



St. Paul's Epistle

The Newsletter of
St. Paul's & Trinity Parish
Tivoli, New York
October 2020

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Blessed Are the Peacemakers

Matthew 5:9

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

One of the great gifts God gives us is the opportunity to reflect on the life and witness of our spiritual ancestors. It is very much like remembering the positive attributes of beloved family members who have gone before us. Their lives have a way of inspiring, encouraging, and offering guidance for our own lives. Their lives bolster our resolve to carry on the honored family traditions. The month of October gives us such an opportunity as we remember and celebrate the lives of Francis of Assisi and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Jesus said, “Blessed are the peacemakers,” and both Francis and Eleanor certainly made their mark on human history as people who strove for peace. Both of them, guided by the Spirit and principles of the Prince of Peace dedicated their lives to address the issues of their day that stood in the way of peace, and placed their own lives and social standing in jeopardy as they courageously exposed unjust policies and practices that hindered and even prevented peace among people. They went further by promoting and demonstrating ways, (in the words of our Baptismal Covenant), “to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being” (BCP p. 303).

Both of them understood that true and lasting peace can not be experienced until all people are treated with respect, regarded as equals, and provided equal opportunity to thrive – unhindered by prejudices and attitudes of superiority and privilege. Both grew in their understanding and acceptance that all are brothers and sisters brought forth by the same Creator who regards all equally. Both knew that such an understanding and accompanying policies and practices are the things that make for peace. Both were guided and supported by the spirituality of Jesus, whose life was dedicated to being an agent of God’s Presence and work in the world.

Francis, raised with privileges of wealth and social status became aware of the marginalize people in his society, and began a movement of men and women who transformed the Church and the society by responding to the needs of the poor and disenfranchised of his day. Such efforts begun over eight hundred years ago continue to add quality of life to many, offering support for basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter, educational and health institutions, as well as advocating for just and equal social policies, laws, and practices for all.

Eleanor, also raised with the privileges of wealth, social class, and race in this country, courageously worked on behalf of the marginalized people of this country and the world. She was the driving force behind the writing and implementation of The Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations – influencing the laws, policies, and actions of nations around the world; and she risked her own life in support of racial justice for African Americans in the United States – an extremely unpopular stance to make in the 1940s and ‘50s.

So, how might their lives offer guidance and wisdom for us here and now? The following are questions to ask ourselves:

- 1) What negative, destructive, attitudes and behaviors exist in my environment?
- 2) Which one do I feel most drawn towards to address?
- 3) What gifts, talents, skills, interests has God given me that might be used to address the situation?
- 4) If made whole, reconciled, or improved what would the new situation look like?
- 5) What concrete steps do I need to take to address the situation?
- 6) With whom can I partner to engage this mission?

Take some time this month, inspired by Our Lord Jesus, Francis, and Eleanor, to explore how God is calling you to be a peacemaker – now, at this time in history – your (our) history.

May God grant us the courage and wisdom to do what we can to be agents of peace,
Fr. Masud+

Two Special Services This Month

Sundays - October 4th & 11th at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, October 4 -- A Festive Celebration of the Life and Witness of St. Francis of Assisi
(A Joyful Celebration of God's Gifts of Creation)

Sunday, October 11 -- A Festive Celebration of the Life and Witness of Eleanor Roosevelt
(Special Guests: The Trustees of the Village of Tivoli, with an Address by Mayor Joel Griffith)

Outreach Donations St Paul's and Trinity Parish

We are accepting donations of non-perishable items for the Bard Food Pantry. Items can be left in Memorial Hall or in the lobby of Trinity House.

Donations are still being accepted for the Carousel even though we are not open yet. Items (items accepted are listed on the main entry door) can be left by the downstairs door (under the roof) or an appointment can be made with me for drop off.

I can be reached at 845-464-5045. Thank you.

Audrey

Mission and Outreach

I recently had communication with Ruth Anderson. I wanted to touch base with her and see if she needed anything for her outreach program "Taking It To The Streets".

What I learned is that she has an abundance of goods and is not accepting any donations at this time. So, we are currently suspending our collection of clothing, shoes, et cetera for the "Taking It To The Streets" program.

I asked her to please keep us in mind if she should have any needs in the future.

Thank you, for all the past support in helping Ruth clothe and feed the homeless.

Blessings,

Leigh Knickerbocker

Altar Guild Needs Assistance

The Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the Parish. Our objective is to meet the needs of the Parish, so that we can worship in dignity and beauty. Our primary task is to set up the altar for each service, with each member taking a turn once a month preparing the altar and sanctuary for services, and cleaning up afterwards. We also supervise the decoration of the sanctuary for high holy days, such as Christmastide, and polishing the silverware with help from other volunteers.

It is a ministry performed entirely behind the scene, which normally goes unnoticed unless something goes wrong. Yet, it is a spiritually rich ministry done in silence and reverence because we are "setting up the stage" for what will transpire: the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the central act of worship in our Church.

We are in need of additional volunteers. No prior experience is required. If you would like to help, but can't commit yourself to the monthly task, perhaps you can wash and press the linen every two months. If you have any questions, contact the Vicar and he will put you in contact with one of the guild members for training.

Future of the Carousel Thrift Shop

Plans for opening and the continuation of the Carousel Thrift Shop are currently being considered by the Vestry. A decision should be forthcoming this month. More info to come in the November issue of The Epistle.

Barry

New Altar Frontal

On Sept 13, 2020 we dedicated the alter frontal in honor of George Warnefeld. Many thanks to the Warnefeld family.



Church These Days

Church continues on Sundays with masks, hand sanitizer, and physical distancing respected.



We thank our talented and devoted musicians for their service.

Photos by Susan Rohrmeier

Need Help Coping With Life?

The Recovery Ministry Website, sponsored by our church, has a list of many places to go for help with issues like addiction and abuse.

You can access these resources by clicking this link: <http://stpandt.org/even-more-info.shtml>