

The Citizen

ADVENT 2017

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 BRUNCH

President of Villanova to Speak at Brunch

The 32nd president of Villanova University is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the John Carroll Society's January Brunch to be held on January 7, 2018.

Augustinian Father Peter M. Donohue will present "The Success of Catholic Higher Education in Building a Global Community" during the brunch,

which will be held following Mass at St. Patrick's Church in Washington.

Under Father Donohue's leadership since 2006, Villanova University located in suburban Philadelphia, embarked on a 10-year strategic plan including its

largest-ever fundraising campaign and a campus renovation. This resulted in national recognition and new admission records for the institution. Additionally, working with students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents, Father Donohue helped strengthen the university's commitment to the Augustinian educational mission. "Villanova's Augustinian Catholic intellectual tradition is the cornerstone of an academic community where students learn to think critically, act compassionately, and succeed while serving others," states the university web site.

Born in the Bronx, New York and raised in Royal Oak, Michigan, Father Donohue graduated from Villanova in 1975. He was ordained an Augustinian priest in 1979. The priest has a master's degree in theatre from the Catholic University of America, a masters in Divinity from the Washington Theo-

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65TH ANNUAL RED MASS

Public Officials Urged To Promote Human Dignity

During the 65th annual Red Mass in the nation's capital, Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez asked the Supreme Court justices, government officials, lawyers and other members of the judiciary gathered at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington to renew a commitment to a government that "serves the human person."

The annual Mass sponsored by the John Carroll Society and held the Sunday before the opening of the Supreme Court's term invoked the Holy Spirit upon those who are responsible for the administration of justice.

Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl was the main celebrant at the Oct. 1 Mass, and the concelebrants included Washington Auxiliary Bishops Barry Knestout, Mario Dorsonville and Roy Campbell Jr.; Archbishop Gomez; Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge; Bishop Richard Higgins, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA; Cardinal John Olorunfemi Olayekan, archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria; and Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain of the John Carroll Society.

Guests at the Mass included five members of the Supreme Court: John G. Roberts Jr., the Chief Justice of the United States; and Associate Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Stephen G. Breyer, and Samuel A. Alito Jr.; and also U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco.

In his homily, Archbishop Gomez spoke about St. Junípero Serra, the newest American saint who was one of the founding missionaries of Los Angeles and was canonized by Pope Francis during the pontiff's 2015 visit to Washington. St. Junípero's canonization "reminds us that America's first beginnings were not

political," the archbishop said. "America's first beginnings were spiritual."

Those missionaries, along with the colonists and statesmen later on, laid the groundwork for "a nation conceived under God and committed to promoting human dignity, freedom and the flourishing of a diversity of peoples, races, ideas and beliefs."

The reason why the Red Mass is so important each year, Archbishop Gomez added, is "there is a time for politics and a time for prayer. This is a day for prayer."



Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl joins Chief Justice John Roberts on the steps outside of St. Matthew's Cathedral, following the Society's 65th Annual Red Mass.

The readings for the Mass included the story of Pentecost, which Archbishop Gomez said "reveals the Creator's beautiful dream for the human race," where people from different nations were brought together through the Holy Spirit, who spoke to each of them in their native tongues.

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President of Villanova to Speak at Brunch

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logical Union, and a Ph.D. in theatre from the University of Illinois.

The annual Mass and brunch will be held on the celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord at St. Patrick's Church. The brunch traditionally focuses on members of the academic community.

The Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 7. Msgr. Peter Vaghi, John Carroll Society chaplain will be the principal celebrant and homilist. Brunch at the Washington Marriott will follow Mass.

By Lynnea Mumola

UPCOMING EVENTS 2017-18

December 2, 2017

ST. NICHOLAS MASS AND GIFT DRIVE

The Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, 5 p.m. Mass

Principal Celebrant and Homilist: Bishop Mario Dorsonville. Reception and visit with St. Nick to follow in Parish Hall.

January 7, 2018

MASS AND BRUNCH ON THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Washington, DC, 10 a.m.

Principal Celebrant and Homilist: Msgr. Peter Vaghi. Brunch to follow at the Washington Marriott, 775 12th St. NW, Washington, DC.

Brunch speaker: Rev. Peter M. Donohue, O.S.A., president, Villanova University.

February 23-24, 2018

LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Friday, February 23, dinner and tours of the St. John Paul II Center with an overnight option

Saturday, February 24, 8:30 a.m. Washington Retreat Center

Retreat Director: Rev. Gap LoBiondo, S.J., rector, Gonzaga College High School, Washington, DC.

March 11, 2018

27TH ANNUAL ROSE MASS

Church of the Little Flower, Bethesda, 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Principal Celebrant: Cardinal Donald Wuerl. Homilist: Most Rev. Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington.

Luncheon to follow in the Parish Hall with the JCS Pro Bono Health Care Service Awards.

April 21, 2018

32ND ANNUAL DINNER

The Four Seasons Hotel, Washington, DC, 6:30 p.m.

Speaker: General Timothy E. Trainor, Ph.D., president, Mount St. Mary's University

December 2017 through June 2018

FIRST THURSDAY AND THIRD THURSDAY FELLOWSHIP

Speaker: Rev. Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi

Series Topic: *The Devout Life: A Snapshot*

Every *First Thursday* at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda. Theological Reflection at 7:00 a.m. (following 6:30 a.m. Mass) in the Rectory Meeting Room.

In addition, the same talk will be given every *Third Thursday* at the law firm of Cozen O'Connor, P.C., Washington, DC, at 12 p.m. Lunch provided.

NEW JCS MEMBERS

As of November 1, 2017

Anebi X. Adoga
Michael Britt
Christopher Cruz
Paul Moorehead
John Shepherd
Sponsor:
Daniel Hardwick

David Baad
Lance Casimir
Dan Connors
Matthew DeLellis
Skip Gain
David Howard
Michelle Jaconi
Michael Ledecy
Jeremiah Norton
Bruce K. Scott
Dr. Timothy E. Trainor
Matthew Tully
John Vaghi
J.P. Winchester
Sponsor:
Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi

Meredith Bates
Christopher Schaller
Suzanne Squier
Michael Williams
Sponsor:
Carol Grefenstette Bates

Montse Alvarado
Sponsor:
Carol Grefenstette Bates
and Valerie Pletcher

Valerie Brown
Henry Brown
Sponsor:
Bishop Mario Dorsonville

Ellen M. Bryan
Sponsor:
Anita McBride and
Christopher Mitchell

Benjamin Christoff
Sponsor:
Samuel Muscarella

John D. Clifford
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Gregory D. Grant

James Abell
Samara Abell
Matthew P. Massey
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Michael Tita
Wenying Wu
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Timothy Gleeson

Leo Gallegos
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Scott Rembold

Patrick Green
Sponsor:
John Vaghi

Rodney G. Harris
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Lauren Ashburn Dueffert

Mary Catherine Hofer
Sponsor:
Patrick Hofer

Thomas Kloster
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Ricardo Perez, DDS

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Sponsor:
George Braun

Dr. Derek Webb
Sponsor:
Jane Sullivan Roberts

Nicole Zandoli
Blaise Zandoli
Sponsor:
Michael Nardotti

My dear John Carroll Society members,

My First Thursday/Third Thursday series this year is drawn from the well known spiritual classic: *Introduction to the Devout Life* authored by that great saint and patron saint of writers. I speak of the doctor of the Church St. Francis deSales (1567-1622).

The book, which is both very practical and spiritual, was published in 1609—designed, in addition, for the spiritual lives of the laity—directing souls in the ways of holiness of life—a companion for our spiritual lives. In fact, it was the first classic that specifically included attention to the spirituality of the laity in addition to priests and religious who at that time were told that to become holy one needed to enter the monastic life. His book foreshadowed the “vocation to holiness” called for by the Second Vatican Council for all baptized Christians—for you and me together.

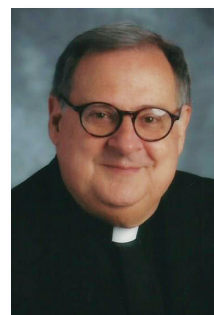


Photo by Eddie Arrossi

St. Francis deSales was born into a noble family and was professionally trained as a lawyer. He chose the priesthood in the face of initial opposition from his father who had a political career planned for him. As a priest, and later the bishop of Geneva, he served in those tumultuous years after the Protestant Reformation, in the later 16th century and early part of the 17th. His unique “mission” was to reconvert the Calvinists who occupied this area, who were lost to the Catholic faith. It was at times a perilous mission for him.

As a priest and bishop, he was always referred to as “the Gentle Christ of Geneva.” One of his favorite sayings was that “more flies are attracted by a spoonful of honey than by a whole barrel of vinegar.” The Calvinists came to see him not as a logician avid for victory over his opponents, but as a father anxious only for the welfare of his children who were lost.

From his many writings, he speaks with a loving simplicity, holiness and gentleness that comes from his heart. Nowhere does religion wear a more smiling face than in his works. He is everyone’s saint, extremely practical, and blatantly aware of our human needs. The sweetness of the gospel radiates from throughout his writings and from his efforts to win back for the Church those Calvinists who had strayed from the Catholic flock.

What then is his understanding of the word “devout,” from the title of his book and from which comes the word “devotion?” For deSales, true devotion presupposes love of God and hence in effect it is simply true love of God, of doing all we do out of love of God. This spirituality has been characterized as devout humanism, which means, in his words, some who wish to be angels are not even good at being a good human being. He says: try first at being a good human being. That is why his spirituality is characterized by the practice of “ordinary” virtues which make life pleasant and easy for everyone. He writes that “charity and devotion differ no more from one another than does flame from the fire. Charity is spiritual fire and when it bursts into flames, it is called devotion.” (*First #1*) He also states that we should intentionally desire to be devout. He adds: “Don’t be ashamed to practice the ordinary, necessary actions that bring us to the love of God.” (*Fifth #18*) For deSales, moreover: “True devotion consists in a constant, resolute, prompt, and active will to do whatever we know is pleasing to God.” (*Fourth #13*)

In his book, importantly, he writes of a proposed “rule of life,” a spiritual rule of life that one can freely adapt to one’s own schedule and concrete circumstances in life. It is an important dimension to living the devout life as baptized men and women in a balanced and full way.

It is my earnest desire that my series this year will help each of us focus on the centrality of the Lord in our lives and how we become more and more devout in living our daily lives and in a spiritual rule of life tailored for our individual situations in life.

May each of you have a good Advent this year and a holy Christmas and a New Year full of the blessings of a devout life in Christ! In the words, then, of St. Francis deSales: “Jesus lives.”

With prayerful best wishes, I remain

Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi

Chaplain, the John Carroll Society

Chancellor Invites Professionals to Be Joyful In Living Out Their Faith

On September 20, the Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Washington addressed and conversed with over 100 young professionals and guests at the society's annual Top of the Town reception held in Arlington, Virginia. In "Working in the Kingdom," Kim Viti Fiorentino, spoke about her vocation on the one-year anniversary of her appointment by Cardinal Donald Wuerl to serve as chancellor which came three months after joining the Archdiocese as general counsel. Carol Bates, society president, introduced Fiorentino as an "example to young professionals as a woman of intellect, faith, and kindness."

Fiorentino spoke about her move from 27 years in the private practice of law to her work for the Archdiocese of Washington and the support she received from friends, family and faith



Washington Auxiliary Bishop Mario Dorsonville with Kim Viti Fiorentino, chancellor of the Archdiocese of Washington and Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain at the Top of the Town, an annual reception for younger members.

during this major transition. As chancellor, Fiorentino serves as a member of the Administrative Board which advises the cardinal on issues affecting policy and pastoral practices within the archdiocese. Canonically, the chancellor is responsible for ensuring the acts of the

curia are gathered, arranged, and safeguarded in the archive of the curia. As general counsel, Fiorentino serves as the archdiocese's principal legal advisor, overseeing legal affairs and advising on all matters having legal implications for the archdiocese.

Fiorentino noted that women's voices are integral to the work of the archdiocese as demonstrated by the numerous women who hold leadership positions in education, public affairs, pastoral ministry, human resources, life issues, child protection, digital communications, multicultural outreach, and finance among many other important roles.

Fiorentino observed how over the past year she discovered in a new and meaningful way the enormous "breadth and meaning of the work and impact" of the Archdiocese of Washington and how all of this important work stems from the archdiocese's mission "to instill the love of Jesus and the Gospel"

MEMBER PROFILE

Archdiocesan Secretary For Catholic Education Calls JCS Model of New Evangelism

For John Carroll Society member Jem Sullivan faith has always been central to her life, informing her actions and eventually leading her into a career contributing to "the mission of the Church." Last August Cardinal Donald Wuerl appointed Sullivan, who holds a doctorate from The Catholic University of America, as the Archdiocesan Secretary for Catholic Education. There, Sullivan says, she continues "to share the good news of faith in Jesus Christ."

Describing her appointment, Sullivan said she felt "very blessed and humbled." In her role as secretary Sullivan assists in the teaching ministry of the archbishop through leadership of all educational efforts of the Archdiocese of Washington. She oversees all Catholic education including a system of 100 Catholic schools that serve approximately 27,000 students, and 127 parish religious education programs serving over approximately 24,000

students and 30,000 adults in Washington, D.C. and the Maryland counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's. The Catholic schools in the archdiocese form the largest non-public school system in the area.

"Cardinal Donald Wuerl's teaching ministry is respected and admired throughout the United States and around the world," Sullivan said at the time of her appointment. "It is an honor of a lifetime to serve Cardinal Wuerl's teaching ministry in the role of Secretary for Catholic Education."

A catechist, professor and author, Sullivan and her husband joined the John Carroll Society about 10 years ago after meeting Msgr. Peter Vaghi at St. Patrick's Church. Currently she and her family attend St. Jerome's Parish in Hyattsville. She has served on the board of the John Carroll Society and in the past presented a talk about faith in art for members attending a pilgrimage to New York.

The society helps those come together with a shared faith to also reach out to the needs of others she noted.

"The Church through organizations like the John Carroll Society really provides a strong sense of community – a place where we don't have to be isolated in our secular society," Sullivan said. She noted that through a shared faith in Jesus Christ and nourished by the Sacraments, professionals in the archdiocese can "come together in this community and really continue to grow in their faith."

"The genius of the John Carroll Society is its example of the New Evangelism," Sullivan added. "It is where faith intersects with professional life." The organization is a great way for professionals to "take advantage of that opportunity – right here in the heart of Washington D.C."



Photo Courtesy Jem Sullivan

in each person entrusted to our care.

During her presentation and responding to questions afterward, Fiorentino urged everyone to take courage in their Catholic faith even when it is difficult in today's often secularly-focused culture. She referenced Cardinal Wuerl's 2015 pastoral letter, *Being Catholic Today: Catholic Identity in an Age of Challenge* in which Cardinal Wuerl wrote, "...As cultural forces and government actions sometimes make it more difficult for us to carry out our work, we must remain true to our Catholic identity." Fiorentino explained, "That message may be challenging, but we should not shy away."

Fiorentino concluded her remarks by expressing her profound gratitude for the great gift of serving the Church; and noted that each of us – whether in business, home, law firm, medical profession or other path – have a sacred duty to "work in the Kingdom" of Our Lord as we bring the Gospel message alive to those we encounter.

Msgr. Peter Vaghi, society chaplain, echoed that theme when he thanked Fiorentino for being "an inspiration for serving the cardinal's goals in the kingdom."

For Sullivan, the central question has always been how to bring her faith into the midst of her work. She noted that she has been able to use her experiences to "contribute in a small way to the evangelization of culture."

Additionally for over fifteen years Sullivan has served on the faculty of the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, teaching graduate courses. She is the author of three books from *Our Sunday Visitor: A Study Guide to the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*; *The Beauty of Faith: Christian Art at the Service of the Gospel*; and *Opening the Door of Faith: A Catechist's Guide to the New Evangelization*. As catechetical consultant she has authored adult faith formation programs for various dioceses. As an invited speaker she has presented on catechetical themes at numerous conferences and workshops, including the International Catechetical Congress in Rome, Italy, during the Year of Faith.

"Faith draws us out to witness to God's love, to witness to God's mercy – the John Carroll Society does that so well."

Retreat Reflects On Christian Discipleship

On November 4, 50 John Carroll Society members and guests journeyed to Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD, for the Society's 20th Annual Fall Retreat. Under the guidance of Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, chaplain, and Msgr. Anthony R. Frontiero, vice rector and director of human formation at Mount St. Mary's Seminary and the retreat director, participants focused on the theme, "The Many Faces of Being Called: The Joy and the Challenge of Being a Disciple of Jesus."

Msgr. Frontiero's first meditation, "Encountering Jesus Along Life's Road: The Relationship Defined," focused on the faulty perspectives that keep us from seeing the truth in our lives and often leave us in despair. He offered the analogy of the disciples on the road to Emmaus, who were distraught at the loss of Jesus, their leader, and perceived a seemingly hopeless future. Their mindset was changed when Jesus revealed himself to them. Once they were able to discern the risen Christ, they gained a divine perspective and realized that the sacrificial death of their savior was required to defeat sin and evil. Their pain was transformed into hope!

Similarly, to gain the proper perspective in our own lives, we must release our human expectations to God, opening ourselves to whatever God will give us.

After the first meditation, we had time for reflection and prayer amidst the crisp mountain air and beautiful autumn foliage of Emmitsburg. Following Mass in St. Bernard's Chapel and lunch, Msgr. Frontiero offered his second meditation, "Abiding in Christ and the Paradox That Comes with Discipleship." As he explained, recognizing our human strengths and weaknesses,

we are called to embrace paradox in our lives as Jesus' disciples. However, there is a destructive temptation to eradicate this paradox. The director said that we spend significant time and energy trying to excise our limitations and inadequacies, in the mistaken belief that, if only we fixed our weaknesses, everything would be good. Yet, God has never used the strong to reveal His holy presence. People of true character need to reach the depths of humility before they attain the height of understanding.



Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the setting for the John Carroll Society's 20th annual fall retreat held on Nov. 4.

As Msgr. Frontiero noted, the joy and challenge of being a disciple of Jesus involves work that is often much humbler than we imagine. We must humbly turn our lives over to God so that we can become honest about our failures, with hope toward becoming more attentive to and more patient with ourselves and with others. Then, the love for which God created us, and through which He redeems us, will truly become tangible for us.



Msgr. Anthony R. Frontiero, retreat director who suggested the following prayer to place participants in the proper mindset: *Lord, I am willing to receive what you give, to lack what you withhold, to surrender what you take, to suffer what you inflict, and to be what you require.*

After some additional reflection time we participated in a communal penance service and had the opportunity for personal confession. Finally, we participated in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with recitation of the rosary and benediction, in the Glass Chapel located near the Grotto.

The retreat left us renewed in our faith, with gratitude and satisfaction for enhanced insight into our joyful but challenging roles as disciples of Christ!

By Raj Noronha

MEMBER NEWS



■ John Carroll Society Member **Kevin Conry** was honored last September for 40 years of service to Georgetown Law. Currently Georgetown University's Senior Advisor to the Vice President for Government Relations, Conry previously served in various roles within the Law Center including adjunct professor, assistant dean, and vice president for Strategic Development and External Affairs. Conry was integral in creating Georgetown Law's national and international Alumni boards.

■ John Carroll Society Member **Sandra A. McMurtrie** and **Msgr. Peter Vaghi**, society chaplain and member of the Gonzaga College High School graduating class of 1966 received the St. Aloysius Medal at the school's annual dinner held in October. The award is presented to "stalwart friends of Gonzaga for exemplary service, commitment, and overall dedication to the school and greater community."

■ John Carroll Society Officer **Jane Sullivan Roberts** and **Cardinal Theodore McCarrick**, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington were honored by "Serving Our Aging Religious" (SOAR) at the organization's annual dinner on November 3.

■ John Carroll Society Member **Ashok Pinto** recently became a Knight of Malta. Upon approval of the Sovereign Council and Grand Master of the Order in Rome, he participated in a Solemn Ceremony of Investiture at The Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle on October 21, 2017. He was sponsored by fellow John Carroll Society Members and Knights of Malta **Jim Bowe** and **Peter Redpath**.

■ John Carroll Society Member **Frank Scaturro** and Kathleen McCann plan to wed on February 3, 2018 at St. Peter's Church in Steubenville, Ohio.



■ Proud parents **Preeya** and **Ashok Pinto** are very blessed to announce the arrival of John Salvadore Noronha Pinto on June 13, 2017 at 1:10 pm, weighing 7 lbs, 5 oz and measuring 21 inches long. He joins two doting big sisters, Seraphina and Lucy.



■ **Michael** and **Marie Meszaros**, along with daughter Gabriella, welcomed John Laszlo Meszaros to their family on Saturday, August 12, 2017. John was baptized by Msgr. Charles Pope at the Church of the Holy Comforter St. Cyprian in Washington, DC on September 23.

DECEASED MEMBERS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following members of the John Carroll Society:

Patrick Colliton
Gregory Florenzo
Paul Finney
John Harvey

Rita Golden
Eric Mitchell
Lyle Brenneman
John Rynn

John Carroll Society For the Win at Nationals Park

On June 27 members of the John Carroll Society participated in the third annual outing to a Washington Nationals game, hungry for a victory after seeing lopsided losses in the previous two years. Once again with key assistance provided from member Ray McKenna, our group of 60 society members and guests arrived at the ballpark early for a talk by Nats Director of Player Development Mark Scialabba.

Scialabba explained how the Nats prepare young players in the minor league system, and in particular provide daily training, and cultural and spiritual support to Latin American draftees immersed in a new ballplaying environment. He also discussed

strengthening his own Catholic faith amid the travel and grind of a long season, especially as he and his wife are soon expecting their first child.

Scialabba fielded questions from our group before leaving to handle his game duties.

With extra time before the first

pitch our JCS group heard a brief talk by Kevin O'Malley, Operations Director for McKenna's sports ministry, Catholic Athletes for Christ. O'Malley described the organization's establishment of a players' pregame Sunday Mass at 27 of Major League

Baseball's 30 ballparks – including here in Washington. Additionally Catholic Athletes for Christ recently produced a CD recording of the Holy Rosary recited by legendary Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully.

At game time our JCS group filled a block of seats beside shallow right field to see the Nats take

on the defending World Series champion Chicago Cubs in a matchup of the National League's last two Cy Young Award-winning pitchers, Max Scherzer and Jake Arrieta. Scherzer allowed a 1st-inning run but the Nats stormed back to take command by the 5th inning and cruise to a 6-1 win. Arrieta's slowness to the plate allowed the Nats to steal 7 bases (4 by shortstop Trea Turner), tying a franchise record. In sum our group, which included Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain and Tom Loughney, M.D., president of the society, enjoyed an evening of great fellowship. We look forward to seeing the Nats put another curly W in the books next season.

By Christopher H. Mitchell



Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain and Tom Loughney, president attend the society's annual outing to Nationals Park last June. The Washington Nationals defeated the Chicago Cubs, 6-1.



Public Officials Urged To Promote Human Dignity

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"The mission that Jesus gave [the Church] is the beautiful mission of gathering all the peoples of the earth into one family of God," said Archbishop Gomez. "In God's eyes, there are no foreigners, there are no strangers... When God looks at us, He sees beyond the color of our skin, or the countries where we come from, or the language that we speak. God sees only His children – sons and daughters made in His image."

"America's founders believed that the only justification for government is to serve the human person – who is created in God's image; who is endowed with God-given dignity, rights and responsibilities; and who is called by God to a transcendent destiny," said Archbishop Gomez.

or despair. For all our weakness and failure: America is still a beacon of hope for peoples of every nation, who look to this country for refuge, for freedom and equality under God," he added.

Jesus gave the Apostles the power to forgive sins, but he is also "giving every one of us the power to forgive those who trespass against us," said Archbishop Gomez, who noted that this gift of forgiveness is "part of the unfinished revolution in American society."

"True forgiveness sets us free from the cycles of resistance and retaliation; it sets us free to seek reconciliation and healing," said Archbishop Gomez. "And this is what we need in America today – a new spirit of compassion and cooperation, a new sense of our common humanity. We need to treat others as our brothers and our sisters – even those who oppose or disagree with us. The mercy and love that we desire – this is the mercy and love that we must show to our neighbors."

Following the Mass, the John Carroll Society honored two individuals and two law firms for their dedication to pro-bono legal work through the Catholic Charities Legal Network: David Ralston

Addressing the guests at the Mass, Archbishop Gomez said, "My brothers and sisters, you all share in the responsibility for this great government." He called public service a "noble vocation" that requires honesty, courage, prudence, humility, prayer and sacrifice.

"So today, let us ask the Holy Spirit for His gifts and renew our commitment to this vision of a government that serves the human person," said Archbishop Gomez. "Let us commit ourselves to an America that cares for the young and the elderly, for the poor and the sick; an America where the hungry find bread and the homeless a place to live; an America that welcomes the immigrant and refugee and offers the prisoner a second chance."

While at times our nation has failed to live up to its founding vision, "that should not make us give in to cynicism

Jr.; Richard Bonsignore; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP and Affiliates; and Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, LLP. In the past year, Catholic Charities Legal Network has provided \$2.5 million in legal services to more than 3,100 low-income individuals in the Washington area.

Additionally Archbishop Gomez received the John Carroll Society Medal for being "a voice of compassion and reason on moral issues in American public life."

At the John Carroll Society gathering, Cardinal Wuerl gave a reflection



Los Angeles Archbishop José Gomez delivered the homily at the 65th annual Red Mass in October.

Photo By Christopher Newkumet

on what the Church is focused on at this particular time, which he said is a renewal of Catholics' own faith commitment, a confidence in that faith and the task of sharing it.

"We are so much aware that more and more people are understanding that the message of the Gospel brings something we find nowhere else," said the cardinal. "...Without it there is so much missing."

Sharing this Gospel message must be done with compassion, said the cardinal, because "this is supposed to be a door of mercy, (and) compassion...doors open (for us) to embrace everyone, even those who may not believe they are supposed to be with us."

By Kelly Sankowski



Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl greets a group of students from Georgetown University School of Law following the 65th annual Red Mass held Oct. 1.

Photo By Christopher Newkumet



Following the Red Mass, the John Carroll Society honored two law firms and two individuals for their dedication to pro-bono legal work through the Catholic Charities Legal Network. From left to right is Joseph Barloon from Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP; David P. Burns representing Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP; Carol Grefenstette Bates, society president; David Ralston Jr.; and Richard Bonsignore.

Photo By Christopher Newkumet



John Carroll Society
P.O. Box 454
Glen Echo, MD 20812

SAVE-THE-DATE

JCS Annual Dinner

Saturday, April 21, 2018
Four Seasons Hotel, Georgetown

HONORING:

Hon. John H. Bayly, Jr.,
Thomas M. Loughney, M.D.,
Hon. Anita McBride and
Jill and Paul McNamara

Dinner Speaker
General Timothy E. Trainor, Ph.D.
President, Mount St. Mary's University

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For more information on the programs and services sponsored by the Society, contact: Colleen Mudlaff, Executive Director, by phone at (301) 654-4399.



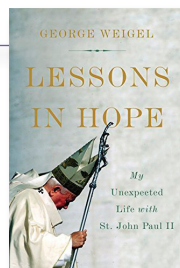
BOOK REVIEW By Ted Hirt

Pope's Biographer Shares Own Journey of Getting to Know Future Saint

Lessons in Hope – My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II, by George Weigel
(2017, Basic Books, \$32.00).

Many of us are familiar with the prolific writings and scholarship of George Weigel, currently a Distinguished Senior Fellow at Washington, D.C.'s Ethics and Public Policy Center. Probably most well-known is his two-volume biography of *St. John Paul II – Witness to Hope* (2009) and *The End and the Beginning* (2010). In *Lessons in Hope – My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II*, Weigel recounts his friendship with the saint, and how it developed.

Weigel recalls the origin of the biography – his acceptance, during a December 1995 dinner, of the daunting challenge of describing a rich papacy. The challenge was “to get to know more personally a saint who bent the course of history in a humane direction.” In turn, Weigel recognized that becoming the pope's biographer became the “pivot” of his own life.



The resulting book is an “album of memories” from that period.

Lessons in Hope proceeds chronologically including Weigel's account of his development as a Roman

Catholic scholar deeply interested in the plight of the persecuted Church in Eastern Europe, a region then suffering under Communist dictatorships. The author understood that the advocacy and actions of then Karol Wojtyla, and others in Poland, were instrumental in the overthrow of European communism, sparked by Lech Walesa's Solidarity movement.”

Along the way, Weigel provides behind-the-scenes accounts of interviews, and even free-wheeling discussions with the pope, other Vatican officials, and the lay Polish men and women who knew him during his formative years, when Poland struggled to maintain its identity against both Nazi and Soviet domination. John Paul II explained: “The communists tried to be accepted, not just as a political authority, but as a moral authority, as an expression of the Polish nation.” But, as Weigel explains, “there was no fifty-yard line of coexistence between two utterly opposed views of the human person,

human community, and human destiny. Somebody was going to win, and somebody had to lose.”

Lessons in Hope contains many vignettes of John Paul II's philosophical insights, his optimistic message, and his vision of the Church. In “*The Indispensable Man*,” Weigel illuminates the close relationship between John Paul II and then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger. In one interview, the then-Cardinal emphasized to Weigel that John Paul II was a man “with an acute sense of the human dilemma in late modernity.” Together with Cardinal Ratzinger, there was a “constant dialogue with serious intellectual collaborators that belied the charge that John Paul II was an authoritarian imposing a personal (and Polish) view on the Church.”

This book provides a rich account of Saint John Paul II and aspects of his papacy. But, because - as Weigel acknowledges - *Lessons in Hope* is the “third panel” in a triptych, the reader may wish to start with his two prior books on Saint John Paul II before reading this one. Nevertheless, one can savor this book on its own terms and thereby appreciate the late pope's many contributions to the Church and to the modern world.