

# The Net Worker

September 2015



## DISCOVERING CHRIST

This fall at St. Peter's you have an opportunity to encounter Christ in a new way through "Discovering Christ". Discovering Christ is a seven-week experience that was developed by ChristLife, a Catholic ministry in the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The course begins Monday, October 7, and meets every Monday until November 23. It includes a retreat on Sunday, November 8 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Each evening will start at 7 p.m. with a meal and then feature a different speaker from outside the parish. The speakers will be a mix of priests and lay people who will help you discover Christ in your daily life. There will be prayer and small group discussion following the speaker. It is a wonderful way to revitalize your faith.

You can learn more about it on the parish website ([www.saint-peter.org](http://www.saint-peter.org)) and even watch a short video about the course. If you have been craving some renewal, perhaps this has come along at the perfect time for you.



## God in sports

By Pat Rice

God works in many ways in order to help us to find the right path. Here is one good story about Him reaching a young man through the world of sports.

JP Parise was a 16 year old boy in Northern Ontario, playing in a men's hockey league. They were in the championship round of the playoffs, a best of three. He was knocking this 26 year old player around during the game when the 26 year old had enough, hitting Parise over the head with his stick. This was in the late 1950's, where few wore helmets and Parise had to leave the game to get stitches at the hospital.

Two days later, the championship was going to be decided, and Parise wanted revenge on this guy. He was planning to knock him on the seat of his pants. Before the game, his coach approached him and said, "I know you want to get that guy, but there are very few opportunities to win a championship, so I want you to concentrate on playing hockey." Parise listened to his coach, scored four goals and had an assist to lead the team to the championship. A scout from the Boston Bruins was there and offered Parise a place on the

Bruins junior team in Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Back then there were only six teams in the NHL and it was hard to make those teams. Parise eventually played five years in the minor leagues, before going on to a lengthy career in the NHL, playing for Minnesota and the NY Islanders. While with the Islanders, he scored the goal in the 1975 playoffs that eliminated the NY Rangers in overtime.

God acted through Parise's coach when he was 16. If Parise had focused solely on retaliation for the guy who hit him with the stick, he wouldn't have had the game he had and the scout probably wouldn't have offered him the chance to further his career. He may never have played in the pros and that playoff series with the Rangers might have turned out differently. (For many Ranger fans, the name JP Parise brings back bad memories with that winning goal.) In addition, some of you may know of his son: former Devil and current Minnesota Wild player, Zach Parise. JP passed away earlier this year from lung cancer.

## THE NET WORKER

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# KNOCK, KNOCK

By MaryEllen Love

Our relationship with God matters and so does our preparation for life with him in his Kingdom. We are a part of something so much bigger than ourselves and this world. Many a time in our lives we receive "knocks" and

are made aware of the life beyond this world, whether it be in dreams or fears, literature, plays, movies, conversations, coincidences, personal tragedies, prayer, personal growth, etc. Anything that registers in our realm of awareness requires a response. As we all know, human beings are able to respond in a variety of ways! Some might chew on things a bit and then decide whether to swallow, or spit it out. Others may deny, ignore, refuse, run and hide, doubt, accept, or commit right out of the gate. Others still may just "press delete" believing they have no need. Whatever the response, these windows of awareness are very important prompts, very important "knocks", that are meant to cause us to look up.

We are all so busy; however, we need to take the time to embrace these prompts, raise our eyes AND respond with faith before it is too late. Maybe you are on the fence with your faith. Maybe you have grown and your faith hasn't. Maybe a faith-filled response is buried under scars, pain, disappointments or fears. If so – what then?

I suggest you take the "faith bucket challenge". I challenge you to raise your eyes to heaven and lay out it all out on the table with God – the confusion, the doubt, the hurt and hopelessness, the numbness... everything! Then, ask God with a sincere heart to empty a bucket of faith right into your heart. Here is the catch, **YOU** need to open your heart to receive what he is going to send. God cannot enter and heal a heart that is closed. He is waiting for you to open the door.

Relationships are two way streets, even our relationship with God. So pray. Pray for faith, pray for the courage to unlock your heart knowing He is right outside the door. You see, faith gives one hope and hope gives one courage and it is courage that enables us to break free and fly.

Always remember, that God works in **MANY** ways and differently in all who seek his friendship. His heart is big and his plans are vast! His unending love transforms us if we have the courage to open the door to our hearts. It is a relationship you don't want to miss. So what are you waiting for?!

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, [then] I will enter his house and dine with him and he with me."*

*Revelation 3:20*

# WORK AND REST

By Maureen Senzamici

On the first Monday of September, we celebrated Labor Day. It is fitting to honor the vocation of work for the Gospel makes it abundantly clear that work is holy. That God is a worker is established in the first line of the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Similarly, Jesus worked throughout His life as a carpenter, fisherman, teacher, healer, rabbi and ultimately, as a redeemer.

At its core, work is necessary for creating, sustaining and restoring life. Among Jesus's most famous miracles include when He provided for a hungry crowd of 5000 with only five loaves of bread and two fish, when He healed a woman who had been sick for twelve years and when he raised Lazarus from the dead. While we cannot perform miracles, we are called to nourish all life. During childbirth, a mother's labors allow her baby to enter the world. An infant's work consists of learning vital life-sustaining functions including eating, sleeping and maintaining an adequate body temperature. A father's work of presence and provision permits for a child's safety and well-being.

The opening chapters of Genesis describe God's beautifully ordered work of creation. God initially created the heavens and earth, then light, next land and water, then animals and ultimately, He created humans as His capstone. Throughout life, work is consistently purposeful. A toddler's work of exploratory play allows for her development of mobility, while a preschooler's work of imaginative play allows for him to develop readiness skills necessary for academic success. A school-aged child's chores allow her to practice skills while a teenager's experience with an actual paying job provides an opportunity for formation of responsibility which will be critical for success as an adult.

Work is ennobling and dignifying. Proverbs, Chapter 30, beautifully describes "a woman of noble character" as being highly industrious by describing how she "gets up while it is still dark" and "sets about her work vigorously." A well-tended garden, a nutritious meal, a clean restaurant, a dynamic lesson or an organized office are all reflections of love and work. Pope John Paul, in a talk in Pusan, South Korea, in May, 1984, stated, "Through their work people share the Creator's work."

God's command to remember the Sabbath day is an assurance of His love. God recognizes that rest and prayer are essential. Jesus prayed prior to choosing disciples, after periods of intense healing with His disciples and during His crucifixion. It can be tempting to think we are too busy to rest or to pray. However, experience indicates that rest and prayer are critical for physical, mental and spiritual well-being. Rest allows the body to function adequately, and is especially important for people during periods of strong physical exertion including pregnancy, competitive

athletics or recovery from surgery. Mentally, rest enables the mind to function optimally. Well-rested students and adults are clearly at an advantage in school and at work.

Finally, God's command to rest is an indication of the value He places on each of us. God values our work; however, He also wants a relationship with us. A strong bond is characterized by and nourished with periods of presence with another. Similarly, God desires time without distractions in order to become closer to us. During these moments, we can nurture a relationship with Him and allow our bodies, minds and souls to be rejuvenated for the holy work which He has in store for us.

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## WHAT SCC CAN MEAN

By Vincent Gagliostro

"SCC" is so much more than an abbreviation for Small Christian Communities. To me personally, SCC is a reminder. It is a reminder to me of what and who I am.

For many people a Small Christian Community is an opportunity to get together and read scripture. They discuss God and the Bible and how it relates to their lives. As it is written in Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them". These people in turn learn to pray in groups -- a stronger prayer. They pray for others like the sick, the cold, the hungry, the poor, the lonely, and the unloved. Matthew, 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Others may use their SCC as a way to organize themselves as a team (spiritual team). They go on and do some of God's work. They become part of the parish in their capacity as lectors, ushers, ministers, and such. They gather and form teams to help coordinate and participate in charities. It is a great way to share their talents, good fortune, and the gifts God has blessed them with.

I appreciate and embrace all these things. I have always attended mass regularly. I have a strong faith. I always enjoyed readings especially the Gospel passages. To me once a week was not enough. Not enough Gospel, not enough being Holy, not enough being religious, not enough interaction with God. I have searched ways to get closer to God and what I found was the SCC. They can be many things, including being filled with just people like me gathering in God's name and fulfilling needs. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on this, and God bless.

*If you would be interested in joining an SCC or learning more, you can go to the St. Peter's website, select ministries, and then ministries of the word. Scroll down and you will see how to get more info or sign up. You can also contact Dave Ashley, [SCC@saint-peter.org](mailto:SCC@saint-peter.org).*

This is a wonderful poem full of wisdom and tenderness. It is widely attributed to Abraham Lincoln, but there is no verification or sources that prove it. It doesn't matter; it's a perfect sentiment for sending your child off to school, no matter what their age may be.

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### Abraham Lincoln's World Famous Letter to his Son's Teacher

He will have to learn, I know,  
that all men are not just,  
all men are not true.

But teach him also that  
for every scoundrel there is a hero;  
that for every selfish Politician,  
there is a dedicated leader...  
Teach him for every enemy  
there is a friend,

Steer him away from envy, if you can,  
teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Let him learn early  
that the bullies are the easiest to lick...  
Teach him, if you can,  
the wonder of books...  
But also give him quiet time  
to ponder the eternal mystery of birds in the sky,  
bees in the sun,  
and the flowers on a green hillside.

In the school teach him it is far honorable  
to fail than to cheat...  
Teach him to have faith in his own ideas,  
even if everyone tells him  
they are wrong...  
Teach him to be gentle  
with gentle people,  
and tough with the tough.

Try to give my son  
the strength not to follow the crowd  
when everyone is getting on the band wagon...  
Teach him to listen to all men...  
but teach him also to filter

all he hears on a screen of truth,  
and take only the good  
that comes through.

Teach him if you can,  
how to laugh when he is sad...  
Teach him there is no shame in tears,  
Teach him to scoff at cynics  
and to beware of too much sweetness...  
Teach him to sell his brawn  
and brain to the highest bidders  
but never to put a price-tag  
on his heart and soul.

Teach him to close his ears  
to a howling mob  
and to stand and fight  
if he thinks he's right.  
Treat him gently,

but do not cuddle him,  
because only the test  
of fire makes fine steel.

Let him have the courage  
to be impatient...  
let him have the patience to be brave.  
Teach him always  
to have sublime faith in himself,  
because then he will have  
sublime faith in mankind.

This is a big order,  
but see what you can do...  
He is such a fine little fellow,  
my son!

## We Are Living Stones

By Fr. Mike Sheehan

All Parishes of the Archdiocese are taking part in the **We Are Living Stones Capital Campaign**. The campaign is being introduced in three phases, our parish is a part of the second phase and will begin formally in the fall of this year.

Initially, let me tell you about the Archdiocesan goals for the Campaign and then talk about how our parish can benefit from it. The goal of the Archdiocese is to raise 90 million dollars over the next four years from pledges made by the people of our Archdiocese. The goal is to raise this money to support the following ministries:

- Support of our Seminaries
- Retired Priest Care and Medical Needs Endowment
- Tuition Assistance Endowment for our Catholic Schools
- Diocesan-wide Parish Renewal Fund
- Continue the ongoing Archdiocesan Works of Mercy

I have formed a Capital Campaign Committee, who along with our Parish Pastoral Council and our Finance Council are assisting me in identifying needs here in our parish that this campaign might help us address. Fifty percent of what is pledged and contributed to the campaign will be coming back to St. Peter's. Our goal is 1.1 million dollars, so conceivably, we could benefit in an amount over \$500,000 from this campaign over the next four years.

The Campaign Committee, in discussing our needs, proposes that we consider this campaign a four-year fundraiser for our parish. We will suspend all other fundraising, with the exception of the parish carnival, for the next four years and concentrate on making and

fulfilling our pledges to the campaign, benefiting over these years from the pledges that have been made. Our hope is to be able to address some of the following for our parish:

- Bell Tower Repair
- Parish Ministry Development and Outreach Programs
- Church Lighting Improvement
- New Church Roof and Parking Lot Restoration
- Future Capital Improvements Fund

Everyone in the parish will be invited to attend a reception this fall to learn more about this endeavor, to raise awareness and to ask questions. When you receive your invitation, may I ask you to please respond promptly so we can prepare properly for the evenings.

Folks, thank you for your consideration and anticipated support of this exciting endeavor for our Church and our Parish. I whole-heartedly support this campaign and truly believe that it is worthy of your consideration.

Fr. Mike Sheehan

