



# *Our Faith in Action*

*American Martyrs Catholic Community*

## **A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR**

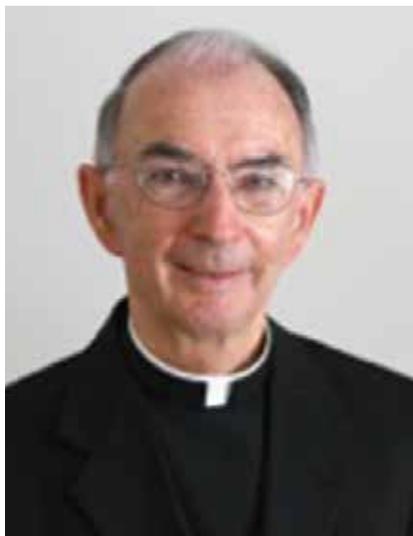
### *Fall Springs into Life at Our Parish*

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Dear Parishioners,

This is such an exciting and challenging time of our year. In many ways it is not the Fall but a Springtime in the life of our parish. There is newness in the air. This was especially evident at our annual Outdoor Mass. Almost 2,500 of our parishioners from infants to seniors gathered to pray together. The joy on our field was palpable. There was quiet reverence, music and song to lift our souls, and so many signs of brothers and sisters working together to build up the kingdom of Jesus Christ. While food trucks fed our bodies, all of us left feeling our spirits had been fed, renewed and uplifted.

We welcomed a new blessing of technology, “live streaming,” connecting us near and far. It was great to hear out-of-state family and friends so excited and feeling connected with their families here. We know, however, that live streaming the Mass does not replace or fulfill our Sabbath obligation to be in Church together, to share in, and celebrate the Eucharist at the one Table.



Thanks to all who made our Outdoor Mass such a wonderful experience for so many. Great to see all of our ministries in action!

As you know the month of October is also “Respect Life” month, a time set aside by our Church calling us to reflect on how we value and respect life as God’s gift – not only in words but in our actions. When we had the horrific and inhuman gassing of children in Syria, our very being revolted. In the midst of this Senator Boxer was out front crying evil, and rightly so. There were her words of horror at

seeing children gasping for breath as their little bodies were piled up. Yet this politician is one of the greatest proponents of abortion at every stage. These human beings whose lives are snuffed out need the same concern and compassion. Still, we elect such people over and over again. As Christians we need to join with many people of faith to end the evils perpetuated against human life and dignity. This obviously also includes caring for the poor and marginalized. We need to be involved and support our wonderful

*continued on back cover*

## THE RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

### *Standing Courageously for the Unborn*

*“I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child - a direct killing of the innocent child.” -Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

For Kim Neglia, becoming a fervently pro-life Catholic was a journey, filled with the help of God’s grace.

“My only child is adopted, and I remember being so grateful that this young birth mother made the decision to give us her child,” Kim says. “I was not actively pro-life at the time when we adopted her. However, after my husband, Russ, and I married in 2000, he wanted to be very involved in the Respect Life Ministry, so I began to get more involved in the ministry. I had a lot of friends who were pro-choice, so it was hard for me to become actively pro-life, but my husband helped me to do so anyhow. I knew people needed to stand up for unborn

children and I wanted to become a more courageous advocate on their behalf.”

After giving her heart to the pro-life movement, Kim was glad to co-chair the Respect Life Ministry with Russ for several years. Kim and Russ recently handed over the leadership of the ministry to Steve and Jessica Perry.

“I believe that God gives all of us the gift of life and we need to honor our brothers and sisters, born and unborn,” Kim says. “We are all created in the image of God, which is a wonderful blessing, and we need to stand up and say that life is a gift – don’t destroy it!”

The Respect Life Ministry focuses on efforts to increase the consciousness of parishioners

to pro-life issues encompassing the sanctity of human life, from conception until natural death.

“By loving the most innocent among us, whether they are a baby in the womb, a child with Down Syndrome or an elderly person with Alzheimer’s, we are combating the culture of death,” Steve says. “We are at risk of becoming a society where you are only valued if you are useful to the political, business or other institutions, instead of simply having an inalienable right to life.”

Along with the ministry’s mission of raising awareness of pro-life issues, it supports the Pregnancy Help Center in Torrance. The center provides thoroughly trained, compassionate counselors who help guide women to the right choice on how best to handle their pregnancy. It also offers

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*The Respect Life Ministry has been an active participant in the Pregnancy Help Center Torrance’s annual Walk for Life.*



*(From left) Robert, James and Brian Marshall represent the Respect Life Ministry at Coffee and Donuts.*

## THE RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY *continued from page 2*

training in parenting, nutritional and breastfeeding skills, as well as medical assistance from an on-staff doctor, STD testing for men and women, baby supplies, and funding for hospital deliveries. By the end of this year, the center will offer ultrasounds as well. In order to raise proceeds for the center, Respect Life Ministry members participate in the Walk for Life each May in the South Bay.

The ministry will kick off October's Respect Life Month at all Masses on the weekend of Oct. 5 and 6 with a candle-lighting ceremony. On Oct. 12 and 13, ministry members will hand out baby bottles as part of the Baby Bottle Fundraiser for the Pregnancy Help Center. Throughout October, the Respect Life Ministry will keep a table with various educational brochures covering eight pro-life topics. In addition, they will host a speaker event in O'Donnell Hall following the 5 p.m. Mass on Oct. 27 called "The Power of 7," which presents a starter-kit of pro-life knowledge to give the audience the confidence to engage in a peaceful and effective dialogue with a person who supports abortion.

Looking forward, the new co-chairs have authentic hopes for building a culture of life, beginning here at American Martyrs.

"Life is a major part of Catholic social teaching and we would like every parishioner

to know what it means to truly respect life," Steve says. "There will be multiple educational opportunities throughout the year, and also opportunities for the youth of the parish to get involved. We are looking for volunteers to participate in the new ministry structure. We have opportunities for a youth liaison, fundraising, prayer and ministry, education and many others."

Those who would like to stand up for life with the Respect Life Ministry may contact Steve Perry at 818-800-5653 or at [respectlife@americanmartyrs.org](mailto:respectlife@americanmartyrs.org). For further information on upcoming events, please see the parish bulletin.



*American Martyrs Respect Life Ministry supported the Pregnancy Help Center Torrance in starting their first ultrasound service. (From left) Board President and member Jessica Perry, member Jeannine Lochtenberg, Executive Director Adrienne Gross, and member Kim Neglia.*





**Sylvia Aimerito**  
Owner/Creative Director



**Lori Rae Martin**  
Owner/Music Director

*On Oct. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in O'Donnell Hall, Audio-Girl Ministries will present "The Power of 7," a non-aggressive common sense approach to answering seven of the most common pro-choice arguments.*



*American Martyrs Respect Life Ministry members. (Bottom row, from left) Kim and Russ Neglia, Gail Donlon, Sarah Skillen. (Top row, from left) Joyce Payne, Jeff Platten, Steve Perry and Katie Martin.*

## STEWARDSHIP AT ITS “FUNNEST” *Our 43rd Annual Parish Fair*

It is once again time to celebrate the annual American Martyrs Parish Fair. Each year, this tradition is a special weekend for our parish family to come together to share a time of food and fun while raising funds for our parish and school.



“The Parish Fair is one of the largest fundraisers for the church and the school, and it’s something that the community looks forward to,” says Troy Thrower, a chair of the Parish Fair Committee. “It’s the signature event every year to kick off the school year. It gives us more of a sense of community. Everybody is out having fun and the kids love it. It brings us together, because we’re all believers. It brings us all together to do something in addition to going to Mass. It allows the kids to run around freely and have fun, and it allows people to have fun together. It’s just a fun event. All in all, people leave after the weekend and feel great about the parish and its community.”

Troy is one of three volunteers who make up the Parish Fair Committee that oversees the preparation, organization and running of the Parish Fair. He and his fellow chairs of the committee, Rebecca Foster and Jen Adams, work with the many parishioners who volunteer as chairs for the various food and game booths.

“A lot of the parishioners that have worked as chairs for the fair have been doing that for quite some time,” Troy says. “These are very loyal, engaged parishioners that really like to make sure the fair is a success, and it makes our job a lot easier

because they’re managing their own stations.”

The 43rd Annual Parish Fair will be Saturday, Oct. 19 and Sunday, Oct. 20.

Visitors can expect many old festival favorites and new surprises at this family-friendly event. There will be plenty of food booths and lots of other attractions. There will also be games for kids and adults, a petting zoo, Granny’s Kitchen, Silent Auction, and much more. This year, there will also be a carnival-style dunk tank.

“Ms. Connelly [Principal of American Martyrs Catholic School,] will draw a lot of interest getting in the dunk tank,” Troy says. “That’s a new addition this year and should be a lot of fun.”

As always, on Saturday, the festivities begin with an opening Mass for festival volunteers. The rest of the day’s activities include a Silent Auction with all types of items up for bid, such as weekend getaways, country club outings, antiques and lots more. Saturday evening features dinner and a live auction, followed by music and fellowship.

Sunday’s highlights include the Lucky 21 Raffle, with a grand prize of a 2013 Volkswagen Tiguan. The weekend closes on Sunday evening with Mass.

“By that time people are exhausted, and it’s an awesome way to end the weekend,” Troy says.

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## STEWARDSHIP AT ITS “FUNNEST” *continued from page 4*

Throughout the weekend of the Parish Fair, volunteers are needed to set up and tear down, and to assist with all the activities in between. All parishioners are welcome to volunteer.

“It makes things a lot easier,” Troy says. “And not only that, you get to learn about and meet people in your community when you share your time and talents. It’s a team effort and it’s stewardship in the community. There’s nothing better than that.”

Having fun and building community go hand-in-hand at our Parish Fair. As we spend time playing games and enjoying each other’s fellowship, we are also strengthening the bonds of

our entire parish community. This event is a great venue for our parishioners to come together in a festive atmosphere to simply enjoy themselves and each other’s company. St. Paul tells us to “Rejoice always,” (1 Thes 5:16). This is one way our parish seeks to live out that command and to be joyful with the Lord and each other.

Don’t miss out on this opportunity to come together as a parish family, to enjoy time with your own family, and to support our parish and school!

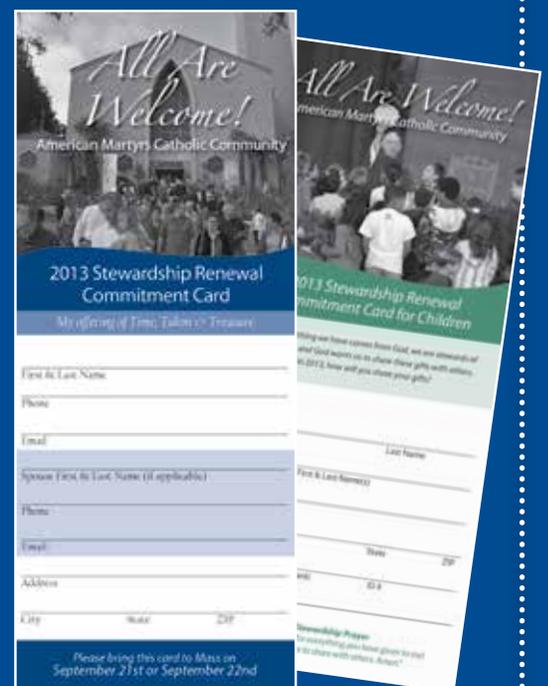
“You get to meet people in your community and see people in a relaxed environment having fun,” Troy says. “You don’t need to go to Disneyland. It’s right

there in walking distance. It’s a day of fun. It’s a great event to make people aware of how wonderful and special our parish is. When you compare it, it’s a fraction of what an amusement park or something like that would cost. So to have a day of fun like that with all your friends and loved ones, there’s no better place to be.”

*For more information or to volunteer, please call Harriet Rapista at 310-798-9977, or visit the website at [www.amparishfair.org](http://www.amparishfair.org).*

## Please Return Your Commitment Card!

*The 2013 Stewardship Renewal is ongoing. Please remember to turn in your commitment card to the parish as soon as possible. We appreciate your willingness to participate in this year’s renewal. The more we grow to embrace and understand the stewardship way of life, the more our parish will flourish and grow!*



## POPE FRANCIS TO CANONIZE BLESSED JOHN PAUL II

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Throughout the Church's history, difficult moments have abounded, but perhaps no century played host to more difficulty than the 20th. Nevertheless, faithful as ever, God provided the barque of St. Peter with saintly captains to navigate the treacherous waters.

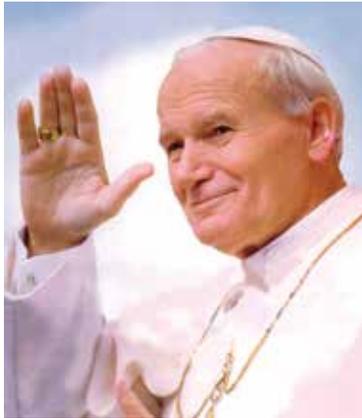
Recognizing the heroic virtue and unwavering faith of two of these 20th century popes, our current Holy Father Francis recently announced his intention to canonize Pope John Paul II.

Canonization, or the declaration of a new Saint, is the culmination of a thorough process by which the Church investigates the life of the individual in question and seeks confirmation from heaven in the form of a verified miracle performed through the saint's intercession. This process often begins decades or even centuries after the Saint's death, but in the case of John Paul II, who died in the spring of 2005, this process has been a relatively quick one. In fact, at his funeral the throngs of pilgrims shouted '*santo subito!*' or, 'declare him a saint immediately!'

This enthusiasm surrounding John Paul II's death was nothing new, considering the fever pitch of enthusiasm that had accompanied him on his travels throughout the world.

Born Karol Wojtyla in 1920 in the rural Polish town of Wadowice, John Paul II's early life was one of successive hardships. He lost his mother, father and siblings at an early age. Left alone in the world, Wojtyla turned to his faith and developed a profound relationship with Christ which eventually led to the priesthood, the episcopacy and the papacy.

However, becoming a priest in Nazi-controlled Poland was no easy task. Wojtyla spent his World War II years laboring in a factory by day and studying with his classmates in a clandestine seminary by night. After four years of study, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1946, just after the close of the war.



Over the next three decades as a priest and then as a bishop, Wojtyla formed a distinct spirituality, ministering to the people of Poland who were under the rule not of the Nazis but of the Soviets. His experience of the oppression of the Polish people and the gross abuses of human dignity formed his unique philosophy and theology that went on to become the cornerstone of his papacy. Such teachings as the

Theology of the Body, the Gospel of Life, and others could truly be said to have been formed in the twin crucibles of Nazi and Soviet dictatorship.

In 1978, at the height of the Cold War as the world trembled in fear over the possibility of nuclear war, the College of Cardinals elected Wojtyla as the first non-Italian pope in 455 years and the first Pole in the Church's history.

In the 26 years that followed, the tenure of John Paul II as pope redefined the papacy in an age of mass media and advanced the renewal of Vatican II. His travels around the world and his wildly popular World Youth Day events helped strengthen the unity of the global Catholic Church, and galvanized a generation of devout young Catholics.

Following his death in 2005, two miracles have been confirmed through John Paul II's intercession, one of which was the miraculous healing of a woman struggling with Parkinson's Disease, the same disease which took the pontiff's life a few years earlier.

In addition to the canonization of John Paul II, Pope Francis has also announced his intention to canonize John XXIII, who served as pope from 1958 until June of 1963. John XXIII is most frequently remembered for his convocation of the Second Vatican Council.

No date has been set for either of the two canonizations yet, but it is widely speculated that the celebration will be held within the next year.

## MINISTRY HELPS DIVORCED CATHOLICS 'BEGIN AGAIN'

**T**hat which God unites, man must not separate.” Taken from the Rite of Marriage, this line illustrates the importance the Church places upon the Sacrament of Marriage. By design, marriage is intended to be an unbreakable union. After all, it is through marriage that “the two become one.”

However, most of us can name at least one person who is divorced or separated, whose parents were divorced, or who are affected in some way by divorce. A national statistic published nearly a decade ago stated that one in every two marriages ends in divorce.

This reality is disheartening, to say the least. However, it is important that we do not cast judgment on those who feel divorce is their only option. Instead, we must focus on helping such individuals heal.

“Marriage is a blessed sacrament, and it is important to work every possible avenue to try and heal broken marriages,” says Jenny Attanasio, director of Volunteer Ministry Formation at American Martyrs. “However, there are folks who, for whatever reason, feel their marriage needs to dissolve. They need support, love and kindness — a place without judgment.”

American Martyrs offers such a place through its Beginning Again Ministry. As one of the few parishes in the archdiocese with such a program, Beginning Again ministers not only to those divorced and separated in our parish, but in other parishes and communities throughout the Los Angeles metro area, as well.

“Going through a divorce is often the most difficult and stressful experience in a person’s life,” says Dave Muckley, a facilitator for Beginning Again. “Having a support group is a lifeline during

those troubling times. It is important for our faith, our parish and our community that we live the Gospel and offer a source of emotional and spiritual strength during this difficult period. People need to know and feel that God still loves them, and He will walk with them through the journey.”

Beginning Again was started at American Martyrs more than a decade ago. Dave estimates that in that time, between 300 and 500 people have received support and care at the hands of Beginning Again volunteers. Currently, the ministry meets on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

“It’s beautiful to see people who have spent some time in our program, worked through the challenges of divorce, and have truly grown and rebuilt their lives,” he says. “They are thriving, active and happy people in our parish or community.”

Dave encourages anyone who is struggling with divorce to consider attending

a Beginning Again session.

“The individual has nothing to lose by coming to one of our meetings and trying us out,” he says. “All of our facilitators have personally been through a divorce, so we have walked the journey, and we can relate to the pain, confusion, anguish, anger, grief, fear and ultimately growth that is part of the divorce process. We don’t try to ‘fix’ anybody, and we don’t judge anyone — no matter what they share. It’s a safe place where you can share your own journey in a confidential environment and learn to grow from listening to the stories of others.”

If you have questions about Beginning Again, please contact Jenny Attanasio at 310-545-5651, or Dave Muckley at 310-920-0850 or [damuck@aol.com](mailto:damuck@aol.com).



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## PASTOR'S LETTER *continued from front cover*

“Respect Life” ministry not just in October but each day of our lives. We need to be healers of all, especially of women who have had abortions and who suffer in so many ways from this experience in their lives. And of fathers who have had no say in some of these situations.

Finally, October brings another great event, our annual Parish Fair. Sometimes we may forget all the creativity, work and volunteer hours that the Fair entails. If we support our leaders we can easily find an opportunity to be involved. What a great way to meet fellow parishioners - working shoulder to shoulder with those who have energy and joy to share. Through the Fair we connect with so many. It is another way to show how we live and support one another and, of course, we know that the Fair is the biggest fundraiser supporting our ministries. So please sign up, buy and sell some raffle tickets,

make donations to the Silent Auction, and support our booths and food providers. Pray for the Fair's success and bring a friend or two.

All of these events draw us back to the Word and living the Word in our daily lives. Romans 12:4 reminds us, “For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.”

In Christ,



Rev. Msgr. John F. Barry, P.A.  
Pastor

*Our Faith in Action is provided by the American Martyrs Stewardship Commission*

### LITURGY SCHEDULE

**Saturday**, 5:00 p.m. | **Sunday**, 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.  
**Monday/Wednesday/Friday**, 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:00 p.m.  
**Tuesday/Thursday**, 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:00 p.m. | **Saturday**, 8:00 a.m.  
**Holy Day**, 5:00 p.m. (Vigil), 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12:10 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 7:30 p.m.