

A Few Words from Fr. Gary for Third Sunday of Easter - April 6, 2008

Today our Gospel takes us on a trip. Two disciples of Jesus are running away from Jerusalem because he has been killed and events are happening which they do not understand. Jesus had given them hope and a focus, but these developments turn their world into chaos and they face much uncertainty. In our lives we may follow their example. When our world seems to collapse around us we may pick up and run away. But as they journey they begin to reminisce on all that has taken place over the past few weeks and their life with Jesus. As they tell the story they notice a person walking with them who listens and hears their fears. As he listens, he reflects on the stories they told and helps them to see and understand it from a different perspective. So much so that when they prepare to turn in for the night they invite him to stay with them. It is during this time that they see Jesus with the eyes of faith as he blesses and breaks the bread. Many times in my life I find myself in a similar quantity and am uncertain which way to go. I have been blessed to be a part of a Ministry Support Group with other Franciscans, where we share our struggles. When we gather we tell the story of our struggles when in the midst of our time together there's a word of encouragement, a word of challenge, a word of concern, or words to clarify. When I look back on our sharing it is as if Jesus is there helping us to realize that he continues to be walking with us on the journey. In all of our lives we need to take out time to back away from the struggles of life and share our problems and hurts with another person. It may be that as you share you will encounter the Lord, helping you to see with the eyes of faith. Let us be ready to invite the Lord to stay with us so that we may experience him in our lives.

This past week we received news that the Diocese of Shreveport will receive a new shepherd. It is an honor to announce that Msgr. Michael Gerard Duca is the new bishop-elect for the Diocese of Shreveport. Msgr. Duca, a native of Dallas, is currently rector of Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas. Msgr. Duca received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees from the University of Dallas. He attended Holy Trinity Seminary, and studied canon law at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) in Rome. He has previously served as Catholic chaplain to SMU and as vocation director for the Diocese of Dallas. Monday, May 19th is the proposed date for his ordination, pending confirmation by Archbishop Alfred Hughes. May God bless him as he is called to shepherd us in the coming years.

Young Adult Gathering: All Young Adults (both single and married) from the parish are invited to a Saturday Evening Gathering beginning at the Saturday Evening Mass to be followed by a social at the Log Cabin on April 12th after the Mass. On May 10th they are considering a gathering at one of their homes with a Crawfish boil and bonfire. Please mark your calendars and consider attending.

Parish Picnic: This Sunday, April 6, please join us at 1:00 PM for our Parish Picnic in Lincoln Parish Park at Pavilion L-6. Please check bulletin article for what you can bring.

VOCATIONS

Next Sunday, April 13, is a special Easter celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday. In 1963 Pope Paul VI designated this day as World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Our Parish will join with the universal church to ask for God's blessings that we may be strengthened in our Christian vocation. I would like to invite all youth and young adults to a video reflection vocational calling on Sunday, April 13 at 4pm. Following the video we will have a Vocations panel to offer. This is an opportunity for people living out the different vocations to share their stories. Fr. Gary is planning on preparing a meal.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee will have a meeting
Thursday,
April 10 at 6:30pm.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

There is a blind student who needs transportation to the Sat. evening Masses. If there is anyone who would be interested in helping this parishioner to attend Mass, please call Jewel at the Louisiana Center for the Blind 251-2891.

150 YEAR CELEBRATION

On Wednesday April 16th, the friars from the area will gather at St Thomas Aquinas to host a prayer service at 7:00 PM. During this service we will renew our vows as a community of men in fraternity and celebrate God's calling us to serve the area. We would like to invite all parishioners to join us as we celebrate God's goodness to us in our vocations. Following the service we will have an open house in the friary. Please consider joining us.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

*Please pray for the repose of the soul of Lionel Roundtree and
Leigh Ann Stephens (Sister of Dawn Ransom.)*