



Matter and Form

Transforming Words

Matter and Form, the title of this newsletter, refers to that which is necessary for the validity of the celebration of a sacrament. In short, the "matter" refers to the substance, e.g., water, oil, bread, wine; and "form" is the formula or words that transform the ordinary matter into extraordinary matter.

This newsletter gives attention to "matter": events, people, news, and strives to convey them in words with the intent to not only *inform* but to *transform* the liturgical minister.

We are all well aware of the power of words. We can use them as weapons to insult, belittle or disparage another or as tools to build up and bolster the Body of Christ.

Jesus' use of words in his teaching was integral in his salvific work as is revealed by one of the common refrains in the Gospels: "and Jesus *taught* the crowds." At a particularly difficult point in his ministry, most of Jesus' disciples left him. He turned to his apostles and asked, "Do you also want to leave?" (Jn 6:67). Peter, speaking for the

apostolic cohort, replied, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (Jn 6:68). What a testimony to the power of speech!



Welcome to Saint John's

We welcome Fr. Luke Millette who will be helping with Masses until September. Fr. Luke was born in Mobile, Alabama. He attended LSU where he earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. A job with BP brought him to Houston where he attended St. Paul's parish in Nassau Bay. Luke was selected

from amongst the seminarians for Galveston-Houston to continue his studies and formation in Rome. Ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 2012 at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Luke will remain in Houston until he returns to Italy to begin his post-graduate studies in Canon Law at the Pontifical North American College.



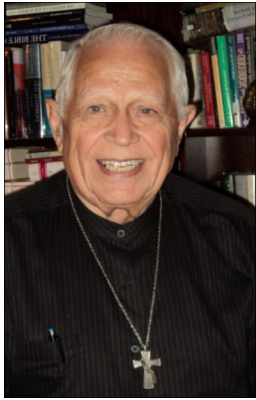
Fr. Luke Millette

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DID YOU KNOW... that the Order of Mass gives 3 different names for the Prayers of the Faithful because it is variously titled in different parts of the world: the Universal Prayer, the Prayer of the Faithful or Bidding Prayers. It is universal because the community prays for the needs of all the world. It is "of the faithful" because catechumens have been dismissed and the faithful are exercising their priestly ministry. They are "bidding" because they take the form of a litany, and the one announcing the intentions bids the people to pray for them.

In Praise and Thanksgiving



Deacon Dale Steffes is celebrating 40 years as a permanent deacon. Dale was ordained at St. John Vianney on June 4, 1972 by the late Bishop John

L. Morkovsky. It was the first class of permanent deacons for the then Diocese of Galveston-Houston and also the largest class of permanent deacons to be ordained in the United States.

Dale was born in Olpe, Kansas where his family was politically active. His father served as Mayor;

one brother as Kansas State Senator and another as a Kansas State Representative. Dale graduated from Kansas State University with an engineering degree. Among the windfalls of his work as a registered professional engineer was an introduction to Sandy, who became his wife and mother to their 5 children; grandmother to their 15 grandchildren.

In July of 1973 Dale established his consulting firm, Planning and Forecasting Consultants, and has provided services to over 150 energy entities including 3 OPEC countries.

In our parish, Dale has led the Wednesday evening Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help for 25 years and has faithfully kept vigil

in the Adoration chapel every Thursday morning at 1AM since perpetual adoration began in the parish 30 years ago. Dale is also an active member of the Knights of Columbus, Third and Fourth Degree, and has served as Assistant to the State Chaplain. All this is in addition to the vast number of baptisms Dale has celebrated; he estimates the number to be close to 1000 plus the numerous weddings at which he has presided. Yet, Dale reports, there remains much to do on his bucket list!



Sandy Steffes with RCIA

Thanks Dale!

Vianney Views: Mike McDonnell

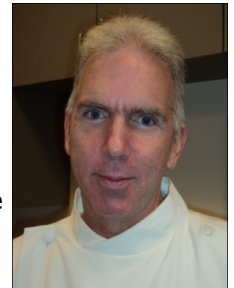
Mike McDonnell, coordinator of Altar Servers, and his wife Cathy, have been parishioners of St. John's for 22 years.

Mike succeeded former coordinator, Earline Raia, when his oldest son, Ryan, now 22, began serving 10 years ago! Mike also serves as an instituted acolyte.

Mike and his wife met while both were attending Western Michigan University; they moved to Houston in 1980. Their sons, Ryan and Sean, attend Texas State University.

Mike manages a team of approximately 80 servers

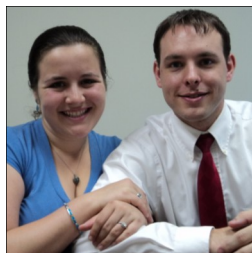
ranging in age from 9 to 16. For him the biggest challenge is conveying to the servers what an honor and privilege it is to serve God in the liturgy. One of the many blessings, he says, is watching the servers grow from young children into young adults.



Mike McDonnell

Chatter Matter

- Congratulations to Stephanie Dinning and Chris Frerich on their marriage on May 26 in College Station. Stephanie and Chris serve as EMs at the 11am Mass.
- Adam Jackson, EM at the 11am Mass, is brother to Kevin Jackson who celebrated his



Stephanie & Chris

ordination to the deaconate at St. John's on June 2. Kevin looks forward to his priestly ordination next June.

- Eva Aurich-Mendoza, lector

at 12:30pm, expects her first child in August.

David and Stacia Morgan Dunn (cantor) welcomed their first child, Jack, on April 19th.

Congratulations!



It's Alive!

We are a people of memory. In, with and through sacred scripture we remember that in our Lord's flesh and blood, dead and risen, God has entered the deepest fractures of his beloved, yet broken humanity. Through Jesus God brings to birth his kingdom on earth. The body of Christ, the living community of faith, is the midwife of this great and sometimes painful labor of love.

This "labor" is the work of evangelization—bringing the good news to our relationships of all degrees. The task today is similar to that of the early church: to form a people of God in the midst of a religiously diverse society; to enliven, give "flesh", to the Word of God so that it can be leaven for the world.

Post baptismal catechesis aims for ongoing conversion of heart and life and for the formation of a community that fosters active discipleship. That community, our parish, need not be perfect to accomplish this. Rather, we get better by doing and the doing changes us, enlarges our hearts and our talents. All formation is about a way of life, of kingdom-building, of *being* the body of Christ broken and poured out for the world and for its salvation.

The indispensable source for all formation is the Word of God. For us Catholics the Word is never simply "the Bible." For us, the Word is both the living Word of God and the living tradition of our community of faith. It is the divinely inspired word of God in dia-

logue over time with a living, breathing, struggling-to-be God's chosen people.

In the liturgical proclamation of sacred scripture, the God who has formed covenant people speaks to us again and again to elicit our active response to his invitation to live in his love. This is a real presence and a decisive dialogue between God and us that begets action. Armed with the ingredients of our lives, guided by the Word of God, and fueled with the Body and Blood Christ, we are lovingly urged to find resonance with the words of St. Augustine, "Be what you see; become what you receivethe Body of Christ."



Moving Rite Along

Christians celebrate funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of a life which has now been returned to God, the author of life and the hope of the just. The Mass, the memorial of Christ's death and resurrection, is the principle celebration of the Christian funeral. In the funeral rites the Christian com-

munity affirms and expresses the union of the Church on earth with the Church in heaven in the one great communion of saints. Though separated from the living, the dead are still one with the community of believers on earth and benefit from their prayers and

intercession.

Christian hope faces the reality of death and the anguish of grief with the conviction that the power of sin and death has been vanquished by the risen Lord.

"May the angels lead you into paradise; may the martyrs come to welcome you and take you to the holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem."

Musical Notes

* Anticipation mounts as the trip to Rome this Fall draws near. Along with some choir members, parishioners, will enjoy sites in and around Rome, Nov. 4-12. The pilgrimage is arranged through Catholic Travel.

*The Vesper Choir (Sun. 5:30), welcomes the following new mem-

bers: Maria Aleman, Austin Dean, Mark Anthony Rodriguez, Matthew Richardson and Sean Stultz. All (except Mark) are currently music majors at University of Houston's Moore's School of Music. Mark is choir director and organist at St. Pius V Church in Pasadena, Texas.



* Within a few weeks new hymnals in English and Spanish will be arriving. The English hymnal will include over 70 additional psalms and canticles and 300 new hymns. Within the new editions are 8 Mass settings that reflect the recent changes to the prayers of the Mass.

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

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comments to
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Living faith

Changing lives

Making a difference

Looking Ahead!

Aug. 4: Saint John Vianney Feast Day

Dinner immediately following 5:30 Mass

Aug. 15: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
Mary

Sept. 14: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Oct. 4: St. Francis of Assisi feast day

Oct. 9: Vesper Choir Concert:

Theotokos: Mother of God, 7:30pm

Nov. 1: All Saints Day

Nov. 2: All Souls Day/Requiem within Mass

Nov. 25: Feast of Christ the King

Dec. 8: Sung vespers following Mass in honor of
the feast of the Immaculate Conception

Ite, Missa Est by David San Miguel, Associate Director of Music

Having been blessed to be a part of music ministry for just under two decades hours spent in liturgy can add up! When you count all the celebrations of Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, weddings, funerals, weekday and Sunday Masses, one can easily fall into automatic pilot. Many of the prayers fade in the background except for those that cue immediate, almost programmed, responses such as, the most common, "The Lord be with you. And with your Spirit."

As a musician, while my ears are attuned to the same cues my impulsive but trained reaction is to prepare to provide the appropriate musical response. The invitation in the Penitential Rite, "Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries," stirs in

me not repentance but rather readiness to lead the assembly in one of the 3 prescribed optional responses. This type of domestication of the liturgy is certainly one of the casualties of our ministry if we allow it to become task oriented rather than privileged service.

All of us called to serve in liturgical ministry have placed ourselves at the service of the Church's great corporate prayer. Important to note is that "corporate" derives from the Latin, *corpus*, meaning, "body" thus the Body of Christ is most beautifully manifested when we gather as the Body of Christ for our corporate worship. As the Body we are not merely spectators of the liturgy but participants in what is preached and prayed. With joy, gratitude and conviction

we affirm our acceptance of the great commission in the Concluding Rite as we are commanded to, "Go, announce the Gospel of the Lord." And we respond, "Thanks be to God."



Garret
Graham
with
fellow
ushers



Lectors, Mario Guajardo & Rick
Dorazil



Deacon Fred Kossegi