



Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Community

May 2024

Dear Friends:

It seems like such a short time ago but in May of 1973 I graduated from St. Charles College. I started here in 1969 and I greatly enjoyed my four years here and the education I received from the Sulpician Fathers. I enjoyed it so much that I asked my bishop to release me as a candidate for the Sulpicians if they would accept me. He agreed and they agreed and so I planned on spending my life as a Sulpician priest teaching in seminaries. I especially dreamed of returning to St. Charles, where I had been so happy, and joining the Sulpician Fathers in the formation of seminarians for the priesthood. I kept that dream alive for the next four years as I pursued my theological education at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. I was ordained a priest in May of 1977 and much to my chagrin it was decided in that same month to close St. Charles due to declining enrollment. I was unhappy about that, but the Sulpicians had other seminaries and I still felt it was my vocation. Sadly, though, it seemed that I would not be returning to St. Charles. I was certainly wrong about that, but that is another story. The question was what to do with the St. Charles property which the Sulpicians had owned for almost one hundred years but could no longer afford to keep. They couldn't afford the taxes that would start with the closing of the seminary. However, since they had owned the property tax free for so many years, they did not want to sell it to developers who would simply cover it with houses. They felt a responsibility to see that in some way the property be used to serve the needs of the community. Various service organizations such as the Lamb of God School rented parts of the property for a while and even the Baltimore Colts used the property for practice but it sat unsold for five years. What to do? Enter a gentleman named John Erickson. In the early 1980's John was looking for property to develop an entirely new concept of retirement living. That also is another story. A Sulpician priest who he had known when he was a student at Catholic University recommended the St. Charles property to him for his endeavor. John fell in love with the property, especially the chapel, and approached the Sulpicians to see if something was possible. The Sulpicians thought it was the perfect solution for all involved. John would get his property, and the Sulpicians would be assured that it would be used for community service. And so in 1983, to the delight of all involved, the dream of Charlestown came to fruition. I was a student at Notre Dame at the time and had closely followed the entire saga. I was happy about the whole thing even though it didn't mean I would ever return to St. Charles since I would continue to teach in seminaries. All that changed in 1994 when I was on the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore teaching American Church History. A vibrant Catholic community had developed at Charlestown and was in need of a priest. My provincial had always known of my love for St. Charles. He asked me if I would be willing to take the position, and, of course, the rest is history. God bless and enjoy the month of May, the month of Our Lady of the Angels.

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



A Note from Sister Eileen

Dear Friends,

As the Blessed Mother is honored this month, I invite you to consider how your relationship with Mary impacts your life.

Here are some questions you might ask yourself:

- What must it have been like to be a teenager open and willing to say yes to God's invitation?
- Did Mary ever doubt her decision?
- What were Mary's thoughts as she travelled to be with Elizabeth? What was their relationship like?
- How did Mary deal with the gossip that must have buzzed around her and Joseph?
- What were Mary's thoughts and feelings as Jesus began His public life?
- How can you imitate Mary in your own life?

Being an SSND calls me to a deep relationship with Mary, and as teachers we always ended the school day asking Mary's blessing on our students.

I offer this blessing to all of you as well.

"My friends, I commend you to the Holy Spirit, through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and I entrust you forever into her sacred hands."

Blessings and peace! Sister Eileen



May – Faith on Film – "Don't Look Up"

Tuesday, May 14th @ 1:00 pm – Emmaus Room in Pastoral Care Office

Did You Know?

□ The Irish rock band U2's song *Magnificent* was inspired by Mary's beautiful song of praise, commonly called the Magnificent, found in the Gospel of Luke.

□ Mary isn't just for Catholics. Mary is important in Islam as well, in which Jesus is known as the prophet 'Isa. She is mentioned dozens of times in the Qur'an. Recently, a mosque in Abu Dhabi was named for "Mary, the mother of Jesus" as a gesture to "consolidate bonds of humanity between followers of different religions."

□ Mary has inspired many of the world's greatest works of art, including sculpture such as Michelangelo's *Pietà* and music such as Franz Schubert's setting of the prayer "Ave Maria."

□ There have been Marian apparitions (appearances) all over the world, including well known occurrences at Guadalupe, Mexico; Lourdes, France; and Fatima, Portugal. Her first apparition was to St. James the Greater at Saragossa, Spain, in 40 CE. Apparitions are considered private revelations, and belief in their veracity is not required by the Catholic Church.



Spiritual Book Club

Join us for a discussion of "The Road Less Travelled" on Tuesday, May 21st @ 2:00 pm in the Pastoral Care Jeremiah Room. For more information contact Sr. Eileen at 410-737-8838-601-8587.