



THE Messenger

Bringing Our Parish Community Together

May 2005 • Vol. 8, No. 5

Mary's May

By Monica Hughes

May. A new season – springtime. A time of happiness and warmth. A time of celebrating new life. As I traveled this week, crossing into West Virginia, I saw spring awakening in the bright green of new grass covering the rolling hillsides. Tiny crocuses peeked out with their delicate white heads. Yellow and red tulips colored the gardens and front steps of the country homes we passed. I saw new calves and colts dotting the landscape, and young ducklings bobbing in ponds behind their mothers. Witnessing the closeness of these babes to their mothers brought me warmth and peace with thoughts of my own mother.

Mother's Day quickly approaches in this month of May. It is the special day we devote to the one who nurtures us, carrying all our weight and providing for all our needs. My mother shared many gifts with me throughout my lifetime. I am blessed with a mother who shared with me through her words and actions what I needed to become a responsible, independent woman. She gave me the gift of knowing the true, unwavering love of a mother. She also gave me another gift, one that I treasure and use every day. She taught me the true, unwavering love of Our Mother, Mary.

The month of May devotes not only one special day, rather the entire month of May to Our Mother. We think of Mary as mother with the birth of Jesus – carrying Him in her womb and delivering him in a manger. This is a wonderful gift resulting from her faith and willingness to say, – “Yes,” to God. But Mary, as all our mothers, is not only a woman who gives birth to a child, but also raises Him, teaching Him. Mary accompanied Him in his human growth. The Gospel of Luke tells us that Jesus obeyed Joseph and Mary (cf. Lk 2: 51). He was open to the teaching of his mother and Joseph. Mary, showered with graces from God, provided a model for Jesus to follow and imitate; an example of perfect love for God and

others. She, together with Joseph, introduced Jesus to the rites and prayers of Moses, to the prayers to the God of the Covenant in the Psalms, and to the history of the people of Israel. She introduced Him to the culture and traditions of the people of Israel. And as He grew, she moved from being her Son's “teacher,” to becoming a humble disciple of the Teacher to whom she had given birth.

Mary is our model and guide from her first willingness and witness of faith in saying, “Yes,” to her drawing on her faith when she found her 12-year old teaching in the temple. We can gather faith from her turning to Jesus at the wedding in Cana to her suffering through the Passion and death of her Son.

As we celebrate the month of May, through our work and our play, through our giving and taking and sharing, through our loving and living, we should keep the Blessed Virgin, Mary, in our sight as a model of perfect love. We should look not only to her in her place as Jesus' physical mother, but also in her relationship with the disciples of Jesus. When Jesus suffered on the Cross, He said to His mother, “Woman, there is your son.” In turn he said to the disciple, “There is your mother.” From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his care. (John

19: 25-27) This was addressed to each of us as disciples of Christ. We are invited to love Mary as He loved her, and to welcome her into our lives as our mother. This way, she can lead us, too, along the ways of the Holy Spirit.

As we honor our own mothers this Mother's Day, we can remember to honor Mary this month of May. We can honor her in the love we show to our own mothers and children. We can honor her in the simple ways of song and prayer. We can honor her in the spring as we notice the flowers and reflect on the names of many of them that are named for her. Pope John Paul II said, “To honor Mary is to go to Jesus.”



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*I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of
God and am sent to spread unto thee, and to
show thee glad tidings. Luke 1:19*

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We are always looking for people to
work on *The Messenger*. If you're
interested, please contact Bonnie
Orzolek.

God's Math

By July Baltuska, mother of seven

In the early 80s, I was a young full-time mother of three, falling into bed exhausted at the end of each day, fretting over where I'd muster enough energy for tomorrow or find the time to make a dent in my monumental 'to do' list. It would have been insanity to think I could volunteer at the soup kitchen or teach a Sunday school class. Yet my blossoming faith was urging me to follow Jesus' steps more radically, sharing with the outside world the treasure I'd been receiving, to really live what I was coming to believe.

I had a revelation one day while meditating upon the 'widow's mite' (Mark 12: 41-44) where Jesus praises the contribution of her last two coins, "her whole livelihood," in comparison with the wealthy giving from their surplus. This wasn't about money! Jesus said to me, "Julie, I don't want your surplus time and energy; I want you to give from what you lack." HUH?

Perhaps if I waited until I got my act together and acquired a surplus of time or energy I would never begin to give.

And so I volunteered. Slowly the meaning of another passage came clear: "Lose your life to find it." (Mt. 16: 25) Pour yourself out to be filled up. I discovered I no longer fell into bed exhausted, but miraculously had more energy than ever before and enough time to accomplish all that seemed so important to me. We were subsequently blessed with four more children and I continued to minister in many ways outside my own family. And I still can't fathom God's math! He subtracts to add! Somehow it works.

A line from a favorite hymn reads "Why should you spend your life except for the Lord?" Our lives are being spend every moment of every day. Each day comes to an end, each page of our calendar turns. Our days were numbered before we were born. Attempting to save life wastes it. We're much better of using God's arithmetic, pouring ourselves out, even when there seems to be nothing to pour. Otherwise we'll come to the end completely empty. Why should we spend our lives except for the Lord?



June 5th, 6th
and 7th

Elementary and Youth Faith Formation Events

May

High School
Confirmation I Assembly
Sunday, May 15, 4 p.m.

Middle School GLAD
Sunday, May 22, 3 p.m.

High School GLAD
Sunday, May 22, 6 p.m.

High School
Pizza Chat with Fr. Pat
Sunday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.

K, 1st & 2nd Grade GLAD
Monday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.

3rd, 4th & 5th Grade
GLAD
Tuesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.

Adult Faith Formation Events

Third Thursday
Thursday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.

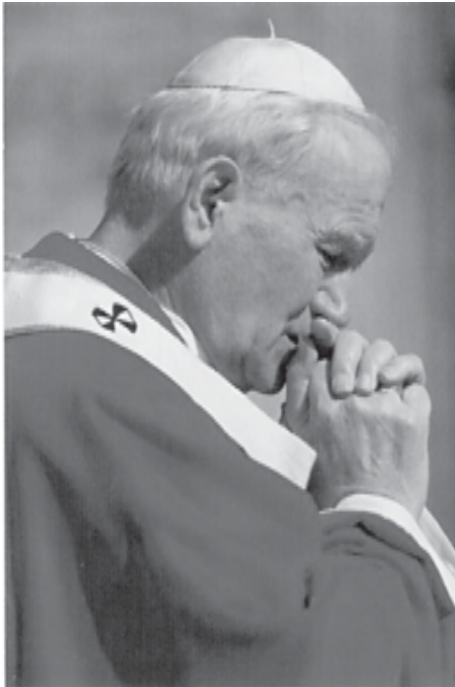
Adult Chat
Sunday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.



Moment of Grace

A death in the family

By Mary Lynn Hendrickson, author of *At Home with our Faith*, the family spirituality newsletter from Claretian Publications



My husband, a wedding photographer, has always said you can tell a lot about a family by how it celebrates the marriage ceremony — what it thinks about money, about religion, about tradition, about even the nature and role of family. He's told many a story to prove it: the shy family whose

parents kept sneaking out of the receiving line, the perfectionist family of funeral directors who couldn't abide a single crooked collar or a rosebud out of place, restaurant families for whom the wedding feast is an expression of hospitality and God's abundance.

As news spread late last week that Pope John Paul II was nearing death, I wondered, "Do funeral celebrations provide the same kind of family snapshot?" I've begun to think so, how even before his funeral the Holy Father's death is a reflection of the worldwide Catholic clan. Like any family that deals with death:

* Some of us have kept a devoted vigil, rosaries clasped in St. Peter's square or concerned eyes glued to the TV. Some, less comfortable with death or considerably busy, catch details as best we can.

* Some of us fixate on the future. Who will be the major heir? Inherit the mantle of leadership — becoming

reconciler, consoler, teacher, healer? Some of us, however, turn to the past, remembering a person who embraced disability, religious differences, and multitudes of children — who asked for pardon, too, when our church fell far from its Christ-like ideal.

* Some of us comfort each other as family members, grown closer in our sudden sorrow. And some of us squabble, asking "How did THAT person get on TV as a key spokesperson for Catholics, the way they cheated on their spouse?"

* Like all families who face the finality of death, some of us simply wrestle with how we feel, moved to sorrow by the loss of a great and generous soul but conflicted too because our allegiance hasn't always been so perfect, our support not always wholehearted, our disagreement on certain emotional details the little pangs of hurt that haunt us still.

As worldwide tributes to this great pope pour in, the one I find most comforting comes from the man himself and is a good snapshot of how real families relate. During one of John Paul's visits to the U.S., a reporter hit him with a stinging indictment: How did the pope feel about a U.S. church in which so many believers disagreed with him on issues of birth control, a married priesthood, and women's ability to officially lead the faithful?

The pope apparently put his hand on the reporter's arm and confided — probably with that trademark grin — "My children may not always obey me, but that doesn't mean I love them any less."

It helps to remember the Holy Father as a father. As children we might need to exercise our independence from time to time, we might shake our heads because we think dad — of a different generation or culture — just "doesn't get it," we might bristle under some of his house rules.

But his undying devotion to us leaves not a question.

Parish Finances

July 2004 - March 2005

Income

Regular Offertory	\$ 430,109.16
Other Income	\$ 37,823.49
Social Concerns Fund	\$ 22,896.93
Diocesan Collection	\$ 5,358.49
	\$ 496,188.07

Expenses

Personnel	\$ 230,847.71
Utilities	\$ 32,148.68
Administration	\$ 123,388.94
Liturgy	\$ 4,352.51
Rel Ed/Youth	\$ 16,565.25
Other Ministries	\$ 8,215.65
Social Concerns Fund	\$ 22,896.93
Diocesan Coll/Assess	\$ 61,026.10
	\$ 499,441.77
Financial Balance (+/-)	\$ (3,253.70)

Building Fund Debt Report

Debt Reduction Collections for March: \$18,131

Current Balance on Building Fund Debt as of 3/31/2005: \$1,019,551

The Walk for Life



will be on Saturday, May 7, 2005. The proceeds will go to help fund the Crisis Pregnancy Center. If you are interested in participating, contact the center directly (673-2020) or call Barbara Schaedel at 739-2175. It is a short walk and lots of fun. Bring the whole family!

Helping to Protect God's Children

Do you know the facts about child sexual abuse? Could they possibly be myths? Do you know the percentage of children who experience such abuse and who the perpetrators might be? Are there warning signs? Can sexual abuse against children be prevented?

Can you help? Protecting God's Children, part of a program by VIRTUS, is a program provided by the diocese and designed to

educate and empower people to learn about child sexual abuse. A

worldwide public health issue, this abuse in our homes, parishes and communities

must be prevented. All adults must act as protectors of our children. Those in our parish

community who interact with the children are the heart of the prevention effort.

The Protecting God's Children program "helps prevent child sexual abuse by first making every adult employee and volunteer aware of the issues surrounding child sexual abuse. This includes awareness of the many ways that sexual abuse harms its victims, their families, the parish and the community. The awareness session also helps adults learn to recognize the warning signs of abuse, and shows them the appropriate way to respond to suspicious behavior. Finally, the awareness session empowers each person with five steps to help prevent child sexual abuse." (The National Catholic Risk Retention Group, Inc. "Why Am I Here? And, What is My Role in Helping to Protect Children?")

The role of adults in our faith community is to be watchful of the warning signs and to report any suspicious activity to appropriate authorities and church officials. In order to fulfill that role, we need to understand those signs and know how and to whom to report. Help us provide the most child safe environment for our children. Register today for an awareness workshop. While all of those who

Virtus: Protecting God's Children Training Workshops				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
St. Augustine	St. Edward	Epiphany	St. J. Neumann	St. Gabriel
May 9th	May 10th	May 11th	May 12th	xxx
June 6th	June 7th	June 8th	June 9th	June 10th
6pm-10pm 5:30 snack childcare (rsvp) Spanish option	6pm-10pm 5:30 snack	6pm-10pm 5:30 snack childcare (rsvp)	6pm-10pm 5:30 snack	6pm-10pm 5:30 snack
275-7962	272-2948	794-0222	598-3754	639-6712

Register online at: www.virtusonline.org
 All adults who volunteer with minors are required by the Diocese to attend.
 All parents and parishioners are encouraged to participate. Free to all!

work with our children and youth are required to attend, ALL adults are welcome and encouraged. If you are not sure if your ministry or involvement in a parish activity requires your attendance, please call the office for clarification.

Visit the diocesan website at www.richmonddiocese.org and select "training session availability" and click the link to the VIRTUS website, OR go directly to "www.virtusonline.org and click on "Registration," and follow the directions to register. If you do not have Internet access, please call Helen Poad at 804-555-1212 to reserve a place at the training. A schedule of workshops being provided on the "south side" is listed in the chart in this Messenger. Many other opportunities are available and listed on the VIRTUS site.

May Schedules

May 7 & 8	May 14 & 15	May 21 & 22	May 28 & 29
Cantor Georgia Perron - 5:00 Kati Shick -8:30 Ray Anthony -10:30	Jennie Joyce -5:00 Kati Shick - 8:30 Eva Hall -10:30	Peter Dawes - 5:00 Norma Bliley -8:30 Georgia Perron -10:30	Kati Shick - 5:00 Kathy Anderson -8:30 Janet Joyce -10:30
Children's Liturgy of the Word Michelle Ambrose - 5:00 <i>Lisa Blair</i>	Cathy Kelley - 5:00 <i>Susan Glynn</i>	Ellen Williams - 5:00 Rona Weishapl <i>Chelsea & Kaitlin Dinges</i>	NO CHILDREN'S LITURGY
Alexa Dembek - 8:30 Debbie McNeil <i>Jessica Kuehl</i>	Jim Eck - 8:30 Maureen Prince <i>Andrew Godburn</i>	Mark Jablonski - 8:30 Kelly Cleary <i>Sara & Clare Jablonski</i>	<i>MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND</i>
Debbie Martin - 10:30 Margaret Poe Karen Comman <i>David Brukasz</i>	Beth Harbula - 10:30 Andrea Dodson Carol Loviza <i>Marijane Strolla Katie Harbula</i>	Scott & Patty Morton - 10:30 Susan Williams <i>Catherine & Sarah Faszewski</i>	
Eucharistic Ministers Team 7 - 5:00 Team 2 - 8:30 Team 1 - 10:30	Team 4 - 5:00 Team 5 - 8:30 Team 3 - 10:30	Team 1 - 5:00 Team 6 - 8:30 Team 7 - 10:30	Team 2 - 5:00 Team 3 - 8:30 Team 4 - 10:30
Lector 5:00 Roseanne Biase- reader 1 Mike Barone - reader 2 Tim Evans - reader 3	5:00 Erin Shea-Bower - reader 1 Dawne Gulla - reader 2 Frank Gulla - reader 3	5:00 Kathy Anderson - reader 1 Jay Cowan - reader 2 Tom Krupa - reader 3	5:00 Mike Bryner - reader 1 Tara McGee - reader 2 Patricia White - reader 3
8:30 George Henfling - reader 1 Erin Dawes - reader 2 Peter Dawes - reader 3	8:30 Ed Ostrowski - reader 1 Tommye Finley - reader 2 Laurie Cooksey - reader 3	8:30 Marty Rodgers - reader 1 Carol Sherman - reader 2 Jeff Lobb - reader 3	8:30 Craig Willard - reader 1 Greg Mroczkowski - reader 2 Mike Pitek - reader 3
10:30 Joe Tylus - reader 1 Barbara Senatore - reader 2 Jeanine Grabham - reader 3	10:30 Curt Killar - reader 1 Gary Fritz - reader 2 Greg Mroczkowski - reader 3	10:30 Connie O'Neill - reader 1 Jay Rosencrance - reader 2 Joan Gripshover - reader 3	10:30 Koni Garafalo - reader 1 Sean O'Hara - reader 2 Norma Bliley - reader 3
Nursery 5:00 Sally Hinski Catherine & Rachel Kokal Caitlyn O'Donnell	5:00 Brenda Escamilla Traci Bonds Logan Cochran Ryan Goode	5:00 Eileen Petree Kaitlynn Petree Kaitlyn, Karlyn & Kenzie Lockie	5:00 Tammy Harrow Dylan, Tori Rose & Remy Biase Jillian Malatesta
8:30 Lisa Blair Heather & Megan Hlavaty Matthew Sak	8:30 Janice Goodbody Chelsea & Kaitlyn Dinges Amanda Latham	8:30 Halina Marek Katherine Marek Julie Maurer Kimberly Lincoln	8:30 Brenda Escamilla Ashley Alvarez Lindsey & Steve Forte
10:30 Mary Angela Lopresti Katie & Theresa Poe Brittany Gambardella Ashley Alvarez	10:30 Theresa Biagioli Chelsea & Lauren Biagioli Amanda Rosswog Katie Lemza	10:30 April & Lincoln Swineford Megan Kohut Heather & Shannon Grosse Amanda Loviza	10:30 Robert & Jessica Wise Anthony & Kaitlyn Coppola Natalie Albers Chris Nicosia

Vacation Bible School 2005
**SERENGETI
TREK**

*Where the kids
are WILD
about God!*

CAMP DATES
June 27-
July 1

Register after masses on:

May 21 and 22
June 4 and 5

*Limited to
200 children,
so register early!!*



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