

The Citizen

ADVENT 2014

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E J O H N C A R R O L L S O C I E T Y

JANUARY 11TH BRUNCH

Jesuit Father Kevin O'Brien to Speak at January Brunch



Father Kevin F. O'Brien, S.J.

The Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Georgetown University is scheduled to address the John Carroll Society at a brunch following a Mass for the Feast of the Lord's Baptism on January 11, 2015. Father Kevin O'Brien, S.J. will present "Pope Francis: The First Jesuit Pope." Using

Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit formation, Father O'Brien will explore how the faithful can interpret Francis' words and actions. "By understanding the Pope from these perspectives, we can appreciate more deeply our role in sharing the joy of the Gospel," Father O'Brien said.

Father O'Brien currently serves as Vice President for Mission and Ministry at Georgetown University. In that role, he is responsible for the development and delivery of programs and services that promote the Catholic and Jesuit character of Georgetown among faculty, students, staff, alumni and University governing boards. He also oversees the largest campus ministry in the country.

A graduate of Georgetown, Father O'Brien holds a law degree from the University of Florida, his home state; a Masters degree in Philosophy from Fordham, and a Master of Divinity and

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62ND ANNUAL RED MASS

Holy Spirit Can 'Transform'

Six members of the United States Supreme Court and the White House Chief of Staff joined Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, local bishops and priests at the 62nd Red Mass. Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde was the principal celebrant at the annual Mass held at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle Oct. 5 – one day before the new session of the Supreme Court opened on the first Monday of October.

"Strengthened by the Holy Spirit – his presence and his power – may we go forth in such a way to bring honor and glory to God," prayed Bishop Loverde.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. who will begin his 10th session on the court attended the Mass with Associate justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Stephen G. Breyer and Elena Kagan. Denis McDonough, the White House Chief of Staff, also attended the Solemn Mass of the Holy Spirit – a centuries old tradition invoking God's blessings on all who work for justice. In Washington the first Red Mass sponsored by the John Carroll Society was held in 1953.



Arlington Bishop Paul S. Loverde, the main celebrant of the 62nd annual Red Mass, speaks with Chief Justice of the United States John G. Roberts, Jr. and his wife, Jane Sullivan Roberts, outside the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle on Oct. 5. Chief Justice Roberts began his tenth session on the Supreme Court on Oct. 6.

Clad in red-colored vestments representing the tongues of fire symbolizing the Holy Spirit, Washington Auxiliary Bishops Martin Holley and Barry Knestout with Bishop Richard Higgins, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA, joined priests of the archdiocese to concelebrate the Mass.

In addition to government officials, guests included John J. DeGioia, president of Georgetown University, John Garvey, president of The Catholic University, deans of local law schools, judges, attorneys, and law school students.

Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain of the Society, read the homily prepared by Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl, who was called to Rome for the Synod on the Family.

In the written homily, Cardinal Wuerl pointed out the reason for the Red Mass. "We know that we need, and so we ask for, the gifts of insight, inspiration, of right judgment, of wisdom – gifts of the Holy Spirit," Cardinal Wuerl wrote. Of these gifts, wisdom stood for

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Washington Auxiliary Bishop Barry Knestout presents the Manifesting the Kingdom Award to Elizabeth Meers, president and Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain during the brunch following the 62nd annual Red Mass. The award, presented to the John Carroll Society is in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Washington.

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John Carroll Society

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Jesuit Father Kevin O'Brien to Speak at January Brunch

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Licentiate in Sacred Theology from the Weston Jesuit School of Theology, now part of Boston College.

His award-winning book, *The Ignatian Adventure: Experiencing the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in Daily Life*, was published in 2011 by Loyola Press.

A 10 a.m. Mass for the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is scheduled for January 11, 2015 at St. Patrick's Church, Washington, D.C. The principal celebrant and homilist is scheduled to be Auxiliary Bishop Martin Holley. Father O'Brien will speak at the brunch immediately following the Mass. The brunch will be held at the Hotel Monaco. Space is limited, and the reservations are expected to fill quickly.



Courtesy Photo

From left to right: Elizabeth B. Meers, president; Loris Cardinal Capovilla, former secretary to Saint John XXIII and Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, chaplain, after presenting the John Carroll Society Medal to Cardinal Capovilla during the society's pilgrimage to Italy.

UPCOMING EVENTS 2014-15

December 6, 2014

ST. NICHOLAS MASS AND GIFT DRIVE

The Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, 5 p.m. Mass, Principal Celebrant: Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi; Homilist: Rev. Mark Ivany. Reception and visit with St. Nick to follow in Parish Hall.

January 11, 2015

JANUARY MASS AND BRUNCH ON THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

St. Patrick's Church Washington, DC at 10 a.m. Principal Celebrant and Homilist: Most Rev. Martin Holley; concelebrant: Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, chaplain. Brunch to follow at Hotel Monaco, 700 F Street, N.W. Speaker: Rev. Kevin F. O'Brien, S.J.,

Vice President for Mission and Ministry, Georgetown University.

February 28, 2015

LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Washington Retreat Center, 8:30 a.m. Retreat Director: Rev. Stephen D. Ryan, O.P.

March 15, 2015

25TH ANNUAL ROSE MASS

Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, 10:30 a.m. Mass; Principal Celebrant: His Eminence, Donald Cardinal Wuerl. Homilist: Rev. Kevin Fitzgerald, S.J. Luncheon to follow in the Parish Hall with the JCS Pro Bono Health Care Service Awards.

April 11, 2015

29TH ANNUAL DINNER

Four Seasons Hotel, Washington DC 6:30 p.m. Cocktails; 7:30 p.m. Dinner

December 2014 – June 2015

FIRST THURSDAY TALKS

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi to present an eight part series, "The Upper Room: Classroom for the New Evangelization."

First Thursdays, -- December 4; February 5; March 5; May 7 and June 4 at The Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, at 7 a.m. (following the 6:30 Mass) in the Rectory Meeting Room.

Discipleship is a Lifetime Job says Boston Cardinal

Today's Catholics, like the first disciples, are being called to be missionaries and bring the Good News of Jesus to the world, Boston Cardinal Seán O'Malley said Sept. 9 in the John Carroll Society's fall lecture at the Newseum in Washington. And the most challenging missionary territory today, he added, might be the secularized Western world, which he said sometimes seems "vaccinated against the faith."

"Pope Francis is calling on all of us to be missionary disciples, to be missionaries in our own communities, in our own country where so many Catholics have stormed off, dozed off or simply drifted from the Church," said Cardinal O'Malley.

In the cardinal's talk "Pope Francis and the New Evangelization," he noted how Jesus gave the great commission to his disciples to bring the Gospel to the world. "Now it's our turn to go out and make disciples and to have the courage and generosity to do it," Cardinal O'Malley said.

The cardinal pointed out how recent popes, from Pope Paul VI to St. John Paul II to Pope Benedict XVI and now Pope Francis, have emphasized the need for a "new evangelization" to bring Christ to today's world. "Pope Francis is challenging us to embrace the New Evangelization with new ardor, boldness and great love for all those whom God places in our path."

The cardinal quoted the opening sentence of Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel): "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and the lives of all who encounter Jesus." The cardinal noted that the pope in that same document encouraged teachers of the faith first to emphasize, "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you."

Cardinal O'Malley said that Pope Francis "is a true companion of Jesus, a Jesuit who puts Christ at the center of his life."

In a culture and a world that stresses individualism, Pope Francis has stressed the idea of a Christian community of love and encounter, even comparing the Church to a field hospital for those who are wounded, the cardinal said. "Only love and mercy will open hearts hardened by the individualism of our age. People will believe us only if they know we love them," the cardinal said. "...In a world so often polarized and divided, Pope Francis has brought hope to people's lives and



From left to right: Erik Causey, chair of fall lecture, with Elizabeth Meers, president of the John Carroll Society, Boston Cardinal Seán O'Malley and Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain at the 9th annual fall lecture.

enticed many people to look at the Church again," he said.

The cardinal noted how Pope Francis has reflected Jesus's love for the poor, by visiting an Italian island where 360 African immigrants seeking a better life had perished when a ship capsized there one year ago. During that visit, Pope Francis decried what he called a "globalization of indifference" toward the poor and vulnerable. "We cannot be indifferent. We must overcome indifference in our lives and help people see the Church's teaching is about loving and caring for everyone," said Cardinal O'Malley, who witnessed the challenges faced by Central American immigrants when he served for 20 years at the Hispanic Catholic Center in Washington.

Pope Francis's emphasis on God's love and mercy provides a context for the Church's teaching on issues like abortion, Cardinal O'Malley said, adding that the pope has stressed "our responsibility to love and serve each other, especially the most vulnerable in our midst... Our efforts to heal society will depend on our capacity to love and to be faithful to our mission."

The cardinal said that Pope Francis's urging people to reach out to those on the periphery doesn't only refer to the poor – it can also mean bringing the Gospel to the business world, the university setting, and to the world of entertainment and sports. "The New Evangelization is going to those places again, and inviting people to

be part of the family of Christ," Cardinal O'Malley said.

The cardinal added that sharing the faith can also provide an opportunity to deepen one's own faith. "By bringing others to Christ, we draw closer to Him ourselves," he said.

During a question and answer session after his talk, Cardinal O'Malley was asked how people can avoid being complacent

about their faith in their everyday lives. He encouraged people to find time for daily prayer and Scripture reflection, and to seek friends who share their faith and ideals. "The call to discipleship is a call to conversion, and that's a lifetime job," he said.

When asked about the Synod on the Family taking place in Rome in October, Cardinal O'Malley said that gathering would offer an important opportunity to reflect on ways to strengthen and support families. "Families are experiencing all kinds of challenges, and the Church must accompany them," he said.

Asked about his favorite saint, Cardinal O'Malley smiled and noted that he was wearing the brown Franciscan robes of his religious order, so of course he admires St. Francis of Assisi. The cardinal added that Mary is "the most important saint of all," and he noted that on his bishop's ring are engraved the last words of Mary recorded in the Bible, her comment to the servants at the wedding feast of Cana (John 2:5): "Do whatever He (Jesus) tells you."

In response to another question, the cardinal said that participating in the 2013 conclave that elected Pope Francis "was a real retreat experience... We felt the Holy Spirit was guiding us. To me, it was like a Pentecost experience." "The prayers and sacrifices of millions of Catholics around the world have been blessed by the election of this wonderful pope, who was a surprise, and who is full of surprises," Cardinal O'Malley said.

By Mark Zimmermann

Using Social Media to Enhance Spirituality

The director of digital media for the Archdiocese of Washington joined the coordinator of evangelization as speakers at the annual Top of the Town reception for young adults and the Society's Young Adult Fellowship to Young Adult Fellowship of the John Carroll Society. Approximately 75 members of the John Carroll Society and other area young professionals gathered in Arlington on September 17 to participate in the event. The society's Young Adult Fellowship supplied the hors d'oeuvres, the aptly named Top of the Town Reception and Conference facility provided the views, and Jonathan Lewis and Sarah Yaklic, two young leaders from the Archdiocese of Washington provided the conversation.

This year's discussion focused on how

Courtesy Photo



John Carroll Society members gathered last September for the Top of the Town reception. From left to right: Elizabeth B. Meers, President; Jonathan Diffley, co-chair, Young Adult Fellowship; Jonathan Lewis, Coordinator of Evangelization and Young Adult Initiatives, Archdiocese of Washington; Sarah Yaklic, Director of Digital Media, Archdiocese of Washington; Gabrielle Tucci, co-chair, Young Adult Fellowship; and Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, Chaplain.

social media could be used to enhance our spiritual lives—a topic that panelists Lewis and Yaklic were well-suited to discuss. Yaklic, the Director of Digital Media for the Archdiocese of Washington, spoke on how modern electronic communication platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook, could be harnessed to further the Church's traditional missions.

John Carroll Society collected well over 1,600 diapers, which were delivered to the Northwest and Capitol Hill Pregnancy Centers. The society wishes to thank all those who made this event possible, and look forward to seeing you again next year.

By Jonathan P. Diffley

Lewis, the Coordinator of Evangelization and Young Adult Initiatives for the Archdiocese of Washington, discussed the ways many Catholic millennials are finding a sustaining Church community in the age of technology.

In addition to the opportunity to mingle and discuss, attendees were also encouraged to participate in a diaper drive during the event. Through cash and in-kind donations the

Legal Network Celebrates 25 Years of Pro Bono Service

Law professionals and John Carroll Society honored at brunch

At a brunch held at the Capital Hilton following the 62nd Annual Red Mass, members of the John Carroll Society celebrated the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Legal Network. In 1989 Cardinal James Hickey asked the society for assistance in forming the Legal Network after recognizing a need for pro bono legal services for the poor. Last year the Catholic Charities Legal Network provided over 5,000 service hours by more than 625 attorney volunteers representing 60 law firms. Officials estimated the value of their services to be at least \$1.8 million.

For their service to the archdiocese and especially the society's work with the Legal Network, Auxiliary Bishop Barry Knestout presented the entire John Carroll Society with the Cardinal's Award, a special recognition of individuals and organizations in honor of the archdiocese's 75th year for helping to manifest the Kingdom of God in the archdiocese.

In addition, this year's Pro Bono Legal Service Awards honorees were: Jacqueline Acosta; Matthew Sheptuck; Miller & Chevalier Chartered; and O'Melveny & Myers LLP.

Before relocating to Florida, Acosta volunteered with the Catholic Charities Legal Network for four years, conducting interviews in both English and Spanish of potential clients. Acosta said she plans on continuing to handle pro bono cases because "it's important to give back to our community."

While in law school Matthew Sheptuck served an internship at the Legal Network, where he assisted volunteer attorneys with client intake, legal research and placement of cases. After graduating Sheptuck continued his service to the network through a post-graduate fellowship with Georgetown University Law Center. The fellowship completed, he continues to volunteer at

the network in addition to his regular employment, driving 77 miles each way from his home in Inwood, West Virginia.

For the past year the firm of Miller & Chevalier provided attorneys for telephone intake and counsel on a wide-variety of legal needs. Additionally the Miller & Chevalier Charitable Foundation awarded a grant to the Legal Network for new computers for three staff members, enabling the network to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

Attorneys from O'Melveny & Myers here assisted Catholic Charities Legal Network for over two years. The firm staffs the in-person intake services every Friday, helps provide assistance and coordinates with other law firms for the pro bono work, and also provides telephone in-take every other Monday.

In his comments recognizing the 25th anniversary of the Legal Network, Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain, emphasized Pope Francis' concern for the poor. "Pope Francis continually challenges us to walk with the poor in faith and charity. This means coming to know and serve the poor in our world and in our individual lives and to seek them out as 'preferential' as so many of you do in your work in the pro bono legal network."

"To be a Christian thus means to be like Christ and his church – a church that is poor and that is for the poor. It means following and imitating Jesus, who actively sought out the poor," Msgr. Vaghi told the 540 guests participating in the brunch.

Jim Bishop, a member of the John Carroll Society and the director of Catholic Charities Legal Network, said the annual Pro Bono Legal Service Awards "provide an example to others that you can use your professional skills as a lawyer to serve those in need in our Church as well as inform other members of the work that needs to be done."

For Bishop, the direct service with the poor has affected his life. "My love for Christ, and my work that I do has deepened my faith in God," Bishop said. "Through serving others I feel I am answering the Lord's call."

MEMBER NEWS



■ **British A. Robinson** has been named as the first Chief Executive Officer of the Women's Heart Alliance. The WHA was formed to raise awareness and generate action to fight heart disease -- the leading killer of women in the United States.

■ John Carroll Society member **Mark LeVota** married Janet Baran at St. Patrick's Church in Washington, D.C. on June 21, 2014.

■ **Kristine Dunne** married **Christopher Maher** on June 28, 2014 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington.

■ Dr. Kristen A. Breslin and **Anthony C. DeFelice** were married Saturday, August 30 by the Rev. Mark F. Horak

at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington.

■ On July 23, 2014 **Caroline and Will Haun** welcomed into the world their first child, Evelyn Frances Haun, 8 pounds and 5 ounces, and 19.5 inches long.



■ **Christine and Ryan Blaney** welcomed Daniel Joseph Blaney born August 10, 2014 at 7lbs. 10 oz. and 20 inches. He joins big sister Colleen, 5, and big brother Connor, 2.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Please pray for the deceased members and relatives of members of the John Carroll Society:

Wayne Tucci
Catherine Lighthizer
Myles Ambrose
Salvatore A. Romano
James Smith
Richard Teske
Mary Gorman Lawler
Joseph Crumlish
Rita Ruth O'Connell
Dominik Pettay
Rosemary G. Belson
Gloria Longano

CHAPLAIN'S LETTER — ADVENT 2014

My dear John Carroll Society Members,

My First Thursday series this year is entitled "The Upper Room: the Classroom for the New Evangelization." This most important room in Christendom is a wonderful lens through which to see the fundamentals of our faith. It is a wonderful lens through which to gaze and contemplate Jesus who had a major role to play in that room. What happened there in Jerusalem almost two millennia ago, both before and after the Resurrection, continues to have significant and life-changing effects on the entire world. It continues to have personal effects on each and every one of us privileged to be baptized Christians.

The upper room, known also as the Cenacle, is more than a space or a concrete historical location in Jerusalem—so much more. There is a certain mystique to it. Each one of us needs to spend some time there—and in prayer. I have written these eight talks from the upper room of my room in the rectory.

Each of us needs to allow God to speak to us anew in and from the upper room of our homes, our offices, our church or wherever we go to experience the living presence of God in quiet. We need to be introduced, or reintroduced, to what happened there historically, in the unique atmosphere of that upper room in Jerusalem.

A roadmap to these eight talks has many important stops. They include the institution of three sacraments that took place in the upper room—the Eucharist, Holy Orders and Penance. A fourth sacrament, Confirmation, has its origin in the imposition of hands that, in a certain way, perpetuates the grace of Pentecost that took place in the upper room. The upper room is the place traditionally considered the site of the Last Supper, the place where the apostles stayed when they were in Jerusalem, the place of the prediction of Peter's denial, the betrayal of Judas, the doubt of Thomas. It is a place, with Jesus at the center, of various personalities around the Last Supper table. It is where the washing of feet by Jesus (which symbolizes the ministry of service) took place. It is where we learn the concept of friendship with Jesus and the beautiful prayer life of Jesus that He has allowed us to hear. It is the place where the disciples gathered in fear after the death of Jesus. There were subsequent post resurrection appearances there of the Risen Lord and it is where He made visible His wounds to see and touch and the faith of Thomas was strengthened. It is where the Risen Lord breathed on them the Holy Spirit "on the evening of that first day of the week." (Jn 20:19) It is where tongues of fire appeared to them on Pentecost and "they were all filled with the holy Spirit." (Acts 2: 4) That event marks the birthday of the Church in the presence of the Blessed Mother. (Acts 1:14) It is from there that the apostles went forth with boldness sharing the Good News.



Photo by Eddie Amrosi

Finally, the upper room is a room in each of our homes. I thus invite you in this Advent season 2014, in a special way, to come to know better the beauty and challenges of that room, a room in the house of every follower of Jesus.

Gratefully in the Lord

Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi
Chaplain, John Carroll Society

Developing Friendship and Faith in Italy

Last August, 60 pilgrims traveled to Italy for an enriching journey that developed friendships as well as faith. The pilgrimage brought together all ages and different pairings, including husbands and wives, parents and children, sisters and brothers, grandparents and grandchildren, and friends. The pilgrimage chairs were David and Carol Bates assisted by our two chaplains, Msgr. Peter Vaghi and Fr. Mark Knestout and once again Guido Adelfio of Bethesda Travel Center was the pilgrimage escort. The pilgrimage comprised two weeks of site-seeing intermingled by delicious meals at scenic locations. Locations in the pilgrimage itinerary included Assisi, Siena, Rome, Milan, Sotto Il Monte, and Como, among others. Highlights included Mass at the tomb of St. Peter in the Vatican, a visit to St. Peter in Chains (Cardinal Wuerl's titular church in Rome), relaxation at the idyllic Lake

presented medals to Abbott Power and Cardinal Capovilla. Additional medals were given to Auxiliary Bishop Barry Knestout and Fr. Mark Knestout.

The core of the pilgrimage, however, was the spiritual dimension.

Pilgrims gathered in parish churches, basilicas, and cathedrals for Mass each day. John Carroll Society president Elizabeth Meers, Chaplain Msgr. Peter Vaghi, Mary Ellen Bork and St. Bartholomew Church pastor Fr. Mark Knestout delivered reflections on Saints Francis, Clare, Catherine and John XXIII.

Given all the activities, the pilgrimage is difficult to summarize, but perhaps Bishop John Carroll can provide one theme. Our society's namesake notably said, "My hopes have been always fixed on the cross of Christ."

This past summer's trip brought the pilgrims to fix their gaze on various crosses of Christ throughout Italy – two particularly stand out: the San Damiano cross in Assisi at the beginning of the journey, and the ivory crucifix in Sotto Il Monte at the end of the trip.

As pilgrims beheld the San Damiano cross, Bishop Knestout prayed the same words St. Francis uttered 600 hundred

years ago: "Most high, glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart, and give me true faith, certain hope, and



Courtesy Raj Noronha

Pilgrims learn about the Sistine Chapel and its artwork while visiting the grounds of the Vatican Museum.

perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command." When St. Francis first prayed those words before that icon of the transfigured Christ, the saint heard his calling to build Christ's church.

In the darkened crypt of the Church of John the Baptist in Sotto Il Monte, Cardinal Capovilla preserves the ivory crucifix as a relic. At his deathbed, Saint John XXIII's last wish was a request for his nephew to step to the side so he could directly gaze at that cross of Christ in his last moments. The crucifix had been a fixture in Saint John XXIII's room at the Vatican from the beginning of his papacy. Accordingly, Saint John XXIII said, "Those open arms have been the program of my pontificate, they mean that Christ died for all, for all. No one is excluded from his love, from his forgiveness."

The pilgrimage offered an invitation to hope in Christ, as these beloved figures in our Church did. Answering the call to do so can be a transformative experience.

By Maya M. Noronha



Courtesy Raj Noronha

Pilgrims walk to Mass at the Papal Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi.

Como, and an opportunity to see the frescos at the Basilica of St. Francis that members of the society previewed in a slideshow last year.

The pilgrims also met special guests along the way. In Rome, Msgr. Roger Roensch granted the pilgrims access to the roof of the Pontifical North American College for an unrivaled view of Rome. Abbott Edmund Power, O.S.B., welcomed us at the doors to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. In Sotto il Monte, Saint John XXIII's private secretary, Loris Cardinal Capovilla, greeted each of us personally with a joy undimmed in his 98 years of age. The John Carroll Society



Courtesy Raj Noronha

Members of the John Carroll Society and their guests outside of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome.

Holy Spirit Can ‘Transform, Make New, Heal’

Continued from page 1



Photo by Christopher Newkumet

“the very personification of God’s presence and providential guidance of all creation.” Describing the gift of wisdom as “magnificent,” Cardinal Wuerl noted in his homily “it is the gift we hope to see reflected in our leaders, judges, confessors, spiritual directors and parents.”

However, the cardinal urged participants to remember the “most significant cumulative effect of all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is the power to change, to transform, to make new, to heal.”

“We are here because we stand in both the conviction and expectation that it is possible to make a better world,” the cardinal wrote.

Later Msgr. Vaghi said the Red Mass serves as a concrete symbol of our “calling to pray for those who work for justice and participate in that effort in different ways.”

Attorney Elizabeth Meers, president of the John Carroll Society, agreed. The “Red Mass calls on God’s blessings for the legal community. The gifts of the Holy Spirit – those mentioned in Cardinal Wuerl’s homily are all things I think lawyers in whatever role are constantly in need of,” she added. “Having those blessings of the Holy Spirit is a big help.”

By Lynnea Mumola

MEMBER PROFILE

By Lynnea Mumola

Becoming a Leader in John Carroll Society is Fulfilling, Member Says

For Daniel Hardwick, the John Carroll Society opened doors to friendships and opportunities for leadership while providing a sense of Catholic community in Washington D.C. The chair of the Red Mass committee for the past three years, Hardwick jumped aboard the professional organization after being invited to a younger members Lundi Gras fellowship event in 2008. “Soon after joining, I received an email seeking volunteers for the Papal Mass,” Hardwick recalled. And in April of 2008, he found himself three feet away from Pope Benedict XVI during the Holy Father’s historic visit to Washington. “I immediately thought this John Carroll Society is pretty cool,” Hardwick said.

He soon became involved volunteering as an usher at the Red Mass, co-chairing the committee for younger members and eventually heading the 70-member committee that is in charge of planning the Red Mass. Additionally Hardwick serves on the Board of Governors of the society.

Since joining, Hardwick acknowledges he has been involved in many fun, educational and spiritually enriching events. “The John Carroll Society has given me a pathway, a mechanism to be a leader.” These events and gatherings have “strengthened my faith but also educated me in the faith,” added Hardwick, a commercial real estate lawyer with the firm of Cozen O’Connor.

He describes the John Carroll Society as “an organization full of good, hardworking professional people in D.C. all traveling down the same path. It opens doors into a wider community you don’t get sitting in an office all day.”

For Hardwick, his spirituality remains constant in his life. “I’m always thinking about it – you are never too far from spirituality. Being part of the John Carroll Society helps to stay focused.” Hardwick noted the difficulties in practicing faith, “We’re all sinners, we’re all trying to do our best,” Hardwick said. But he considers himself blessed for the opportunity to meet many of the people in the society and opportunities to meet church officials and leaders as well. “It’s exciting, I like to do fun things.”

Hardwick and his wife, Amy, attend St. Agnes Parish in Arlington and are raising three daughters. Hardwick and Alex Du Four, the original friend who invited Hardwick to join the society, have been working to raise money for the Washington School for Girls through another organization they founded – The Fathers and Daughters Club of Washington. “The John Carroll Society opened my eyes to other things I can do in my community,” said Hardwick who also serves on the board of Catholic Cemeteries. Hardwick said he credits Msgr. Peter Vaghi, the group’s chaplain for modeling how much work just one person can accomplish.

But ultimately, it is faith that drives Hardwick’s involvement. “It’s why we are here – it’s part of who I am.”



Photo by Christopher Newkumet

Daniel W. Hardwick, chair of the Red Mass committee at the 2014 Red Mass.

Participants Encounter Jesus at Fall Retreat

The 17th Annual Fall Retreat was blessed by a fine turnout, beautiful weather, and two insightful meditations by Msgr. Charles Antonicelli, pastor at Annunciation Church and retreat director. Fifty participants gathered at Mt. St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD and enjoyed a day of prayer, reflection, and fellowship amid the fall colors of the Catocin Mountains.

Msgr. Antonicelli’s theme for the retreat was “The Spirituality of Encounter: Reflections on Encounters with Jesus.”

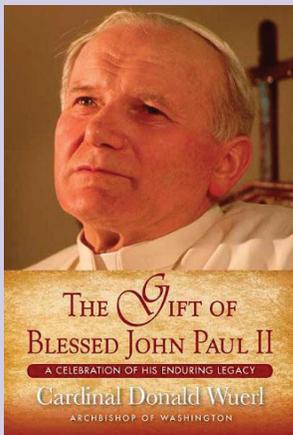
In his morning and afternoon talks he cited Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel,” as a tool to re-invigorate the understanding of what it means to encounter Jesus. Msgr. Antonicelli then discussed five well-known encounters Jesus has in the Gospels (John 8:1-11, Mark 2:1-12, Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 10:17-31, Luke 7:36-50), explaining how each of these timeless stories presents a challenge for us today by revealing aspects of the faith we need to become closer to God. In closing, Msgr. Antonicelli encouraged the audience with his reminder that “God never tires of forgiving us – we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.”

By Christopher Mitchell

Cardinal Wuerl Highlights Saint John Paul II's Legacy

The Gift of Saint John Paul II, A Celebration of His Enduring Legacy, by Cardinal Donald Wuerl
(2011, The Word Among Us Press, \$14.95)

With the recent canonization of Saint John Paul II, this is an appropriate time for Catholics to reflect on his many contributions to the Church. His Eminence, Donald Cardinal Wuerl, has provided an excellent guide to an important aspect of Saint John Paul II's Papacy – his 24 encyclical letters and post-synod apostolic exhortations.



Cardinal Wuerl explains that the encyclical letter is an integral part of the pope's teaching role as the successor to Saint Peter and as the vicar of Christ. These letters are addressed to the whole Church, in contrast to a pastoral letter

that a bishop would send to his own diocese. Cardinal Wuerl also explains that, after the conclusion in 1965 of the Second Vatican Council, a new institution called the "Synod of Bishops" was created.

The Gift of Saint John Paul II proceeds chronologically. It begins with the March 1979 encyclical, Redemptor Hominis ("The Redeemer of Man") and concludes with

the October 2003 post-synod apostolic exhortation, Pastores Gregis ("The Bishop, Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World"). The book includes encyclicals that are known to many Roman Catholics. Cardinal Wuerl explains that Centesimus Annus ("One

Hundred Years of Catholic Social Teaching"), published in May 1991 on the centenary of the first social encyclical letter, Rerum Novarum ("On the Condition of Workers") by Pope Leo XIII, articulates contemporary Catholic social teaching. And in March 1995, in Evangelium Vitae ("The Gospel of Life"), Saint John Paul II described, with emphasis and urgency, the threats to human life posed in the contemporary world, including in our own culture.

Cardinal Wuerl describes the context for the themes developed in the documents, distills the relevant portions of each, and adds his valuable reflections on their significance and ways we can apply them in our lives.



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