FAITH SHARING GROUP

This group meets on Thursdays after the 9 AM Mass to study various aspects of the Catholic faith using videos, books and other materials which help us to improve our spiritual lives. As we learn more about our faith, we share personal experiences as to how we apply and live out our faith as it relates to topics being discussed.

We meet in the Den of the Religious Ed Building. Any questions, contact Bernadine Filliben at 717-259-9006
20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2019
5:00 PM + John Melhorn

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019
8:15 AM – People of the Parish
10:15 AM + William & Nadine Kroft

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019
NO MASS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019
9:00 AM + Justina & Sotero Villareal

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2019
9:00 AM + Warren Glass

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019
9:00 AM + Ron Filliben

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, 2019
9:00 AM + John Potocki

SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 2019
5:00 PM + Ethel Schuhart

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019
8:15 AM + Arthur John Martin, Jr.
10:15 AM – People of the Parish

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 66:18-21
Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

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FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
Today Jesus warns us his Word will create conflict between parents and children. In a permissive society which advocates individualism and consumerism, parents must continue to teach and live the gospel values of respect, service to others, forgiveness, generosity and compassion. A Christian Family is a counter cultural family.

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IN THE CHARITY OF YOUR PRAYERS, please pray for the repose of the soul of Joan Butler, mother of Carol Noble who died on August 4th.

AUGUST 18, 2019

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE
August 18th – 24th

Monday, Aug. 19th – Cub Scouts, 6:30 PM
Monday, Aug. 19th – Legion of Mary in Rel Ed Bldg Room 4, 7 PM
Monday, Aug. 19th – Charismatic Prayer Group in Social Hall, 7 PM
Wednesday, Aug. 21st – Boy Scouts, 6-9 PM
Wednesday, Aug. 21st – PCCW meeting in REC
Thursday, August 22nd – Faith Sharing Group in Den after 9 AM Mass
Saturday, Aug. 24th – CCD Retreat 9 AM – 1:30 PM

MISSION FOR LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVERS for Sat/Sun Aug. 24-25
5:00 PM Mass: Harrison, Landon & Ella Smith
8:15 AM Mass: Ryan Gebhart, Hans Livelsberger, Andrew Eyster
10:15 AM Mass: Ava Baughman, Carlos Marques, Brielle Baughman
Coordinator is Kelli Maysilles.

LECTORS for Sat/Sun Aug. 24-25
8:15 AM Mass – Alfred MacArthur
5 PM MASS – Sam Spiese
10:15 AM Mass – Ann Parker

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC) for Sat/Sun Aug. 24-25
5:00 PM: Dan Landis, Larry Miller, Dan & Barb O’Brien, Sam Spiese
8:15 AM: Liz Kohler, Margie & Sam Leese, Pat Robinson, Midge Stokes
10:15 AM: Kevin Behr, Joyce Menges, John & Diane Schlaline, Leland Steinke
Coordinator is Claire Wentz.

GROCERY CERTIFICATES – Please know how very grateful we are to all of you who support our Grocery Certificate Program and ultimately our Religious Education Program. IHM receives a 5% profit from the sale of all the grocery cards purchased. Before going for groceries, please consider purchasing Weis or Giant cards after each Mass at the front entrance. Cards can also be purchased in the parish office during the work week. Thank you for your support of this wonderful program! During the week of Aug. 11, 2019 we sold $750 for a profit of $37.50.
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – “Run the race which lies ahead.” Are you called to keep your eyes fixed on Christ and run the race of faith to heaven as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Talk to Fr. Burger or Fr. Jonathan Sawicki, Director of Vocations, at 717-657-4804 or check out www.diocesanpriest.com.

HOLY FAMILY RADIO COLLECTION – CELEBRATING NINE YEARS OF CATHOLIC RADIO IN SOUTHCENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA! Help IHM celebrate the 9th Anniversary of the launching of Holy Family Radio by joining us in a special tribute in the form of a special collection on the weekend of Aug. 24-25, the date when it first aired. We ask each parishioner to contribute simply $1.00 per parishioner. We can do a little to support them a lot!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHICKEN BBQ
Our Knights of Columbus are holding a Chicken BBQ on Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019 here at IHM. Event starts at 11 AM until sold out. Prices are $9.00 each or 2 for $16.00. For tickets and information contact Ken Glass at 717-814-0265 or John Schlaline at 717-259-9360 or see any Knight.

MEN OF THE PARISH – That Man is You Year 5 will begin Saturday, Sept. 7th at 8 AM. Weekly we meet at the Cross Village – the Brethren Home’s Campus Inn in the Encore Room. This year’s series is entitled The Fight of Faith and equips and enables men to engage in the cosmic, spiritual battle raging in our day. We will rediscover and reclaim our identity as solders, saints, brothers, disciples, and apostles. Encounter practical tools that aid in spiritual defense and development. Enter into a deeper understanding of the Word of God. If you have not joined us before, consider doing so this year. Contact Pete Socks at 717-521-3137 or Mike Seymore at 717-870-2986 for more information.

SINCERE THANKS
We want to express our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make Vacation Bible School 2019 ~ ~ “Camp Healing” such a phenomenal experience for our children! We were blessed to have many adult and teen counselors during the week. A very special thanks to our “core team” who worked for months "behind the scenes” ~ Susan Altobelli, Jen Bunty, Dana Henry, Kylee King and Kristin Orwick.

UPCOMING JOURNEY OF FAITH
You have heard the saying, “Keep the Faith.” Our Lord Jesus tells us not to just keep the faith, but to spread the faith. He continually traveled about calling many to “Come and See.” If you know someone who has expressed an interest in the Catholic Church, follow Jesus’ example and invite them to come and see the beautiful richness and truth of our Catholic Faith. Classes are held in a relaxing, non-threatening environment. For more information about RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

FUSION - Fusion is Immaculate Heart of Mary's youth ministry; open to all teenagers in grades 8 to 12.
Reminder: Closing Night for Dynamic YOU is Sunday, August 18th. After our session, we will have a worship concert provided by INFUSED!
August 18, 6 - 8:15 PM: Closing Night – DY Session 10: Friendship, Dating, and Family
August 18, 8:30 - 9:15 PM: Work-In-Progress Concert
For more information, please call or email Paul Oakes: (717) 259-0611 ext.8 or poakes@hbgdiocese.org

HOMESPUN PROJECT – The Homespun Project has been donating handmade blankets since 2006. Many have given their time and love creating these works of art. The blankets are beautiful. We also have crocheted grocery bag mats, and winter wear donated. The 2018 and 2019 donations collected were given to, For the love of a veteran, Tendercare pregnancy, Hanover Hospital, Hanover Hall and Families in need. We will continue to collect blankets this winter season. The blankets must be afghan size (around 50 x 70). We can accept a few baby blankets, however the need is for larger throw or afghan size. If you know of someone or group in need, or to arrange for the pick up of your donation, please contact Lori Ann Ziolkowski @ 717-633-5135.

JOHN TIMON REILY HISTORICAL SOCIETY – The Reily Historical Society invite you to our dinner on Sunday, Sept. 22nd at 12:30 PM at the Church Hall at Conewago. However, there is a cost of $20 to reserve a spot for our 50th anniversary event. Please call the Secretary, Dan, at 717-637-6729 for the details. Call before Aug. 26th.

THRIFT SHOP – Come check out the great back-to-school clothing sale at the Immaculate Conception Thrift Shop, 5 Carlisle St., New Oxford. Buy one get one free (must be equal to or less in value). Shop hours are Monday to Saturday from 9 AM to 3 PM. Questions, call 717-624-1272.
LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The Diocesan Women’s Conference, Oct. 12, 2019 at Bishop McDevitt Center. The theme is Women of Light, Sisters in Christ! We have our largest number of speakers ever this year – 40+. Keynote Speaker is Helen Alvare, internationally known pro-life, pro-family speaker.

2019-2020 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM
If you have a child/children who are not attending one of the Catholic Schools in the area, please call Sister Rosanne to register them for the 2019-2020 CCD Program. Our CCD Program provides quality Religious Education for children ages 4 up through and including Grade 8. For more information, or to register your child, please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611.

AERO ENERGY HOUSE OF WORSHIP PROGRAM –
This program was established to provide Aero Energy customers an opportunity to give to our church. To participate, Aero Energy customers sign up by phone or online and Aero Energy donates 4 cents for every gallon of fuel they use to us. Please call if you are not already part of this wonderful program. It’s an easy way to benefit Immaculate Heart of Mary. To sign up, call 888-827-17136.

WELCOME! We welcome the following to our parish family:  
Keith & Erin Fischer, Dover  
Don & Mary Reid, East Berlin

PARISH CARING COMMITTEE – Assists parishioners on an as needed basis, in times of need or stress and provides visitation, care giver relief, meals, errands, light household chores and local transportation. To request assistance or to become a Caring Committee Volunteer, contact Jen Gentile at 717-225-5059.

MISSION TRIP – Is this the year you give of yourself on a mission trip – a Christian pilgrimage of service as a thank you for your blessings? Father Ho Lung (Missionaries of the Poor) in Jamaica can use your help taking care of the hundreds of castaways in Kingston; men, women and children. He gathers the resources, but needs your hands to serve these people. Roy and Margaret Wainwright (and granddaughter) are going this year November 2-10. Won’t you consider joining us? You must want to “die to self” and use your willing heart to serve others for the week. You will never be the same. Contact Roy Wainwright at roywainwright3@gmail.com or 717-619-7243. See more at our website www.ihmparadise.org/29.

JUNE FINANCIAL REPORT –

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ADDITIONAL COLLECTIONS:
Capital Improvements | $1,571.00 |
Ascension Thursday | $1,559.00 |
Pentecost | $3,321.00 |
Missionary Co-Op | $3,403.62 |
Catholic Communication | $870.00 |

ABBOTTSTOWN/EAST BERLIN FOOD BANK – The food pantry in East Berlin held on July 3rd served 60 families which included 154 individuals. The number of families served at the Abbottstown location on July 2nd was 22 for a total of 47 individuals. The link to the Time to Sign Up page for the food pantry on Wednesday, Aug. 7th at the East Berlin location is www.volunteersignup.org/EFFAC and Thursday, Aug. 8th at the Abbottstown location is www.volunteersignup.org/EQMHA. Please remember to drop off health/beauty aid items, such as soaps, toothbrushes, diapers, as well LAUNDRY DETERGENT, etc. and place them in the food pantry barrels.

SAVE THE DATE: Come support the 2nd Annual John Melhorn Memorial Blood Drive on Saturday, September 21, 2019 from 10 AM – 3 PM in the IHM social hall. Boy Scout Troop 127 will host the blood drive in honor of Mr. Melhorn who served as former Scoutmaster.

FALL STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE – Join us for the second annual Fall Conference at Star Barn Village, 1 Hollinger Lane, Elizabethtown, PA on Sept. 18 & 19, 2019. Come and be Encouraged, Equipped and Inspired. Learn how to Protect Yourself and Those You Love by Putting on the Armour of God. For further information, contact Andy Altobelli at 717-292-6733.

RCIA PROCESS
The RCIA Process makes four essential changes in the way in which converts were welcomes into the Catholic Church years ago.  
First, the RCIA process restores the original order of the Sacraments of Initiation, which are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Today, these three
sacraments are celebrated as the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

**Second**, the RCIA stresses the need for a lived experience of the Church and not just knowledge about the Church. Although the RCIA includes instruction in the truths of the Catholic Church, instruction is but one part of a much larger experience of living the Faith with members of the Church.

**Third**, the RCIA puts an end to the quiet, dark, almost secretive Baptism of adults, and makes the welcoming of new Catholics a public community event.

**Fourth**, the RCIA stresses that conversion is begun by the Holy Spirit, and is an on-going process.

For more information about RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults), please call Sister Rosanne @ (717) 259-0611, ext. 7.

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**Message from the Pastor**

**RETREAT** – please join us in New Oxford, PA for a one day retreat on August 24, 2019 sponsored by Breadbox Media featuring Dr. Scott Hahn who will provide 3 talks. Lunch will be included. Details can be found and tickets may be purchased at [https://breadboxmedia.com/paconference/](https://breadboxmedia.com/paconference/) or by contacting Pete Socks at 818-521-3137 or pete.socks@breadboxmedia.com.

**OFFERTORY PROCESSION** – For the benefit of you, our long-time parishioners as well as you, our NEW parishioners ~ we invite you and your family to participate in the Offertory Procession when you come to Mass on Saturday night or Sunday.

Perhaps you have NOT noticed the 3 crosses and the picture frame on the ledge behind the last pew (right hand side) as you come into Church. There is an invitation from Fr. Burger in the frame for you to bring forth the gifts at the Offertory time. You just need to take the 3 crosses to the pew with you, and when the altar server goes to the back of the Church with the Processional Cross, you get out of your pew and head to the back of the Church. One of the ushers is there to assist you, if necessary. The gifts (the paten of hosts and the cruets of wine) are on the ledge by the picture frame. You bring those gifts, as well as the collection basket forward, following the altar server with the cross. Please consider having your family participate in the Offertory Procession. This is a simple way to participate more fully in the celebration of the Mass.

**SCAM ALERT!** Once again someone is using the Pastor's name to scam people into buying gift cards or giving their cell number to them. Neither Fr. Burger, nor any Diocesan Priest, will ever ask you to supply him with gift cards or give your cell number in order to help him out. Please **DO NOT** respond to any emails you may receive or any text message asking if you are available to do him a favor and purchase gift cards for someone who is sick.

**HOUSE OF WORSHIP PROGRAM**

We would like to express our most sincere gratitude to all those who participate in the Aero Energy House of Worship Program. Our parish received a check in the amount of $527.16 from this past heating season! IHM receives 4 cents per gallon for anyone using heating oil or propane that is a current customer of Aero Energy or anyone who becomes a NEW customer. If you are not already participating in this program and would like to, please call Aero Energy at 888-827-1713 to sign up for the House of Worship Program. There is no additional cost to anyone who participates – it is a donation from Aero Energy to our church. Thanks to all who participate!

**SAVE THE DATE**

The 12TH Annual “Swing for the Sisters” Golf Tournament to benefit the retired Sisters of Saint Joseph will be held on Saturday, September 28th @ Flatbush.
HEALING HEARTS is a support group for widows and widowers. The group will meet once a week on Thursday nights from 6pm until 7:30 pm at Kim Aiello’s house at 1650 Pine Run Road, East Berlin. The meetings will consist of prayer, bible study, share time, Christian music, group social outings, like going to see a Christian movie, attending a Christian Concert, or listening to a Christian Speaker. The support group goal is to help heal the broken heart and replace sorrow with joy, by finding peace through a personal relationship with the Lord. Contact Kim Aiello at 717-476-7504 or emailing her at jkilo1@hotmail.com.

SUMMER WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday 5 PM,
Sunday 8:15 AM and 10:15 AM

ARE YOU CARING FOR AN AGING PERSON?
There is a safe website where you can get help and ideas. Go to www.agingcare.com. You can sign up for their emailed newsletter at the bottom of the home page. I have been following the newsletters and find a lot of articles which may be useful. If I can be of any help, please contact me at roywainwright3@gmail.com or 717-619-7243.

RUTH’S HARVEST – There has been a change in the April date for Ruth’s Harvest. Remaining dates for this school year are now April 10th and May 22nd at 10 AM at the Abbottstown Fire Hall.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students at Delone Catholic High School for achieving honor roll status:
FIRST HONORS: Audrey & Abigail Sell, Christian Powell and Julia O’Brien
SECOND HONORS: Harrison Smith & Avery Kuntz
COMMENDABLE EFFORT: Christian Powell & Avery Kuntz

FLOWERS – Looking for a way to memorialize a loved one or celebrate a special occasion? A beautiful way would be to order flowers on the altar. Most weekends are available from now through the end of the year. Please call Anita in the parish office to make arrangements.

MASS INTENTIONS – Mass intentions are a wonderful way to celebrate a special occasion, remember those who have died or are sick and in need of our prayers. Please consider this as a “gift” for someone. Call Anita in the Parish Office to arrange your Mass intentions.

Sunday, May 5th – Religious Education from 9:30 – 11 AM
Sunday, May 5th – Adult Enrichment Class in The social hall, 9:30-11 AM

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL
St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snare of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

NEW ENTRANCE PROCEDURE FOR THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CENTER –
I want to let you know about a new entrance procedure that we now have in place when coming to the parish office and the Religious Education Center. You will now find that the doors will be locked. We ask that you please ring the bell on the wall outside the door and you will be buzzed into the building. This safety system which now allows the staff to see who is at the door was installed this last week.
CATHOLIC CHARITIES COUNSELING SERVICES:
Depression and anxiety can occur when we have a loss or a major change in our life. A licensed skilled therapist can help you by listening, processing, and giving you the power to make positive change. Catholic Charities Counseling Services is accepting new clients for four office locations throughout the Diocese. Catholic Charities Counseling is for anyone: children, adolescents, adults, and couples. Services are provided in a confidential office setting. Services include individual and family therapy, marital counseling, and parent-child counseling. We accept Medical Assistance, or clients can pay for services (discount fee schedule available). Just call for an appointment: Capital Region 717-233-7978; Lancaster 717-299-3659 or 717-392-2113 (Espanol); York 717-845-2696; Paradise School Office (Abbottstown) 717-259-9537. Visit www.cchbg.org for more information.

Don’t Get Scammed!
Scammers are now posing as priests and other clergy. In this latest scam, you might receive an email or a text message that appears to be from your Pastor or another priest that you may know. The scammer ask you to help someone in need by purchasing a gift card and to provide the codes on that card.

Here’s how to protect yourself from being scammed.
1 – Know that scammers are out there. Be suspicious of any request for funds of any type via an email message or a text message. Verify any request with a call to the person who supposedly sent it or a call to the phone number of the text that you received. 
2 – Know that any email from a priest should be from a diocesan or parish email account. Messages sent from free services, such as Gmail or Yahoo, are more likely to be scammers.
3 – Many clergy do not share their cell phone numbers publicly. If you receive a text message from someone not on your phone’s contact list, be suspicious.
4 – Know that priests will NEVER ask for financial transactions via email or text messages.

IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR HANOVER HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS – The Hanover Hospital – UPMC
Pinnacle Health has issued the following changes to their policy effective December 2018.

1. Clergy will not be able to view denominational lists at the front desk.
2. Clergy will not be able to obtain patient information at the front desk unless they have the patient’s name.
3. If the patient indicates a congregational affiliation in the admissions interview, the Chaplain will call the congregation. If the patient indicates to the Chaplain on his or her rounds that he or she belongs to a particular congregation and gives permission the Chaplain will call the congregation.
4. In an emergency situation if the patient or family indicates a congregational affiliation to the Chaplain or other staff and gives permission to call the congregation, every effort will be made to notify the congregation.

Because of these changes, it is very important that a family member contacts the parish when someone is admitted.

WEEKDAY MASS PARKING – Anyone attending the weekday Masses are asked to park in the lot beside and behind the Church whenever there is snow and ice. This parking area will be made ready first for anyone on the property.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – It has been noted that some people, who are dropped off or picked up for Mass, are doing so at the steps right along West Canal Road. Especially at night, and given the adjacent hill, it is deemed this is unsafe given the speed and flow of traffic. For accessible and safe access to the Church at all times, please use the side social hall doors. Thank you.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY – CAN YOU DONATE NEW YARN? During the last year, the Prayer Shawl Ministry has made over 50 items for our own parishioners, Rachel’s Vineyard retreatants, Cross Keys Village Skilled Nursing patients, Spiritrust Lutheran hospice and Hanover Hospital Maternity. We rely on your donations to help with our yarn expense. We can always use red, white and blue yarn for military veterans in hospice care. Please drop off your donations in the covered gray boxes at the entrances to the church. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a prayer shawl, please call the parish office at 717-259-0611. Thank you!

SUGGESTION CARDS are available on the back ledges and at the entrances of the church. If you have any suggestions on how to make our parish better, please fill one out and return it in the collection basket.
BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION – Please keep collecting and sending in those BoxTops for Education for St. Teresa School. If you’d like to help out trimming those BoxTops, please contact kwenger@hotmail.com. All help is appreciated!

EVENT NOTICE – I have been a parishioner at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church for more than 40 years and employed in the newspaper business for more than 20 years. We have many wonderful events happening here at our parish and we’d like to get the word out to the public. Please feel free to send me any events that would be of interest to our local community – from Lenten dinners to youth events to Bible studies and everything in between! You can send information to: 6fletch@embarqmail.com. Don’t forget to tell me the following: WHAT is the event? WHO is invited? WHEN is the event? WHERE is the event? WHY should people attend? HOW can they get more information? If you have any questions, fee free to call or text me at 717-357-8051. Thank you!
Holly Fletcher

HEARING IMPAIRED – Anyone who is hearing impaired may find it helpful to sit in Pew #9 on the Sacristy side. You will notice “hearing impaired” stickers on the side of the pew to indicate the best place to sit if you are hearing impaired.

HANDICAP PARKING – Please note that handicap parking spaces are available for parking near the social hall entrance to the Church. If you are attending the 11:15 AM Mass, in order to avoid the traffic associated with religious education letting out, the following two options are recommended: EITHER come in the EXIT lane BEFORE 11 AM, OR come in the usual entrance way AFTER approximately 11:07 AM.

CHILDREN’S CHAPEL – For everyone’s information, especially for those who may be new to our parish, there is a so-called Children’s Chapel or Cry Room here in the Church. It’s located in the front left corner of the church, where a restroom is also located. As a parish family, we want children and families to be welcome here at Mass, and so it’s important to have an appropriate place in the church for babies and young children when they get fussy and need extra attention. We really want to encourage parents to use this space to tend to their children as needed. Please, feel free to just get up when need be from the body of the church, and utilize this space. Then you can better tend to your children without feeling like you’re being watched. And this will also allow the other parishioners to be able to more fully focus on worshiping.

CREMATION
Since 1963, Catholics have been allowed to choose cremation over burial as a means of laying a loved one to rest. Cremation is a popular choice since it is less expensive and more manageable than a full burial. Cremation, like death, is final. But that doesn’t mean you won’t have second thoughts. Susan Skiles Luke, a marketing consultant in Columbia, Missouri, had her mother cremated and buried in a family plot. Now, she wishes it was her mother’s body and not just the cremated remains that was in the grave. “When I go there, which isn’t often, I want to feel like her body is under ground, right alongside my grandparents and beloved great aunt, all dressed up in their Sunday best…”

Although creation is permitted, some Catholics have not been dealing properly with their loved ones remains. Common practices include scattering ashes, parting ashes out to friends and relatives, and keeping the ashes in a common area, such as a living room. While scattering ashes may seem romantic to some (but is also contrary to Catholic teaching), there’s something to be said about keeping your loved one in once place, and then marking that place with a name. “We mark the graves of our loved ones with a headstone to memorialize them, so we don’t forget them”. When visiting that person’s grave, just seeing his or her name can give comfort.

To instruct the faithful in this regard, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has issued updated guidelines. According to these, burial is still preferred, but cremation is an option. When a loved one has been cremated, their ashes must be kept intact, the same as one would treat a body. The ashes may not be separated or scattered. Instead, they should remain in a proper vessel that is interred in a proper place, such as a cemetery or church. Finally, the document stresses that Catholics who choose cremation for reasons contrary to the faith, (e.g., to have their ashes scattered) must be denied a Christian funeral.

In the end, whether cremation or burial is chosen, we await from the grave the second coming of Jesus Christ and the blessed Resurrection of the Dead.

Tips for talking to children about difficult subjects/news reports

The topic of sex abuse, particularly child sex abuse, is a daunting one for parents. Every parent must consider many factors including the best age-appropriate way to discuss the topic. Below are some points to consider adapted from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and First Things First.

1. Make sure you are composed before you talk with your child.
2. If you believe your child is aware of news concerning abuse in the diocese, start the
conversation. Not talking about a difficult event can make the event even more threatening in your child’s mind.

3. Listen carefully to what your child is asking or talking about.

4. Clarify just what any concerns are before you answer. Sometimes we make assumptions and give far more information than what the child needs.

5. Keep your answers simple and brief. Don’t answer questions that have not been asked. Do not overload your child with information that is beyond his/her level of understanding.

6. Assure your child that you and other adults that are in charge are doing everything possible to make sure they will be safe. This will give them a sense that adults are actively taking steps to protect those who are currently suffering.

7. Don’t make guarantees that such a thing can never happen again. Words like “never” and “always” should be used very carefully because small children trust that this is a promise from you.

8. Explain that we do not know why people treat other people badly.

9. Try to limit your child’s exposure to media coverage. A child believes what he or she sees on television, or in the newspapers is always true.

10. Let your children know about successful community efforts. You may want to share positive media images, such as reports of individuals helping those in need.

Additional information is available at www.YouthProtectionHBG.com

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

God bless you and your week – Fr. Marcoe