## THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINT AUGUSTINE

#### RECTORY: 35 TREASURY STREET 824-2806 • OFFICE HOURS: 9 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

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CATHEDRAL PARISH COUNCIL

Joel Beason • David Gauronskas • Mary Kelley Kryzwick • Anne Marie LaVista (Chair) Bill Mullen • Mary Petrone • Joe Riffe (Secretary) • Bob Wagner (Vice-Chair)

CATHEDRAL FINANCE COUNCIL Richard LaVista, Chair Tom Albano • Marilyn Beach • Tom Dolan • Zack Smith

#### This Week in Our Parish

#### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 20**

9:30 a.m. - RCIA, Verot Room

6:30 p.m. - Senior Youth Group Kickoff, Bosco House

#### MONDAY, AUGUST 21

6 p.m. - Knights of Columbus Mass, St. Benedict the Moor Church

#### **TUESDAY, AUGUST 22**

9:30 a.m. & 4:45 p.m. – Legion of Mary meeting, St. Benedict the Moor Rectory 7 p.m. – RCIA, St. Benedict the Moor Rectory

#### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**

#### THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

7:45 a.m. - Altar Guild, Cathedral

10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. – Living the Eucharist, St. Benedict the Moor Rectory 7 p.m. – Cathedral Schola rehearsal, Cathedral

#### FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

#### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. - Confessions, Cathedral

"TEND SOLELY AND LOVINGLY TO RESEMBLE THE DEAR SAVIOR PERFECTLY AND IN ALL THINGS. LET HIM LIVE IN YOU AND YOU LIVE UTTERLY IN HIM."

- MAXIM 41, THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH









# THIS WEEK'S MASS INTENTIONS

#### **CATHEDRAL**

| 8/20 | Sunday 9 a.m.    | Vincenzo Girardi †            |
|------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8/21 | Monday 7 a.m.    | Bishop Victor Galeone "L"     |
| 8/22 | Tuesday 7 a.m.   | Dolores Bentkowski †          |
| 8/23 | Wednesday 7 a.m. | Bobbi Ecker Blatchford †      |
| 8/24 | Thursday 7 a.m.  | Barbara Redmond<br>Channell † |
| 8/25 | Friday 7 a.m.    | Mary Joan Paule †             |
| 8/26 | Saturday 7 a.m.  | Mary Joan Paule †             |
| 8/26 | Saturday 5 p.m.  | Joseph E. Turner †            |
| 8/27 | Sunday 9 a.m.    | Ursula Adomunas †             |

#### SAINT BENEDICT THE MOOR

| 8/20 | Sunday 8 a.m. | Stephanie and Annalee |
|------|---------------|-----------------------|
|      |               | Freund "L"            |

8/27 Sunday 8 a.m. Mary and Frank Conway †



#### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### Monday, August 21 SAINT PIUS X, POPE

Jgs 2:11-19 • Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44 • Mt 19:16-22 **Tuesday, August 22 QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN** MARY Jgs 6:11-24a • Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14 • Mt 19:23-30

#### Wednesday, August 23

Jgs 9:6-15 • Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 • Mt 20:1-16

Thursday, August 24 SAINT BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 In 1:45-51

#### Friday, August 25

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 • Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10 • Mt 22:34-40

#### Saturday, August 26

Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17 • Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 • Mt 23:1-12

#### Sunday, August 27

#### THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Is 22:19-23 • Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 • Rom 11:33-36 • Mt 16:13-20

5 p.m.: Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of St. Augustine Sir 15:1-6 • Ps 19:8-11 • 1 Jn 4:7-16 • Mt 23:8-12

Above: Ruth and Naomi, Jan Victors, 1653

#### **\***Reminders:

- •If you would like a hearing-assistance device that will help you in hearing the Mass, please come to the sacristy before Mass and see one of the sacristans. We have six devices that can be loaned at each Mass.
- •If you need a low-gluten host so you can receive our Lord in His Most Precious Body at Holy Communion, please come to the sacristy before Mass and let the sacristan know.

#### **❖Seminarians Assistance Fund**

A reminder that we have set up a "Seminarians Assistance Fund" to help two of our parishioners, Filippo Schiavo and Michael Hines, in the expenses they will have as they begin college seminary studies in August. If you are able to help with a financial donation, please make checks payable to "Cathedral Parish" with the notation "Seminarians Assistance Fund." Thank you for your consideration and generosity.

## What are Catholic Officials saying about ALPHA????

"In my opinion ALPHA accomplishes an incredible task, in making people interested in faith and in making faith relevant to the modern man."

-- Fr. Raniero Canatalamessa Preacher to the Papal Household

"ALPHA brings people closer and helps them find that power which unites. The ALPHA experience is not only a means through which one finds true life, but also a way to share the Good News of the Living Christ."

-- Marc Cardinal Ouellet, Prefect of the Congregation of Bishops

"One particular resource can assist with implementing new strategies for evangelization of the unchurched as well as fallen away parishioners. ALPHA in a Catholic context is based on hospitality, sharing and prayer. ALPHA has had concrete results in parishes across the country."

-- The Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas Bishop of Toledo



#### Mission Statement of the Cathedral Parish St. Augustine, Florida

WE ARE CHRIST'S EYES, EARS, MOUTH, HANDS, AND FEET -

SENT OUT TO DO JUSTICE, ESPECIALLY FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED,

TO MINISTER TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY,
TO BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION AWAKENING FAITH AMONG THE HOPELESS,
AND PROMOTING LIFE EVEN WITHIN THE CULTURE
OF DEATH.





# FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Next Sunday evening our parish will begin its celebrations of our patronal feast day of Saint Augustine of Hippo. Bishop Estévez will be the principal celebrant for the 5:00 p.m. Mass which will be the Vigil Mass for our patron's Solemnity. Then, at 7:00

patron's Solemnity. Then, at 7:00 p.m. at The Treasury on the Plaza, the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Augustinian Address will be given by Elizabeth "Liz" Lev. Her presentation will be "Saint Augustine of Hippo as Depicted in Art."

Between the end of Mass and the time for the Address, a cash bar of wine and beer will be available at The

Treasury along with some light food. I promise that you don't want to miss Liz' talk! She is an art historian who not only knows her stuff, but she is entertaining at the same time. She teaches at the Pontifical University of the Angelicum and is on the adjunct faculty for the Pontifical North American Seminary in



Rome. She has written extensively and has been featured on many series on the History Channel. She's given a TED talk and has presented at the United Nations. She certainly has quite the resume!

Then on Monday, August 28, for those of you who are able, the 7:00 a.m. Mass will offer another opportunity to celebrate our patron's feast day. Then at 6:00 p.m. we will have the celebration of Solemn Vespers followed by a concert by the Cathedral's *Schola* with some organ pieces for good measure by our own Shannon McKay. Join us and bring a friend along!

Love, Father Tom

## ❖Andrew Tierney takes the reins as Cathedral Parish Director of Religious Education

Our parish welcomes **Andrew Tierney** as our new Director of Religious Education. Andrew is very familiar around our parish. He and his wife, Sara, have three young boys and you'll see them most regularly at the Sunday 9:00 a.m. Mass. Andrew will have responsibility for our Wednesday evening Christian Formation Program (CFP) for Catholic students in public schools to get their religious education. He'll also oversee Sacramental Preparation, the formation process for those in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Catechist Formation for those who teach religion in our parish programs.

As we welcome Andrew, we also extend our thanks to **Barbara Eretto** for her six years of service to our parish. Barbara is the new manager of the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, so you will still see her around. Many thanks, Barbara, and many blessings from our Lord for your faith-filled ministry.

# CPYM Cathedral Parish Youth Ministry NEWS & EVENTS!

**Senior Youth Group** - We will have our Fall Kickoff **this Sunday**, **August 20**, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Bosco House! All Teens in grades 9-12 are welcome! Come on out and see what CPYM SYG is all about! Food, fun and games to be had! Bring a friend or two!!

**Junior Youth Group** - We will have our fall kickoff on Wednesday, August 30 from 5-6 p.m. in the Parish Hall/Gym! All are welcome, for students in 6th-8th grade! Pizza, fun and games to be had! Bring a friend!

#### Ryan Poticny, Cathedral Youth Minister

824-2806 ext. 326 - cathedralyouthgroup@gmail.com

#### Catholic Young Adults (in their 20s and 30s)

**August 27th!** Join Young Adults from all over the Diocese for Happy Hour before the Augustinian Address from 6-7 p.m. at the Treasury on the Plaza (next door to the Cathedral)

staugcatholicyoungadults@gmail.com
Find us on Facebook or call or text Mary 904-501-7280

#### ❖That Man Is You! (Cathedral Men's Group) Fall semester begins September 9

Men of the parish! Would you be willing to get up early on Saturday mornings to meet with a group of like-minded Catholic men in an effort to become better husbands/fathers or grandfathers?

Wherever you are in your spiritual life, Jesus Christ wants to encounter you and take you further.

Consider joining the Cathedral Men's Group for our Fall semester starting September 9. The format is breakfast and a video, followed by small group table discussions.

For questions or more information, call or text John D'Attoma at (904) 325-3869 or email at jddawg4@gmail.com.

#### **QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE? TRY ALPHA**

New Session starts in September!



Alpha is a series of 11 weekly sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith through refreshingly current videos and small group discussions and even a meal. It's an open, informal and honest space to explore and discuss life's

big questions together: Is there more to life than this? Who is Jesus? How can I have faith? Why am I here?

You may register on the Cathedral Parish website, www.thefirstparish.org, or pick up a registration form after Masses beginning August 12 and 13.

If you have questions, please contact Christine Shelley, alphacathedral@gmail.com.

St. Augustine said: "Our hearts are restless until they find rest in you." Let us help others find rest in the Lord.

"I feel I met people like myself who are on the same journey...met the Holy Spirit through people who pick me up and push me further." John D'Attoma

#### ❖ From Dr. Bernie Sans, Cathedral Music Director: Choir season is beginning soon! Will you join us?

All Cathedral choirs will begin their singing 'season' with rehearsals and normal Sunday schedules the week of Labor Day. This is a time for renewal of commitment to Music Ministry in the Cathedral Parish and a good time for those great singers in the pews to get involved in one of the Parish's choirs. All of the choirs are looking for new members (**men** and women) at this time, and the current members would really welcome all to their ranks. For those new to the parish and for those who would like an update, the choirs, their rehearsal days, and times and their Mass assignments are listed below:

- + The Cathedral Basilica Choir (formerly Chancel Choir): Rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. in the choir rehearsal room on the second floor above the Cathedral sacristy (entry through the east sacristy door.) This choir sings at the Sunday, 11 a.m. Mass, and for special occasions and Diocesan Liturgies in the Cathedral.
- + The 9 a.m. Ensemble: Rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. till 8 p.m. in the choir rehearsal room. Of course, they sing at the Sunday, 9 a.m. Mass.
- + The Cathedral Women's Schola: This choir focuses on chant and *a capella* polyphony, and usually **sings once a month at the Sunday**, **5 p.m. Mass**. The choir is also engaged at special Cathedral and Diocesan liturgies. They **rehearse on Thursdays from 7 p.m. till 8:30 p.m. at St. Benedict the Moor Church on Martin Luther King Ave.**
- + Cathedral Children's Choir: This choir of Cathedral Parishioner children ages 8-18, rehearses twice a month on Tuesday evenings from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in the choir rehearsal room and sings twice a month at the Sunday 9 a.m. Mass. The Children's Choir also sings at the Christmas Eve 4 p.m. Mass.

For further information and/or clarification, please contact Dr. Bernie Sans at **cathstaugmusic@gmail.com**. For questions regarding the Women's Schola, please contact Ms. Shannon McKay at **ssmckasavant@aol.com**.

Thank you, and hope to have many of you join us this year!!!!

## \*\*\*Cathedral Rectory\*\*\* \*\*NOW HIRING\*\*\*

The Cathedral Rectory is seeking a part time housekeeper/ laundry position. Prior housekeeping experience is preferred. Approximately 16 hours per week. Please email resume or interest to the Parish Manager at cathadmin@gmail.com.

#### ❖ From the Fifth Annual Blues Fest: call for volunteers. Volunteer meetings on August 20 and 23!

The Fifth Annual Blues Fest, proceeds to benefit the St. Benedict Rectory, is October 20-21... and we're calling for volunteers. Join us for one of our meetings and see how you can help! A meeting will be held on **August 20** in the St. Benedict Rectory after the 8 a.m. Mass. For those who can't make Sunday, a meeting will be held on Wednesday, **August 23** at 30 ML King Avenue (parking next door at 34 ML King and driveway behind 30 ML King on Cedar Street side). For more information: stbensbluesfest@gmail.com.



Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL OF THE CATHEDRAL Monday through Friday, following 7 a.m. Mass, until 3 p.m.



# Cathedral Parish Early Education Center

10 Sebastian Ave. St. Augustine, FL 32084 (904) 829-2933

#### Part time positions available at CPEEC

Cathedral Parish Early Education Center (CPEEC) is looking to fill several part time

positions for the 2017-2018 school year. Ideal candidates with possess experience working with infants through five year old children. Please call (904) 829-2933 for more information.

#### ❖Cathedral Parish School seeking substitute teachers for 2017-2018 school year

Cathedral Parish School is in need of substitute teachers for the 2017-18 school year. Assignments are on an as needed basis. All interested persons will need to be background cleared through the Diocese and have taken a Protecting God's Children class also with the Diocese. If you are interested, please call Marianne in the school office at (904) 824-2861 for further details.



Win \$9,000 in tuition to the school of your choice! Or apply \$9,000 to pay off student loans! The drawing will take place on October 6, 2017. You do NOT need to be present to win! Tickets: \$100 Donation. Tickets are available from www.sjaweb.org. Click on Tuition Raffle under Quick Links and obtain tickets online, or call (904) 824-0431 ext. 307.

## \*Do you love to cook for a crowd? Are your weekends free and flexible?

The retired Sisters of St. Joseph need a weekend cook and are looking for a friendly personality, with cooking and kitchen clean up skills. The hours are 9:30-1:30 every Saturday and Sunday. If interested, please contact Pat Poticny, Administrator of Lourdes Convent, at (904) 824-1725.



#### Miraculous Medal Novena

on Tuesdays before 7 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Augustine "O MARY, CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN, PRAY FOR US WHO HAVE RECOURSE TO YOU!"

#### **OFFERTORY FOR AUGUST 13, 2017**

| CATHEDRAL  | \$13,279.00    |  |  |
|--|----------------|--|--|
| St. Benedict the Moor  | \$1,515.00     |  |  |
| Faith Direct   | \$6,183.16     |  |  |
| Weekly Total   | \$20,977.16    |  |  |
| Weekly Amount Needed   | \$23,656.73    |  |  |
| Weekly +/-   | \$(-)2,679.57  |  |  |
| YTD actual thru 6/30/17**  | \$1,225,315.80 |  |  |
| YTD needed thru 6/30/17  | \$1,230,150.00 |  |  |
| YTD +/   | \$(-)4,834.20  |  |  |
| *Weekly total does not include any offertory given via website, mail, etc. **YTD total includes all offertory, e.g. collection baskets, Faith Direct, website, mail, etc. YTD based on a July 1-June 30 fiscal year. |                |  |  |

The deadline for submissions to the Cathedral bulletin is noon on Monday, six days prior to bulletin distribution.

Bulletin editor: ssmckasavant@aol.com

## ❖Vin Scully Rosary CDs will raise funds for Catholic Athletes for Christ

Vin Scully is a Hall of Fame Baseball Broadcaster having served as the Voice of the Dodgers for over 56 years. Did you know that Vin is also a faithful Catholic and receives Holy Communion almost daily? As a fundraiser for *Catholic Athletes for Christ*, Vin has recorded the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The two-CD set contains reflections on each of the mysteries of the Rosary, too, narrated by Mr. Scully. Cost is \$15.00 plus \$3.50 shipping. Go to www.catholicathletesforchrist.org/rosary to order your copy.

#### **❖**Young Adults: A life changing adventure awaits you...

The Missions Office of the Diocese of St. Augustine, in cooperation with the Young Adult Ministry, is pleased to announce a radical opportunity to encounter Christ through service to the poor—and encounter a people half a world away. In June of 2018, Deacon Bryan Ott will partner with Netsanet Ministries for a once-in-a-lifetime mission experience with abandoned and special needs babies, toddlers, and children in Ethiopia. Cost will be approximately \$2500 per person. There will be an informational meeting in the Media Center at St. Joseph Academy in St. Augustine on Wednesday, September 20th at 6 p.m. If you are interested, please email Deacon Bryan at bryan.ott@sjaweb.org.

# ANNOUNCING... WalkING with Purpose Enabling women to know Christ through Scripture

Are you interested in getting together with a group of women to explore your faith? You don't have much Scripture knowledge, but you would like to see how the Scriptures apply to your everyday life? If so, we invite you to consider joining Walking with Purpose at St. Anastasia Catholic Church. Meetings will be either Tuesday evenings or Wednesday mornings, beginning on September 19 or 20. Our 22-week foundational Bible study is designed for both women new to WWP as well as those with more Bible study experience.

Walking with Purpose is a Catholic Bible study for women that aims to bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Christ. Through personal study and small group discussions, the group helps to link our everyday challenges with solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church.

For questions or to be added to the contact list to receive more information, contact Allison DuBrow, allisonmdubrow@gmail.com or (407) 924-7965, or Evette Nowicki, evenow48@gmail.com or (303) 905-0030. For more information, you can also visit www.walkingwithpurpose.com. We hope to see you at Walking with Purpose this fall!

#### ❖ From the Diocesan Family Life Office: Divorced and Separated Ministry to host Fall "Rebuilding" classes

"Rebuilding When Your Relationship Ends," an educational seminar created by Dr. Bruce Fisher for those adjusting to the end of a love relationship, is being offered by the Diocesan Center for Family Life again this fall. The next class **begins on Thursday, Sept. 14** and continues every Thursday through Nov. 16. Classes are held at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Center in Jacksonville. The cost to attend the program is \$50. Call (904) 551-2619 or visit www.dcfl.org for more information or to register.



If at any time you wish to add a name to, or remove a name from, the prayer lists, please email Shannon McKay, bulletin editor, ssmckasavant@aol.com, to let me know.

Or, you may call the Rectory, **824-2806**, and convey your message to one of our staff; the information will be passed on to me.

Many thanks! *SMcK* 

## LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO ARE ILL...

Patricia Ducher, Mary Grace Gardy, Diana Kanaszka, Joshua Solana, Deshawn Jackson, Joey Leach, Pierre Thompson, Fr. Jeff Johnston, Sean Spicer, Brenda Edwards, Delaney Nalepka, Cynthia Stephens, Eileen Cunning Parry, Joe Merritt, Thelma Fazio, John Fazio, Elizabeth Fazio, Ellie Flanagan, Walter Swesky, Joe Pietropola, Kevin Hollington, William "Pierre" Pierce, Shawn Hinkle, Maria Pineda, Sam DiMuzio, Pat DiMuzio, Ann Algreen, Allyson Turner, Donald Wehking, Nancy Totino, Kristen Beebe, Irvine Morrison, Ryan Olschewske, Margaret McCutcheon, Mary Tinto, Guy Tinto, Kathleen Green, John McBryde, JoAnne Esposito, Julie Dopp Koziel, Pricilla DeLaCruz, Jill Burger, Betty Latino, Judy Mills, Adolfo Sepulveda

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

William E. Beach, Alex Carames, Will Soffera, Daniel Soffera, Lt. Col. Dr. Eric J. Colon, Kathryn Emery, CPT Derrick Hoxie IV, LCDR Sean Morrison, Robert Moran, Pamela Kassandra DeVoto, Ryan Olschewske, Patrick Connaway, Nick Brooky, Brandon McFall, Benedetto M. Santorelli, Jr.



#### WEEKLY OPPORTUNITY FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS AND MEMORIALS

Anyone celebrating a special day, or wishing to honor someone's memory, is invited to do so by covering the cost of altar flowers, the Divine Mercy Icon candle, and/or

the Blessed Sacrament Chapel sanctuary lamp.

Deadline will be noon on Monday for the
following week.

Please contact the Rectory office at (904) 824-2806 for further information.

#### CATHEDRAL GIFT BEARERS

If you are assigned to bring up the gifts, please check in with the ushers 15 minutes before the start of Mass. If you do not check in, the ushers will find a replacement for you.

For August 26 and 27 the Gift Bearers are:

Saturday, August 26, 5 p.m. —

Sunday, August 27, 7 a.m. — Naty Stowell

Sunday, August 27, 9 a.m. — Joyce Kaman

Sunday, August 27, 11 a.m. — Marilyn and Jerry Beach

Sunday, August 27, 5 p.m. — Maureen Mitchell and Joe Castello

#### Cathedral Parish Parking: TRUE OR FALSE?

If I have a parish parking permit, I can leave my vehicle in the "Bank of America lot" after Mass.

**PARTIALLY TRUE.** Parishioners do not have to rush to their vehicles after Mass. A limited amount of time is allowed for visiting after Mass or for coffee and donuts, etc. For the 5 p.m. Masses, vehicles must exit the lot by 6:45 p.m.; 7 a.m. Mass by 8:45 a.m.; 9 a.m. Mass by 10:45 a.m.; and 11 a.m. Mass by 12:45 p.m. Vehicles left in the lot after those times will be required to pay when exiting the lot.

THE WHOLE MASS...NOTHING LESS.



Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, Florida Villa Flora—Brown Hall Catholic Renewal Center

#### SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT THE VILLA FLORA-BROWN HALL RENEWAL CENTER

ST. GEORGE STREET, ACROSS FROM THE SSJ MOTHERHOUSE

#### № Every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: Christian Meditation hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph

Christian Meditation, deeply rooted in Christian tradition, aims "to allow God's mysterious presence within us to become more and more not only a reality, but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, to everything we are..." Cost: Donations accepted. Call (904) 824-1752 to register or at www.ssjfl.org.

## Every Saturday, 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Centering Prayer hosted by Sister Margaret Zapf, SSJ

Centering prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. Call (904) 824-1752 to register or at www.ssjfl.org.

Sacred Scripture continually speaks to us of an active commitment to our neighbor and demands of us a shared responsibility for all of humanity.

Pope Saint John Paul II, Centesimus Annus, 51 Cathedral Social Justice Ministry 501-2632

## ❖Stewardship reflection for the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel from the Book of Matthew describes what occurred in Tyre and Sidon when Jesus cured the daughter of a Gentile woman. Tyre and Sidon were Gentile cities. The Apostles faithfully followed the Lord wherever He went, just as we are called to do.

There was only one reason that the Lord made this trip (on foot, of course, as that was the only alternative at that time), and that was to cure the daughter of the Gentile woman. Making an effort like that is a sign of Christ's love, and His understanding of a need. He was also trying to teach His followers, which includes us, how important each individual and her or his faith is.

Jesus' Apostles found this situation, and perhaps even this entire trip, to be a fruitless and empty gesture, more of a bother than it was worth. They even plead with Jesus to ignore the woman and send her away. They said, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." However, Jesus is teaching a lesson to each of us, actually two lessons. He does not "send her away" but finally responds, saying "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."

The two lessons (messages) Jesus provides to us are easily summarized. First, we need to know and understand that Jesus loves us and He is aware of our needs. The second is that when we pray and appeal for help (all the woman finally said was "Lord, help me!") a key to answered prayers is persistence. She had it, and we need to have it as well.

NEED PRAYERS? If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, call 599-9455 or 824-2806 to be added to our prayer list.

