

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

In my experience of counseling people over the years I have become convinced that at the core of many people's difficulties is what is known as the "father wound." In other words, many people are suffering and because they did not experience their father's love in the way they should have. People with a "father wound" struggle to believe in a loving God. Not surprisingly, people with "father wounds" have a very hard time finding happiness in life. They are also prone to alcoholism, drug abuse and sexual promiscuity.

A father's love gives confidence and security to his children. Knowing that their dads love them, enables children to be brave and responsible when facing the challenges of life. Unfortunately, many fathers do not appreciate how important their love is to their children. Also, many hesitate to express love and tenderness for their children because they have a false sense of masculinity. In His humanity, Jesus Christ shows us how a perfect man acts and He has no problem showing love & tenderness. The following article by Neil Lozano speaks about the importance about having a strong relationship with God our Father. It is the intention of God our Father that our earthly fathers help us to understand His love for us. But even when they don't, we can still experience the love of God our Father through Jesus Christ. Neal Lozano, the founder of Heart of the Father Ministries has written a wonderful book about our Father's love for us called **Abba Father**. I recommend it highly.

With my prayers,
Father Conley

Coming Home to the Father by Neal Lozano

We all have a longing for a home. I remember the first time I came home from college after being away for four months. I walked around our house and stopped to look carefully at things that I had walked by for years without giving a second glance. Paintings, furniture, figurines, they all seemed significant to me because they said to me, "This is home."

Home is the place where we expect to belong and be known, and the place where we can know others. It is a place where we can be ourselves, a place where we can rest. None of us grew up in a perfect home, and many of us did not grow up in a safe or happy home. Still we long for a place to call home.

We were made for home and family, so that we could come to know our true identity as children of the eternal Father in whose heart we find our true home. In Eph. 3:14 the Apostle Paul tells us that *every family in heaven and on earth derives its name from the Father*. The very nature of the family finds its source in God the Father.

God the Father intended to reveal himself to us in our families. Because of our fallen nature, however, families can be a place of pain, a place where the goodness of the Father is hidden.

Sin has separated us

Sin has separated us from the Father and left us thinking and acting like orphans and slaves. The world offers futile answers to this root spiritual issue. For example, you have probably heard it said, *everyone just needs to find his own truth*. The broken, abandoned, lonely, rejected, and confused are encouraged to save themselves by deciding what is true, not based on revelation, but rather based on a limited, subjective perspective of the pains of life. Without revelation from God, these answers keep us from finding our home in His heart. Secular answers will never heal our hearts because they do not connect us with our Creator and the purpose we have in relationship with Him. At best, they offer temporary relief and a fleeting hope.

Life-altering answers are being offered to the very young who have never considered that their Creator made them purposefully and has a wonderful plan for their lives. Neither are they aware that the Father is searching for them, longing to bring each to the place of belonging and acceptance in His heart.

God, too, is looking for a place to call home His home

He stands, knocking on the door of every heart.

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. Revelation 3:20

And for those who have opened the door, He has made His home in us.

Jesus said, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." John 14:23

The question remains, however: how that the Father can feel hidden from those who have already received the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

Two reasons to consider

For one, we do not see the Father as He is. We cannot see Him clearly through the lies we have believed, and the blind spots created by resentment, anger, fear, and shame. Although we believe, we still need to be unbound like Lazarus. After Lazarus was called forth from the tomb, Jesus commanded those around him to unbind him (or untie him) so that he could see and be restored to his family and other relationships. It wasn't enough to simply have his life restored; his grave clothes, the remnants of death, needed to be removed before he could move into the fullness of life.

Being unbound is an ongoing process of restoration, sanctification, and integration into the family of God. This lifelong process of knowing the Father through the Son is the second reason the Father can seem hidden to believers, something we see in the special gift of John's Gospel.

In John 14, we are invited to witness the struggle Thomas and Philip have as they try to understand, to see the Father as Jesus does. The dialogue reveals to us the frustration of not understanding Jesus's words and ends with Philip crying out to the Lord, "Show us the Father, and then we will be satisfied."

If you long for home, to see the Father more fully, to know your place in the Father's heart, begin with this simple prayer of the Apostle Philip:

"Show us the Father, and then we will be satisfied."

You may wish to further enter into this prayer by reading my book *Abba's Heart*. It was written to assist you in coming to know the Father and His love for you.

Unbound Freedom in Christ Conference presented by founders, Neal & Janet Lozano

September 14th-15th, 2018 @ St. Philip Neri 6405 Orchard Road, Linthicum, MD 21090. Unbound is a ministry of freedom & healing which releases the power of the Gospel into our lives. We all have areas in our lives where we don't experience freedom. These can be wounds from our past, patterns of habitual sin, addictions, negative thoughts, resentments, and other forms of spiritual difficulty. Jesus came to set us free by breaking the power of evil and revealing the Love of God. At an Unbound conference, you will learn how to gain greater freedom from these influences by using the Five Spiritual Keys taught in the Unbound Model. This conference will equip you to cooperate with God as he sets you free. For more information and to register please go to www.UnboundMinistryMaryland.com.

THE WILD GOOSE: Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit. This Thursday Aug 9, from 6:30-8:45 in the hall. *The presentation will be "The Spirit of Adoption." Come and learn how God has made us His sons & daughters through the Spirit.* Dinner is included. You can sign up by contacting Fr. Conley at 301-870-2220 ext 13 or frconley@comcast.net

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE FUND TO REPLACE OUR WELL SYSTEM. We are especially grateful to the parishioner who pledged \$61,250 to cover half of the total cost.

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE –

The Social Concerns Committee collects food 52 weeks per year. Please help address the needs of our community with food donations. Bins are located in the back of the church. We are grateful for your continuing support.

ENCOUNTER GRACE! A new women's ministry in Southern Maryland (www.encountergrace.co) is hosting their inaugural event, *Encounter Grace: Reconnect* on Friday, November 9, from 6 pm – 9 pm at the Waldorf Jaycee Hall. The evening is for women (21+) and will include a buffet dinner, keynote address by Catholic author and national speaker, Mary Lenaburg, and musical guests, The Miller Sisters, featuring recording artist Marie Miller. Come and discover how, just like Our Blessed Mother Mary and her cousin Elizabeth, women of all ages and stations in life can and should stay connected in the faith. Register online today at www.encountergrace.co/events Interested in being a sponsor or vendor? Email the team at encountergraceco@gmail.com

Please support our advertising sponsors. This week we recognize Adams Funeral Home, P.A.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

SUN: 8am Maurice Long, Sr., 10am Parishioners, 12N: Clarissa Williams, **MON:** 8am Mary Theresa Bowen, **TUES:** 8am Anna V. Garity, **WED:** 8am Joseph L. Jones, **THURS:** 8am Maurice Long, Sr., **FRI:** 9:30am Deacon Richard Schopfer, **SAT:** 9am Tom Keelan, 4pm Anna Stonestreet.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY

PRAYERS: Stephen Balenger, Mary Bowes, Deacon Gene Burroughs, Brenda Callahan, Frances Card, Joe Cross, Agnes Curtis, Chuck Davis, Kendall Farrell, George Fassel, Arlene Gandolfi, Martha Gehring, James Gibson, Zynae Green, Judy Istvan-Windsor, Irma Johnson, Regina Kijesky, Marie Knobel, Lillian Komar, Susie Logan, Jim Middleton, Mary Emma Middleton, Larry Miller, Joseph Mona, Wayne Mullings, Ryan Myers, Joseph Quade, Mary Reeves, Sylvene Savoy, William Leon Savoy, Edna Sweeney, Eva Washington, Beth Weise, Tim Welch, Brice Zimmer.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION LAST

WEEKEND: \$7,037.65. The unidentified donations totaled \$471.00. We received \$58.00 for our School Support.