



June 2012

My dear parishioners,

Last month, all of the priests here in the rectory went out for dinner to celebrate together our anniversaries of priestly ordination. Our picture was taken and placed on the parish website – check it out! At dinner Father Hurley did a quick tally of the total number of years we have served – an even 100! Of course, 44 of those are mine alone! It was a great evening sharing experiences, joys and sorrows, and expectations of things to come.

## **Farewell to Father Kevin Regan**

### ***Looking Back in Appreciation***

One thing that all priests know is that in any parish, priests come and go. Some stay longer than others, but we all move along to new opportunities of service. We have received word from the Cardinal that Father Regan is being assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. John Neumann Parish in Gaithersburg, effective **July 6**. Father Regan has been with us for three years and has been involved in so many ministries and programs. We will especially remember him as the Cathedral Master of Ceremonies; the staff liaison for the Young Adults, the liturgy committee and its ministries, and the baptism program; and a generous contributor and participant in many other Cathedral programs and events. I will certainly remember all the weddings he presided over, his knowledge of facebook and so many other technological wonders, his youthful exuberance, his love of the priesthood, his friendship and willingness to do whatever needed to be done.

### ***Looking Ahead to Challenges***

You may be wondering, “Who is replacing him?” Unfortunately, the Archdiocese does not have enough priests to have another associate here at the Cathedral. Father Regan’s many responsibilities will be distributed among all the staff. I will also turn to the Parish Pastoral Council to assist the parish in more concrete ways. For this next year we must all join together, roll up our sleeves, and work together as a team. Parishioners have many expectations—I know that. But now I must respond, “How can we do this together? Who else can help us? Is this a priority?” I’m turning to you all. Step up to the plate. St. Matthew’s is OUR parish. Each of us is a stakeholder, and each must have a sense of ownership. Together we can make it work. Before I leave on vacation, I hope to publish how Father Regan’s responsibilities will be distributed. You will then know who to call for the various tasks. In the meantime, feel free to call me or Maureen Hurley until the list is worked out.

### ***Our Chance to Say Farewell and Thank You***

I think all of us want to express our sincere appreciation to Father Regan for all that he has done for us here at St. Matthew’s. As a token of our appreciation, there will be receptions on Sunday, **June 24** following the 10am, 11:30am, 1pm and 5:30pm Masses. You are all invited to join us in the Great Hall for some refreshments and the opportunity to say “thanks” to Father Regan.

## Priestly Ordinations

We congratulate and offer our prayers for two new priests who served our parish faithfully as deacons. Father Augustine Marie Reisenauer, OP celebrated his priestly ordination on Friday, May 25 at the Church of St. Dominic in Washington, DC. Father Augustine celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral at 5:30pm on Saturday, May 26, the Vigil of the Solemnity of Pentecost, and also celebrated the 8:30am Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 27. Father Joseph Goldsmith was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 2. Before departing to serve as a priest for the Diocese of Richmond, Father Goldsmith will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in Spanish at the Cathedral on Sunday, **June 17** at 1pm. All are welcome. Please pray for Father Augustine and Father Joseph as they begin their priestly vocations!

## Summer Highlights

Since this is my last letter until the Fall, I want to remind you of some upcoming highlights.

The Cathedral is hosting screenings of the ten episodes of Father Robert Barron's acclaimed multimedia documentary titled "**Catholicism.**" Join us from 7 to 8:30pm any or all Thursdays until **July 26** in the North Conference Room. Each episode is approximately one hour long with discussion following. For more information on the series, see [www.catholicismseries.com](http://www.catholicismseries.com) or [www.wordonfire.org](http://www.wordonfire.org).

Do you know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic or a Catholic who wishes to receive the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? Weekly **RCIA** sessions began on Wednesday, **June 6**. Inquirers may contact Heather Kinney at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org) to discuss the RCIA process.

A new year of our **Children's Religious Education** program will begin in mid-September. Information for families on how to register their school-age children for the program will be available in the bulletin and on the Cathedral website beginning in mid-June. Please contact Heather Kinney at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org) with questions.

For both RCIA and Children's Religious Education, we are always looking for parishioners to serve as **sponsors and catechists**, respectively. Both sponsors and catechists often report how much they learned and grew in their own faith by serving in these ways. To discuss either opportunity, please contact Heather Kinney at [hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org](mailto:hkinney@stmatthewscathedral.org).

While the pace of some aspects of parish life slows in the summer, opportunities for prayer and study do not! **Eucharistic Adoration** is offered on First Fridays from 12:45 pm (following the 12:10pm Mass) until 5pm, and a **Eucharistic Holy Hour** on the third Monday of each month from 6pm until 7pm. Continuing through the summer are the **Spanish Prayer Group** (Tuesdays at 7pm) and the **Young Adult Bible Study**, *Breaking Open the Word* (Wednesdays at 7pm).

Please note the Federal holiday schedule (8am and 12:10pm Masses only, and no confessions) for the following days: Independence Day, **July 4** and Labor Day, **September 3**. Note also that there will be no 7am Mass from Monday, **July 2** through and including Friday, **August 31**. The 7am Mass will resume on Tuesday, **September 4**.

## Protecting Religious Freedom ~ Celebrating a “Fortnight for Freedom”

### *Legal Action Filed by the Archdiocese of Washington*

Since I wrote to you last, the Archdiocese of Washington filed a law suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to challenge the Department of Health and Human Services’ unprecedented mandate dramatically redefining religious ministry and requiring religious organizations to provide coverage for drugs and procedures in direct conflict with their religious beliefs. For updates and the latest information, visit the Preserve Religious Freedom website at <http://www.preservereligiousfreedom.org/>.

### **Fortnight for Freedom**

The Catholic bishops of the U. S. have suggested that the fourteen days from **June 21**—the vigil of the Feasts of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More—to **July 4**, Independence Day, be dedicated to a "fortnight for freedom," highlighting our Christian and American heritage of liberty. Consider participating in one of the following archdiocesan events or initiatives (check the parish website for links on each):

- Pray for Protection of Religious Freedom - Each time we engage in conversation with our Lord, He gifts us with the grace to become His witnesses in the world. Join the faithful from the Archdiocese of Washington each day at 3pm and pray the prayer below for the protection of religious freedom.

*Loving Father, Thank you for the gift of life and for the freedom to love and worship You. Through the power of the Holy Spirit inspire us to be your witnesses. Grant us the courage to boldly and joyfully stand in protection of our freedom. In your mercy, guard our religious freedom so we may continue to live out our faith and transform the world in which we live. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*



- Attend the *Celebration of Freedom* at the George Washington University Smith Center, Sunday, **June 24** from 4 to 6pm.
- Attend *Be the Conscience: Summer Music and Wine Fest* on Saturday, **June 23** in Owings, MD.

Leading up to the celebration, Father Kevin Regan will give a reflection on St. Thomas More in the Cathedral at our monthly Eucharistic Holy Hour on Monday, **June 18** from 6 to 7pm. Confessions will be available during the hour.

## **New Worship Hymnals - A fitting, lasting way to remember or honor a loved one**

After 14 years of regular use and due to the recent changes in the texts of Order of Mass, St. Matthew’s Cathedral parish must replace its current Worship hymnals. We are in need of 890 hymnals for the Cathedral. We hope to raise the necessary funds by the end of June so that we can put the hymnals into service in September.

For each Pew Edition of the hymnal we are seeking a donation of \$20; for Choir Editions the amount is \$30. You can donate as many hymnals as you like and you may dedicate each hymnal to the memory of a loved one or in honor of your family or friends. A unique bookplate will be placed in each donated hymnal. A more substantial gift of \$125 allows us to pay for each set of accompaniment books (3 needed). We hope you will take this opportunity to help us defray the costs of the pew and choir editions and other ancillary editions. We also welcome gifts that will remain anonymous if you choose. Please consider how you might help us meet our goal.

## **Budgets and Finances**

### ***Parishioner Giving***

The month of May has always been hectic. Pam Erwin, the Cathedral's Business Manager, has the awesome responsibility of preparing next year's budget for the Finance Council. No easy task! First of all, our offertory is slightly better this year, due in part I believe to greater participation in Faith Direct, our electronic giving program. Many of you are very generous; I thank God for you! We are so grateful. Looking at the numbers, 27% of our parishioners have given an identifiable gift to the parish since the beginning of this year. (Please, bear in mind that while we welcome and are very grateful for your cash gifts in the offertory collection, we have no way of knowing that you have made a gift when no envelope is used!) The average contribution of 818 identifiable donors is \$17.22 each week.

I will present a rough draft of our budget to the Finance Council on June 13. The budget includes more repairs and maintenance of our physical plant. Much needs to be done. Much work is needed on the N Street property, including repair of water damage to the east wall and much painting. I have already signed a contract for the replacement of the sidewalk in front of the Cathedral.

Here is a sampling of proposed expenses for the new fiscal year: homeless ministry supplies - \$8,000; telephone - \$15,000; security - \$15,000; AC/heating - \$22,000; gas - \$25,000; electricity - \$97,000; property insurance - \$75,000; archdiocesan assessment - \$94,320. My head starts to spin when I see this list!

### ***Electronic Giving***

To date, your generosity has kept us afloat; costs, however, continue to rise and we need the help of all. Why not determine what you can afford to donate and sign up for Faith Direct? It is simple and it works. Need more information? See the Cathedral's webpage on Faith Direct at <http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org/support/egiving>, or call Pam Erwin at 202-587-5150. We want to continue providing the best in liturgy and music, to evangelize our community, to serve the poor, and to teach the gospel message. With your help, St. Matthew's can be a beacon of hope to the central business district. Thank you for your time and talent, and your spiritual and material treasures. All things are possible with God, working through great people like you.

Please know that I am so grateful to you. You are great parishioners. Together, with your generosity, we will make this new budget work. God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson  
Rector

P.S. — Please check our website ([www.stmatthewscathedral.org](http://www.stmatthewscathedral.org)) for up-to-date information on all our regular and special events and liturgies throughout the summer!