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Construction News - January 28, 2016

A Note From Father Donald Staib

Members of the Parish,

New church construction news: this past week there was a meeting of Apex Town Officials and Clancy and Theys Construction Company to coordinate the construction process. Surveyors were here to officially mark the path of the erosion control fence. Next to happen: build the retention pond for run-off water and provide the construction entrance off Apex-BBQ Road.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

Last weekend we received \$11,000 in pledges/gifts from 24 members of the parish who were able to make it to church through the ice and snow. Our parish goal this year is \$186,555.

Please consider a gift of \$174, which is payable over a six month period. [\$29 each month for six months]

A unique motive for us this year to support the BAA is the fact that the loan made to St Mary Magdalene for the construction of our church is the largest loan ever made to a parish by our Diocese. We are grateful.

C. E. John Greenwell
February 4, 1923 - January 25, 2016

John was one of the founding members of St Mary Magdalene Parish. I would describe John as 'the volunteer for everything.' My first recollection of him was watching him unpack the school furniture when it first came; he stood out as a grandfather among all the other volunteers that day.

He went on to continue to serve our parish as lector, Eucharistic Minister, volunteer in the cafeteria, cheerleader at his grandchildren's games, helped to count the weekly collection, volunteer at Catholic Parish Outreach.

Until he was 90 years old John tended our rose garden: pruning, weeding, planting, fertilizing. John was often at Mass in recent times in his wheelchair and whenever I saw him he was always filled with enthusiasm for all the activities at St Mary Magdalene. He was a wonderful and supportive person to know and our parish family will miss him.

John's Funeral Mass will be Saturday, January 30th at 6:30pm in the Gym.

Father Donald Staib
Donfs22@aol.com
St. Mary Magdalene E-News

Seminarian John De Guzman

Last weekend John spoke to us about the BAA support for seminary education. Here are his words:

Good morning everyone! First off, I'd like to thank Fr. Donald Staib and the parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Bishop's Annual Appeal. I'm here to invite you to please consider making a generous donation and to continue your support for our Bishop's annual appeal.

Before I do that, however, allow me to introduce myself. My name is John de Guzman and I am a second year seminarian at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I'm originally from the Philippines but I moved to the US when I was 5. I've lived in Raleigh for 15 years now and my home parish is St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Monsignor Ingham as my pastor.

Before Monsignor Ingham, Monsignor Williams was the pastor of St. Joseph's and it was through his pastoral zeal, his love and devotion to our Lord, and his caring relationship for his parishioners that planted a seed in my heart and ultimately led me to discern God's call to the priesthood.

I've been in the seminary for a little over a year and a half now and I must admit that I

have never felt God's call more clearly in my heart than in the time I've spent at St. Charles seminary. I have never been more at peace and joy that I have been when I began pursuing this vocation.

The seminary provides men who are discerning God's call, like myself, with a place of prayer, fraternity and a house formation in order to one day, God-willing, become the holy priests that God wants us to be. However, I would not be able to join the seminary and pursue this journey of discerning God's will in my life without the help of the parishioners of the Diocese of Raleigh.

This is ultimately why I am here right now. Throughout the past years, the faithful community of the Diocese of Raleigh has supported the Bishop's Annual Appeal tremendously and has helped raise over 115 million dollars. I'm here to ask you to continue your support and help me and my brother seminarians through the BAA.

Seminarian education and formation is the second largest recipient out of 30 ministries that receive funding from the BAA. The annual cost to support EACH seminarian (including tuition, room, housing, food, and medical attention) is nearly \$45,000. Most, if not all, of us seminarians cannot afford to pay this and so we rely heavily on the support of the Raleigh Diocese and the Bishops Annual Appeal.

Without the support of the BAA, we seminarians would not be able to financially afford the cost associated with the education and formation process to become priests. Especially in this diocese where the Catholic population has been growing so quickly, we need more priests to minister to those areas which are lacking the presence of clerics.

In order to accomplish that, however, not only do we need more seminarians, but we need to support the seminarians we already have so that they may one day be ordained and return to Raleigh to minister the blessed sacraments to the faithful. If our seminarians aren't able to afford the cost to be in the seminary, eventually the priests will die out and we'd have no priests left.

Without the priests, we would not have anyone to administer any of the Sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, which is the source and summit of our Christian life and to quote Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, "Without the Eucharist, the Church simply would not exist." Something to think about as you consider donating to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.

I will be available to speak with anyone after Mass and I would be more than happy to answer any questions you have, regarding either the BAA, vocations, my personal life, or anything else that you feel moved to ask me. Also, please remember to pray for me as well. Prayers are extremely important as we seminarians move forward in this journey, and I ask that you please pray for me and my brother seminarians and I will certainly

remember to keep all of you in my prayers as well. Thank you all again for your time and may God bless you all.



SEMINARIAN JOHN DE GUZMAN

2015 Tax Statements

Tax statements are now available online. Click on the link below which will take you to the instructions on how to obtain your statement. If you do not have access to the internet or have any problems, please contact Kathy Lynch at 919-657-4800 ext. 7281 or lynch@stmm.net

[2015 Tax Statement Instructions & Link](#)

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