

The FIAT

Faith In Action Team Newsletter

September 2010

Hope: Inspiring Our Desire for Heaven

by Fr. Javier O'Connor, DCJM

“Hope is the forgotten virtue in our time, for hope means hope for Heaven, and modernity’s nose-to-the grindstone this-worldliness dares not lift its eyes to the open skies. Hope means that our heads do not bump up against the low ceiling of this world; hope means that the exhilarating, wonderful, and terrifying winds of Heaven blow in our ears.”

Back to Virtue by Peter Kreeft

The theme for this year’s school year centers around the virtue of hope, one of the three theological virtues (faith, hope, and love) and key to the way we as Christians conduct ourselves in the world every day. Hope is faith directed to the future. The Catechism tells us that, “it is the virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. ‘Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.’ (Heb. 10:23)” (CCC 1817)

As parents, you know what it means to desire the best for your children. Hope also inspires within our hearts a desire to enjoy eternal life with them. In the early days of the Church, a mother and son shared that hope together. Saint Augustine (354-430) tells us of a conversation he had with his mother shortly before her death.

“The day was now approaching when my mother Monica would depart from this life; you knew that day, Lord, though we did not. She and I happened to be standing by ourselves at a window that overlooked the garden in the courtyard of the house. At the time we were in Ostia on the Tiber. We had gone there after a long and wearisome journey to get away from the noisy crowd, and to rest and prepare for our sea voyage. And so the two of us, all alone, were enjoying a very pleasant conversation, *forgetting the past and pushing on to what is ahead*. We were asking one another in the presence of the Truth—for you are the Truth—what it would be like to share the eternal life enjoyed by the saints, which *eye has not seen, nor ear heard, which has not even entered into the heart of man*. We desired with all our hearts to drink from the streams of your heavenly fountain, the fountain of life.”

This year may the *“the exhilarating, wonderful, and terrifying winds of Heaven blow in our ears.”* With God’s grace, hope will inspire and purify our activities, keep us from discouragement, sustain us during times of abandonment and open our hearts in expectation of eternal beatitude. Buoyed up by hope, we will be preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity. (CCC 1818)

God bless you and your families this school year,
Fr. O’Connor



At a Glance

That Man is You!

The Revelation of the Father

Friday, September 10

Marian Hall

5:30am - Light Breakfast

6:10am - Program Begins

7:15am - Program Concludes

Covenant of Love:

Intimacy and Marriage

Friday, September 10

6:30pm in Marian Hall

RSVP to Dora 720-283-4737

ENDOW Women’s Studies

Classes starting in Sept.

Visit www.endowonline.com

or call Dora at 720-283-4737

The Great Adventure Bible Study **Revelation: The Kingdom Yet to Come**

Begins Monday, Sept 13

7:00pm in Marian Hall

Register with Dora

720-283-4737

Book Club

The Grunt Padre

Wed, September 15

7:00pm in Ave Maria Hall

Harvest Festival Fundraiser

Sunday, September 19

1:00pm - 7:00pm

on the Parish Grounds

win a trip to Rome for four!

Parish Mission

Praying with Scripture

Mon—Thu, Sept 20—23

7:00pm—9:00pm Church

St. Vincent de Paul and Diligence



According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church a virtue is “a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.”

There are many virtues that aide us in maintaining moral balance. Diligence is only one of the many that is both simplistic and complex to understand, especially in our fast paced, highly technologically reliant society. The meaning of diligence is “a zealous and careful nature in one’s actions and work exemplified by a decisive work ethic, budgeting of one’s time, monitoring one’s own activities to guard against laziness and putting forth concentration in one’s work.”

“Among the many means of performing our actions well, one is to do each of them as if it were to be the last of our lives.”

We only need to look to the lives of the saints for strong examples of this concept. St. Vincent de Paul, whose feast day is September 27, was known to be extremely busy in his work, but his soul always remained focused on God. It is written that he performed tasks and works slowly and carefully, so that they were pleasing to God. He also remained deeply rooted in humility, despite his many works and influences. The St. Vincent de Paul Society is one example of his passionate work, which remains a great influence in the world today, even within our own parish.

St. Vincent de Paul said “among the many means of performing our actions well, one is to do each of them as if it were to be the last of our lives. At every action, then say to yourself: “If you knew that you were to die immediately after this action, would you do it? And would you do it in this way?”

I find this quote especially fitting as the new school year begins. As I scurry about shopping for school supplies or uniforms with my 3 beautiful yet curious and rambunctious children, I find myself only concentrating on the next task to tackle such as how my children snuck 10 bottles of glue into our shopping cart. How quickly life becomes overwhelming that even when I am saying a rosary the thoughts of facing the notorious car line at school divert my concentration. No matter how distracting or crazy my life may be it is important to focus on even the most mundane tasks so that they

are pleasing to God. As I wash new uniforms, pack a snack or face that dreaded car line, I will strive to perform each of them to the best of my ability. I hope that they won’t be my last actions on earth, but if they are then I can only hope someone will say she did all these things well.

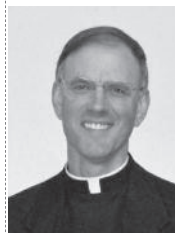
- by Jen Hehn

Don’t Miss the Parish Mission!

Monday—Thursday, Sept 20—23
7:00pm—8:30pm in the church

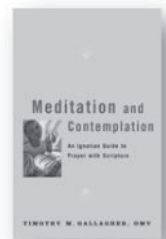
Meditation and Contemplation *A Practical Guide to Praying with Scripture*

Presented by Father Timothy Gallagher, OMV



Noted Ignatian speaker, author, and television personality Father Timothy Gallagher is returning to the parish this fall for a parish mission. Father Gallagher will help us understand the cornerstones of St. Ignatius of Loyola’s spiritual practice of prayer and how to adapt it to individual needs. Topics will include methods of praying, struggles and growth, and the importance and role of grace.

Father Timothy M. Gallagher, O.M.V., was ordained in 1979 as a member of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary, a religious community dedicated to retreats and spiritual formation according to the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. He obtained his doctorate in 1983 from the Gregorian University. He has taught (St. John’s Seminary, Brighton, MA; Our Lady of Grace Seminary Residence, Boston, MA), assisted in formation work for twelve years, and served two terms as provincial in his own community. He has dedicated many years to an extensive ministry of retreats, spiritual direction, and teaching about the spiritual life. Fr. Gallagher is the author of six books (Crossroad) on the spiritual teaching of St. Ignatius of Loyola.



What is FIAT? FIAT (Faith In Action Team) is a school organization sharing spirituality in daily living and in becoming leaders that follow Christ. Fiat is a Latin word that means, “let it be.” Just as Mary, Joseph and Jesus said “yes” and accepted their earthly missions, let us strive each day to accept God’s calling for us in our lives. FIAT is a group for all parents of St. Mary’s School! Read this newsletter aloud with family, use the suggested resources and spread the faith! Any questions or comments can be e-mailed to Meg D’Costa at odc234@aol.com.