Welcome to Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus, Friends of Jesus Catholic Church
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Richard McNeillie
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Pham
Deacons: Mr. Tony Cardella, Mr. Bob MacFarlane,
Mr. Al O’Brien, Mr. Guy T. Puglia, Mr. John
Schuster, and Mr. Gary Yepsen

Baptized into Christ Jesus, we worship as one and reach out to all.

Parish Office hours:
9 AM - 4 PM
Monday-Friday

Liturgy & Sacraments
Weekend Masses
First Saturday (Pro-Life Mass): ....
Saturday Vigil: ........................ 5:30 PM
Sunday: ........................... 7 AM, 9 AM, & 11 AM
En Español .......................... 1 PM
Life Teen: .......................... 5:30 PM
Nursery at 9 AM, 11 AM &
1 PM Spanish Mass

Weekday Masses
Monday: .............................. 8:30 AM
Tuesday: ............................ 8:30 AM & 7 PM
Wednesday: ........................ 8:30 AM & 10 AM
Thursday: .......................... 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM
Friday: .............................. 8:30 AM

Sacrament of Penance
Tuesday:
Church  6:15 - 7 PM
Saturday:
Church 10 AM - 12 PM
Church 4:30-5:20 PM

Perpetual Adoration
Adoration Chapel 24 hrs.

Anointing of the Sick
Please call for a priest if you are seriously ill at home, about to enter the hospital, or if someone is close to death.

Baptism
Classes and Ceremony: Call the Parish Office to register

Marriage
Preparation at least six months before the wedding. Register to attend an information meeting by calling 281-358-6637.

Funerals
Call the Parish Office for more information, 281-358-6637.

4301 Woodridge Parkway, Porter, TX 77365
281-358-6637 • fax 281-358-7973 • www.stmartha.com

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said,
"LET US GO ON TO THE NEARBY VILLAGES THAT I MAY PREACH THERE ALSO. FOR THIS PURPOSE HAVE I COME."

Mark 1:38

February 4, 2018
Martha would like to offer a bit of advice. Once the flu season has diminished, we will make an announcement and will return to all our regular practices.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39
Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-24
Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40; Mk 7:24-30
Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-15; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-22; Mk 8:1-10

FLU PROTOCOL AT MASS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that flu activity is widespread across the country. Until the flu epidemic subsides, we at St. Martha would like to offer a bit of advice for flu protocol at Mass.

- If you are not feeling well, or even suspect you’re getting ill, it’s ok to stay home and miss Mass that day.
- We are a loving, caring community but, at the Sign of Peace, rather than shaking your neighbor’s hand, let’s just give one another a friendly smile & greeting or simply an elbow bump.
- At Communion time, it’s important to remember that if you only take the Host, you are still receiving the full Body & Blood of Christ. Thus it’s ok to by-pass the Cup for now if you so choose.
- Finally, be aware of the common surfaces that everyone touches, for example - door handles. The CDC recommends everyone to wash your hands or use hand sanitizer often. Once the flu season has diminished, we will make an announcement and will return to all our regular practices.

ST. MARTHA’S GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM

St. Martha’s grief support program welcomes all who are experiencing grief of a loved one to join us for the currently meeting grief support group on Tuesdays, from 7-9 PM at the Woodland Hills campus in Room 2. These sessions will continue through Tuesday, March 13. If you have questions please call Laurie at 281-360-2714, or e-mail lauriecardella@outlook.com.

Ash Wednesday – Feb. 14
A day of fast and abstinence.

Mass with Distribution of Ashes:
8:30 AM (Activity Center on the Faith Formation Campus)
10 AM (Church)
7:30 PM (Church)

Service with Distribution of Ashes:
6:30 AM (Church)
12 PM (Church)
4:30 PM (Church)
8 PM—Spanish (Activity Center on the Faith Formation Campus)

GUIDELINES FOR LENTEN OBSERVANCE:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence.

Fasting binds all persons who have completed their 18th birthday through those who have completed their 59th year, unless prevented by poor health. On days of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals sufficient to maintain strength may be taken according to one’s own needs. Eating between meals is not allowed although fluids may be taken.

Abstinence binds all persons who have completed their 14th birthday, unless prevented by poor health. On days of abstinence during Lent, the consumption of meat of mammals or fowl is not allowed. The Church strongly encourages the observance of Friday abstinence throughout the year, but failure to do so is not regarded as sinful.

Lent is a penitential season and as such religious practice such as daily Mass, reception of the Sacrament of Penance, the devotion of the Stations of the Cross, works of charity and justice, and acts of self-denial are highly encouraged.
To Our Prayers
To the parish family of St. Martha,
give of themselves in service to others so that God's mercy
for the many men and women of our parish who generously
through our ministry of care and concern. Let us be grateful
not give them the opportunity to experience that reality
shaped by a gracious and loving God if we, the followers of Jesus, do
Gospel. No one will believe that their lives are truly touched and
and Savior and the Lord asks the Church to prepare the way for his
vation in Jesus. The Lord continues to proclaim that he is the Messiah
people need preparation in order to understand this "good news" of sal-
be fully understood but only lived and accepted.
man for whom human suffering had become a burden almost beyond
ples to learn to do the same for our brothers and sisters in need. The
ings to ease their sufferings. The invitation is also made to us as disci-
pletely into our human condition and reached out to other human be-
s to ease their sufferings. The invitation is also made to us as disci-
fully understood but only lived and accepted. God will meet us in
life and sustain us for the journey. The Gospel of Mark reminds us that
people need preparation in order to understand this "good news" of sal-
vation in Jesus. The Lord continues to proclaim that he is the Messiah
and Savior and the Lord asks the Church to prepare the way for his
Gospel. No one will believe that their lives are truly touched and
shaped by a gracious and loving God if we, the followers of Jesus, do
not give them the opportunity to experience that reality
through our ministry of care and concern. Let us be grateful
for the many men and women of our parish who generously
give of themselves in service to others so that God’s mercy
might be experienced in a concrete way.

Fr. Chester Borski

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From the Pastor

To the parish family of St. Martha,
The Gospel passage chosen for the 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time is
taken from Mark and describes the visit of Jesus to the ailing mother-in-
law of Peter. In his love for detail the evangelist tells us that Jesus
walks into the room, takes her by the hand, and helps her out of bed.
She was restored to health and immediately went about her “ministry”
of serving the guests. Towards the end of this account Mark relates
how, in his casting out of the demons, Jesus ordered them to remain
silent because they knew who he was. The point is being made that
much preparation had to be made by Jesus before the people would be
capable of accepting the reality of the Kingdom being inaugurated
through his preaching and ministry. In fact Jesus would go about
demonstrating the great love and compassion of his Father for humani-
ity with all of its failings, shortcomings, and sufferings. When the people
would begin to see that Jesus, the very Son of God, was willing to do
whatever was needed in order to ease human suffering and lift humani-
ty from its unredeemed condition, then human beings might be ready to
listen to the Gospel and recognize the most divine act of all: Jesus dy-
ing on the cross to save us. In effect, the evangelist is reminding us
listeners that we will not be able to fully embrace the gift of salvation in
Christ unless we too are willing to walk the way of the cross with him.

The central point of the stories in the Gospel is not primarily of
demonstrating divine power but of revealing how Jesus entered com-
pletely into our human condition and reached out to other human be-
s to ease their sufferings. The invitation is also made to us as disci-
plines to learn to do the same for our brothers and sisters in need. The
first reading is a passage from the Book of Job, the classic text about a
man for whom human suffering had become a burden almost beyond
bearing. “Is not man’s life on earth a drudgery?” Towards the end of
the book, Job finally does make peace with his condition in life by
opening himself to the fact that every aspect of life, good and bad, ulti-
mately belongs to God and not to us. Job learned that life can never
be fully understood but only lived and accepted. God will meet us in
life and sustain us for the journey. The Gospel of Mark reminds us that
people need preparation in order to understand this “good news” of sal-
vation in Jesus. The Lord continues to proclaim that he is the Messiah
and Savior and the Lord asks the Church to prepare the way for his
Gospel. No one will believe that their lives are truly touched and
shaped by a gracious and loving God if we, the followers of Jesus, do
not give them the opportunity to experience that reality
through our ministry of care and concern. Let us be grateful
for the many men and women of our parish who generously
give of themselves in service to others so that God’s mercy
might be experienced in a concrete way.

Fr. Chester Borski

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UNBOUND
FREEDOM IN CHRIST CONFERENCE

Want to find your true freedom in Christ? On Feb. 9 and 10,
St. Martha is hosting a nation-wide UNBOUND CONFERENCE.
Unbound helps people forgive, reject sinful patterns and attitudes, and find
their true identity and destiny in Christ. To register visit HoustonUnbound.org
Questions: 832-639-3371

Schedule:
St. Martha Family Life Center, 3702 Woodland Hills Dr.
Friday, Feb. 9, 7—9:30 PM
Saturday, Feb. 10, 8:30 AM—9 PM

Communion to the Sick: If you or a
loved one are in Kingwood Hospital,
and would like a Communion Minister
to visit, call the church office at 281-
358-6637 to let us know. Hospital reg-
ulations require us to have the pa-
tient’s name and room number before
we send someone.

Military Wreath: Please pray for our
active military as seen on the wreath
in the Narthex. To add a loved contact
Jodi at 281-358-6637 or
jodis@stmartha.com.
**Monica's Hope: Prayerful Support for Parents of Troubled Children**

Don't suffer in solitude. Within our Catholic community there are many with troubled children of all ages. Problems like addiction, criminality, mental illness, etc. Find support, strength and encouragement in a confidential environment. And, in the example of St. Monica, you can pray for your child and find peace. The next meeting will be Monday, **Feb. 5** 7:30 PM, in Room 1 on the Woodland Hills Campus. If you have questions, call Paul and Marcia Aegerter at 281-812-1288, e-mail marciaaeg@aol.com or Kathy Czubik at 713-213-7173, e-mail keczubik@mac.com.

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**St. Martha Men’s ACTS Retreat**
**Feb. 8-11, 2018 (English)**

If you have questions, you can contact the retreat director, Gustavo Zapata (832-247-9955), co-directors Tom Watkins (713-894-4488), Manuel Walters (832-312-3043) or acts-m21@stmartha.co. Online pre-registration OPEN at: http://goo.gl/zuiXBX

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**UPCOMING TOURS:**

- **MFAH Bayou Bend Collection & Gardens Tour** — Thursday, Feb. 8, 8 AM - 4 PM
- **Galveston Harbor Tour & the Strand Historic District Tour** — Tuesday, April 17, 8 AM - 5:30 PM

Cost of each Tour: $35 per person*  
Must be 50+ years old to attend.  
Limited number of seats!

The tour bus will depart from Building 3 on the St. Martha Faith Formation Campus at 8 AM.

*Please note that meals are not included in the tour price.

Please register and pay for the tours at the Parish office between 9 AM—4 PM, Monday-Friday. For more information, please contact Annunciata Hopkins at 281-360-1258 or 713-665-9583.

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**St. Martha Women’s Retreat at Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center: Feb. 23-25, 2018**

Start the New Year with a relaxing and prayerful Retreat Weekend. Retreat Theme: Ave Crux, Spes Unica, meaning, "Hail to the Cross, Our Only Hope." Harmonious with the mission of the Passionists, the theme of the Cross is central to an authentic spiritual journey of any Catholic. Is the Cross our only hope? Join us to probe this question, as we look deeper into the relationship of Jesus, His Cross, and our redemption. For more information contact Jan Rodine at 713-416-0680 or to register, please visit the website www.holynameretreatcenter.com

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**St. Martha Women’s ACTS Retreat**
**March 22-25, 2018**

Registration for the March Women’s English ACTS Retreat will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4 after each mass in the Narthex. The ACTS retreat is a three day/three night retreat that focuses on Adoration, Community, Theology and Service and is presented by parishioners of St. Martha’s. Registration is limited and is on a first-come first-served basis and must include a non-refundable deposit of $50. The cost of the retreat is $190 but do not let the financial considerations prevent you from attending the retreat. Please prayerfully consider attending this exciting retreat!! If you have any questions, you can contact the retreat Director, Melanie McTaggart at 832-675-0694 or mmctaggart@hartenergy.com. Registration forms available on-line at www.smcsactsw22.com

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**YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON - Valentine’s Celebration**

Young at Heart-ers - Although it is Ash Wednesday, we will still celebrate Valentine's Day & Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, Feb. 14. Join us for fellowship, bingo and lunch at St. Martha's Family Life Center. Bingo begins at 11 AM, followed by lunch and fellowship that ends at 2 PM. Bring a friend with you and join the fun! We meet on the second, fourth and fifth Wednesday of each month. If transportation is needed, contact Domenica Setz at 713-899-1016. If you have any questions, please call Nancy Karpinski, 713-594-4430.

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**Lenten Divine Mercy Conference: “Rays of Enlightenment” at Christ Redeemer Catholic Church on March 3, 2018.**

This year’s theme: I was…ill and you cared for me - Matt. 25:35-36. Marie Romagano will be the Main Speaker who is with the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge Mass. There is No Charge but seating is limited and Reservations are required! Register at as soon as possible at CTRCC.COM/RAYS-RSVP

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**Martha's Kitchen News**

Thank you for your continued financial support to Martha's Kitchen. Your generosity enables this outreach ministry to provide a hot nutritious lunch each week day to our guests. The winter months can be a challenge for children, adults and especially the elderly to receive proper nutrition on a daily basis.

Thank you for remembering Martha’s Kitchen and the service that it provides to those that come to us for a meal and a welcoming smile.

Please continue to pray for Sister Maria Elena Lopez, MCDP. God Bless.

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**NORTHEAST CATHOLIC SINGLES, A MINISTRY FOR SINGLES AGES 40 and older, will gather on Wednesday, Feb. 7, to talk/eat/drink at 7 PM at Jason's Deli, 1275 Kingwood Drive in Kingwood. For more info, contact Elizabeth Schields (281-441-2552 or elizabeths2@peoplepc.com) or Peggy Bryyles (281-359-4560 or peggybymom4@gmail.com) or subscribe to us on Flocknote at St. Martha’s or St. Mary Magdalene’s website.**
**Vocations Corner**

**Holy Hour of Adoration for Vocations**
- Second Tuesday: 7:30 - 8:30 PM
- Second Friday: 9 - 10 AM

Sponsored by Serra Club Northeast of Houston

**Pro-Life Corner**

**Thank you for your support!**
You may turn your bottle in at Mass or in the church office through February. All proceeds benefit the Gabriel Project and Birthright of Humble. Both ministries help women faced with a crisis pregnancy and provide emotional and financial support to ensure that a mother has all she needs to bring her baby home. We provide unconditional love and understanding to all who seek our help. Please make all checks out to “St. Martha Catholic Church”

**Pro-Life Prayer Opportunities—**
Would you like to meet with other St. Martha parishioners to pray for an end to abortion and to offer real support to the young women in the Houston area struggling with an unplanned pregnancy? Please join us!

**Daily:** After each 8:30 Mass, meet at the back of the sanctuary for a Pro-Life rosary in front of the Blessed Virgin Mary statue.

**Weekly:** After the Thursday rosary, carpool for a light breakfast locally, then for an hour of prayer outside the Planned Parenthood in downtown Houston. Please call Joseph Winslow: 832-412-8765 with any questions.

**Our seminarians** need your continued prayers as they discern their calling to the priesthood. The Office of Vocations has an online prayer calendar to assist you in praying for a specific seminarian each day of the month. Pray with us!

http://www.houstonvocations.com/support-vocations/prayer-calendar

**CHALICE FOR Vocations:**
Please join the WILLIAMS FAMILY in prayer this week as they host the Chalice and pray for Vocations. Interested? Please contact Karen Ehlig at 281-361-7127 or by e-mail at karenehlig@gmail.com to schedule a week.

**St. Martha Rosary Guild**
Enjoy an afternoon of fun, fellowship and making rosaries. We can teach you how to make a rosary and you can make rosaries at our regular meetings or/and you make them at home.

**February Schedule:** We will meet in Room 2 on the Woodland Hills campus the second Sunday from 1-3 PM & the fourth Wednesday from 11:30 AM - 3 PM

**ADULT FAITH FORMATION**

1. **Sunday Morning Adult Ed Series:** Join us Sunday mornings when CCE is in session in Rm. 2 (Faith Formation campus) from 10:40 - 11:45 AM. This semester we will be watching the new six week series from Bishop Robert Barron “DAVID THE KING”. From the Word on Fire website: “King David is the paradigmatic king of the Old Testament. He wasn't perfect, following in the footsteps of Adam in the Garden of Eden, yet, at the same time, his reign pointed towards Jesus Christ. In DAVID THE KING, renowned speaker, Bishop Barron helps us understand this important and courageous man in light of the first king, and the King of Kings.”

2. **Little Rock Scripture Study:** This semester, we will be studying Paul’s Letters from Prison. “In these letters of encouragement, correction, and instruction written from prison, Paul lovingly inspires and challenges us to greater discipleship.” This study is held in the Family Life Center of the Woodland Hills campus Monday mornings, 9:15 - 10:50 AM. To register, please contact Edith Boschian at edithkb@kingwoodcable.net or for questions contact Carla Lewton at carlal@stmartha.com or 281-713-8968.

3. **Breakfast and Bible Study:** Join us on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 AM in Rm. 2 (Faith Formation campus) for a delicious breakfast of coffee, pastries and fruit. Along with food and fellowship we will be reading, studying and sharing on the Sunday Scriptures. No registration or fee is required. Come and enjoy! All are welcome!

**“Protecting God’s Children (PGC)”**
On Thursday, Feb. 8, in the YOUTH CENTER from 6:30-9:30 PM. Must pre-register online at www.virtusonline.org.

No minors accepted, No babysitting and No late admittance.

For more information, please contact SMCC Virtus Coordinators, Ana Luisa Rodriguez or Michelle Campisi at 281-358-1959, ext. 212.

**“Keeping the Promise Alive (KPA) Refresher Workshop”**
On Thursday, Feb. 15, in the YOUTH CENTER from 6:30—8 PM. In order to register for a KPA workshop, you must have attended and met the 5-year PGC anniversary date. You will need to log into your original VIRTUS account at www.virtusonline.org, if you need this information you may contact SMCC Coordinators. NO minors accepted, NO babysitting and NO late admittance. Please arrive 30 minutes early.

For more information, please contact SMCC Virtus Coordinators, Ana Luisa Rodriguez (anarodz@stmartha.com) or Michelle Campisi (michellec@stmartha.com) at 281-358-1959 ext. 212.

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http://www.houstonvocations.com/support-vocations/prayer-calendar
Calling moms of all ages!

St Martha’s Moms Group

Motherhood Fellowship Nights from 7–8:30 pm.

February 20: Parishioner and Public Relations Manager for Human Coalition Lauren Enriquez will speak about the Pro Life Movement

March 20: Lenten reflection

April 17: Dr. Brooke Jemelka of Caritas Women’s Care will be speaking

Be sure to join our Facebook group: St. Martha’s Moms (Kingwood, Tx). For more information email Katie at stmarthasmoms@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you.

SAVE THE DATE

VBS 2018
JUNE 11-15th
REGISTRATION BEGINS APRIL 3RD

St. Martha Catholic School News

DISCIPLE NOW
A DAY OF SERVICE WITH DODGEBALL

Saturdays, Feb. 17
[1:00 – 5:00 pm]

Students will be organized into small groups to serve at service sites in the Kingwood/Humble area and then return to St. Martha for fellowship and dodgeball.

Get a permission form on the Edge webpage or e-mail Lisa Hartsfield: lisah@stmartha.com

Eight SMCS students were honored at the 14th Annual University of St. Thomas Essay Contest awards ceremony at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart on Wednesday, Jan. 24.

4th Grade (1,093 Total Entries): TiClo Laroche - 4th place; Vanessa Rhodes - Honorable Mention

5th Grade (1,068 Total Entries): Bailey Carney - Honorable Mention

6th Grade (1,080 Total Entries): Andrew Dennis - 2nd Place; Mackenzie Young - 4th Place

7th Grade (1,094 Total Entries): Maggie Jo Pradel - 3rd Place

8th Grade (1,046 Total Entries): Gabby Norman - 1st Place; Lily Watkins - 4th Place

Thousands of 3rd to 12th grade students from Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston participated in the contest, which was sponsored by the UST Office of Catholic Outreach.
Our first volunteer training session of the year will be held Friday, Feb. 16 through Sunday, Feb. 18. Our cancer patients are matched with a support volunteer who has survived the same or similar type of cancer to receive one-on-one support from someone who understands firsthand what they are going through. Support volunteers can also be caregivers to those that have been diagnosed with cancer. Opportunities are also available for volunteers to make hospital visits to cancer patients and their families. If you or anyone you know is interested in providing hope to those affected by cancer, please contact Yolanda Lopez at 713-364-1671 or yolandal@cancare.org.
My dear friends in Christ,

Pope Francis has urged all of us to not fall into indifference, but to become active instruments of mercy. Our Holy Father asks us to reflect on the life of Christ who is our model for corporal works of mercy. Through the Diocesan Services Fund (DSF) we are able to be instruments of mercy to thousands in our Archdiocese who are sick, poor, imprisoned, elderly or facing a crisis in their lives, such as the one caused for so many by Hurricane Harvey.

During and after this devastating storm, many of you were instruments of mercy to your neighbors, friends, and even strangers, offering comfort and compassion. I know many of you rolled up your sleeves and helped people rebuild their homes and businesses. I am proud of all of you for being God’s hands to perform gestures of great love and compassion. Supported by DSF, Catholic Charities served as the Archdiocese’s major disaster response organization, serving more than 15,000 people in the immediate aftermath of the storm. They are still at work offering long-term recovery services. San José Clinic, also supported by DSF, provided medical care to over 1,800 people.

The day-to-day operations of DSF also need our support, and a few of the programs highlighted this year are Pro-Life Activities, Apostleship of the Sea and the Office of Vocations. Many of you may not be familiar with the mission of the Apostleship of the Sea, but it has been a vital ministry of our Archdiocese for more than a half century. Some 300,000 seafarers come into the Port of Houston each year and 60% are Catholic. They bring 80% of our goods that we consume into our city. Offering the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion along with pastoral counseling and compassionate support for those who often spend months at a time at sea, often more than two months, is part of our responsibility to welcome the stranger.

The mission of Pro-Life Activities is to protect the most vulnerable among us, recognizing the dignity of each human person from the unborn child, to the elderly at the end of their lives, to the prisoner on death row. Human life above all belongs to God and we should make every effort to defend it. This Office is offering a new program scheduled to launch this year, called Jerone’s Hope, which will assist parents who have received a difficult pregnancy diagnosis or who have lost a baby and need counseling and pastoral direction. It is because of your DSF contributions that we are able to respond to needs like these and compassionately help those who are searching for answers, healing and hope.

When he was Pope, Saint John Paul II, wrote a document called Pastores Dabo Vobis (in English I Will Give You Shepherds). This message helped to shape programs for priestly formation and vocational discernment. Our local Office of Vocations fulfills part of this important vision of increasing the number of men who are discerning to be our future shepherds. Through the celebration of the sacraments and pastoral ministry, these fishers of men become instruments of mercy for all of us.

I thank you for your gracious commitment to the DSF. With gratitude to God for your faithful discipleship and praying for God’s abundant blessing upon you, I am

Your faithful Shepherd,

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo
Archbishop of Galveston-Houston
Mis queridos amigos en Cristo,

El Papa Francisco nos ha instado a todos a no caer en la indiferencia, sino a convertirnos en instrumentos activos de misericordia. Nuestro Santo Padre nos pide que reflexionemos sobre la vida de Cristo, quien es nuestro modelo de obras de misericordia corporal. A través del Fondo de Servicios Diocesanos (DSF) podemos ser instrumentos de misericordia para miles en nuestra Arquidiócesis que están enfermos, pobres, encarcelados, ancianos o que enfrentan una crisis en sus vidas, como la causada por el huracán Harvey.

Durante y después de esta tormenta devastadora, muchos de ustedes fueron instrumentos de misericordia para sus vecinos, amigos, e incluso extraños, ofreciéndoles consuelo y compasión. Sé que muchos de ustedes se remangaron sus camisas y ayudaron a las personas a reconstruir sus hogares y negocios. Estoy orgulloso de todos ustedes por ser los ministros de Dios para realizar gestos de gran amor y compasión. Con el apoyo de DSF, Caridades Católicas funcionó como la principal organización de respuesta ante desastres de la Arquidiócesis y prestó servicio a más de 15,000 personas inmediatamente después de la tormenta. Todavía están trabajando ofreciendo servicios de recuperación a largo plazo. La Clínica San José, también apoyada por DSF, brindó atención médica a más de 1,800 personas.

Las operaciones diarias de DSF también necesitan nuestro apoyo, y algunos de los programas destacados (resaltados, relevados) este año son Actividades Pro-Vida, Apostolado del Mar y la Oficina de Vocaciones. Muchos de ustedes pueden no estar familiarizados con la misión del Apostolado del Mar, pero ha sido un ministerio vital de nuestra Arquidiócesis durante más de medio siglo. Unos 300,000 marinos llegan al Puerto de Houston cada año y el 60% son católicos. Traen el 80% de nuestros productos que consumimos a nuestra ciudad. Ofrecer los sacramentos de la Reconciliación y la Sagrada Comunión junto con asesoramiento pastoral y apoyo compasivo para aquellos que a menudo pasan muchos meses consecutivos en el mar. Es parte de nuestra responsabilidad de recibir al extraño.

La misión de Actividades Pro-Vida es proteger a los más vulnerables entre nosotros, reconociendo la dignidad de cada persona humana desde el niño no nacido, a los ancianos al final de la vida, hasta el preso en pena de muerte. La vida humana, sobre todo, pertenece a Dios y debemos hacer todo lo posible para defenderla. Esta oficina está ofreciendo un nuevo programa proyectado para este año, llamado Jerome's Hope, que ayudará a los padres que han recibido un diagnóstico de embarazo difícil o que han perdido un bebé y necesitan consejería y dirección pastoral. Gracias a sus contribuciones a DSF, podemos responder a necesidades como estas y ayudar compasivamente a quienes buscan respuestas, sanación, y esperanza.

Cuando era Papa, San Juan Pablo II, escribió un documento llamado Pastores Dabo Vobis (en Español Os Daré Pastores). Este mensaje ayudó a formar programas para la formación sacerdotal y el discernimiento vocacional. Nuestra Oficina de Vocaciones local cumple parte de esta importante visión de aumentar la cantidad de hombres que están discerniendo para ser nuestro futuros pastores. Mediante la celebración de los sacramentos y el ministerio pastoral, estos pescadores de hombres se convierten en instrumentos de misericordia para todos nosotros.

Les agradezco por su amable compromiso para con el DSF. Con gratitud hacia Dios por su fiel discípulado y orando por la abundante bendición de Dios sobre ustedes, soy

Su fiel Pastor,

*Daniel Cardinal DiNardo*

Arzobispo de Galveston-Houston
A la familia parroquial de Santa Marta,

El pasaje del Evangelio elegido para el quinto domingo del tiempo ordinario está tomado de Marcos y describe la visita de Jesús a la suegra de Pedro que está enferma. En su amor por los detalles, el evangelista nos dice que Jesús entra a la habitación, la toma de la mano y la ayuda a levantarse de la cama. Su salud fue restaurada y de inmediatamente empezó su "ministerio" de servir a los invitados. Hacia el final de este relato, Marcos describe cómo, al expulsar a los demonios, Jesús les ordena permanecer en silencio porque sabían quién era. Se dice que Jesús tuvo que prepararse mucho antes de que la gente fuera capaz de aceptar la realidad del Reino que se inauguraba a través de su predicación y ministerio. De hecho, Jesús demostraba el gran amor y compasión de su Padre por la humanidad con todas sus fallas, deficiencias y sufrimientos. Cuando las personas comenzaban a ver que Jesús, el mismo Hijo de Dios, estaba dispuesto a hacer lo que fuera necesario para aliviar el sufrimiento humano y sacar a la humanidad de su condición no redimida, entonces los seres humanos podrían estar listos para escuchar el Evangelio y reconocer el acto más divino de todos: Jesús muriendo en la cruz para salvarnos. En efecto, el evangelista nos recuerda que no podremos abrazar por completo el don de la salvación en Cristo a menos que nosotros también estemos dispuestos a caminar por el camino de la cruz con él.

El punto central de las historias en el Evangelio no es principalmente demostrar el poder divino sino revelar cómo Jesús entró completamente en nuestra condición humana y se acercó a otros seres humanos para aliviar sus sufrimientos. La invitación también se nos hace como discípulos para aprender a hacer lo mismo con nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados. La primera lectura es un pasaje del Libro de Job, el texto clásico sobre un hombre para quien el sufrimiento humano se había convertido en una carga casi imposible de soportar. "¿No es la vida del hombre en la tierra un trabajo pesado?" Hacia el final del libro, Job finalmente hace las paces con su condición en la vida al abrirse al hecho de que cada aspecto de la vida, bueno o malo, en última instancia le pertenece a Dios y no a nosotros. Job aprendió que la vida nunca puede ser completamente entendida sino solo vivida y aceptada. Dios nos encontrará en la vida y nos sostendrá para el viaje. El Evangelio de Marcos nos recuerda que las personas necesitan preparación para entender estas "buenas nuevas" de la salvación en Jesús. El Señor continúa proclamando que él es el Mesías y Salvador, y el Señor le pide a la Iglesia que prepare el camino para su Evangelio. Nadie creerá que sus vidas son realmente tocadas y modeladas por un Dios misericordioso y amoroso si nosotros, los seguidores de Jesús, no les damos la oportunidad de experimentar esa realidad a través de nuestro ministerio de cuidado y preocupación. Agradezcanos a los muchos hombres y mujeres de nuestra parroquia que generosamente se entregan al servicio de los demás para que la misericordia de Dios se experimente de manera concreta.

Fr. Chester Borski
Ministerio Hispano

Oramos, Padre Celestial que nuestros hijos descubran y respondan con entusiasmo a tu deseo para ellos, ya sea para la vocación de ser solteros, casados, ordenados o vida consagrada.

February Opportunities for Discernment

- **Finding the least traveled road for men:**
  8 de febrero - a las 6:30 pm. Para los hombres 18-35
  Visita www.houstonvocations.com o llame al Padre TJ Dolce al 713-652-8239 o correo electrónico vocations@archgh.org para obtener más información y para registrarse para los próximos eventos de este semestre.

  **Jueves, Feb. 15, Mar. 15, Abr. 19, Mayo 17 —**
  Descubre el Camino Menos Recorrido: 7-10pm - Reunión de discernimiento vocacional en español a la vida sacerdotal y religiosa para jóvenes adultos solteros (hombres y mujeres) de 18 a 35 años de edad que hayan completado preparatoria y/o equivalente. Las reuniones se llevará a cabo en el Convento de las Hermanas Carmelitas Misioneras de Santa Teresa (9600 Deer Trail Dr., Houston, TX 77038). Habrá convivencia, comida, música, oración y temas vocacionales presentados por sacerdotes, religiosas y seminaristas. Regístrase en www.houstonvocations.com/descubre

  **Sábado 24 de febrero—Expo de Vocaciones:** 9am-3pm
  "Inspírate y crea un plan para tu ministerio vocacional parroquial". Todo el liderazgo de la arquidiócesis, comité vocacionales, sacerdotes, religiosas/os, diáconos, directores de ministerio hispano y educación religiosa, catequistas, coordinadores de grupos juveniles y todos los interesados sobre la concientización vocacional, están invitados. El Cardenal DiNardo abrirá el día con la Santa Misa seguido por un taller facilitado por la señora Rhonda Gruenewald, autora del libro “Sembrando Semillas: Una guía para el Ministerio de Vocación Parroquial” junto con Leticia Ramirez, madre de un sacerdote y un seminarista. Este será un día de recursos, talleres, grupos de discusión, ideas, oración, paneles, y charlas inspiradoras. Habrá presentaciones y mesas de exposición de comunidades religiosas locales. Evento gratuito. Fecha límite: 16 de febrero. Cuidado de niños no disponible. Seminario Santa María (9845 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77024) Inscríbete en www.houstonvocations.com/vocation-expo

Todos sabemos la necesidad que tenemos hoy día en las vocaciones al sacerdocio, diácono y vida religiosa. Pero muchas veces nos olvidamos el poder que tiene la oración por las vocaciones. Estamos buscando familias que deseen orar por las vocaciones. Tenemos fechas disponibles después de marzo. Interesados favor de comunicarse con William Lasalle (Tony) a onairtony@gmail.com o al tel. (201) 913-6728

**ADORACIÓN EUCARÍSTICA PERPETUA**

Nuestra parroquia es grandemente bendecida de contar con Adoración Eucarística Perpetua en nuestra capilla de adoración veinticuatro horas al día. Jesús mora en el Santísimo Sacramento debido a su amor infinito por cada uno de nosotros. Él siempre espera pacientemente a que estemos ante su presencia y le acompañemos.

En la lista a continuación están las horas más necesitados de adoradores en este momento. Te invitamos a que participes en este hermoso ministerio. Siéntete libre de venir y adorar a nuestro Señor Jesucristo de acuerdo a tu tiempo y disponibilidad, independientemente de si hay o no otros adoradores presentes en oración. Jesús siempre nos espera con gozo anticipado.

**HORAS DISPONIBLES PARA ADORADORES:**
- **Lunes:** 1-2 AM / 3-4 AM / 5-6 AM / 6-7 AM / 11PM - 12 MEDIANOCHE
- **Martes:** 2-3 AM / 3-4 AM / MEDIA NOCHE - 1 AM
- **Miércoles:** 12-1 AM / 2-3 AM / 3-4 AM / 7-8 PM / 10-11 AM / 11PM - 12 MEDIANOCHE
- **Jueves:** 12-1 am / 1-2 AM / 7-8 AM / 10-11 AM / 11 PM - 12 MEDIANOCHE
- **Viernes:** 12-1 am / 2-3 AM / 6-7 AM / 7-8 PM / 11 AM – MEDIO DIA / 12-1 PM
- **Sábado AM:** 10-11 AM / 11 AM - MEDIO DIA
- **Sábado PM:** 1-2 PM / 3-4 PM / 10-11 PM
- **Domingo:** 1-2 AM / 10-11 AM

**HORAS DISPONIBLES PARA CO-ADORADORES Y SUBSTITUTOS:**
- **Lunes:** 1-2 AM / 3-4 AM / 5-6 AM / 6-7 AM / 11PM - 12 MEDIANOCHE
- **Martes:** 2-3 AM / 3-4 AM / 5-6 AM / 10-11 AM / 11PM - 12 MEDIANOCHE
- **Miércoles:** 12-1 AM / 2-3 AM / 3-4 AM / 7-8 PM / 10-11 AM / 11PM - 12 MEDIANOCHE
- **Jueves:** 12-1 am / 1-2 AM / 7-8 AM / 10-11 AM / 11 PM - 12 MEDIANOCHE
- **Viernes:** 12-1 am / 2-3 AM / 6-7 AM / 7-8 PM / 11 AM – MEDIO DIA / 12-1 PM
- **Sábado AM:** 10-11 AM / 11 AM - MEDIO DIA
- **Sábado PM:** 1-2 PM / 3-4 PM / 10-11 PM
- **Domingo:** 1-2 AM / 10-11 AM

Si usted está interesado en participar en este ministerio o desea obtener más información, por favor contactar a:
- **Carmen Ogando -** 832-767-8826, carmengogando@yahoo.com

**MARIA GORETTI NETWORK ESPAÑOL PARA TODA VICTIMA DE ABUSO**

MGN es Un grupo de apoyo formado por personas que han vivido cualquier tipo de abuso en algún momento de su vida y que están buscando sanación y perdón. Para mayor información llamar al teléfono 281-389-1210 o enviar un e-mail a mariagorettespanol@gmail.com. Allí le darán más información sobre el lugar y hora de las reuniones y contestaremos sus preguntas.
**Administrative Ministries**

**Business Manager**—Molly Kleinguetl, 281-358-6637 x208

**Facility Manager**—Steve Teets, 281-358-6637 x254

**Financial Planning Committee**—Charlie Crofoot, 713-2003-2101

**Martha’s Gardeners**—Wayne Theis, wayne.thesis@stmarthas.org

**ST. MARTHA’S Office Angels**—Lourdes Fernandez, 281-358-6637 x262

**Community Life Ministries**

**Director of Community Life**—Francoise Puglia, 281-713-8954

**Acts Retreat**—Willie Chesnut, ACTS@StMartha-Acts.org

**Annulments**—Francine Puglia, 281-713-8954

**Caring Cooks**—Karen Rexer, 281-358-8857, or Marian Brown, 281-630-4820

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

Sherry Hundl, yellowrose716@live.com

**Centering Prayer**—Greg LaCour, gplacour@gmail.com

**Columbian Squires**—Mark Roseland, 713-219-2525

**Couples for Christ**—Mary Lou & Ramon De La Cruz, 832-527-1072

**Divorce Support Group**—Vicki Ruck, vickiruck@stmarthas.org

**Family**—Abby Youngblood, 281-799-0849

**Grief Share**—Laura Cardella, 281-360-2714

**Homebound Committee**—Greta Verhalen, verhaleng@stmarthaps.org

**Knights of Columbus**—Tom Gallagher, 713-364-9780

**Marriage Prep. Information**—To Register call 281-358-6637

**Martha’s Quilters**—Helaine Parks, 713-824-7730 or Sally Wasserman, salmwass@aol.com

**Meals for Moms**

mom@stmarthas.org

**Mom’s Collegian Prayer Group**—Gloria Gamez, momgrl@yahoo.com

**Mona’s Hope**—Paul & Marcia Aegerter, 281-812-1288

**Mother’s Day Out**—Patty Jackson, 281-358-1959 x250

**Natural Family Planning**—Marion and Chris Dill, 713-516-7097

**Newcomers/Welcoming Hospitality**—Kristene Hergenrother, 281-713-8961

**NORTHEAST Catholic Singles**—Peggy Boyles, 281-359-4560

**Reception Volunteers**—Barb Setser, 281-358-4129

**Rosary Guild**—Gilda Womack, 281-989-4241

**Scouting—Cub Scouts**—Dan Pradel, dan2@turbineengine.com

**Scouting—Boy Scouts**—Mike Bennett, mbennett11867@gmail.com

**Spiritual Direction**—www.stmartha.com, Click on Ministries, Community Life, Spiritual Direction

**SUNDAY NURSERY**—Patty Jackson, 281-358-1959 x250

**Teams of Our Lady**—Jeff & Denise Standley, jdstandley@hotmail.com

**Vocations Committee**—Phil & Diane Applegate, 281-361-2913

**Young at Heart Luncheon**—Carol Bateman, 713-504-4430

**Young at Heart Luncheon Transport**—Domenica Seitz, 713-899-1016

**Faith Formation**

**Directory of Faith Formation**—Carta Lewton, 281-358-1959 x213

**Cornerstone Bible Study**—Pam Rockwell, 281-358-1959 x230

**RCIA**—RCIA@stmartha.com

**YASH**—Young Adults at St. Martha—youngadults@stmarthas.org

**Elementary School and VBS**—Patty Jost, 281-713-8969

**Catechist to the Good Shepherd**—Martha Burns, 281-358-5523

**Confirmation**—Ana Leija, 281-713-8915

**Middle School Coordinator (EDGE)**—Lisa Hartsfield, 281-358-1959 x241

**High School Coordinator (Life Teen)**—Laura Gallardo, 281-358-1959 x252

**Liturgy Ministries**

**Director of Liturgy**—Marily Parra, marielp@stmartha.com

**Director of Music**—Dr. Daniel Knaggs, daniel@stmartha.com

**Liturgy Coordinator for LifeTeen**—Joy Ehrman, 281-358-1959 x250

**Altar Servers**—Jennifer Farace, jfarace4@gmail.com

**Baptism**—281-358-6637

**Cantors**—281-358-6637

**Children’s Adoption**—Kristen Johnson, 281-713-2518

**Children’s Liturgy**—Jaclyn Dement, stmarthacm@hotmail.com

**Communion to the Sick**—Hospital Visit: Gene Goll, 281-728-0956

**Nursing Home & Homebound**—Kathy Gearhart, 281-713-2154

**Hispanic Communion to the Sick**—Amelia Murphy, 713-865-8946

**Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**—Pam Rockwell, 281-358-1959, x230

**Lectors**—Richard Lowell, 281-989-1097

**Martha’s Altar Guild & Designers**—Marily Parra, marielp@stmartha.com

**Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration**—Carmela Ordaz, 832-767-8826

**Powerhouse Ministry Team**—Rowan Ljungdahl, rowanlj2@gmail.com

**Quinceañeras**—Yazmin Lago, 281-713-2032

**Sacristans**—Art Volkmann, 281-361-6117

**Sound Board Ministry**—David Boyd, david.t.boyd@gmail.com

**USHERS**—Barry Robichaux, Barry.Robichaux@us.ibm.com

**Outreach Ministries**

**Director of Social Services**—Olga Najar, 281-713-8966

**CANCARE**—Debbie Mikan, 832-723-3459, dmi@outlook.com

**Criminal Justice Ministry**—Jaime S. Gomez, 281-973-1857

**E-mail Prayer Warriors**—Donna Rheyue, dmreyuey@earthlink.net

**H.A.A.M.**—Alejandra Gutierrez, 832-860-4860

**Hospital Ministry**—Sheila De La Cruz, 832-782-4078

**International Mission Trips**—Terry Slimer, terry.slierman@convivendia.org

**Maria Goretti Network**—Shannon Deitz, shannondeitz@earthlink.net

**St. John the Cross Food Drive**—Marty Curtis, themartycurtis@gmail.com

**St. Joseph Helpers**—Bill Beck, 281-360-7023

**St. Martha Between Jobs and Beyond**—Yvonne Simmons, 713-440-2744

**St. Vincent de Paul**—281-358-6636

**Second Family Ministry**—Sharon Vornes, 281-900-4768

**Social Justice**—Gary Yepez, 832-803-4377

**St. Martha Catholic School**

**Principal PK3-8th**—Jessica Munsch, 281-358-5523

**Director of Development**—Jennifer Licena, 281-358-5523 x326

**Registrar**—Jodie Richter, 281-358-5523 x314

**Ministerios en Español**

**AMSIF**—Alejandro Gutierrez, 832-860-4860

**Coordinadora de Catecismo para Jóvenes y Sacramentos**—Ana Maria Gibson, 281-358-1959 x269

**Cora de Adultos**—Luis Valle, 832-620-1888

**Grupo de Oración**—Carmen Ogando, 832-767-8826

**Hospitalidad**—Gustavo Zapata, 832-247-9955

**Lectores**—Kristina Gabas, 281-796-9084

**Legión de María**—Verónica Reyes, 713-728-9843

**Maria Goretti Network en Español**—Patricia Lopez, 281-389-1210

**Ministros Extraordinarios de la Eucaristía**—Raul Legorreta, 832-284-1891

**Monaguillos**—Pastor Pastora, 832-614-5741 or 832-633-0145

**Rica**—Jaime Gomez, 281-973-1857

**Vocaciones y Cáliz de Vocaciones**—Tony Lasalle, 646-489-1554

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF JAN. 27 & 28 YOUR GIFTS OF TREASURE RESULTED IN:**

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**Current Loan Debt:**

$9,610,436