Saint Cecilia Parish

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

14 September 2014

Icon of the Crucifixion
Liturgy of the Hours

Monday, 10/20 @ 6:30 p.m. - St. Paul of the Cross

Tues day, 10/28 @ 6:30 p.m. - SS. Simon and Jude

Thursday, 11/13 @ 6:30 p.m. - St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Morning Prayer

Saturday, 11/22 @ 9:00 a.m.
Feast of St. Cecilia, our patroness

For more information:
Contact Mark Brown at msb711@verizon.net
Welcome to Saint Cecilia Parish, a Roman Catholic community that gathers day by day, week by week, to know and make known the grace of God. By means of this abundant grace, we enjoy a diverse and close-knit parish family—young, old, rich, poor, of various ethnic origins and differing backgrounds. From our extraordinary music program to a growing children’s faith formation program; from the various liturgical ministries to the many opportunities for social outreach that the parish provides, Saint Cecilia is a vibrant community of faith, centered on prayer and worship that tries to keep the Gospel close to heart and to live by Jesus’ teachings.

Saint Cecilia Parish was established in 1888. At that time the Back Bay section of Boston along Commonwealth Avenue and Beacon Street was the residential section of the Yankee aristocracy. The maids (“Irish working out girls”) and coachmen who served these residents had long requested a church of their own. When Archbishop Williams granted their request and carved the parish from the territory of the Cathedral, they built a magnificent church out of their meager earnings.

The church was dedicated on April 22, 1894. Its architecture is Romanesque, XII Century Norman. The main altar, notable for its massive simplicity, was carved from a single block of white Carrara marble. The painting in the center reredos is a reproduction of da Vinci’s The Last Supper, and the dome above is an array of 24K gold rosettes.

For the sixtieth anniversary celebration in 1954, a massive renovation project was undertaken. During this renovation, a statue of Pope Saint Pius X (canonized that same year) was imported from Italy and placed on the right side of the sanctuary. Above the statue are paintings from Pius’ life. On the left side is a statue of Saint Patrick, principal patron of the Archdiocese of Boston, and above it are three scenes from his life.

Fourteen circular and sixteen square panels adorn the nave and arches of the church. The square panels are decorated with the symbols of Our Lady taken from the Litany of Loreto and the circular ones with symbols taken from the lives of the apostles. The great window of the Assumption—framed by the two oak cases of the organ—was installed in 1954 (the Marian Year) in spaces originally designed for windows but not until then used.

The original organ of 24 stops was built in 1902 by the Hutchings-Votey Organ Company, Opus 1465, and was rebuilt in 1954 with 32 stops. In 1998, Timothy Smith and Theodore Gilbert began a massive reconstruction of the organ. The current Smith & Gilbert Organ of 4 manuals, 50 ranks, and 2,926 pipes was dedicated on the Feast of Saint Cecilia, November 22, 1999.

Today we are experiencing something of an awakening within these old walls. We recently completed a major renovation, our numbers are increasing, and we continue to grow in our commitment to issues of peace, justice, and service to our neighbors, both near and far.

We’ve been right here on Belvidere Street, in the same building for 125 years, but that does not mean that life here is stale, stagnant, or even predictable. We are proud to be entrusted with the legacy of Saint Cecilia Parish, where everything is the same, yet always changing; where we honor tradition while embracing the future; where God’s love makes all things new.
MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Saturday | 5:00 p.m.
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV, celebrant
Fred Bachofner, lector

Sunday | 8:00 a.m.
Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC, celebrant
Jim Dougherty, lector

Sunday | 9:30 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Rosaria Salerno, Jim Kennedy, &
Moira Macdonald, lectors

Sunday | 11:15 a.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Cathy Anderson, Maggie Dolan, &
Thomas Brennan, lectors

Sunday | 6:00 p.m.
Rev. John Unni, celebrant
Matt Arsenault & Jennifer Polley, lectors

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Saturday, September 13 | 5:00 p.m.
Roby DSilva, 1st Anniversary

Sunday, September 14 | 9:30 a.m.
Lawrence Vachon, Memorial

Sunday, September 14 | 11:15 a.m.
Liz Pino, Memorial

Sunday, September 14 | 6:00 p.m.
Griselda Bonson, 1st Anniversary

TODAY’S READINGS
Numbers 21:4b-9
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS
Isaiah 55:6-9
Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
Matthew 20:1-16a

FOOD DONATIONS
FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

This week’s featured donation item is:
CEREAL!

Next week’s featured donation item is:
PASTA!

Donations of pasta, sauce, cereal, tuna, & other
canned food are always also accepted. Please
leave food donations in the narthex baskets.
PRAYERS & OCCASIONS

Our Deceased
Daniel Souza died on September 7. Please pray for the eternal repose of his soul, as well as for the consolation of his brother David Feeley and all of his family and loved ones. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Our Sick
Please pray for all our sick and for those who are in need of our prayer, especially Jennifer Serpico, Jan Igras, Rudy Kikel, Annette Kulas, Steven Whitkens, Anthony Simboli, Jeanne Tibbs, Lisa Caputo, Anne Frenette Handly, Ruth Frost, Roséa Aubrey, Brenna Smith, Mildred McLaughlin, Susanne Coyne, Domenic Iannaccone, Ken Bennett, Cameron Robinson, Paul Claveau, Jaheel Robinson, Robert Loris, Michael Claveau, Max Tubman, David Worster, Derek Schall, Susan Noll, Jennifer Murdock, Julie Downey, Mary Broussard, Ivy Fray, Donna Thagard, Penny Maynard, Robert Kimball, Owen Kyes, Mark Schatzl, Hugo Collamati, Chris Novosieliski, Gayle Haley, Michalina Maniscalco, Niall O'Shaughnessy, Javier A. Sattler, Annie Flaherty, Pattie Geier, Bob Wuendsch, Bronis Morton, Patrick Trani, Colin Landry, Jake Mercier, Michael Patrick Kelly, Pilar Estrada, Ursula Seibert, Mark Anderson, Matty Goddard, Stephanie Merenda, Raymond Mazzone, Carlo Pagani, Shea Hammond, Bill Downing, Skyler Stevenson, Rob Morrissey, and Nimet Yousif.

Welcome to Saint Cecilia!
We are pleased to welcome the following new members of our parish who have recently registered: Nicholas Coccoma of Jamaica Plain, Philip Mansfield of Boston, Michelle Jose-Kampfer of Brookline, Siobhan Mary Case of Jamaica Plain, Jessica Mareno of Boston, Filip Piasevoli of Boston, Katherine Sepulveda of Newton, Susan Tarulli of Boston, and Lili and Jordan Ray of Boston. If you have not previously registered with the parish, there are forms in the narthex for this purpose or you can register online at www.stceciliaboston.org.

Thank You!
Last week’s second collection was designated to support The Catholic University of America and its scholarship fund for needy students. Due to your generosity, we were able to collect $1,486 to help educate many priests and lay ministers at the Church’s national university. Thank you very much!

This Week’s Special Collection
Cardinal Seán has authorized a special collection, to be taken this weekend in all parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston, to provide humanitarian relief and pastoral support for our affected brothers and sisters in the Middle East. All monies collected will be distributed by the USCCB to Catholic Relief Services and other Catholic agencies working in partnership with the local church to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs facing the people in Iraq, Gaza, Syria, and surrounding countries where refugees have fled. These organizations have well-established partnerships with the Catholic Church in the region which allows them to respond quickly and efficiently to victims in some of the hardest to reach areas. Funds will be used to support Church programs to aid persecuted Christians and to respond to rebuilding needs of Catholic dioceses in the impacted areas.

Next Week’s Special Collection for the Clergy Funds
Next week, the diocese-wide collection for the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust will support the health and well-being of our 628 Boston priests. Our priests have been there when we needed them. Now, it is our turn to help fulfill the promises made to ensure the highest quality of care and quality of life for them when they need us. All are welcome to make a gift online at www.clergyfunds.org or use the in-pew envelopes provided. Be sure to watch the short video at www.clergyfunds.org to see how your contributions help to support Regina Cleri, the residence for Senior Priests in Boston which is currently celebrating its 50th anniversary. Thank you in advance for your generous and prayerful support of our priests.

Resumption of the Six o’Clock Mass
We are happy to have you celebrate with us at our six o’clock liturgy resuming this evening, September 14!

TWEETS FROM THE POPE
The Christian who does not feel that the Virgin Mary is his or her mother is an orphan.

The Lord always forgives us and walks at our side. We have to let him do that.
BE A WELCOMING FACE OF THE PARISH: JOIN THE GREETERS!

Are you warm and friendly person who loves to meet fellow parishioners with a smile? The Greeter Ministry is the vital ministry of first impressions of the parish, providing a welcoming smile and helpful presence to parishioners and visitors as they gather each week to worship and be a community. We are always searching for more parishioners to help as Greeters for the Parish. Greeters are needed at all of the weekend liturgies. One can specify Mass preference, frequency, and any other availability concerns, all of which can be accommodated. If interested in helping out, please contact Christina Searby at cmsearby@hotmail.com.

DINNER IN CELEBRATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD

On Wednesday, September 24, parishioners across the Archdiocese of Boston are joining to honor and thank our priests at the sixth annual dinner in Celebration of the Priesthood. This annual event at the Seaport World Trade Center benefits the Clergy Health and Retirement Trust, which helps to ensure the highest level of care and quality of life for our 628 active and senior diocesan priests. Join us on Wednesday, September 24 as we celebrate all the priests who have been there when we needed them. If you would like to purchase a ticket with the parish table please contact Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org. You may also visit www.clergyfunds.org/celebration to directly purchase your ticket today. Tickets for the event can be purchased for $375 each and all sponsorship opportunities are listed at www.clergyfunds.org/celebration. Thank you for your generous and prayerful support of Boston’s priests.

JOIN US AT COMMUNITY SERVINGS

Join us from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 13 when we volunteer in the kitchens of Community Servings. We are looking for volunteers to assist in preparing and packaging nutritious meals for those who are home-bound with life-threatening illnesses throughout Eastern Massachusetts. No culinary skills are required, but volunteers need to be at least thirteen years of age. Please feel free to join us even if you can’t be there until a bit later than 10:00 a.m. Community Servings is conveniently located next to the Stony Brook T Station in Jamaica Plain. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Mark Lippolt at: mlippolt@hammondre.com.

POTLUCK PICNIC IN THE PARK

Join the Saint Cecilia Young Adults for a casual picnic with young adults aged 20-40 today after the 11:15 a.m. Mass in the Public Garden. Bring some food to share. Utensils, plates, cups, and some starter snacks will be provided. Walk over with us from church or meet us under a tree by the swan boats.

NEW CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED

We are in need of new choir members to sing with us. If you have a musical talent to share with the community, we would love to have you join us. Please stop by and see Richard Clark after Mass, or email him at rclark@stceciliaboston.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

DRIVERS NEEDED

Each month parishioners have the opportunity to pick up donated meat, dairy products, and produce from three local supermarkets and deliver it to either Catholic Charities’ Haitian Multi-Service Center in Dorchester or the Pine Street Inn in the South End. This vital ministry takes place at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday mornings and on Sundays can be completed in time to attend the 9:30 a.m. parish Mass. Here are our upcoming dates: August 30 and, and September 14 and 21. If you are interested in helping, please email Mark Lippolt at mlippolt@hammondre.com.

BEGINNING OF CHILDREN’S FAITH FORMATION

Children’s Faith Formation will begin on Sunday, September 28. Our youngest class this year will be for children who have begun kindergarten this year. Please note that we need baptismal certificates for all children enrolled in the program and all families must be registered parishioners. If you are not presently registered, there are registration forms in the narthex or you can register on-line by visiting: www.stceciliaboston.org/contact.html. Registration forms for our children’s program will be sent out via e-mail this week. If you are concerned that we don’t have your e-mail address, please e-mail Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org.

WOMEN’S LUNCH PLACE

Please keep in mind the Women’s Lunch Place’s need for donations of travel-size toiletries. Please consider this need particularly if your business travel includes hotel stays. Individual size shampoo, conditioner, and soap are always needed. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant (none of which can typically be found in a hotel room!) are also always in demand. Donated toiletries must be unused, of course. Please leave items in the plastic bin located in the narthex.
ADDITION PRESENTATION

On Thursday, September 25 at 6:00 p.m. there will be a presentation about drug and alcohol addiction. Addiction is an increasingly common problem that affects all of society, with no regard for income, education, or social standing. The evening will offer medical information, social and educational impacts on juvenile and young adult users, and spiritual perspective about the disease of addiction. Presenters will be:

Parishioner Ximena Samper-Sanchez, M.D.: Ximena is an addictions specialist at McLean Hospital in Belmont. She previously practiced at Boston Children’s Hospital - Adolescent Substance Abuse Program. Ximena also has a private practice for clients struggling with substance abuse. Ximena will discuss the medical aspects of addiction.

Michelle Muffet-Lipinski, M.Ed.: Michelle is the long time director of Northshore Recovery High School in Beverly. She is a well known presenter and educator in the field of recovery. Michelle will discuss the social and educational facets of addiction.

Parishioner Lynne Callahan: Lynne will provide a parent’s perspective and experience on living with the addiction/recovery of a child.

Father John Unni will also be speaking to the spiritual aspect of coping with and recovering from substance abuse.

We hope that anyone who has an interest in substance abuse will join us for an informative and educational evening. If you plan on attending, please contact Scott MacDonald at smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org, so that the evening can be well planned for the number of attendees.

MINISTRY FAIR: SAVE THE DATE

This year’s Ministry Fair will take place on Sunday, October 19 after the 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 6:00 p.m. Sunday Masses, and will include tables representing the various ministries at Saint Cecilia. It will be a great time to learn about the different groups and sign up for service. Be sure to save the date so that our parish can begin autumn with a fresh commitment to our discipleship for sharing our gifts of service.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION:
SMALL GROUPS

Care to continue the faith conversation started in the Sunday liturgy? Small groups are re-starting today and will continue through June. Please join us—drop-ins are welcome! These one-hour reflection and discussion groups will meet after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the Hilton Starbucks, and after the 11:15 a.m. Mass and before the 6:00 p.m. Mass in CL3. Please contact stceciliasmallgroups@gmail.com with any questions.

UPCOMING CONCERT LISTINGS

An exciting concert season is around the corner here at Saint Cecilia Parish! Please be sure to join us for one or all of the following phenomenal evenings.

* Thursday, 16 October, 2014 | 7:00 p.m.
Ciáran Nagle — Founding Member of The Three Irish Tenors
Tara Novak, violin
Scott Nicholas, piano
www.ciaranaggle.com
Admission: $20 | $15 for Seniors & Students

* Tuesday, 21 October, 2014 | 7:30 p.m.
Евгения Кривицкая (Москва) — Eugenia Krivitskaya (Moscow)
Organ works by Couperin, Bach, Handel, Stanley, Alkan, Boelmass, Rachmaninov
Admission: Free — Donations are gratefully accepted

* Friday, 21 November, 2014 | 7:00 p.m.
Saint Cecilia Day Celebration!
Saint Cecilia Choir, Richard J. Clark, Director
Admission: Free — Donations are gratefully accepted

* Tuesday, 9 December, 2014 | 7:00 p.m.
The Copley Singers — Christmas Concert
Brian Jones, Director
Admission: $20 Adults | $10 for Seniors & Students | Free for Children

* Monday, 12 January, 2015 | 6:30 p.m.
Blue Heron
Scott Metcalfe, Director

* Friday, 13 February, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.
The Seraphim Singers
Jennifer Lester, Director
www.seraphimsingers.org
Admission: $20 Adults | $10 for Seniors & Students

* Friday, 6 March, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.
The Three Irish Tenors
Ciáran Nagle, Director

* Friday, 1 May, 2015 | 8:00 p.m.
Colin Lynch, organ — Associate Director of Music and Organist at Trinity Church, Copley Square in Boston
www.colinlynchorgan.com
- “An impeccable performer with compelling musicality and technical command” — The American Organist Magazine
- First Prize Winner — Fort Wayne National Organ Playing Competition
Admission: Free — Donations are gratefully accepted

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR:
NOW HIRING!

The Little Sisters of the Poor in Somerville are currently hiring CNAs (for all shifts) and Dining Aides. Please contact Human Resources at smhumanresources@littlesistersofthepoor.org
HUNGER IN AMERICA

September is Hunger Action Month, a nationwide campaign mobilizing the public to take action on the issue of hunger. Organized by the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks, the campaign brings greater attention to the issue of hunger in America and promotes ways for individuals everywhere to get involved with the movement to solve it. One in five kids in the United States faces hunger today. Saint Cecilia’s response to this crisis includes our support for Catholic Charities’ food bank in Dorchester. Please consider a donation of one of the following items, which you can leave in the baskets in the narthex: corn flaks or Cheerios, tomato sauce, canned tuna fish, macaroni and cheese, white flour pasta, peanut butter, or canned chicken breast.

FRIENDS OF THE POOR WALK

On Saturday September 20, the local St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Society will be hosting the 2nd Annual Friends of the Poor Walk, a fundraising effort held across the United States to change and save the lives of those living in poverty. Please come join them in walking and collecting pledges, or make a donation to sponsor a walker. Many of our neighbors are struggling in this economy to make ends meet. SVDP provides food, clothing, bedding, holiday meals, furniture, assistance with utility payments, etc. They help people of all faiths, without discrimination or judgment. Please join them today, and change lives! The walk will begin at the Mission Church on Tremont Street and extend in a loop along the Southwest Corridor Trail for a total of 5.2 miles. SVDP is looking for sponsors, walkers, and volunteers to participate in the event. For more information, please contact Jean Lee at 508-735-0864 or jclee@partners.org or donate at www.svdpusa.net/walk/1013. Volunteers will be available after Sunday’s 9:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Masses to answer questions and take donations. Thank you!

WOMEN’S READING GROUP - TODAY

Calling all women who like to read! We read a book a month, each book being about the spiritual life of a woman, sometimes Catholic, sometimes not. The group meets after the 11:15 a.m. Mass on the second Sunday of every month to discuss what they have read. A year long book list has been developed. The book for this month’s meeting is To Begin Again by Naomi Levy, the first woman to be ordained as a conservative rabbi. This book touches upon the questions of: How do we find strength to embrace life when we have suffered? Can we rekindle hope? Joy? Faith? The answers, illustrated with many moving, true stories drawn from Rabbi Levy’s experience and the lives of her congregants, provide comfort and strength to help us heal and grow.” For more information please email peg_newman@msn.com.

DONE TIME?

Men who have been incarcerated are invited to join the Prison & After group which is designed to provide participants with a sense of welcome and support. The meetings are held on Monday evenings from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Pastoral Center. We will begin with a group session followed by a simple meal. For information, please contact Tom Ash at whatevertp@gmail.com, 617-642-9351 or Peg Newman at peg_newman@msn.com, 508-587-4254.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & EUCHARIST FOR THOSE AT HOME

If you or someone you know is sick and would like to be added to our weekly prayer list, please call the parish office or e-mail Scott MacDonald at smacdonaol@stceciliaboston.org. If you know someone who cannot be present at the Sunday celebration but would like to receive the Eucharist, please let us know. We are always happy to arrange for Holy Communion to be brought to individuals who are homebound.

SERVICE: CRADLES TO CRAYONS

Saturday, September 20 – 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

The Young Adults are seeking 5-10 volunteers to spend two hours at the Cradles to Crayons Giving Factory warehouse (155 North Beacon St., Brighton) helping to process and package donations to be distributed to disadvantaged children across the state. Volunteers are asked to bring at least one donation item. If interested please contact wendysue.m@gmail.com.

UPCOMING BC LECTURES

* Poverty: What did Jesus Preach? What does the Church Teach? 
Tuesday, September 23 at 5:30 p.m.
Presenter: Kenneth Himes, O.F.M., associate professor of theology, Boston College Theology Department

* Jesus: A Pilgrimage 
Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m.
Presenter: James Martin, S.J., editor-at-large of America magazine, bestselling author, and “official chaplain” of The Colbert Report
No registration; seating will be first-come, first-served.

CARES MINISTRY TRAINING SESSION

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Newton  
Sept. 17 & 24, Oct. 1, 8, 15 & 22 | 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The next training session for the Saint Cecilia CARES Ministry, Pastoral Care to the Sick and Homebound, is scheduled and a group from our parish will be attending the course. Upon completion, you will be eligible to join the CARES team to support those most in need with visits offering pastoral support. Please contact Jeanne Bruno at 617-536-4548 X117 or jbruno@ceciliaboston.org for more information.
One would expect a class on happiness to be fairly popular among high school students. In one way or other, every Catholic high school offers just this type of class — only we call it theology. St. Thomas Aquinas held that happiness is one of the foundational characteristics of the mind’s assent to God, and in this light theology is a discipline in which we seek not only to understand but ultimately to attain happiness.

Yet it is often difficult to get students engaged in theology, much less excited about it. I have been teaching theology in a formal setting for only three years. But in that time I have come to realize that many students have an overwhelmingly negative view of religion class. I teach freshmen who have come primarily from Catholic grade schools and parish religion programs. In our conversations there is nearly universal agreement that when religion class is reduced to religious information, it has 1) made them feel worse about themselves rather than better, 2) made them feel farther from God rather than closer and 3) caused them to think that faith is foolish and anti-reason, rather than thought-provoking and life-giving.

It seems their negative experiences of theology stem from two opposite poles. For many, religious education has been on the one hand too nebulous and vague or, on the other hand, overly authoritative. When nebulous, religious education is described as having the extremely vague goal of simply “growing closer to God.” Under this approach, theology becomes the “easy-A” course in grade school and parish education programs, where general statements like “Jesus is love” or “God is good” suffice for outstanding work. While statements like these are not wrong, failing to dig deeper into them with follow-up questions like “Why is God good?” “How is God good?” or “What does ‘good’ mean?” does a gross injustice to their richness and depth.

On the other end of the spectrum, religious education often has been justified with arguments from authority and tradition. At this extreme, religious educators hammer home to students that they must study theology “because that is what a religious school does” or that they “need to know this to fit in at church.” These demands for obedience and conformity manifest themselves in a religious education that is not much more than mechanical memorization of dogmas and doctrines, which may ultimately result in a robotic pseudo-relationship between the student and God. What is even more unfortunate is that many times these seemingly contradictory poles of intellectual laxity and blind obedience coexist in one school or classroom.

But these justifications for and experiences of religious education could not be farther from the actual goal of theology, particularly as articulated by Aquinas. The Thomistic commentator Thomas O’Meara, O.P., writes in his book *Thomas Aquinas: Theologian* that “the life of knowing, faith, and love has for its specifying goal not religious obedience but happiness.” While this statement is true, leaving it at that runs the risk of falling into the aforementioned pious imprecision. If religious education is to be a positive and meaningful experience for today’s students, we must rearticulate why theology is taught. To do this, we must wrestle with the important question Father O’Meara’s statement raises, which he succinctly formulates a few lines later: “But what is real happiness?”

**Many False Paths**

Consciously or not, all adolescents (and adults, for that matter) wrestle with this question every day. When it comes to how they spend their free time, why they study and what they envision for their life beyond the classroom, students are trying to pursue happiness. Too often, however, this wrestling does not go far enough. Hampered by the simple answers promoted in popular culture and the media, students can be misled about what will bring them lasting happiness.

Thomas Aquinas, with his deep understanding of human nature, speaks clearly to adolescents in the 21st century, although he wrote over 500 years ago. The First Part of the Second Part of his *Summa Theologiae* remains a masterful guide for all who seek to travel far along the path to happiness in this life and the next.

(Article continues on page 10)
Aquinas first goes to great lengths to point out what happiness is not: it is not wealth, pleasure, fame, honors or power. Not only are these things not in themselves happiness, they often become obstacles to true happiness because they entrap the seeker with enjoyments that are ultimately fleeting and unsatisfying. Aquinas explains that wealth cannot contain happiness because the true value of wealth is that it can be used to buy other things (I.II.2.1). For example, a teenager may desire wealth in order to buy fashionable clothes. Now because the goal of the wealth is precisely something else – in this case, clothes – the objects wealth buys are more desirable than the wealth itself. Because wealth itself is not the final step in the pursuit of happiness, we cannot say that wealth is happiness.

On a related but different level, Aquinas points out that pleasure also cannot of itself be happiness (I.II.2.6). This is primarily because pleasure is dependent on the senses. Good food is pleasurable because of the sense of taste, beautiful possessions are pleasurable because of the sense of sight and sexual gratification is pleasurable because of the sense of touch. As such, these pleasures are neither supreme nor eternal. Put positively, in order to be pleased by something that is beautiful or tastes good you must have good eyesight and functioning taste buds. If you are blind or do not have proper olfactory functions, less happiness will be found in these things. So while these are things that often give pleasure, they cannot be equated with happiness.

Next, Aquinas points out that happiness is not contained in honors because honor (or “reputation”) is given to a person as a result of some achievement or personal quality (I.II.2.2). Thus, the achievement or quality is primary because it precipitates the honor, in the same way that an object obtained through wealth is primary to the wealth itself. Likewise, Aquinas concludes that neither fame (I.II.2.3) nor power (I.II.2.4) contain happiness. This is because both fame and power are temporary and neither is self-sufficient. Likewise, it is very rare for a person who has power to retain that power ad infinitum. A teacher can simply show students a newspaper or magazine from a decade ago, or even a few months ago, to illustrate this point: From professional athletes to pop culture icons to politicians, there seems to be no shortage of people who reach great heights of honor, fame and power only to come crashing down into infamy or obscurity.

As he concludes his section on what happiness is not, Aquinas states that happiness cannot exist in any created good, because the ultimate object of our longings is supreme and eternal goodness and truth, which belong to the Creator alone: “For happiness is the perfect good, which lulls the appetite altogether; else it would not be the last end, if something yet remained to be desired” (I.II.2.8).

An Imperfect Pursuit

This is admittedly a lengthy explanation of what happiness is not. The purpose was not to evade the original question. In fact, it seems the largest impediment to happiness for high school students is that they believe they have already found it in the aforementioned categories; their quest to understand happiness ceases because they begin searching for things they think will bring happiness. Having removed these false leads, however, we can now direct our attention more positively to what happiness is. Aquinas says that there are ultimately two kinds of happiness, imperfect happiness and perfect happiness (I.II.4.5). We can obtain imperfect happiness (felicitas) in this life by growing in our knowledge of God through the “operation of the intellect.” Perfect happiness (beatitudo) is the “vision of God” (I.II.4.5), which, Aquinas argues, is not dependent on a body. This vision does not mean sight in the literal sense, since that would make it dependent on the eyes; rather it is a perception that transcends the senses. This logically makes perfect happiness supreme because it is not dependent on anything other than God. We could lose everything we know, even our own bodies, and the happiness of being with God still remains.

Moving one step further, since happiness is full perception of God, and theology is about studying God, theology contributes to happiness in the same way that learning about a friend or partner allows your intimacy with them to expand and deepen. Theology, when taught and understood properly, should contribute both to imperfect happiness — through the operation of the intellect — as well as ideally and eventually to perfect happiness at the end of a person’s earthly life. These are ambitious goals, to say the least. Additionally, simply stating these goals at the outset of a theology course will not necessarily change the subject matter itself. However, rearticulating these goals explicitly and directly for students will hopefully at the very least correct their orientation and at the very most increase their interest and efforts — not to mention those of their teacher.

In my own classroom, I have tried to take three concrete steps to bring this rearticulation full circle. First, I tell students that ultimately the point of learning theology is to be happy, and I discuss how we might see this in the content of a given course. How might understanding the Bible, its genres, nuances, literary devices and message add to a student’s happiness? How might understanding the growth, development and sometimes regression of the church over the course of history increase a student's
identification with his or her own faith? How might understanding ethics transcend merely “following the rules” and become an avenue for living a fulfilled life? Next, I explain how many common conceptions of happiness may “make us happy,” in the sense of pleasing us, but that happiness is about something much deeper, less dependent, more lasting — and rooted in God.

Finally, while I primarily help students entertain questions about happiness at a concrete level — using situations and examples from their own experiences — from that foundation, I encourage personal reflection and contemplation to propel the conceptual knowledge into the realm of prayer, because, as Father O’Meara says, “Ultimately God instructs not through epiphany but through presence.” When students realize theology class is not about “giving answers” but rather about “learning how to seek them,” I find they come to class more willing to engage openly and thoughtfully with the Catholic faith and tradition. And that is enough to make any theology teacher happy.

Adam M. Green is a theology teacher at Walsh Jesuit High School, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. He received a master’s degree in theological studies from the School of Theology and Ministry of Boston College.

Each of the nine agencies attending showcased remarkable ingenuity and a strong desire to incorporate bold ideas into their work to end poverty in their community. Representing all different types of communities, and ranging from San Bernardino, Calif., to Boston, Mass., these agency leaders and staff demonstrated what the future of market-driven anti-poverty innovation could look like.

Some of these social ventures included:

• Crisp!, a mobile grocery store that provides low-income individuals and families access to produce and healthy food that they wouldn’t otherwise have;
• The Refuge, a coffee shop and wine bar that provides a gathering place for community members and supports the mission of the agency;
• Joseph’s Place, a service where people looking to hire help with short-term projects or odd jobs could turn to and find individuals eager to find work; and

Some of these projects are still in the planning stages, while many of them are already underway, and used the week on campus as a chance to rethink strategy, target a consumer base, and develop a strong business plan. It was inspiring to see the language and tools of the for-profit business world be applied to the work of advancing the mission of Catholic Charities agencies in the 21st century.

One of the guest lecturers, after hearing about the many ideas and projects, told the group that the quality of the initiatives being proposed was stunning — “This isn’t your grandparents’ Catholic Charities,” she told us. While we will never move away from our core mission of providing assistance to those in need and accompanying the poor, homeless, and disenfranchised, our network is proudly seeking innovative and collaborative ideas that have tremendous potential to create even more opportunity for those we serve. The Social Venture Boot Camp and each project developed and strengthened there are prime examples of this commitment of serving in the 21st century.

—— By Lindsay Hansen, posted on “Think & Act Anew” – a blog written by Father Larry Snyder, President of Catholic Charities USA, encouraging an open conversation about the moral crisis of poverty in America.
TUTURING AND EVENING STUDY AT NATIVITY PREP

School has just begun and our friends at Nativity Prep in JP (www.nativityboston.org) are looking for tutors for their evening study program. Nativity Prep is a tuition-free, Jesuit middle school serving boys of all faiths from low-income families residing in Boston. The Prep has a very impressive track record promoting the intellectual, spiritual, social and physical growth that inspires boys from Boston to become men for others, and to succeed. Following supper, the boys have required evening study three nights a week: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Saint Cecilia parishioners have generously provided dinners for the group of 50-60 four times a semester and a roster of tutors who work one on one with the boys keeping them focused on the homework at hand. This year, Nativity Prep is hoping to have a group of tutors who are able to make the commitment to tutor one evening a week throughout the majority of the semester. Study begins around 6:00 p.m. and lasts to 8:00 p.m. If you would like to learn more about the tutoring opportunities or if you would like to help us provide dinner, please email susan_donnelly@harvard.edu. Thanks!

HOLIDAY GRIEF SUPPORT PROGRAM AT BEACON HOSPICE

Beacon Hospice is offering a new Educational Series/Grief Support group at the Beacon Hospice Office in Charlestown. “Coping with Grief & ‘Holidaze’” is a 6-week support group and educational series for anyone who is anticipating the holidays and experiencing grief due to the death of a family member or close friend. This group will meet on Tuesdays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. beginning October 21 at Beacon Hospice (The Schrafft Center, Suite 126, 529 Main St., Charlestown). This group is open to anyone in the community (no previous affiliation with hospice is required), and is free of charge. Pre-registration is required by calling Nancy Duffy (Bereavement Coordinator) at Beacon Hospice at 617-242-8370.

AN APPEAL FROM SHEILA DILLON

On the evening of September 3, a tragic 9-alarm fire left 94 displaced in Allston. Many of the individuals and families affected are Brazilian immigrants with limited resources. Having met most of these people over the past week, I have been impressed with their sense of community and optimism even after losing their homes and the majority of their belongings. If you would like to contribute, monetary donations are being organized through the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA). To contribute online, please visit www.miracoalition.org, or if you prefer, checks can be made out to MIRA and mailed to 105 Chauncy Street, Suite 105, Boston, MA 02111. Please reference “Harvard Terrace Fire Fund” in the memo section. Thank you for your support.

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP KIDS!

The annual Rodman Ride for Kids is taking place on Saturday, September 20. On that day over 1,500 riders and 700 volunteers will work together to raise $11 million in a non-competitive cycling tour of 25, 50, or 100 miles. Parishioner Letitia Howland will be riding 25 miles to raise money for the Robert F. Kennedy Children’s Action Corps, providing direct care and educational services to kids across the Commonwealth and working to improve systems for kids and families all across the country. Please sponsor Letitia, by finding her at Mass or emailing her at LHowland@rfkchildren.org. Thank you.

HELP FIGHT PANCREATIC CANCER

Parishioners Chris and Jenn Desautels and their daughters Julie and Christine will be participating in the Granara-Skerry 5K Walk in Medford on September 27 to heighten public awareness of pancreatic cancer as well as raise funds for research for a cure. Pancreatic cancer is sometimes called a “silent disease” because early pancreatic cancer often does not cause symptoms and survival rates after diagnosis are very low. Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of death among cancer victims. Last summer Chris’ mom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Through her strong will to fight it, the support and love of family and the incredible treatment she received at both Emerson Hospital and MGH she is a survivor. Please donate via: http://granaraskerry.org/wp/fundraisers/desautels-family/. Thanks for your support!

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Our ability to build community is helped by having an up-to-date database of registered parishioners. If this is one of your first times worshipping with us, welcome! If you have been participating in liturgies here for a few months — or even a few years — and have never registered, please consider doing so. It takes just a few moments to fill out a parish registration form. Once you complete your form, simply drop it in the collection basket, hand it to any staff person, or mail it to the parish office. Registration forms can be found on a table in the narthex. You can also register on-line at www.stcecililaboston.org/register.html. Thank you for being an active member of our community!

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY AT BERKLEE

The Catholic Community at Berklee is a student-run community, rooted in prayer and love, focused on living the Catholic faith at Berklee through prayer, community, and service. We meet Tuesday evenings from 8:00-9:30 p.m. in Room 302 of the 136 Mass Ave. building. For more information, please email Nik Rodewald at nrodewald@berklee.edu.
SAINT CECILIA PARISH

PARISH RESOURCES

Parish Office & Mailing Address
18 Belvidere Street, Boston, MA 02115
Hours | Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
Phone | 617 536 4548
Fax | 617 536 1781
E-mail | info@stceciliaboston.org
Website | www.stceciliaboston.org

Parish Staff
Rev. John J. Unni, Pastor
Mark Donohoe, Pastoral Associate for Administration, mdonohoe@stceciliaboston.org
Scott J. MacDonald, Director of Faith Formation and Leadership Development, smacdonald@stceciliaboston.org
Jeanne Bruno, Coordinator of Pastoral Outreach, jbruno@stceciliaboston.org
Richard J. Clark, Director of Music and Organist, rclark@stceciliaboston.org
Caroline Gélinas, Executive Assistant, cgelinas@stceciliaboston.org
Maureen Sullivan, Special Projects Manager, msullivan@stceciliaboston.org

Assisting Clergy
Rev. Joseph Baggetta
Rev. Thomas Gariepy, CSC
Rev. Peter Grover, OMV
Rev. James Shaughnessy, SJ
Rev. George Winchester, SJ

Schedule for Liturgy
Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday | 8:00 a.m.
Lord’s Day | Sat 5:00 p.m.; Sun 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m., & 6:00 p.m.
Holy Days | 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Reconciliation
By appointment at any time.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the communal process through which non-baptized men and women become members of the Catholic Church. It is also suitable for those baptized in different faith traditions who are interested in becoming Catholic, or, for those who were baptized Catholic, but have yet to receive the sacraments of eucharist and confirmation. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe.

Baptism for Infants
Infant baptism is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. For more information, please contact Mark Donohoe.

Faith Formation for Children
To register your child for our Faith Formation Program, please contact Scott MacDonald in the parish office.

Marriage
Couples who wish to prepare for marriage should contact Mark Donohoe in the parish office at least six months in advance.

Care of the Sick
To arrange for the Sacrament of the Sick, for Holy Communion to be brought to those unable to attend the Sunday celebration, or for Viaticum for the Dying (Holy Communion for those in danger of death), please contact the parish office. It is always possible to anoint the sick during regularly scheduled liturgies.

Order of Christian Funerals
The parish is prepared to celebrate the Vigil (wake) in the church. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Team
The CAP Team is responsible for training all parish staff and volunteers in mandated reporting laws and the Protecting God’s Children program (VIRTUS). They also provide consultation and support to anyone in the parish who has concerns about reporting child abuse and neglect. Please contact Lois Flaherty (loisflaherty@gmail.com), Maria Roche (maria.roche15@gmail.com) or Letitia Howland (L_howland@hotmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

The Archdiocese of Boston has in place a vigorous program to protect children from harm and to educate its ministers and faithful about the nature of abuse, with a goal of increasing knowledge, creating a safe environment for children, and recognizing and reporting potentially dangerous situations. The full text of the policy is also available in the narthex and parish office, as well as on our website.

For Those with Celiac Disease
If you have celiac disease, please let us know. We have a supply of low-gluten altar bread available for those who cannot tolerate gluten.

Hearing Assistance in Church
The church is equipped with an FM listening device. Small receivers are available for anyone who may have trouble hearing the sound system. Simply request a receiver from any one of our greeters before Mass.

Access for the Disabled
The church is accessible by elevator.

Sunday Parking
Reduced-rate parking is available on Sundays at the Prudential Center parking garage and at the Hilton Boston Back Bay; Sunday parking is also available at LAZ Parking (53 Belvidere Street—maximum of three hours). Be sure to have one of our greeters validate your parking ticket before returning to your car.

Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry
Saint Cecilia Rainbow Ministry is a GLBTQ community at Saint Cecilia. For more information, contact stceciliarainbowministry@gmail.com.

Joining Our Community
We’re happy that you’re with us! Our community offers a warm, spiritual home for a diverse group of Catholics. We come from many neighborhoods in and around Boston but also have parishioners from as far afield as Marlborough, Newburyport, and Stow. Please introduce yourself to a staff member, drop in for coffee on Sunday, or fill out a new parishioner form in the gathering space. No matter what your background, please know that you are always welcome at Saint Cecilia.

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The Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office), composed of Psalms, hymns, scriptural, patristic, and hagiographical readings, and prayers, is the public liturgical prayer of the Church, destined by her for the sanctification of specific parts of the day. This article treats the meaning, history, and renewal of the Liturgy of the Hours in the Roman rite. Overview. Without frequent and fervent prayer the life of the Christian soon can easily become directionless and empty.