

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time • October 8, 2006

**“...a man shall leave his  
father and mother and  
be joined to his wife,**



**and the two shall  
become one flesh.”**

Mark 10:7-8

## *Mission Statement*

*As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.*

### **Parish Office**

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

**email:** [ParishOffice@ollchurch.org](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

**fax:** 661-7143

**website:** [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes School**

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

**email:** [rcioffi@ollschool.org](mailto:rcioffi@ollschool.org)

### **Religious Education Office**

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

**email:** [ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org](mailto:ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org)

### **S.A.G.E.**

661-3224

**(Senior Advocates for Growth  
and Enrichment)**

**email:** [Sage@ollchurch.org](mailto:Sage@ollchurch.org)

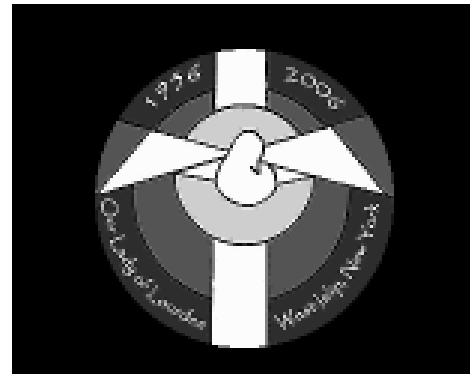
## *Vision...*

*so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to:*

- ***Live** out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.*
- ***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*
- ***Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.*
- ***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**  
Pastor



*Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit the Parish Office.*

## *Pastoral Council*

Michael Abbruscato  
Salomon Acosta  
Regina Ann Cioffi  
Jane Desthers  
Stephen Frodell  
Anne Kerrigan  
Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)  
Mary McMahan  
Doreen Spiller  
Mary Steck  
John Sureau  
Fr. Mike Vetrano  
Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

## *Parish Staff*

**Barbara Catusco**  
Religious Education Office  
**Mary Anne Lettieri**  
Parish Office  
**Debbie Meyer**  
Bulletin /Parish Office  
**Rosemary Multer**  
School Office  
**Rex Muro**  
Organist  
**Rita Spera**  
Religious Education Office  
**Lori Walsh**  
Parish Office

### **Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube**

Associate Pastor

### **Rev. Robert Scheckenback**

Associate Pastor

### **Deacon John DeGuardi**

### **Deacon Jules O. A. Gagnon**

Parish Outreach

### **Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

### **Deacon John Teufel**

### **Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

### **Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

### **Regina Ann Cioffi**

School Principal

### **Jennifer Gallagher**

Director of Youth Services

### **Carol M. Goetz**

Parish Music Director

### **Sr. Diane Liona**

Director of Religious Education

### **Vita Scorcio**

Ministry Spiritual Director

### **John Sureau**

Coordinator of Worship

### **Sr. Betty Toohig**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

### **Anthony Trombino**

Business Manager

## *Our Lady of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, New York 11795

## Celebrating Our Parish Life



Parish 50th Anniversary Mass  
12:30 PM  
November 19, 2006  
Celebrant Bishop William Murphy

## Empowering Our Minds and Spirits

### Our Lady of Lourdes 50th Anniversary “Golden Jubilee Journal”

The *Golden Jubilee Journal* will portray Our Lady of Lourdes illustrious parish history of the past fifty wonderful years! We offer all parishioners and friends an opportunity to express their best wishes, congratulations, or to memorialize loved ones with a journal message.

If you are interested in placing an ad in our *Golden Jubilee Journal*, stop by the Parish Office or call 661.3224. Fill out the form on page 6 with your journal message and return it with payment to OLL Church no later than October 30.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please call Lori Walsh at 661.3224.



*Come Celebrate  
as a Parish Family  
50th Anniversary Jubilee Dinner*

*Friday, November 17, 2006  
7:00 PM-Midnight  
Southward Ho Country Club*

*Price \$100 per person  
Tickets are on sale now in the Parish Office  
Seating arrangements will be accommodated*

*Jubilee Dinner tickets will also be on sale after Masses in the  
All-Purpose Room beginning the weekend of October 21/22.*

*Raffle tickets will also be available for sale -  
Golden Raffle tickets and Silver Raffle tickets.*

## 50th Anniversary “Golden Jubilee Journal”



The *Golden Jubilee Journal* will become a lasting memory of our anniversary year.

The journal, which will be available to all our parishioners, will contain pictures and history of our first 50 years, as well as messages and greetings from friends of OLL.

Please consider becoming a part of our anniversary journal.

You can reserve a page or part of a page in memory of a loved one, to send your own message of gratitude to our community, or simply to acknowledge your presence and support of our community.

Signed (Name): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Journal Size 8 1/2" x 11"

Inside Cover (2)\* \$1,500.00

*\*call for availability*

2 Page Spread \$1,000.00

Gold Full Page \$ 750.00

Silver Full Page \$ 500.00

Full Page \$ 300.00

Half Page \$ 175.00

Quarter Page \$ 125.00

Eighth Page \$ 75.00

Sponsor's Name

Listing \$ 25.00

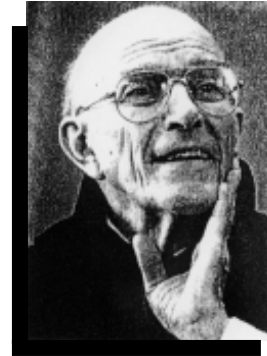
Print your message below or attach a copy of your message to this page and send to the Parish Office.

Please mail this page along with your check to: Our Lady of Lourdes Church  
Journal Committee  
455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, NY 11795

*We ask that you submit your message as early as possible. The deadline for our anniversary journal is October 30, 2006. Any questions, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.*

## Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

You are invited to an afternoon with Fr. Thomas Keating, founder and chairman of Contemplative Outreach. We will celebrate the **20th Anniversary of Contemplative Outreach on Long Island.**



Join us for a Sunday afternoon presentation and book signing reception with Fr. Thomas Keating and Fr. Carl Arico. The program will include Centering Prayer and a brief video presentation about Contemplative Outreach, Ltd. The celebration will be at **Our Lady of Lourdes Church on Sunday, October 22 from 2:30 PM until 5:30 PM.**

This will be a perfect opportunity for those who do not know what Centering Prayer is all about - come learn. There is no charge for the afternoon. For further information, please contact Diane at 587.0966, Betty at 586.6608, or Gloria at 265.8021.

### Adult Faith Formation

#### Doctor's Visit 101 -

#### How can I make the most of my doctor's visit

**Tuesday, October 24 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM in the Parish Center**  
*presented by Dr. Peter Calves, M.D.*

This presentation will help you become an "expert" on how to make those few precious minutes in the doctor's office *yours* to help you manage your health...or to help you as "caretaker" manage the health of your loved one.

### Ministry of Family Healing

#### Nights of Prayer and Reflection

**beginning Thursday, October 26 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center**

*led by Marcy Chapuisat and Marge Valenti*

The gospels describe Mary as being "full of Grace" a grace and friendship with God that would carry her through moments of joy and sadness in her life.

On this evening, we will reflect on how we can be open to God and become full of grace ourselves. Can we discover a strength that will carry us through the joyful and sorrowful events in our lives and especially in our families?

We will begin with a story of losing and finding, the day that Joseph and Mary lost Jesus only to discover him teaching in the temple. There are so many stories of losing and finding in every part of our lives and we will explore them as opportunities to become full of grace.

**Daily Mass**

8 AM

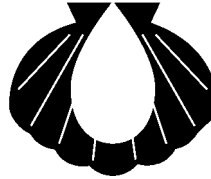
**Weekend Masses**

**Saturday:** 5 PM

**Sunday:** 8 AM, 9:30 AM,  
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

**Reconciliation**

**Saturday:** 4 PM - 4:45 PM



***Baptisms***

*Katalina Maria Villalba*

Albert and Kathleen

*Emma Irene Formica*

Antonio and Barbara

*Louis Robert Scalesse, Jr.*

Louis and Milissa

*Sarah Avery Wagner*

Craig and Carrie

***Upcoming Marriages***

*Elizabeth Contessa, OLL and*

*Joseph DeGennaro, St. Joseph's, Babylon*

**Rosary/Novena**

**Rosary:**

Daily after 8 AM Mass

**Miraculous Medal Novena:**

Monday after 8 AM Mass

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):**

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

**Anointing of the Sick**

Throughout the liturgical year. If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

**Baptism**

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

**Marriage**

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

**Support Groups**

**Alcoholics Anonymous**

Monday and Tuesday at  
8 PM and Saturday at  
7 PM in Lourdes Hall-  
convent lower level.

**ALANON**

Each Wednesday at  
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-  
convent lower level.



# Remembering...

## Monday, October 9

*St. Denis and companions, martyrs*

8:00 AM Emma Bielli

## Tuesday, October 10

8:00 AM Frank DeLeo & Michael DeLeo



## Wednesday, October 11

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

## *Rest In Peace*

*Lyvia Cupo*

*Margaret Lynch*

*Dennis O'Keefe*

*Deborah Hormuth*

*Marie Barraga*

## Thursday, October 12

8:00 AM Peter Reehil

## Friday, October 13

8:00 AM Frank Monroe

## Saturday, October 14

8:00 AM Patricia McLaughlin, Pasquale DeVivo,  
Robert J. Hrubes, Emilio Ceribelli, Jaime Pereira,  
Otilia Correia, Marie Valentino, Edward J. Reese

5:00 PM John Lovari

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

## Sunday, October 15

8:00 AM Vincent & Florence Viola  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

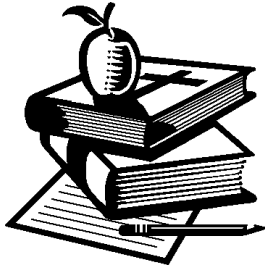
9:30 AM Frances Amodeo  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

11:00 AM Rusty Etts  
*Fr. Ed Dowling*

12:30 PM Anna, John, Lucy, & Joseph Terito  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Claire Smith, Rick Munkwitz,  
Lawrence Zurlo, Eileen Okurowski, Rose Guerin,  
Robert Hutchins, Elizabeth Lee Ganci, Liberta Brusca  
Edward Wernikowski, Margaret J. Lonergan  
*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

## OLL School News



The Fashion Show Committee Needs You!

Our Lady of Lourdes School will be hosting a Fashion Show on Thursday evening, March 29, 2007. This event will be held at La Grange Inn and includes dinner, dancing and of course many prizes and raffles – this is an event not to be missed!

Tickets will go on sale in January 2007 and will be open to the school and parish on a first come, first served basis. Remember, this affair sells out quickly so be sure to watch for information regarding ticket sales in our weekly church bulletin.

Our Lady of Lourdes School is reaching out to all our school parents and parishioners for donations of any kind to help support this important event. All donations can be dropped off in the school office labeled “Fashion Show”. Make sure you include your name, address and phone number so we can properly thank you for your donation.

Anyone interested in helping with the Fashion Show, your assistance is greatly appreciated. Whether you prefer to be out in the crowds or behind the scenes, we have an opportunity for you! The show can’t go on without your help! Please contact Kate Newman with any questions regarding our Fashion Show 2007 at 587-6948 or e-mail at [bounceusa@aol.com](mailto:bounceusa@aol.com).

The School Mass for the month of October will be celebrated on **Wednesday, October 11 at 9 AM.**  
All are invited and welcome!

## Fr. Joe Lukaszewski Memorial Garden



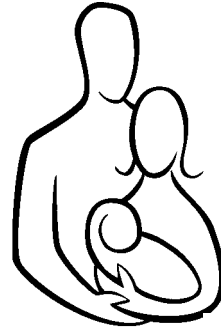
We are once again accepting requests for bricks for the Fr. Joe Lukaszewski Memorial Garden walkway. The memorial bricks are \$150 each. The bricks are scheduled to be engraved for installation during the first week of November.

If you would like to memorialize a brick as a remembrance of a special event, our parish jubilee anniversary year, or as a memorial for a loved one, please stop by the Parish Office or call 661.3224 for further information.

## Blessing for Couples Hoping to Begin a Family Sunday, October 22

12:30 PM Mass

Looking forward to beginning a family can be a joyful time in a couple's life. It can also be a difficult time for couples who are waiting to conceive or to adopt. We invite all hopeful parents to this Mass to receive blessing and encouragement in their longing to become parents. We understand how important this hope is and we want you to be welcome and uplifted by the prayers of our community. Please feel free to invite anyone who is hoping for children, whether they are parishioners or not, to come to this Mass.



### *Did you know?*

St. Gerard Majella, whose feast day is celebrated on October 16, is the patron saint of expectant parents. After praying for a woman who feared the loss of her child St. Gerard became the saint of expectant mothers.

*O good St. Gerard, powerful intercessor  
before the throne of God,  
wonder-worker of our day,  
We call upon you and seek your help.  
While on earth,  
you always fulfilled God's designs;  
help us, too, always do God's holy will.  
Beseech the master of life,  
from whom all parenthood proceeds,  
to bless us with children,  
that we may raise up children to God in this life  
and heirs to the kingdom of God's glory in the life to come.*

## “The Six”

Our Six Committee is always looking for people and ideas to make our Sunday night even better! We are in need of not only ministers (lectors, servers, Extraordinary Ministers and ushers) but people who can come up with great ideas! Our next meeting s Sunday, October 29 at 5 PM. (*before “The Six”*). Please come and join us-All Are Welcome!



The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, October 9** in observance of Columbus Day. The Parish Office will reopen on Tuesday, October 10 at 9 AM.



## 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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When discussing divorce, it has become almost commonplace to recite the statistic “50 percent of all marriages end in divorce.” In actuality, the divorce rate in the United States peaked at 53 percent in 1981. Since then, it has consistently dropped every year to its current level (as of 2004) to nearly 37 percent. Some may say this is due to fewer marriages, but a less cynical person may point to an increasingly faithful young society.

Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees about divorce. When Jesus asked them in return what their law stated, they answered that Moses allowed a man to divorce his wife. However, Jesus reasoned, the union of a man and a woman is created by God; we, then, have no right to destroy this creation. While the laws of this country may allow divorce, it would be interesting to study how many occur between people who have little or no faith in their lives.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we are taught that divorce is immoral in that it brings disorder not only into the family but also into society. (CCC 2385) The acrimony between two embittered spouses can spill over into other relationships; children, if involved, can be torn emotionally as they must divide their time and their affections. We pray today that those facing difficulties in their marriage can overcome their challenges through faith.

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### Readings for the Week of October 8, 2006

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<b>Sunday:</b>	Gn 2:18-24/ Heb 2:9-11/ Mk 10:2-16 <i>or 10:2-12</i>
<b>Monday:</b>	Gal 1:6-12/ Lk 10:25-37
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Gal 1:13-24/ Lk 10:38-42
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/ Lk 11:1-4
<b>Thursday:</b>	Gal 3:1-5 / Lk 11:5-13
<b>Friday:</b>	Gal 3:7-14/ Lk 11:15-26
<b>Saturday:</b>	Gal 3:22-29/ Lk 11:27-28
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Wis 7:7-11/ Heb 4:12-13/ Mk 10:17-30 <i>or 10:17-27</i>

## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Monenna Kennedy*.  
If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the  
Parish Office at 661.3224.

## Communion Calls

Communion brought to those who are homebound.  
Contact the Parish Office at 661.3224.



## Pastoral Care of the Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names  
of parishioners who:

- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited  
by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.

## Pray for Our Sick

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers ...

*Pat Bonavita, Patrick Bowers, Thomas Brennan, Jo Brogan, Christian Bullock,  
Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Richard Cullen, Rose Fabozzi, Jason Fisher,  
Cathy Gallagher, Marie Ippolito, Kathleen Kerrigan, Nicholas Krepil,  
Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Benjy Margulies, Michele McCann,  
Peter McCann, Sr., Brian Monahan, Joseph Parro, Rudolph Parson,  
Susan Percoco, Joe Radosti, Fred Ruggio, Rose Serragano, Dorothy Sullivan,  
Janet Taino, Loretta Vitale*

## Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the  
Middle East conflict.

They are:

**Daniel D'Arienzo-US Army**

**John Finn-US Army**

**Paul McEvoy-US Army**

**Michael Mallimo-US Army**

**Peter Provenzano-US Army**

**James Stultz- US Army**

**John Thompson-US Marines**

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our  
Parish Book of Intentions.

## Parish Outreach

### Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.  
For information/assistance call 661.9262.

**Our Lady of Lourdes Bereavement** Our parish support group for those who have lost a loved one—  
If interested, please call the Parish Outreach Office at 661.9262.

*Our pantry is running low on the following items...*  
cereal, coffee, soup, and tea.



baked beans  
boxed potatoes  
boxed rice  
canned meat  
cookies  
crackers  
hot chocolate  
mayonnaise

## Respect Life Month 2006

This is a time to acknowledge, with gratitude and a profound sense of wonder, the mystery of human life: Because each of us is created, loved and redeemed by God, every human life is priceless, deserving respect and protection. We pause, too, to thank those who help foster respect for life – in pregnancy care centers, hospices, legislative assemblies, homes, schools and workplaces. Because of their efforts we can point to continuing signs of progress toward a culture in which human life is cherished.

*Cardinal William H. Keeler  
Chairman, Committee for Pro-Life Activities  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*

## Social Action Alerts

*NYSCATHOLIC.ORG*

We would like everyone in our parish to visit the New York State Catholic Conference's website at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org) and register today. By doing this, you'll receive regular e-mail updates about important issues and learn ways you can make a real difference in the life of the Church and the world.

## Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of October will be on **Wednesday, October 11 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.



## Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in front of the **Blessed Sacrament**.

## Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday** (*except the first Friday of the month*) **at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM**.

All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.



## OLL Church Website

Please take a moment and visit our beautiful church website for the latest information about our Parish Jubilee Celebrations- 50th Anniversary Jubilee Dinner, Empowering Our Minds and Spirit, the recent mission trip to El Salvador, and other happenings in our parish. [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

## Bereavement Support

### Courageous Hearts

A program for children who have lost a loved one through death on **Saturday, October 14 at St. John Nepomucene Parish Center Meeting Room, Bohemia.**  
Call 631.205.1842 for registration and information.

### General Bereavement

Eight week support group for adults who lost a loved one **begins Wednesday, October 11 at St. Mary's Parish, East Islip, 7 - 9PM.** No fee.

Registration is required and death must have occurred prior to July 11, 2006. For information and/or registration call the rectory at 631.581.4266, ext. 100.

### Widows and Widowers

Support group for loss of spouse **begins Tuesday, October 10 at Holy Cross Parish Center, Fr. Joe Room, Nesconset, 7:30 until 9:30 PM.** Call Parish Outreach to register at 631.265.2200.

### Financial Summary

#### October 1, 2006

Weekly Collection	\$ 15,650.85
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (5,350.00)

**Respect Life** \$ 2,652.00

*The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$21,000.*



# Eucharistic Etiquette



## “Etiquette at the Eucharistic Table— To Help Us Give Thanks and Remember”

*Msgr. Christopher Heller, Pastor of St. Joseph’s Parish in Babylon, recently published an article in Summit and Source, our diocesan liturgical newsletter. We’re going to reprint excerpts of it in the upcoming weeks. Take some time to reflect on his words and the questions/suggestions that follow:*

6. Let’s remember to give the ministers who distribute the Eucharist a break! Let’s indicate it clearly whether we’re receiving in the hand or on the tongue when we arrive at the front for Communion, and NOT wait until after the minister has said “The Body of Christ.” Even after many years of distributing the Eucharist, it’s still difficult sometimes for us to tell how a person wishes to receive.

### Questions/Suggestions for Reflection

- How do you receive communion each week?
- Do you clearly indicate it to the minister?
- How can you improve upon that?

## 2006 Catholic Ministries Appeal

*“Touching the lives of many through Diocesan and Parish Ministries and services.”*

### Parish Status as of September 12, 2006

Parish Goal	\$118,600
Pledged Amount	\$ 93,837
# of Pledges	406
Average Pledge	\$ 231



*Your participation provides support to the many programs and services that help further the mission of Jesus Christ here on Long Island. Please consider supporting this important initiative, as it will help us continue to do the work of the Lord here on Long Island. To show your support for our parish and Diocese, please contact our Parish Office at 661.3224.*

## Dark Nights of the Soul

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

When Therese of Lisieux entered the Carmelites at age fifteen, she tried to anticipate the difficulties she would face there. She knew that many would see this as the misguided notion of an immature child, entering a convent to be with her older sisters who were already there. She knew too that because of her age she would draw unhealthy reactions from every side and would either be doted-on as the darling little child or scorned as the spoiled brat. She knew too that the monastic routine would be hard, spartan living conditions, early rising for prayer, poor food, inadequate heat. Nor was she naive about the petty human tensions she would find there. She had prepared herself for all of this and felt she was ready for whatever awaited her.

But dark nights of the soul strike where you least expect, where you're vulnerable and don't know it. She had anticipated all the things that might shake her foundations, except the one that actually did. Not long after she entered Carmel, her father became mentally ill and his personality changed completely. This was particularly devastating for Therese since, not only was there no understanding of his condition as a disease then, but her father had been, to that moment, such an exceptional, faith-filled, gentle, kind-hearted man, who had doted on her, his youngest daughter, that he had been, for her, the incarnation of God's gentle, steady love.

Therese knew the truth of God's love because she knew the truth of her father's love. God could be trusted because her father could be trusted. Her father's illness turned that upside down. Not only did she lose her father, but she was left with questions that rocked the foundations of her beliefs: If a love that is so beautiful and trustworthy can become something so totally other, what can be trusted? If she had been so wrong about her father, might she be just as wrong about God, about faith, about things in general?

It took Therese a long time to come to peace with this, but eventually she did and, afterwards, her faith was more mature. Undergoing this crisis freed her from much false romanticism and illusion.

What she underwent in this crisis is what, classically, Christian mysticism calls a "dark night of the soul". A dark night of the soul is a crisis that shakes our deepest conviction about how God, faith, the world, and our own personalities work. But, by doing this, these dark nights also shake us in our complacency, expose our illusions

and false romanticism, show us where we most need God, and invite us to a deeper level of maturity.

Scripture has its own language for "dark nights of the soul". In the Hebrew scriptures we see that virtually every defeat, every drought, every humiliation, and every disappointment that Israel experiences is interpreted as somehow coming from God's hand and coming to her as an invitation to repentance, to a deeper relationship with God, to more mature faith. The Gospels speak of Jesus having a crisis of soul in Gethsemane ("he sweated blood") and then again on the cross when he felt as if God had abandoned him. In some wonderful imagery in his Second letter to the Corinthians, Paul speaks of his outer nature as crumpling away, even as his inner nature is becoming more firm. That aptly captures what a dark night of the soul does, both in terms of pain and effect, it cracks our outer shell, even as it firms up what's deepest inside us.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, in a letter to his provincial at a particularly painful time in his life when he was being silenced by the church and shunned by some of his former colleagues, wrote that, because of this, some of his old certitudes were crumpling, but, also because of this, at a deeper level, he was becoming more "riveted" to Christ and to his commitment to community and service. That's a pretty apt description of what was happening to Jesus on the cross.

The mystics speak of these "dark nights" as "coming from God", though they don't mean that God actively causes the set of circumstances that trigger them. God doesn't cause illness, rejection, failure, or any of the other things that can rip our lives apart. But God speaks through these events, just as God spoke to Therese through her Father's illness, and just as Jesus saw his Father as sending him "the cup" that he had to drink on Good Friday.

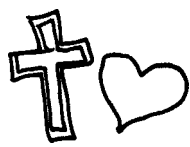
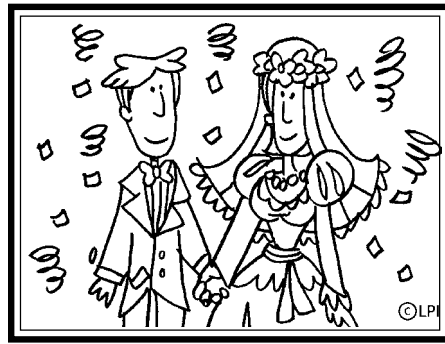
Every one of us we will undergo "dark nights of the soul". It's important to understand this because our natural tendency in any crises (illness, rejection, failure, disappointment, exclusion, broken relationships) is to see only the negative and not see that, in this crumpling, there is a needed purification and there is an invitation from God to a new maturity.

It's bad when the storm shows up in our lives, but, it's worse if the storm never shows.

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*Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website [www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

In the beginning, when God created Adam and Eve, he created marriage to be good and holy. God wanted husbands and wives to love God and to help one another. Because of sin, some marriages started to fall apart. Divorce is difficult for everyone. God always wants marriage to be good and holy.



### Mission for the Week

Pray for kids and grown-ups you know who have been hurt by divorce, when parents are not living with each other. Ask God to heal their broken hearts.



### Word Unscramble

Unscramble words from today's Gospel reading:

Jesus  
Moses  
law

husband  
wife  
married

divorce  
papers  
joined

Jssue

J e s u s

marrdie

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

dvrccioe

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

Mssoe

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

hsbndua

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

jndoie

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

wfie

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

lwa

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

pprsae

\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_

©LPi



Dear God,

help people who  
are married to  
love you and care  
for each other.

## CSJ 150th Anniversary Celebrations

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, NY invite everyone to join us at the following event as we conclude our year of celebration marking 150 years of service in the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre. On **Thursday, October 26** we will have our **Gala Dinner Dance** at the **Garden City Hotel**. For further information, contact S. Mary Ann Crimmins at 631.273.1187, ext. 25 or email to [mcrimminscsj@aol.com](mailto:mcrimminscsj@aol.com).

## Catholic Brownie Religious Awards

The *Ave Maria* and *Family of God* Religious Medals are available for all Catholic Brownie Girl Scouts. Working with a parent or guardian, the Brownie can learn about Mary, the Mother of God, her family and do things to help people. She then receives a special medal in recognition of her work. For information, call the Diocesan Catholic Scouting Office at 516.678.5800, ext. 245.

## 2006 Dominican Gala

Dominican Sisters of Amityville celebrate 153 years of service. Many of you know the Dominican Sisters of Amityville through their ministry in schools, health facilities, parish affiliations, etc. This year they celebrate 153 years of service. **The 2006 Dominican Gala** commemorates their years of service and will be held on **Friday evening, October 27** at the **Garden City Hotel**. All proceeds benefit the many ministries of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville. For further information about raffles, commemorative program and more, contact Sr. Eileen Nolan, OP at 631.842.6000 ext. 238.

## Married Couples

Fall is a beautiful season full of color and crisp fresh air.. A Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is like autumn because it's a weekend full of fresh crisp air, new beginnings and a time to rejoice in the beauty of your marriage and family. The next weekend is scheduled for November 3-5 at the Melville Marriott. Registration is limited. For more information or to register call 1.866.499.6354.

## Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Fr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island.

Next Sunday's theme is: **"Discovery (Columbus Day)."** Don't forget to tune in! Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com). Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELE CARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

## Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens invites you to an Introductory Workshop to be held at St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Selden on Saturday, October 14 from 9:30 AM until 2:30 PM. In this introductory session, we learn the history and the essentials of centering prayer. The program includes six follow-up evening sessions to learn more about this disciplined method of prayer. For further information and registration, please call Diane Garretson at 631.587.0966.

## Military Bridge

The Columbiettes of Our Lady of Grace Church is hosting a Military Bridge card game on Friday, October 20 in Fr. Shanahan Hall. Doors open at 6:45 PM. Military Bridge will be from 7:30 PM until 10 PM. There will be door prizes, raffles, refreshments and more. For information call Ann at 422.6235.

<b>CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSES</b>		
<b>You are invited to explore the benefits of a Catholic High School Education</b>		
Please feel free to visit our schools during the times and dates listed below.		
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>TIME:</b>	<b>SCHOOL:</b>
<b>OCTOBER 2006</b>		
<b>SATURDAY 14</b>	9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	SACRED HEART ACADEMY
	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	KELLENBERG MEMORIAL H.S.
	2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	CHAMINADE H.S.
<b>SUNDAY 15</b>	10:30 AM – 2:00 PM	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST DIOC. H.S.
<b>SATURDAY 21</b>	12:00 PM – 2:00 PM	ACADEMY OF ST. JOSEPH
<b>SUNDAY 22</b>	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	McGANN-MERCY DIOC. H.S.
Applications available in the Religious Education office and OLL School office.		

## Model Train and Toy Show

St. Vincent de Paul Model Train and Toy Show, Elmont will be held on Sunday, October 29 between the hours of 10 AM and 3 PM. Featured at Lionel, LGB, and American Flyer trains and accessories. \$5 at the door for adults, children under 12 free when accompanied by adult., seniors are \$4. Breakfast and lunch are available. For more information please call 516.352.2127.

## St. John of God School Reunion

We welcome all graduates and students that ever attended St. John of God School. The reunion will be held on Saturday, October 14 beginning with 5 PM Mass. See the new look of your school now known as Our Lady of Providence Regional School. Cocktail party will be held at the Knights of Columbus beginning at 7 PM followed by the reunion celebration and benefit for Our Lady of Providence School. Price per person is \$75. For tickets and/or information please call the Parish Center at 234.6535.