

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

8121 CYPRESS LAKE DRIVE
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33919



PASTOR: Very Rev. Stephen E. McNamara, V.F.
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Oliver Toner; **In Residence:** Fr. Ray Hughes
Deacon: Michael Esper
Administrator: Bonnie O'Connell
Director of Religious Education: Joanne MacPeck, M.A.
Organist: Connie Kish
Youth Director: Leslie Gaitens-Kopper

SUNDAY MASSES & CONFESSIONS: See Inside

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES: For these Sacraments, please notify the Church Office as soon as possible so that we may be able to accommodate you. Thank you.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please fill out registration card and return to ushers or to the church office

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:
Tel. 482-6883 or 481-7172

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES STORE: Tel. 437-9876

RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE: Tel. 482-6883

YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE: Tel. 481-5144

PARISH OFFICE: Tel. 481-7171 or 481-7172
E-mail: parishoffice@resurrectionch.org Fax 481-8007
www.resurrectionch.org

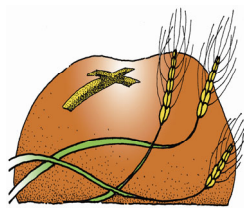
OCTOBER 14, 2007

GRATITUDE

Surely we can all recall at least a few days in our lives when things were going so well that nothing could put us in a bad mood. Maybe it was the day a very special person asked us to the senior prom, or perhaps it was our wedding day. Maybe it was the day we learned that we were expecting a long-awaited child, or the day we received an overdue promotion. There was elation in our hearts and lightness in our step, an extraordinary vitality throughout the day. We probably got on the phone right away to tell at least a few key people about our good fortune.

This is, surely, how Naaman and the leper must have felt when they were rid of their terrible diseases. They were hard-pressed to contain their gratitude, and although they were both unfamiliar with the customs of a foreign land, they had the good manners to thank the people responsible for their cures.

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**Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
October 14, 2007**

If we have died with [Christ Jesus] we
shall also live with him; if we
persevere we shall also reign with him.
— 2 Timothy 1:11-12a

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT. OCTOBER 13 - SUNDAY VIGIL MASSES

3:30 †Anna Zebrowski by Family

5:00 †Charmaine Margaret Mary Murphy by Therese,
Marlana, Patricia & Frank

SUN. OCTOBER 14

6:30 ♥People of the Parish

8:00 †Robert Prescott by John Conisha

9:30 †Blanche R. Dorbois by John Gerot

11:00 †Donald Geiger by MaryEllen & Robert Geiger

MON. OCTOBER 15

8:00 †Lawrence Norton by Dee Gallina

TUE. OCTOBER 16

8:00 †Austin Family by Mary West

WED. OCTOBER 17

8:00 †Living & Deceased Members of Women's Guild

THU. OCTOBER 18

8:00 †Joseph J. Halizak Sr. by Frank & Mary Pirritano

FRI. OCTOBER 19

8:00 ♥Special Intentions of Mary Serrao by Family

SAT. OCTOBER 20

8:00 †John Minta by Tom & Norma Minta

SAT. OCTOBER 20 - SUNDAY VIGIL MASSES

3:30 †Catherine Cypriani by Joan & George Gomeriger

5:00 †John E. Daly by Mary Jo Daly

SUN. OCTOBER 21

6:30 †Cora Mae McPherson by Jon Haggerty

8:00 †Joyce Stade by Dorothy Carlson

9:30 ♥People of the Parish

11:00 †Marilyn DiPietro by Tom & Carmela DeQuinzio

CONFESSIONS - Saturdays 2:15 - 3:15, or 30 minutes before Sunday Masses or by appointment.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS - All those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially the Deceased Parishioners.

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE POOR BOXES;
THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE
POOR!**

RESURRECTION PRAYER LINE MINISTRY

For prayer requests call Mary Lou Fitzpatrick, 454-6752. Give your first name & prayer petition. Should you reach an answering machine, please leave your phone number so that we can call you back. Petitions are prayed for 31 days. **Prayer Line volunteers are needed** to pray & answer prayer requests. Take this opportunity to help someone else and still be able to choose your own time.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — "Now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel" (2 Kings 5:14-17).

Psalm — The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power (Psalm 298).

Second Reading — If we have died with Christ we shall also live with Christ (2 Timothy 2:8-13).

Gospel — The Samaritan, realizing he had been healed, glorified God in a loud voice (Luke 17:11-19).



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

The Society for
THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
... a Pontifical Mission Society

World Mission Sunday, organized by the Propagation of the Faith, is a day set aside for Catholics worldwide to recommit themselves to the Church's missionary activity through prayer and sacrifice.

Annually, World Mission Sunday is celebrated **Oct. 21**. As described by Pope John Paul II, World Mission Sunday is "an important day in the life of the Church because it teaches how to give: as an offering made to God, in the Eucharistic celebration and for all the missions of the world" (see Redemptoris Missio 81).

Every year the needs of the Catholic Church in the Missions grow - as new dioceses are formed, as new seminaries are opened because of the growing number of young men hearing Christ's call to follow Him as priests, as areas devastated by war or natural disaster are rebuilt, and as other areas, long suppressed, are opening up to hear the message of Christ and His Church. That is why the involvement and commitment of Catholics from around the world is so urgently needed. Offerings from Catholics in the United States, on World Mission Sunday and throughout the year, are combined with offerings to the Propagation of the Faith worldwide.

Mission dioceses - about 1,100 at this time - receive regular annual assistance from the funds collected. In addition, these mission dioceses submit requests for assistance with catechetical programs, seminaries, the work of Religious Communities, for communication and transportation needs, and for the building of chapels, churches, orphanages and schools. The world's national directors of the Propagation of the Faith vote on these requests, matching the funds available with the greatest needs. These funds are then distributed, in their entirety, to mission dioceses throughout the world.

Gifts provided on *World Mission Sunday* or at other times to the Propagation of the Faith help to ensure that the poor of the Missions receive help and the hope that comes from knowing of the love of Jesus Christ. The day-to-day service of the Catholic Church in the Developing World depends on such financial help. — (*Ed. Note:* The second collection will be taken up for this purpose next weekend.)

MASSES TO BE OFFERED FOR THE DECEASED

All Souls Day, Nov. 2, is a time when we are reminded to pray for our deceased relatives, friends and all those in Purgatory. **Masses will be offered in November for the dearly departed of our parishioners.** Envelopes for this purpose are in the pews and entrances of the church. Please place names of the deceased on the envelopes and return them by **Thursday, Oct. 25**.

WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERING
October 7, 2007

Registered families with envelopes: 2450

Envelopes received: 753 (30%) \$17,522.50

Remaining fam. & visitors: 1715 (70%) **\$ 2,843.50**

Total offering: \$20,366.00

Thank You!

RESPECT LIFE OFFERING

Envelopes received: 199 \$2, 382.00

Thank You

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND

Envelopes received: 753 (30%) \$17,522.50

Remaining fam. & visitors: 1715 (70%) **\$ 2,843.50**

Total offering: \$20,366.00

Thank you!

ST. VINCENT DePAUL OFFERING

October 1-7 \$ 1, 113.00

Thank you!

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL is having their *Third Annual Fall Festival* at St. Francis Xavier grounds and hall, Sat., Nov. 3, 11:00a.m.—6:00p.m. Proceeds will benefit the students of Fr. Anglim Academy by upgrading technology in classrooms.

BISHOP VEROT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE - Prospective students and their families presentation includes: Student-guided tours, academics, life at Bishop Verot (the student perspective), and extracurricular activities, Oct. 23, 6:00p.m.—8:00pm, Anderson Theater. **Verot Visit Days, Oct. 16 & Nov. 2.** Prospective students and parents come visit Bishop Verot for a morning and find out the many fantastic programs offered: take a tour, sit in on a class, listen to an administrator panel, our Sage Dining will provide a meal. RSVP: contact Andrew Sicnolf, Dir. of Admissions, at 274-6784.

SWFL CATHOLIC SINGLES for ages 30-50; single, widowed, or annulled. Our mission is strictly to promote fellowship throughout the area, to provide spiritual, social and service activities for members in a safe Christian environment, encouraging a deeper relationship with God and support for each other. Contact Pam at pamelakaym@yahoo.com or 239-989-7077 for group info. or to RSVP. **Oct. 14, Sun., 3:00p.m.-6:00p.m.:** Movie Social, bring your favorite appetizer. **Oct. 19, Fri., 6:00p.m. – 8:00p.m.:** Austin's Wine Tasting. **Oct. 21, Sun., after the 11:00a.m. Mass:** Pancake Breakfast at St. Columbkille Parish. **Oct. 27, Sat., 4:00p.m. – 11:00p.m.:** Jazz On The Green - Estero Community Park. **Nov. 3, Key West Weekend. Nov. 4, Sun., 5:00p.m.:** Mass at Blessed Pope John XXIII Church, and dinner at Uno's Restaurant.

COLLEGE SEMINARY DISCERNMENT WEEKEND - St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami is hosting a discernment weekend for young men considering the priesthood. The weekend will include prayer, talks, recreation and casual time with the seminarians. Come and spend a weekend experiencing life at a college seminary. The discernment weekend is scheduled for **Nov. 2 - 4.** Please contact the Diocese of Venice Vocations Office at 941-484-9543 for registration information.

CARING FOR THE VULNERABLE - If you are involved with ministries to the sick and homebound, hospital and hospice, join us on Sat., **Oct. 20, 9:00a.m. - Noon**, Saint Columbkille Parish Center for a presentation by Rev. Gerard Austin, O.P., S.T.D., Professor for the Rice School for Pastoral Ministry. Rev. Austin's presentation is entitled *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Anointing, Viaticum, Praying with the Sick and the Dying, Living as a Preparation for Dying.* To register or for more info., call 239-489-3973.

FOR COUPLES PLANNING MARRIAGE - The Diocese of Venice will hold a Pre-Cana Conference on **Sat., Nov. 10**, St. Vincent dePaul Parish in Fort Myers, to help engaged couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. The cost is \$65 per couple which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. To RSVP, call Betty K., 941-484-9543.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND - Do you remember how easy and fun it was to talk as well as romance each other when you first met? You can bring that excitement back by going on a *Marriage Encounter Weekend*. Make your good marriage great. The next *Weekend* is **Nov. 16 - 20** in Venice. Call 941-962-9904 or toll free, 1-888-560-1854.

IS YOUR MARRIAGE HURTING? We invite couples to attend a program which offers help to hurting marriages. A **Retrouvaille Weekend (for troubled marriages)** will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Venice, **Nov. 16-18.** Retrouvaille places strong emphasis on communication techniques. For information/reservations call (888) 560-1854.

WRAP - WHITE RIBBONS AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY WEEK is **Oct. 20 - Nov 4.** This national campaign is intended to educate the public about the extent of the pornography and what we can do to demonstrate that our communities care about decency. You can support this campaign by wearing a white ribbon or displaying one on your car. Ribbons will be available in the church entrances after Masses starting Oct. 20.

MAGNIFICAT - All women are invited to a prayer breakfast sponsored by *Magnificat* which will be held **Sat., Oct. 20, 9:30a.m.-2:30p.m.**, Three Oaks Banquet/Conference Center, Estero. Our guest will be Aimee Manga Bacik, who has been actively involved in youth and college ministry, is studying for a Master's degree in theology and plans to continue on to study Canon Law. Please send a \$20 check payable to *Magnificat Ft. Myers* to Joanne Tarantino, 16550 Heron Coach Way #206, Bonita Springs, FL 34134, 992-4872, 481-6967, or Joyce Michel, 3650 Bonita Beach Rd. #26, Bonita Springs, FL 34134. Info? Call 992-4872.

Request must be postmarked by Oct. 15.

Our special guest will be Bishop Frank Dewane.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

FAITH SHARING QUESTION

Jesus challenges the apostles to believe and continue to serve. What are you thankful for? How do you let someone know you are thankful for them?

CONFIRMATION CLASSES - All ninth grade or older high school parishioners who have not received Confirmation are asked to attend. Classes continue on **Wednesdays, 6:15p.m. - 7:30p.m.**, in the Conference Room of the Parish Center.

FIRST RECONCILIATION PARENTS & CHILDREN'S Meeting will be on, **Sun, Oct 14**, Parish Center, **10:30 a.m. - Noon** Parents and children gather in Rms. 2 & 3 of the Parish Center.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HOMELESS?

Video presentation during Religious Ed. Classes, **Oct. 16/ 17**. Art Show, Nov. 10 & 11. All entries due by Nov 6 & 7. Come see drawings, poems, and posters from our children and vote for the winner during Coffee & Donuts in the Parish Center.

HOMELESS STAND-DOWN, **Nov. 17**, is a day when the community offers health care, hair cuts, food, and care packages to the homeless. **Donations needed for homeless children:** Off bug wipes, kid shampoo, kid toothpaste, and juice boxes (no soda). Volunteers are also needed. Please contact Joanne, 482-6883 if you can help.

THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS - A reminder of our luncheon at Mimi's in the Bell Tower Mall on **Fri., Oct. 19** at 11:30a.m. Please call Mary Kocik or Catherine 481-7172 if you signed up and are unable to attend.

RCIA OPENING SESSION FOR INQUIRERS

Anyone searching for a home in the Catholic Church is welcome to attend, **Tues, Oct. 16, 7:00p.m.**, Parish Center. Focus session: *Ten Lepers Healed, One Gives Thanks* with Felice & Jeff Gerwitz.



THE LIVING GOSPELS BIBLE STUDY, **Oct. 16**, four weeks, **Tues, 7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.**, Parish Center. Brian Shofran will preside. **Week 1:** Introducing the "Good News" According to Mark & Learning the Secrets of the Messiah and His Kingdom. **Week 2:** Presenting the New Testament According to Matthew & Instructing Our Hearts with Parables. **Week 3:** Searching for the Meaning of Jesus According to Luke & The Good News About God's Merciful Love. **Week 4:** Revealing the Risen Lord According to John & The Joy of Gospel Living.

DINNER TO SUPPORT HOMELESS AT ST. COLUMBKILLE CHURCH, **Nov. 3, 6:00p.m.**, tickets are \$35. Resurrection is a generous and loving parish, please come and share your love and kindness with others as we learn how to help those who have no home.

ATTENTION 6, 7, 8th Graders! Mark your calendars for the next middle school gathering, **Oct. 21, 6:00p.m. - 7:30p.m.** Dinner will be available for \$1.00, includes beverage. The evening's program will be *Is the Good Life Really "Over the Hedge"?* For info. and to RSVP, call Leslie 481-5144.

ALL SAINTS' DAY - Which Saint will you be in our Processional of Saints on **Sun., Oct. 28** during the 9:30a.m. Mass. Start planning today. For info./ideas, contact Leslie, 481-5144.

SEVENTH GRADERS WITNESS TO FAITH

On Sunday, October 7, the Seventh Grade parishioners were recognized for their religious studies. They made Mustard Seed bookmarks to share the Sunday Gospel. Families received them at coffee & doughnuts in the Parish Center.

We thank our catechists, Carolynann Mohr and Felice Gerwitz, the following young people and their parents for helping us increase our faith:

Austin Brooks, Nicholas Gerwitz, Heather Hanwacker, Nicholas Wnukowski, James Canamare, Gabriella Castillo, Rachel Chenover, Caroline Farrell, Jacob agel, Katrina Griffin, Meghan Hargadan, Andrew Harsanyi, Nicole Kennedy, Robert Ormsby, Natalie Pinero, Michelle Roman, Alexis White and Jessica Wilson.

See what they are saying about their church and their faith:

- "My faith has grown immensely since coming to Religious classes at Resurrection. My classes taught me a lot. Mrs. Mohr is an awesome teacher, she answers my questions. She increased my faith. I am thankful for that." - *Meghan H.*
- "I go to church because it helps me renew my faith and love for God." - *Jacob G.*

RESURRECTION WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING - The next meeting will be held on **Wed, Oct. 17**, in the Parish Center. Refreshments, **8:30a.m.** followed by the speakers from the *4C: Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc.* The speakers will discuss their work for children and families in our community.



BAKE & CRAFT SALE, Oct. 28, 8:00am. - 12:00pm., Parish Center.

This sale will benefit *Gabriel House* (for pregnant women). If you would like to donate a baked item please call Joan at 432-0656.



**Church of the Resurrection proudly presents:
ARAM BASMADJIAN in CONCERT
Showcasing Our New Organ
Oct. 21, 3:00 - 4:30p.m.
Admission: Free**

ARAM BASMADJIAN is one of the **most accomplished young organ virtuosos in America**. Throughout the United States, his performances as an organ recitalist have won acclaim from audiences and critics alike. With an expansive repertoire not limited to traditional organ works, Aram Basmadjian's diverse programs provide a musically rewarding experience as he conquers the "King of Instruments".

Program

Concerto in F major, Op.4, No.	(Allegro Pomposo)	<i>George Frideric Handel</i>
Trio Sonata VI in G major	(Vivace)	<i>Johann Sebastian Bach</i>
Bist Du Bei Mir "When Thou Art Near"		<i>Bach</i>
Roulade		<i>Seth Bingham</i>
Sketch in D-flat Major		<i>Robert Schumann</i>
Prelude & Fugue in D Major		<i>Bach</i>

Intermission

Toccata, Tue Es Petra "Thou Art the Rock"	<i>Henry Mulet</i>
Scherzo	<i>Louis Vierne</i>
Londonderry Air	<i>Traditional</i>
Prelude and Fugue in G minor	<i>Marcel Dupre</i>

OKTOBERFEST - GERMAN DINNER

When? October 21, 4:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.
Where? Parish Center
Cost? \$12 in advance or \$14 at the door



**Live Music
&
Dancing
5:00p.m.
To
8:00p.m.**

Menu:

- Bratwurst
- Sauerkraut
- German Potato Salad
- Dessert
- Wine & Beer Available



**TICKETS ON SALE IN THE GIFT SHOP & PARISH CENTER.
PLEASE CALL 481-7172 FOR MORE INFO.**



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS in celebration of someone's anniversary/birthday as a memorial or in thanksgiving please call Barbara, Parish Office, 481-7172. You may also use the flower offering envelopes that are located at the entrances of the church. Please print all information clearly on the envelope including a telephone number. If we are unable to accommodate your date request we will call you for an alternate date. Donation offering per basket is \$35 and must be included in the envelope. Please make check payable to Church of the Resurrection. Please place envelope in the collection basket, bring to parish office, or mail it to us. The loved one's name as well as the name of the donor (if wished) will be printed in the bulletin. **Flowers are needed for the month of NOVEMBER.**

This week's flowers are:

In Memory of:

Grace Gropp by Husband, Joseph
Diane M. Zielonka by Family
John Muller by Wife, Milli



This fall, from **September 26 - November 4**, our community will be joining with more than 80 cities in 32 states for the largest simultaneous pro-life mobilization in history - the nationwide *40 Days for Life* campaign. People of faith across America are praying that this effort will mark the beginning of the end of abortion in America.

The *40 Days for Life* campaign consists of three key components for us:

- **Prayer and Fasting:** Can you make this another Lent and fast from some favorite thing and offer it to God? Our prayers and fasting are effective for God's hand to move to end abortion.
- **Peaceful Vigil:** Standing for life through a 40-day silent, peaceful public witness outside the Planned Parenthood abortion facility at 1958 Prospect Street, Sarasota.
- **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** Those parishioners who are not able to travel to Sarasota are invited to **come to our church for Adoration** during the same hours on **Oct. 19**. Thus, we will be united in prayer. **Please sign up at entrances of the church.**

Church of the Resurrection's Participation Day

Oct. 19, 11:00a.m - 4:00p.m., Sarasota

Sign up sheets are at entrances of church.

You may sign up for 1 or more hours.

Please call Judy with any questions at 482-0517.

Carpooling available.

RESURRECTION CALENDAR

ALL events take place in the Parish Center, unless otherwise stated.

Beyond Bereavement, Monday, 8:30am, library, Cecilia, 437-2367

Bereavement Ministry, for the grieving, call Dona, 275-7875

Men's Club, 1st Monday of month, 7:30p.m. conference room.

Prayer Group, Tuesdays, 7:00p.m., class room 1.

Baptismal Class, 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:00p.m

Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30a.m to 10:30a.m.

Directions For Our Times Rosary Prayer Group, 4th Tuesday of month, 8:30a.m.

RCIA, Tuesdays, 7:00p.m., conference room.

Rel. Ed., Tues., 4:30p.m.-5:45p.m. & Wed , 6:15p.m.-7:15p.m.

Women's Guild, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 8:30a.m.

Children's Choir, Wednesdays, 5:30p.m.- 6:15p.m.

Rosary, before daily Masses; Tues. & Thurs., 2:00p.m., church.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, after 8:00a.m Mass, every 1st Friday, chapel.

Bridge Club, Thurs., 1:00p.m.

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00a.m Mass, church.

Coffee & Doughnuts, Sundays, after 8:00a.m & 9:030a.m. Masses

Your child has told you he/she is gay. There is a support Group. Call Sharon at 454-6284

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

When being admitted to the hospital, it is imperative that you give the name of your parish, state that you are Catholic and WISH TO BE SEEN BY A PRIEST, otherwise you might not be visited.

If you go through the emergency room, 99% of the time your name and parish will not get on the Catholic list. Please be sure that the admissions office is notified.

The following hospitals are the responsibility of the parish in which they are located.

- Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by Blessed Pope John XXIII Parish, 561-224
- Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
- S.W. Regional Medical Center - visited daily by St. Cecilia's Parish, 936-3635
- Lee Memorial Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

A priest is on call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for the above hospitals at the above telephone numbers.

Parishioners at Hospitals and Nursing Homes (within our parish boundaries) are visited by Resurrection priests as follows:

- All Hospitals: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 - Nursing Homes & Shut-ins: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
- Also, Lay Ministers visit the shut-ins Monday through Friday. Should you be missed, please call the church office, 481-7172.

THIRD ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DAY

Building Strong Parish Communities

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH • 9AM UNTIL 3PM
COST \$10 • CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & LUNCH INCLUDED

Keynote Speaker: Bishop Robert F. Morneau
Nationally, Bishop Morneau has served on numerous committees including the Catholic Relief Services Board of Directors, as chairman of the U.S. Bishops Committee on Laity and the U.S. Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship. He helped author Stewardship: a Disciple's Response, a stewardship pastoral letter published in 1992, and is recognized as one of the top stewardship experts in the United States. A noted speaker, Bishop Morneau's published works range from numerous books on prayer to children's literature, and poetry.

James Kelley, President of the International Catholic Stewardship Council and Director of Development for the Diocese of Charlotte

Parish Stewardship 101

How to begin to move parishioners toward practicing stewardship as a way of life (giving of their time, talent and treasure). This session will give an overview of stewardship with an emphasis on forming and nurturing the stewardship committee, and will cover all of the areas of responsibility for a committee.

**Thomas Gull, National Sales Consultant
J S Paluch Company, Inc.**

Tom is a frequent presenter at parishes, diocesan seminars and national conferences. His wide experience with parish administration always gives listeners solid ideas to bring back to their own parishes. Tom holds a BS in marketing from Northeastern Illinois University and an MBA with a concentration in marketing from Dominican University.

Part A: Parish Registration and Census

Why we need a census, how to get people to register, the type of data you'll need, and suggestions of what parishes can do with the data besides mail contribution envelopes.

Part B: Marketing Your Parish

Look at the four principles of marketing (Product, Place, Promotion, Price) and how it applies to parish life. Review the parish ministries, target audiences, increasing participation, and increasing revenue.

Cheryl Stock: Motivational speaker and member of St. Thomas More's hospitality ministry

Creating a Welcoming Parish

Building your parish family and nurturing relationships to create a vibrant and active community.

Philip Flynn, III, Ed.D.: Executive Director of the Catholic Community Foundation of SW Florida

Dr. Flynn serves in leadership positions on many community, national, and international non-profit boards and has extensive experience in Endowment Building programs.

Endowing Your Faith

The principals and practices of cultivating and soliciting asset gifts.

Faculty of the Blessed Edmund Rice School

Growing in Our Faith

The Rice School offers attractively priced classes in theology throughout the diocese to help us grow in our Catholic faith and nurture our spirituality. This session will be led as a sample class.

Father Michael Hughes & CFA team at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish

Catholic Faith Appeal

Learn how one parish took the stewardship approach to reaching their CFA goal in a matter of weeks.

Adela Gonzales-White: Director of Communications for the Diocese of Venice

Using the Diocesan Communications Department as a Resource

The Communications Department can be a valuable

resource for parishes through a diverse group of services which include, local media relations, Catholic communications and issues, community and public relations, assistance with websites and other projects. The department also produces the Venice edition of The Florida Catholic, which is a great way to publicize your parish campaigns and events.

Mary Campo: Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Venice and board member of the International Catholic Stewardship Council

Preparing Lay Witness Presentations

Lay witnessing can be an effective way to inspire people to convert to a stewardship way of life, promote your CFA or capital campaign. This workshop will cover the components of a good presentation.



OCTOBER IS *RIGHT TO LIFE* MONTH - 2nd of 4 part series

This weeks theme: *Peter's Story - Discovering Hope and Love After an Adverse Prenatal Diagnosis*

"You need to have amniocentesis. These markers indicate there could be a chromosomal disorder ... one that's incompatible with life. We need to find out for sure, and soon, so you have more choices."

These were the words of the specialist at my nineteen week ultrasound. "Do you mean abortion?" I asked. "We'd never consider that. As for amnio, isn't there a risk of miscarriage?"

"Yes, there's a small risk," the doctor conceded. "But I highly recommend it, so you know what you're dealing with. These markers indicate trisomy 18. If the baby makes it to birth, it won't survive beyond two weeks."

"Well, we won't take the chance of hurting the baby. We'll love this little boy no matter what he has," I said through tears.

Peter was born at 34 weeks by emergency Caesarean section. He was immediately baptized by the hospital chaplain, who also confirmed him. After we learned that Peter had full trisomy 18, some recommended that we wrap him in a blanket and let him die. They said he'd never have any "quality of life" or be able to contribute to society. He'd never recognize us or interact with us. Peter is now a giggling, smiling 2 1/2 -year-old who, though physically limited, brings joy to his family every day.

In the year after Peter's birth, I thought often of the mothers and dads who receive adverse prenatal diagnoses, followed by grim descriptions of the genetic condition and assessments of the baby's prospects that are inaccurate, incomplete and even outright lies. Overwhelmed with sorrow over their baby's health problems, fearing that he may suffer, and given only negative information about his life prospects, it is no wonder so many parents feel pressured to abort their child. I asked God how I could encourage these parents to make a life affirming choice, one that would bring them peace, joy and more love than they'd ever thought possible. His answer was for me to start a support group for these parents called *Prenatal Partners for Life*, which matches families who've recently received an adverse prenatal diagnosis with families who've given birth to a child with a similar condition. Many parents who contact us for information and support describe the pressure exerted on them to "induce labor early" (i.e., abort their baby) after they received an adverse diagnosis. Doctors and other medical personnel use a variety of euphemisms to disguise the fact that they are recommending killing an innocent child because he has a disability: Early Induction, Therapeutic Abortion, Medical Termination, Genetic Termination, Interruption of Pregnancy and Saying Good-Bye Early. **These parents are sometimes made to feel guilty for wanting to carry their baby to term and to seek treatment for him after birth. With a false sense of compassion, abortion is sometimes urged on them as a moral obligation and the most loving choice for a child who may have special needs. Very often, medical personnel discuss only the negative aspects of having a child with disabilities; no hope or resources are offered.** Frightened and vulnerable parents, given no offer of support, may make

the tragic, life altering decision to abort, and then live the rest of their lives with questions and regret.

From a Catholic viewpoint, early induction of labor performed simply for the reason that the child has a lethal anomaly is direct abortion. **Catholic parents have a right to know this. In addition, parents have shared with us many statements by priests and pastors which they found tremendously helpful in deciding to follow God's will for their child's life.** We offer these suggestions for anyone whose advice is sought at such a difficult time.

- God will give you every grace you need.
- Every life is created by God and has a purpose.
- God has chosen you to be the mother of this special child.
- Name your baby, talk to your baby, and love your baby like any mother would.
- I hear your pain. God hears your pain. He loves you and calls you, and all of his children, to embrace the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. He will be with you and never leave your side.
- Go to our Blessed Mother. She knows your pain and will wrap you in her mantle.
- No matter how long your baby lives, he will be your child for all eternity.
- Create wonderful memories of this special time while he is still alive and protected in your womb.
- Remember that God can and does perform miracles. Don't be afraid to ask, and don't be afraid to hope.
- These special babies bring with them many spiritual gifts and graces.
- If your baby doesn't survive through birth, there is baptism by desire.

Here are some suggestions on what *not* to say because these statements could lead to confusion and perhaps a decision to end the child's life:

- Only you know what is best for you and your family.
- This is between you and God.
- You need to keep your own health in mind.
- This has got to be hard on your body.
- What do you think is the right thing to do?
- This is a complicated matter.
- Follow your own conscience.
- I'm worried about your mental health.
- Listen to the doctors and do what you think your heart tells you to do.
- If your choice is made with love, it can't be wrong.
- In this case, it is okay to say good-bye early.

Above all, in our journey with Peter, we are grateful for him, whom we call our "little teacher." Even though he may never speak a word, he has taught us many important lessons about love, sacrifice, compassion, patience, hope and faith. He has transformed the way we look at life and has broadened our view on the deeper meaning of the sacredness of all human life made in the image of our loving God. Peter is teaching us what Jesus taught, and he is a tremendous source of grace. He is a sweet, happy little boy who knows and loves his family. There is a place in the world for children with special needs. We all are differently-abled, with flaws and gifts. These children are teachers of our souls, and society desperately needs the lessons and blessings they bring. - By: Mary Kellett is the Founder and Director of *Prenatal Partners for Life*.