Epiphany and Revelation and Wonder

The quest. The star. The journey. The royal lie. Finally, the arrival. We know the storyboard. But those are just the “bullets” of the Epiphany narrative. Listen to the gospel telling and the majesty of it all comes into focus. Magi who bring gifts and greetings ultimately find themselves prostrate in front of the Child. Words fail. It was quite a trip and, in the end, the end was the beginning as they traveled home – rerouted. Star of Wonder, indeed!

But it is not just the Magi to whom God issues a call to discovery. In each of us there is a penchant for wanting to find the Christ, to know him and love him and be identified with him. This is a life’s journey that is studded with flashes of revelation, if only we can recognize them.

This past September the Interparish Religious Education Program (IREP) began a new program of religious education for young children ages 3 and 4 called the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The space in which the children meet is called the “Atrium,” a name designated by Maria Montessori as a place between classroom and church where children can “grow into” full participation in the Church. It is a Montessori-based curriculum that seeks to offer time and space for the young child to explore the traditions of the Church, hear the scriptures, and work with materials that allow them to retell the scripture narratives to themselves. Parables are a significant part of the presentations the children receive. A parable is an encounter with wonder. It cannot and must not be pinned down. The catechist may ask the child, “What did you hear?” Using two-dimensional figures to demonstrate the parable, the catechist may ask, “What did you see?” In asking the questions the catechist is not prompting answers: the questions are just door openers for the child’s imagination.

As the name suggests, the core parable of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is the parable of the Good Shepherd. The developers of the program, Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi, offered many scripture passages and parables to the young children in their Atrium in Rome through the years. It became clear to them that the Good Shepherd struck a chord with the children and they recognized that the parable does indeed speak to the central relationship all of us desire with Jesus: to be personally known, called by name, sought after, fed, and protected. This parable is the perfect vehicle for experiencing God’s love for God’s people, “fleshed out” in Jesus Christ. As with all the scripture-based materials, once a child has received the presentation of the narrative he/she may take the materials from the shelf and work with them independently, recalling the words of the presentation and considering their meaning.

The environment of the Atrium is one of quiet and peace, where a child may work with the materials of his/her own choosing, at his/her own pace. From the first visit to the Atrium the child learns to move deliberately, in no hurry, and to speak softly, respecting the needs of the other children and the catechists for time and space to speak with God, to listen to God. In the Atrium the daily clamor and haste and false promises of happiness are left outside. In the Atrium there is the opportunity for the serene enjoyment of the presence of God – a “divine milieu,” so to speak. This is a place of religious experience, rather than religious education. It is a place where a child can be free to work and listen to and enjoy God. The catechist proclaims the living Word; the child welcomes it with joy and wonder. If a child grows accustomed to being attuned to the presence of God in his/her life, that child will develop a taste for that which is in harmony with his/her spiritual experience. Cavalletti calls it “heliotropism,” meaning that a child who has enjoyed the light of Christ will seek to remain in it. And the community at large is brighter because of that light-child.

The light of Christ beckons us all to come closer. Some see the light sooner, some later. In the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, the child receives early exposure to that light and Epiphany is what he/she learns to recognize. As with the Magi, the revelation sets the course. Star of Wonder, indeed!

Adele M. D. Gallo, M.A.
Good Shepherd Catechist
St. Ignatius Loyola Parishioner
THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Special Collection at all Masses this weekend:
Catholic Communications Campaign and the Catholic University of America.
Thank you in advance for your generosity!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8th
Finding God in the Workplace: An IYA Event.
6:00 PM. Parish Lounge
Sunday Social. 8:30 PM. Wallace Hall.
Hosted by the Ignatian Young Adults
(follows the 7:30 PM Mass). All young adults
(ages 21-39) are welcome.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9th – Ranger Rosary
Ministry. 7:00 PM. Meeting Room. Come and learn how to make rosaries, which will be distributed by chaplains to those serving in the military.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10th: Ignatian Volunteer Corps
IVC is an organization of men and women who are retired from full-time work and want to use their talents to help others.
For more information, or to confirm your attendance, please contact IVC Regional Director Liz McMahon at 201-618-6924 or emcmahon@ivcusa.org

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12th
Scripture Reflections Group. 7:00 PM. Conference Room.
Led by Fr. Robert O’Brien, S.J., of the Murray-Weigel Jesuit Community in the Bronx. All are welcome.

FRIDAY – SUNDAY, JANUARY 13th – 15th
Shelter Weekend. We are in great need of volunteers to stay overnight with our shelter guests. The shelter runs every other weekend (Friday-Sunday nights) from November through April. For more details, and to volunteer, please contact Chris Halem at chrishalem@yahoo.com or 917-494-7301.

40s & FABULOUS
Sunday, January 15th at 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room
Inaugural Meet & Greet
Interested in meeting other parishioners in their 40s for fellowship, charity work, and social gatherings? A new group is being formed here at St. Ignatius to bridge the gap between the Ignatian Young Adults and Boomers & Beyond.
An inaugural “meet and greet” is planned for Sunday, January 15th in the Parish House Meeting Room. Please join us at 6:00 PM to discuss ways in which to grow this new ministry.
For more information, please join the 40s & Fabulous @ St. Ignatius Loyola group on Facebook at http://tinyurl.com/40sandfabulous or send an email to 40sandfabulous@gmail.com

THE 2011 ANNUAL COLLECTION
Thank you to those who have contributed to this appeal.
At present, the total stands at $358,310. The Annual Collection is very important to the financial well-being of our Parish.
If you have not yet made a donation, there are several ways to do so:
• by check
• through ParishPay (accessible via www.stignatiusloyola.org)
• by credit card
(please contact Mary Reed, Director of Development, at 646-981-2632)
Thank you!

Emmaus Bereavement Support Group
Tuesdays, January 31st to March 27th
7:00 – 8:30 PM in the Parish Lounge
A six session bereavement support group for men and women who have suffered the loss of a loved one three months or more prior to the beginning of the group. Led by trained facilitators, the group will explore the experience of loss, as well as some of the issues related to grief.
To register for either program, contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House (212-288-3588) or kingk@stignatiusloyola.org

IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday Socials Winter Schedule
The IYA hosts socials for young adults (ages 21-39) in Wallace Hall from September through June following the Sunday evening 7:30 PM Mass.
To receive updates on IYA events and other opportunities, please sign up for our email list at http://tinyurl.com/IgnatianYoungAdults and follow us on Facebook at “Ignatian Young Adults (NYC)”

Now Available: Roman Missal CDs
Recorded by the Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola, this CD is designed to assist in learning the new sung responses in conjunction with the Revised Roman Missal.
Available at the Parish House at no cost. 1 per family, please.
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, January 9th
(Baptism of the Lord)
1 Samuel 1:1-8     Psalm 116    Mark 1:14-20
8:30   MEM
12:10   MEM
5:30   ANN

Emil Lodyko
Kathryn Theban
Dr. Stratford Wallace

Tuesday, January 10th
(1st Tuesday in Ordinary Time)
1 Samuel 1:9-20     1 Samuel 2     Mark 1:21-28
8:30  MEM
12:10  MEM
5:30  MEM

Paulina Reyes Gomez
Valentino Mazzia

Deceased Members of the McLoughlin & Scanlon Families

Wednesday, January 11th
(1st Wednesday in Ordinary Time)
1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20     Psalm 40     Mark 1:29-39
8:30  MEM
12:10  MEM
5:30  MEM

The Choix & Gordon Families
Peter Burke
Joseph Cornacchia

Thursday, January 12th
(1st Thursday in Ordinary Time)
1 Samuel 4:1-11     Psalm 44     Mark 1:40-45
8:30  MEM
12:10  MEM
5:30  MEM

Mae Rooney
Joseph Kucich
Dorothy Frigind

Friday, January 13th
(St. Hilary)
1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a     Psalm 89    Mark 2:1-12
8:30  MEM
12:10  MEM
5:30  MEM

Thomas Gerard Clyne
Joseph Kucich
Dorothy Frigind

Saturday, January 14th
(1st Saturday in Ordinary Time)
1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1     Psalm 21    Mark 2:13-17
8:30  MEM
10:15  MEM
5:30  MEM

Dolores Gomez Fox

Sunday, January 15th
(2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)
1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19     Psalm 40
1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20    John 1:35-42

Mander Organ Recital Series:
International Concert Artist
CHRISTOPHER HOULIHAN
Sunday, January 22nd
4:00 PM

Program:
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH:
Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor, BWV 582
MAURICE RAVEL:
Vocalise in the Form of a Habanera (arr. Christopher Houlihan)
FRANZ LISZT:
Fantasy and Fugue on “Ad Nos, Ad Salutarem Undam”
Additional works by Saint-Saëns and Vierne

Tickets are $20, or $15 for students and seniors, and are available in the Parish House, online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520.

MUSIC

LAY MINISTERS’ ENRICHMENT
Living Our Vocations: God’s Will, Our Desires
What a helpful insight when we see what God wants for us
is the same as what we want for ourselves
– our true selves being found and shared!
Saturday, January 28th
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM in Wallace Hall

DECEMBER SACRAMENTS

Weddings
Christopher Wilhelm Dopp and Kim Michelle Zotter
Kevin James Healy and Amanda Webb
Brian G. Hulla and Lauren A. Sacarantino
Carl Roy Peterson III and Jessica Martina Simon

Baptisms
Eloise Jane Bluman
Sydney Elizabeth Braid
Adelaide Maia Brown
Kayla Rosina Campfield
Griffin Irving Chirichigno
Saoirse Anne Collins
Alexander Joseph DiMauro
Henry Teodoro Jaeger
Peter Nathan Klebacha
Madeline Patricia Lewis
Austin Cha Nelson
Gjulian Aldo Nikolla
Bryne Margaret O’Keefe
Kevin Kamho Ong
Laura Meifung Ong
Lukas Jacob Okner
Mateo Andres Antonio Palazzini
Coco Christine Pennette
Michael Joseph Pennette
Sofia Ana Pogačnik
Clara Florentine
Schimmelbusch
Luke William Stemplewicz
Scott Richard Wagner
Luke Stephen Walsh
Theodore Gerald Yoo

Revised: December 16, 2011
SAVE THE DATE!

February 2nd-5th
Men’s Retreat
St. Ignatius Retreat House
Manhasset, NY
directed by
Rev. Ugo Nacciarone, S.J.
A 3-day retreat for men focusing on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

The Scripture tells us we are made in the image of God. But what does this mean? How do I recognize this image in myself, and how do I project it to others? In other words, how do I live out the image?

Cost: $390 (incl. private room and all meals)
For information and reservations call Terri at 516-621-8300 x15
www.inisfada.net

MORE Hot Topics presents
The Clash of Orthodoxies – Revisited
Monday, January 16th at 7:00 PM
The Rochester Room
Church of St. Thomas More,
65 East 89th Street.
Speaker: Robert P. George, professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University.
His presentation will focus on marriage and life issues. Visit with the speaker and share light refreshments following the presentation.
A free-will offering will be accepted.
For details, call 212-876-7719.

What Rules America: Money, Morals, or Myth? A Three-Way Debate
Wednesday, February 1st, 6:00 – 8:00 PM
Panelists include Robert Kuttner, longtime columnist for Business Week, Robert A. George, editorial writer for the New York Post, and author Susan Jacoby.
Presented by the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture.
Pope Auditorium, Fordham University
113 West 60th Street.
Free and open to the public.
RSVP: CRCevent@fordham.edu or 212-636-7347.
For more information, visit www.fordham.edu/ReligCulture

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org