

**Dear Parishioners,**

It is almost a week now since my brother; Father John has gone for a vacation. I am honored to cover for him. I will hand the office back to him on Tuesday. I am happy to be your Pastor for a week. Thank you Father John.

Since I was not here for about seven weeks, I would like to share with you about my trip to Tanzania. As I told you that my Diocese in Tanzania got a new Archbishop and he was to be installed in May 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Archbishop George Lucas, my fellow Priest Fr. Lawrent Mhagama (the Pastor in Chicago) who paid for my ticket and you who made my trip manageable.

The installation of my new Archbishop, ***Damian Denis Dallu*** was wonderful; he got a warm welcome. Many faithful lined up on the road on his arrival, and on the day of installation, in a big Cathedral Church, people outside the Church were many and than those who were inside the Church for the Holy Mass. After the Holy Mass, there were traditional dances for entertainment. It was very good to be there.

While I was there I had to extend my Visa; I am happy it is extended for two more years. I had also to talk to my new Bishop about my studies at Creighton University in Omaha. He is very happy and allowed me to continue with my studies. So, in the coming August 2014, I will be studying Masters of Science in Negotiation and Dispute Resolution. I hope everything will go very well.

While home I did one thing historical; among the two funerals I did, one was of an old man of 108 years old, who has left 76 grand grandchildren. One thing also happened; my beloved sister Leokadia Gama (who comes after me), and two of my late sister's daughters (Mariana and Lucy) had babies. These babies were born shortly after my arrival. Thanks be to God for such a wonderful gifts.

One thing more! This time I had a long time travelling. There were a lot of delaying and cancellation of the flights. I spent one night in Newark. While in Tanzania, I was told I did not have a ticket from Tanzania to Switzerland, so I could not travel until Marie worked on it. I could not be in phone for a long time while I am there. Thanks to Marie who stayed on the phone for more than two hours talking to the United Airlines people to find another plane for me. I am back. Thanks for being with me. I am happy to be among you.

May Almighty God bless us all.

**Fr. Gama**

### **Question of the Week –Where do you see seeds of faith in your culture? Where do you see weeds?**

**Reading 1 Wisdom 12:13, 16-19**

**Reading 2 Romans 8:26-27**

**Gospel Matthew 13:24-43 or 13:24-30**

**Reflection:** In the gospel reading, Jesus is determined that his disciples will understand how the kingdom grows in their midst. So he tells the parable of the weeds in the wheat field. The sower (Jesus) allows both the wheat (those who work for God's kingdom) and the weeds (those who work against God's kingdom) to grow together until the harvest (the end of time).

The gospel story tells us much about the justice and mercy of God. Even though the weeds are present in our world, the wheat is growing and will prosper in the end. The grace of Christ will triumph over sin and evil. Pray: Help me, Lord, to be your faithful follower until your kingdom comes in its fullness. Amen.

<b>PARISH SUPPORT</b>	<b>WEEK OF JULY 6 – 13</b>
Weekly Revenue	\$13,390.51
Weekly Expenses	\$5,785.14
Surplus/ (Deficit)	\$7,605.37
Year to Date Revenue	\$15,030.51
Year to Date Expenses	\$7,957.82
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$7,072.69

**DID YOU KNOW...** Our playground is well underway?

Excavation has begun and the new wall and fence will be up shortly. It will be wonderful to see the playground equipment from Blessed Sacrament School being put to use again. Thanks to everyone who has made donations thus far. We are still waiting to see what the final cost will be.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FAMILY OF PHIL CUSHING.** Phil is the husband of Rosemary. Phil was buried from here this past Monday.

**100 DAYS OF SUMMER. 100 DAYS OF HOPE.** Blood is especially needed this time of year, so please schedule your donation today! Saturday, July 26 is the Knights Blood Drive in the St. Philip Neri Activity Center. Please stop & schedule an appointment with one of the Knights after Mass today or contact Myron Smedra at 402-457-5622 to schedule an appointment or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) & use sponsor code: 009603

**ALL LADIES OF THE PARISH MAKE UP THE ALTAR SOCIETY.** If you don't belong to a Circle, you are considered an inactive member. We collect inactive dues this time each year so we can pay for Altar Breads, Missals and other special projects in the parish. **PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES TO THE RECTORY OR PUT THEM IN THE COLLECTION BASKET AT CHURCH WITH "ALTAR SOCIETY" NOTED ON THE ENVELOPE.**

Thank you to those who have already donated. If you are interested in finding out more about joining one of our four Circles, please call Marsha Moon at 402-455-1485.

**ROYAL NEIGHBORS REPORT ON PROJECT "MOTHERS IN CRISIS".**

We have filled 10 large shoe boxes with items for Mom's at U.N.M.C. We want this to be an ongoing project...SO keep filling the basket under the St. Joseph altar in Church with the following items: socks, washcloths, small towels, coupons/gift cards for fast food, playing cards, pens, notepads, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, tooth brushes, combs, brushes, sewing kits, manicure kits, lotions, etc. With your back to school purchases of shoes – keep us in mind – we can use large, sturdy shoe boxes. If you have any questions or would like more info., please call Marsha Moon at 402-455-1485, Raylyn Ramsgard at 402-689-8681 or DeLynne Clausen at 402-455-9610.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**JULY 21 – 27**

Monday	8:15 AM	Communion Service
Tuesday	8:15 AM	Our Parish Family
Wednesday	8:15 AM	Jensen Family Living and Deceased
Thursday	8:15 AM	Phil Cushing +
Friday	8:15 AM	Del Murphy +
Saturday	5:00 PM	Brod O'Flynn + Robert Rentscher +
Sunday	7:30 AM	Mike Ricketts + Ed O'Connor +
	10:30 AM	Janet Funderberg Int. Roseann Slaven +

**GARDENERS TELL US THAT WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WHEN PULLING WEEDS.** Some weeds look very much like the flowers and vegetables around them! Sometimes they have to be allowed to grow a little to be sure they are truly weeds! Also, gardeners must be careful not to pull up the good plants with the weeds, especially when they are growing close together. If you look carefully, you might find some "weeds" inside your own heart. What is Jesus' attitude toward them? How will you deal with

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS: JULY 26/27**

**ALTAR SERVERS:** 5:00 PM: Autumn Rose Barnes, Casey Kubes  
10:30 AM: Tysen Holmstedt, Sam Parys

**CANDLE BEARERS:** 5:00 PM: Jarrad Borosko, Kycie Negus  
10:30 AM: Isaac Parys, Jerad Peck

**LECTORS:** 5:00 PM: Jerry Bexten  
7:30 AM: Dorie Mittlieder  
10:30 AM: Todd von Kampen

**DEACON:** 5:00 PM: Deacon Al LeClair  
7:30 AM: Deacon Fred Hendricks

**EMHCs:** 5:00 PM: Angie Bahle-Lampe, Sarah Bohnenkamp, Juli Bohnenkamp, Diane Sullivan

7:30 AM: Bob and Betty Jones, Madelaine Adler, Bonnie Shea

10:30 AM: Bev Baer, Mary Fink, Cathy Fluckey, Bob and Marj Ryckman

**GIFT BEARERS:** 5:00 PM: Bahle Family  
7:30 AM: Huber Family  
10:30 AM: Ryckman Family

**MUSICIANS:** 5:00 PM:  
10:30 AM:

**COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND:** Bev Baer, Roy Edwards, George and Marsha Moon, Dave Parks

**NERI DOLLAR SELLERS:** 5:00 PM: Joni Locher  
7:30 AM: Judy Bahle

10:30 AM: Mary Parsons

**COLLECTION MONEY COUNTERS:** Charlie Buell, Jacquie Dahlin

**IMMANUEL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Bill Cheese, Dick Hays

**USHERS:** 5:00 PM: Fred Bonacci, Dave Sedlacek, Jim Coe, Ron Allbright, Rock Cramer

7:30 AM: Bill Wilber, Carl Sedlacek, Chuck Holderness, Chuck Livengood

10:30 AM: Tom Mendicino, Rick Krebs, Fred Maycock, Carl Cramer

**CHRISTIAN HUMOR** A customer was bothering the waiter in a restaurant. First, he asked that the air conditioning be turned up because he was too hot, then he asked it be turned down cause he was too cold, and so on for about half an hour. Surprisingly, the waiter was very patient, he walked back and forth and never once got angry. So finally, a second customer asked him why he didn't throw out the pest. "Oh, I really don't care or mind," said the waiter with a smile. "We don't even have an air conditioner."

**The Mission of St. Philip Neri School is to build the body of Christ by promoting academic, social and spiritual growth in a challenging educational environment.**

**OUR CHRISTMAS IN JULY TREE IS NOW UP!** Please visit one of the trees & pick an ornament to help the staff at our school replenish their supplies over the summer. You can drop your donation off at the rectory or just put it in the collection basket. The tree will be up through the end of July. Help us give our students & staff a Very Merry Christmas in July!

**THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP FOR VOLLEYBALL!** There are registration forms by the doors of Church.

**YES! YOU CAN STILL REGISTER FOR FAMILY FAITH FORMATION CLASSES!** There are registration forms by the doors of Church.

**THE GOAL IS TO TEACH GIRLS FROM PRE-K TO 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ABOUT THEIR CATHOLIC HERITAGE, FAITH, AND TRADITIONS.** The St. Philip Neri Little Flowers Girls Club is based on the spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux. They will meet in the library after school from 3:15 – 4:45 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month starting in September. Registration forms are by the doors of Church.

**LET'S HELP STOCK UP THE PANTRY AT THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WAREHOUSE BY BRINGING FOOD ALL THIS MONTH TO CHURCH!** They are in dire need of: canned tomatoes & tomato sauce, canned fruit, canned meat: tuna & chicken, & saltine crackers. Please put the food in the barrels near the front doors of Church – & maybe line the food up the aisle towards the altar!

**THE WEEK AHEAD**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 20**

**NERI DOLLARS SOLD:** After all Masses

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD –** During  
10:30 Mass

**SATURDAY, JULY 26**

7:00 A.M. **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BLOOD DRIVE –**  
Activity Center

**NERI DOLLARS SOLD:** After Mass

**SUNDAY, JULY 27**

**NERI DOLLARS SOLD:** After all Masses

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD –** During  
10:30 Mass

**VENDORS ARE NEEDED FOR THE HEARTLAND FAMILY FESTIVAL ARTS & CRAFTS** show, Saturday, Aug. 2, 10 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Sponsored & supported by the Archdiocese of Omaha, this ecumenical event for families will draw thousands. Games, face painting, bounce houses, magician & celebrities, Colin Raye concert, & fireworks. Most child or family related articles or activities can be sold. Contact [John](#) at 402-510-3426 to reserve your 10'x10' indoor booth in air-conditioned Sokol Hall next to Morrison Field, Creighton Campus.

**YOUTH SERVE FUNDRAISER FOR SEVEN OAKS OF FLORENCE.** Rummage and Bake Sale...August 2<sup>nd</sup>, Donations accepted at 7:00 am. Sale 8:30am until 2:30pm. St. Mary's Parish Center (2302 Crawford St. Bellevue) We need your donations to make this sale a success. Early donations drop off at 808 Willow Ave.

**RONCALLI 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL AT RONCALLI HIGH SCHOOL** on Sunday, August 3. Mass will be on-campus at 11 a.m. with activities until 6 p.m. The festivities will include live bands, children's activities, food vendors, a beer garden & tours of the school. Admission is FREE! Contact Julie Grosse-Rhode at [jgrosse@roncalliatholic.org](mailto:jgrosse@roncalliatholic.org) for additional information.

**CHANGE OF SEASON: CHRIST'S USE OF AGRICULTURE IN PARABLES,** Aug. 8-10, retreat at St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, with Father Ralph O'Donnell. The Lord uses parables in instructing his disciples. Being blessed with rural, agricultural surroundings, we will have a look together at how the change of season can enrich our own discipleship. With the backdrop of

Colfax County's fields, join us in the quiet of St. Benedict Center to reflect on how the word has been planted in our hearts & to acknowledge how it grows, develops, & matures through the Spirit's presence in our lives. The retreat shows how we can support this process in our day-to-day living. For more info., call (402) 352-8819 or visit [www.StBenedictCenter.com](http://www.StBenedictCenter.com)

**FOR ADULTS WHO ARE DIVORCED, WIDOWED OR LEGALLY SEPARATED** A Beginning Experience (BE) Weekend retreat for the widowed, separated & divorced is planned for **Aug. 8-10** at the Archdiocese Retreat Center, St. Joseph's Hall, 3330 N. 60 St. The loss of a loved one through separation, divorce or death is one of life's most traumatic experiences. This retreat is designed to be a time to heal & a time to turn the pain of loss into an adventure of grace. Open to individuals of all faiths. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$100 semi-private or \$125 private sleeping room. For more info. & an application, visit [www.beginningexperienceofomaha.org](http://www.beginningexperienceofomaha.org) or call/email Kay Buhrman at the Family Life Office at 402-551-9003 Ext. 1304, [ekbuhrman@archomaha.org](mailto:ekbuhrman@archomaha.org)

**SAVE THE DATE!** Saturday, August 23 - 9a.m. **4th Annual Breakfast for Life** at the Creighton Prep Sullivan Center. Featured speaker Rebecca Kiessling author of "Conceived in Rape; A Story of Hope", honored by Feminists for Life as one of their internationally- named "Remarkable Pro-Life Women". For tickets call EPS 402-554-0121 or go to [www.essentialps.org](http://www.essentialps.org)

**SPIRITUAL JOURNALING RETREAT DAY ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 4 FROM 10 - 2 AT THE KNOWLES MERCY CTR.** Keeping a personal journal is a constructive way to record how God has blessed us, helped us to experience God's presence, & to seek God's leading. Join Cheryl Paden, retired RN, Pastor, free-lance writer & speaker for this day of experiencing the joy of journaling. Fee: \$25 includes lunch. Call 402-359-4288 for more info. or to register.

**THE NEBRASKA STATE PATROL MOTOR ASSIST PROGRAM IS ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS.** The State Patrol asks that a volunteer performs two tours of duty a month unless you have a priority commitment or vacation. The Patrol is very protective of the volunteers & will not ask them to do anything they are uncomfortable with. Volunteers are trained in CPR, AED, & Radio Procedure – since the vans have State Patrol radios. Since volunteers are not Law Officers, they do not chase/arrest speeders or come in contact with criminals. They do assist stranded motorist, change tires, take drivers to get gas – or transport them to a safe haven, work or home. They also tag abandoned vehicles. Men & women are welcome! To find out more, contact Patrol Dispatch at 402-331-3333 & ask for Lt. Bridges, Capt.. Konfrst, or the Duty Officer.

**OPEN YOUR HEART & HOME TO HOST A KOREAN EXCHANGE STUDENT.** What better way to bring another part of the world to your home & school, than to host a foreign exchange student! By hosting a young ambassador 4th through 10th grade, you & your family will be able to gain a better understanding of another country, its culture, & society – in a very personal way. You will also be able to impart on the exchange student a better awareness of America & share your faith. Experience God working in the hearts of the future leaders of Korea. Broaden your perspectives & gain a lifelong friendship across the globe. Please call our local coordinator Annie Distefano at

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402-880-1397 or Mrs. Haewon Park at 800-521-6640 for more information &/or to become a host family.