

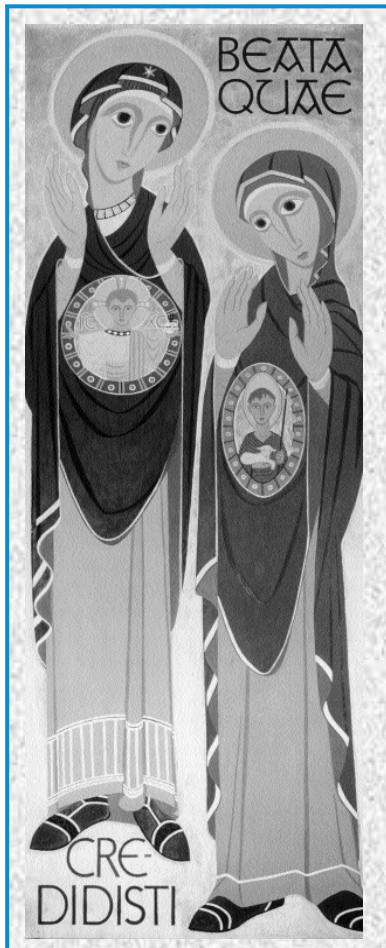
VISITATION CHURCH

11/02/08

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CONTACT:

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THE CHURCH OF THE VISITATION

Catholic Church

4530 LYNDALE AVENUE S. MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55419

www.visitationcatholicchurch.com

Church Office 612-822-3139 Fax 612-824-3515

62ND ANNIVERSARY 1946-2008

Pastor

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Bulletin notices due by noon on Mondays.

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Master of Ceremonies

Timothy G. Wolfgram

Trustees

Kristine Callaghan 612-825-8431

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Parish Pastoral Council

Connie Klaers, Chair cklaers@msn.com 612-823-6213

Finance Council

Philip Gleason, Chair pgleasoncpa@msn.com 612-823-0080

Baptisms

Saturdays or Sundays at Mass. Please call the parish office to make arrangements.

Marriages

Six months preparation time needed. You must be a member of the parish for at least six months. Please call the parish office.

Parish Membership

Please call the church office to register in the parish.

After Hours Emergency Only

Father Thomas F.A. O'Brien 612-532-4707

Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm

Sunday Mass 10:00 am

Daily Mass Tue-Sat 8:00 am

Holy Days of Obligation

8:00 am, 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:00 pm,
or by appointment.

Nursery

10:00 am Sundays, infant-4

Eucharistic Adoration

Every Thursday 8:30 am-
7:00 pm.

Rosary Devotion

Before First Saturday Mass
and daily Mass at 7:30 am.

As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame...

Dear Friends,

In a very real way television has become one of my most significant companions. I don't really use it for entertainment very much, generally the channels are set to news stations. But I do turn the television on almost immediately after arriving home, for no real purpose other than that to do so gives me a sense of "background," some "white noise," a feeling that I'm not all by myself in the house.

I had never really thought much about my use of television until I happened to watch a special presentation on EWTN last Sunday night, a three-hour documentary entitled "Into Great Silence." The film was produced in Germany by director Philip Groning and chronicles the life of the Carthusian monks in the French monastery of Grande Chartreuse. (The Carthusians are an ancient order in the Church, founded by St. Bruno more than 900 years ago. The monks live most of their lives alone but in community. Each will pass the greater part of his life as a solitary, alone in his cell, where he prays, works, takes his meals, and sleeps. During the course of the week, he only leaves three times a day for offices and communal Mass: in the middle of the night, the Night Office; the morning Eucharist; and Vespers towards the coming of night.)

The film was filled with three hours of magnificent beauty in the French Chartreuse north of Grenoble and poetic moments prayerful engagement. I'd estimate 95 percent of it was presented in total silence. That's the major focus of the film, not the monks' personal lives, not their devotional activities, not their regime of daily life. Silence. You can see the silence, hear the silence, touch the silence, almost taste the silence. If voices are heard at all, they are like snow falling on cedars; like a stone skipping over a brook, spreading a smile from ear to ear.

I guess I could honestly say that part of me appreciates silence—even in my everyday, hectic life, I do like the quiet times, I do love looking at the silent splendor of stars at night, at the blaze of the morning sky at dawn. I'm not the type of person who Archbishop Flynn often refers to as "a man so needy he can start a fight in his own empty house." I don't need to be surrounded by constant companions. But I also find that many times, as I begin to recognize the silence around me, it does make me a bit uncomfortable. It begins to push on me, to force me to focus—especially on my relationship with God. How intimate is it? How willing am I to really *hear* His voice in my life? And how do I expect to recognize it? How do I make room for it?

I suppose one of the best answers to that question is found in Scripture, in the First Book of Kings. In this particular account, the prophet Elijah travels for 40 days to Mount Horeb

"Then the LORD said, 'Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by.' A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire—but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave." You see, Elijah experiences the Lord not in whirlwind, but in *whisper*.

I would be the first to admit that it's very difficult to pursue God, especially if it's not our number-one priority every day, day-in-and-day-out, like the monks of Grande Chartreuse. I sometimes think, in fact, that the lives of such monks are quite a bit easier when it comes to the pursuit of God, for everything is organized and centered upon finding Him; there seem so few distractions. And while we may agree that the pursuit of God should be the entire focus of our lives too, not just that of monks and hermits, we also readily recognize that *our* particular vocation in life requires interaction with others, engagement with all sorts of others on a daily, ongoing basis. We know, too, that however important these others may be in the living out of our vocation—in our own sanctification—it's not always easy. Schedules and demands conflict; priorities compete; lovers quarrel; at times we're just overwhelmed by all there is to do; we become so consumed with simply getting through the day that we seem to lose sight of God entirely. Yet I suspect each of us really is looking for an experience of God. We want to know Him, to be touched by Him, to be enveloped in His holy mystery.

I'd like to suggest something. Try to find a quiet moment in your day, a moment when you can be by yourself, with nothing to distract you. Turn off the television and the radio, silence the telephone, try to focus your thought and energy for just five minutes. Sometimes a picture (a holy card or an icon), or an object (a crucifix or a candle), or just a beautiful and relaxing view out your window, can help you find an interior place of tranquility and rest. Breathe deeply and slowly. Then, when you begin to feel some tranquility, when you're just on the edge of moving from frenetic busy-ness and pre-occupation to a feeling of peace, reflect prayerfully on the following meditation:

Be silent. Be still. Alone. Empty before your God, say nothing, ask nothing. Be silent. Be still. Let your God look upon you. That is all.

God knows. God understands. God loves you with an enormous love, and only wants to look upon you with that love. Quiet. Still. Be.

Let your God—love you.

With all best wishes in the Lord Who whispers to you,

Father Thomas F.A. O'Brien
Pastor

PARISH NEWS

The Nursery is getting a little brighter! I am looking for volunteers to prep and paint the nursery on Sunday, November 9th after Mass. If you are available, please contact Jennifer Jensen via email: j.k.jensen@comcast.net or phone: 612-861-1808.

Begin your Thanksgiving celebration at 9:00 a.m. Mass on November 27, Thanksgiving Day. Please bring canned food items. There will be a collection for the food shelf.

Have you ever had High Tea in London's Savoy Hotel? We have something special planned for Saturday, December 6, which will rival the best of English Teas right here at Visitation. The Fellowship Room will be turned into the St. Nicholas Tea Room and a full-course English Tea will be served to you by cheerful maids. Tea will be served at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. for just \$20 per person (no plane ticket purchase is necessary). Seating is limited, please call DeeDee Hall for reservations 612-823-8721.

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet Wednesday, November 5, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. The **Finance Committee** will meet the following Tuesday, November 11, at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Room. Members of these committees, please confirm your attendance with Chantel at 612.822.3139 or visichurch@aol.com

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading – The souls of the just are in the hands of God, and no torment shall touch them (Wisdom 3:1-9).

Psalm – The Lord is my light and my salvation (Psalm 27).

Second Reading – Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts (Romans 5:5-11) or *Romans 6:3-9*.

Gospel – This is the will of the Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes may have eternal life (John 6:37-40).



The sanctuary flowers this week given by Don and Donna Lunneborg to the glory of God and in memory of their son, David Lunneborg.

Sunday's Collection: October 26, 2008 \$2,961.00

November 3-9, 2008



Monday	No Mass Today	
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Marlene Schlueter
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Florence Perrault
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Nadon Richard
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Women of Visitation
Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Bill Beha
	5:00 p.m.	Mary Ann & Lorraine Michaels
Sunday	10:00 a.m.	People of Visitation

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK in our parish: Margaret Sullivan, Kathryn Mattefy, Lyn Paradise, Patrick McDonald, Edith Gibney, Roger Coryell, Arpad Rummy, Pattee Kilday, Ruth Kelly, Marion Tombers, Bonnie Klein, Donald Eblen, Amy (Reynolds) Gaston, Joseph Brashear.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Phil 2:1-4; Lk 14:12-14
Tuesday:	Phil 2:5-11; Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday:	Phil 2:12-18; Lk 14:25-33
Thursday:	Phil 3:3-8a; Lk 15:1-10
Friday:	Phil 3:17 – 4:1; Lk 16:1-8
Saturday:	Phil 4:10-19; Lk 16:9-15
Sunday:	Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

Father Jon Shelley departs Visitation

Our good friend Father Jon Shelley has received an assignment from Archbishop Nienstedt as Administrator of St. John the Baptist Church in Hugo, Minnesota, effective November 1. For the past two years, Father has faithfully served our parishioners and others by celebrating the daily Mass, Tuesday through Saturday. He has befriended many and has generously assisted all; we thank him for his kind assistance and wish him God-speed.

Father Jonathan Haschka, S.J., whom many of you know from his days as a student at Visitation, will celebrate our daily Mass beginning this Tuesday, November 4. We're delighted to welcome him home.

ALTAR SERVERS NEXT WEEK:

Saturday, November 8	5:00 p.m.	Richelle Yunger Frieda Manthei
Sunday, November 9	10:00 a.m.	Jack Bassett Nick Bassett