WHY JESUS TOLD STORIES   
The National Institutes of Health operate a wonderful research hospital in Bethesda, MD, and I have had reason to visit there a number of times during the last month. While there, I have celebrated Mass a number of times with the Catholic chaplain, an older priest of the Maronite (Lebanese) Catholic rite. Father Dominic is his name and he is originally from Lebanon. This past Monday, he invited me to be the principal celebrant and to preach. I had done that a number of times there but this time, on the feast of the Guardian Angels, I declined the invitation so that I could hear him preach on angels. I wanted to hear what one of the priests of an Oriental rite would say about angels. Celebrating the Mass with Father Dominic, I enjoyed the stories and teachings that he gave about angels and I told him so after the Mass.

He made a very useful remark about his preaching style. He said something like, “I like to use stories when I preach. People often do not remember your teachings, but they do remember the stories that they hear. And Jesus used stories when He preached. Simply put, parables are stories.”

I believe that Father Dominic was right on target with his observation on the use of stories as we attempt to share the Word of God with others. People remember stories and we want people to remember the Word of God. That is one of the main points of Jesus’ story about the sower and the seeds that fell on different types of terrain. The seed, the Word of God, must not be lost. The stories that we tell about God’s action in our own lives function and serve others in the same way. People remember stories and for this reason testimonies are so important in the work of evangelization.   
  
THE WOMEN’S CORNERSTONE RETREAT IS FAST APPROACHING!   
The annual Women’s Cornerstone Retreat is fast approaching. In fact, it will begin on Friday, October 13, and run through the following day. Please pray for all the participants.

MASS IN THE EXTRAORDINARY FORM   
Next week, at St. John’s Cathedral, Bishop Serratelli will celebrate a solemn Mass in the extraordinary rite. Why not come and join us? There is great beauty and reverence in this form of the Mass, with priests and people, all directing their worship and prayers in a beautifully united way. Saturday, October 14, at 9:30 am at St. John’s Cathedral.

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO MARY’S SHRINE IN WASHINGTON   
On Saturday, October 21, pilgrims from St. Lawrence Church will join thousands of others from around the diocese to honor the Mother of God by visiting her shrine there for Mass, the rosary, confessions, and fellowship. It is a sacrifice to give up an entire Saturday, but God will bless in bountiful ways all those who make a sacrifice to honor the Mother of Jesus! Why not join us? Please contact Joanne Carr to register.

OUR OWN ROSARY PROCESSION ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22   
On Sunday, October 22 at 7:15 pm, we will pray a candlelight rosary, replicating the outdoor rosary that is done by pilgrims to Mary’s Shrine in Fatima, Portugal.

Please plan to join us! Father Nick