

## TODAY'S READINGS

**C**ome, share your master's joy. (Matthew 25:21)  
Quick! Ask yourself: "As I read this parable, did I identify more with the third servant in this parable than with the first two?" If you did, you're not alone. How quick we are to fear that we may lose the little bit we think we have! We may even think that the outcome of this parable is unfair. Why should those who already have so much receive even more?

But this isn't a parable about fairness. It's about Jesus' ability to empower us to bear fruit for the gospel—fruit that surpasses what we would naturally expect.

Think of the potential damage that just one person can do to the devil's plans. Consider a mother who teaches her children about the ways of the Lord. Think of how she models patience, justice and kindness to them. Think of the way she helps them to pray and teaches them to treat each other with love and consideration. Day after day, week after week, she is bringing about the kingdom of God in these children's lives. And not just in their lives but in the lives of their own future children. Her influence, in fact, has the potential to reach generations!

Or consider the young person who witnesses to his faith in Jesus at school. Think of the number of students he can stimulate to expect that God will work in their lives. Think about the ways these students, now on fire for the Lord, can influence others. And so on, and so on, and so on.

It's true. God really can use you to extend his kingdom! Choose one situation this week where you can make a difference, one friend or acquaintance who you can bring one step closer to the Lord. Step out in faith, and see what kind of effect you can have. If you give the Lord an inch, he will take you a mile!

*"Holy Spirit, I give you permission to work more fully in my life. Come and fill me with your power and gifts, so that I might bear fruit for the kingdom."*

Taken from *The Word Among Us*, October 2011, Vol. 30, Number 9: Used with permission.

## THIS WEEK'S READINGS

**Sunday 13th** Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 /  
1 Thes 5:1-6 / Mt 25:14-30

**Monday 14th** 1 Mc 1:10-15,41-43,54-57,62-63 / Lk 18:35-43

**Tuesday 15th** 2 Mc 6:18-31 / Lk 19:1-10

**Wednesday 16th** 2 Mc 7:1,20-31 / Lk 19:11-28  
*Sts. Margaret of Scotland & Gertrude*

**Thursday 17th** 1 Mc 2:15-29 / Lk 19:41-44  
*St. Elizabeth of Hungary*

**Friday 18th** 1 Mc 4:36-37,52-59 / Lk 19:45-48  
*Dedication of the Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul*

**Saturday 19th** 1 Mc 6:1-13 / Lk 20:27-40  
*St. Rose Philippine Duchesne*

**Sunday 20th** Ez 34:11-12,15-17 / 1 Cor 15:20-26,28 /  
*Our Lord Jesus Christ the King* Mt 25:31-46

## LAS LECTURAS DE HOY

**“M**uy bien, eres un empleado bueno y fiel; ya que fuiste fiel en lo poco, te pondré a cargo de mucho más. Entra y alégrate conmigo.” (Mateo 25,23)

Desde las huellas digitales hasta el ADN, desde la identificación de la voz hasta los perfiles psicológicos, la ciencia convence cada vez más a los científicos de una verdad que las Escrituras han conocido durante siglos: que cada persona es una parte única e irremplazable de la creación. Sabemos que Dios ha dado a cada uno de sus hijos un conjunto de dones y talentos naturales, ya sea la habilidad atlética, el talento musical, el arte de escribir o la facilidad de construir objetos. Parte del desafío que enfrentamos al crecer y madurar consiste en identificar nuestros talentos y cultivarlos en beneficio propio y de los demás.

¿Sabías tú que también has recibido dones espirituales: talentos que te ayudan a colaborar con Dios para construir su Reino? Entre éstos figuran los dones de alentar a otros y ser generosos y compasivos (Romanos 12,8). Quizás tengas una fe especialmente vigorosa, el don de sanación al orar por otros o la habilidad de discernir la voluntad de Dios (1 Corintios 12,8-11). Dios te regaló estos dones y te invita a trabajar con Él de un modo que sobrepase tu capacidad natural.

Tomemos la parábola de Jesús que leemos hoy para animarnos a preguntarle al Señor cuáles son nuestros dones y cómo utilizarlos. Jesús quiere que sepamos que la Iglesia, su Cuerpo en la tierra, solo puede crecer en la medida en que respondamos a su llamamiento. No quiere que seamos como el servidor que escondió su talento y a quien el amo, a su regreso, encontró desprevenido.

¿Por qué no dedicar hoy unos minutos a escribir los dones que crees que Dios te ha dado, tanto naturales como espirituales? ¿Te preocupan mucho los pobres y necesitados? ¿Te conmueves de los que sufren enfermedades? ¿Te parece fácil compartir lo que sabes acerca de Jesús? Todo esto podría ser la señal de algún don recibido de Dios que solo necesita que lo desarrolles. Abre la puerta y deja que el Señor te lleve donde Él quiera.

Dios quiere usarte para hacer el bien, porque ahora la boca, las manos y los pies que Él tiene son los tuyos y los míos; seamos instrumentos de su amor.

*“Padre, permíteme ver los dones que he recibido de Ti. Concédeme la valentía de emprender el camino que creo que Tú me señalas. Deseo servirte, Señor, por todo lo que has hecho por mí.”*

Escogida con el permiso de *La Palabra Entre Nosotros*, Vol. 30, Número 6: Octubre/Noviembre 2011

## Hospitality Receptions

will be held after all Masses next weekend except the 7am Sunday Mass in the North Conference Room. Come by and learn how you can share your time, talent and treasure in St. Matthew's many ministries and programs!

## MUSIC NOTES

### ST. CECILIA SING

All are invited to join area pastoral musicians in celebrating the patron of music, St. Cecilia, on Friday, **November 18** at 7:30pm in the Cathedral. Featured choirs will be *Voix de Femmes*, a chamber women's choir based in Laurel, *Voces Concordia*, a choir of singers from all over the area, and St. Matthew's *Schola Cantorum*. All will join in song and are invited afterward for a social in the Great Hall of the Rectory. Admission is free. For more information, visit [npmdc.org](http://npmdc.org) or call 301-384-5796.

### ST. MATTHEW'S FESTIVAL SINGER AUDITIONS

Every year we invite experienced singers of the parish to join the *Schola Cantorum* for our Advent Lessons and Carols and the 10pm Christmas Eve Mass. Singers must be able to attend all rehearsals but are not obligated to sing for both liturgies. We need singers with an ability to read music, a pleasant voice, previous choral experience, and a commitment to work diligently and cooperatively. The schedule of rehearsals is below:

Wednesdays, Nov 30 and Dec 7, 7:45–9pm—Rehearsal

Monday, Dec 5, 6:45–8:45pm—Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec 11, 7:30–9pm—**Advent Lessons and Carols (6:30pm arrival)**

Wednesdays, Dec 14 & 21, 6:45–8:45pm—Rehearsal

Monday, Dec 19, 6:45–8:45pm—Rehearsal

Saturday, Dec 24, 9:15pm–11:15pm—**10pm Christmas Eve Mass (8pm arrival)**

To schedule an audition or for more information, please contact Mr. Thomas Stehle, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Director of Music Ministries, at [tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:tstehle@stmatthewscathedral.org).

## CATHEDRAL CALENDAR

November 13 – November 20

**SUNDAY**—A second collection for Cathedral maintenance is taken at all Masses.

Las clases de Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

The Cathedral Club meets at 1pm in the West Conference Room.

Always Our Children meets in the West Conference Room at 3:30pm.

The Cathedral Young Adults hold their monthly meeting in the North Conference Room at 4pm.

**MONDAY**—The Development & Stewardship Committee meets at 6:45pm in the West Conference Room.

**TUESDAY**—The Faith Formation Committee meets at 6:45pm in the East Conference Room.

El Grupo de Oración en Español se reunirá a las 7 de la tarde en el salón de conferencias del Oeste.

**WEDNESDAY**—Breaking Open the Word meets at 7pm in the West Conference Room.

**THURSDAY**—The Knights of Columbus meet at 7:30pm in the West Conference Room.

**FRIDAY**—The St. Cecilia Sing is held at 7:30pm in the Cathedral, followed by a social in the Great Hall.

**SUNDAY**—**Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King.**

Hospitality receptions are held in the North Conference Room following all Masses except the 7am Mass.

Las clases de Catecumenado y Catequesis Familiar continúan a las 11:00 de la mañana.

## NEWS & NOTES

### THANK YOU

The St. Matthew's **Run for Vocations Team** sends a sincere thanks to all who supported us financially and with prayers in the **Marine Corps Marathon and 10K** on October 30. Due to your generosity, we raised more than \$2400 for the Archdiocese of Washington seminarians! A special thanks to Krista Tuomi for organizing the Runners and Fundraising. Please continue to pray for vocations and for our seminarians!

Thank you to all who participated in the **Fall Feast of Treats** dinner for our homeless friends sponsored by the **Social Justice & Community Services Committee**. Your donations of food, money and time in hosting the event allowed us to serve 54 guests, who expressed their great appreciation. St. Teresa would be amazed by what your body, hands, feet and eyes did for this 10th bi-annual event! We hope you and others will join us in the Spring.

### DAYTIME VOLUNTEERS

Do you have an hour or two to join a group of volunteers helping with clerical tasks between 8:30am and 4pm on Thursday, **November 17**? If so, please email us at [mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org). Thank you!

### COME – LET US ADORE HIM!

You are invited to the Cathedral for our monthly evening of Eucharistic Adoration on Monday, **November 20** from 6 to 7pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available.

### THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

Join us in celebrating a bilingual (English and Spanish) Mass for Thanksgiving Day, **November 24**, at 10am. Msgr. Jameson will be the celebrant and homilist, with our rectory priests as concelebrants.

## FAITH IN ACTION

**Needed: Lunchmakers for the homeless.** St. Matthew's Homeless Ministry needs more volunteers to provide bagged lunches for the poor and homeless who come on Monday mornings for breakfast, lunch, and other services. If you can provide some lunches each month, every other month, or as a one-time service, please contact Olivia Crosby at 301-806-1292 or oliviajfm@yahoo.com, or Norma Canedo at 2canedo@cardinalmail.cua.edu. Thank you!

**Adopt-a-Family Thanksgiving Gift Card Drive.** Donations of cash or checks (made payable to St. Matthew's Cathedral with "Adopt-a-Family" on the memo line) or \$25 Giant or Safeway cards for families in need this Thanksgiving can be sent to or dropped off at the rectory through Wednesday, **November 16**. Thank you very much for your generosity and support! For more information on Adopt-A-Family activities, contact Fr. Evelio at emenjivar@stmatthewscathedral.org or Jillian McMahon at jillian.mcmahon@gmail.com.

## PARISH PILGRIMAGE

### HAVE YOU BEEN TO FATIMA?

Join Msgr. Jameson and fellow parishioners and friends on a pilgrimage to Madrid, Fatima and Lisbon in April 2012! The itinerary showcases the best of Madrid while affording you time to explore the city. Spend time at the famous site in Fatima where Our Lady appeared six times to Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco and take time to reflect and pray. Discover interesting, artsy and unique parts of Lisbon and hip surrounding towns. The group will leave Washington on Wednesday, **April 11, 2012**, and return on Sunday, **April 22, 2012**. Enroll by **February 1, 2012**. For more information, see the brochure on our website, pick one up at the rectory or call Msgr. Jameson.

## YOUNG ADULTS

**YOUNG ADULT HAPPY HOUR - Friday, November 18 – 6 to 8pm - James Hoban's (1 Dupont Circle NW)** - Come hang out with your friends and meet other young adults at St. Matt's. The last happy hour was a huge success with over 50 people attending, so don't miss this one! Contact Sarah Zick zick.sarah@gmail.com or Justin Silvers at just1justin@yahoo.com for more information.

**PIZZA SUNDAY - Sunday, November 20 – After 5:30pm Mass - North Conference Room** - The next Hospitality Weekend is **November 19-20**, and that means pizza after the 5:30pm Sunday Mass. Join other St. Matt's young adults for free food and fellowship. Contact Jillian McMahon at jillian.mcmahon@gmail.com for more information or if you'd like to help with set-up or clean-up.

**YOUNG ADULT HIKE - Saturday, November 26 – Time & Location TBA** - If you're around the weekend after Thanksgiving, you can at least get out of the city with a hike led by Fr. Regan. Contact Father at kregan@stmatthewscathedral.org for more information or to sign up.

## FAITH FORMATION

### BOOK CLUB: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

All are invited to join the St. Matthew's Book Club for its next meeting Monday, **December 12**. We will discuss Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, perhaps the most famous Christmas related novel ever produced. We will explore the religious dimensions of the work as well as many other aspects of this famous tale. The club meets in the West Conference Room at 6:45pm. Please contact Paul Zummo at pzummo@gmail.com if you have any questions.

### BECOMING CATHOLIC

Throughout the year, adults come forward seeking to learn about the Catholic faith. For those who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith or thinking about becoming Catholic, St. Matthew's offers Inquiry, a casual, ongoing conversation about the Catholic faith, once a month. Inquiry is the first step in the process of discerning one's commitment to full initiation in the Catholic Church. Inquiry meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the East Conference Room. A brief overview of the entire adult initiation process (RCIA), which begins formally in June each year, can be presented after Inquiry for those who are interested. The next Inquiry will be held Wednesday, **December 14**. For more information, contact Heather Kinney at hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org.

### ADULT CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

St. Matthew's offers adult Confirmation preparation for *active Catholics who have received both the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist* in the weeks between Easter and Pentecost. The celebration of adult Confirmation occurs at a special Mass on Pentecost Sunday, which will be May 27 in 2012 (Memorial Day weekend). Preparation includes five weekly sessions on consecutive Thursday evenings—tentatively set for April 19, 26 and May 3, 10, and 17—and a Saturday retreat tentatively set for May 19. Registration will begin in January, so please follow announcements in the parish bulletin and on the parish website in the coming months for information on how to register.

## NOTICIAS DE LA PARROQUIA

### SIMPOSIO SOBRE LA NUEVA EVANGELIZACIÓN

Todos están cordialmente invitados a compartir con Monseñor Francisco González, S.F. (Obispo Auxiliar de Washington) a un diálogo *sobre la Nueva Evangelización* el sábado **19 de noviembre**, 8:30 de la mañana a 2:00 de la tarde en el Instituto de Liderazgo Laical (12247 Georgia Ave., Wheaton). Además, tendremos un acto cultural en honor a la Virgen de Guadalupe (presentado por los niños de la parroquia San Ambrosio), la santa Misa y almuerzo. La donación es \$10 por persona e incluye el almuerzo. Para inscribirse, llamar al 301-946-1621 o escribir a [layleadership@adw.org](mailto:layleadership@adw.org).

### ADORACIÓN AL SANTÍSIMO SACRAMENTO

Les invitamos el lunes **20 de noviembre** después de la misa de 5:30 de la tarde, a que se unan en adoración al Santísimo, de 6 a 7 de la tarde. El Sacramento de Reconciliación estará disponible durante la hora de la Adoración.

### MISA DEL DIA DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS

Les invito para reunirnos, tanto los sacerdotes como la comunidad parroquial de San Mateo, a la celebración de la Misa de Acción de Gracias, que será bilingüe, el día **24 de noviembre** a las 10:00 de la mañana. “La Acción de Gracias caracteriza la oración de la Iglesia”, nos dice el Catecismo, “la cual, cuando se celebra la Eucaristía, revela y expresa en plenitud lo que es”. Juntos demos gracias a Dios, el dador de todo bien, por las muchas bendiciones que ha derramado sobre nosotros a través del año.

### ADOPTA-UNA-FAMILIA

Todas las Navidades, la Catedral de San Mateo patrocina el programa “Adopta una Familia.” Este programa ayuda con regalos a familias necesitadas de la parroquia por medio del “Árbol Navideño (Giving Tree)” y la participación de empresas y grupos que auspician a las familias.

**Participación en el “Árbol Navideño”.** No se olvide de recoger su tarjeta del “árbol navideño” al comienzo del Adviento. Todos los regalos van a ayudar a las familias necesitadas de nuestra área para Navidad o al programa de los Desamparados de San Mateo. Todas las tarjetas están marcadas claramente para ambos programas. Regalos nuevos, sin envolver, tienen que estar de vuelta en San Mateo para el miércoles **12 de diciembre**. Si no tiene tiempo para comprar el regalo, considere contribuir con una donación monetaria. Contamos con su generosidad para continuar sirviendo a nuestros vecinos a través de estos programas. ¡Gracias!

### PREPARAN ALMUERZO PARA LAS PERSONAS SIN HOGAR

El ministerio de las personas sin hogar de San Mateo necesita voluntarios que provean almuerzos una vez al mes o cada dos meses. Todos los lunes, San Mateo recibe a 60 o más personas pobres y sin hogar y les dan almuerzos junto con otros servicios. Se necesita más voluntarios que puedan hacer almuerzos, ya que este programa crece cada día más. Para más información, puede contactar a Norma Canedo, [62canedo@cardinalmail.cua.edu](mailto:62canedo@cardinalmail.cua.edu) ó a Olivia Crosby, 202-806-1292.

### RETIRO Y REFLEXIONES DE ADVIENTO

El domingo **27 de noviembre**, tendremos una mañana de reflexión espiritual dando comienzo al tiempo de Adviento. El retiro empieza a las 8:30 de la mañana hasta las 12:30 del mediodía en el salón de conferencias del Norte. Entrada al lado del estacionamiento.

También los martes comenzando el **29 de noviembre** a las 7:30 de la noche en el salón de conferencias del Oeste tendremos las reflexiones de Adviento, tomando como referencia las promesas mesiánicas del profeta Isaías. Esperamos nos ayuden a prepararnos para celebrar la Navidad con un corazón renovado y bien dispuesto.

Semana 1. Martes **29 de noviembre**  
*¡Velad! y estar despiertos*

Semana 2. Martes **6 de diciembre**  
*Consuelen a mi pueblo*

Semana 3. Martes **13 de diciembre**  
*¡Alégrate! El Señor esta contigo*  
**Obispo Francisco González, S.F.**

Semana 4. Martes **20 de diciembre**  
*¡Levántate y brilla! que ha llegado tu Luz*

Empecemos esta época del año con una buena preparación  
¡Les esperamos!

### LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

**Domingo 13** Pro 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 / 1 Tes 5:1-6 / Mt 25:14-30

**Lunes 14** 1 Mac 1:10-15,41-45,54-57,62-63 / Lc 18:35-43

**Martes 15** Sab 2:23-3:9 / Lc 17:7-10  
*San Alberto Magno*

**Miércoles 16** 2 Mac 7:1,20-31 / Lc 19:11-28  
*Santa Margarita de Escocia y Santa Gertrudis*

**Jueves 17** 1 Mac 2:15-29 / Lc 19:41-44  
*Santa Isabel de Hungría*

**Viernes 18** 1 Mac 4:36-37,52-59 / Lc 19:45-48  
*Dedicación de las Basílicas de Los Apóstoles San Pedro y San Pablo*  
*Santa Rosa P. Duchesne*

**Sábado 19** 1 Mac 6:1-13 / Lc 20:27-40

**Domingo 20** Ez 34:11-12,15-17 / 1 Cor 15:20-26,28 / Mt 25:31-46  
*Jesucristo Rey del Universo*

**MASS INTENTIONS****Sunday, November 13**

5:30pm (vigil) – Stabat Mater Prayer  
Apostolate

7am – Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr.

8:30am – Matt & Mary Gallen

10am – Anthony &  
Rosetta Petruzzi

11:30am – All Souls

1pm – Dorothy Chappell

5:30pm – Rafael Rubio

**Monday, November 14**

7am – Frank Iaconna, III

8am – Ralph Smith

12:10pm – All Souls

5:30pm – Philo Dibble

**Tuesday, November 15**

7am – Stephen Cicalone

8am – Gloria Cotaquispe

12:10pm – Patricia Day

5:30pm – All Souls

**Wednesday, November 16**

7am – All Souls

8am – John Kekeh

12:10pm – Louis Hartman

5:30pm – Ricardo Urribarri

**Thursday, November 17**

7am – Madaline & Family (living)

8am – All Souls

12:10pm – Lisandro Zuluaga

5:30pm – Helen Gray (living)

**Friday, November 18**

7am – O. Charles Waggoner, Sr.

8am – Mr. & Mrs.  
Richard Fleming (living)

12:10pm – All Souls

5:30pm – Vianella Varaj-Guichardo

**Saturday, November 19**

8am – Ezekiel & Rachael Muganda

12:10pm – Andres Yelicie

5:30pm – All Souls

**Sunday, November 20**

7am – Mary Carlin Downham

8:30am – All Souls

10am – Gregg Burge

11:30am – Virginia Aquino

1pm – Harret &  
Robert Shulman (living)

5:30pm – Jose O. Lara

*To arrange a Mass intention, speak to our receptionist in the Rectory. There is no fee but an offering is customary. Intentions are reserved in advance so particular dates may be unavailable.*

**MARRIAGES**

Couples who are interested in celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at the Cathedral are encouraged to visit the parish website to review our guidelines for weddings. The next step is to call the Rectory at 202-347-3215 and ask for the priest of your choice or the priest on duty, who can speak to you about marriage preparation and the possibility of scheduling your wedding ceremony at the Cathedral. Couples are expected to contact us **at least nine (9) months in advance** of the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding.

**BAPTISMS**

Parents who wish to have their child baptized at the Cathedral should contact the Baptismal Coordinator at the Rectory at 202-347-3215 x555. Parents are encouraged to make contact with us **at least six (6) months in advance** of a desired baptismal date, at which time they may ask for the priest of their choice to perform the Baptism. This early contact enables parents to be scheduled for the necessary sacramental formation session before the child's baptism and allows time for sponsors to obtain letters from their parish pastor.

**VISITS & PILGRIMAGES**

Individuals, families and groups from around the country and around the world visit the Cathedral to join us in prayer, at Mass or to celebrate Mass in one of our chapels. We invite you to plan a visit or pilgrimage to our Cathedral—all are welcome. Once you have a date in mind, let us know so we can arrange to accommodate you. Contact us at 202-347-3215 x512 or 202-587-5143 or mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org.

*Please check our parish website regularly for updates on liturgies and events at St. Matthew's!*

**[www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org)**

**TOURS**

Visitors are invited to schedule a tour of the Cathedral or to do a self-guided tour using the color brochures available at the inside entrance to the Cathedral. Tours are given free of charge. Donations to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle are always appreciated and may be given to your tour guide or to our receptionist at the Rectory. To schedule a tour, contact us at 202-347-3215 x512 or 202-587-5143 or mhurley@stmatthewscathedral.org.

**GIFT ITEMS**

St. Matthew's is pleased to offer a 48-page souvenir book on our beautiful Cathedral church written by Richard Schmidt and Claudia Rousseau, with Joseph Carey, Nancy McKinley and Elizabeth Sullivan. It features the Cathedral's history, art and architecture vividly portrayed through photographs by local photographer, Neil Greentree.

Also available are sets of six note cards picturing the art of the Cathedral, boxed sets of ten **Christmas cards** featuring St. Matthew's Crèche, Christmas ornaments and several CD recordings of the Cathedral's *Schola Cantorum*. CD titles are listed on our website.

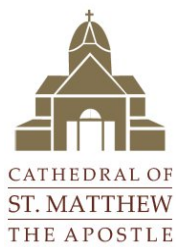


*St. Matthew's Crèche - Christmas cards available in boxed sets of 10 cards & envelopes*

Items are available for purchase in the Rectory during office hours. Unless otherwise indicated in this bulletin, the Rectory is open Monday through Thursday from 9am until 8pm and Friday through Sunday from 9am until 4pm. You also may order items by contacting us at 202-347-3215 x 517 or at gharrington@stmatthewscathedral.org. MasterCard and Visa are accepted.

**CONSIDER  
REMEMBERING  
YOUR CATHEDRAL  
PARISH IN YOUR  
WILL.**

For more information, please contact  
Msgr. Jameson.





# THE MOST SACRED OF ALL PROPERTY: RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE PEOPLE OF MARYLAND

November 2011

## Introduction

*The Bishops of Maryland have written a statement on religious liberty which reviews the history and role of religious freedom in our society, highlights present-day threats to this freedom, and offers ways to get involved.*

*Copies of the complete statement are available at your parish, on diocesan websites and on the Maryland Catholic Conference website at [www.mdccathcon.org](http://www.mdccathcon.org).*

The Greater Baltimore Center for Pregnancy Concerns has a simple mission: to help expectant mothers in need, assisting over 1,000 women each year with support, parenting classes, furniture, and more.

The Center is the kind of charitable organization that public officials should promote. Yet Baltimore tried to curtail its mission and free speech rights simply because it is pro-life. No similar restrictions were placed on abortion clinics.

Efforts to restrict the rights of individuals and institutions because of their religious or moral beliefs are on the rise here in Maryland and around the nation. Religious liberty – a right rooted in our human dignity and protected by the First Amendment – is being silently and subtly eroded.

We know that religious liberty is a foundational element of a vibrant democracy and helps guarantee those other precious freedoms we Americans enjoy. The only way to preserve it, is through the vigilance of concerned citizens and their willingness to stand up for this right.

## History

Religious liberty began in the New World with the founding of Maryland. It is one of our state's greatest

contributions to the nation and the world.

In 1634, settlers arrived at St. Clement's Island in Southern Maryland at the invitation of the Catholic Lord Baltimore, who had been granted Maryland by the Protestant King Charles I of England. While Catholics and Protestants were killing each other in Europe, Lord Baltimore imagined Maryland as a society where people of different faiths could live together peacefully.

But Maryland's early history teaches us that, like any freedom, religious liberty requires constant vigilance and protection, or it will disappear.

Maryland's experiment in religious toleration ended within a few decades. The royal charter was revoked and the Church of England became the established religion. Discriminatory laws, including the loss of political rights, were enacted against those who refused to conform. Catholic chapels were closed. The Catholic community lived under these conditions until the American Revolution.

When the framers of our Constitution adopted a Bill of Rights, religious freedom was given the distinction of being at the forefront of the First Amendment, which guarantees that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This amendment provides the foundation for our pluralistic society, in which people of different faiths and beliefs can live and worship in peace.

## A Natural Right

Religious freedom is not merely a civil right afforded us by our government, but, more fundamentally, it is a natural right due each person because of his human dignity.

Each person is made in the image and likeness of God. He offers us His love

but He does not force us to accept it. The Lord respects our freedom to accept Him or to reject Him; so too must government and society.

Religious freedom is an essential element of the human person and a basic human right. It protects the ability to practice any faith or no faith. It preserves the right to follow one's conscience, in acts both internal and external, in private and public, as an individual and as a member of a community.

## A Contribution to the Common Good

Religious freedom is so fundamental to our nature that not only does it uphold individual human dignity, but it is also integral to the establishment of a good and just society. Individuals who are free to exercise religious liberty are free to live out their faith in service to others and to build up the common good.

Faith groups and religious organizations often are the largest providers of private social services, including hospitals and health clinics, schools and universities, shelters and food pantries.

Religious liberty also enables religious groups to provide a voice for the voiceless. At the dawn of our nation, the Quakers led the charge in publicly challenging our new national government to abolish slavery.

Religious individuals and groups have played a key role in reminding society of their intrinsic value and worth. Those who suffer from mental or physical disabilities are often ignored or, at times, even outright rejected by society. The Church here in Maryland was a leader in successful efforts in 1989 to ban the execution of those with an intellectual disability.

But perhaps the most striking example of the good fruits of religious liberty is

the civil rights movement. Led by a Baptist minister, it expressed an explicitly religious call for the equal treatment of African Americans. It is in this context that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote from a Birmingham jail to his fellow ministers about the difference between just and unjust laws – a concept that presupposes a higher law. While Rev. King argued that there is a legal and moral responsibility to obey just laws, he cited St. Augustine for the principle that “an unjust law is no law at all.”

### Subtle Threats

Americans are blessed to enjoy freedoms for which many in our world can only hope. But in recent years there has been a subtle promotion of the idea that religious liberty should be restricted to Sunday morning worship. The right to exercise our faith and follow our conscience in all aspects of our lives are rights that are increasingly viewed with hostility.

A healthy democracy can function only when its citizens are able to freely engage in public debate. That includes the freedom to approach the public debate through the lens of faith and moral values.

Sadly, some view the Church’s very presence in the public square as an act of imposition. They claim that our identification as persons of faith disqualifies us from participation in the public debate.

**Conscience Rights of Health Care Workers:** Luke Vander Bleek owns a small-town pharmacy in Illinois that sells almost every drug – except the “morning after pill,” to which he has religious objections. Though a public hospital just a few blocks away sells it, the state of Illinois threatened to close his business and end his career. Mr. Vander Bleek was forced to retain an attorney and sue for his right to practice his profession in accordance with his religious beliefs. Thankfully, an Illinois trial court ruled in Mr. Vander Bleek’s favor.

**Conscience Rights in Health Care Debate:** As part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services efforts to enact the *2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*, the department is mandating that all private health insurance plans cover surgical sterilization procedures and birth control, including IUD, ‘morning-after’ pills and abortion-inducing drugs, in addition to ‘education and counseling’ for women and girls of reproductive age. What is missing is any genuine exemption for the Catholic Church and other religious institutions to not offer health insurance with these mandates. Furthermore, individuals are given no protection against contributing to these procedures.

**Same-Sex Marriage:** Religious institutions and society in general are not the only ones at risk if same-sex marriage passes in Maryland. Religious business owners like florists, bakers, and musicians would be forced to work at same-sex marriage ceremonies. This violation is not hypothetical. A Christian photographer in New Mexico was found to have engaged in illegal discrimination after the company declined to photograph a same-sex ceremony. A Methodist church in New Jersey lost its tax-exempt status for declining to allow a same-sex couple to marry in a pavilion it owned.

### Defending Religious Freedom

What do we do to preserve and strengthen the great gift of religious liberty?

**Prayer:** Prayer is the most powerful tool we have. Conversation with Our Lord opens up wellsprings of grace that enable us to become effective instruments in His hands and that assist others in making prudent decisions.

**Education:** Religious liberty and the right of conscience will be further eroded unless the Catholic community stays informed about the challenges these rights face and the reasons why they are integral to a just society.

**Action:** The most basic way for us to participate in the political process is through our votes in local, state, and federal elections. Our Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network, run by the Maryland Catholic Conference,

provides updates on public policy issues and provides pre-drafted e-mails to send to lawmakers. Register online at [www.mdccathcon.org](http://www.mdccathcon.org). There are also opportunities to advocate for religious liberty in person.

We call on all Marylanders to reaffirm the basic, foundational principles upon which our democratic society is built. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religious belief. No one should be subject to coercion because of those beliefs.

These are the principles that those first Marylanders brought with them. These are the principles embraced by our founding fathers and by our Church. These are the principles that are indeed the most sacred of all property.

### *Our call as Christians*

*Conscience is the most sacred of all property; other property depending in part on positive law, the exercise of that, being a natural and unalienable right.*

– James Madison, 1792

*Our rulers can have authority over such natural rights only as we have submitted to them. The rights of conscience we never submitted, we could not submit.*

– Thomas Jefferson,

**Notes on Virginia**

*Religious freedom expresses what is unique about the human person, for it allows us to direct our personal and social life to God, in whose light the identity, meaning and purpose of the person are fully understood.*

– Pope Benedict XVI,

**Message for the World Day of Peace, January 1, 2011**

# Lord, I Am Not Worthy . . .

D. Todd Williamson

Few Gospel accounts are as powerful as the story of the Centurion who has heard of Jesus and his great deeds. The Centurion seeks out Jesus to help him, for his servant is paralyzed and suffering. Of course, Jesus agrees and offers to come to the Centurion's home to cure the servant. In faith, the Centurion utters these powerful words: "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed" (Matthew 8:8, NAB; see also Luke 7:6).

This is, truly, a story of faith. Recall, that the Centurion is a Roman—a Gentile—one who would be considered ineligible for the promises that the Lord had made to his Chosen People, Israel. Yet he had faith that Jesus could heal his servant. He even called Jesus "Lord." Because of this, Jesus was willing to go to his house—an act that would have been forbidden and would, according to Jewish standards, made Jesus unclean. Yet Jesus was willing to do this. In the end, this story is as much about the faith of the Centurion as it is a story of the ends to which Jesus will go to bring health, wholeness, and salvation.

Is it any wonder, then, that the Church puts the words of the Centurion on the mouth of every member of the liturgical assembly as we too prepare to receive health, wholeness, and salvation through the gift of the Eucharist? With the implementation of the English translation of the third edition of *The Roman Missal*, this full statement of the Centurion will be our response to the invitation to Holy Communion: "Behold the Lamb of God, / behold him who takes away the sins of the world. / Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb."

It is no accident that *these* words, in *this* exchange, should take place at *this* point of the Mass. Look at what is happening: we are being invited to "behold" the Lord, as he is present in the Eucharist. Not simply to "look," not simply to "notice." We are to "behold" him—to see him, with the eyes of faith, and to see what he is doing for us in this liturgy. He is preparing to feed us with his very body and blood!

This makes the most sense if we look closer at the Gospel accounts and the story of the Centurion, particularly from the Gospel according to Matthew (it is also recounted in Luke), for it is only in the Matthean account that Jesus replies to the



Centurion "many will come from the east and the west, *and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven* [emphasis added] . . . You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you" (Matthew 8:11, 13, NAB).

Now look again at the liturgical exchange at this point in the Eucharist. We are invited to "Behold the Lamb of God." The invitation references the vision of the book of Revelation (19:9), where the angel says to Saint John, "Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb." The wedding feast of the Lamb, and the "banquet in the kingdom of heaven," that Jesus references in Matthew (see above), *are the same great banquet!*

And *we* are being *invited* to that banquet, at this moment in the liturgy!

Surely, there are no better words with which to respond to this invitation—"Lord, I am not worthy / that you should enter under my roof, / but only say the word / and my soul shall be healed." The liturgy invites us, at this moment, to the same faith, to the same conviction, as that of the Centurion belief in what Jesus can do. Then, as the Centurion was assured presence at the great banquet of heaven, so too might we be admitted to that same banquet, *here*, in this Eucharist! If there was hope for him, then surely there is hope for us, too!

Notice that in the revised translation of this exchange, the emphasis is *not* on our unworthiness. Truly, in fact, *none* of us is worthy of so great a gift as the Eucharist. And that's the point! It is not our merit that admits us to this great banquet. Rather, it is our faith in Jesus Christ—the same faith as that of the Centurion! God's grace given in the sacrament of the Eucharist is free gift. We need only respond and accept this gift.

The full response of the Centurion helps us to recognize that Christ's promise of health, wholeness, and salvation is ours if we accept the invitation. That promise is fulfilled in the Eucharist, in Holy Communion which we are about to receive!

Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb!



## St. Matthew's Cathedral Adopt-A-Family Program Christmas 2011

St. Matthew's is again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Family program to provide assistance to low-income families in our parish community. We help meet families' basic needs by providing grocery certificates, household items, clothing, and toys for the children, among other gifts. Last year we provided over 1,000 gifts to 35 families.

You can help by participating in the **Giving Tree** during Masses in November or by making a **financial contribution**:

- 1) To participate in the **Giving Tree**, choose as many gift tags as you like from the table in the back of the Cathedral after mass the weekends of **November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**, **November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**, **November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please purchase the specific item(s), and return wrapped gift(s) as described on the cards.
- 2) You can make a **financial contribution** of any amount. Checks are welcome! Please write checks to St. Matthew's Cathedral (add "Adopt-A-Family" in the note line) and put your donation in an envelope clearly marked **Adopt-A-Family Christmas**. Envelopes are available in the back of the Cathedral.

You can drop off the envelopes in the baskets at the back of the Cathedral after mass the weekends of **November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**, **November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**, **November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**. Your financial contribution can also be sent directly to the Rectory.

We would like to receive donations by **December 12<sup>th</sup>** to allow time for shopping before Christmas. Any donations that we receive above what is needed for Christmas will be used to assist the families with grocery gift cards and other emergency assistance during the year.

For more information, please contact Fr. Evelio or Jillian McMahan at [jillian.mcmahan@gmail.com](mailto:jillian.mcmahan@gmail.com).

**What would Christmas be without your help?**

**Think you're more Catholic than the Cardinal?**

**Can you name the entire canon of saints?**

**Do you just want to have a good time with fellow Catholics?**

**Then join the St. Matthew's Cathedral Faith Formation Committee for**

**Catholic**  
**Pub Trivia Night!**

**Hosted by Father Jack Hurley  
and featuring a chance to Stump the Priest**

**First place team wins a round of drinks!**

**Don't have a team? Come anyway! We'll find you one.**

**Thursday, November 17, at Madhatter**

**Connecticut Ave just north of N Street (one block from St. Matthew's)**

**Happy hour begins at 6:30 – Trivia begins at 7:30**

**Drink and Appetizer Specials until 8:00pm**

**Entry Fee: \$5**

**Additional donations happily accepted. Fees and donations benefit St. Matthew's.**

**Attendees must be 21 or over. Teams may have up to 6 members.**

**Questions? Email Heather Kinney, [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org)**

## **FOLLOWING THE WAY OF JESUS**

**Led by  
Sister Patricia A. Parachini,  
SNJM, DMin**

**Adjunct Faculty,  
Washington Theological Union**

**A**dvent prepares us for Christmas, the celebration of the Christ Child coming to us in Bethlehem, and calls us to direct our hearts and minds to await Christ's coming again at the end of time.

Therefore, Advent is an appropriate time for adult believers to spend some time deepening our relationship to the One whom we await. You are invited to our parish Advent Morning of Recollection to "Come and See..." (John 1:39) - to spend time with Jesus and learn how you are called to follow his Way in your present life circumstances. With time for prayer, input, discussion and reflection, you will begin the Advent season with a posture of receptivity that readies you for the wonderful gifts God offers you through the coming of Jesus! The celebration of the Eucharist will conclude our time together.

*Sister Patricia A. Parachini, a Sister of the Holy Names, holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Catholic University of America. A pastoral theologian, educator and a spiritual director, Sister Parachini has ministered in a variety of contexts for more than 40 years. In addition to her teaching and formation ministry at Washington Theological Union, her most recent ministries have included: Religious Literacy Project Coordinator at Georgetown University; staff chaplain in pediatrics and a faculty associate of the Center for Clinical Bioethics at Georgetown University Hospital. As a faculty member at both St. Mary's Seminary and University and the Catholic University of America, Sister Parachini taught preaching and pastoral theology. Sister Parachini has taught preaching in summer institutes at St. Elizabeth College, CUA and Aquinas Institute. She has directed retreats, supervised ministers and spiritual directors in training and worked as a campus minister, a parish director of religious education and a teacher in both middle school and high school. For two years, she was the assistant to the director of the diocesan Catechetical Center in Kyoto, Japan.*

**Prepare for the coming of Christ in our lives and  
in our world by joining us for our annual  
Advent Morning of Recollection! All are welcome!**

## ***Parish Morning of Recollection***

**DATE:  
SATURDAY,  
DECEMBER 3, 2011**

**TIME:  
9:00AM - 1:00PM**

**PLACE:  
NORTH CONFERENCE  
ROOM**

***No cost to attend...  
donations accepted & appreciated***

### **ST. MATTHEW'S CATHEDRAL**



1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW  
Washington DC 20036  
202-347-3215  
[www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org)

**Metro:** Red Line to Dupont Circle or  
Farragut North

**Parking:** Street parking or \$5 flat  
fee in garage next to Cathedral

Please RSVP no later than  
Sunday, November 27 to  
[hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org).