

CCD Teachers and Students

The first day of classes will be on Sunday, September 13 following 8:30 A.M. Mass. We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer. We look forward to the start of a new year.

VIRTUS Training

A VIRTUS training session is scheduled for our parish community on:

**Thursday, September 24, 2009 at St. Jude's,
Mountain Top
from 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**

All employees and adult volunteers who work with children are required to attend this training session.

All parents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Please call the following phone number: 570-474-6315 or 474-6327 Liza Kelly to register for VIRTUS training.

Entertainment Books

Entertainment Books for 2010 are now on sale. The cost is \$20.00. If you are interested in purchasing this year's copy, please call the rectory.

Catholic Underground

"The Catholic Underground PA, a Eucharistic Holy Hour followed by a "different" kind of coffeehouse, presents Immaculate Art Ministries presentation: "Person to Person; A Mother Theresa Project" on Friday, September 11, 2009 at 7 PM at St. Gabriel's Church, 122 S. Wyoming St., Hazleton. This project is the fruit of much research and contemplation of Mother's beliefs on human dignity. Join us as we encounter Jesus in every person just as Mother Theresa did; to seek Jesus in His most distressing disguise! For more information visit www.catholicundergroundpa.com or call 570-403-3094. You won't want to miss it!"

St. Mary's of Dorrance Tee Shirts

We still have some tee shirts available with the St. Mary's of Dorrance logo on them. If you are interested in purchasing a tee shirt, please call the rectory at 868-5855. The cost is \$10.00 per shirt.

"Celebrating a Special Anniversary in 2010"

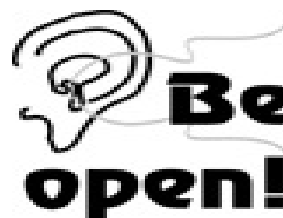
The Diocesan Celebration of 25 and 50 years of Marriage will take place on Sunday, April 25, 2010. They can also include couples who missed their special year. Cathedral seating will be reserved for anniversary couples, and they are encouraged to limit their reception guests to two. In order to process the large volume of invitations, parish lists are due by January 20th. If interested, please call the rectory at 868-5855. Thank you.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER:

Looking for a way to make your good marriage even better? Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend where you can get away from jobs, kids, chores, and phones – and focus ONLY on each other. If you'd like greater depth, growth, and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference this weekend can make!

Upcoming weekends: September 18-20, 2009 in the Reading Area ~ November 6-8, 2009 in Easton ~ February 12-14, 2010 in Bethlehem.

Website: wwme-nepa.org Phone: (800) 787-7679



Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 2009

"And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears, and spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned and said to him, 'Ephphatha!' - that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly... 'He has done all things well.'"

When we read the miracle accounts in the gospel, the healing, restoration to life, the feeding of the multitudes, it is important to pause and look at specific details which make one account different from others. Note that the man with the hearing impairment was brought by others to Jesus. It might have been their faith which initiated the process. Jesus went 'one on one' with him.

We find four steps in the process - touch, saliva, eye direction and a groaning word.

The results are clearly described by Mark.

On the day of our baptism, the celebrant touched our ear and mouth praying that we too might be open to hear His Word and be ready to proclaim or speak our praise of God. Have we?

Recently at a funeral a Deacon eloquently proclaimed the gospel of the mass and simultaneously signed the Word he was proclaiming. How meaningful it was for all present to have the Word of God proclaimed so clearly for the hearing impaired, as well as those with the gift of hearing, who sometimes are unable to listen.

I ask myself today whether I have heard the Word and am ready to proclaim God's praise.