

November 1- Feast of All Saints  
November 2- Feast of All Souls



October 31, 2021  
Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time  
nool.us | (303) 469-5171



# A LETTER FROM OUR PRIESTS

Dear parishioners,

In a few days, on November 4th, it will be the feast of St. Charles Borromeo, the saint our fraternity and our sisters are named after. So, I would like to tell you a little bit about him.

St. Charles lived in a very pivotal moment in the history of the Church and, indeed, in the history of the world. He was born in the wake of the Protestant Reformation when the Catholic Church was trying to understand what had gone so wrong and decided to reform herself in the Council of Trent, which was, arguably, the most consequential ecumenical council in the history of the Church.

St. Charles was born in the north of Italy in 1538. He was the second son of a very rich and noble family. According to the custom of the time, he was supposed to enter religious or clerical life, while his older brother would inherit everything. When he was only twelve, he became an abbot. In theory, the abbot is the man that is supposed to lead the spiritual life of an abbey, that is a monastery. But at that time, it usually was someone who would receive all the income of a monastery. So his parents were just trying to give him a salary that could last for all his life.

He studied law and graduated when he was 21 years old. Then he went to work for his uncle, Pope Pius IV. While he was in Rome, he became a very powerful and important man in the Church. When his brother died, he had to decide whether to go back to the lay life with a dispensation from the Pope or to continue his religious life. He chose the second and, in a matter of few weeks, was ordained priest and then Bishop of Milan.

Also while he was in Rome, he organized the last meetings of the Council of Trent. He is the person who actually made it possible for the council to come to an end. As the work of the council proceeded, bishops and cardinals became more and more frighteningly aware of the change it would require them to adopt. The work began to drag and the sessions became more infrequent. St. Charles, who was not a theologian but a man of the law, acted in such a way as to convince the bishops to meet again and to finish the job.

Many were the decisions of the Council of Trent, but the most important one was to impose that bishops would

reside in their own dioceses, to take care of their flock. At the time, the custom was that they would live in castles or in Rome and visit their diocese a handful of times a year, if that much. When the Council ended, he asked the Pope to be allowed to move to Milan, according to the decision of the Council. St. Charles had to insist for over two years because the Pope considered him too important in Rome. Finally, on his deathbed, the Pope let him go. In 1566, when he arrived in Milan, he was the first bishop to enter the city in over 80 years.

When he was in Milan, he wanted to apply all the decisions of the Council. He had two important points in mind. First, he wanted to educate his people. He established the first seminaries to educate the next generations of priests, who would then educate the faithful. Then, he also built schools for the kids and wrote catechisms that people could easily learn by heart so that they could know the most important things of our faith.

Second, he wanted to be close to people. For this reason, he visited every parish of his diocese, which was the diocese with the most people in the world. He would go almost every weekend to a new parish, celebrate Mass, and then he would be available to people who wanted to meet him or needed some help.

His example was especially important in 1578 when the bubonic plague arrived in Milan. Every authority of the city left; only he stayed. Thanks to his example and work, historians say that the plague killed only a third of the number of people that it would normally kill in a city like Milan. Other bishops followed his example and lived in the same way. Soon enough the whole Church became more alive and faithful to the Gospel again.

St. Charles died in 1584, when he was still quite young, (He was only one year older than me!) but exhausted by the hard work. Please, pray that we priest of the Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo and the Sisters of St. Charles Borromeo may faithfully follow his example.

Have a great week,  
Fr. Accu

*Fr. Accu*



## DAILY READINGS

DAY	1ST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Sat 10/30	Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29		Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sun 10/31	Dt 6:2-6	Heb 7:23-28	Mk 12:28b-34
Mon 11/01	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14	1 Jn 3:1-3	Mt 5:1-12a
Tues 11/02	Wis 3:1-9	Rom 6:3-9	Jn 6:37-40
Wed 11/03	Rom 13:8-10		Lk 14:25-33
Thurs 11/04	Rom 14:7-12		Lk 15:1-10
Fri 11/05	Rom 15:14-21		Lk 16:1-8
Sat 11/06	Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27		Lk 16:9-15
Sun 11/07	1 Kgs 17:10-16	Heb 9:24-28	Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

## PARISH TIMES

### Mass Times

**Monday - Friday**  
7:00am | 9:30am

**Saturday** Vigil Mass  
9:30am | 4:30pm

**Sunday**  
7:30am | 11:30am  
9:30am | 5:00pm

### Confession

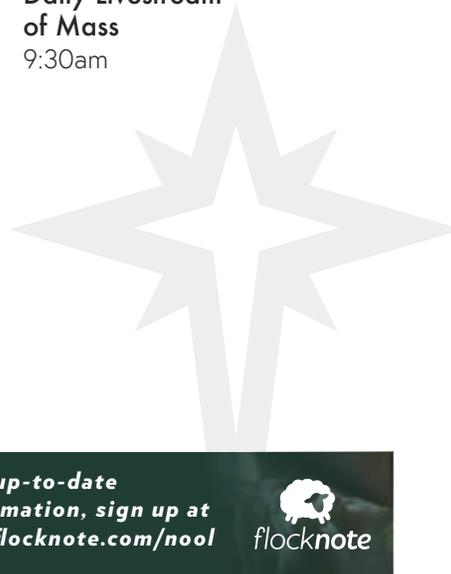
*Thursday*  
5:00-6:00pm

*Saturday*  
8:00-9:30am  
3:00-4:30pm

*Sunday*  
30 min. before  
weekend masses

### Daily Livestream of Mass

9:30am



## PARISH OFFICE

### Location

900 W. Midway Blvd  
Broomfield, CO 80020

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**Phone:** (303) 469-5171

### Office Hours:

*Monday - Friday*  
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*Saturday*  
8:00am-5:00pm

**Fax:** (303) 469-5172  
**School:** (303) 466-4177

## BULLETIN INFO

*For all bulletin submissions,  
please email us at:*

**BULLETIN@NOOL.US**

The submission deadline is every Tuesday at noon. Be on the lookout for early holiday submission times.

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## PARISH CALENDAR

### Sunday, October 31

7:30am Mass  
 8:30am CL  
 9:30am Livestream Mass  
 9:30am RCIA  
 11:00am Parishioners' Rosary  
 11:30am Mass  
 5:00pm Mass  
 6:00pm GS

### Monday, November 1 ALL SAINTS

7:00am Mass  
 9:30am Livestream Mass  
 10:00am ENDOW  
 1:00pm CGS- Lvl I and II  
 4:00pm CGS- Lvl II  
 7:00pm St. Joseph's Men's Group

### Tuesday, November 2 ALL SOULS

7:00am Mass  
 7:30am School PLC Meeting  
 9:30am Livestream Mass  
 10:00am CGS- Lvl I  
 10:00am Stewardship Meeting  
 1:00pm Bible Study  
 4:30pm RE  
 6:30pm Venturers of the Stars  
 7:00pm All Souls Memorial Mass

### Wednesday, November 3

5:30am St. Joseph's Men Group  
 7:00am Mass  
 8:00am ENDOW  
 9:30am Livestream Mass  
 11:00am North Metro Catholic Singles  
 1:00pm Bible Study  
 2:00pm RCIA  
 4:00pm Children's Choir  
 4:30pm RE  
 5:00pm K of C Council Mtg  
 6:00pm Fall Restored Order  
 6:30pm Boy Scouts- Troop 766  
 6:45pm Fall Marriage Prep  
 7:00pm Men's School of Community

### Thursday, November 4

3:00pm Drama Club Rehearsal  
 4:00pm CGS- Lvl I  
 6:30pm Bible Study  
 7:00pm Sojourners  
 7:00pm CL

### Friday, November 5

7:00am Mass  
 7:00am AoD In-Service  
 7:30am Men of Emmaus  
 9:00am ENDOW  
 6:00pm American Heritage Girls

### Saturday, November 6

7:30am Cenacle Prayer Group  
 9:00am CL  
 2:00pm RE Christmas Play Practice  
 4:30pm Mass  
 5:30pm FSCB Feast

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, October 30

9:30 † Guiseppi Pira by Nino Fattore  
 4:30 † Paul Grezlik by Donna and Bob Farrel

### Sunday, October 31

7:30 Maryann and Ron Reyes by Bette Dean  
 9:30 People of the Parish  
 11:30 † Kathleen Pearson by Rose Pearson  
 5:00 † Bill Culhane by Dolly Culhane

### Monday, November 1

7:00 Joan Bridges  
 9:30 Sandy Deedon by the Grandkids

### Tuesday, November 2

7:00 All Souls Novena  
 9:30 All Souls Novena  
 7:00 Memorial of All Souls

### Wednesday, November 3

7:00 All Souls Novena  
 9:30 All Souls Novena

### Thursday, November 4

7:00 All Souls Novena  
 9:30 All Souls Novena

### Friday, November 5

7:00 All Souls Novena  
 9:30 All Souls Novena

### Saturday, November 6

9:30 All Souls Novena  
 4:30 † Maxine Spruce by Virginia Shatto

### Sunday, November 7

7:30 Birthday Wishes for Jurgen Ulrich from the family  
 9:30 People of the Parish  
 11:30 Rebecca Ciucci by Fr. Michael Carvill  
 5:00 Poor Souls in Purgatory

SACRISTY LAUNDRY

Marcia Johnson

\*Sign up on Flocknote for up-to-date information delivered directly into your inbox at:  
[app.flocknote.com/nool](http://app.flocknote.com/nool)

If you're going to the hospital and need a visit from a priest or deacon, please call the front desk at: 303-469-5171

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Joanne Farver at 303-466-8859 or at [joannefarver@comcast.net](mailto:joannefarver@comcast.net).

### Prayers for the sick and for the deceased:

We pray for all who are sick, and for our deceased relatives and friends that they may speedily attain the blessedness of heaven and rejoice in the eternal treasure of God's glory and love.

### OUR RECENTLY DECEASED



David Abeyta  
 Jo Evans

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

## Feast of the Week



"If a tiny spark of God's love already burns within you, do not expose it to the wind, for it may get blown out... Stay quiet with God. Do not spend your time in useless chatter... Do not give yourself to others so completely that you have nothing left for yourself."

- St. Charles Borromeo

Saints Charles Borromeo  
 November 4th

Over 100 young adults from around the Archdiocese of Denver joined in a night of square and line dancing in Cabrini hall last Friday night. The fall Harvest Dance was complete with make-your-own caramel apples, burgers from the 5280 Burger Bar food truck, cornhole, snacks, and a selfie booth.



A special thank you to those who helped to make this event possible: the Knights of Columbus, the Sloan family, Therese Herzog, Tricia Fankell, 5280 Burger Bar, Brett Lempe, Alex Abeyta, and the young adults of the Archdiocese of Denver.



**Thursday, November 21**



**NATIVITY NIGHTS 2021**



# FROM THE PARISH

## ALL SOULS' DAY

Memorial Mass for All Souls  
Tuesday, November 2  
7:00pm

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

David M. Abeyta  
Bernadette Bauman  
Leona B. Bean  
Virginia M. Beck  
Sarah L. Clark  
Mary Jane Collopy  
Joseph Davila  
Barbara Davila  
Charles Evans  
Raymond Figaro

Shane Fross  
Stanley Guderski  
James Harkness  
Mary Henry  
Larry Hopper  
Steven Ivarson  
Donald Kerkhoff  
Patricia Kittridge  
Bernice "Bernie" Kompus  
Charles Levenduski  
Lucille Lombardi  
Consuelo Maasch  
Elizabeth Novak  
Clarence E. Osborn

Frank Passard  
Mary Read  
Margaret B. Rodriguez  
Rose Roth  
Leroy Joseph Sanchez  
Shannon Sharkey  
Frances Smith  
Francis Smith  
Spencer John T. Spencer  
Maxine Spruce  
Kim Sullivan  
Alice "Ruth" Sweeney  
Ann L. Szydowski  
Pete F. Valdez

## STEWARDSHIP OF PRAYER AND FAITH

Our desire is for stewardship to become a way of life for all of us, educating us continually to our relationship with God our creator to whom all things belong. Stewardship of prayer and faith aims to nurture that relationship.

Stewardship spirituality grows as we recognize that everything comes from God as a gift. One of His gifts is our faith. Nativity Parishioners embraced this gesture with commitments to the core elements of our faith: confession and adoration at Nativity Nights, prayer, reading the Bible, and attending Mass. Many will share their faith by saying Grace in restaurants and being a witness at work. While we do not compile commitments to prayer, we recognize the beauty of your time spent with the Lord in prayer and contemplation.

Thank you for your commitment to our parish through your participation in our stewardship campaign and thank you for your commitment to your faith.

### Total Faith Commitments

Number of pledge cards..... 320

### Know Your Faith

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd..... 0.72%  
Marriage Preparation ..... 0.18%  
Nativity: Faith & Reason.....1.15%  
Religious Ed Classes .....0.60%  
Restored Order..... 0.36%  
Men's Retreat..... 1.21%  
Spiritual Direction ..... 1.51%  
Thurs. Morn. Bible Study..... 0.18%  
Tuesday Bible Study..... 0.84%  
Video Bible Studies..... 1.63%  
ENDOW ..... 0.90%  
Natural Family Planning..... 0.30%  
Catholic Biblical School..... 0.66%  
Parish Mission ..... 1.03%  
Retreat..... 1.33%

### Live Your Faith

Attend Daily/Weekly Mass ..... 11.70%  
Attend Planned Parenthood Mass..... 1.09%  
Be a good steward..... 4.64%  
Listen to/watch Catholic Radio/TV..... 5.13%  
Participate in Parish Ministries.....4.52%  
Participate Annual Parish Pilgrimage.....1.21%  
Go on a Mission Trip..... 0.84%  
Read the Bible ..... 8.93%  
Read Spiritual Books or Papal Docs.....7.06%  
Read Pastor's message in bulletin..... 6.88%  
Read Pope's audience in bulletin .....4.22%

### Share Your Faith

High School Youth ..... 0.84%  
Nativity Days.....2.77%  
Nativity Nights .....2.90%  
Venturers.....0.72%  
Book Club.....0.66%  
Families of John Paul II.....1.27%  
Homeschool Community.....0.18%  
Men of Emmaus.....0.42%  
Men's Basketball.....0.24%  
Men's Softball.....0.18%  
Nativity Widows.....0.06%  
Sojourners (young adults).....0.36%  
St. Joseph's Men's Group.....0.90%  
TOFF (Women's Group).....0.48%  
We the People .....0.12%  
Women's Guild .....0.84%  
American Heritage Girls.....0.24%  
America Needs Fatima .....0.36%  
Boy Scouts.....0.42%  
Communion & Liberation .....1.09%  
Cub Scouts Pack 766 .....0.12%  
Focolare Movement.....0.06%  
Girl Scouts Brownies.....0.12%  
Girl Scout Troop 65591.....0.00%  
GS (High School Group).....0.36%  
Hope Corner .....0.18%  
Knights of Columbus.....1.51%  
Mental Health Support Group .....0.30%  
North Metro Catholic Singles.....0.36%  
Totus Tuus.....0.84%  
Pray grace in restaurants.....7.84%  
Be a witness at work.....4.40%



## USHER TRAINING

Tuesday, November 16th | 7:00pm | Main Church

All current ushers, as well as those who wish to be an usher at Nativity, are invited to attend an usher training meeting on Tuesday, November 16, from 7:00pm to 8:00pm in the Church. We will be discussing the preferred way to go about the usher's duties, confirming regular Sunday Mass coverage, how we will cover Christmas Masses, and answering any questions you may have. If you recently expressed interest in being an usher at our Ministry Fair, now is your chance to get involved! If you need further information, please contact Paul Fabian at 720-323-8456 or p.fabian3130@gmail.com.

## WOMEN'S GUILD MEETING

Monday, November 8 | 10:30am | Newman Room

Join the ladies of your parish for our November 8 meeting and bring your favorite Thanksgiving treat, snack or dessert to share. The Annual Craft Fair being held on November 13 and 14 is hosted by the Women's Guild and the proceeds support parish needs. Join us to hear about opportunities to help out at this annual event.

## CRAFT FAIR

The Craft Fair is scheduled for November 13 and 14. As in past years, the crafts displayed and sold at the Women's Guild tables are donated by parishioners. Please consider sharing your talents in crafts, arts or hobbies at our table at this year's Craft Fair. Vendor tables are still available for those who would like to sell their items at the fair. If you are interested in donating a basket to be raffled off, would like to secure a table at the Craft Fair or have any questions, please contact Merrilyn Sikora at m.sikora@nool.us

## NATIVITY GIVING TREE

Christmas presents are one sign and reminder of Christ's tender love for us. Please let Nativity Giving Tree know if your family or a family you know could use help with getting gifts this Christmas so that we can support our parishioners in need. If possible, please contact us by November 1 to nominate such families or individuals. Please email: givingtree@nool.us.t

## ROSARY TEAM

The Rosary Team is looking for men and women to pray at Broomfield nursing facilities once per week. Volunteers pair up to say the rosary together for these residents who are asking for our spiritual support and companionship. There are also other locations available throughout our area. If you're interested, please contact the rosary team at therosaryteam@gmail.com. You can also call Teresa Rodriguez at 303-550-6962 or Leo Rodriguez at 303-550-6970 .

## NATIVITY WIDOWS' LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 10 | 12:00pm | St. Thomas More

The Nativity Widows will be having a luncheon on November 10th at 12:00pm in St. Thomas More room, followed by a BINGO game. Please make sure to bring your own lunch and drink. See you soon!

## STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING



Stephen Minister Training, 2022, is now accepting applications!

Stephen Ministry is a highly-respected, confidential, lay, caring ministry that supports individuals in the parish and community who are experiencing life difficulties. Stephen Ministers are not counselors or therapists; rather, they are caring Christian friends specially trained to offer a listening ear, encouragement, and spiritual support via weekly one-to-one visits. When was the last time someone really listened to you?

If you or someone you know might benefit from the confidential care and encouragement of a Stephen Minister, please contact us via our Confidential Helpline, 303-469-5171 Ext.113 or our Confidential Email, stephenministry@nool.us.

We are now accepting applications for our next comprehensive Stephen Minister Training Session, which will be held Wednesdays, from 6:00pm to 8:30pm, beginning January 12, 2022. The classes, which cover 50+ hours of essential caring and relating skills, will be taught by trained Stephen Leaders in weekly two and a half hour sessions.

Do you have gifts for non-judgmental caring, compassion, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. For more information, please contact us at 303-469-5171 ext 113 or email stephenministry@nool.us. Application deadline is Wednesday, December 29, 2021.





## THE HOPE CORNER: A MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

The month of October is Mental Health Awareness Month. Mental Health America offers several free toolkits that assist with mental health wellness, resiliency, stress management and adaptation skills. The website is at [mhanational.org](http://mhanational.org). In addition, the Colorado chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness is having their annual State Conference October 23 and Oct 24. It is free to attend virtually or in person. To register and view the many workshops and educational information, go to [namiconferencecolorado.com](http://namiconferencecolorado.com).

There is always hope and you are not alone. If you or a loved one are in crisis or are experiencing difficult or suicidal thoughts, please call 911 or one of the following hotlines:

- Colorado Crisis Services: 844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255
- Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 or [suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/)
- National Crisis Text line: text "home" to 741741
- Substance Abuse and Addiction hotline: 1-800-662-HELP
- NAMI Helpline: 800-950-NAMI (6264)

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



In the Gospel today, Jesus tells us "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, you can show your love for our Lord and your love of your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless, alone and frightened.

Please join our SVdP Flocknote group for up-to-date information and changes to our meeting times.

[nool.flocknote.com/svdp](http://nool.flocknote.com/svdp)

## SAMARITAN HOUSE DONATIONS

Samaritan House Community in Denver focuses primarily on serving women, families, and veterans who are seeking safe shelter, nutritious food, and supportive life services. The following items are needed for Samaritan House: women's deodorant, women's bras (all sizes), women's underwear (all sizes), women's shampoo and conditioner (small bottle size), and body soap.

Please drop off any donations at the parish office. There are volunteers who pick up the donations and deliver them to Samaritan House weekly. If you have any questions about donations please contact Tammie Donohoe at [tammie.donohoe@gmail.com](mailto:tammie.donohoe@gmail.com).

## VETERANS DAY INVITATION

Wednesday, November 10 | 8:00am-1:30pm | Mountain Range High School (12500 Huron St.)

The Mountain Range High School students would love to dedicate a day to our veterans. On Wednesday, November 10th, from 8:00am to 1:30pm, the junior class of Mountain Range High School will be taking a day to celebrate, feed, recognize, and learn all about our veterans.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. If you are interested in attending this event please contact Maggie Ketchel at 303-591-6636. Please RSVP no later than November 3rd. We look forward to hearing from you soon!



## The Catholic Roots of Halloween

While some people have connected Halloween to earlier pagan celebrations of the new year, Halloween actually has significant Catholic roots. The name itself comes from All Hallows' Eve – that is, the Vigil of All Saints' Day, when Catholics remember those who have gone before us to enter our heavenly home. Immediately afterwards, on November 2, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed still detained in Purgatory, and prays in suffrage for them.

The memory of those who have gone before us naturally leads to thoughts of mortality, and the liturgical focus on the end times during this period of the Church year adds to the atmosphere of gloom.

The word "Halloween" refers to the Feast of All Saints. The word itself is taken from an older English term, "hallows," meaning "holy"; and "e'en", a truncation of the word evening, in reference to the Vigil of the feast. So really, Halloween is the feast of the celebration of the feast of All Hallows. It's a day when Catholics celebrate the triumph of the Church in heaven and the lives of the saints on earth.

So just as we commemorate the feast of All Saints on November 1st, beginning with All Hallows' Eve on Halloween, we also think about and turn our minds really, to the last things: death, judgment, heaven, and hell. And really our focus should be, since we all must die and are destined to judgment, how then we to live?

Let us make this year's celebration an act of true devotion to God, whose saints give us hope that we too may one day enter into the Kingdom prepared for God's holy ones from the beginning of time.



# NATIVITY: FAITH AND REASON

## SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

Nativity: Faith & Reason is looking for substitute teachers! We'd love to have you join our family of leaders and learners, helping us to carry out our mission of forming saints and scholars. We are also looking for a long-term sub for math that would begin this month!

Please contact our assistant principal, Lisette Gutierrez, for more information at [lgutierrez@nool.us](mailto:lgutierrez@nool.us).

Trick-or-Treat Candy Tithe  
November 1 - 3

Could your children donate more of their Halloween candy to children in our community?

Neighborhood Outreach provides food and services to those in need in our Denver Community.

Children may bring their candy tithe in any type of bag to the school foyer November 1-3.




## FALL FUN IN KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten students measured pumpkins, counted their lines, and saw if they would float or sink. They also opened them and cleaned out their seeds... what a fun fall activity!



## CATECHETICAL ROOM

Last year, in conversations with our priests, we explored the possibility of a hands-on format of catechesis for our youngest students; an education that was experiential and able to help them grasp the mass, biblical history, liturgical seasons, and the overall trajectory of the faith in an age-appropriate way.

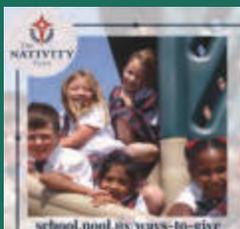
Two school parents, teachers of catechesis in Nativity Parish, have made the wish come to life. Kristen Caldwell and Kristen Hamill (pictured below) spent much of the summer gathering materials, educating our teachers, and building the catechetical room. The result is a child-centered space in which teachers can guide learning about salvation history, while encouraging students to learn through sight, touch and smell. Father Michael blessed the room last week in the presence of all of our K-2 students.

## ANNUAL FUND

The annual appeal for the Nativity fund is officially underway.

Plain and simple, the Annual Appeal builds our Nativity Fund, which helps bridge the gap between tuition paid and the cost to keep Nativity a flourishing Catholic institution in Northern Colorado.

Our mission states that we are a community of learners, partnering with parents to provide quality Catholic education to the children entrusted to our care. To fulfill this mission, it is vital that education be affordable. With the present tuition and scholarships received, we have a \$900 gap per child, leaving \$319,500—our goal for this Annual Appeal.



Won't you consider a contribution? To learn more or to donate online, please visit [school.nool.us/ways-to-give](http://school.nool.us/ways-to-give).





With a powerful appeal to the international community to implement lasting resolutions for the safeguard of lives and the dignity of migrants and refugees, Pope Francis says his thoughts never stray from the predicament of the thousands of men, women and children stranded in Libya as they search to reach Europe in the hope of a better life.

Since the fall of the late leader Muammar Gaddafi a decade ago, Libya has been suffering insecurity and chaos. In the last few years, the North African country has become a preferred point of departure for illegal migrants wanting to cross the Mediterranean into Europe.

However, many rescued migrants – picked up from rickety and un-seaworthy boats –end up inside unsanitary and overcrowded reception centres.

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, 7-13 November, with dioceses across the US holding events to foster an appreciation for all vocations and pray specifically for those discerning a vocation to ordained ministry and consecrated life.

This year's NVAW, to be held from from 7-13 November, will draw inspiration Pope Francis' Message for the 58th annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations, in which he offered St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, as a model for vocational discernment.

Read more stories at <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

The Gospel of today's Liturgy tells of Jesus who, when leaving Jericho, was approached by Bartimaeus, a blind man begging by the roadside (cf. Mk 10:46-52). It is an important encounter, the last one before the Lord's entry into Jerusalem for the Passover. Bartimaeus had lost his sight, but not his voice! For, when he heard that Jesus was about to pass by, he begins to cry out: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v. 47). And he shouts and

insistence of Bartimaeus, does it know how to "take hold" of the Lord as he passes, or is it rather content with making a formal greeting every now and then, when I remember? Those lukewarm prayers that do not help at all.

Furthermore, is my prayer "substantial"; does it bare my heart before the Lord? Do I take my story and life experience to him? Or is it



***"We must ask everything of Jesus, who can do everything. Do not forget this. We must ask everything of Jesus, with my insistence before Him. He cannot wait to pour out His grace and joy into our hearts; but unfortunately, it is we who keep our distance, through timidness, laziness or unbelief." - Pope Francis***

shouts until the disciples and the crowd, annoyed by his shouting, rebuke him to make him be quiet. But he shouts even louder: "Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v. 48). Jesus hears, and immediately stops.

God always listens to the cry of the poor and is not at all disturbed by Bartimaeus' voice; rather, he realises it is full of faith, a faith that is not afraid to insist, to knock on the door of God's heart, despite not being understood and being reproached. And here lies the root of the miracle. Indeed, Jesus says to him: "Your faith has made you well" (v. 52).

Bartimaeus' faith is evident from his prayer. It is not a timid and standard prayer. First and foremost, he calls the Lord "Son of David": that is, he acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah, the King who would come into the world. Then he calls Him by name, confidently; "Jesus". He is not afraid of Him, he does not stay at a distance. And thus, from the heart, he shouts out his entire drama to God who is his friend: "Have mercy on me!" He asks for everything from the One who can do everything. He asks for mercy on his person, on his life. It is not a small request, but it is so beautiful because it is a cry for mercy, that is, compassion, God's mercy, his tenderness.

He says what is essential and entrusts himself to God's love which can make his life flourish again by doing what is humanly impossible. His blindness was the tip of the iceberg; but there must have been wounds, humiliations, broken dreams, mistakes, remorse in his heart. He prayed with his heart. And what about us? When we ask for God's grace, in our prayer do we also include our own history, our wounds, our humiliations, our broken dreams, our mistakes and our regrets?

All of us, let us ask ourselves: "What is my prayer like?" Is it courageous, does it contain the good

anaemic, superficial, made up of rituals, without feeling and without heart? When faith is alive, prayer is heartfelt: it does not beg for spare change, it is not reduced to momentary needs. We must ask everything of Jesus, who can do everything. Do not forget this. We must ask everything of Jesus, with my insistence before Him. He cannot wait to pour out his grace and joy into our hearts; but unfortunately, it is we who keep our distance, through timidness, laziness or unbelief.

So many of us, when we pray, do not believe that the Lord can work miracles. I am reminded of the father who was told by the doctors that his nine-year-old daughter would not survive the night; she was in hospital. And he took a bus and travelled seventy kilometres to the Shrine of Our Lady. It was closed and, clinging to the gate, spent the whole night praying: "Lord, save her! Lord, give her life!" He prayed to Our Lady all night long, crying out to God, crying from his heart. Then in the morning, when he returned to the hospital, he found his wife weeping. And he thought: "She is dead". And his wife said: "No-one understands, no-one understands, the doctors say it's a strange thing, she seems to have healed". The cry of that man who asked for everything was heard by the Lord who had given him everything. This is not a story: I saw this myself in another diocese. Do we have this courage in prayer?

To the One who can give us everything, let us ask everything, like Bartimaeus, who was a great teacher, a great master of prayer. May Bartimaeus, with his genuine, insistent and courageous faith, be an example for us. And may Our Lady, the prayerful Virgin, teach us to turn to God with all our heart, confident that He listens attentively to every prayer.

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