The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

8462 General Puller Highway P.O. Box 38 Topping, Virginia 23169 Phone:(804) 758-5160 Fax: (804)758-0676 E-Mail: churchofthevisitation@va.metrocast.net Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 17, 2023 Year A

Church Hours

Sunday Mass 9AM Wednesday Daily Mass 9AM Thursday Daily Mass 9AM

Parish Office Hours 9AM-2PM Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Pastor, Johnny Mintah-Mensah "Koo" 119 Club Drive Hartfield, VA 23071 Phone: 804-286-9271

Please call the office about arranging Baptisms, Marriages, the RCIA Program, Sacraments of Anointing, Reconciliation, Sick Calls, the schedule for Holy Days, and our Rosary Ministry.

PARISH COUNCIL

Kevin Hayes Cindy Jessee-Vice Chair Steve Kirsch Helen Linden Roseanne Moncure-Secretary Cindy Powers Kathy Swinehart Mary Sychterz John Weidner-Chair

Church Secretary, Andrea Moore Webmaster/IT, Mike Dreelin

MASS/MUSIC

Entrance: Gather Us In #302

"Loving and Forgiving" #664 Penitential Act: page 4

Lord Have Mercy #913

Glory To God ∦914

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Sirach 27:30 - 28:7

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel Acclamation: I give you a new commandment, says the Lord; love one another as I have loved you.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Homily: Father Koo

Nicene Creed: page 9

Prayers of the Faithful: Response: Lord hear our prayer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory: Hosea #665

Holy: #917

Memorial Acclamation: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death, O Lord, until you come again.

Lord's Prayer: page 26

Lamb of God: #922

Communion: Where Charity and Love Prevail #492

Meditation: All My Days #44 Recessional: City of God #390



<u>September Birthdays</u>

4th-Larry Miller, 8th-Henry & Lucas Clair, 9th-Mary Sychterz, 10th-Eileen O'Brien, 11th-Christopher Kirsch, 13th-Terry Hess, Pamelia Seay & Donna Plunkert, 14th-Linda Peterson, 15th-Cindy Jessee, 20th-Shelley Katsuki, 21st-Alan Richardson, Terry Hess & Emily Filippi, 22nd-Joyce Ballato.

If you would like to add your name to the Birthday/Anniversary list please contact the office

September Anniversaries



8th-John & Diane Weidner, 10th-Steve & Loraine Kirsch, 12th-Bryan & Jennifer Miller, 17th-Genje & Shelley Katsuki, 30th-Dan & Linda Peterson.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOURToday-24th Sunday in Ordinary Time/FF startsMARK YOURSeptember 19th-Directory Photos (Day 1)CALENDAR!September 20th-Directory Photos (Day 2)September 21st-Parish Council meeting 3pmSeptember 24th-25th Sunday in Ordinary Time and Parish PicnicOctober 1st-26th Sunday in Ordinary TimeOctober 5th-Euchristic Adoration 9:30am-10:30amOctober 7th-KOC Italian FeastOctober 8th-27th Sunday in Ordinary Time/Social Sunday

PARISH MINISTRIES

Worship/Liturgy: Germaine Hayes Justice & Peace Religious Education: Zaida Wohleking Parish Life: Johnna Harris RCIA/Adult Formation: John Weidner Pastoral Care: Lynne Richardson Administration, Ray Kostesky

FINANCE COUNCIL

John Charbeneau Lisa Forte Debby Harriman Ray Kostesky-Chairman Fritz Sitterding

THIS WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: September 17, 2023
Sacristy Duty: Sandi Delagrange Community Leader: G. Richardson
Altar Server: Joe Sychterz Lector: T. Dorman/J. Sychterz
Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: B. Smith/M. Sychterz Chalice: Harvey/T. Shoemaker/A. Wolski
Music: Cindy Powers Counters: Tutak/Smith
NEXT WEEKS ASSIGNMENTS: September 24, 2023
Sacristy Duty: Noelle Harvey Community Leader: Kevin Hayes
Altar Server: Kaylee Kirsch Lector: P. DeGroot/M. Ballato
Eucharistic Ministers: Hosts: B. Plunkert/N. Harvey Chalice: D. Marcia/K. Donovan/G. Wolski
Music: Michele Meanly Counters: Harris/Gray
OFFERTORY COLLECTION from September 10, 2023Collection:\$ 2,231Second Collection:Total Offertory Collection Year to Date\$ 28,086
Total Budget Projection:\$ 27,956
Loan Balance \$ 156,685
Our second collection today is for Retired Religious. We signed the following principal checks this week: \$174 Faith
Formation; \$252 Music Materials; \$395 Lawn Care.
LEGACY
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school.
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will.
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will. <u>A Hearty Welcome to Our New Parishioners</u> Ty & Kathryn Balch Scarlett, Emma & Carson
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will. A Hearty Welcome to Our New Parishioners Ty & Kathryn Balch Scarlett, Emma & Carson 136 Hewitt St. Saluda, Va 23149 katyjbalch@gmail.com
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will. <u>A Hearty Welcome to Our New Parishioners</u> Ty & Kathryn Balch Scarlett, Emma & Carson 136 Hewitt St. Saluda, Va 23149
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will. A Hearty Welcome to Our New Parishioners Ty & Kathryn Balch Scarlett, Emma & Carson 136 Hewitt St. Saluda, Va 23149 katyjbalch@gmail.com 419-410-5571
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will. A Hearty Welcome to Our New Parishioners Ty & Kathryn Balch Scarlett, Emma & Carson 136 Hewitt St. Saluda, Va 23149 katyjbalch@gmail.com 419-410-5571
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will. A Hearty Welcome to Our New Parishioners Ty & Kathryn Balch Scarlett, Emma & Carson 136 Hewitt St. Saluda, Va 23149 katyjbalch@gmail.com 419-410-5571
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will. $\frac{A \text{ Hearty Welcome to Our New Parishioners}}{\text{Ty & Kathryn Balch}}$ Scarlett, Emma & Carson 136 Hewitt St. Saluda, Va 23149 katyjbalch@gmail.com 419-410-5571} \widetilde{W}
A good estate plan provides security for a spouse and/or family. Every adult should prepare a will. Be sure to include your parish or school. Who will take your place as a generous benefactor? A memorial gift in your will could continue your generosity after death. Make that gift through a bequest in your will. Your generosity during your lifetime has enabled our parish to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a part of this community by making a bequest in your will. $\frac{A Hearty Welcome to Our New Parishioners}{Ty \& Kathryn Balch}{Scarlett, Emma \& Carson}$ 136 Hewitt St. Saluda, Va 23149 katyjbalch@gmail.com 419-410-5571 $\frac{RECURING EVENTS}{20}$



Take Home

Forgiveness and Mercy

September 17, 2023

In today's Gospel reading from Matthew, Jesus has just finished instructing his disciples on the important role of forgiveness and prayer in uniting the community of disciples when Peter asks how far a person should go in being willing to forgive. Peter asks Jesus, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?" With his attempt to provide a potential answer to his own question, Peter suggests seven times, which is the biblical number of perfection. Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Jesus' response transcends even perfection, as he contends that there must be no end to a disciple's willingness to forgive another.

The Catechism says that the parable of the merciless servant which immediately follows Jesus' exchange with Peter crowns the Lord's teaching on ecclesial communion. The parable ends with these words: "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from the heart." It is here, in fact, "in the depths of the heart," that everything is bound and loosed. It is not in our power to feel or forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession. (CCC 2843)

This teaching is in the last few pages of the Catechism, where the most perfect of prayers, the Lord's Prayer, is examined in beautiful detail.

"And forgive us our trespasses...as we forgive those who trespass against us"

This "as" is not unique in Jesus' teaching: "You, therefor, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"; "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful"; "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (Mt 6:14-15, Mt 5:23-24, Mk 11:25) It is impossible to keep the Lord's commandment by imitating the divine model from outside; there has to be vital participation, coming from the depths of the heart, in the holiness and the mercy and the love of our God. Only the Spirit by whom we live can make "ours" the same mind that was Christ Jesus. Then the unity of forgiveness becomes possible and we find ourselves "forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave" us. (CCC 2842)

Jesus expects of us to forgive from the depths of the heart. With that in mind, our Question of the Week asks:

When someone hurts you, how do you forgive them?

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR DIRECTORY PHOTOS

Photos for the Parish Directory will be taken this week on September 19 and September 20 from 2:30 to 8:30 pm. We would like to have all parishioners included; however several have not scheduled an appointment. If you have not yet scheduled your appointment, please do so either online at www.udcir.com, or by seeing Pat Marchant or Lynne Richardson after Mass today. You can also call the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays for help.

Those who wish to schedule their own appointment should visit the website at ucdir.com or scan the QR code above: Church code: va221 Password: photos



SECURITY ISSUES

Our security committee met recently and determined that for security purposes, we should lock the Narthex Entrance doors once Mass has begun. Accordingly, beginning next Sunday, September 24th, we will close the door leading into the Narthex doors at 9:00 am with an usher in attendance to accommodate late arrivals. At 9:10, we will lock the S doors and the usher will join the congregation.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

We are all aware of the importance of Catholic Schools and their importance to the future of our religion. Several years ago the Diocese launched a "Learn to Lead" campaign to fund local priorities at its 23 schools, and enhance financial aid. Although it has been successful, the campaign is still short of the original goal. As a result, Bishop Knestout is requesting a special collection to support our Catholic Schools during the last weekend of September.

The process will be similar to the Annual Appeal (pledge card will be handed out during Mass). We will conduct our special collection on September 24th. The importance of Catholic Schools cannot be underestimated. We trust you will recognize this and donate accordingly.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 14th Annual Italian Feast Church of the Visitation Rt. 3, Topping, VA



Saturday. October 7, 2023 - Seating at 5:00PM

Salad, Pasta, Homemade Meatballs (made with Pork, Beef & Veal) Sweet Italian Sausages, Bread and Desserts Red and White Wine, Coffee and Iced Tea

\$30.00 per person

(Children under 5 eat free)

Reservations Requested by September 27th

Call: 804-725-1656 or 804-776-0078 Email: jmc399@gmail.com





Catholic Diocese



Children under 12 \$5.00

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

A parish pastoral council is advisory, making recommendations to the pastor about the spiritual well-being of the parish. As a "visionary" council, it concerns itself with where the parish wants to be in three to five years and not with the administrative aspects of running the parish. The role of the parish council is described in detail in the Diocesan guidelines contained in the booklet "Called to Serve".

There are nine elected members on our parish council who, together with the various ministry committee chairs, meet every other month for prayer and to develop recommendations for the pastor. Each year, in October, we elect three parishioners to serve a three year term on the council.

Kevin Hayes, Kathy Swineheart and Mary Schyterz will be completing their three year terms at the end of this year. If nominated, all three are eligible to stand for reelection.

Nomination forms for next month's election will be available at Mass this Sunday. Please prayerfully consider whether you or someone you know should be nominated to serve on our parish council.

Next Sunday, September 24, we will be collecting nomination forms. Forms may be dropped into the collection basket, handed to an usher, or delivered to the church office. You are welcome to email your nominations to the church office before Sunday or up to Wednesday morning, September 27.

Nominations will be published in the October 1 bulletin and we will announce the nominees at Mass on October

We plan to collect ballots at Mass on Sunday, October 15 and will accept ballots at the church office beginning Tuesday, October 10 through Wednesday, October 18. As with nominations, you are welcome to email your vote to the church office.

Questions about parish council nomination and election process can be directed to John Weidner, Parish Council Chair or Ray Kostesky, Church Administrator

FR. JOHN BODDIE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND UPDATE

Thanks to everyone for their support of the Fr. John Boddie Memorial Scholarship Fund. The annual fund drive has collected over \$6,000, and these funds have been invested with the Community Foundation.

So far in 2023 the Scholarship fund has provided \$8,381 in scholarship and educational grants in support of COV programs and students. The application for scholarships and grants are being updated on the website. All new request must be on forms dated August 15, 2013. If you have questions please see Tom Hawksworth or Andrea Moore.



Sacrament of Communion.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SMALL **GROUP STUDY** Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real

Presence One of the outcomes from the Synod consultations held early last year was a need for additional education about fundamental teachings and beliefs of the Catholic Church, especially the church's teaching on the

As part of our efforts to address this need, and since we are in the Year of Parish Eucharistic Revival, Adult Faith Formation is planning a small group study entitled "Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence" to be held in October and November.

This study will examine in more detail the themes addressed by Bishop Robert Barron in his short book, This Is My Body - A Call to Eucharistic *Revival*, which many of us have been reading this summer. Some folks have had difficulty reading through some of Bishop Barron's academic and philosophical prose. Other folks may have enjoyed reading the material, but have not yet taken the initiative to share what they have learned. Perhaps joining this small group study will give us a chance to learn together and learn from each other.

During each session of the small group study, we will watch and listen to a short (less than 25 minutes) DVD presentation and then break out into smaller groups for discussion. Each participant will have a study guide that has commentary, questions for understanding and questions for application. There are some additional short readings from scripture and the Catechism.

We are planning to offer each session twice weekly, on Monday evening, starting at 6:00 and on Wednesday morning after Mass at 9:45. Each session goes about an hour, maybe a little longer. Our working schedule for the study is:

Session 1: Introduction - Mon, Oct 9 and Wed, Oct 11 Session 2: Sacred Meal - Mon, Oct 16 and Wed, Oct 18 Session 3: Sacrifice - Mon, Oct 30 and Wed, Nov 1 Session 4: Real Presence - Part I Mon, Nov 6 and Wed., Nov 8 Session 5: Real Presence, Part 11 - Mon, Nov 13 and Wed, Nov 15

We are suggesting a donation of \$10 per participant to cover a portion of the cost of the study guides. You can sign up for the study after Mass in the Narthex. You may also contact John Weidner directly at 240-780-1872 or jaweidnerl@verizon.net to join the study or if you have any questions.

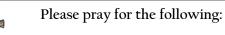


THE PARISH PICNIC IS NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday, September 24, we will have a late morning picnic immediately following Mass. The parish will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and non-alcoholic bever-

ages. We ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share with others. We'll have games to play such as cornhole, velcro toss, and bingo. If you have a different game to share, please bring it with you. Those who prefer alcoholic beverages are free to bring your own.

Please contact Johnna Harris if you are willing to help with set-up or clean-up.



Ann Melvin, John Gascoign, and David Brinkley

PARISHIONERS

Barbara Smith, Annette Marcil, The Hollingsworth family, Don Tyrrell, David Rector, Lorraine Kirsch, Tom Shoemaker, Tom & Bea Foley, Jack & Laurie King, Shelley Katsuki, Donna Thompson, Brendan O'Brien, Spike & Becky Nunn, Lois & Skip Kramb, Marianne Krop, Michele Meanley, Louise Petralia, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Pat Paul, Margaret Hock, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Nancy Wirth, Bettie Hodge, Linda Gray, Pat Reamy, Andrea Moore, Lynn Vajda

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Todd Bowmam, Diane Petralia, Anthony Pace, Mildred Bair, Mary Levine, Susie Maddrich, Carolyn Harvey, Eric Currie, Mike & Katy Shea, Rhonda Wells, Polly Beall, Dick Patton, Sue and Lisa Ferari, Barbara & Ron Burkhart, John Calvin Barnard, Joseph Borzelleca, Andy Hetzer, Sandy Alter, Ryan Jessee, Larry Hersh, Shirley Schultz, Dominick Perry.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Jim Durburo, Richard & Sharon Fitts, Karen Armstrong, Kenny Marshall, Ann Chatos, Genie Kauffman, Page Wittkamp, Pattie Sobieski, Cliff Dean, Christopher Hutton, Mason Goodrich, Olga Hall, Elizabeth Panzer, Tom Sennott, Gary Campbell, Jim & Inga Peddicord, David Gunn, Hunter Jacobs, Kathy Goyne, Peg Meushaw, Rita Blommel, Linda Cryer, Allen Hines, Tyra Freed.

If you need to add to the prayer list or would like a Mass intention please call the office, email or leave a note in the box outside the office. Remember to put family or friend by their name. You may offer Mass intensions for the living as well.



FAITH FORMATION **REGISTRATION AND OUTING**

Registrations are still being accepted, but they need to be submitted quicky in order to order teaching materials.

We plan to go as a group to Busch Gardens on Saturday, October 7th in celebration of Catholic Day at Busch Gardens.

The office will handle the ticket order. Please notify us quickly of the number of adult and children tickets you need.

PARISH PENCE

As we indicated earlier, the call of the needy has increased dramatically these past few months. In the past two weeks, we have helped four families with electric



Marriage Retreat! Scripture says about married people that "Two shall live as one". How often do you find yourselves living as two? A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you get back to basics in this complicated day and age. For more information or to register, go to WWME.org, click "Apply" and search for "Virginia" or your desired location. Only 25 couples per weekend, so register soon! Feel free to contact Mark and Cathy Stangler at 703-378-4150 or mstang1987@aol.com with any questions. Here are the remaining local experiences for 2023: November 17-19 2023 - Holiday Inn, Virginia Beach VA



OUR LADY OF THE BAY COUNCIL 11210 OF MATHEWS AND MIDDLESEX COUNTIES

K of C is a not-for-profit organization whose principles are Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism.

Donations support:

Gloucester, Mathews, Northern Neck & Middlesex Free Health Clinics (KOVAR) Virginians with intellectual disabilities, the VA Veterans Services- Golf Tournament, Families in need, Hands Across Middlesex & Mathews, and The Father John Boddie Scholarship Fund.

Activities that provide funding:

Pancake Breakfast, Italian Feast, St. Pat's Dinner, KOVAR Collection, Dave Marchant Golf Tournament.

We are active participants in many ministries to include Alter servers, Choir members, Collection counter, Community Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, Parish Council Members and Ushers.

The KOC meet at 5:15pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Church of the Visitation. We start with the Rosary.

All are welcome! Any questions call Our Grand Knight-Al Langer at 804-815-1328.

*Sept. 22nd-Dave Marchant Golf Tournament @ Piankatank River Golf Club. *October-7th Italian Feast @COV must purchase tickets in advance.



Faulkner Funeral Homes & Cremation Services PO Box 228 Saluda, VA 23149 bhogge@faulknerfuneralhcs.com 804-758-2315

In memory of Lillian M. Reiffel,

Teacher



PRAYERS MEMORIES LOVE Jerry McMurtrie

"The Retirement Plan Of Christ Was His Passion. Is Yours The Same?"

Josiah Reffo

Supporting Our Youth



SAINT THERESA OF CALCUTTA'S "ANYWAY PRAYER"

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. f you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight, build it anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the world the best you've got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them

Breathe in Love, Exhale Peace.

anvwav



In Loving Memory Of Alma and Fritz Sitterding



In Loving Memory of Bobby Warren

Your Family Arlene, L.C., Faye, Caitlyn & Courtlyr

"Gone but not to be forgotten"

In Loving Memory Of

David E. Brinkley

In Loving Memory of

Vincent "Poppy" & Vinnie Recupido

The Recupido & Hollingsworth Families

TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH. THEIR DREAMS, & OUR FUTURE.

Lynne & Gary Richardson

