

Around the Parish

APRIL 2020

EVERYBODY KNOWS EVERYBODY

Today was a special day, the types of day which restores a faith or sorts. And in that faith I found a lesson, taught to me by my 6-year-old son Brandon.

I watched him at the kitchen table carefully packing his lunch-bag. I was going to take him along with me to work. As he put it, "I'm going to be a worker-man." Carefully laid out before him was an arrangement of everything he required to get him through the day - a small coloring book, crayons, small box of smarties, blueberry muffin, egg-salad "samich" (as he called it) and 3 small Easter eggs.

To know Brandon is to understand that time has no meaning. I was running late and implored Brandon to, "Hurry up!" Hurry he did. In fact, he forgot his well-packed lunch, a mistake I was painfully aware of on the forty-minute drive to town. He admonished me several times saying, "Dad, you made me rush now I have no lunch." He changed the words over the duration of the scolding but the meaning remained the same, "I need a lunch because you made me forget mine." I purchased a sandwich and another muffin at a restaurant in town. Satisfied, he carried the bag to the van and soon his mutinous thought of, "no lunch, no work," vanished.

We arrived at a small bungalow in the suburbs of Kington. Our job: to install indoor-outdoor carpet on the porch and steps. I rang the doorbell. I could hear the dead-bolt being released, then the handle-lock and security chain. The door swung slowly open revealing an old, thin, man. He looked ill. His white hair covered his head in patches. The powder-blue shirt hung from his shoulders as though on a hanger - his belt, several sizes too big. I smiled asking if he was Mr. Burch. "Yes. Are you here to do the porch and steps?" "yes, Sir." "OK. I will leave this door open." "OK, I will get to work." "Do you have a fridge?" blurted Brandon. The old man looked down at Brandon who extended his lunch. "Yes I do. Do you know where to find a fridge?" "Yes I do," said Brandon walking past the man. "It's in the kitchen." I was about to suggest to Brandon that he was being bold by walking in but before I could, the old man held his finger to his lips gesturing it was OK. "He'll be OK. He can't get into anything at all. Does he really help you?"

I nodded yes. Brandon returned asking, in his most elf-life voice, "Do you have a coloring book?" Again, I was about to suggest to Brandon that he was perhaps being bold. I extended my hand beckoning him outside. The old man grasped my hand feebly. He looked at Brandon. "Your father tells me you help him." "yes. I'm a worker-man," Brandon replied with pride. I looked down adding, "Apparently his job today is to keep the customer busy."

The old man looked at Brandon releasing my hand, a faint smile appearing, "Maybe you could do some work and show me how to color?" With a most serious look, Brandon asked, "Dad, will you be OK?" "Will Mr. Burch be OK?" I answered. "We will be fine. We will be right here at the table. Come help me get out the book, worker-man." I walked to the truck returning with material and my notepad in time to hear Brandon comment, "You have colored in this book. You are a good colorer." "No, I didn't color these pictures. My grand children did." "What are grandchildren?" Brandon asked curiously. "They are my children's children. I am a grandfather." "What's a grandfather?" "Well, when you grow up and get married, then have children of your own, your dad will be a grandpa. Then, your mother will be a grandma. They will be grandparents. Do you understand?"

Brandon paused. "Yes, grandpa." "Oh, I don't think I'm your grandpa," the old man suggested. Brandon rubbed his hair from his eyes. Studying the crayons, he selected

one and continued to color. Brandon said, "Everybody knows everybody you know?" "Well, I'm not sure they do. Why do you say that?" the old man looked curiously at Brandon who was diligently coloring.

"We all comed from God. He made us all. We are family." "Yes, God made everything," the old man confirmed. "I know," said Brandon in a lighthearted voice. "He told me." I had never heard Brandon talk of such things before, other than one time we had gone to church to watch a Christmas play. While waiting for the play to start, Brandon had asked which door God would be coming through and if he would be sitting with us. "He told you?" The old man was clearly curious. "Yes He did. He lives up there." Brandon pointed to the ceiling looking up with reverence. "I r-member being there and talking to Him."

"What did he say to you?" The old man placed his crayon on the table focusing on Brandon. "He said we are all family." Brandon paused then added logically, "So you're my grandpa." The old man looked to me through the screen door. He smiled. I was embarrassed he saw me watching them. He told Brandon to keep coloring, he was going to check on the job. The old man made his way slowly to the door. Opening it, he stepped onto the porch.

"How's it going?" he asked. "It's going OK," I said. "It won't be long." The old man smiled slightly. "Does the boy have a grandfather?" I paused. "No, he doesn't. They were gone when he was born. He has a nanny, you know, a grandmother, but she is frail and not well." "I understand what you are saying. I have cancer. I'm not long for this earth either." "I'm sorry to hear that Mr. Burch. I lost my mother to cancer." He looked at me with tired, smiling, eyes. "Every boy needs a grandfather," he said softly.

I agreed, adding, "It's just not in the cards for Brandon." The old man looked back to Brandon who was coloring vigorously. "How often do you come to town, son?" "Me?" I asked. "yes." "I come in almost every day." The old man looked back to me. "Perhaps you could bring Brandon by from time to time, when you're in the area that is, for 30 minutes or so. What do you think?" I looked in at Brandon. He had stopped coloring and was listening to us. "Could we dad? We are fliends. We can have lunch together." "well, if it's OK with Mr. Burch." The old man opened the door returning to the table. Brandon slid from his chair and walked to the fridge. "It's lunch time grandpa. I got enough for both of us." Brandon returned to the table. He removed the contents from the paper bag. "Do you have a knife?" asked Brandon.

The old man started to get up. "I can find it. Tell me where to look," instructed Brandon. "The butter knives are next to the corner of the counter, in the drawer." "Found it!" Brandon returned to the table. He unwrapped his muffin. With the care of a diamond-cutter, he cleaved two perfect portions. Brandon placed one portion on the plastic the muffin was wrapped in. He pushed it toward Mr. Burch. "This is yours." He carefully unwrapped the sandwich next. "This is yours too. We have to eat the samich first. Mom says."

"OK," replied Mr. Burch. "Do you like juice, Brandon?" "Yep, apple juice." Mr. Burch walked slowly to the fridge. He removed a can of apple juice and poured two small glasses. He placed one in front of Brandon. "This is yours." "Thank you grandpa." Brandon punctuated his eating with questions to Mr. Burch, and fits of coloring. "Do you play hockey, Brandon?" "yep," said Brandon, studying the end of his sandwich before biting into it. "Dad took me, Tyler and Adam, in the wintertime."

"years ago," Mr. Burch started. "I used to play for a Senior-A-team. I was almost ready to play for the NHL, but I was never called up. I did play once, with a man that was called up though. He was a fine player. Bill Moore. That was his name." My heart leapt to my throat, "Tutter Moore?" I asked through the screen. The old man was startled. He looked at me. "Yes, that's him...was called up to Boston a few times. You've heard of him?" "yes," I said my voice cracking. "you're eating lunch with his grandson." The old man looked back at Brandon. He stared for a few minutes. Brandon looked innocently at Mr. Burch. "yes...I see now. He looks very much like Tutter. And the nanny, is Lillian?"

"Yes," I replied. The old man clasped Brandon's hand. "Brandon, I owe you an apology. You were right, and I was wrong. Everybody 'does' know everybody."

APRIL 2020 DEVELOPMENT NEWS FROM THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Spring is here! Spring means Walk for Annual Fund time for Sacred Heart School. Our students kicked off our Walk for Annual Fund 2020 campaign on March 2nd by addressing envelopes to their family and friends to ask for support of our Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is a yearly campaign to raise financial support for items such as new books, art supplies, upgrades in technology and our teachers' salaries that continue to provide Sacred Heart School students with a solid educational foundation to succeed in high school and beyond. The Annual Fund also helps offset tuition. Tuition only covers 45% of the cost to educate a child at Sacred Heart School. A donation to our Annual Fund helps bridge this gap and allows families the opportunity to send their children to our school.

SHS Walk for Annual Fund is scheduled for Friday, May 1st (rain date May 8th) starting in front of the school at 10am and ending at Happy Hollow playground. Our annual picnic immediately follows our walk at the playground pavilions. Please help us reach our goal by donating to our Annual Fund. No donation is too small. You may also visit www.sacredheartreading.com and click "donate now" to pay online.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

Questions? Please contact Beth Gasperack (610) 685-2347 or bgasperack@sacredheartreading.org.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND



____ Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

____ Please charge my credit card for my gift. (enter credit card info below)

____ I wish to pledge \$ _____

(Pledges are due by June 2020)

____ Please invoice me monthly payments of \$ _____ for _____ months

____ Please charge my credit card for a monthly payment of \$ _____ for _____ months

Student to receive credit: _____

Name/Name of Business: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please circle all that apply:

Current Parent Former Parent Grandparent of current SHS student Parishioner Corporate Sponsor
 Foundation Faculty/Staff Alumnus – Class of _____ Other _____

I wish to remain anonymous

Matching Gifts: _____ A matching gift will come from my employer.

Planned Giving: _____ I would like information on planned giving.

For Credit Card Payment:

(circle one) VISA Mastercard American Express

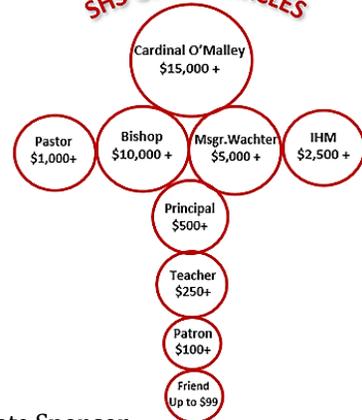
Name as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ EXP. DATE: _____

Validation Code: _____ (on back of card for VISA/MC; on front of card for AMEX)

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SHS GIVING CIRCLES



Thank you for supporting Sacred Heart School !

Gifts to Sacred Heart School are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

701 Franklin Street • West Reading, PA 19611 • (610) 373-3316 • www.sacredheartreading.com

**PLEASE WELCOME
OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Giuseppe & Nicolina Farina

Daniel & Nancy DeCarlo and their sons
Rocco & Emilio

SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

These are certainly challenging times for educators, students, and their families. It seems as though information changes daily - sometimes hourly. At Sacred Heart School and Cabrini PreK we are following closure guidelines given to us by the Governor, the PA Department of Education and the Diocese of Allentown. We already had a plan in place ("Flexible Instruction Days") that was approved by the Diocese in case we went over our four scheduled "snow days." Teachers in grades K-4 prepared instructional packets, and teachers of students in grades 5-8 planned online instruction.

All that changed March 13, as our closure became longer. Teachers have been working diligently assembling online content so that our students can continue to learn while at home. It's a new challenge for us, and with God's grace we will continue to support our families in their children's education. Together we can move mountains!

Bishop Robert Reed at Catholic TV wrote the following prayer, which was shared in "Today's Catholic Teacher:"

O God, protect us against the ravages of illness. Stop the advance of the Coronavirus that threatens the human family across the globe. We pray through the intercession of Your

Mother, Refuge of the Sick and in the name and power of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Submitted by Kathy Napolitano, Principal

SENIOR NEWS

There will be no Seniors Meeting in April due to the Easter Holiday - the seniors are all busy eating their chocolate bunnies!

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4th at 1 PM. Deacon William Kase will present a devotion to Mary in the Chapel. We will then adjourn for May Day Fun and refreshments in the Wachter Room. So come enrich your soul with reflection and enjoy the company of friends!

SVDP SOUP KITCHEN

The weekend of May 2nd and 3rd, Sacred Heart Church Parishioners have our twice a year duty and opportunity to volunteer to serve brunch/ lunch to those in need at the Kennedy House in Reading.

Time: from 10 AM to 1 PM, both days
Kennedy House Address: 532 Spruce St, Reading

We regularly serve 150 - 200 people per day. Come be a part of this fulfilling experience; helping your fellow man and working with others to get the detail done. Spots (usually 15 volunteers is what we look for) often go quickly so contact Jim Tucker at jet999@comcast.com or (610) 781-7940 to sign up. **Please Note: All volunteers must be fully vetted to be able to volunteer at the Soup Kitchen.**

OUR CONDOLENCES TO

The Fitterling Family on the death of:
Stanley E. Fitterling Jr.
2-8-2020

The Flemming Family on the death of:
Claire D. Flemming
2-17-2020



Upcoming Knight activities depending on the future of the COVID-19 restrictions.

APRIL calendar events:

2 - Planning Meeting - IHM Room 7PM

12 - EASTER

16 - General Meeting - IHM Room 6:45-9:00PM

Weekend of April 18 & 19 - Spaghetti Dinner Ticket Sales

Weekend of April 25 & 26 - Spaghetti Dinner Ticket Sales

Important 2020 KofC dates for your calendar:

May 6 - Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale 4:30 to 7:30pm

August 21 - Annual Swing and a Prayer Golf Tournament

The Knights of Columbus Monsignor Bornemann Council membership is open to all practicing Catholic male adults, aged 18 and over, who wish to serve their parish and community. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month. To join, contact our Grand Knight John Sylvester at (610) 451-6980.

APRIL 2020 EVENTS

- 1 Searching Sacred Scripture – 9:30 AM - Bornemann
Stations of the Cross – 1:15 PM – Church
RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 2 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
- 3 Stations of the Cross - 7PM - Church
- 5 Coffee & Donuts – 10 AM – Wachter
- 6 Legion of Mary – 6 PM - Bornemann
Parish Council – 7 PM – Wachter
- 8 Searching Sacred Scripture – 9:30 AM - Bornemann
RCIA – 7 PM - Bornemann
- 9 **Mass of the Lord's Supper – 7 PM – Church**
- 10 **Commemoration of the Lord's Passion – 3 PM - Church**
Stations of the Cross – 7 PM - Church
- 11 Blessing of the Food – 12 Noon - Chapel
Easter Vigil – 8 PM – Church
- 12 **HAPPY EASTER!**
- 13 Rectory & Parish Center Closed
- 14 Intercessory Prayer Committee – 7 PM - Bornemann
- 15 Searching Sacred Scripture – 9:30 AM - Bornemann
Liturgy Committee – 7 PM – Wachter
RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 16 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
Knights of Columbus – 7 PM – IHM Room
- 19 Coffee & Donuts – 10 AM – Wachter
Third Order Carmelites – 1 PM – Chapel & Wachter
- 22 Searching Sacred Scripture – 9:30 AM - Bornemann
- 23 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann
- 27 Newsletter Mailing – 8:30 AM – Wachter
- 29 Searching Sacred Scripture – 9:30 AM - Bornemann
RCIA – 7 PM – Bornemann
- 30 Knitters & Crocheters – 1 PM – Bornemann

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS
CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES IS
DEPENDENT UPON THE
RESTRICTIONS OF COVID-19.
CHECK THE WEBSITE
FOR UPDATES.**