

Dear Friends in Christ,

We hear in the Gospel reading today, *"Jesus told them, 'Because of the hardness of your hearts [Moses] wrote you this commandment. But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female...'"*

If the Pharisees tested Jesus with questions about divorce, how much more does our contemporary society raise objections about marriage, sexual activity and identity, and the conception of life—and find our Catholic answers to be unappealing. They hear us saying "no" to what they think means freedom and fulfillment.

But in reality, the Church is proclaiming a tremendous "Yes" to human dignity and true love, as God made it in the beginning! And to help us better understand and articulate that "Yes," Pope John Paul II gave us the treasure of the "Theology of the Body," which he taught in a series of Wednesday talks over the first five years of his pontificate. This saintly Pope upheld the perennial teaching of Christ's Church, but presented it in a new way specially suited to people today, explored from the perspective of how we humans perceive and experience things.

The Holy Father went back to the beginning to explore the human body in creation, as well as the effects of the Fall and original sin, and what Christ's resurrection (and our future resurrection) mean for our body. He then applied these insights to celibacy and virginity for the Kingdom, and especially to marriage and family, including a moral spacing of births that does not involve artificial contraception.

Among the treasures he uncovered for us are that our human bodies reveal our human person; and, as we are created in the image and likeness of God, so also reveal something about God himself. He explored the first man and woman recognizing in each other another human person of equal dignity, yet different in ways that make possible an interpersonal unity ("complementarity"). He observed that, any time we enter into sexual relations, our bodies are making a declaration that "I give myself completely to you, and I receive the gift you are making of yourself"—a declaration of mutual self-gift that is only fulfilled by lifelong marriage between one man and one woman, open to the conception of new life. And he noted that human marriage and family are the best visible image that we can see with our eyes of the reality of the divine family of the Most Holy Trinity.

Over more than twenty years, I have always found

that the Theology of the Body is a much-loved gift, treasured by those who receive it.

Want to explore the Theology of the Body further? Here are some next steps:

- In Formed Online, listen to an hour-long talk by Dr. Mary Healy entitled, "Men and Woman are from Eden." (See below for instructions on how to access Formed for free through the parish subscription!)
- In the Knights of Columbus booklet stand in the lobby, on the bottom row of booklets, pick up "God's Plan for Love and Marriage," by Dr. Edward Sri.
- Online, at <https://www.nfpoutreach.org/47>, read Fr. Richard Hogan's "An Introduction to John Paul II's Theology of the Body."
- And if you would be interested in an in-person presentation or study group with fellow parishioners, let the parish office know!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Dan

SIGN UP TO FORMED! In order to sign up to Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the zip code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to make an account, and then enjoy!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IHM will have a blessing of the animals on the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, Monday, October 4th. The blessing will take place in the grove at 5:30 pm.

IHM BONFIRE has been rescheduled! The Bonfire will be Saturday, October 16th from 6:30 until the party ends! Hot dogs and s'more supplies will be available at this family friendly event.

TRUNK OR TREAT IHM is hosting a 'Trunk or Treat' in the main IHM Parking Lot on October 31st from 3 pm until 5 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to bring their families to share candies with one another.

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY RETURNS TO IHM
An 8-week Bible Study called "Mary: the Bible and the Mother of God" will begin on Wednesday, October 13th from 10 am to 11:15 am. Subsequent Wednesday meetings continue through December 8th. Everyone is welcome to join this study about Mary! If you are interested, please contact Nancy Baysinger at 240-298-4713 or email at nbaysinger@gmail.com. Please RSVP by the weekend of October 2/3 so study materials can be ordered.

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



October 4 — October 10

Monday	Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11/Gal 6:14-18/ Matt 11:25-30
9:00 am	Carmen Colby (L)
Tuesday	Jonah 3:1-10/Ps 130:1-4, 7-8/ Lk 10:38-42
5:30 pm	Leland Schachterle (D)
Wednesday	Jonah 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-6, 9-10/ Lk 11:1-4
9:00 am	Rev. Zygmunt Kurzawinski (L)
Thursday	Acts 1:12-14/Lk 1:46-55/ Lk 1:26-38
5:30 pm	Bobby Synan (D)
Friday	Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6, 16, 8-9/ Lk 11:15-26
9:00 am	James Arnold (L)
Saturday	Joel 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/ Lk 11:27-28
9:00 am	Lawrence Forte (L)
4:00 pm	Barbara Lorraine Harmon (D)
Sunday	Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-17/Heb 4:12-13/ Mk 10:17-30
8:30 am	Raymond Steiner (D)
11:15 am	Kenneth Dean Harmon (D)
1:00 pm	All IHM Parishioners

TREASURE STEWARDSHIP

FY July 2021– June 2022	Offertory	Maintenance Fund
Offertory Online Giving	\$32,331.00 \$18,396.00	\$3,93957.00 \$2,450.00
Needed Monthly	\$52,878.33	\$5,203.00
Collected YTD	\$151,630.03	\$14,652.57
Needed YTD	\$158,634.99	\$15,609.00
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN		
Campaign runs October 2019– October 2022	Total Pledged	Given up to September 26
	\$684,557.00	\$505,000.18

Because of our counting teams' availability, the in-person giving figures cover only three weeks in September.

Correction: on the Treasure Stewardship table dated September 5th, the giving for the Capital Campaign was through August 31st, not July 31st.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH

October has been designated as Respect Life Month. The following activities will be occurring at IHM.

Sunday, October 3rd

Life Chain in front of IHM, along Hwy 235. All, including families are welcome. Time: 2:00 - 3:30 PM

All Month

Baby Shower for Care Net Pregnancy Center. Bring in items of clothing, diapers, formula, etc. and place in the bassinets in the back of church. Prayer for Pregnant Mothers Prayer Cards. will be available on the tables at the Main and Foyer exits. Please take one and pray for pregnant mothers throughout the month.

FIRST TUESDAY COFFEE The next First Tuesday Coffee will be held on Tuesday, October 5th from 9 am until 11 am in the church hall, bring a friend and a non-perishable item for the food pantry.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED Monday, October 11th in observance of Columbus Day

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Louise Shafer, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Jane Keyon, Linda F. Gieser, Jim Brown, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Dinnette Briscoe, Bill Wagoner, Paula Coxon, Vincent Campanella, Ray Dion, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Pete Mesmer, Rylee Corliss, Rose Marie Weiland, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

Follow us on



ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL PUMPKIN DASH St. John's School is hosting the "Pumpkin Dash- the pet edition," a virtual 5K run/walk and 10K bike ride (1-mile run/walk and 3-mile bike ride for children) from October 31st through November 6th. Run, walk, or ride anywhere you'd like! Registration includes t-shirt, finisher medal or water bottle, commemorative tiny bib, pet costume contest and more! Proceeds benefit St. John's School and MedStar St. Mary's Hospital Cancer Care and Infusion Services. Register at www.sjshollywood.org.

LIVESTREAM MASS Join us for our livestream Masses: the 4 pm Mass on Saturdays in English, and 1 pm on Sundays in Spanish at mass.ihmrcc.org.

MARRIAGE WORKSHOP Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center is hosting a Christ-centered weekend designed to offer practical tools that can help foster effective communication and emotional closeness in your marriage. Make your marriage thrive, not just survive! The expert speaker team includes Catholic psychologists, therapists, and priests who will offer their expertise and experience, plus they will be on hand the entire weekend to offer individual consultation, upon request. The event takes place October 9th and 10th. Please note: This is NOT an overnight program. Cost: \$400 per couple. Seating will be limited to facilitate social distancing. See our website for more details about measures to limit exposure to illness, details about the program and links to register: www.ourladyofbethesda.org

WOMEN'S NIGHT OF REFLECTION Are you weary of these times where darkness seems to be consuming the world? "Therefore, take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to withstand" Eph 6:12. This month's talk is "Stand Firm – Spiritual Bootcamp." We invite all women to come and be fortified for these times. Evening includes Eucharistic Adoration, talk, Confession, and healing prayers. To take place on Tuesday, October 12th at St. Cecilia's Church in St. Mary's City at 7 pm.

ST. NICHOLAS FALL BAZAAR St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Laurel will hold their 2021 Fall Bazaar on Friday, October 29th from 2 pm until 8 pm as well as on Saturday, October 30th from 9 am until 8 pm. Expect to see booths like "Treasure Trove" and "Pages from the Past", a basket chance raffle, wine tombola, handmade crafts, as well as food concessions (Snacks, Breakfast, Lunch, & 2 Dinners). All meals are To-Go with outside seating available. The Grand Raffle will kickoff at the bazaar. Prince George's County COVID-19 Guidelines are in place with Masks Required. For information, contact Donna Cellini at donnac803@aol.com, or Debbie Rausch at rauschda@gmail.com.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET MASS All are welcome to participate in the Blessing of the Fleet Mass on St. Clement's Island in Colton's Point, Maryland on Sunday, October 3rd beginning at 3:00 pm. This is the site of the Maryland's first colonial landing in 1634 and the birthplace of religious freedom in America. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Stephen Wyble, Pastor of Holy Angels and Sacred Heart Churches. Free Boat rides to St. Clements Island to attend the Mass as well as Free Admission to St. Clements Island Museum will be available. To participate in the other activities, an admission fee of \$10.00 (children 10 and Under: Free) is needed. For more information Contact: John Laychak, Blessing of the Fleet Chairman at 410-610-3457 or gamehunter.md@yahoo.com.

MEN'S MORNING OF RECOLLECTION with Fr. Larry Swink on Saturday, October 30th from 7 am to 11 am at St. Peter Claver in St. Indigoes. This morning recollection will feature a Holy Hour, Mass, Confession, and a talk by Fr. Larry. The topic of Father Larry's discussion will be "never forget devotion to the souls in Purgatory." Just in time for All-Souls Day!

OYSTER SCALD Camp Maria is hosting their 9th Annual Oyster Scald on Sunday, October 10th from 12 noon until 5 pm, rain or shine! Delicious local foods, live music, local vendors, and great fun will be in abundance! For more information go to www.campmaria.org.

LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC, A Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, MD is open for various retreat weekends, for both men and women. Directed and Private Retreats are also available. See our complete Retreat Schedule at: www.loyolaonthepotomac.com (301) 392-0800

STEAMED SHRIMP DINNER DRIVE-THROUGH St. George Catholic Church in Valley Lee is hosting a Steamed Shrimp Dinner in front of their Community Center on Friday, October 8th from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm, or until sold out. Dinner includes: Steamed Shrimp, French Fries and Pancit. Cost is \$15.00, cash or check.



Fellow Knights: We will be collecting donations at the new McKay's on MacArthur Blvd, in San Souci, on 2 and 9 October between 9 AM and 6 PM. We need 6 volunteers for three shifts each day: 9-12 AM, 12-3 PM and 3-6 PM. If you can help, please call, or email Tom Chayka at 301 481 1158 or pipercubs@hotmail.com



October 3, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 2:18-24 | Heb 2:9-11 | Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Social media certainly has its downsides, but it's a wonderful way to keep up with friends and family. Lately, I've noticed a number of wedding day snapshots – with couples finally able to celebrate their “big day” as pandemic restrictions have eased. Today's readings bring these beautiful images to mind. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches his disciples about marriage: “God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” While the readings focus on the relationship between man and woman, we are reminded that God created all of us – no matter our state in life – to love one another as he loves us. The capacity to love is in our DNA. Jesus invites us to be companions on life's journey, reflecting to others Christ's love for the Church.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each year in October, our diocese invites married couples to a “Wedding Anniversary Mass.” Friends and family are invited to join them as they celebrate milestone anniversaries – whether it be 5 years or 50. Just as we celebrate newlyweds, it's nice to recognize these couples – and the love that has endured well after the honeymoon ended. Just as they witnessed their love for one another on their wedding day, they have continued to do so through the ensuing years by their example. Despite the inevitable hardships, they cling to one another; through disagreements and quarrels, they find a way back to each other – and I suspect they laugh together too. By sharing their stories we, too, can witness to others a love that endures through thick and thin. In doing so, we help build up our families, our communities, and our Church.

WITNESS You may have heard of *The Moth*, a popular storytelling platform. Each of us has a story to tell, and recording family “love stories” can be a fun way to witness to our children and grandchildren what good relationships look like. Take some time to interview your parents or others in your extended family about how they met, how they've overcome the challenges they have faced as a couple, and how they have kept God at the center.