



# *Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Community*

*April 2024*

Dear Friends:

Thank God that we again had a fairly mild winter with a little more snow than the past few years, but nothing we could not handle. Still, spring is my favorite time of the year for many reasons one of which is the beauty of the grounds here at Charlestown. The daffodils, hyacinths and crocus are in full bloom as well as the beautiful forsythia bushes by the St. Charles. They all speak to the wonder of spring. The two beautiful cherry trees outside the chapel are also in full bloom as I write this. The white one is as beautiful as ever but the pink one looks like it's living on borrowed time. Nothing lasts forever but I think those two trees have been here for at least a hundred years. I begin each spring day with a walk around the grounds and it strikes me that while many of the flowers and trees are recent plantings, others are the same ones that were here when I was a student here at St. Charles over fifty years ago. We are lucky to have a great grounds department to take such good care of everything and keep the campus looking so great. I feel blessed each spring to be surrounded by so much new life. It speaks to me so powerfully of what we are celebrating during the Easter season, the grace of new life given to all creation by virtue of the Resurrection of Christ. Even the Sulpician cemetery where the dead are in peace is filled with new life at this time of the year. The birds and squirrels are building nests preparing for their next generations, and it will not be long before we see the baby deer. God's blessings always surround us but, I think, in a special way at this time of the year. Happy spring and Easter to everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has had a chance to make a contribution to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. The campaign is going well, however, we are still short of our goal so for those who have not had a chance to contribute there is still plenty of time and I ask you to consider making a contribution to this worthy endeavor. You can still get a pledge card outside the chapel or in the pastoral care office. Remember that the parish does receive a rebate from what you contribute and we split this money between St. Ann's Parish in downtown Baltimore for their outreach programs, and the Benevolent Care Fund here at Charlestown.

I hope you were able to pick up a copy of Bishop Robert Barron's book on the Eucharist, "This is My Body." (A call to Eucharistic Revival.) If you have not and would like a copy, please see Tammy in the pastoral care office. For the past year Sr. Eileen has been putting thoughts from this book in the weekly bulletin and she will be holding a discussion group on this book with the Spiritual Book Club and you are most welcome to attend. She will let you know the date and you can call her to let her know if you would like to attend.

*Pastoral Care Office - Phone: 410-247-3400 ext. 601-8530 Information Line 410-247-4900*



## *A Note from Sister Eileen*

Dear Friends,

What a glorious season! The festival of life, light and color of Easter/Spring creates and invigorates all of creation.

Hopefully, each of us in some way can feel the Easter/Spring joy and let everyone we meet see it in our lives.

Have you ever thought about Mary Magdalene's frenzied run to Jesus' tomb and her personal encounter with Jesus in the garden?

Each of the four Gospels tells a version of her story and I offer a few questions for your own consideration and prayer.

- Can you relate to Mary Magdalene? In what way?
- What can you learn from Mary Magdalene's life and spiritual transformation?
- Is there something (some stone) blocking you from experiencing the Resurrected Jesus and his unconditional love for you?
- Are you willing to move it or ask God to help you move it?

I pray that during this amazing Easter/Spring season the warmth of the sun will remind you of God's inexhaustible love for you!

Blessings and peace! Sister Eileen



*April – Faith on Film –*

*“A Hidden Life”*

*Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 pm*



*Spiritual Book Club*

*Join us for a discussion of “The Power of Now” by: Eckhart Tolle on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 2:00 pm in the Pastoral Care Jeremiah Room. For more information contact Sr. Eileen at 410-737-8838-601-8587.*

### **Did You Know?**

- At Easter eggs get a unique twist in Catholic areas of Germany, where Osterbaum – or Easter trees – are very popular. Whether using an actual tree or branches cut from a tree and brought inside, these trees are decorated with painted Easter eggs. A similar tradition is the Osterkranz, or Easter wreath, which is decorated with colorful eggs and hung from the ceiling.

- Italy holds solemn processions on Good Friday or Holy Saturday with costumed participants carrying statues of Jesus and Mary through the town. Some towns also stage Passion plays or Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Italian Easter bread is braided with three strands to represent the Holy Trinity and shaped in a crown like the crown of thorns with colored eggs baked into the bread. Some areas of Italy bake their bread in the shape of a dove to symbolize hope.
- Many of the traditions that originated in Spain were carried to their colonies in Central America and South America hundreds of years ago. Processions on Palm Sunday are traditional in some cities in Mexico, commemorating Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The town of Iztapalapa holds one of the largest Passion plays, known as the Via Crucis.
- Ireland holds rather low-key celebrations for Easter. Good Friday is a solemn day in which eggs are collected, but not eaten. Bread is marked with a cross when it is baked on Good Friday, similar to hot cross buns in England. Catholics attend Mass on Easter Sunday, usually wearing new clothes, then return to their homes for a large meal. Homes are also prepared in advance for a priest to come and bless them on Easter Sunday.