

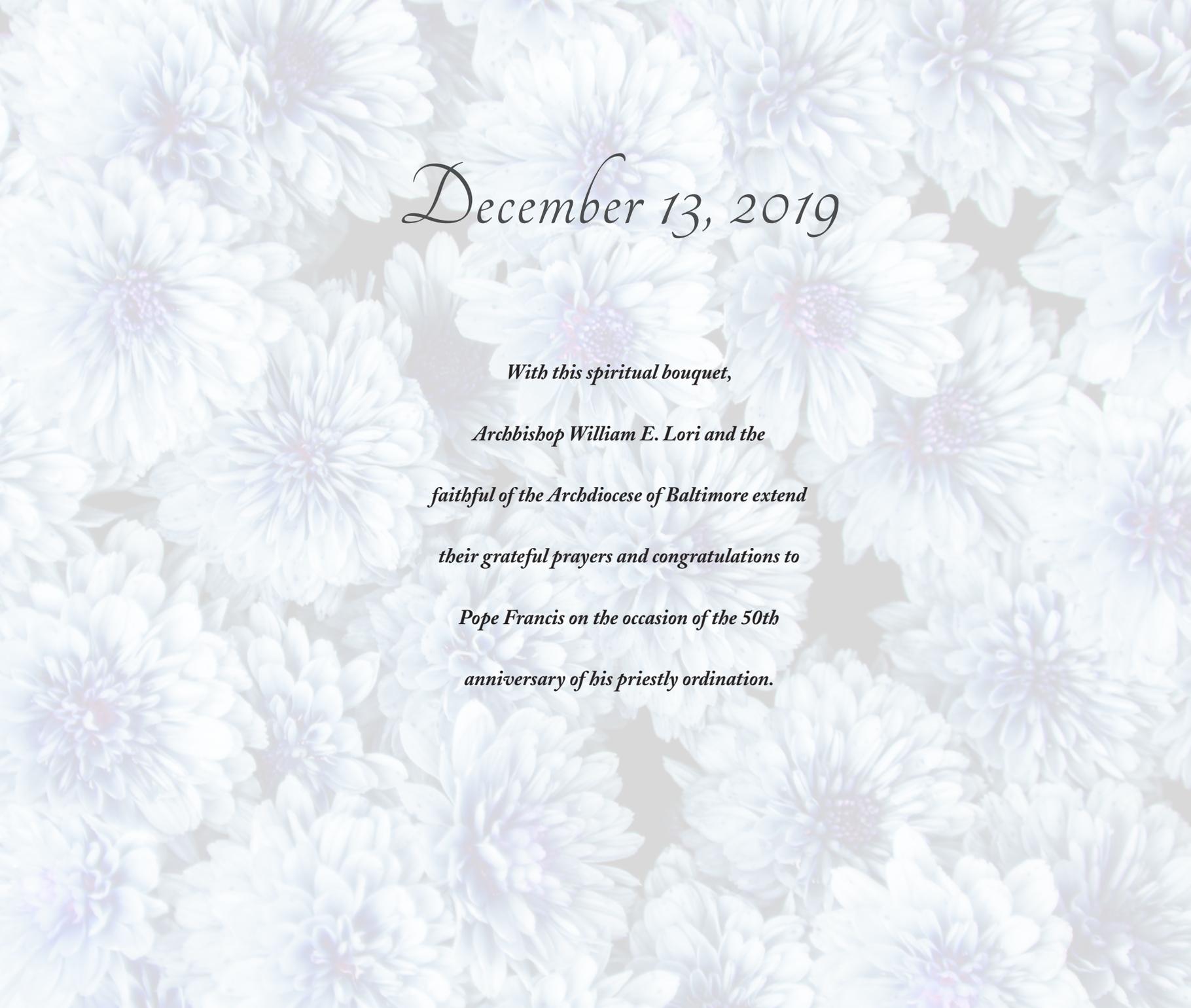


A Spiritual Bouquet

*Celebrating the 50th Anniversary
of the Priestly Ordination of Pope Francis*

*Prayerful congratulations from
the clergy, religious, and lay faithful
of the Archdiocese of Baltimore*



The background of the entire page is a dense, repeating pattern of light blue and white flowers, likely chrysanthemums, with purple centers. The flowers are arranged in a grid-like pattern, filling the entire frame.

December 13, 2019

With this spiritual bouquet,

Archbishop William E. Lori and the

faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore extend

their grateful prayers and congratulations to

Pope Francis on the occasion of the 50th

anniversary of his priestly ordination.

A Letter to Pope Francis from Archbishop William E. Lori

Most Holy Father,

In the first Chrism Mass homily you delivered as pope, you challenged priests the world over to be “shepherds living with the smell of the sheep.” Priests need to go to the “outskirts,” you said, “where there is suffering, bloodshed, blindness that longs for sight, and prisoners in thrall to many evil masters.”

The people of the Archdiocese of Baltimore give thanks that throughout the 50 years of your own priesthood, you have shown us what it means to accompany others and bring God’s mercy to the “peripheries.”

Whether among the poor in the slums of Buenos Aires, with prisoners in jails around the world, or in solidarity with refugees and immigrants from war-ravaged lands, you have shown how to live a Christ-centered life focused on the needs of others.

A priest’s ministry is not about glorifying himself. It must be focused on glorifying God and serving others.

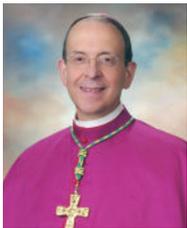
The faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Premier See of the United States, take seriously your call to encounter people wherever they are and in whatever circumstances they find themselves.

In the pages that follow, you will find heartfelt prayers in thanksgiving for the gift of your priesthood. You will also find messages from priests, deacons, religious and lay faithful reflecting on the many ways they evangelize, welcome the stranger, build a culture of inclusion, promote the sanctity of all life, protect creation, share God’s mercy and cultivate holy priests.

We pray that the Lord continues to bless your priesthood and that your example inspires many more to pursue the path to holiness.

Thank you for your “yes” to God.

Sincerely in Christ,



+William E. Lori

Most Reverend William E. Lori
Archbishop of Baltimore

Sharing the Good News



Benito Flores Morales, from left, Heidi Aragon and Maria Portillo lead a group of parishioners from Christ the King Church in Glen Burnie during an evangelization walk through Creekside Village March 17, 2019. (Catholic Review)

Given the rise of those who are not affiliated with any religion, coupled with a decline in Mass attendance and sacramental practice, many of those who lead evangelization efforts in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and its parishes recognize the need for a new apologetics and a heftier catechesis that addresses, among other things, the loss of trust brought on by scandal, questions about faith and science, and questions about meaning arising from the breakdown of relationships in society.

Thus, there is need to till the soil so as to plant anew the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of lifelong Catholics, the disaffected and the searching. In the meantime, every effort is being made to raise up a well-formed dedicated corps of missionary disciples throughout the Archdiocese and to mobilize all the resources of nature and grace at the Archdiocesan level and in our parishes, putting them at the service of the Church's mission to spread the Gospel. The vision and direction of such pastoral outreach is rooted in "Evangelii Gaudium" as reflected in Archbishop William E. Lori's first pastoral letter, "A Light Brightly Visible."

His pastoral letter, "A Light Brightly Visible: Guiding the Path to Missionary Discipleship," issued in July 2015, lays out a blueprint to re-evangelize the local church. Among other items, it articulates vibrant liturgy, good preaching, hospitality and outreach as basic pastoral priorities.

In celebration of Pope Francis' 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore pledge to the Holy Father to remain committed to creating missionary disciples and to spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, and we pledge these prayers to that goal.

For the past 5 years, I have served as a volunteer Youth Minister. Encouraged by your Synod on Youth, I have focused my work more and more on accompanying middle and high school students to help them foster and strengthen their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. By working more to listen and then talk, I seek to help these teens grow in their love and fidelity to Christ. We have taken as our Youth Ministry motto what you told a teenager in Chicago when she asked you what you wanted teens to know. You said, "I don't want you to walk alone." I DON'T WALK ALONE is the motto of my ministry and I seek to accompany these teens through wherever our journey to Christ takes us. God bless your ministry and thank you for the work you do to ensure the safety and value of these children.

COLONEL WILLIAM KRAUS
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Edgewater



A choir sings during an July 28 Mass at St. Joseph in Fullerton. (Catholic Review)

I love showing the 5th and 6th grade children in my parish religious education program how "tech savvy" Pope Francis lives! First the kids look at me as if I've lost my mind. Then I ask them what kind of social media they use. Most often the response is Snapchat and Instagram ... sometimes

Twitter. Then I tell them, "The Pope uses social media too!" I show them how I follow the Pope on Instagram. That's when I hear "WOW!" It's cool the children can relate to such an important and beautiful representative of our faith! Many blessings to you for all the work you do!

JENNIFER BLANDFORD
St. Augustine, Elkridge

The opportunity to facilitate Women's Bible Study in our parish gives me the opportunity to evangelize and spread joy of the Gospel in accordance with our Holy Father's direction. Happy anniversary, Holiness!

ROBIN A. CAMPBELL
St. Paul the Apostle, Ellicott City

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary. Continue to encourage Catholics to follow the path God has planned for them, to maintain a strong relationship with the Trinity, and to forgive, support others as they can. My parish has had a healing ministry since the late 1970s; that and those of the archdiocese are ministering to those with great physical and emotional needs. Our new pastor, Father Erik Arnold, provides very concrete sermons and suggestions for growing closer to God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

PATRICIA M. TOOLAN
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

I feel Pope Francis is wonderful. He is a warm and caring person. He has made a lot of positive changes in the Catholic Church. He is a true disciple of Jesus Christ. May God bless him, protect, him and watch over him always. Love, your servant Carmela.

CARMELA A. DEAN
St. Ignatius, Hickory

Again, congratulations on the event of your jubilee anniversary of your ordination to the priesthood. I live a life of evangelization in several ways. I visit a prison for women and share the faith with the Catholics who come to the meetings. I make rosaries out of cord and give them to various people, such as I did on Halloween to many children who came to our door. I also gave several to Father James Boric for his missionary team for Source of All Hope to give out to the people of Baltimore and I have given them to recipients of meals through the Meals on Wheels program that I occasionally assist with. I am a lector at Mass. I take Holy Communion to patients at a nearby hospital. I have participated in street evangelization during Advent and Lent in Annapolis and Washington, D.C. My husband and I take our children to Catholic Familyland for a summer retreat each summer. We homeschool our children in the Catholic tradition. In the past I have led a Communion service at a nearby retirement home. I used to lead a Holy Hour on First Fridays at our parish. I started and led a Rosary Club at my children's homeschool tutorial a few years ago. I led Boy Scouts in discussions to receive Scout Religious awards. I occasionally greet people before Mass. God bless you!

CATHY SITZWOHL
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

We pray for your health and strength to guide us in our mission in the church of Christ. May the Holy Spirit be with you, inspiring you along our journey.

DEACON CARLOS R MORALES
St. Francis de Sales, Abingdon

The Spirit of Evangelization is alive and well at St. Gabriel of Woodlawn. This small parish services over 1,000 families with gifts from socks to holiday food baskets and gifts, 2 annual blood drives, support to Our Daily Bread, Project PLASE, Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, Camp St. Vincent and a host of others.

Central to our efforts is modeling Christ in a welcoming manner. It is this reason that we can celebrate active parishioners from all over the world, representing over 35 countries as both first and second generation. We applaud and celebrate Pope Francis' selfless efforts to be one with the community and restoring the church to Christ's true direction: All are welcome!

The Community of St. Gabriel offer you prayers and blessings as we live our mission to be: Many Cultures, One Faith. Muchas Culturas, Una Fé. Happy 50th Anniversary of your Ordination.

MONSIGNOR THOMAS L. PHILLIPS
St. Gabriel, Woodlawn

Evangelization is critical with those who know about our Lord but don't attend Mass or have thoughts about getting to know our Lord.

MARY L. BAIN
St Louis, Clarksville

The Mason-Dixon Council #10100 Knights of Columbus in Pylesville, Maryland, strives through our Faith in Action programs and events, to build a better understanding of the New Evangelization by inclusive and welcoming activities for



People being received in the Catholic Church participate in the Rite of Election May 11, 2019 at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. (Catholic Review)

everyone in our parish, and by outreach efforts to our community and those in need of our charity, compassion and love. It is our hope that through your invitation, by our faith and by our actions, we will in some small way help others to "a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ." Thank you, Holy Father, for leading us by your example during 50 years of steadfast devotion to Christ and his Church. We, a tiny Council in the greater Knights of Columbus, are your Knights and honor you by our charity in service to others.

GRAND KNIGHT ROBERT F McCONNELL
St. Mary, Pylesville

Thank you for sharing with us the graces that our Lord has so richly blessed you with, especially for the last 50 blessed years.

EDWARD AND EVELYN BAYLES
St. Louis, Clarksville

Thank you for your guidance and love!

REGINA V. DIETZ
St. Stephen, Bradshaw

At St. Patrick's, many cost-free seminars are offered and open to everyone throughout the year to educate and spread the good news of the Gospel. Our pastor, Father Dale Picarella, is actively involved in each session. In addition, these seminars have created a welcoming environment for all that come to Mass and other parish events.

JO ANN LINGNER
St. Patrick, Havre de Grace

We have been blessed by your commitment to our Lord and to us all. Today we are living in a fractured world. May you be continually blessed on your spiritual journey to spread our Lord's words to all in need to heal; to love one another and to serve our Lord as he has asked us to. Continued Prayers, Love and Blessings.

CONSTANCE S. MCKAIN
St. Michael, Mount Airy

Happy 50th Anniversary! I would like you to know that our parish is involved with the Alpha program, and the Respect for Life ministry. God bless you and your clergy in the Vatican.

ROSE A. ELFREY
St. Mary/Holy Family pastorate, Western Vicariate

Our Prayers are with you, Congratulations!!

TIMOTHY J. RIEU
St. Louis, Clarksville

It is with great gratitude that I send this message of congratulations on the celebration of your 50th anniversary of Priesthood. May God continue to bless you in your ministry to God's people. You are a blessing to so many.

TERESA FILES
Our Lady of the Mountains Parish, Western Maryland

May God Bless you Your Holiness. Be a saint! What else is there?

MICHAEL HURLEY
St. Joseph, Sykesville

I will be praying for the Holy Father's continued health and faithfulness to God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit.

ELIZABETH B. BROOKS

Holy Father, your priestly ordination was the beginning of a truly great gift to the church and to the world. You have modeled for me what ordination means as I joyfully anticipate effect of your leadership on the church and the world now and for years to come.

MONSIGNOR RICHARD H. TILLMAN
Immaculate Conception, Towson

My friend is Presbyterian. We meet once a month for lunch and talk religion at least half of the time

that we are at lunch. He speaks from a Presbyterian viewpoint and I speak from a Catholic viewpoint. We do not agree on many things, but we are tolerant of each other's views. I believe there is some evangelization going on, but it is not visible on the surface as of yet. It is interesting to me that given a Bible verse, we interpret it differently on some occasions. Our biggest difference, of course, is Scripture Only vs. Scripture plus Tradition. I know that both of us believe in Jesus as our savior and the path to salvation.

JOSEPH R. KUDRICK
St. Mark, Fallston

*We have the honor to
profess ourselves with
the most profound
respect...*

We in the St. Philip Neri Knights of Columbus welcome all practicing Catholic men to join our council #14612, join in our fellowship, and good works for our parish and local community.

DAVID A LOTZ
St. Philip Neri, Linthicum

My entire household joins me in congratulating His Holiness, Pope Francis, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. We continue to pray for him and his papacy in his quest to evangelize the world and to keep the Church as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us; Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us; Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Our Lady, help of Christians, pray for us. Amen.

MATTHEW N. NIMPSON SR.
St. John the Evangelist, Frederick

Estimado Papa Francisco, Muchas Gracias por todo de su trabajo duro. Rezo para Ud mucho.

FATHER ANDY AARON
Holy Family, Davidsonville

Praise God and congratulations to you, Pope Francis! Ad multos annos!

FATHER RAYMOND HARRIS
Holy Family, Randallstown

At Immaculate Heart of Mary School, we pledge ourselves to spreading the good news of Jesus with love and compassion to all those around us. In honor of your 50th anniversary of Ordination, dear Holy Father, our community is praying together 50 Hail Marys that the Gospel may be known to all people. May we follow the example of our holy patron, St. Francis de Sales, who taught us: "Do everything for God, uniting yourself to him in word and deed. Walk very simply with the Cross of the Lord and be at peace with yourself."

As we make Jesus present to all those around us, we greet them with the peace and joy of our Risen Savior.

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY SCHOOL
Baynesville

Thank you for your prayerful, holy leadership of our beloved Church. You are in my daily prayers that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide you as you lead us in our Faith. My prayers for your 50th anniversary of your Ordination as Priest: 15 daily Masses, 10 hours of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, 25 Rosaries Daily, include you in my Morning Offering.

MAUREEN F. PARKER
Our Lady of the Fields

We offer praise and gratitude to our Heavenly Father for your 50th anniversary of priestly ordination. We thank you for answering God's call to the vocation and then to lead the Catho-

lic Church. We thank you for calling for us to evangelize, to be a welcoming community to each and every person we encounter, to promote the sanctity of all life, and to share God's mercy. We ask for God's blessings to be poured upon you.

Our family will remember you in our daily prayers, especially at Mass, and specifically as we pray the Rosary together.

We have the honor to profess ourselves with the most profound respect. Your Holiness' most obedient and humble servants,

TONY, RUTH, STEPHANIE, CHASE AND
ANNIE GORSKI
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

In 2011, I read Pope Francis' message in the local paper that he wanted marginalized Catholics to come back to the Church. This message changed my life because I did come back! Through a friend's introduction to Father Andy Aaron we sorted out why I had been away from the Church, how I could come back to receive the sacraments and live in my faith. Even if I did attend church, I could not receive the sacraments, SO what was the purpose?

Today, I am pursuing my faith every day, attending Church, receiving the sacraments, attending Scripture classes for discernment and surrounding myself with people of faith.

My journey is not complete, however, I am well on my way to spiritual healing. I have more peace today and I thank Pope Francis for sending a message of mercy and welcome to me. Pope Francis and Father Andy saved my soul. Thank you!

BERNADINE CROSBY
Holy Family, Davidsonville

We are thankful to Pope Francis for his 50 years of dedicated service to the priesthood. We are encouraged by his words and hope that through his works and God's grace the Catholic Church will continue to flourish and spread the good word of Jesus Christ. Our church has certainly taken his words of welcoming strangers to heart and has

banners and signs welcoming all immigrants to every Mass. We have many Bible study programs and opportunities to participate in the mass as well as the community.

Congratulations on your 50 years of service. God Bless.

LINDA A. BRYANT
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Crofton

I am seated in the last pew as the school children file into church with their teachers for Mass. The students are neatly dressed in uniforms – plaid skirts and khaki pants, white shirts and matching sweaters. I smile at their eagerness as they genuflect and make the Sign of the Cross, and as the older children shepherd their younger prayer partners to their seats. Every pew is filled; every head turned toward the Cross, poised to encounter the love of the living Jesus Christ. A student opens the liturgy with a Call to Worship; all stand and Mass begins.

I am filled with the Holy Spirit as I witness the students participating as lectors, cantors and altar servers. The children's choir fills the church with music; the student congregation listens, sings, prays. I am reminded that this faith-filled community of St. John the Evangelist school is indeed a place of evangelization where students share their faith. As the liturgy concludes, I bow my head in loving gratitude for our School – its staff, administrators and teachers who welcome, love, educate and transform children into disciples of Jesus Christ every day and send them forth to change the world.

MARY JO BIEBERICH
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

Thank you very much for being such a faithful shepherd of the church as a holy priest, bishop and pope.

When you were in Philadelphia in 2015, I went with my parents to the giant outdoor Mass, but I could not see you because we were too far back in the crowd.

I am learning about how to share the Good News of God's Love at Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and at the Little Flowers Catholic Girls Club.

I have also helped at the Junior Legion of Mary by making rosaries for missions and making cards for new parishioners and the elderly residents at local nursing homes.

I like to evangelize when I help my Dad who is a deacon and when I occasionally proclaim Scripture as a lector at Mass.

Every Wednesday of this school year, I will pray a decade of the rosary for you and the members of the Catholic church to share the Good News well. May the Holy Spirit give you good inspiration to speak to other people about the love of Jesus.

Love and prayers from one of your little sheep :)

P.S. - When I was little, I thought that the signs for a restaurant here called "Popeye's" actually said "Pope - Yes!" and was glad that people supported you so much :)

ANGELA YEUNG (11 YEARS OLD)
Sacred Heart, Glyndon

I will offer at least three Masses per week from now until Christmas.

NANCY SKINNER
Church of the Annunciation, Rosedale

Calvert Hall is an independent Catholic and LaSallian school in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Calvert Hall's mission is built on the principle of inclusion presented by our founder, St. John Baptist De LaSalle. We not only practice inclusion in the classroom, but outside of it too. The idea of inclusion in education is that teachers should not just teach the students, rather know their students individually. The importance of connecting spiritually with students is to assess each and every one of the students' needs in and out of the classroom setting. Outside of class, we offer many clubs for everyone's interest and it allows the process of making friends much easier. Coming into Calvert

Hall, I did not have any friends because I did not go to school with anybody else from my middle school. I now have many friends and relationships with my peers built from the many activities I do here at school. My first day at school, I sat with many strangers. They all knew each other because they had met in the summer for soccer practice. They all asked me my name, we connected and now they are some of my better friends. The Campus Ministry Program here attempts to include one peer minister from every activity, so that we may extend the brotherhood. I had not known many upperclassmen, but I was able to be friends with them because of the connection of brotherhood here.

NICHOLAS WAITE
Calvert Hall College High School, Towson

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of your ordination! Deeply grateful for our Catholic faith and for our priests who administer the sacraments, visit the sick, and preach the Gospel, we pray that our Lord and Blessed Mother will guide and bless you on your journey as Vicar of Christ. With good wishes for many blessings,

ANDREW & FLORENCE SALADINO AND FAMILY
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Baltimore



BLESS OUR
IMMIGRANT
SISTERS & BROTHERS
and
all the dear children



Welcoming the Stranger

BUILDING A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

Sacred Heart of Jesus-Sagrado Corazón de Jesús parishioners walk the surrounding neighborhood July 23, 2019 in Baltimore City. (Catholic Review)

Racism manifests itself in racial and ethnic violence or the resurgence of hatred – these blatant offenses against the dignity and humanity of people of color, or more subtly in the systemic racial inequities that persist in our current society — in the criminal justice system, in employment, education, housing, healthcare and political enfranchisement.

“The national conversation confirms that there is still a great deal of work to be done,” Archbishop William E. Lori said in a 2019 pastoral reflection, “The Journey to Racial Justice: Repentance, Healing and Action.” It was his second pastoral reflection in two years on the topic of racism.

The evil of racism has long infected the City of Baltimore and its environs. The systemic effects of racism are evident in the local community. The Archdiocese of Baltimore joins with civil leaders and other leaders of faith communities to address not only the particular impact of racism in our community, but also to address the systemic changes needed to move people out of poverty.

The Church also welcomes immigrants, with several parishes opening their doors to those coming from other countries and providing services to help people acclimate to the area, no matter the continent from which they came, especially Central America, Africa and Southeast Asia. Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese, through its Esperanza Center, provides food, as well as employment training, legal assistance and other services to help immigrants and other indigenous persons integrate into society.

Ground has been broken for the first new Catholic school in Baltimore City in nearly 60 years, and it will be named for Mother Mary Lange, herself an immigrant from the Caribbean who established the first school for girls of color in 1828 in Fells Point, Maryland, and founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence the following year.

The Archdiocese appreciates its long history of being built upon the foundations laid by early colonists and later waves of immigrants, including, sadly, some enslaved persons. But the Archdiocese of Baltimore works today to right the wrongs of the past and build toward a future that welcomes people from all parts of the globe.

In celebration of Pope Francis’ 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore pledge to the Holy Father to welcome the stranger in our midst, to fight for systemic change that lifts all people and to be a beacon for all. We pledge these prayers to those goals.

We are a Jesuit high school in Baltimore, serving boys and girls from all parts of the city, children of various faith traditions and racial and ethnic backgrounds. Our students work at corporate internships one day each week in order to help pay the costs of their education. Our curriculum emphasizes the need to bring about Social Justice, and is rooted in the Jesuit values of Faith, Justice and Reconciliation. Especially our Latino students and their families are greatly appreciative of your championing the rights and needs of immigrants. Our African American students admire the ways in which you speak out against racism. And we support and encourage your call for economic justice and the transformation of our political economies. Also, we desire that everyone listen to your prophetic message in "Laudato Si'," calling for the care of our planet earth. May God continue to bless you and grace us all with your leadership so rooted in Jesus' mercy and love. Viva Cristo Rey!

FATHER RICHARD G. MALLOY, S.J., PH.D.
Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, Baltimore

Our parish selected "welcome" as our foundation for living, caring and living the corporal works of mercy. We act and pray, we celebrate and support not by words or money alone, but by our conviction to the very mission statement we declare as ours. Like His Holiness, we invite and we nurture each in his own station, as a family blessed with diversity and humility. Please accept our humble flower of gratitude, our appeal to St. Ignatius and St. Francis to continue to guide and protect you and to intercede with and to the Holy Spirit for what lies before you.

RICHARD P. KAMENITZER
Catholic Community of South Baltimore

I'm working with a local organization that connects immigrants with legal representation and other resources.

DR. AUDREY GAQUIN
St. Andrew by the Bay, Annapolis

I left the Church 40 years ago because of the culture of exclusion and judgment that permeated the culture. When you were elected Pope, I came back because of your example (washing the feet of prisoners on your first Holy Thursday, a few of whom were women), refusing to condemn gay people. These are the kinds of things Jesus would have done during his ministry! I hope the Catholic Church has the courage to welcome the immigrant and outsiders to this country in spite of the politicians who are currently in power!

MARY E. COX
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ellicott City

Dear Pope Francis, we were so excited when you were made pope and we continue to pray for your success and strength in the position, and the wisdom needed to guide God's flock. Peace and blessings to you.

OMURHU ONOKPISE
St. Francis of Assisi, Fulton

You are an inspiration for all who truly hear the word of God and follow it. May God give you the wisdom, strength and courage to continue in your ministry to the whole world

DEACON PAUL A. GIFFORD
St. John the Evangelist, Columbia

As one of millions who admire you immensely, I congratulate you on this very special anniversary. Your message of joy given to the entire world wherever you go, speaks to me here in America. You and I share the same age, which gives me hope, courage and inspiration as I go forward each day to embrace those I encounter with a smile. My wish and fervent prayer is that you continue to have the strength, the stamina and the support of the Holy Spirit as you fill the role of our most gracious Pope. There is no other quite like you! May our good God continue to watch over you for many years to come!

MARIA GARVEY
St. Bernadette, Severn



In thanksgiving for your 50th anniversary, my family offers seven acts of mercy. In 2015, I organized a family pilgrimage through Regnum Christi to Philadelphia to see Pope Francis (see photo). To prepare for the pilgrimage, a consecrated woman of Regnum Christi helped me organize a preparation retreat to prepare people's hearts to see the journey as a spiritual pilgrimage and not a tourist vacation. People from multiple local parishes came and a teenager had a conversation when she was amazed that people from all over would come and sit all day for a glimpse of Pope Francis. Our faith is amazing! People went to confession who had not been in years. Strangers became friends. One couple had just started dating (they are now married), and name the pilgrimage as a defining moment in their relationship. People still talk about how the pilgrimage helped their faith journey. Currently, I help with a leadership training program at my parish, led by the Legionaries of Christ and Consecrated Women. Kids in grades 1-12 (some are former pilgrims) mentor their peers, learn to talk about their faith and serve others. We also offer formation for parents to help and encourage them to build up a Catholic culture in their homes. Kids come from 13 different schools and a culture of inclusion is vital to the program.

MELISSA FREYMAN
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

Congratulations on your anniversary. I thank God for you and your joyous service to the Church throughout the world. I greet you as an Ally of the LGBT+ group at St. Matthew Parish in Baltimore. All are welcome in the Catholic Church as Jesus showed and taught us. May you continue to encourage the Catholic faithful to be inclusive in welcoming and supporting those of varying orientations. May God continue to bless you and keep you in peace and the joy of the Gospel.

SISTER MARY B. HILMER, C.M.S.
St. Matthew, Baltimore



In celebration of the 50th anniversary of your ordination, I extend to you the prayers of St. Agnes School in Maryland. On this joyous occasion, I am humbled to offer you a brief glimpse into the faithful efforts of my co-workers in Christ. As a Catholic school, the essential cornerstone of our program is to create young people of intellectual competence, compassion and conscience. Moreover, we teach our students to see the Face of Christ in others and to be the Face of Christ for others. Accordingly, we teach our students to become countercultural in a world that promotes self-interest above the needs of the marginalized and to give glory to God thru direct acts of Christian service. At St. Agnes, service is more than a school activity, it has become an integral

part of our curriculum. To this point, each month a group of students are sent out to serve the needy within the Baltimore area. From providing hot meals to the hungry at My Brother's Keeper; to spending time with the elderly at Frederick Villa Nursing Care Center; to delivering lunches to the gentlemen facing homelessness at Westside Shelter; to packing food for low-income families at the Catonsville Emergency Assistance Center (see photo); to reading books and playing games with the young special-needs students at Maiden Choice Elementary School. With each of these projects, our students break down the walls of ignorance and share God's love with our human family. Happy anniversary Pope Francis! AMDG!

ROB COSTANTE
St. Agnes School, Catonsville

Thank you for being our leader. I will pray for you and our Church every day. We have had a welcoming committee to assemble and deliver baskets of spiritual and symbolic food for everyone who registers for our parish. We also have welcoming socials for their whole families about 6-8 times a year to help new members feel part of our community. I have been inviting friends to attend daily Mass at our parish. I have just read your biography and am so grateful that you answered your call by God to serve our Church.

SUSAN CASLER
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Crofton

Holy Father, I offer you my prayers and thank you for leading us by example to serve the poor and the homeless. I volunteer regularly for an organization that has a mobile shower unit brought to the homeless of Baltimore offering them, along with toiletries and clothing, some sense of dignity.

EMILY GRETZ
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Crofton

I would like to contribute five rosaries to Pope Francis' spiritual bouquet ... in the name of LEAD at St. Matthews. Peace.

SARAH YESILONIS
St. Matthew, Baltimore

The parishioners at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart instinctively live out Pope Francis' message of welcoming everyone. The cultural diversity of the parish is a testament to Jesus' message of including all people. Our parish is a loving community that has become a natural blend of many races and cultures. Our Filipino parishioners, for example, have blessed our parish with a rich and colorful tradition of music, festivals, close-knit community families, and their ability to pray and honor God in every setting. Our parish has also welcomed the homeless. We "adopted" a woman who fled here seeking asylum, forced to leave behind her husband yet coming with her four, soon to be five, children. Our parish assisted her with clothes, household goods, school supplies, and groceries. Three years later, the children are doing well and enjoying school. They are acclimating to our country and continue through the asylum process with love and support. Father William Au and the parishioners of the Shrine share a concern for all people: poor or rich, broken or happy families, immigrants and old-timers. No one is less in our eyes and each and every person here is valued. We have learned to look into a stranger's eyes and see Jesus looking back. We thank Pope Francis for his example and teaching calling us to witness to the welcoming and merciful heart of God, and we promise him our prayers daily to strengthen and uphold him as our good shepherd.

CHRISTINE KELLEHER
Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Mount Washington

Thank you for being such a mighty Shepherd.
May God continue to order your steps to freedom.

TONI MOORE-DUGGAN
St. Ignatius, Baltimore

Where I reside there are people from foreign countries. I make a conscious effort to make sure their needs are met and offer them help with pronunciation and other simple tasks that are difficult for them due to the language barrier. In particular, for the past few months I have had the opportunity to walk and pray a daily rosary with a man from Vietnam. Through praying the daily rosary together, and by the grace of Jesus Christ through Mary, this man's pronunciation has improved tremendously; its beautiful to see! The rosary has been an instrument for teaching, welcoming the stranger, and growing in the faith! In memory of your 50th year of service and your outspokenness in welcoming the immigrant; I promise to offer 2 recitations of the rosary specifically for your intentions. Thank you for your extraordinary witness as the leader of our Church; may our loving Father continue to guide you and bless you with gifts of St. Peter.

ADAM FEISTHAMEL
St. Francis of Assisi

Both I and my parish preach all are welcome at our table; true communion recognizes we all belong to the Body of Christ and we cannot remain broken. My church helps our sister parish in Haiti with its schools; as a teacher, I know that knowledge is power to change lives and, in the end, the world. Our Knights council raised awareness and money for Christians persecuted by ISIS. To welcome the stranger, we must not forget those invisible to us with visible suffering.

MICHAEL VANDEREEDT
St. Benadette, Severn

Greetings from St. Matthew Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, where Father Joe Muth and fellow parishioners, especially the

member of LEAD, the LGBTQ+ ministry, provide an all-inclusive parish, where it is very well known that ALL are truly welcome. As a lesbian who was raised Catholic and have felt ostracized by the institutional Catholic Church because of my sexuality, it has been an amazing blessing to find Father Joe and St. Matthew, who have all welcomed me with open arms and loving hearts and made me feel that I belong. I pray that this love and acceptance will flourish throughout the Catholic Church in years to come.

CAROLYN BOUDREAUX
St. Matthew, Baltimore

In our mission to educate young women who transform the world, we recognize at Notre Dame Preparatory School (NDP) that the world often first transforms us. Our culture of service, rooted in the legacy of Blessed Mother Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger and nurtured in the spirit of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, promotes a global

*“With our collective
voice, we commend you
to the Holy Spirit ...”*

lifestyle and welcomes the broader community to join in our mission of transformation. From NDP's many voices, we send prayers: In the voice of the children from Baltimore's public housing, who have attended 35 years at NDP's Camp Umoja, we send a blessing of summer. In the voice of our elders, who have dined and danced for 42 years at our annual luncheon for low-income Catholic seniors, we send a blessing of celebration. In the voice of our Rafiki Club, comprised of

young adults with developmental disabilities, we send a blessing of acceptance.

In the voice of our students, who daily serve those who are marginalized, we send a blessing of transformation.

With our collective voice, we commend you to the Holy Spirit, through the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and we entrust you forever to her blessed hands. Amen

SISTER PATRICIA MCCARRON S.S.N.D., PH.D.
Notre Dame Preparatory School, Towson

You have taught us and shown us, your flock, how to welcome strangers and build a culture of inclusiveness. I'd like to share with you the little part we play in Bel Air, Maryland.

I volunteer for an organization that helps pregnant woman care for themselves and their babies. In my 15 years with the organization, I have helped many women succeed in caring for their families. Recently I was rewarded with a visit from a client I had helped 2 years ago from Uzbekistan. Her children were too old for our services, but she brought another lady from her country who had twin girls. She acted as her interpreter. About an hour later, the other Uzbek client I had helped a few years ago came with her friend who had a baby and needed our help. Because of your example of caring for others I had the joy of seeing how service to our community in Bel Air, Maryland, can expand to extend a helping hand to others from so far away.

KATHY HARTKA
St. Ignatius, Hickory

In the spirit and tradition of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare, the staff, faculty, students, and families of The Catholic High School of Baltimore strive each day to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, reflecting the caring presence and service found there. We take the words of Francis to, "preach the gospel at all times" to heart in our lives as ministers to others of the extravagant love of our God for this world and everyone in it. We

work to care for and respect our earthly home and the many gifts of our God. Our school motto, “Lux tua luceat,” reminds us that we can give, and empower others to give, respect and dignity to all with whom we interact as well as care for the planet we all share.

As we celebrate the 80th anniversary of our Franciscan-sponsored school, we congratulate you on the 50th anniversary of your ordination. We thank you for your years of service and dedication to our Church and the people of God everywhere. We pray for your continued good health and thank you for your bold and courageous leadership. May God bless you each and every day.

SISTER ANN DUTROW, O.S.F.
The Catholic High School of Baltimore

Loving and Gracious God,
You have called on me to welcome the stranger,
To make a home for the wandering migrant.
I am obedient, but afraid.
I bid them eat.
I invite them to rest their weary bones.
But I am wary.
I stand apart.
Is this unexpected guest a friend or a thief?
Is this strange language blessing or cursing me?
But when I allow Your Holy Spirit to enter in,
I find a newness that can only come from You.
I look upon my guest
And suddenly, there is no stranger at all.
I see beyond distinctions of nation, tribe, and border.
In the outcast from a foreign land
And the refugee from a war-torn country
I recognize my brother and sister.
I put aside my fear,
And I am not diminished in sharing your grace
But somehow, I am made more whole.
And the wayward children of Eve
Are reunited.
Holy God, touch us with your newness
May we always welcome the stranger.
May we recognize one another,

Find ourselves in each other.
And be rejoined
As the body of Christ.
Amen

SEAN L. CALLAHAN
President/CEO, Catholic Relief Services

Every single person is welcome and encouraged to attend Mass, services and other events at St. Francis of Assisi Parish (Baltimore). We welcome everyone! No one is a stranger here. I am the chairperson of our Hospitality Committee here. I set up a weekly hospitality in our hall on most every Sunday following our 9:30 a.m. Mass where everyone can gather to share some light refreshments and to get to know one another. Our parishioners and guests accept everyone. No one is a stranger. As a result of this ministry, many people have been helped and we continue to love, respect, and to support one another as Christians!

GINA POGGIOLI GROSS
St. Francis of Assisi, Baltimore

I believe that welcoming the stranger is not separate from promoting the sanctity of life and sharing God’s mercy and Good News. I assist LGBTQ+ Catholics feel supported and remain in the Roman Catholic Church. I am inspired by the strength of their faith and willingness to walk the path of Christ. Welcoming and inclusion allow us to be our authentic selves and live with joy. Thank you for supporting this flock along with the refugees, the tired and hungry.

VIOLETA FUDURIC
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Edgewater

Congratulations on your 50th anniversary of priestly ordination! You are an inspiring example to us of living the Gospel message and remaining connected to our long Catholic tradition. Through homilies and spiritual direction, I endeavor to welcome all persons into God’s family and into the family of the Church. That welcoming, I hope, will be a powerful means of evangeli-

zation not just for those who feel unwelcome, but also for those who already are part of our spiritual family.

I keep you in my prayer every day.

MONSIGNOR MICHAEL SCHLEUPNER
St. Mary Parish, Pylesville

At this great time of reflection on your 50 years of priestly ordination, we are thankful that God our Father has given us a most excellent successor to the chair of St. Peter. In this time when our world is faced with many challenges, you model that we must learn, know and practice our faith, and love and serve all.

His Holiness, your love of God’s people is an example to us, one for which we all must strive. In following your teaching, under the direction of our pastor and clergy, we welcome, accept and include everyone who comes to our parish. Located in America, our parish also includes members from over 20 countries representing many socio-economic backgrounds. His Holiness, you not only teach but most importantly exemplify the importance of inclusion and acceptance, reaching to the peripheries- this is a beauty of our Catholic faith. We love you, we thank God for your life and pray for you each and every day. We are thankful for your acceptance of God’s call to be a priest, and thank you for your prayers and love for our Holy Catholic Church.

DONNA LYNCH
Resurrection of Our Lord, Laurel

In the first grade, we often show acts of kindness every day. For example, we share with each other and take turns. If we notice that a friend is upset or having a bad day, we offer to help them and try to make them feel better. Our classroom is also very welcoming. For example, we always welcome Sister Gertrude to visit our room to read a story. We are a very friendly class and greet visitors with a smile and polite greeting. When new students visit or join our class, we are sure to be kind and welcoming. For example,

we offer to play with new students and always make them feel appreciated and valued. We enjoy spreading and sharing joy as a classroom community when we say our prayers together throughout the day. We pray the Hail Mary and the Our Father. Each week, one student from first grade is assigned the job of being the class prayer leader. We always share the good with our classmates, teachers, and other people in the school. For example, we appreciate and look up to our buddies who are in 8th grade. We are thankful for our buddies and enjoy spending time with them. The Buddy program at SAS creates a wonderful cohesiveness among all students in our school, across all grade levels. We like to share the good with our buddies by being kind and friendly. We also share the good with others through service projects that we participate in throughout the year. Our service projects help people who are in need. We strive to stick together and uplift one another as part of the St. Augustine Catholic School community.

FIRST GRADERS
St. Augustine School, ElkrIDGE

Peaceful
Open hearted
Prayerful
Educated

Full of love
Religious
Amazing
Never gives up
Courageous child of God
Inspirational
Service to God and others

ST. AUGUSTINE SCHOOL, ELKRIDGE

Peaceful
Respectful
Incredible
Ever loving
Saintly
Trustworthy

MRS. GRAHAM'S 4TH GRADE
St. Augustine School, ElkrIDGE

For more than 150 years, Ascension Saint Agnes has been dedicated to the art of healing by providing exceptional care to the greater Baltimore area. In 1862, The Daughters of Charity began Saint Agnes Hospital, carrying on their centuries-old mission of service. The oldest Catholic hospital in Baltimore, Saint Agnes Hospital was originally established by the Daughters of Charity to carry on their centuries-old mission of service and provide nursing care for the poor.

Rooted in the loving ministry of Jesus as healer, we commit ourselves to serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Our Catholic health ministry is dedicated to spiritually centered, holistic care which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities.

As a ministry of the Catholic Church, we affirm the ethical standards of behavior in health care that flow from the Church's teaching about the dignity of the human person, and we adhere to the authoritative guidance of the Church on certain moral issues that face Catholic health care today. "Let your light so shine before men that, seeing your good works, they may glorify your Father in Heaven." Matthew 5:16

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of your priestly ordination. Ascension Saint Agnes sends wishes that your light will continue to shine through your life and many good works.

MARY AUSTIN
Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore

Thank you, dear God, and provider for your people, for sending us Pope Francis to guide,

inspire, and challenge us. To those you plan to bless with Life Eternal with You, You say, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me!" Thank you for Pope Francis' example and message to welcome the strangers. This is certainly the day in our society when that message is needed. May Pope Francis' example and admonition filter down through Bishops and all clergy and to Your people that we may bless You in our homes, communities and nations!

BARBARA DELLER
St. Ignatius, Hickory

Thank you so much for being such a wonderful role model for the whole world. You truly act as a follower of Christ's teachings. This has made positive changes in the lives of many people. God bless you today and always.

CHARLENE MICHALOSKI
Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Edgewood



Protecting God's Creation

Microbiology retention ponds and rain gardens were strategically developed on the campus of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Essex to handle storm water runoff from more than 10,000 square feet of roof making up the church, lower school and high school. (Catholic Review)

The Archdiocese of Baltimore strives to advocate with the faithful, the broader community and in public policy for an “integral human ecology” as set forth in Pope Francis’ encyclical, “Laudato Si’.”

The archdiocese reaches from the Chesapeake Bay to the mountains of Western Maryland. Given the ecological diversity of the region and the reliance of so many people on the fruits of the land and water, the Church supports efforts to care for our common home. Several projects in the Archdiocese support those efforts, including these examples:

- At Immaculate Conception School in Towson, 130 fourth- and fifth-graders made positive changes to the health of the environment with the help of a \$5,000 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund. The students planted 150 native perennials on campus, reducing parking lot runoff. The fourth-graders surveyed the local habitat and focused on sustainable energy at their science fair project. The fifth-graders engineered water filters for their project. Both grades assessed the health of Deep Run Stream at Meadowood Regional Park.
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in Essex partnered with the Gunpowder Valley Conservancy to create rain gardens and micro-bioretenion ponds to handle stormwater runoff from more than 10,000 square feet of roof, which makes its way through Middle River into the Chesapeake Bay. Native plants with root systems reaching some 30-feet deep allow for natural water filtration, while attracting pollinators such as butterflies. Staff are evaluating how best to use those enhancements in the science curriculum.
- The Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City boasts a large array of solar panels and the Archdiocese of Baltimore works with Constellation Energy on a solar project that is expected to meet approximately 20 percent of the Archdiocese’s electricity needs. The Shrine of St. Anthony also hosts Little Portions Farm, a collaboration between the Conventual Franciscans at the Shrine of St. Anthony, a local farmer and the Franciscan Center in Baltimore, whose food program will receive the fresh produce grown on three acres of the shrine’s farmland. The shrine’s farm includes a rotation of crops throughout the year and features a herd of Red Devon cows to help return the fields to their native state after the prior use of chemicals.
- The Archdiocese also cooperates with First Fruits Farm, which grows food to give away to food banks and the poor. The farm has utilized land owned by the Archdiocese to grow crops and several Catholic parishes and schools volunteer to harvest the crops that will be distributed.

In celebration of Pope Francis’ 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore pledge to the Holy Father to care for our common home through a variety of projects. We pledge these prayers to supporting the earth and the environment.

God Bless you on your 50th Anniversary! We love having you as our Pope and admire the tremendously arduous job you are doing! Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish and Schools, located close to the Chesapeake Bay, have just completed a year of environmental best practices – planting trees, two rain gardens, a bay scape garden and 3 micro-bioretenion gardens and installing 4 rain barrels to make our property “Bay-wise certified.” Our curriculum now includes formal learning about protecting Mother Earth and our Student Environmental Club and our Parish Water and Garden Keepers group both help maintain these gardens. We work closely with the Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake to ensure our efforts are tied into protecting God’s creation and relaying this message to our students and parishioners. We wish you continued health, God’s love and guidance and joyous days for many years to come as you continue to lead the modern Catholic world and service all mankind.

DR. RITA M KUREK AND MICHAEL BUTLER
Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Essex



Volunteers harvest vegetables at First Fruits Farm in Freeland to be distributed to local food banks. (Catholic Review)

Because of your encyclical on the environment, our parish was inspired to begin a Care for Creation Ministry. It is going strong. Thank you, Pope Francis, and congratulations on 50 years as a good and holy priest.

DEACON GEORGE SISSON
*Pastorate of St Francis/St Mary/Holy Family,
Western Vicariate*

Thank you for being a good steward of God’s creation. I am praying a rosary for your health and good work.

BECKY CLARK
St. Paul

“We, the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, witness the Gospel in joy and peace, committed to prayer, service, and care for all creation.” Inspired by our Mission Statement, we actively advocate for creation.

SISTER CAROL C. CZYZEWSKI, FSSJ
Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph

Our 7th and 8th grade is mindful of creation by working to recycle and to save animals like turtles by being careful with trash. We are restocking streams to make our waterways healthy. Our class is special because we are beginning to prepare for the next step in our Christian initiation in high school. We are carefully laying our foundation stones as we practice our faith in all that we do. Our 6th graders all work together to share God’s love. We are growing in our mission by learning about Jesus in the New Testament and to then share him in our lives today.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COMMENTS SUMMARIZED BY KAREN DIETZ AND VIRGIA BLEVENS
St. Mary, Pylesville

Pope Francis encyclical, “Laudato Si’,” “On Care for our Common Home” created a spiritual and moral compass for how facilities and real estate is to lead in the management of our buildings and



Volunteers harvest vegetables at First Fruits Farm in Freeland to be distributed to local food banks. (Catholic Review)

properties. With the leadership of Archbishop Lori, 100% of our parishes and schools in the energy co-op have moved away from carbon based energy. 170 parishes and school representing 456 accounts purchase 100% renewable energy. The archdiocese has planted over 2,000 trees in Baltimore City to remove pollutants in increase the forested canopy. Many parishes and schools have removed acres of pavement to allow water to flow and recharge the aquifers. By helping the Holy Father and the Archbishop support the parishioners, students and staff in the Archdiocese of Baltimore to reduce their carbon foot print and improve the quality of life on the planet, I have been blessed to share my ministry in the service of others to the Greater Glory of God.

NOLAN MCCOY
*Director, Facilities Management for the Archdiocese of Baltimore
Catholic Community of South Baltimore*

Congratulations to you on the 50th anniversary of your priestly ordination. I pray that this celebration is also a time of happy reflection: a time of satisfaction in the tremendous good you have accomplished, and a time warmed by the promise of the good you will accomplish in the years to come.

I also write to you in celebration of your priority towards protecting God's creation. As a builder, I believe that the act of construction is one way – our own little way – of taking part in the act of creation, and by extension, it is a way to glorify God.

With the privilege of working within God's creation comes the responsibility of protecting it. Please know that even in an industry of steel and concrete, bulldozers and cranes, men and women make opportunities to protect God's creation.

Catholic churches, schools and other places within the City of Baltimore are built to the specifications of a Green Building Code, as are many other places throughout the Archdiocese. Building designs, materials selections, introduction of air conditioning and heating systems, even the thermal performance of walls and windows, all become intentional choices – choices made with the aim of decreasing negative environmental impacts and improving the quality and healthfulness of the building.

Thank you for prioritizing protecting God's creation among so many important values.

I am, Your Holiness, most respectfully yours in Christ,

TYLER TATE
St. Joseph, Cockeysville



Defending the Sanctity of All Life

Jane DeHitta, a Camp GLOW (God Loves Our World) staff member who delayed cancer treatment so as to not miss the week-long program, takes a selfie with one of the camp participants June 19, 2019 at Monsignor O'Dwyer Retreat House in Sparks (Baltimore County) Maryland. (Catholic Review)

On fundamental questions of safeguarding human life, the situation in the Archdiocese of Baltimore is mixed. In public opinion polls, more and more Americans, especially teenagers and young adults, seem to recognize the importance of the sanctity of life. The turnout of young people from the Archdiocese for the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., is impressive and grows every year. The state of Maryland has sought to expand its pro-abortion laws in the last year, since some supporters of abortion rights fear that the Supreme Court of the United States will reduce or eliminate the law allowing “abortion on demand” in future years.

The Archdiocese encourages support of pro-life pregnancy centers that help women in crisis pregnancies, and has supported women seeking healing after an abortion through outreach efforts including Project Rachel. Proponents of physician assisted suicide have attempted to have the Maryland Legislature pass a law allowing the practice. They have been unsuccessful for the last three years, but the initiative very nearly succeeded this year. They have vowed to try again in the coming legislative session and the Church will continue to oppose these efforts.

With other pro-life groups in Maryland, the Respect Life Office organizes an annual March for Life in the state capital of Annapolis attended by 1,500 people. The Archdiocese promotes and assists in legislative efforts that promote the sanctity of human life. The Archdiocese also promotes research into the use of adult stem cells to create new and effective treatments for illnesses, while resisting the use of embryonic stem cells.

The Archdiocese provides ongoing outreach to those with developmental disabilities, sponsoring special summer camps called Camp GLOW.

In celebration of Pope Francis’ 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore pledge to the Holy Father to continue to advocate for the sanctity and dignity of all life from conception to natural death. We pledge these prayers to supporting those facing the end of life in terminal illness and to ending violence that harms people, the scourge of abortion and the use of the death penalty.

As a nurse case manager, I talk to our elderly people every day to offer encouragement to them, to guide them in their medical care, and to assist in obtaining what they need to survive. They are so often alone and afraid. I continue to pray for the conversion of all the people of the United States to embrace the value of life, and to eliminate laws that allow the murder of so many of our children through abortion. Please pray for our leaders to be effective in achieving this goal!

SHEILAN MATTHAIS
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ellicott City

Our Lady of the Fields Roman Catholic Church joyfully celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination of Pope Francis and salutes the Pope for his priority in promoting the sanctity of all life. The parish is happy to share Pope Francis' vision as the People of God helping the not-yet-born and their mothers and fathers through the spiritual, physical, monetary and advocacy Respect Life Program. Through the Breaking Bread with the Hungry Program, the homeless and the poor are fed and hygiene and basic supplies are distributed. The parishioners also give shelter to the homeless through the Winter Relief Program



*The Little Sisters of the Poor serve the elderly at St. Martin's Home for the Aged in Catonsville.
(Catholic Review)*

and support Our Daily Bread. Each year the elderly are recognized by a special luncheon. Holy Communion and care packages are brought to the home-bound and prayers offered for their needs through our Ministry of Care. The teens and young adults volunteer in Jamaica and collect toys, clothes and funds for our marginalized brothers and sisters in Christ. Our parish supports widows and widowers, poor public school students, and Christmas for the Forgotten. We sell Fair Trade Products for Third World Countries and support many special collections to help all life. We ask God to continue to send His Spirit upon Pope Francis to help him with decisions that follow God's will to continue Christ's presence in the world. We thank the Holy Spirit for the support given to Pope Francis during his pastoral ministry and Pope Francis for promoting the sanctity of all life.

HELEN WYRWAS
Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville

I wish to thank you, Your Holiness, for all that you do to promote the sanctity of all human life. I also pray for God's strength and wisdom as we seek to do the same.

CHRISTINA BERRY
St. Joseph, Cockeysville

This was the very first year that I made the decision to stand in front of a Planned Parenthood facility where abortions are performed every Tuesday and Saturday. My assigned day was Monday for one hour. We prayed the rosary in a small group. Sometimes folks screamed nasty comments from their cars as West Street in Annapolis is a very busy street in late afternoon. I felt very uncomfortable at first, but I knew I was doing the Lord's work.

CAROLYN A. SMITH
Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville

I try to fully support all efforts by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to promote and

defend the sanctity of life in the United States, especially their public efforts before state legislative bodies.

LUANNE P. NEWELL
St. John the Evangelist, Columbia

The last weekend of September, we announced that on the first weekend in October, Respect Life Sunday, we would start a nine-month Spiritual Adoption of the unborn.

Prayer cards, with the prayer written by Bishop Fulton Sheen, along with a commitment card was available to anyone who wanted to adopt and pray for an unborn child, who possibly was in danger of being aborted. Parishioners were encouraged to name their baby, possibly after someone special in their lives. On that first October weekend, parishioners placed their commitment cards in a basket in front of Our Lady statue, asking her to watch over these unborn babies.

A growth picture of an unborn child will be placed on the bulletin board in the back of the church each month so parishioners can see the growth of an unborn child along with all that is happening during that month such as a heartbeat. Long about the sixth month, our Ladies Sodality will hold a parish baby shower, with all gifts being given to the Pregnancy Center.

KAY LAHATTE
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Essex

Congratulations on this momentous occasion. May God continue to bless you and guide us through this journey of life in protecting of all life born and unborn. Amen

SONIA E D'URBANO
St. Augustine, Elkridge

In celebration of Pope Francis' 50th Jubilee as a priest, the Our Lady Queen of Peace Respect Life Committee in Middle River would like to share how it promotes the sanctity of all life by supporting the teaching of the Catholic Church through education, communication, community collabora-

tion and prayer.

The sanctity of life applies to all humanity since God created us in His image, which sets us apart from all other forms of life from conception to natural death. As Catholics, we believe that all life is special to God, and each human being is a living person, with many rights, mainly the right to life. So, anything that harms a human life also impacts God Himself.

On an ongoing basis, the committee informs parishioners of federal and Maryland State legislation as well as action alerts that impact innocent unborn babies and elderly citizens. During the October Respect Life month, the committee invites parishioners to join in prayer for the sanctity of all human life as well as to participate on the committee to help promote a culture of life in the community. Sanctity of life definitely applies to abortion and euthanasia, but it also relates to all forms of evil and injustice perpetuated against human life, which must always be treated with dignity and respect. As missionary disciples of the Lord Jesus, we have a serious responsibility to protect and promote the sanctity of all life. Therefore as Catholics, we approach all human life with a sense of reverence for the Creator who is reflected in that life.

KENNETH B. CRABBE

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Middle River

I have been blessed to be the recipient of your wisdom and teachings. It is an honor to have the opportunity to congratulate you on your 50th anniversary in the priesthood. May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy. I wish you the inspiration from the Irish Blessing and the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy

O Divine Master, grant that I may
Not so much seek to be consoled as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving that we receive
And it's in pardoning that we are pardoned
And it's in dying that we are born to Eternal Life
Amen.

JEANNIE M HUBBARD

St. Pius X, Rodgers Forge

It is with great honor and pleasure that I am wishing you a happy ordination anniversary, your holiness. I work at Washington Hospital Center in Washington, D.C. as a nurse midwife. Our hospital labor room looks over the National Basilica which gives many laboring women strength as they birth their sweet babies. Your influence in our lives is so important and it is evident by every baby that is born named Francis! We love and pray for you every day!

ELIZABETH STEPHENS

St Ignatius

I truly believe that Pope Francis is a breath of fresh air for the church. I had the opportunity to



High school students are among the volunteers at the Catholic Community of Ascension and St. Augustine who support faith formation programs for children with special needs. (Catholic Review)

travel in Argentina. I was looking at the Cathedral while protesters and riot police gathered just a block away. This reinforced everything that Pope Francis teaches. We must all work together to protect the sanctity of life and to protect our world, not only for ourselves but for the generations to come.

MARY G. WEIDNER

St Mary's, Annapolis

I will say the memorare for our Holy Father daily for his intentions. Our parish respect life committee has prayed to end abortion in front of two different abortion mills over the past 25 years, and one has closed. We earnestly pray that Planned Parenthood closes.

PEGGY MORRIS

St John the Evangelist, Severna Park

As leaders of our school, the eighth grade class of Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School, would like to offer you our school's heartfelt congratulations on the 50th anniversary of your priestly ordination. In our humble effort to celebrate this momentous occasion, we would like to share with you a few of the ways our class helps promote the sanctity of all life. To begin with, our yearlong "Exit Project" focuses on the basic human rights of all people as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Many of our readings, writings, and discussions focus on human dignity and the sacredness of life.

In religion class, we have been studying and discussing the sanctity of all life from conception to natural death. We have designed posters to illustrate offenses against the fifth commandment, and to promote the ways we support the sanctity of life. Finally, in the spring, we invite a representative from the archdiocesan Respect Life office to come to our classroom and address our class in a presentation format.

We pray that our humble efforts support your goal of promoting the sanctity of all life.

GINNY GUE

Our Lady of Hope/St. Luke School, Dundalk



Archbishop William E. Lori visits with participants at Camp GLOW (God Loves Our World) June 19, 2019, at Monsignor O'Dwyer Retreat House in Sparks (Baltimore County) Maryland. (Catholic Review)

I promote the sanctity of all life by teaching my children that only God has created life and only God should take it away.

I also share with others my experiences when I tried to conceive my first child, who was born in 2006. Because of my age, my gynecologist sent me to a reproductive endocrinologist. On the first visit and after every single time he said, "I think your best chances of conceiving are through artificial insemination and invitro fertilization," I replied, "OK. Thanks, but I want to stay within the guidelines of the Catholic Church." We were like two broken records month after month for almost two years. He had a job as a doctor and I knew my role as a Catholic. It was an emotional rollercoaster ride and I can now live with peace and joy, knowing I made the right choice, month after month. When my daughter was born, my mother told me that if it can happen once, it can happen again. I replied, "I hope so," and four months later, we were expecting our second child. I also promote the sanctity of life by taking my children to the annual Right to Life March in Washington, D.C., as well as the Maryland March for Life. We also pray for the pro life movement at each meal.

I have been working alongside my daughter to teach her about the sanctity of life as she earns service hours for Confirmation. We package food at the Maryland Food Bank, which gives food to distribution centers that serves those who cannot afford food otherwise.

CATHY SITZWOHL
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

May God be merciful to the Catholic religion and to you.

TIMOTHY C. HENTZ
Catholic Community of Ascension and St. Augustine, Halethorpe and Elkridge

As a Lay Carmelite, I try to lift you up in prayer weekly if not daily! I love your idea of our Church as field hospital! Last year I moved from Baltimore to North Dakota, and I am blessed that I can address my patients' physical and spiritual needs here!

Most significantly, the members of Epiphany parish in Watford City and Bishop Kagan of Bismarck have supported me in developing TEEN STAR, a course to teach adolescents about sexuality. This has opened the door to discuss Theology of the Body with adults of the parish!! Thankfully formation was provided by Father Michael DeAscanis and Archbishop Lori through Baltimore Catholic Medical Guild to prepare for this work Jesus had in mind.

DR. LUCINDA L. MUNDORF
St. Philip Neri, Linthicum

I am praying for you.

MICHAEL BOULWARE
Holy Cross, Baltimore

Congratulations on your 50 years! You lead our church in such difficult times when human life is undervalued. Know that my husband and I pray daily for you and all that you do as leader of our church. We pray daily for the respect of human

life, both the new born as well as the aged. On your special day we will offer Mass, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for your continued health and strength as our leader! Grace, mercy and peace be with you!

MARY V. TAMPLIN
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

Little Flower Parish, under the patronage of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, the "Little Flower," continues to be a parish of traditional prayer and devotion.

Each morning, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass, parishioners recite the "Rosary for Life" and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Each Monday evening, prior to the 7:30 p.m., we



Mount de Sales Academy students wearing blue and white hats are among the voices being heard at the May 4, 2019 Maryland March for Life rally in the state capital of Annapolis. (Catholic Review)

recite the Novena to the Infant of Prague and the Miraculous Medal Novena.

In the Spring, we conduct our annual May procession, carrying the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the neighborhood streets that surround our Church, praying the Rosary as we process. As we continue into the Church, we conclude with the presentation of roses at the foot of the Blessed Mother's statue, the crowning of

the Blessed Mother and Benediction.

As part of our pro-life effort, we sell silk roses on Mother's Day for the benefit of the Pregnancy center on Harford Road and the Women's Care Center on Belair Road.

Contributing to our pro-life efforts are the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, our Respect Life Committee, and our representative to the Maryland Catholic Conference.

Our outreach to the poor has included the distribution of food vouchers and cash assistance in paying for medicine, rent, utilities, and transportation.

We attempt to live out the legacy of St. Therese by doing ordinary things of life with great faithfulness and love.

FATHER MICHAEL J. ORCHIK
Shrine of the Little Flower, Baltimore

Our wonderful Pope Francis has been a shining example of how precious life is and how it should be protected at every stage of creation. With his words and deeds, he has encouraged us to promote the sanctity of life and the evil of abortion. I proudly wear a pro-life pin when out in public and have a bumper sticker prominently displayed on my vehicle. I pray daily for Pope Francis to continue his mission to save lives and for our creator to instill in him the wisdom and strength to carry on the message to the entire world.

Respectfully in the LORD,

DOLORES GERTZ
HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, RANDALLSTOWN



Sharing God's Mercy

*Stephen Cleary, founder of the Threaded Cross ministry, hands a man named Lauro a pair of new white socks in the park outside St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Baltimore.
(Catholic Review)*

In the Archbishop's view, the reality of sin and the urgency of conversion is not well understood even by those who regularly attend Mass, and thus needs to be preached with greater vigor — not with harshness but with genuine pastoral love. During the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, celebrated December 8, 2015, to November 20, 2016, the Archdiocese designated eight churches as places of pilgrimage with a holy door: the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore; the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg; the Shrine of St. Anthony, Ellicott City; St. Ignatius (the historic church), Hickory; St. John the Evangelist, Frederick; St. Mary, Annapolis; and the Shrine of Ss. Peter and Paul, Cumberland.

The designated holy doors in these churches were opened with special ceremonies Dec. 13, 2015. Pilgrims who crossed through one of the Archdiocese's eight Holy Doors, or Doors of Mercy, and fulfilled the other necessary conditions, were granted a Jubilee indulgence according to Church's discipline.

Individual celebration of the Sacrament of Penance is offered in all parishes each week and in some parishes on a daily basis. Most parishes offer Confession on Saturday afternoon, but others offer it prior to Sunday Mass. The faithful are invited to make appointments with their parish priest for Reconciliation outside the regular weekly times.

All seminarians gain pastoral competence through supervised ministry in distinct settings, such as: social justice and the corporal works of mercy; teaching; health care and evangelization. Those aspiring for the permanent diaconate engage in charitable works of mercy, as the diaconate is essentially a ministry of service and mercy.

In March 2016, during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Archbishop Lori led a group of interfaith leaders from Baltimore on pilgrimage to the Holy See to pray for healing in the City of Baltimore following days of unrest and violence after the funeral for a young man who died while in police custody in 2015. The group was cordially received by Pope Francis and it met with various dicasterial officials. The group included representatives of other Christian denominations, such as the local Lutheran bishop and representatives of Baptist and Methodist congregations, as well as Muslim and Jewish faith communities who had joined together to work for peace and healing.

In celebration of Pope Francis' 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore pledge to the Holy Father to perform the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy throughout the Archdiocese. We pledge these prayers as a testament that we will share God's mercy with all those whom we meet.



Father James Boric, rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, from left, and urban missionaries Nathan Belk and Colin Miller talk with a homeless woman Aug. 19, 2019 on Cathedral Street in Baltimore. (Catholic Review)

Happy 50th! Through your priesthood, you have brought Christ to many and inspired millions. I am one of those priests who have been inspired by you. Your call for us to get out of our offices and, not just be with the “sheep,” but smell like them hit me in the deepest recesses of my heart. I knew you were speaking to me. Or rather, I knew God was speaking to me through you. I am the Rector of the oldest Catholic Cathedral in the United States. It is a beautiful church. It is a historic national shrine. And it is a pilgrim destination. But I know this historic church means nothing to God if it remains just a historic remembrance of what used to be. It must be a center where the poor, the addicted and the ill of our city can meet God – TODAY. Inspired by your call to “get out,” we founded an urban missionary program called Source of All Hope Mission. I have two young men living at the Basilica now. They go to Mass, make a holy hour and pray the rosary every day. They are fed, nourished and inspired by Jesus – the Source of All Hope. Then, they take what they have received in prayer and they hit the streets of Baltimore to

bring Christ to the marginalized. I get to go with them 1-2 days a week. It is amazing! My dream is that the Basilica becomes a center of Eucharistic Adoration and radical outreach to the poor. This is how we will try to love God and neighbor in the heart of downtown Baltimore. Thanks for the inspiration!

FATHER JAMES BORIC
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore

Holy Father, I am most deeply indebted and grateful to you for your holy example and witness to the truths of God’s Mercy. I am very inspired by your approach in showing that God’s Mercy is for everyone, teaching that God loves you and forgives us and that his forgiveness reaches the very depths of our brokenness and messiness. I am also thankful for your implementation of the Jubilee of Mercy a couple of years ago. Thanks again for the effort you put in, in emphasizing God’s greatest attribute. Love you!!

ANDREW R. LIKOURDIS
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Baltimore

The Lord blessed me by helping me encourage a man who wanted to go to Reconciliation for the first time in many, many years. By the grace of the Holy Spirit I told him that God looks at our hearts. I knew this man would not be able to believe me had I told him his sins were forgiven already as soon as he wanted to return to our Lord.

“May God continue to shower our Pope Francis with His divine protection and mercy...”

Papa Francis, you are my adopted Grandfather. May God continue to bless you!

VENITA GORNEAU
St. Augustine, Elkridge

For the last 30+ years, I have a Prison Ministry. JESUS told us that when we visit someone in prison, we visit HIM. I can only visit four prisoners in my state. For prisoners in other states, I call and write to their governors, parole boards, help their families, and let them know that JESUS is all forgiving to those who believe in HIM and repent.

BEVERLY P. KOTT
Holy Spirit, Joppa

May God continue to shower our Pope Francis with His divine protection and mercy in Jesus’s name, Amen.

DR. OGECHI L. ELEKWACHI
Church of Annunciation, Rosedale

Archbishop Curley High School has had the Conventual Franciscan Friars present since the school opened, and so has developed a number of Franciscan traditions, including reaching out to the poor and marginalized. Throughout the year there is a food collection at Thanksgiving and a toy collection at Christmas, service hours by all the students, and other activities as they arise. Recently an alumnus who is active in a local parish shared the parish’s outreach to the homeless, done in conjunction with the Baltimore City police. The alumnus asked if Curley students might help. It was decided to have a collection as part of our St. Francis Day liturgy on Oct. 4, and the funds collected were enough to purchase 75 ground tarps and 25 blankets that can be distributed by the police as needed, along with gloves, caps and other items collected by the parish. We are so happy to have “Pope Francis” and your messages, both challenging and inspiring. Our prayers for you as you celebrate your 50th anniversary of ordination!

FATHER DONALD GRZYMSKI, O.F.M., CONV.
Archbishop Curley High School, Baltimore

My brother has four children, three of whom have departed from the Church's teachings in a serious way. I send him a short text to reflect on everyday from Scripture, St. Josemaría Escrivá's teachings, or the Fathers of the Church as well as traditional prayers to help him trust his troubles to God and pray for his children. One of them has taken a turn for the best, although she still has a way to go. We also count on the prayers of our three other siblings and our spouses.

MARÍA M. PINKAS
Holy Family, Randallstown



*Archbishop William E. Lori helps a child try on a new coat during the "Coats for Kids" outreach sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Dec. 8, 2018 at St. Ambrose Church in Park Heights.
(Catholic Review)*

Pray for us and with me. Please pray the Our Father prayers and more at your choice. I appreciate your prayers. God bless you for crossing paths with me on here. In Jesus name, we pray Our Father prayers and Thanks Be To God, Amen

ANNETTE RODRIQUEZ
St. John Parish

I share your pastoral leadership in extending love and mercy to all. We all stand in need of God's

mercy, as such we owe it as a duty to show mercy and love to all. Thank you Holy Father for your humility, gentleness and simplicity as you guide the church in the present time. Happy anniversary.

FATHER AUGUSTINE E. INWANG, M.S.P.
Transfiguration Catholic Community, Baltimore

Prayers for those who need God in their lives!

LINDA E. VECCHIONI
St. Ignatius

Transfiguration Catholic Community congratulates you on your 50-year anniversary. You have taught us that we should show mercy to those who may have hurt us. God bless you for choosing to serve God and His Church.

NANCY A. McCORMICK
Transfiguration Catholic Community, Baltimore

We will continue to pray that you will enjoy strength and health for many more years. We pray especially that you will remain the kind of prophet who reminds us through word and action what is at the core of the Gospel. Stay strong in the face of opposition from those who cannot appreciate the radical message of Jesus. Your simplicity and your openness inspire us.

DENNIS AND FAITH MAURO-HUSE
St. John the Evangelist, Columbia

Thank you, Holy Father, for guiding us to bring people to Our Lord. Life is precious and ends too soon, so we need to live each day as a disciple of Christ. May each day bring you closer to God and may you consider ways to unite our Church.

BARBARA TURTURRO-BROMAN
St. Joseph, Fullerton

Congratulations on your 50th Jubilee as a priest! In thanksgiving for your "yes" to Christ and His Universal Church, I offer a novena to Our Lady Undoer of Knots, your favorite Marian prayer and mine! During Advent my Regnum Christi team

hosts an evangelizing event, "Caroling for Christ," to spread the joy of Christ's birth! We carol through a local neighborhood, hand out candy canes, take prayer requests, pray with our new friends, invite them to join our parish family, and lift them in prayer throughout the Advent Season! This event enables us to encourage one another in the Faith, inspire each other in mission, and helps us to build the Body of Christ in our community and in the world – one soul at a time! With love and gratitude

SUSAN C. OURSLER
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

The parish of Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, will dedicate our participation in the Anne Arundel County Winter Relief Project, Dec. 30, 2019-Jan. 6, 2019 to the honor of and the thanksgiving for Pope Francis' 50 years of priestly life and ministry. In this project we welcome 40-50 poor and homeless people from the streets and fields of Anne Arundel County into our facility for a week's housing, nutrition, entertainment, and care. We use the warmth of our parish facilities and the hearts of our parishioners to provide shelter and warmth from the cold and harshness that is the experience of the poor and the homeless in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. All is done in the name of the Lord.

MONSIGNOR JAY F. O'CONNOR
Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville

It is with a happy heart that we congratulate you on your 50th anniversary of your ordination! We are members of a wonderful parish, filled with God's love. Thank you for all that you do to spread the word of God to others. We feel very honored to have you as the head of our Catholic Church here on earth. We hope someday to be able to be in your presence at the Vatican and to hear you preach the word of God in person. If you would remember us in your prayers, we would be very humbled. May God continue to bless you and keep you close to His heart.

WILLIAM AND KIM DIGNAN



*In thanksgiving for your
“yes” to Christ ... I offer
a novena to Our Lady,
Undoer of Knots.*



St. Ignatius, Hickory

Holy Father, May God continue to bless your efforts to spread the Gospel to all cultures and peoples. We pledge our prayers and support for your efforts. Thank you for your courage.

DR. LAURI PRZYBYSZ
Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville

I am blessed to be the principal of St. Mary's High School in Annapolis, Maryland. The Redemptorist priests founded our school and in the past the School Sisters of Notre Dame ran it. Your messages about God's Mercy are so inspirational. I work with adolescents every day and your message helps them feel accepted. I am a sinner, just as every person on earth. Your focus on God's Mercy reminds me that I can atone for my sins and that God will make me whole so I can try anew each day to live according to God's plan.

Thank you for choosing to serve God as a priest and leading us all towards a closer relationship with Jesus.

On your Golden Jubilee on December 13, 2019, 560 students, faculty and staff at St. Mary's High School will pray for you using the following prayer:

Lord God,

On this day, Pope Francis' Golden Jubilee, we are grateful for the blessing of Pope Francis' service of answering the call to serving as a priest to spread the Good News for the past 50 years. Let us all show mercy to each other today. In our example, may others gain a glimpse of God's infinite mercy for all.

Let us join and pray a decade of the Rosary to thank God for Pope Francis. Amen

MINDI IMES
St. Mary's Parish, Annapolis

Calvert Hall has helped me become a man of integrity and intellect, but especially a man of faith. My time at Calvert Hall has strengthened my relationship with the lord through the different activities that we do here at the hall. At Calvert Hall, we have monthly liturgy, retreats and service opportunities to help strengthen not only my relationship but the community of Calvert Hall. At the Hall, our liturgies are school-wide as well as Friday morning optional Masses for the students who further want to explore their faith with the Lord. Next, our yearly retreats help to strengthen our relationship with God our Father and other people in the Calvert hall community. Our school makes this a mandatory activity. Although mandatory, students say it aids them in the development of their faith and with others. Finally, during our Junior and Senior years, we are required to do service at local service sites so that we may show the light of the lord with others. Through our service we strive to show mercy to others who are less fortunate. At a couple of service nights, we spend hours there and nonstop help out and greet the people who are living or are getting food there. While we serve food, we see their face light up because they see someone cares about them and God is showing mercy that their hope is not lost.

God's Mercy Flows through Calvert Hall. My community at the Hall has helped bring joy to the darkness, Hope to the Hopeless, and Mercy to all. Calvert Hall has strengthened my community and

now more than ever is reaching out to our Baltimore community to help strengthen the relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CARSON GLIKIN
Calvert Hall College High School, Towson

I think it's important to share about God's Mercy because not everyone believes in Jesus Christ and if we share with them, they might turn to the Catholic faith.

I promise to pray one Divine Mercy Chaplet every week for the rest of this year's November and pray for you every time I go to a session of my Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program.

I also go to a cool program called Blue Knights. I have some interesting facts about St. Vincent de Paul to share with you:

As a young boy, Vincent showed his intelligence, so his father sent him to school. When he had finished his studies, he became a priest. His first position was as the teacher of rich children, but later, he was called to the side of a dying peasant, and, in front of a great crowd, the peasant declared all his past confessions had been sacrileges! This made Vincent realize how much the poor people needed God's spiritual help. When he began preaching, tons of people went to confession, so he finally decided to found a congregation of priests who would work especially among the poor. His charities (including the Sisters of Charity) were such a great number that it seemed almost impossible for one man to do it all. He even opened hospitals and homes for orphans and old people, sent missionaries to other countries, brought back prisoners from the Mohammedans, and collected donations for poor people.

JOSEPH R. YEUNG (6 YEARS OLD)
Sacred Heart, Glyndon

Pope Francis: Our Bonardi Family congratulates you on the 50th Jubilee of your ordination. You are faithful, benevolent and full of grace. Our family tries to emulate you by sharing the love and gifts God has given to us with others who

are less fortunate. In fundraising, mentoring, and giving to under-represented communities in the Baltimore area, we hope that they see the gifts as blessings from God and examples of Our Father's mercy and grace. We pray that everyone will choose to live by your example, following the call of the Gospel, by helping others and loving all of God's children, regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic background, gender, or religion, so that we can one day have peace on Earth! Peace & Blessings~

JASON, SHARONNE & JORDAN BONARDI
St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, Woodstock



Forming Holy Priests

*Seminarians process into the outdoor Mass celebrated by Archbishop William E. Lori during the second-annual Faith Fest, Sept. 14, 2019, in Harford County.
(Catholic Review)*

Archbishop Lori and the Director of Vocations desire to create an environment amongst the faithful of the Archdiocese that promotes vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Posters and prayers cards that include pictures and names of each seminarian are annually distributed to churches, Catholic schools, university Catholic centers, youth and young adult ministers, and Catholic lay organizations and retreat centers.

The basic principle of spiritual formation is “to live in intimate and unceasing union with God the Father through his Son, Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit” (PPF106). The spirituality of a priestly way of life is characterized by prayer, celibate chastity, mature obedience, simplicity of life and social justice in imitation of Jesus Christ. “For every priest his spiritual formation is the core which unifies and gives life to his being priest and his acting as a priest” (PDV, no. 45).

A priest is called first to be, and then sent, as a man of prayer and a leader of prayer. “A life of steady prayer first and foremost centered in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, the Liturgy of the Hours and the liturgical cycles, but also in prayer that is personal and devotional” is necessary for true spiritual formation, (cf. PPF 26).

Pastoral formation helps seminarians understand the dynamics of Catholic parishes in the Church today and learn how to apply their theological and pastoral education to the realities of parish life. For that purpose, select local parishes are the sites of pastoral training for every seminarian. The Pastoral Formation Program includes five integrated components: parish ministerial service, academic courses, seminary workshops, faculty mentoring and pastoral team learning. Pastoral formation guides a seminarian in the process of becoming a good leader and a good shepherd in imitation of Christ.

Pastoral formation in the pre-theology program occurs through direct ministry experiences with the poor and suffering, as seminarians examine how and where God is present in such situations.

Priests have the opportunity for continual renewal through retreats, days of reflection and other opportunities for prayer. There is healthy and effective collaboration between the laity and priests in the Archdiocese. A major pastoral responsibility of Archdiocesan priests is to develop, guide and empower laity for ministry. On the parish level, the expertise and involvement of the laity is utilized through membership on collaborative bodies such as the parish’s Finance Council, Pastoral Council, and Board of Corporators. The role of the Parish Pastoral Council is evolving into a body engaged in pastoral planning and assisting the pastor in formulating a vision for the parish.

In celebration of Pope Francis’ 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore pledge to the Holy Father to encourage others to follow his path of commitment to the service of the People of God. We pledge these prayers in support of vocations discernment and in support of happy, healthy and holy priests and other ministers for God’s Church.



Father Michael Foppiano precedes Fathers Matt Himes, Tyler Kline and Matt DeFusco during the opening procession of their June 22, 2019, ordination Mass at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Homeland. (Catholic Review)

After reading about the Church scandals in August 2018, I fervently prayed three things: What can I do to strengthen the Church? What am I capable of doing? And what is Your will for me, Lord? The idea that someone ought to organize spiritual bouquets for priests came to mind. I was at Catholic Familyland in Ohio at the time and didn't think a lot about it at first, but each time I was in eucharistic adoration when I returned home, the idea kept returning to me that someone ought to organize spiritual bouquets for priests. Finally, one day in September, when I left the Adoration Chapel, it occurred to me that I am somebody! So I got to work on it right away and have been organizing a different spiritual bouquet for priests, deacons, and seminarians every ten days. I enjoy the labor. It brings me joy to know I can do this for those who bring Christ to me. My next mission is to approach the children at the schools and in religious education and ask them to "adopt a priest." By "adopting" a priest, each child who participates in this mission will agree to pray for his or her priest every day. This all takes time, but how can I not do it considering all the time priests have put into their

vocation to make me the person I am today? Holy Father, thank you for answering the call to the priesthood and may God bless you on your jubilee anniversary!

CATHY SITZWOHL
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

It was during my time in the Archdiocese of Baltimore that my vocation to the priesthood became fruitful. Through my many interactions with the wonderful priests of the Archdiocese and my work at the Cathedral, as well as my many talks with Archbishop Lori, that I decided to leave it all behind and enter the seminary. Although I am discerning for my home Diocese of Rochester to be closer to my aging parents and disabled brother, I will always remember the support of my adopted Archdiocese that gave me the encouragement to hear and answer the call of God.

DAVID CATALINE
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Baltimore

I am the Anchoress of our Ministry of The Seven Sisters Apostolate which was started in our parish of St. Jane Frances de Chantal in August 2019. The beginning of the original Seven Sisters Apostolate was founded by Janette Howe in 2010, to benefit the Church by supporting the holiness of our priests. We are seven women who have committed to offer a holy hour of prayer exclusively for our pastor, Monsignor Carl Cummings. The commitment of each intercessor is for a distinct day of each week, thus covering a complete week of holy hours of prayer, throughout the year. We, the Seven Sisters, have seen and experienced profound changes in our personal lives, that of our pastor and in our parish life, because of this ministry. We wish to congratulate Pope Francis as he celebrates his 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination.

ROSEMARY KATAFIASZ
St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Rivera Beach

Praying or offering Mass intentions for seminarians and/or priests has been a focus of mine this year. I will pray for the Pope, too.

HELEN T. CHAPAN
St. John the Evangelist, Severna Park

Holy Father, Pope Francis, congratulations. I pray for you. Please pray for me. I am happy you are the Pope. We love you.

FRANCIS STEWART
St. Ignatius, Hickory

May the Holy Spirit guide you as you lead Christ's Church in this time of turmoil and change.

WILLIAM MCGOVERN
St. Ann, Hagerstown

Thank you for the 50 years of shepherding your flock. May the Lord continue to bless and guide you for many more years.

SONYA SMITH
St. Pius V, Baltimore

“
*It was during my time
in the Archdiocese
of Baltimore that
my vocation to the
priesthood became
fruitful.*
”



High school students from the Archdiocese of Baltimore participate in evening prayers July 25, 2019, during the Quo Vadis retreat at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg. (Catholic Review)

reading St. John's gospels. Here is a priest who celebrates Mass amidst a stubborn cold, who drives a beat-up car to hospitals and homes of the elderly, high school graduations, funerals and priestly ordinations. Here is a friend who uses his allowance to quietly donate to his parish school and runs marathons for charity. Here is your brother, Your Holiness, intent on making God's grace available to all. May you be blessed knowing that this brother priest of yours humbly, bumblingly, answers his calling, and faithfully prays for your intentions.

JAMIE C. BROWN
St. John, Westminster

My prayers are with you as you celebrate your 50th anniversary. May God continue to give you good health and strength.

COLLEEN KUHN
Our Lady of Hope, Dundalk

Best wishes on your 50th anniversary of your service to the church.

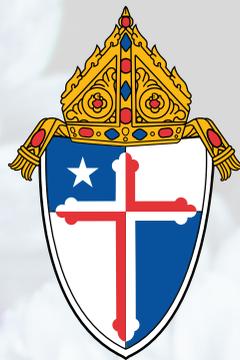
JOHN REESE SR.
St. John Neumann, Annapolis

Your Holiness, I would like to introduce an unremarkably ordinary servant to you – one who often forgets to respond to emails, ignores voicemails and double books himself for appointments. If one could get past these flaws, one would discover in Father Andrew Thomas DeFusco a tireless, dedicated servant on a mission to save souls. He introduced me, a Buddhist and Baptist convert, to the beauty of the Church, the grace of our Holy Mother, and hope in the Eucharist. As my first Confessor, he gently gave and made present the love of Christ to me, a sinner. Here is a preacher who weeps recalling stories with his father and

How We Welcome the Stranger



Middle School students at St. Augustine School, Elkridge



with Prayerful Congratulations From the Archdiocese of Baltimore

Messages will continue to be posted at:
www.archbalt.org/spiritual-bouquet-pope-francis