

Building Saint Patrick's

Proclaim Christ's love to the world

September 2010

The Rev. Tinh T. Huynh, Vicar



Email: stpats3241@gmail.com

3241 Brush Dr., Falls Church, VA 22042

Tel. 703-532-5656; www.saintpatricks.us

A Sermon @ St. Patrick's

*Rev. Geoff Doolittle, Seminarian. 7 Easter – Year C.
May 16, 2010. Text: John 17:20-26*

I can't think of a better ending to ministry done together than Jesus' prayer in the Gospel reading from John today.

Jesus and his disciples are soon to be parted by violence and by Jesus' death, but Jesus doesn't pray for safety for the disciples, or for protection for them from the suffering they will endure. Jesus doesn't even ask the Father to forgive the disciples for abandoning him, but moves beyond forgiveness and asks that God join the disciples with God the Father and God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, making them all one. Jesus is praying for us: for every Christian who ever lived, for every Christian who lives now, and for every Christian who will ever live; that we all will be one with each other and with God.

The most amazing thing for me comes in verse 23, "so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." We are all amazing gifts of love: from God and to God and to each other. Now let me tell you why you are amazing gifts of love to Joann and me.

Our journey to seminary was a bumpy one, especially that first year. We left so many things behind to come to Virginia; family, friends, our home of 22 years that we sold, our children, one of which was still living with us when we left. We gave up the church community that raised us up and prepared us to hear God's call to seminary. We also left Joann's dad who we knew was terminal with cancer, and I can't describe how difficult that was.

That first September we lost our beloved pet of 13 years, who left us unexpectedly and violently. We tried to get back to NY every other weekend, and Joann's dad died from his cancer in November of that first year; we had tried to get back the day he died but didn't get there until after he had died, and Joann will carry that pain with her forever. There were so many loved ones who died or suffered serious illnesses back home, and it seemed like our money was leaking out faster than we could put more into the pot.

Joann and I were stunned and consumed by our

own grief and anxiety as everything in our world seemed to disappear or fall apart. After being out of school for 27 years, going back to college was an incredible hurdle, and required seemingly endless energy to stay afloat. I struggled to keep my studies up while caring for Joann, and balancing those priorities was painful and draining. At the end of the first year of seminary we were both exhausted and beaten down as I approached Fr. Tinh about the possibility of becoming St. Patrick's seminarian for the next two years.

Looking back at all we gave up and all that we sacrificed to get to seminary, an amazing thing happened – God led us to St. Patrick's. Joann and I still bear the scars of that first year, but I cannot tell you all the ways that you healed us in that first year of Field Education here at St. Patrick's. It's true that nothing worthwhile is easy, and that living as a Christian and deciding to follow Jesus Christ comes with sacrifice. But it's also true that God doesn't ask you to give some things up and follow him without still giving you everything you need to live. We gave away material things, and we gave away some relationships, but God has given us what we needed to survive in the desert – you!

You have been a joy and a blessing for us on our journey, and we pray that we have been a blessing to you as well. And so as Joann and I spend our last formal Sunday here at God's gift to us, St. Patrick's, I feel the need to say two things. The first one is, "Thank you". Thank you for loving us, thank you for sharing your life and your faith with us, thank you for showing us what God's love looks like.

Thank you especially to Fr. Tinh, who has been so many things to me and to Joann and I. A pastor, a mentor, a confidant, and especially a friend. Fr. Tinh is one of those people who is never afraid to love, and never afraid to sacrifice for love. I envy you all; I've only had two years with Tinh, some of you have had a lifetime.

The second thing I need to say is... I love you. Wherever I go and whatever I do, I will always remember the gift of time together that God has given us. Your beautiful faces, the stories of your lives, that spark of Jesus Christ I see in every one of you.

I love you, but most importantly God loves you... with a love that will never fade, will never decrease, will never change... because God's love for you and me is not about what we are or what we do, but who we are – beloved children of God. Amen.

In Memoriam

Tien Van Dang

Beloved Member of St. Patrick's
January 29, 2010

David Frizzell

Husband of Mickie Frizzell
February 4, 2010

Hannelore Aronstein

Beloved Friend of St. Patrick's
February 25, 2010

Doris Moser

Sister of Edna Rhoad
May 6, 2010

Christopher D. Gardner II

Grandson of Pat Gardner
April 10, 2010

Carolyn Patterson

Mother of Jane Patterson Auld
April 28, 2010

Elinor Boyer

Aunt of Brian Leonard
May 31, 2010

Katherine Price

Grandmother of Matt Tucker+
June 21, 2010 in New Jersey

Harry Henderson

Uncle of Lois Cascella
July 18, 2010

Petrina and LeRoy Spence

Parents of Jean Gardner
June 2010

Margaret Moreau

Beloved Member of St. Patrick's
August 2, 2010

*Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you (BCP, 393)*

Congratulations....

- To Alylah Peters, Nathaniel Johnson, Deani Johnson, Kiet Tran, Brian Ma, and Tess Miller,

who were baptized between March and July 2010.

- To Bobby Dubas and Matthew Pizzola, who were confirmed by Bishop Jones on June 6th.

- To Heidi Walters and Brian Yannetti, who were married on January 16, 2010 in Short Pump, Virginia. Heidi is our Tom and Jean Wetrich's granddaughter.

- To Doan Huynh and Matt Tucker+, who were married in Washington, DC, on June 19, 2010

- To Claire Dubas, Jennifer Phan and Christofer Johnson-Harbers, who graduated from high school.

- To Jessica Mills, who graduated from college.

Parish Notes...



Jennifer Moya, Doan Huynh and Christine Moya – Towel Mission in North Carolina – August 2010

- The Reverend Geoffrey Doolittle, former Seminarian Assistant at St. Patrick's (2008-2010), has been called to be Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Owego, NY. Geoff graduated from the Seminary on May 20th.

To know about Geoff's new church, please visit: <http://www.stpaulsowego.com/>. Many thanks to those who served for two years on the Seminarian Committee: Nancy Burch (Chair), Le Cao, Ann Nelson, Kathy Oliver, Tom Auld and Winnie Lebo. The late Tien Dang also served on the committee.

- The Reverend Mary Staley, who served at St. Patrick's in 2005 as Deacon Assistant, has been called to be Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in Put In Bay, Ohio, an island in the middle of Lake Erie. To contact Mary+, or to see her beautiful new church, please visit: <http://www.stpaulsputinbay.org/>

- Our Carolyn Gawarecki, artist, has been selected by the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College as a member of the Douglass Society, "the College's highest honor for its most distinguished graduates." The induction ceremony will be held at Douglass College, New Brunswick, New Jersey, on October 6, 2010. Congratulations, Carolyn!

- New members of the Altar Guild: Pauline Thomas, Nhung Dang, Phung Nguyen

- Our Cheryl Thomas will serve as a chalice bearer beginning October 2010. Michael Knowles will join Nancy Burch and Catherine Dubas in leading worship services at Sunrise/Bluemont. Saint Patrick's sends its lay eucharistic minister to Sunrise/Bluemont on the first two Sundays of the month. St. George's/Arlington takes care of the remaining Sundays.

- St. Patrick's delivered 200 meals to the homeless during winter for the Hypothermia Shelter Program. Many thanks to Pat Ferrufino and those who assisted her.

- Falls Church Community Service News. FCS thanks members of churches and communities in the area for their generous help. Thanksgiving food was delivered to 129 households in Falls Church. The largest single gift was the 8000 pounds of food donated through the Boy Scouts' Scouting For Food program. Many members of the community contributed time and energy to sorting and packing food. More than 40 volunteers delivered the food on Saturday, November 21st. A gift of \$1000.00 from our Vicar's Discretionary Fund was sent to FCS in April, 2010. Saint Patrick's children and

youth also took our donated items to FCS food pantry at Knox Presbyterian Church on Route 50. Our liaison with FCS is Catherine Dubas. At the entrance of our church there is a Basket of Thanksgiving. Food and other items placed there for the needy are periodically delivered to the food pantry.



Bob Aronstein and Tinh+, at Bob's new home in Silver Spring, MD. August 2010

- Driving on church parking lot: Drivers who approach or leave the church on Sunday, please give extra attention to those who walk in the area and please drive slowly, with your foot ready on the brake pedal. Please park your car with the parking brakes applied. Walkers on the parking lot, especially those with children, please make sure that the drivers see you, and that the children are not running, and please let the cars pass by before proceeding.

- From Pat Gardner: My family and I would like to thank the members of St Patrick's for their sympathy, prayer and love this very sad time in our lives; and special thanks to our ministers, Reverend Tinh and Reverend Geoff. Pat Gardner

- A thank you note to Debbie Clark and those who assisted her for the Yard Sale of June 26th.

- Many thanks to Bill Houston and those who participated in the cleaning up of the church on May 22nd and June 12th. We also thank the scouts and their parents who contributed so much to the work on the Clean Up Day

- **Our Westlawn Fund.** We are looking forward to another great year in helping the children of Westlawn school. During the summer school program, our food cards from Giant, Shoppers and Target were always available to those families needing extra assistance. We started the school year

with a school supply drive that provided many needed items for the students. We collected hats and gloves, sweatpants and underwear. There was a very successful Angel Tree at Christmas that provided gifts for approximately 25 in-need children. During the course of the year, several of our parishioners donated new and used clothing, coats and gently used books. The PTA holds a book fair early in the spring. Children are asked to bring in a book and then each child goes to the book fair and is allowed to pick a book to take home and keep as their own. We had enough books donated this year, thanks to our parish, that each child at Westlawn was allowed to take home two books as his own. New teachers were able to pick a couple of books each for their classroom libraries. Our congregation has given an enormous amount of love and financial support to the Westlawn Outreach program. We are asking you to please continue to help support this ministry by making a donation to help us continue this work. Those wishing to give cash may place it in an envelope marked Westlawn and any one wishing to write a check can designate Westlawn in the memo section. Both may be placed in the alms basins on Sunday morning. We wish to thank you for all your past support and thank you in advance for your continued support in this vital project.

- Andy Le, member of Boy Scout Troop 612, will install edging along the Memorial brick walkway and plant periwinkles in the flower beds. He will also spread mulch between the walkway and the wall. This will be Andy's scout eagle project, and he hopes to have the help of seven or eight troop members, the Scout Master, some parents and a professional landscaper. He is planning to get the project done before the end of summer.



Catherine Dubas and the Doolittles before Geoff and Joanne leave for New York -- June 2010

- Our Cate Johnson has been in the process of discernment toward ordination to the diaconate. A discernment committee was established to meet with



St. Patrick's foxes at the back of the rectory – June 2010

Cate for a year. Upon the recommendation of the committee, the vestry signed a letter to Bishop Johnston in support of Cate's call. Cate is now working in Pakistan. She expects to be in that country for a year and, hopefully, after that she will be able to join her husband and her children in Germany. On August 15th, Cate preached at Saint Patrick's, and there was a reception to bid her farewell.

- We would like to thank those who have dedicated their time, and have given support and energy towards the ministries for our young members. Our Children's Chapel Time, Children's and Youth Choirs, and our Youth Group programs are opportunities for spiritual growth and formation which enrich both the lives of the young people and our congregation as a whole.

- We have openings to sponsor the Altar Flowers. Please sign your name on the board in the Narthex. The contribution cost is \$30 per week. Please provide your dedication to Lois Cascella, The offering can be placed in the offering plate with "Altar Guild" in the memo line.

- The Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 16th, 9 AM ~ 3 PM.

- A thank you note to Tom and Jean Wetrich, and to those who helped them, for the beautiful palm crosses made for Palm Sunday.

- Many thanks to donors who generously supported the Region 8 Youth DC Lenten Pilgrimage, which was held on March 26-27, 2010. The participants and their leaders stayed awake for one night, "for Jesus and for the homeless and the hungry." They attended Stations of the Cross at St. Agnes and the Ascension Church in Washington, DC, prayed at the Seminary in Alexandria, went shopping for groceries, and

cooked and served breakfast for the homeless at Bailey's Crossroads shelter.

- The Adult and Youth Choir rehearsal will resume on Sunday, September 12th from 12noon to 12:30 p.m.

Please note that Bell Choir will meet on Sunday mornings instead of Saturdays starting this September. Our first practice will be on Sunday, September 12th from 9:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

We need more bell ringers! If you are interested in joining bell choir, please let Mariko know. She will arrange training classes for new members.



- Saint Patrick's welcome Mr. & Mrs. Toua Vang and his children, who will worship at Saint Patrick's during the time Toua attends VTS. Toua and Joua Vang, originally from Laos, had settled in Minnesota before Toua perceived his call to ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. The family is living in Alexandria, VA, and Toua is looking forward to serving the Lord among the American and the Hmong Episcopalians in Minnesota, after graduation. Please pray for the Vang Family.

Vestry Notes...

- A letter being sent to Lynn Brown, principal of Westlawn, regarding our work with Susan Lawrence, guidance counselor, was read and signed by all present.

- Winnie reported that the funds financing our Westlawn outreach programs are decreasing. A request for assistance will be put in the service bulletin.

- Junior Warden Bill Houston reported that the stewardship committee is looking over the way our building is used and they have several new ideas. He has purchased light bulbs to replace those burned out. He also bought new door closers. He reported that the door needs a handle, not a knob, for handicapped access.

The sink in the nursery was badly clogged. A plumber was called in to solve the problem.

- Cate told us of a farewell for Doan at The Cheesecake Factory. Members of the youth group were invited to attend. Towel and Beach Ministries are being planned.

- Kathy reported that the VTS Lay Committee Celebration was wonderful.

- A fund raising meeting was held on April 27 and there was a good turn-out. A yard sale is planned for June 5 and a fall festival is planned for October.

- Tinh reported that there are lots of visits to the sick. He is through with Geoff's training and will miss him.

- Our new CCM Liaison, Elizabeth Kim, was introduced. She told us that she had been Barbara Levy's driver and had learned a lot from her (the late Barbara Levy was Saint Patrick's CCM liaison for over 10 years, a great supporter of our church).

- Kathy told us that we had received an unexpected pledge for \$10,000 in May. With that pledge, we find ourselves, financially, back where we had hoped to be. The collection for the bishop's discretionary fund netted \$260. Donations for the Westlawn outreach program have been received.

- The parking lot needs repair work. The cracks on the surface need to be clean and filled, to prevent further damage.

- The air conditioning of the school downstairs broke down, and a new compressor unit was installed. Cost was over \$5000.00. Gifts toward this replacement cost are welcomed and appreciated.



Evelyn West with Tinh+ and Kim-Anh – Catonsville, MD, August 2010

Birthdays in September

1 Felix Spinelli	13 Michael Knowles
1 MyChi Haan	14 Thanh Nguyen
4 Laura Kennedy	18 Pauline Leonard
8 Lucille Selby	19 Mark Houston
8 Nghia Dao	23 Mark Los
10 Rachel Burgess	23 Hannah Knowles
11 Oanh Phan	24 Deani Coker
13 Debbie Clark	28 William Houston
13 Doan Huynh	29 Justice Lebo
	30 Michael Spinelli

Mr. Holt was very appreciative
I had a wonderful week
and I was so happy to
do God's work. Thanks
again for your donation.

♥ Jenn Moya

Note: The "donation," mentioned in Jenn's and Christine's notes, actually came from the *Vicar's Discretionary Fund*, to which our parishioners give occasionally and on the third Sunday of each month as loose plate offerings. St. Pat's Women and St. Margaret's Circle also contributed to our youth's mission trips this summer. Many thanks to all of you at Saint Patrick's for your generosity.

Additional Parish Notes:

- The Rev. Alicia Sibaen has come back from the Philippines for her second year of study at VTS, and will continue to attend Saint Patrick's for the entire academic year of 2010-2011. On Sunday, September 29th, Alicia+ will give a sermon at our church.

- Many thanks to Steve Lebo for the repair of the wireless microphone used in the church, and many thanks to Junior Warden Bill Houston for the works downstairs in the school.

- Welcome back to the Chris Nicholson Family, who have just returned from Moscow to settle in Alexandria, Virginia.

We remember in our prayer:

Bob Aronstein, Irene Bell, Bill Benson, Kari Boeskov, Mary Anne Bogie, Bob Brown, Pat Brown, Mary Carper, Al Cockrell, Marie Cosimano, Hai Dang Do, Jane Chapman, Tim Clary, Dorothy Connelly, John Davis, Donald DeVaughn, Loretta Dougherty, Archie Ellis, Mary Farmer, Nance Finegan, Nic Franca, Luis Garay, Thomas Garner, Peggy Gleason, Anne Goodwin, Jean Graham, Canedo Guillermo, Katherine Hafele, Margaret Ellis Harris, Bill and Betty Henderson, Sheila Henderson, Alek Hensley, Robert Herron, Cindy Hogman, Michael Horn, Virginia Hughes, Jill, Gray and Bob Johnson, Jamie Kaplon, Robert Kelley, Quinn Kimball, Jeffry King, The Kontess Family, Wayne Langley, Susan Lawrence, Bau Le, Lisa, Colleen Mavrikas, Shayne and Rebekah Miel, Michael Mills, Que Nguyen, Chick Nixon, Keslie Nolan, Edward Oliver, Olive Oliver, Irene Pierce, Faith Poole, Michael Price, Edna Rhoad, William Ross, Robert Roy, Nora Searle, Bill Sitler, Irene Skowron, Karine Simpkin, Brian Smith, Candi Stewart, Kara Stryker, Jamie Strysko, Ruby Strysko, Steven Talbert, Geroge Thomas, Clara Torres, George Torres, Eugene Urbaniak, Michael Weekes, Mark and Heather Westfall, Paula Wiech, Meredith Wiech, Frances Williams, Donna Wolfe, Peter Kosutic, Chris, Tasha, Mark Zimpel.

We pray for all U.S. personnel serving overseas,
especially our Tom Auld and Cate Johnson.

Dear Father Tinn,

Thank you very much for
the donation you gave to
let me go to beach towel.

I had a great time
helping out Ms. Carol Shivers,
and meeting new people. The
work site was very fun and
I really appreciate the
opportunity you gave me to
impact Ms. Carol's life.

Thank you,
Christine Moya

Dear Father Tinn,

Thank you so much
for donating money so I
could attend Beach
Towel this year. Once
again, we have had a
successful week changing
lives through better
living conditions. I worked
on Mr. Holt's site this
year and his house
needed a lot of work
because it was falling
apart and his yard was
filled with cans which
we turned in to a
recycling place for \$200.00

September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Regular Sunday Activities 8:00 AM HE I (Chapel) 9:15 AM Bell Choir 9:30 AM Adult Education Class in VN 10:30 AM HE II (Church) 10:45 AM Children's Chapel 12 PM Choir			1 HE in VN, 9:30 AM	2	3 Scouts, 6 PM	4 Scouts, 2 PM
5	6	7	8 HE in VN, 9:30 AM	9 (Bishop & Vicars' Meeting, Trinity/Fredericksburg)	10 Scouts, 6 PM	11 Scouts, 2 PM
12 Bell Choir practice and Choir rehearsal begin.	13	14 6:30 PM, Commissions 7:30 PM Vestry	15 HE in VN, 9:30 AM	16	17 Scouts, 6 PM	18 Scouts, 2 PM
19 Odeon Concert, 4 PM	20	21	22 HE in VN, 9:30 AM	23	24 Scouts, 6 PM	25 Scouts, 2 PM
26	27	28	29 HE in VN, 9:30 AM	30		