



THE ARCHANGEL

CANON ARTHUR WOOLLEY Jr.

PASTORAL CARE CENTER

OPENING IN THE SPRING 2020

Newsletter of Saint Michael The Archangel Church Frederick Maryland

"Come to me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you" (Mt 11:28). "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mt 16, 15)

Introduction:

Saint Michael the Archangel is very pleased to announce the opening of its new Pastoral Care Center in the spring of 2020. The Center bears the name of the parish's emeritus rector, the venerable Canon Arthur Woolley, Jr. and aims to strengthen the spiritual life within the church as well as its "mission ad communitas" meaning mission to/in the community.

This newsletter on Pastoral Care outreach is timely and necessary. There is no point in continuing the discussion about how the decline in evangelism (or community outreach) is contributing to the decline of membership in churches in the United States, particularly in the Anglican Catholic Church, or about the significant drop in the number of candidates and the demographic erosion of the clergy that it involves.

We have been concerned for some time about the availability of pastoral outlets to address that crisis but we have not found adequate resources available that both recognize the impact of that crisis, the required expertise to tackle it and which build conceptually its mission on that expertise. We will attempt to address that deficiency with the Canon Woolley Pastoral Center.

What is a Pastoral Care Center? For lovers of literature, the word pastoral conjures an image of a shepherd nestled amid his flock in a green, idyllic landscape. For visual art lovers, this scene may be rendered in oil paint on canvas.

A Pastoral Center provides Care (resources and/or training) to individuals as they strive to proclaim the Christian message in a changing world. The vision of Canon Woolley Pastoral Care Center is to enhance our spiritual growth, celebrate life's joys and bear one another's burdens and sorrows in fulfillment of God's command to love one another as God loves us. We seek to connect and provide a network of care in times of need. All are invited to share in the experiences by participating in one or more of the ministries fostered in this Center.

Today, many lay people are now involved, along with their priests, in Christ's mission in the world and their skills and knowledge need to be constantly developed and renewed. One of the main functions of the Canon Woolley Pastoral Care Center is to empower people to bring the Christian message to others and to give people the confidence to be strong and compassionate witnesses to Christian hope and love in a challenging and often dispiriting world. This Pastoral Center's project is rooted in the values of the Gospels and the teaching of the Church. It aims to be a place of welcome for all, a center of Anglican-Catholic spirituality, education and growth. It is to be a resource for individuals and groups in their human and faith development. It strives to promote evangelism, pastoral renewal and the further development of pastoral ministry practice throughout the community.

1) **OUTREACH** also known as mission "ad communitas (to the world).

At St Michael, our passion is for people. We intend to celebrate life's joys and bear one another's burdens and sorrows in fulfillment of God's command to love one another as God loves us. We seek to connect and provide a network of care in times of need. Our outreach ministries cover varieties of peoples' needs. Below is a list of these projects. If you are interested in helping in our outreach's efforts, please call the parish office.

Bethany Family Ministry

What does Bethany Family Ministry Offer? Bethany Family Ministry offers a bridge from struggle to peace. Our Pastoral Care Center offers a multi-faceted Family Ministry designed to support individuals, young couples and families. We offer support in a variety of areas

- *Marriage preparations*: This is a series of educational and spiritual reflections for young people with a focus on the Church teachings on the values of marriage.
- *Marriage Routine Care*: A series of spirituals conversations with couples about the realities of marital vocation.

Bethany comfort ministry

- *Adult support group*: The adult support group offer prayer and emotional support in a relaxed setting. This group tackles a series of educational seminars throughout the year on various aspects of aging and preparing for the "End of Life". The support group is open to all members of the community, so people from all Christian backgrounds are welcome to attend once or on a regular basis. Please contact the parish office to register.
- *Youth Overdose support group*: This is a series of group reflection for millennials with a focus on healing and life after loss, with special attention to the unique needs of young people who have lost a friend or sibling to addiction. When we are hurting it is not always easy to share one's hurt - since in reality we are not ourselves. Sharing our passage at this weakened moment slowly allows us to refocus away from the loss and places us into a "new normal" world that others eventually accept. Perhaps the most important is bonding with those open, not only to listening, but helping you feel your way through this passage - and it is a passage.
- *Faith & Grief Luncheon Series*: Anyone who has lost a loved one and wishes to connect with others who have traveled the same road is invited to the Faith and Grief Luncheon. This group explores what grief looks like, shares stories, and finds hope for moving forward — never forgetting their loved ones, but learning what life looks like even still. All participants receive a free lunch and benefit from a short program and conversation around tables led by a trained facilitator. Lunches will be held from noon-1 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month in Friendship Hall. We're excited to partner with four local churches to bring this important ministry to you
- *Shepherd Ministry*: Receive one-on-one, confidential care from a staff member who is trained in listening, caring, praying, and supporting. Shepherd ministers typically meet with a care receiver once a week, for an hour at a time. Shepherd ministers are appropriate for all sorts of challenges: grief, job loss, loneliness, illness, family difficulties, and much more. There are some challenges in life that are just too big. When those moments come, we need extra help. In addition to a full pastoral staff available for ministry, Woolley Center also offers a counseling ministry with professionals, licensed counsellors from local area practices such as vital sources, Monocacy Valley chaplains, Frederick Health counsellors etc...

2) IN-reach *also known as mission ad intrus (mission at home. Inwards)*

The mission "ad intrus" is all about our spiritual growth, our identity; it is about who we are. It is about our personal calling from the Lord.

"Rise and Come forward", Jesus spoke these words to a man He had singled out in a synagogue almost 2000 years ago. For us at the Woolley Pastoral Center, these words also express our mission and our faith. Our passion is for

people. For many, life-changing treasures in the Church have remained ignored, buried. The Scriptures, the sacraments, the lives of saints and the teachings of the church fathers seem to have little relevance for their lives. Our mission strives to unfold and explore these treasures in a way that is faithful, dynamic and understandable to ordinary people. By doing this, we hope to awaken their (and our) faith, and help them develop a more vital relationship with God.

- *Tutored Bible study and Christian Education*

The study of the Bible is absolutely necessary to the development of the Christian life. Our tutored bible study is designed to afford suggestion and assistance to those who desire a fuller and more accurate knowledge of the Bible. The session is about one hour including presentation and interactions with the tutor (rector). The meetings are on Wednesdays from 11:15-12:00p.m. Alternative meetings times and days are also available. If you or someone you know would like to participate, please contact the parish office.

- *Spiritual Development Series Luncheons*

Faith isn't necessarily efficient or even comprehensible. Sometimes we feel and know the palpable presence of God and we cry out "Thank you!" At other times we experience more of God's haunting, mysterious, unpredictable absence and we scream "Where are you?" And we usually can't predict God's next move. In this sense, praying to our untamed God can be frustrating, perplexing and even agonizing. God will bathe us in ecstatic light and then seemingly abandon us in the dark. But that's real life. Faith is an encounter between the Real God and the real us. Our Spiritual development lessons will drive us into the heart of the human drama, which is the apparent silence/absence of God. The spiritual development series will focus on the "Mysteries of Faith". The meetings are on the third Sunday of the month from 12-1p.m. Please contact the church office to register.

- *Continuing Adult Religious Education (C.A.R.E) dinner.*

CARE offers a variety of dynamic adult faith formation lessons that foster and promote a lifelong understanding of Anglican-Catholicism, oriented toward embracing a full, vibrant, and active faith. Understanding that we never cease seeking God, CARE programs provide you with opportunities to develop, enrich, and enhance an intimate union with Christ.

Hosted in a homey environment, these gatherings give the parishioners opportunities of fellowship beyond the walls of the church. C.A.R.E meets once a month.

- *Visitation ministry*

This ministry seeks to reach out to the sick and homebound by visiting them at home, in the nursing home, or in the hospital to pray with them and have the priest bring them communion. If you or someone you know is homebound for a brief time or for an extended period of time and would like a visit, please contact the parish office

- *Samaritan Ride*

The Samaritan Ministry provides rides to doctor's appointments and other health care visits and to Mass for parishioners in need of transportation assistance. If you are in need of a ride, please call the parish office Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. providing as much notification as possible and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Conclusion

There are times in our life when we experience challenges and we want you to know that you are not alone. Whether it's a loss of a loved one or a beloved pet, a hospitalization, or home recovering from surgery or an illness, during times like this, all of us need some extra love and support. Our Pastoral Care support team consists of people who are committed to providing compassion, love, and support to our church as well as our community members. This includes prayer, support, hospital and home visits, short term assistance, bereavement support and workshops, and spiritual guidance sessions. The ministries offered by the Canon Woolley Pastoral Care Center are a few ways that Saint Michael reaches out to those in need in the parish and in the community at large.

Our Parish News

- **Children's Baptism: November 17th at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Christmas: mass: December 25th at 10:30 a.m.**
- **Christmas/New Year luncheon: January 16th at 12:00 p.m.**

Saint Michael The Archangel



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