

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

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Edited by Don Ruthig

August 26th, 2014

AN EAGLE'S EYE VIEW

Don't wish that your kids were little saints

When the Rector's away, Isaac Eagle will play . . .

THERE are times, I'd venture to guess, when all mothers and fathers wished their children were little saints. However, be careful what you wish for. You might not like the result.

Case studies indicate that saintly teenagers can be even more difficult than the very much less than saintly variety.

St. Clare – a close friend of St. Francis of Assisi and whose feast we celebrated on August 12th – is a case in point. Clare, who lived in the 13th century, was a terrible trial to her blue blooded father, a member of the Offreducia family, one of the noblest in Italy.

Her father had his first hint that saintliness might be a less than desirable trait in a child when Clare was 12. She refused to do her duty and marry the scion of another noble house. Then, six years later, at the age of 18, Clare ran away from home after hearing St. Francis preach a Lenten sermon.

She followed St. Francis to the town of Pontiuacula, renounced all her possessions and demanded to become a nun. St. Francis shrewdly shuffled off the problem by putting her in the charge of the Benedictine nuns at St. Paul's Convent in Bastia.

Her family eventually caught up with her and tried, with a mixture of persuasion, cajoling and threats, to make her return home – all to no avail. Ultimately, she moved to the town of Sant' Angelo di Pazo where she was joined by Agnes, her younger sister, who also became a nun.

Having lost one daughter to the church, her father was determined not to lose another. He dispatched a dozen armed retainers to bring Agnes home by main force. However, he reckoned without the strong-minded Clare.

The men eventually returned empty handed, explaining that Clare's prayers made Agnes so heavy they couldn't shift her. Poppa Offreducia's response to their account of Agnes' miraculous weight gain is not recorded.

It seems that, at this point, Clare's father decided to cut his losses and give up the struggle. But if he hoped this might hold his family together, he was sadly mistaken.

After his death, Clare's mother and another sister, Beatrice, joined her in her convent. What's more, they took with them a number of ladies from the wealthy Ubaldini family in Florence.

In 1215, St. Francis gave Clare a house next to the church of St. Damiano in Assisi, and she became abbess of the first community of nuns living under the Franciscan rule.

Pope Innocent III granted her a special dispensation of absolute poverty. This enabled the community to renounce all possessions – including buildings and land – and to live solely on the proceeds of begging. It was a state of poverty and austerity unique among nuns of the day.

Clare lived the rest of her life in contemplation at Assisi where she became famous for her holiness and wisdom. After St. Francis' death in 1226, she became a friend and counselor to many influential church leaders.

Twice she saved Assisi from the marauding armies of the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II. Apparently, the sight of St. Clare on the city wall, holding up the Blessed Sacrament, was enough to strike fear into the hearts of Frederick's battle-hardened warriors.

My purpose in writing about Clare – who died in 1255 and was canonized [*declared a saint*] two years later – is not to

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Mondays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Club meets in Quimby Hall

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room

Special Events

Wednesdays, 6.15 PM: Silly Summer Suppers in Quimby Hall

Wednesday, August 27th, 7.00 PM: Vestry Meets in the Cadwalader Room

Saturday, September 20th, 3.00 PM: Service of Rededication

Saturday, September 20th, 5.00 PM: Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 21st, 10.00 AM: Combined 9.15 AM and 11.00 AM Services (8.00 AM service unchanged).
Service of Confirmation

Sunday, September 21st, 3.00 PM: Service of Ordination with reception to follow

denigrate sainthood and saintliness. Perish the thought! The example of great and holy leaders like St. Clare has been an inspiration to generation upon generation of Christians.

Even so, as the case of St. Clare demonstrates saints are often very difficult to live with – in large part because they challenge us to submit to God's will rather than our own.

Wishing one's kids were saintly is mistaking saintliness for perpetual, instant and unquestioning obedience. You can almost certainly get that from a robot. You just might get it from your dog. But you certainly won't get it from a saint, an eagle, or any red-blooded American kid for that matter. **ISAAC EAGLE**

Anniversary Weekend: September 20th - 21st

St. Stephen's celebrates two significant anniversaries in 2014: the 25th anniversary of Fr Guy's answering the call to be our Rector, and the 20th anniversary of the construction of our parish church. Under the unfaltering guidance of Fr Guy we have grown from a small group of founders intent upon preserving our traditional liturgy to a thriving congregation committed to God's mission in Baltimore.

Bishop John Vaughan will be joining us to celebrate these inextricably linked anniversaries in a full weekend of events.

On Saturday, September 20th at 3.00 pm there will be a rededication service for our parish church. The liturgy will closely mirror the original Service of Dedication held on September 25th, 1994.

Following the service, at 5.00 pm, we will be holding our annual Parish Picnic on the church lawn.

On Sunday, the 21st, there will be an 8.00 am Eucharist as usual, however the 9.15 and 11.00 am services will be combined into a single service of confirmation to be held at 10.00 am.

Sunday afternoon, at 3.00 pm, Bishop John Vaughan will be officiating at a Service of Ordination in the sanctuary. Deacons Michael Belt and John Novicki will be ordained as priests and sub-deacon Wiley Hawks will be ordained as deacon. A reception will follow the service. Please join us to celebrate this important event for Michael, John, and Wiley and for our parish.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

August 31st, 2014

8.00 AM & 9.15 AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: I Corinthians 15:1-11

The Gospel: St. Luke 18:9-14

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: Psalms 124, 125

The First Lesson: Isaiah 26:12-16, 19

The Second Lesson: St. Luke 18:9-14

Joseph Ritchie Golf Tournament Update

The Golf Tournament for Joseph Ritchie Hospice sponsored by Gardiner's Furniture was a huge success. Event organizer and St. Stephen's parishioner Linda Mullaney reported that the event raised approximately \$32,000 for the hospice, far exceeding the goal of \$20,000.

Our Parish Life Committee donated two baskets of cheer to the event, one featuring fine wines, the other top shelf spirits.

Congratulations to all involved for such a successful event

FROM DIANE NOVICKI

Dear Sunday School Parents

In order to teach the lesson of charity we will be collecting an offering in Sunday School every Sunday for the Zambia, Africa Anglican Diocese.

I have been telling the children about the church in Africa but would appreciate it if you could urge your child to bring a small age appropriate offering (\$.25-\$1.00) to church.

This offering of love teaches the children to care for others.

In Christ, **DIANE NOVICKI**

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Fr Mike, Fr Tim, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, John, Rodney, Donald, Annie, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Ally, Marjorie, Steve, Judy, David, Wendy, John, Joy, Walt, Tina, Irma, Nina, Susan.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, Hannah, Joseph.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes.

COLLECT FOR THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY AND SAINT AUGUSTINE

LET thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of thy humble servants; and, that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

Book of Common Prayer Page 203

O LORD God, who art the light of the minds that know thee, the life of the souls that love thee, and the strength of the hearts that serve thee: Help us, following the example of thy servant Augustine of Hippo, so to know thee that we may truly love thee, and so to love thee that we may fully serve thee, whom to serve is perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

AMEN

✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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Web Address: ststeve.com

RECTOR: The Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Venerable Michael Kerouac

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Happy Riley
(410-252-8674)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS: Happy Riley (410-252-8674)
Martha Miller (410-321-9038)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Sung Eucharist (*with Nursery & Church School*)

11.00 am: Choral Mattins (*1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist*)

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (*1st Sunday only*)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

Return Service Requested

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