Committee also thanks you for your generosity.



## Health Care Conscience Rights Act of 2013

On March 4, 2013, Representative Diane Black introduced the *Health Care Conscience Rights Act* (H.R. 940) to protect religious liberty and conscience rights in health care particularly with regard to the HHS Mandate.

Sean Cardinal O'Malley, Chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, recently stated, "*Protection for conscience rights in health care is of especially great importance to the Catholic Church...allow(ing) us to fulfill our obligation to serve others, without compromising our religious or moral convictions.*" Otherwise, "*a failure to provide clear and enforceable protection for a right of conscience could undermine Americans' access to quality health care.*"

Please call your congressional members in support of the *Health Care Conscience Rights Act* or the inclusion of its policies within *must-pass legislation*. You can reach them by calling the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121. Additional contact information can be found at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).

For more information, please visit <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/religious-liberty/conscience-protection/>.



## Easter Reflections

"For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures." The truth of the paschal mystery transforms us through the power of the sacraments. Through the sacraments we come to share in Christ's life, and this sharing is very real. So close is our communion with Jesus – when we are baptized, when we are reconciled, when we receive the Holy Eucharist – so close is our communion that we die with him and rise with him!

St. Paul delighted in this fact. His participation in the paschal mystery was not theoretical or symbolic; it was real. "I have been crucified with Christ.," he wrote to the Galatians; "yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me" (2:19-20). "If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him" (Romans 6:8). This gives meaning to our suffering, because through the paschal mystery we become "heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him" (Romans 8:17).

All this leads us to desire conversion. We want all of our lives to be lived in the truth of our salvation in the paschal mystery. We want all of our lives to "pass over" into true life. "If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:1-4). – *Donald Cardinal Wuerl*

## The Apostles' Creed

The newly revised edition of the Roman Missal allows for the use of either the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed on Sundays and Solemnities. Because the Apostles' Creed is used in the Rite of Baptism, the Missal recommends the use of the Apostles' Creed during the Sundays of Lent and Easter. Because Advent prepares us for a new year of sacramental celebrations and grace, the Apostles' Creed was used at Visitation Parish on the Sundays of Advent. – *Fr. Ray*

## New Stained Glass Window

The MM (2000 in Roman Numerals) on the cornerstone of our bell tower indicates our church was built in the Jubilee Year. A beautiful new stained glass window has been installed in the top portion of the window on your right hand side as you enter the bell tower from the lower level of the church. The window contains the logo of the 2000 A.D. Jubilarian Anniversary of the birth of Christ. The Latin words mean Christ, Yesterday, Today, Forever.



## National March for Marriage

On March 26, 2013, the Supreme Court of the United States will begin hearing oral arguments in two separate cases (*Hollingsworth v. Perry* and *Perry and Windsor v. United States*) that could decide the future of marriage as the union between one man and one woman within the United States. The *National Organization for Marriage* will organize a National March for Marriage to coincide with this occasion to stand up for marriage, family, and religious liberty.

As Catholics we know that marriage is a sacrament through which God blesses the union of husband and wife with grace. It brings men and women together to bless and sanctify one another, serve each other mutually in love and become more united in love with an openness to conceiving and raising children. Marriage is a natural way of being in relationship, based on natural law, fostering trust, fidelity, commitment, and cooperation between a man and woman for the good of humanity.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth and Subcommittee on the Promotion and Defense of Marriage recently encouraged participation in the National March for Marriage calling it a "significant opportunity to promote and defend marriage and the good of the nation, to pray for our Supreme Court Justices, and to stand in solidarity with people of good will" at a "decisive time for marriage in our country." For more information on how to participate or volunteer, please visit [www.marriagemarch.org](http://www.marriagemarch.org) or [www.facebook.com/marchformarriage](http://www.facebook.com/marchformarriage).

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