

# **The Catholic Community of The Good Shepherd on Martha's Vineyard**

**Our Lady Star of the Sea-OB      St. Elizabeth's-EDG      St. Augustine's-VH**  
**A Parish of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Fall River**  
**Most Rev. George Coleman, Bishop**

## **Good Shepherd Parish**

Our Lady Star of the Sea Church

22 Massasoit Avenue, Oak Bluffs

(Open year round for Weekend Masses only)

St. Augustine's Church

56 Franklin Street, Vineyard Haven

(Chapel open 24/7-no heat in winter)

St. Elizabeth's Church

86 Main Street, Edgartown

(Church open 24/7-no heat in winter)

Rectory: 86 Main Street, Edgartown

Parish Center/Office: 55 School Street, Oak Bluffs

### **Mailing Address:**

**PO Box 1058, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568**

Office 508-693-0342

Fax 508-693-8517

Mass Schedule 508-693-3995 (ext.10)

Office Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday  
(10am to 1pm)

**[www.goodshepherdmv.com](http://www.goodshepherdmv.com)**

Pastor, **Rev. Michael R. Nagle**, ext. 13

(508-878-0331) [frnagle@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:frnagle@goodshepherdmv.com)

Parochial Vicar, **Rev. Messias Albuquerque**

(508-292-3865) [frmessias@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:frmessias@goodshepherdmv.com)

Deacon, **Rev. Mr. Fred LaPiana**

(774-521-4345) [deaconfred@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:deaconfred@goodshepherdmv.com)

Deacon, **Rev. Mr. Karl Buder**

(508-693-3333) [deaconkarl@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:deaconkarl@goodshepherdmv.com)

Business Administrator, **Steve Bernier**, ext 14

(774-521-9479) [stevebernier@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:stevebernier@goodshepherdmv.com)

Office Manager, **Beth Mello**, ext.11

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Office Assistant, **Bernice Lopes**

(508-693-0342) [bernicelopes@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:bernicelopes@goodshepherdmv.com)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, **Sue Pagliccia**, ext.12

(480-276-3071) [martierheaume@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:martierheaume@goodshepherdmv.com)

Maintenance, **Joe Capobianco**,

(508-274-1170) [joecappy@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:joecappy@goodshepherdmv.com)

## **Prayer For Our Parish**

God, our Father, bless our Parish of the Good Shepherd. Help us to welcome all who come to worship, adore and praise You, the One true God and Father of us all. Jesus, be with us, as we celebrate your life, death and resurrection in Word and Sacrament. Holy Spirit, fill our parish family with your love. Help us to love one another in our parish and in our family. Guide us in your holy will for the present and the future of our Parish of the Good Shepherd.  
**AMEN.**

## **Mass Schedule**

**Our Lady Star of the Sea**

**Saturday 4:00pm**

**(7pm-Portuguese)**

**Sunday 8am, 9:30am, and 5pm**

**Daily Mass Monday thru Thursday**

**8am Parish Center Chapel, OB**

**1st Friday and 1st Saturday 8am, OB**

## **Reconciliation**

**Our Lady Star of the Sea Church**

**Saturday 3pm**

**or by appointment with Fr. Nagle**

**(508-878-0331)**

## **PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Mission: Knowing that all things in this world are gifts of God, presented to us so that we can know God more easily and make a return of love more readily; recognizing God as the Origin of Life, the giver of freedom and the source of all that we have and are and will be; knowing ourselves to be recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts; grateful for all that we have received; eager to cultivate our gifts our of love for God and one another. The Mission of the Good Shepherd Parish is to give witness and to celebrate the Risen Christ's Presence in the life of each person.

To accomplish this goal we ask our parishioners and visitors to recommit themselves to being disciples of Jesus and in so doing we will strengthen our community and help one another to live our faith in the fullest possible way.

**"in necessary things, unity; in doubtful things, freedom; and in all things, charity."  
Augustine**

## **Baptism**

Please call the Parish Office to sign up for our Baptism Prep classes which consist of 3 consecutive one-hour discussions based on the book "Raising Faith-Filled Children". Book and workbook are available at the Parish Office.

## **Reconciliation**

This sacrament is held at Our Lady Star of the Sea on Saturdays at 3pm or by appointment with Fr. Nagle (508-878-0331).

## **Anointing of the Sick**

This is a sacrament of healing. Do not hesitate to call Fr. Nagle if you or a member of your family wishes to receive this sacrament in your home, at the hospital or nursing home.

## **Care of the Sick or Homebound**

Please notify the Parish Office when you or a member of your family is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Eucharist.

## **Marriage**

Please make arrangements at least one year in advance by calling the Parish Office.

## **Marriage Preparation**

In the Diocese of Fall River, Marriage Preparation includes 1) an initial meeting with the priest who is preparing you for Marriage, 2) the FOCCUS profile, 3) Pre-Cana and Natural Family Planning Classes (these are off-island), 4) the FOCCUS evaluation, 5) Planning the Liturgy meeting, 6) Rehearsal and 7) Your Wedding. Since the Island is a very popular place for weddings, we need to schedule a date at least a year in advance to avoid being disappointed and then begin the preparation process 8 months in advance. Please contact the Parish Office 508-693-0342.

## **Sacred Heart Cemetery**

Please call the Parish Office if interested in purchasing cemetery plots or obtaining any other information in regards to the Sacred Heart Cemetery or you may also contact our Cemetery Commissioners Deacon Fred LaPiana (774-521-4345) or Allan "Buddy" DeBettencourt 508-693-2283.

## **New Parishioners**

The Good Shepherd Parish welcomes all who join us for Masses. All are invited to register. Please call the office at 508-693-0342.

## **Parish Registration Forms**

Good Shepherd Parish is in the process of setting up a brand new data base (Parish Soft). We are asking that you fill out a registration form (*one form per person in family*) and get it back to the office as soon as possible. Forms are available at church, at the office, or in this bulletin (see page 8 & 9).

## **Moving**

Please notify the Parish Office when you move.

## **St. Vincent De Paul Society**

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my people, that you do unto me" We strive to see the face of Jesus in the poor that we serve. All Holy Day collections go to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact the Parish Office at 508-693-0342.

## **Curious Corner**

Questions, concerns, what you have heard on the street - Insert in the Curious Corner Box in the back of the church - Answers will be forthcoming.

### **Prayer Groups of Good Shepherd Parish**

\***The Grace of God Charismatic Prayer Group** prays on Wednesdays at 10am (Parish Center Chapel beginning Oct.)

\***The Novena to Our Lady of Fatima** - prayed on Wednesdays at 3pm (Parish Center Chapel)

\***The Morning Cenacle** is prayed on Saturdays at 7:30am (Parish Center Chapel)

\***Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** - First Friday of the month 8:30am-6pm (Parish Center Chapel)

\***Holy Rosary** before and/or after Daily Mass

\***Scripture Reflection Group** (Bilingual-Portuguese/English) Every Wednesday at 7pm at parishioner's homes

(Call Valerio Destefani at 508-250-3233 or Deacon Karl at 508-693-3333 for location this week)

*Grupo de Reflexão – quarta-feira, sete horas, nos lares*

\***Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction** (Portuguese) on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm (Parish Center Chapel)

*Adoracao e Bencao do Santissimo Sacramento, toda terceira quarta-feira de cada mes, sete horas na capela do cenro paroquial*

\***Charismatic Prayer Group** (Portuguese) Every Monday at 7pm (Parish Center Chapel)

*Grupo de Oração, Carismatico (portugues) segunda-feira, sete horas na capela do centro paroquial*

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\***Liturgy of the Hours** - Deacon Karl Buder will give private instruction on the Church's official daily prayers, using the Book of Christian Prayer. Call 508-693-3333.

\***Prayer Shawl Ministry** - Join us as we knit and pray every third Wednesday of the month at 7pm (Parish Center)

\***Adult Catechism Class** - Every Monday at 6pm at the Parish Center conducted by Deacon Karl Buder

\***Wednesday Morning Book Group** - Meets every Wednesday from 10:15am to 11:15am at the Parish Center. **NEW Book: Thomas Merton's - NEW SEEDS OF CONTEMPLATION.** Anyone interested in joining the book group call Fran Tierney at (508)627-7265. You are welcome to join at anytime as the books are read and discussed at each gathering.

**Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina** - Tuesdays at 1pm & 7pm, Parish Center. Please contact Peggy McGrath, (508)696-7370 for information.



### **Our Lady Star of the Sea Church**

|          |    |      |                                            |
|----------|----|------|--------------------------------------------|
| Sun Sept | 5  | 9:30 | James F. Duffy, Jr. and<br>Eileen B. Duffy |
|          |    | 5pm  | Carole Ann Silva - 2nd Ann.                |
| Sat Sept | 11 | 4pm  | Joyce Balboni                              |
| Sun Sept | 12 | 8am  | Jeremy T. Wayne - 19th Ann.                |
|          |    | 9:30 | Reid Shaw and Paul McCarthy                |
|          |    | 5pm  | Bea Silva                                  |

### **St. Elizabeth's Church**

|          |   |      |                         |
|----------|---|------|-------------------------|
| Sat Sept | 4 | 5:30 | Laura Pluta             |
| Sun Sept | 5 | 8am  | Eleanor & Jack Colfer   |
|          |   | 9:30 | James & Alice Kilmartin |
|          |   | 11am | Robert J. Mageau        |

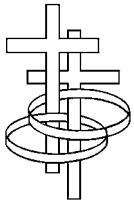
### **St. Augustine's Church**

|          |   |     |                |
|----------|---|-----|----------------|
| Sat Sept | 4 | 4pm | Bea Silva      |
| Sun Sept | 5 | 8am | John E. Santos |

### **Daily Mass Intentions (Monday-Thursday)**

#### **8am Parish Center Chapel**

|     |      |   |                    |
|-----|------|---|--------------------|
| Mon | Sept | 6 | No Intention       |
| Tue | Sept | 7 | Karen Crall Fallon |
| Wed | Sept | 8 | Thomas Halpin      |
| Thu | Sept | 9 | Noah Greene        |



### **Wedding (St. Elizabeth's):**

**September 15 - 11am**  
**Christine Struble & Terrence Nirmaier**  
**September 18 - 3pm**  
**Erin Kelly & Kevin Hines**



### **REMINDER**

**Back to One Church September 11/12**  
**All Masses will be at**  
**Our Lady Star of the Sea Church**  
**in Oak Bluffs**

### **Mass Times for all US Parishes**

Visit [Masstimes.org](http://Masstimes.org)

Or

Call 734-794-2100

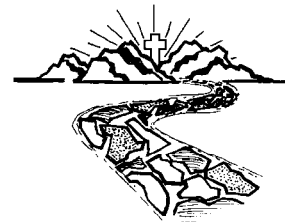
## **Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Gospel: (Luke 14:25-33)**

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, "If any one comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? Otherwise, after laying the foundation and finding himself unable to finish the work the onlookers should laugh at him and say, 'This one began to build but did not have the resources to finish.' Or what king marching into battle would not first sit down and decide whether with ten thousand troops he can successfully oppose another king advancing upon him with twenty thousand troops? But if not, while he is still far away, he will send a delegation to ask for peace terms. In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple."

### **Reflection:**

To those who are journeying with him, Jesus addresses a series of parables, all of which ask one basic question: do we know the cost of discipleship? Can we afford it? Living the Gospel will not be a small project, one that can be finished in a day or two—or even a year or two. Following Jesus is an enormous undertaking, like building a tower, or leading a great army into battle. Before we begin, we must be sure that we can "afford" it. Following Jesus will cost us—it will take everything we have.



**Carry the cross  
and follow me.**

**Baptismal Garments:** Please lend your sewing hands to prepare simple Baptismal Garments. You can pick up a kit in any church and return it to any church when you've completed sewing the two garments. Thank you for helping out! Any questions, call Doris Mercier 508-627-8604.



**Parish Planning Meeting**

Our next Parish Planning Meeting will be held on  
Saturday, September 11th from 9:30am till noon  
St. Augustine's Hall, VH

**Long-Term Care Ombudsman Needs Volunteers:** This program is an Elder Services of Cape Cod & The Islands Program. After training and certification, volunteers will be assigned to a Cape Cod or Island facility to observe and monitor conditions and to address residents' concerns. The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program provides nursing and rest home residents with a means and opportunity to voice their concerns about their care and treatment. Training October 27, 28, 29, 2010 to be held at the Elder Services Office in South Dennis. If interested, please contact 1-800-244-4630, ext. 501.

**Wednesday Morning Book Group** - Meets every Wednesday from 10:15am to 11:15am at the Parish Center. **NEW Book: Thomas Merton's - NEW SEEDS OF CONTEMPLATION.** Book is now available for purchase (\$11.00) in the parish office. Anyone interested in joining the book group call Fran Tierney at (508)627-7265. You are welcome to join at anytime as the books are read and discussed at each gathering.

**Worldwide Marriage Encounter:****Labor Day recognizes the hard work we put into our jobs.** A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend will turn the work of marriage into fun and romance! The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in New England are September 17-19, September 24-26 and October 22-24. For more info. visit [www.wmeMA.org](http://www.wmeMA.org)

**Labor Day Weekend (Sept. 5)  
Sunday Breakfast Buffet  
St Augustine's Hall  
8:30am to 10:00am**

Join our church community for a breakfast of French toast or pancakes, eggs, bacon and sausage. A variety of hot muffins and danish, yogurt, granola, cold cereals and fruit are there for your pleasure. Enjoy the best coffee and tea on the island. Share good conversation and some gossip with old and new friends.

Looking for support with set up, food service and clean up after the breakfast.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Joe Capobianco

[Joecappy@goodshepherdmv.com](mailto:Joecappy@goodshepherdmv.com)

Cell 508-274-1170

Home 508-696-1948

**All Masses will be at Our Lady Star of the Sea Church**

**Daily Mass:** 8am Monday thru Thursday (First Friday/Sat)  
Parish Center Chapel, 55 School Street, OB



**Comunidade Católica Brasileira Martha's Vineyard - Setembro: Mês da Bíblia**  
**Vigéssimo Terceiro Domingo Tempo Comum – 2010**

Uma vez um monge me alertou que “tempo” é uma questão de preferência. Jamais esqueci esta frase! Muitas pessoas estão sendo repetindo as mesmas idéias como “não tenho tempo para ir à Igreja”, “não tenho tempo para descanso”, “Não tenho tempo para mim mesmo”; “não tenho tempo para nada”..... Pensando bem, tudo na nossa vida é uma questão de decisão, escolha e, priorizar algumas atividades que podem ser considerados importantes, urgentes e, outros: “deixado para depois!”. O ser humano não é somente trabalho, dinheiro ou vive com a estrita missão de somente pagar contas. Também não podemos reduzir a vida humana como somente rezar e atividades de cunho estritamente espiritual. Viver com consciência e responsabilidade é saber dividir harmoniosamente o tempo que Deus nos dá de vinte e quatro horas do dia em trabalho, oração e lazer. O trabalho (ocupação) é essencial para podermos realizar nossos sonhos, projetos e assumir nossos compromissos do dia-a-dia; a oração nos renova espiritualmente com a força, energia e disposição que somente pode vir de Deus e, o lazer é fundamental para o ser humano que é limitado, permitir e respeitar os limites do corpo humano. Por exemplo: Se eu não tenho condições de reservar uma hora por semana (no mínimo) para Deus; penso que também não serei capaz de valorizar um tempo para mim mesmo, para minha saúde e manutenção sentimental. Grande problema será, se apenas o trabalho e o financeiro for super-valorizado, deixando de lado outras áreas também muito importante para uma vida saudável. A maioria dos brasileiros são pessoas admiráveis pelo trabalho que desempenham o ano inteiro, tentando juntar dinheiro para algum projeto em mente. ÓTIMO! Continue assim! Admiro a coragem, a iniciativa e a disposição de muitos; mas não esqueçam de Deus, espiritualidade e sobretudo da saúde, reservando um tempo para descanso e lazer. A vida não é fácil para os imigrantes, muitas vezes sem documentos ou condições dignas de trabalho e moradia. O estress muitas vezes fica estampado no rosto de muitos que vejo na rua e percebo que a felicidade ou alegria parece não conviver junto com o dinheiro que alguns acumulam com um trabalho pesado no periodo de verão. Porém, dias melhores virão e.... brasileiros cedo ou tarde, vocês conseguirão estabilidade econômica e financeira para um padrão de vida melhor, com oração, lazer e divertimento. Esta é a minha fé e minhas orações a Deus. O período de verão foi bastante corrido para nós. Lembre-se que você não é de ferro, pedra ou máquina incansável. Agradeça a Deus tudo o que conseguiu adquirir neste último verão e na graça deste mesmo Deus; continue caminhando, pedindo SAÚDE E DISPOSIÇÃO. FICA COM DEUS! Não esqueça de ler a Bíblia!

**Padre Messias e comunidade**  
**Missas – Sábado: 7 PM**

**We are looking for**  
**Musicians and Vocalists**  
**Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers**

**If interested, please call the Parish Office**  
**508-693-0342**



### **Religious Education Registration 2010-2011 (CGS and Confirmation Programs)**

After much deliberation the Family Mass will be switching back to 9:30am for the upcoming school year. **Last registration days before our Parent Only Meeting on September 26th.** It would be most helpful if everyone could sign up sooner than later as it takes time to put the classes and information together.

|                                                |                                      |                    |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &amp; Friday</b> | <b>September 13, 14, 15 &amp; 17</b> | <b>10am-1pm</b>    |
| <b>Saturday</b>                                | <b>September 18</b>                  | <b>10am-12Noon</b> |
| <b>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &amp; Friday</b> | <b>September 20, 21, 22 &amp; 24</b> | <b>10am-1pm</b>    |

#### **Registration will take place at the Parish Center Office.**

Please remember to bring all necessary medical information with you to fill out your Medical Release Forms for each child. Also, if child was baptized off-island - a copy of their baptismal certificate must be provided.

**Fee Schedule: \$35 per child, three or more children \$75 per family. All First Communion students \$75 per child. No fee for teachers or assistants with children in either program (except if child is making First Communion). Checks Payable to: Good Shepherd Parish**

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#### **What is CGS?**

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a hands-on approach to religious formation of the child 3-12 years of age. The prepared environment, or atrium, is a quiet place where the child can encounter God and further develop the relationship that already exists between the child and God. The catechist presents lessons which the children then repeat on their own, allowing them time to ponder God's teachings. The materials in the atrium are made specifically for the children, are attractively displayed and used over and over by the children.

The children take care of the atrium and all the materials, as it belongs to them. They learn plant care, polishing and folding, as well as sweeping, dusting and table washing. The children move freely about the room, choosing their own work, but learn respect for others by not disturbing their work. The catechist assists only at the child's request or if it seems the child needs assistance.

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#### **We Believe:**

- That God and the young child have a unique relationship.
  - That this relationship can be assisted by the adult but is directed by the Spirit of God within.
  - That the child's spiritual growth is best served through experiencing God's love and teachings.
- The Bible is our textbook and the Holy Mass is our example of worship.
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**Welcome Sue Pagliccia:** As many of you know, Martie Rheaume, our director of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program, is on medical leave. She went back to the St. Louis area to be with her family while she is receiving medical care. Martie is the kind of person who puts us and our program before herself, so we have given her this academic year to get well again. To step into her shoes, we have invited Sue Pagliccia to join our parish family by taking on the role of interim director of our CGS (Catechesis of the Good Shepherd) Program. Sue Pagliccia is originally from the Boston area, as you will note when you hear her speak, and now lives in Cave Creek, AZ. She has been a catechist for 7 years and currently works at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Mesa, AZ as a catechist coordinator, which includes sacramental preparation in addition to all other atria duties. Sue, a classmate of Fr. Nagle's, earned a MA degree in Pastoral Studies-Catechesis of the Good Shepherd from Aquinas Institute of Theology, St. Louis, MO in May. Along with her children, Jake 12, Mia 10 and Lauren 8, Sue will be on Island and working the week of Labor Day. She looks forward to meeting us and working here in the Lord's Vineyard!

# What's Extraordinary?

Catholic wisdom on end-of-life care—[Gerald D. Coleman](#) | AUGUST 30, 2010 America Magazine

A number of high-profile legal cases since the 1980s have involved persons receiving medically assisted nutrition and hydration (food and water): Claire Conroy, Paul Brophy, Nancy Cruzan, Hugh Finn and Terri Schiavo. The provision of nutrition and hydration through various medical interventions, generally described as “tube feeding,” is one of the most complex and controversial issues in contemporary bioethics. Such relatively common legal and moral debates are concerned with persons who are in a persistent vegetative state. While some brain functions, like wake/sleep cycles and spontaneous/automatic reflex actions of the nervous system may continue, all detectable activity of their neocortex has stopped. A diagnosis of PVS means that the doctor sees virtually no prospect for the patient’s recovery. Nutrition and hydration can be provided by medical means, which are sometimes wrongly called “artificial.” A tube, for example, can be inserted through the nose and into the stomach, a method usually employed for short-term use. Other tube-feeding methods require surgery. A tube can be passed through an incision in the abdominal wall and into the stomach, for example, or through the abdomen into a portion of the small intestine. In such cases, feeding tubes and incisions need consistent monitoring. To make an informed decision about the use of tube feeding, one must consider several factors, like a patient’s diagnosis, prognosis and current condition, as well as any complicating factors like the presence of renal failure and pneumonia. A number of relevant questions also should be asked: What medical method is best suited for this person and for how long? What are the benefits and burdens of various methods? What are their side effects? In short, there is no single or simple answer to the questions surrounding tube feeding. In the past several decades, more than 40 courts in the United States have addressed medically assisted nutrition and hydration. As a result, there is a virtually universal legal consensus that tube feeding is a medical treatment that may, depending on the result of a careful decision-making process, be withheld or withdrawn. Less unanimity, however, exists in the medical and moral fields. Clinicians agree that withholding or withdrawing a feeding tube is appropriate when 1) it is medically futile—that is, does not provide effective nutritional support or prevent dehydration; 2) the patient would experience no real benefit; 3) the burdens for the patient outweigh the benefits; and 4) the patient is dying. Given this complex history, it is not surprising that within the Catholic tradition a number of theologians, ethicists and groups of bishops have come to different conclusions regarding the use of tube feeding. The pivotal question for them has been: Is tube feeding a medical intervention—not just basic care—that can be morally evaluated using the traditional distinction between ordinary and extraordinary means of care? Other questions further complicate the issue: Can a persistent vegetative state be diagnosed with certitude? How does one determine the quality of life of a patient in this state?

## What the Church Teaches

In March 2004 an International Congress took place in Rome with the title Life-Sustaining Treatments and the Vegetative State: Scientific Progress and Ethical Dilemmas. There Pope John Paul II delivered an allocution that encouraged scientists and researchers to find ways to diagnose PVS more accurately. He referred to studies showing that up to 43 percent of patients were misdiagnosed and to cases of patient recovery after a period of time with sustained rehabilitative efforts. He also acknowledged that recovery is more difficult the longer the condition of the vegetative state remains. The papal allocution strongly reaffirms the intrinsic worth and the personal dignity of every person, including those in the PVS, and insists on their right to basic health care, particularly nutrition and hydration, hygiene, a comfortable environment and the prevention of complications resulting from bed confinement. In other words, such patients retain their moral claim to basic health care. John Paul II’s allocution also underscores that the administration of food and water—even when given by medical means, including feeding tubes—is a natural way of conserving life. The use of medically assisted nutrition and hydration, it said, should be presumed “in principle.” Clear medical reasons are to be given in each particular case to demonstrate why such assistance is not morally obligatory. The moral obligation to provide medically assisted nutrition and hydration, then, is conditioned by medical efficacy. Do the means used achieve the proper goal, which is to nourish the patient and alleviate suffering? When it is medically demonstrable that these goals are not being achieved, however, the moral obligation to use tube feeding ceases.

While the giving of nutrition and hydration is considered ordinary care even when medically administered, its use is bound by the church’s traditional discernment of ordinary/proportionate and extraordinary/disproportionate means (see Declaration on Euthanasia, 1980). The pope’s allocution underscores the following key points: 1) All human persons, regardless of their state of development or decline, possess an inviolable dignity; 2) Every person has a right to receive ordinary health care to preserve life and alleviate suffering; 3) The decision regarding the use of medically assisted nutrition and hydration must be based on the actual medical condition of the patient; and 4) An exception can be made if tube feeding is determined to be disproportionate or medically futile, in which case the intervention may be withheld or withdrawn. In all cases the patient is to remain the subject of care, comfort and love. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reaffirmed these teachings of John Paul II in 2007. In the United States, the guiding principles for Catholic health care facilities and services are contained in the Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services, issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. From time to time, these directives are revised in light of official church teaching or to include new or updated directives that address medical and moral concerns. The directives currently in use (the fifth edition) were approved and published in 1995 and have been revised twice since then.



## Directive 58

The latest revision concerns Directive 58, which the bishops approved on Nov. 17, 2009, to incorporate both the teaching of John Paul II in 2004 and its affirmation by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith three years later. A news release issued by the Catholic Health Association on Nov. 18 explained: “The revised Directive does not offer new teaching but rather reflects existing Church teaching which Catholic health care facilities have already incorporated into their practice.” In conformity with the papal allocution, the revised Directive 58 makes the following points: 1) In principle there is a general moral obligation to provide patients with food and water, including medically administered nutrition and hydration for those who are unable to take food orally, even if assisted; 2) This moral obligation extends to patients in a persistent vegetative state because of their innate human dignity; 3) This moral obligation ceases or becomes “morally optional” when tube feeding becomes excessively burdensome or no longer accomplishes its objective—that is, when medically administered food and water are no longer being assimilated by the patient; 4) It is necessary to distinguish between patients in a chronic state, like PVS, and patients who are dying. Accordingly, the revised introduction to Part Five of the E.R.D.’s, which includes Directive 58, states, “While medically assisted nutrition and hydration are not morally obligatory in certain cases, these forms of basic care should in principle be provided to all patients who need them, including patients diagnosed as being in a ‘persistent vegetative state,’ because even the most severely debilitated and helpless patient retains the full dignity of a human person and must receive ordinary and proportionate care.”

## Spread of Misinformation

Despite repeated, official attempts to clarify Catholic teaching on the use of medically assisted nutrition and hydration, false and misleading information about the revision of Directive 58 persists. One journalist who specializes in health care asserted (modernhealthcare.com, 11/17/09) that Catholic hospitals must now insert and maintain nutrition and hydration tubes, and that all PVS patients must be given medically assisted nutrition and hydration except those close to inevitable death from underlying conditions. This assertion is incorrect. The church’s teaching is not that every PVS patient or patient with a chronic condition must be maintained on feeding tubes until diagnosed as dying. Rather, by use of the phrase “in principle” in the papal allocution, in the C.D.F. response and in the Ethical and Religious Directives, the church acknowledges that tube feeding may become medically futile for a patient. The C.D.F. laid out several clear examples: settings in which tube feeding is not available, as in a remote place or in a situation of poverty; when complications emerge so that a patient is no longer assimilating the nourishment; or when such assistance causes a patient significant physical discomfort. A misinterpretation of the church’s teaching can be and already has been adopted by other groups that espouse purposes contrary to Catholic teaching. The organization Compassion and Choices, for example, a leading force behind efforts to legalize assisted suicide, has misrepresented the revision of Directive 58. A regular writer on their Web site, Barbara Coombs Lee, claims (wrongly) that Catholic health care institutions will no longer honor patients’ advance directives and that patients in a persistent vegetative state will be force-fed against their will (see [compassionandchoices.org/blog/?cat=27](http://compassionandchoices.org/blog/?cat=27)). She states falsely that by removing all flexibility to respect the wishes of a patient or family, the revised directive creates an obligation to provide patients medically assisted nutrition and hydration in all circumstances, and that the new guidelines allow no consideration of the burden to the patient. These assertions are absurd. In fact Directives 24 and 25 support such advance directives as a durable power of attorney for health care. One can even indicate in one’s advance directive that medically assisted nutrition and hydration is not to be administered because of one’s “psychological dread” of tube feeding. Psychological dread is one of the accepted and traditional moral categories that can constitute extraordinary or disproportionate means (see “A History of Extraordinary Means,” *Ethics and Medics*, September and November 2006). Reasonable persons might regard tube feeding as excessively burdensome because it causes them great dread (vehemens horror). Directive 24 cautions that a Catholic health institution “will not honor an advance directive that is contrary to Catholic teaching.” In light of the revised Directive 58, an example of such an advance directive would be that of a person who does not want tube feeding if diagnosed as in a permanent vegetative state for the reason that such a patient has lost all human dignity and is dying. This reasoning runs counter to Catholic teaching, since PVS patients have an intrinsic dignity that demands equality of health care. One could think of other such examples. The bottom line is that a diagnosis of unconsciousness or of PVS can never in itself be the basis for withholding or withdrawing health care that would be given to others who are not in such a state.

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### **Stewardship Report: Our Gift of Time~Talent~Treasure**

|                     | July 10   | July 09   | July 08    | YTD 10     | YTD 09     | YTD 08      |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Income              | 90,589.19 | 86,952.78 | 66,706.92  | 326,334.96 | 325,594.31 | 316,578.62  |
| Expense             | 68,188.63 | 50,264.73 | 92,555.05  | 371,839.57 | 405,197.67 | 480,080.90  |
| Net Ordinary Income | 22,400.56 | 36,688.05 | -25,848.13 | -45,504.61 | -79,603.36 | -163,502.28 |
| Interest/Savings    |           |           |            | 50,635.39  | 50,882.48  | 48,550.68   |
| Rainy Day Fund      |           |           |            |            | 55,000.00  |             |
| Net Income          | 22,400.56 | 36,688.05 | -25,848.13 | 5,130.78   | 26,279.12  | -114,951.60 |

**July Highlights:** Our Total Offerings for the month of July were up \$4,400 more than last year, yet our Mass offerings were down slightly and our gifts were up by \$6,100. This in itself is good news. Unfortunately, our expenses were up more than our offerings. Our expenses were up almost \$18,000 compared to last year for the same month.

**The Parish Center** - a low voltage line was struck by lightning and caused about \$5,000 to repair and replace some office equipment. Some of these costs will be recovered by insurance in coming months.

**Our Lady Star of the Sea** - the scraping and painting of the church continues and this month cost \$6,000+.

**Parish Cemetery** - work has started on the right side to prepare for more gravesites that we project will be needed this fall.

**St Elizabeth's** - grounds and tree work was needed that spent an extra \$6,000.

With our offerings up \$4,400 up and our expenses up more at \$18,000, our Net Operating Income was down \$16,000+. Remember, we have 3 months of all churches providing the Stewardship to carry our Parish thru until next summer. June and July have been supportive with offerings while our expenses continue to increase with our aging properties.

**Year to Date (Jan-July):** At the end of July our Net Ordinary Income is negative \$45,504. By the end of August our Net Ordinary Income should be a positive \$50,000 to help carry us through to calendar year end to a breakeven position. The difference is \$95,000. May those parishioners with blessings of Treasure, may you find it in your heart to share, and feel the spirit of giving to support those who give abundantly of Time, Talent and Treasure year-round in our Parish.