



Last week, I wrote about the problems that arise using labels like liberal and conservative to describe people within the Church. There are trends that develop in our society, and in our Church, and it is important that we are able to understand them. Assigning labels to people once again is an excuse to dismiss what is happening as a superficial movement and not really understand what is going on in people's lives. When we do this around evangelization, we will continue to lose the battle.

There has been a trend in the Church over the last fifteen years or so that has seen a resurgence in older traditions of the Church. This has been especially popular among younger Catholics. Some go as far as finding a renewed interest in the Latin Mass, even though they are not old enough to remember a time when this was the norm. Most however, are simply looking for a more traditional approach to their faith, and rediscovering more traditional styles of prayer and devotion.

Many people dismiss these ideas as being old and out of touch. They say these younger Catholics are just too conservative and are trying to undo the reforms of Vatican II. Take the time to get to know some of these younger Catholics however, and you will see there is an entirely different motivation behind what they are doing. They actually have no interest in undoing any reforms seen in the Church. Most are simply trying to recreate something that has been lost.

Prior to Vatican II, there was a very distinct Catholic subculture in the United States. Catholic communities were very close knit groups, and most Catholics regarded their faith as a major part of their identity. Talk to young adult Catholics today who are embracing more traditional styles of worship. They will tell you that rather than trying to turn back the reforms of the past fifty years, they are attempting to recreate the Catholic subculture that once existed in this country.

I've spoken often about my own time away from the Church, and how young adult ministry did so much to help me take ownership of my faith. I wasn't able to articulate this at the time, in fact I was about to graduate from the seminary before I put it all together, but it was the subculture I discovered in young adult ministry that promoted a strong Catholic identity that made all the difference for me. It was something that not only prompted me to take ownership of my faith, but it gave me much greater pride in my faith. I was proud to be Catholic and to be known as Catholic, even in a society that is not always kind to our faith. I believe this is something not only our young people are seeking. As we seek to evangelize those around us, we must not abandon the attempts to create a stronger Catholic identity within our own parishes that will inspire people to make their faith a more important part of their lives.

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, 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, Deborah Ryan, Candence Andusko, Donet Poindexter

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB

If you are a practicing Catholic woman age 21 or older please join us for The Catholic Woman's Club Membership Tea on Monday, September 25 at 2pm at The Columbian Center. 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!

A Prayer for Recovery After Disaster

God our Father, in the wake of disaster,
visit our places of desolation with your consolation.

Bring strength to the weary and
courage to those who feel overwhelmed.

We believe that you hold our concerns
in your Fatherly care,
and that you entrust us to one another
as sisters and brothers.

Mobilize your people near and far to
feed the hungry, shelter the displaced,
and protect those in deepest poverty.

As we rebuild what is ruined,
may we recover together as a stronger community.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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

- Tuesday, 26th 4:00pm Staff Meeting
7:00pm Alpha Training
- Wednesday, 27th 10:30am Bible Study
3:00pm Art & Environment
6:00pm Dance
6:30pm Spanish Choir Practice
- Thursday, 28th 7:00pm Choir Practice
- Saturday, 30th 11:00am BINGO in Parish Center until 4:30pm
6:00pm Festival Dance w/ D J until 9pm
- Sunday, 1st 9:15am Christian Formation (all grades)
9:15am Adult Faith Formation
10:00am Parish Fall Festival at Hall

Saint James Church

- Monday, 25th 6:00pm Hopewell community meal @ Parish Hall
6:30pm Mass
- Wednesday, 27th 5:30pm Reconciliation and Holy Hour
6:30pm Mass
7:00pm Choir Practice
- Thursday, 28th 12:00pm Mass
- Sunday, 1st 9:30am Religious Formation –All ages

Saint Johns Church

- September 23/24 Second Collection for Retired Religious
- Wednesday, 27th 5:00pm Administrative Council

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.



Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 24, 2017

"Seek the Lord while He may be found..."

While seeking Him in prayer and the sacraments, listen to Him. Could it be you are being called by Jesus to serve as a priest, deacon, sister or brother? If you think He may be offering you this grace, call Father Michael G. Boehling, Vicar for Vocations, at (804) 359-5661 or email mboehling@richmonddiocese.org.

MASS INTENTIONS**Church of the Sacred Heart**

- 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
- Monday, 25th 6:30pm Holy Hour & Benediction
- Tuesday, 26th 6:30pm Wayne, Susan & Ruth Cessna req by Sang Cessna
- Wednesday, 27th 10:00am Sick & Homebound
- Friday, 29th 10:00am Sick & Homebound
5:30pm Rosary
- Saturday, 30th 5:00pm Timothy McCormick req by His Parents
- Sunday, 1st 8:00pm Deceased Members of the Parish
11:00am Joe Wharton and in honor of Donna Sarver req by Virginia Wharton
1:00pm Deceased Members of the Parish
- Saint James Church**
- Saturday, 23rd 5:30pm Josephine Alessi
- Sunday, 24th 11:00am Pete & Mary Kain
- Monday, 25th 6:30pm Pitts Halupka
- Sunday, 1st 11:00am Joe Hanzlik

Saint Johns Church

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

What is Shingles?

If you've ever had the chickenpox -- and almost all adults have -- there's a good chance the virus is still at large in your body. The varicella zoster virus can lie dormant for decades without causing any symptoms. In some people, the virus wakes up and travels along nerve fibers to the skin. The result is a distinctive, painful rash called shingles. The shingles rash can be a distinctive cluster of fluid-filled blisters -- often in a band around one side of the waist. This explains the term "shingles," which comes from the Latin word for belt. The next most common location is on one side of the forehead or around one eye. But shingles blisters can occur anywhere on the body.

The first symptoms of shingles appear one to five days before the rash. These early warning signs are usually felt in the location where the rash will develop:

*Itching**Tingling**Burning**Pain*

While the localized pain and rash are the tell-tale signs of shingles, other symptoms may include:

*Fever**Chills**Headache**Upset stomach*

Small blisters that appear only on the lips or around the mouth may be cold sores, sometimes called fever blisters.

They're not shingles, but are instead caused by the herpes simplex virus. Itchy blisters that appear after hiking, gardening, or spending time outdoors could be a reaction to poison ivy, oak, or sumac. If you aren't sure what's causing your rash, see your health care provider.

Who's at Risk?

Anyone who has ever had chickenpox can get shingles, but the risk increases with age. People older than age 60 are 10 times more likely to get shingles than children under age 10. Other factors that increase your risk include:

*Some cancer medicines

*Steroid medicines

*Long-term stress or trauma

*A weak immune system from illnesses such as cancer or HIV

A quarter of adults will develop shingles at some point, and most are otherwise healthy.

Who Should Not Get the Vaccine?

- Do not get the shingles vaccine if:
- You might be pregnant
- You have HIV/AIDS or a weak immune system
- You are undergoing chemotherapy or radiation
- You take medications that suppress the immune system
- You have a history of leukemia or lymphoma
- You are allergic to gelatin, the antibiotic neomycin, or any ingredient in the vaccine



"Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near." Encourage those moments by enjoying a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME)** weekend with your spouse. 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 or 757-690-1369.

Readings for the Week of September 24, 2017

Monday	Ezr 1:1-6; Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday	Saints Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday	Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest Ezr 9:5-9; Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8; Lk 9:1-6
Thursday	Saint Wenceslaus, Martyr; Saint Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs Hg 1:1-8; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Lk 9:7-9
Friday	Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab; Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5; Jn 1:47-51
Saturday	Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday	Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

Sponsor of the Week

We would like to thank
"Catholicmatch Virginia"

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: 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/3C77sEREn0073O3z1> 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.

VIRTUS TRAINING

It is a requirement from the Diocese for all those who serve in ministries of any kind and will be working with children or youth or working in a ministry in which children or youth can also participate, take the Virtus Training course.

For anyone who has not yet taken the course but will be volunteering in any capacity with our youth or children, there is a training session in English on **Tuesday, October 3rd at 5:00pm in the Parish Center of Sacred Heart.** You are asked to register in advance for this session online at www.virtusonline.org. Once registered you will be asked to fill out a volunteer form. The class is facilitated by Marissa Ayala and lasts approximately 2.5 hours. No children are allowed to attend.

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”, **ALPHA training starts at 7 PM, THIS Tuesday, September 26, 2017.**