



I'm going to revisit a few topics I have discussed in the past. They are things we need to continue discussing in our parishes. This is also related to what I wrote two weeks ago about sacred music in our liturgies.

I want to start with two words that we hear every day. I am referring to the words liberal and conservative. These words are relevant in political discussions, but in my mind, they have absolutely no place in our Church.

Why do these words not belong in our Church? The more we use them, the more they become an excuse to evade our responsibilities to truly spread the Gospel as we should be. If we want to truly minister to the masses, and bring the Word of God to the people, we need to know who they are. The terms liberal, conservative, or any other label we can place on people are never helpful in this effort. Referring to someone by one of these labels may tell us a few things about an individual, but can they tell us what a person holds as most important in their heart? Can using these labels tell us what a person's hopes and dreams are? Can they tell us what their fears and struggles are? Can they tell us what a person is seeking the most, or what we can do to help that person find it? No. On the contrary, using these kind of labels places a person in a particular niche so we don't have to answer those questions. I think we'd be better off putting the labels aside and getting to know the person for who they are.

I was reminded of this when I read a recent article in the *Richmond Times* about Bishop DiLorenzo. In fact, the most recent *Catholic Virginian* covers many of the same ideas. These articles talk about who Bishop DiLorenzo really was, compared to the way he was often portrayed. Over the years, I had heard many labels being placed on our late bishop, mostly by people who had either never met him or had had very little contact with him. As I got to know him while I was in the seminary, I realized the man I knew did not resemble any of the labels people were trying to place on him.

I once spent six days with him on a road trip through southwest Virginia. I knew he was a brilliant man, but I was amazed to learn of his attention to detail in all things. I was also very impressed to learn of his passion for social justice, as he would start many discussions on the topic based on the things we would see around us. As we celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in a different parish each night, he invited me to look at the different styles of liturgy in each parish and then questioned me about what I had seen. Although he was often portrayed as a rigid traditionalist, I learned that he had a great appreciation for the diversity of the Church. He saw the Church as great institution that had a place for everyone no matter their politics or their station in life.

This is one example of how getting to know the person beneath the labels can be a great benefit. I have a few more examples that I will continue next week.

Fr. Chris



CLUSTER PRAYER LIST

Those who bear the burden of years and those who have asked for our prayers:

Sacred Heart: Deborah Hanzlik, Janet Beaudet, Sharla Kirk, Anh Cao, Binh Cao, Phyllis Gagne, Donna Sarver, Thomas Bird, Carl Hall, John Mertz, Helen Tres, Evelyn Rivera, Kathy Marr, Debbie Stidfole Agurwal, Nancy Clemons, Anna Liszeski, David Paden, Dot Miller, Eileen Mozucha, Barbara Kirk, Deacon Bob Baker, Jerry Chambers, Raul Rosa Viera, Joseph & Emily Chudoba, Thelma Herrera Lara, Sam Mikulcik, Frank Scherra Sr., Frank Scherra Jr., Carlos Rivera, Mike O'Hare, Susan MacLaughlin, Sharon K. Pilarinos, Kathy Sansom, Delores Daniel, Janet Potter

St. James: Ronnie & Therese Parker, Felix Licicero, Anne & Sam Richeson, Crista Cole, Jimmy Carter, Mary Kain, Audrey Keith, Anita Anthony, Wayne Whitehead, Bill Brown, Casey McQuillan, Glenn Toenniges, Tomas Rose, Jimmy Clark, John Seckora, Robert McGough

St. Johns: Dick Clark, John Stech, Ernest & Sheree Cerny, Danny Wiegatz, Dorothy Kohout, Etna Traylor, Steve Kofron, Joan Lonnemann, Matt MacLaughlin, Patsy Stech, Joe Stech, Santi Santos, Stuart Reynolds, Bill Kaspar, Judy Newsome, Michael (MJ) Schofield, Frank Stech, Louis Stech, Deborah Ryan, Candence Andusko, Donet Poindexter

Legion of St Michael

Attention men of all ages. The Legion of St. Michael, a local Catholic men's group invites you to join us as we begin a new study on Islam. The series will start on Sat Sept 23rd at 8am at the home of one of the men in Chester. We will be studying the book "Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus: A Devout Muslim Encounters Christianity". If you would like to join us or have questions about the group please contact legionofstmichael@gmail.com or call [804-314-1681](tel:804-314-1681).

The Catholic Woman's Club, Richmond, VA

The Catholic Woman's Club promotes Catholic ideals through intellectual, cultural and spiritual development and philanthropic endeavors. For reservations, please contact Joan Walton 804.266.3612. We hope to see you on September 25th!

MEETINGS THIS WEEK:**Church of the Sacred Heart**

- Tuesday, 19th 5:00pm Deacon's meeting
7:00pm All committees meet with Stewardship
- Wednesday, 20th 10:30am Bible Study
10:30am Senior 50 plus Social & Lunch
6:00pm Finance Council
6:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:00pm Dance
6:30pm Spanish Choir Practice
- Thursday, 21st 7:00pm Choir Practice
7:00pm Unified Pastoral Council (St John's)
- Friday, 22nd 7:30pm Ultrey—St Augustine
- Saturday, 23rd 7:00pm Spanish Prayer Group
- Sunday, 24th 9:15am Christian Formation (All grades)
9:15am Adult Faith Formation

Saint James Church

- Monday, 18th 6:00pm Hopewell community meal @ Parish Hall
6:30pm Mass
- Wednesday, 20th 5:30pm Reconciliation and Holy Hour
6:30pm Mass
7:00pm Choir Practice
- Thursday, 21st 12:00pm Mass
- Sunday, 24th 9:45am Religious Formation—All ages

Saint Johns Church

- Thursday, 21st 4:00pm Finance Council
7:00pm Unified Pastor Council @ St John's
- September 23/24 Second Collection for Retired Religious

FOR HEALING AFTER ABORTION, a *Rachel's Vineyard Retreat*, sponsored by Church of the Epiphany, will be held March 24-26, 2016. This retreat is for women and men who have known regret, sorrow, guilt, or shame from abortion. The weekend combines living scripture meditations, spiritual exercises, and discussions in a guided process that leads to the heart of God's love and compassion. If you would like to learn more about this retreat you can contact Marty Montgomery-Jennings at [804-704-0429](tel:804-704-0429), or Maggie Carlson at [804-432-2589](tel:804-432-2589) or email: RV4hope@gmail.com.

Visit our website: www.rachelsvineyard.org
Inquiries, registration and participation are strictly confidential.

**The LORD is
KIND and MERCIFUL;
SLOW to ANGER, and
RICH in COMPASSION.**

MASS INTENTIONS**Church of the Sacred Heart**

- Saturday, 16th 5:00pm Charlie & Jonathan Eddy and Robert Fisher req by Bertie Eddy
- Sunday, 17th 8:00pm Deceased Members of the Parish
11:00am Peter So Van Cao req by Sang Cessna
1:00pm Deceased Members of the Parish
- Monday, 18th 6:30pm Holy Hour & Benediction
- Tuesday, 19th 6:30pm Jodi Joplin req by Sang Cessna
- Wednesday, 20th 10:00am Sick & Homebound
- Friday, 22nd 10:00am Deceased Members of the Parish
5:30pm Rosary
- Saturday, 23rd 5:00pm John Kvasnicka req by Carol Robertson & Family
- Sunday, 24th 8:00am Armand Gagne req by Phyllis Gagne
11:00am Peter So Van Cao req by Sang Cessna
1:00pm Deceased members of the Parish

Saint James Church

- Saturday, 16th 5:30pm Helene Davis
- Thursday, 21st 12:00pm Kimmie & Stephen Gracik

Saint Johns Church

- Sunday, 17th 9:00am Danny DeAngelis req by Joan DeAngelis
- You are invited: Every Wednesday evening at 6pm for Adoration**

**Got Questions about life
You're Invited!!**

7pm Tuesday, September 26, 2017

Church of the Sacred Heart, Parish Center

What is Alpha? Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. No pressure. No follow up. No charge. Alpha runs in churches, bars, coffee shops and homes all over the world. Typically Alpha has around ten sessions and includes food, a short talk and a timed at the end where you can share your thoughts.

Come join us for an *informational meeting*. We will be building a Team to include—facilitators, food service, greeters, and there will be many other opportunities to serve.

RSVP to Galen W. Potter at
Gwjipotter@comcast.net or 804-721-1364
By September 24, 2017
Check out: #TryAlpha or Alphausa.org



Health Concerns Linger After Hurricane Harvey and Irma

The hurricane has gone, but health concerns and disease risk remain for all who went through it. Even healthy people, after Harvey's destructive force, could face health hazards related to polluted air, contaminated water, infected wounds, mold, contagious diseases, carbon monoxide, and mosquitoes. Going back into the flood environment has risks. The cleanup itself can be hazardous, he says, exposing people to the dangers Harvey and Irma left behind. Being aware of the risks and taking precautions can lessen health problems.

Risks in the Air

People with lung conditions, such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), must be especially wary of air pollution after the storm. Wearing some type of protective mask might be advisable. Section chief of pulmonary Recommendations of N95 masks, which filter out 95% of fine airborne particles. The smaller the particles of contaminants, the more troublesome. The masks are sold at hardware, home supply, and medical supply stores. When rebuilding starts, he says, even more contaminants will be in the air. During construction, dust and fibers are likely to be released from drywall, plaster, flooring, and other sources, and they can irritate the lungs. Although researchers debate whether people who live through hurricanes have more respiratory issues, one study of more than 1,200 children and teens found that younger people in hurricane areas are more likely to get upper and lower respiratory infections after the storm.

Portable devices like electric generators and cooking stoves can give off carbon monoxide. The colorless, odorless gas killed 10 people after hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, per the CDC. To avoid the gas, don't use a generator inside your home, basement, or garage or less than 20 feet from doors, windows, or vents. Don't run a generator inside unless it is professionally installed and vented. Carbon monoxide can result in sudden illness and death if you inhale it, the CDC warns. Common symptoms are headache, dizziness, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion. People who are sleeping and exposed to the gas, or drinking alcohol, can die from the poisoning before even noticing symptoms, the CDC says.

Mold, too, can be a danger. Mold will be a potential irritant to those who have a lung problem, even to those without. The quicker cleanup is done the better. The ideal window to prevent mold is within 48 hours. Things that soak up water and can't be cleaned and dried quickly need to be removed. That often means removing carpeting, upholstery, drywall, and insulation. To clean mold, mix a cup of household bleach with a gallon of uncontaminated water. Or, lightly mist mold spores with rubbing alcohol. In some cases, you might need a professional mold service. Open all doors and windows to air out your home, and use fans to dry wet areas.

Risks All Around You

As Texans and Floridians escaped flooded homes to shelters, the risk of catching what their shelter neighbors brought with them was real. People are exposed to others who may have respiratory or GI illness. There is less emphasis on personal hygiene. And that can become a blueprint for the spread of colds, intestinal distress, and other ailments that can spread quickly.

That Buzzing Sound Is Bad, Too

We're at the tail end of mosquito season. Still, Texas and Florida is home to many mosquito-borne illnesses, including dengue fever, West Nile virus and chikungunya virus. Besides wearing insect repellent, one of the best ways to control the mosquito population is to get rid of standing water. And that means all of it. A mosquito needs only a bottle cap of water to lay eggs.

Sponsor of the Week

We would like to thank

"Patricia Dostie, Associate Broker

Ingram & Associates Real Estate Company"

this week for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.



Christian Formation 2017-2018

We are pleased to announce that this year we will be offering Christian Formation classes in all parishes from our Cluster. The information for each parish is as follows:

DINWIDDIE—ST. JOHN: *We will kick off the year with an orientation for parents and children ages 3-7 on Sunday, September 24th at 10am in the Church.* Registration will be opened that day. If you are or know of a family that has a child between these ages, we'd kindly ask if you can forward this information to them. The classes will take place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month following the 9am mass. *(Note: If you have a child that is up for a sacrament this year, they will also need to attend Sacred Heart for sacramental classes.) We are seeking 2 more adults to assist with the classes by becoming catechists.*

HOPEWELL—ST. JAMES: *We will kick off the year with an orientation for parents and children ages 5-16 on Sunday, September 17th, after the 11am mass in the youth center.* Registration for classes will be opened on that day. Classes will be every Sunday from 9:30am to 10:45am in the school building. We are currently seeking volunteers to assist in becoming catechists to serve children of all grades.

PRINCE GEORGE—SACRED HEART: Classes will be every Sunday from 9:15am to 10:30am in our C.C.D. building. We encourage all families with children to register their child (children) in the formation program in order for them to learn and grow in their faith in God in addition, complete any sacrament that they may need. You may use this link to register online: <https://goo.gl/forms/3C77sEREn0O73O3z1> We encourage you to share this information with other families who may be interested in the formation program for their children. If you have any questions regarding Christian Formation please contact Marissa at mayalacre@gmail.com

We will see you at your parishes' orientation kick off. In Christ, Marissa Ayala, CRE.



Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time -- September 17, 2017

“None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.” How is God calling you to live for others? Could it be as a priest, sister or brother? Call Father Michael G. Boehling, Vicar for Vocations, at (804) 359-5661 or email mboehling@richmonddiocese.org.



“The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger, and rich in compassion.” Help to encourage our compassion and forgiveness by working through a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME)** weekend. The next weekends are: Nov 10-12, 2017 in ATLANTIC BEACH, NC and Feb 2-4, 2018 in Clemmons, NC. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://renewmarriage-vasouth.org/> or contact us at applications@renewmarriage-vasouth.org

EVANGELIZATION

Three Parishes – One God

“All are called, few will respond!”

When you attend church is it crowded? Is it a challenge to find seats for you and your family? My guess is that the answer to these questions is **“No”**. Was there a time in the past that it was an issue? Catholics are the largest religious group in the USA. The second largest is non-practicing Catholics and they are growing at an amazing rate and may overtake practicing Catholics soon. My questions are, does this bother you? How does this affect you and your family? We all know fellow Catholics who are no longer attending Mass regularly; they may be members of your family. I have some in this category. How do we as a Church address this mass exit from our faith? What can each of us do to turn the tide and start bringing more people back to the Church?

First, we must be true to our faith by attending weekly services and living it during the week. We are sent each week at the dismissal to “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life”. These are not just words, they are our charge to take what we have experienced and share them with all who we will be in contact with in the coming week. If we don't who will? We are called to evangelize our faith and the life of Christ to our fellow humans. We will be starting ALPHA Training on Tuesday evenings in preparation for running our first ALPHA course beginning in January, 2018. If you feel called to “Evangelization” and do what “the young man with many possessions” was not able to do, join us as we further our faith and do the work that God has called us to. If you are interested or would like to know more about ALPHA, contact Galen W Potter @ gwjipotter@comcast.net or phone 804-721-1364, a member of your “Unified Parishes' Evangelization Team” or a member of the Clergy.

We are looking for individuals who are willing to “Encounter The Joy of The Gospel and Set the World Ablaze”. If you feel called to “Get out of your boat”, our next meeting is Monday, September 18, 2017, at 7 PM at The Church of The Sacred Heart and ALPHA training starts at 7 PM on Tuesday, September 26, 2017.