Just as the rain and the snow make the earth fruitful so shall my word enrich you.

—St. Benedict
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 16, 2017

You have crowned the year with your bounty, and your paths overflow with a rich harvest.
— Psalm 65:12

Religious Education

Dear Friends,

This week, we remember especially in our prayers our former Director of Religious Education, Maryanne Bemiller, who died July 5th. Maryanne played an integral part in the faith formation of so many of our children here at St. Joseph on the Brandywine. We thank God for the gift of her life, and for her loving influence on our lives. May eternal rest be granted unto Maryanne, oh Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her.

If you are looking for a book to help your young children or grandchildren understand the Mass, a great option is Don’t Drink the Holy Water, by Fr. Joe Kempf, published by Liguori press. It comes with a DVD and is an excellent, kid friendly explanation of what happens during Mass, what we do, what we say and why we say it. This can be especially helpful if you bring visiting young relatives to Mass with you over the summer, and need a little help answering their questions.

Blessings, Eva

Treasures from our Tradition

Two centuries ago, Archbishop John Carroll worried that Americans would not appreciate the linguistic veil over our worship, and asked that the liturgy in the new United States be in English, not Latin. How did our liturgy come to be in Latin in the first place? In the first century, the dominant language in the regions where the church first flourished was Greek. Today in much of the world, almost everyone speaks at least a bit of English. Recently, the European Union even considered making English its official language, a curious proposal since only two English-speaking countries are members.

Just as English is a unifying language today, it was hard to function in the ancient world without a smattering of Greek. Even the word “Eucharist” comes from the Greek for “thanksgiving.” For a long time, Greek was the language of worship, even in Rome. Slowly, society in the west shifted to a bias for Latin and against Greek. Latin first appeared in public prayer at the end of the second century, in the colonial outposts of North Africa. Soon, Latin became the language of culture, and so as fixed prayer forms were written, they were transmitted in Latin. From Rome and Africa, over the next four centuries, the new liturgical language of Latin spread north to Gaul and Britain.

Pastor’s Notes

Fruit of the Word

The seed is the word of God. The agricultural metaphors in all of today’s readings give richness to the message that the word of God, cultivated in our hearts, bears much fruit in our lives. Creation itself awaits the redemption of all, even as our bodies await the resurrection. Just as we will rejoice in the fulfillment of God’s word, so will all of creation sing for joy in the Reign of God. The word of God is effective and holy; it brings about exactly what it says. It is not futile or empty, but rich in meaning for those who hear and are healed. Those who hear the word of God and keep it will, with all creation, bear much fruit and sing for joy.

Annual Catholic Update

To date, $242,225 pledged out of $255,000 goal. The parish is $12,775 short of its goal. We are still accepting donations for the Appeal. Thank you to those who have already done so.

Choose a Sacred Place...Our columbarium offers to those opting for cremation, an alternative to in-ground inurnment. It could be considered a mini-mausoleum. It contains 80 urn niches, 40 of which are for a single inurnment, while the other 40 are for companion inurnment. It is a beautiful structure. For further information, please call 658-7017.

Simple Ways to Get your Family Involved at Mass

Families involved in church feel more of a connection than those whose participation is limited to simply attending. Why not become an Altar server. Usher, Eucharistic minister or Lector. Call the rectory 658-7017 and we’ll direct your call.

Let Us Hear From You!

If you’re going to the hospital, please let the Parish Office know so that we can visit. Because of the Privacy Act, the hospital cannot announce your presence without permission. Please register as a member of our parish. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick prior to surgery or a hospital visit, please call the Parish Office @ 658-7107.
Adult Formation Corner

SUMMER OF SAINTS: THE FRANCISCANS
The Franciscans today continue to live the Rule of Saint Francis, namely, to observe the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ by living in obedience, in poverty, and in chastity. Their motto “Pax et Bonum” (“Peace and the Good”) defines Franciscan Spirituality.

ST. ALBERT CHMIELOWSKI
Born in 1845 into a wealthy aristocratic Polish family, St. Albert Chmielowski was christened Adam. He lost a leg at the age of 17 fighting in the 1864 revolt against Czar Alexander III. During his twenties and thirties, he became a popular, well-known, and well-loved artist. His interest in art made him keenly aware of the human misery around him. A gentle and compassionate man, he felt called to help those in need. After years of reflection, he became a Franciscan Tertiary and took the name Albert. He abandoned painting and began a life of working with and for the poorest people in Krakow.

In 1887, Albert founded the Brothers of the Third Order of Saint Francis, Servants of the Poor (known as the Gray Brothers after their rough gray habits). In 1891, he founded the women’s congregation of the Order (the Gray Sisters). The brothers and sisters organized food and shelter for the poor and homeless. Albert preached that the calamity of our time was that so many people refused to see and relieve the sufferings of their fellow countrymen and women. He believed the “haves” lived away from the “have-nots” in order to ignore them and leave their care to others. Albert died of stomach cancer on Christmas Day in 1916.

The 1997 film Brother of Our God recounts Albert’s life story. Pope Saint John Paul II was deeply touched by Albert and wrote a play about his way of life and his commitment to the unfortunate. He canonized Albert in 1989.

Mass Intentions
Saturday, July 15
5:00 p.m. Charles O’Connor by Dr. & Mrs. Garry Lyons & family
Sunday, July 16
7:30 a.m. Marie Sowa by Diane & Michael Marinelli
9:00 a.m. Parishioners
10:30 a.m. Mike J. & Rose Grieco by Barb Grieco Pietropaulo
Monday, July 17
7:00 a.m. George J. Brehm by J. W. Brehm
12:05 p.m. Mary Wills by Gene Dolan
Tuesday, July 18
7:00 a.m. Andrew Panichelle by Dr. Bill Moncevicz
12:05 p.m. Ronald Charles Wahl, Sr., by Maria & Jim Haley
Wednesday, July 19
7:00 a.m. A. Albert Testoni by Arlene & Bernard Daney
12:05 p.m. Sal DePaulo by family
Thursday, July 20
7:00 a.m. Henrietta Flynn by Annie & Alex Jordan
12:05 p.m. Thelma Astifan by Joseph & Jeannie Harkins
Friday, July 21
7:00 a.m. William Edmund Shone, Jr., by Bill Grubb
12:05 p.m. Edward L. Kwleska by Olga & Jim Hunt
Saturday, July 22
8:00 a.m. Private intentions by Dr. Bill Moncevicz
5:00 p.m. Linda Hunt by Regina & Bob Falcinelli

Church Shutdown
July 24th – August 25th
Masses will be held in the Family Center.
Thank you!

In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus tells the parable of the sower whose seeds fall on different types of soil. What seeds are you planting? When the Master summons you, what harvest will you be able to point to? Are you nurturing the seeds He gave you? If you think you might have the seed of a religious vocation, please call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations!

Support the Diocese’s Global Solidarity Partnership with the Diocese of San Marcos, Guatemala. Think about joining one of the Diocesan delegations at (www.cdow.org/solidarity)

• Volunteer to help those in need and support organizations such as Catholic Charities and Catholic Relief Services.
• Become a voice for the voiceless by joining the Delaware Catholic Advocacy Network (www.cdow.org/dcan) or the Maryland Catholic Advocacy Network (www.mdcathcon.org/joincan) and advocate on matters of public policy that intersect Catholic Social Teaching.
• Look at others as children of God and do not judge others who may be different from us.