

BEFORE THE LAMB

MULTITUDE STANDING



WITH PALM BRANCHES.”

REVELATION 7:9

“THERE WAS A

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 29, 2007



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 our Parish Office.

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
fax: 661-7143
website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200
Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM
email: 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

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262
Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224
(Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment)
email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

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

Mary McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorcia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Michael Abbruscato
Salomon Acosta
Regina Ann Cioffi
Jane Desthers
Stephen Frodell
Jen Gallagher
Anne Kerrigan
Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)
Mary McMahan
Doreen Spiller
Mary Steck
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

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.

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.*

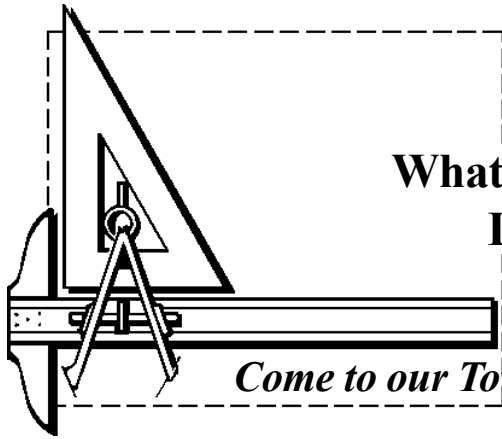
***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***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.*

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795



What Might Our Lady Of Lourdes Look Like 5 Years From Now?

Come to our Town Meeting on May 14 and find out.

Since last Easter, almost 600 of our parishioners attended more than 40 listening sessions to contribute their ideas about the future of our parish buildings and grounds. The results were compiled by the design team from the University of Detroit Mercy. They brought our ideas together with their expertise in design and architecture to present us a plan for the future.

On May 14 at 7:30 PM, the plan will be presented to our parish.

Join us that evening to:

- Meet the team from Detroit Mercy
- See the results of all our listening sessions
- Hear the plan described in detail
- Discuss the plan with the design team, our pastoral team, and pastoral council.

Living Liturgy – Easter 2007

We celebrate and believe in the GREAT 50 DAYS that is Easter!

Easter and the sense of new life, new beginnings and new hope it brings is not over today. Now we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter- from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. The Church tells us that this season should be celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one “Great Sunday.”

The Six Committee

Come join our Six Committee – as we continue to build and develop our Sunday night Mass! This is a small group that meets only a few times a year and comes up with many great ideas. Are you creative? Maybe not, but are you willing to help? Have an idea or two? Just want to be part of it all?

Our next meeting is Sunday, April 29 at 5 PM in the Parish Center.

Summer Evening Prayer

It’s almost summer...and time for Summer Evening Prayer!

OLL’s annual tradition of gathering for Evening Prayer on the “Great Lawn” will continue in 2007, and we need to get working on new ideas, activities and events to make this year’s celebration the best ever!

Our first meeting to do this is on May 7 at 7 PM in the Library.

This group only meets a few times in May and June so it’s not a “forever” commitment.

Think about it – maybe this is something for you! All are welcome!



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish May Crowning



**9:30 AM Mass
Next Sunday – May 6**

**Come and pray with our Rosary Christian Mothers
as we honor the Blessed Mother
after the 9:30 AM Mass next Sunday, May 6.**

**At the end of the Mass we will process to the front of the Rectory,
at our statue of the Virgin Mary, and gather for
a decade of the Rosary with the Rosary Christian Mothers
and give honor to our Blessed Mother!**

Hospitality to follow after Mass on the Great Lawn!

Adult Faith Formation

upcoming course...

Acts of the Apostles...The Sequel to the Gospel of Luke

Take a journey of discovery with the apostles and the early Church community.

The people, places, events shaping the future.

- The birth of the church-uncovering the meaning of Pentecost
- Spreading the Good News-becoming missionaries
- Internal and external struggles-acceptance and rejection inside the new community and in the world.

Take a journey of discovery with the Church in our time.

The people, places, events shaping our time and our future.

- What is the meaning of Pentecost for our time?
- What is our mission today?
- What do the struggles of the early Church teach us for our time?

This course is scheduled to be held on Tuesdays, May 1, 8, and 15 from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM in the Parish Center.

Our presenter is Claire Stiglic, MA, former Assistant Director of the Pastoral Formation Institute.

Pre-Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, between 9AM – 5 PM and 7PM – 9PM, at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org. Fee: \$25 [No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School Tuition. Fees may vary appropriately.]



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Throughout the past year, our parish family has journeyed with those seeking Baptism, reception and full initiation into the life of the Church. At the Great Vigil, we celebrated the Baptism of *Jenna Anderson, Jason Cohen, Jessica Dienstag, and Katharine Farrell*.

We also celebrated the Confirmation of the newly baptized and *Angela Cirulnick, Stephen DeLise, Jr., Roseanne Hicks, Thomas Hicks and Andrea Hofler-James*.

In many ways, their journey has become our journey. Their excitement and enthusiasm has inspired and excited us about our faith journey!

Their journey still continues as they enter The Period of Mystagogy which lasts from Easter Sunday until the completion of the Easter season, fifty days later, on Pentecost Sunday, completes the initiation process. Those who have just shared in the sacraments of initiation are now called Neophytes. During this period of Easter joy, they reflect on what they have just gone through and look to the future as to how they can now share in the mission of Christ who came to bring salvation and life to the whole world. This period of time reminds the whole church that life in Christ constantly calls us to grow and to look for new ways to live the life of grace, personally and together.

Let's continue to pray for and with them this Easter season!

Holy Communion 2007

Beginning this weekend, our parish's second graders will be receiving the Eucharist for the first time. Their catechists and families have worked so hard to give them a good foundation about this most beautiful and life giving sacrament! It is probably a good time for each of us to do a little Communion "Check-Up" for ourselves and how we prepare to receive the Eucharist each Sunday!



Check Up Point #2: The Communion Bow

We are called now to make a small bow of the head before receiving communion. This is a clear sign that we have prepared well and are aware of what we are about to receive – of what we are about to become!

As you come up for communion, you should bow your head while the person in front of you is receiving the Eucharist.

As we seek to be models to those receiving First Holy Communion, let's be aware of the ways we can make ourselves and others more conscious of this most powerful sacrament.

Religious Education

There is...

"Rescue Closing"

Sunday, May 20-6 PM Mass

All 8th graders in our Parish Family, their Sponsors and parents share in celebrating their time together. The eighth graders and their Sponsors have been getting together and doing service for others.

and... of course

Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday May 18 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Parish Center

Friday June 22 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Parish Center

Don't forget... there's something for everyone!

All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family... come play volleyball, basketball.

We have Guitar Hero 2, Dance Revolution, music and more... **DON'T MISS IT!**

also...

Grades 9/10/11/12

ALL ARE WELCOME! High School Chaperones help with set-up, participate in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc., and assist the Adult Chaperones.

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

All Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

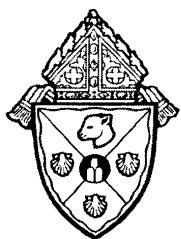
or

Wednesday, May 9 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

or

Thursday, May 10 at 10 AM in the cafeteria.





2007 Catholic Ministries Appeal

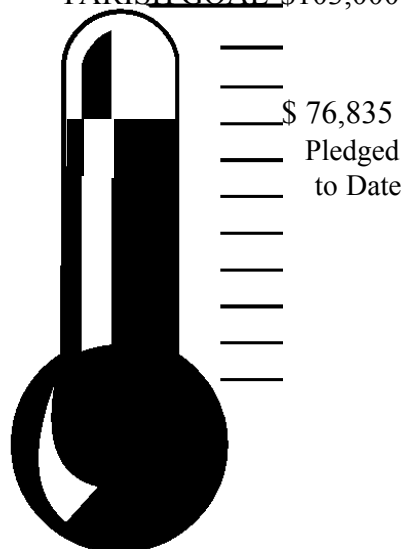
The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

The key ingredient to the success of our appeal is participation. In order to reach our goal, we need to have every family participate in the appeal to the best of their ability. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the pledge card below and place it in the collection basket.

Pastoral Outreach

Pastoral Outreach helps connect the Church on Long Island to thousands of people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It helps bring together our youth and young adults, and ministers to those who are suffering and alone. These programs include the Office of Hospital Ministry, where more than 300,000 people are served in our local hospitals every year, as well as the Office of Worship, the Respect Life Office and Prison Ministry. It also encompasses the Office of New Evangelization, whose ministries are designed to welcome, support and help evangelize people from many different backgrounds to our faith. In addition, it supports our young people through campus ministries and supports our adults through Renewal Services with local prayer groups and Healing Masses. New Evangelization also supports our Mission in the Dominican Republic, which serves the religious, spiritual and health needs of more than 45,000 people. Pastoral Outreach receives 20 percent of all of the funds raised from the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

PARISH GOAL \$103,000



For more information, please call 516.379.5210, extension 2 or email to www.drvc.org/cma.html.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO BOX 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2007 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Supporting the Community Around Us

TO PROVIDE FUNDS I/WE AGREE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

PLEDGE \$ _____ INITIAL PAYMENT \$ _____ BALANCE \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____

A GUIDE TO GIVING	
PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$5,000	\$500
2,500	250
1,500	150
1,000	100
500	50
300	30
150	15
OTHER \$ _____	
EVERY GIFT COUNTS!	

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal
Thank you for your support

Parish Pilgrimage 2007

Travel this summer to Montreal and Quebec. Experience a pilgrimage that brings a wonderful fellowship among us. Travel dates are scheduled for July 9 - July 16, 2007.

In Montreal: enjoy Montreal Harbor, the Basilica of Notre Dame, Botanical Gardens, the famous Oratory of St. Joseph.



In Quebec: experience the largest French speaking city in North America. Visit the Basilica of St. Anne de Beaupre, stroll down world known St. Catherine Street and experience the Chateau Frontenac. As we travel, we will have occasions to celebrate Mass with our own Father Bob presiding and Deacon John assisting and our fellow travelers will have the opportunity to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.

There are a limited number of places available. If you would like to receive the travel itinerary and make a reservation, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

5th Annual El Salvador Mission Trip

June 30-July 5, 2007:

Join us for a week-long retreat among the poor! This experience, which is especially geared for teens ages 12-18, will enable you to share your faith, culture, and hospitality with the people of our Sister Parish of Tacuba, El Salvador.

We will spend a week walking with the people, learning about their lives, and running a mini-vacation Bible camp for the children there!

The cost of the trip will be approximately \$850. For more information, email jengallagher@ollchurch.org.

Sixth Annual OLL Vacation Bible Camp

Save the dates: July 23-27.

This year's theme is FLIGHT Camp!! (Fun-Learning-In-God's-Holy-Time) and rumor has it that OLL will be visited by all kinds of FLYING things that week!

Vacation Bible Camp is for students in nursery - grade 5 and runs daily from 9 AM-12:30 PM. Campers learn through interactive Bible stories, arts and crafts, games, super science center, and lots of those crazy camp songs! Students in sixth grade or older can serve as volunteer counselors.

Camp registration forms will run in the bulletin beginning the first week in June. Be sure to save the dates and plan to join us for a fun week. Up, up, and away!

Daily Mass

8 AM

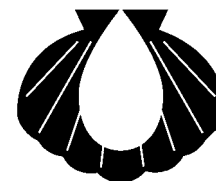
Weekend Masses

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

River Adrian Skye Ossana

Steven and Susan

Ethan Benjamin Blue Ossana

Steven and Susan

Searra Summer Rain Ossana

Steven and Susan

Easter Flowers

M/M William King

Mr. Eugene Spano



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.

Rosary/Novena

Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

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.

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.

Remembering...

Monday, April 30

8:00 AM Andrew (Al) Velten

Tuesday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker

8:00 AM Jack & Marilyn Meehan

Wednesday, May 2

St. Athanasius, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Pat Fasano

Thursday, May 3

Ss. Philip and James, apostles

8:00 AM Salvatore Falci

Friday, May 4

8:00 AM Lydia Ann Olsen

Saturday, May 5

8:00 AM Jo Brogan, Vincent McCarthy, Martin Spillane, Blessed Virgin Mary, Emily Lutz, Special Intentions to the Blessed Mother, Vincent Sperra, Sadie Tirisocca, Sister Imelda Buetow, In Thanksgiving to Sacred Heart of Jesus & Mary

5:00 PM John Lovari

Fr. Stan Chukwube

Sunday, May 6

8:00 AM Ralph Marotta

Fr. John Asomugha

9:30 AM Dolores Borman

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Rocco Teresa

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Nicola & Anna Santa Andriola

Fr. Ed Dowling

6:00 PM

People of the Parish, Nicholas Spinelli, Rick Munkwitz, Josephine Lorento, Philip DeVirgilis, Fred Ruggio, Lindsey Sangiorgio, Florence Crawford, Rose Ann Diffendale, Jennie A. Quigley, Angelo Artuso

Fr. Mike Vetrano



Rest In Peace

Andrea Berry

Rose DiMaio

Virginia Adamo

Gennaro Leonetti

Carmen Andriano

Celebrating Sacraments



Food
Pantry
Needs

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



Let Them Eat Cake!

Senior Circle Annual Cake Sale to benefit Outreach.

Cakes, cookies and delicious baked goods will be on sale after each Liturgy the weekend of April 28/29.

Sweet tooth required!

Buy a cake and support Outreach-

*Whatever you did
for the least of my
brothers or sisters,
you did for me.*

Matthew 25:40

A donation has been made in the name of

*Jo Brogan
Margaret Miller
Frank & Tina Aparo*

to Our Lady of Lourdes Church Parish Outreach.

These gifts will be used to assist the needy
of our parish.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Pat Wissing*.
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 to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

*Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Christian Bullock,
Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Jason Fisher,
William Fortcher, Adam Ippolito, Brigid Kinney, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang,
Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr.,
Bryan Monahan, John O'Grady, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Louise Posanti,
Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale,
Terry Whalley, Maureen Wright*

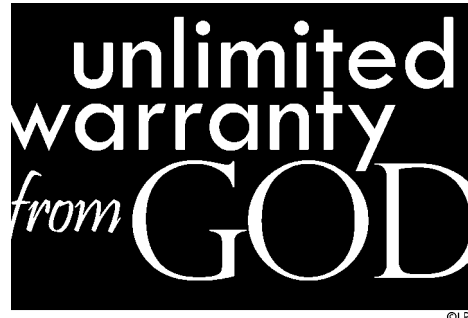
Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

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.

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.



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Have you ever purchased an item advertised to last for many years, only to find that it came with a very limited warranty? Almost assuredly the item will fall apart shortly after the warranty has expired. The reality is that the manufacturer has sacrificed quality in hopes of getting another sale down the road. Instead, the manufacturer has probably sacrificed the trust of a customer, who may look elsewhere for something better.

Today's Gospel reading from John is what one could consider an unlimited warranty from God. Jesus makes the firm, unequivocal statement regarding his believers: "I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand." What a beautiful promise, and all that is asked of us is to love one another, be good, and give thanks to God. How much easier could it be?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the teachings of Jesus fulfill the promises made since the time of Abraham, and are brought together in the Beatitudes (CCC 1716). Jesus doesn't just promise the kingdom of heaven to the righteous; he guarantees it to those who are poor in spirit, sad for the wrongs of the world, gentle in nature, hungry for righteousness, merciful to the helpless, pure in heart, peaceful, and persecuted for their faith. Where do you find yourself in relation to God's promise?

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Readings for the Week of April 29, 2007

Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30
Monday: Acts 11:1-18/Jn 10:1-10
Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26/Jn 10:22-30
Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a/Jn 12:44-50
Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14
Friday: Acts 13:26-33/Jn 14:1-6
Saturday: Acts 13:44-52/Jn 14:7-14
Next Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Financial Summary

April 22, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,386.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,614.00)

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

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:



Brian Barthel-US Army
Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines
Frederick Wm. Ellis-US Army
John Finn-US Army
Armand J. LeComte-US Marines
Michael Mallimo-US Army
Peter Provenzano-US Army

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

Our whole parish family rejoices with the D'Arienzo family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty.

Daniel D'Arienzo -US Army has returned to the United States safe and sound. Thank you, Daniel, for your generous service to our country! The D'Arienzo family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

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:

"Dealing with Issues."

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, 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.

Here Politics and Faith Meet: Long Islanders Seeking Justice

How Catholic citizens “work for a just ordering of society” as called for in Pope Benedict XVI’s encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est* (God is Love)

Working for Justice in Our Own Town

Source: *Pathway to the Holy*, by Richard Koubek and Connie Loos, published by Catholic Charities, Diocese of Rockville Centre, Lent, 2003

The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society ... is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life....

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

Words Into Action was the title of the September 26th, 2002 summit on affordable housing sponsored by the Huntington Township Housing Coalition. The summit brought together community leaders - many of them from religious congregations - who were frustrated by the Town government’s failure to create affordable housing for young people, working families with children, senior citizens and poor people.

Huntington is one of the least affordable towns on Long Island, which is one of the least affordable regions in the United States. Almost every effort to build affordable housing is met with fierce neighborhood opposition fueled by ungrounded fears and stereotypes. During one ferocious struggle to build affordable family housing, a Huntington town councilman asked, “Where are the supporters of affordable housing?”

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to lives of loving service in what we say and in how we act. In Huntington, some Christian citizens have answered this call by joining the Huntington Township Housing Coalition to:

- Conduct congregational discussions and prayer services about the prejudices and myths against affordable housing;
- Write letters to and visit Town Board members and attend Town Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board meetings where decisions on affordable housing are made.

Because hundreds of Huntington citizens have spoken out for affordable housing in the past five years, the Town government adopted a law requiring 20 percent of some new developments to be affordable and the Town has created almost 200 units of affordable housing. But so much more needs to be done. Words into action may mean our speaking up about the need for affordable housing in our own town, even if we risk angering elected officials or people we live next to or work next to or pray next to or love in our families.

Do you want to work for justice? Contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities’ Public Policy Education Network, 516.733.7077 or by e-mail: Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc

Nocturnal Adoration



Nocturnal Adoration will **follow the 5 PM Mass on Saturday, May 5**, followed by Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us—our prayers will be for mothers and guardians of our children and grandchildren. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, May 1**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, April 30**, at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Senior Circle

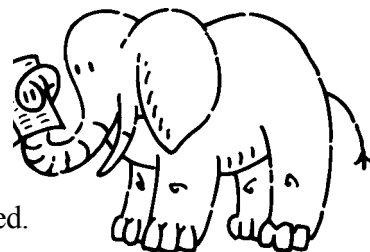
Wouldn't you like to join us because...

We are a spiritual and charitable organization. We are a group of men & women fifty-five & over. We meet on the last Monday of each month throughout the year in the Parish Center at 12:30 PM.

Our activities consist of socials, trips, informative speakers, special Christmas celebrations, shows & dinners and, last but not least, you will experience enjoyable and lasting relationships with each other. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please feel free to call Wilma at 669-4728.

Spring Cleaning

Please remember The Rosary Christian Mothers—we are sponsoring a **“White Elephant Sale”** on **Saturday, June 9 from 10:30 AM until 6 PM**. Any gently used or new items would be greatly appreciated. Please call 669.3178 for donations.



Gennesaret Retreat

A unique opportunity for persons facing serious illness. The weekend retreat takes place on **May 4 - 6 at Montfort Spiritual Center, Bay Shore**. Several OLL parishioners have enjoyed this retreat in the past. There is no cost for the retreat. Volunteer health care professionals are available for the entire weekend. There are a limited number of places and the retreat fills up very quickly since it is so popular.

Please call Collette Fanelli at 665.7052

Jubilee Concert

Celebrating 150 years, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, NY Province, are hosting a concert featuring Ciaran Sheehan and Gay Willis, Broadway performers and soloists Eily O'Grady Patterson accompanist, with The Gaelic Harpists on Friday, May 18 at 8:15 PM at the Immaculate Conception Diocesan Center, Douglaston.

For tickets, \$50 per person, call Toni Palamar at 718.380.3270.

School Reunions

Our Lady of Peace School, Lynbrook is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a reunion on Saturday, May 19 at 8 PM at the school. A fun evening gathering old friends and classmates is being planned. If you attended OLP or sent your children to OLP, please come and share in the celebration. Tickets are \$30 per person. For further information, please contact Jennifer at 516.887.6768 or Kristan at 516.599.3847.

Presentation of the BVM School, Jamaica will close in June 2007. This will conclude 120 years of Catholic education to generations of students. It is with sadness that we extend this invitation to all: graduates, parents, teachers, and staff to a closing Mass on Saturday, May 5 at 10:30 AM with a luncheon to follow at noon. Please respond to this invitation by calling 718.739.2003.

The graduates of **Queen of the Rosary Academy, Class of '57**, will celebrate their **50th Anniversary Reunion in September 2007**. For more information, contact Debbie at 516.764.4331.

St. Agnes Academic High School, College Point will be hosting a "**Homecoming for all Alumni**" on **Saturday, May 5 from 1 PM until 5 PM**. For further information, please call 718.353.6276, extension 30.

Saint Anthony's Golf Classic

Saint Anthony's High School Golf Classic will take place on **Monday, May 7 at the Tam O'Shanter and Old Westbury Country Clubs**. All proceeds will go directly to Saint Anthony's Endowment. Foursomes and individual starts are still available, as are many levels of sponsorship opportunities.

If you are interested in playing or supporting this important fund-raiser, please contact Tony Trombino at 661.3224.

Needed

Social Workers for Catholic Charities Mental Health Clinics

Two full time social workers are needed for our Bay Shore clinic and one Senior Social Worker is needed for our Freeport clinic. All positions require LCSW. Must have Medicaid/Medicare provider numbers. Bilingual/Spanish helpful. Excellent benefits. Interested applicants can send resume online to larke.eppie@catholiccharities.cc or fax to 631.758.0779.

Balance Screening Workshop

A free **Balance Screening Workshop** sponsored by *Panetta Physical Therapy Training and Wellness* will be held at St. Patrick's, Bay Shore, Msgr. Purick Hall on **Wednesday, May 16 from 10 AM until 12 Noon**. All are welcome, however, to accommodate all participants attending the free workshop, preregistration would be helpful. For pre-registration, please call Catherine at 631.665.7216.

Diocesan Choir Concert

To mark its 50th Anniversary of service, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rockville Centre will host a **Diocesan Choir concert at St. Joseph Church, Garden City on May 11 at 8 PM**.

The Diocesan Choir's dedicated and talented singers are from parishes throughout Long Island. Refreshments generously donated by Peconic Bay Vineyards and Tin Alley Grill will be served following the concert. Tickets are \$25 and all proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities' numerous programs. For information or to purchase tickets, call 516.733.7028.

Maria Regina Residence

Maria Regina Residence is a skilled long term care facility located on the property of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood. It provides Adult Day Health Services offering a wonderful day program including transportation and meals, as well as a loving atmosphere provided by an inclusive staff. If interested, or for further information, please contact Veronica Anderson, Director at 631.299.3045.

Pastoral Formation Institute

The Pastoral Formation Institute offers an exciting, integrated approach to discipleship through instruction, prayer, faith sharing and the development of leadership skills. Weekly sessions prepare the lay Catholic adult to enter more fully into the life of the Church. In addition to weekly sessions, formation weekends at the Seminary enrich the PFI process.

Upcoming PFI Information Meetings are as follows:

Monday, April 30 at 7:30 PM at Our Lady of Assumption Parish, Copiague.

For more information, call 631.842.5211.

PFI Fall sessions: Mondays, 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 PM at St. Patrick's Church, Glen Cove.

For more information, call Fr. Marty Klein at 516.676.0276 or email frmartyk@aol.com.

PFI Fall sessions: Mondays, 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

Tuesday, May 8 at 7:30 PM at St. Bernard Church, Levittown.

For more information, call 516.731.4220.

PFI Fall sessions: Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9:30 PM.

Permission To Be Unhappy

A recent issue of TIME magazine featured an essay by James Poniewozik on why artists today, at least in their subject matter, tend to focus more on unhappiness than happiness. Artists explore emotions and lately, as he puts it, they're choosing mostly to explore those that make us feel lousy. Joy isn't their model any more. It's been a long time since anyone produced a masterpiece and called it, An Ode to Joy. Perhaps Leo Tolstoy spoke for modern art when he said: "All happy families are alike", implying that they are boring and unhappy families are not.

Why? What's behind this? Is there a special depth inside unhappiness? Is what's broken more interesting than what's whole? Is unhappiness more beautiful than happiness? Why are so many artists skeptical of joy?

Poniewozik suspects that the problem is not that artists are skeptical of joy, but that they are reacting aesthetically, as one would to anything that's over-sweet, to the millions upon millions of unsolicited smiles that greet us from every billboard, magazine page, and television ad. Everyone we see there is always smiling, in perfect health, with perfect teeth, perfect hair, perfect family, suggesting a perfect life beneath it all.

Happiness is so easy, it would seem, effortless really, all deep struggles can be put aside simply by using the right laundry soap, eating low-carb hamburgers, choosing the right shampoo and make-up, carrying the right mobile phone, making the right wine selection, and driving the right car. The very air we inhale suggests that, since everyone else is already smiling and happy, there's no excuse really to feel the heaviness we're feeling.

But, when happiness is promised this easily, someone, Poniewozik says, has to say that it's okay to feel unhappy and not be smiling all the time.

Formerly, the church did that. It had religious symbols that reminded us daily that we lived in a broken world, amid fractured dreams, that life was a struggle, that happiness was hard to come by, that we were always vulnerable, that death posed a constant threat. Religion made us aware that humanity had fallen from grace, that we were wretches in need of God's help, that we were here as pilgrims on earth with no real

home, that real joy had to be waited for, that the sublime came only after long sublimation, and that we lived in "a valley of tears" within which we shouldn't over-expect.

Much of this sounds pretty morbid, however, in a culture where, precisely, there is the promise of easy happiness, of easy smiles, and of having the full symphony here and now, without any sublimation. How, when happiness is seemingly so easy, can we sing a song that proclaims that divine sweetness lies in the feeling that God can save "wretches" like us? No wonder we resist words like sin, unworthiness, purgatory, death.

If love, beauty, and happiness were as simple and easy as the latest television commercial suggests, why, like the prophet, Isaiah, would I feel so unworthy before them that I should want to cleanse myself with a burning coal?

But, and this is the point, when I no longer see myself as a pilgrim in a fallen world, as a wretch in need of grace, and as living in a "valley of tears", then I don't have moral permission either to feel unhappy, to feel as if I'm missing out on life. Nor do I have permission to be alone on a Friday night, without a soulmate, lonely, hurting from broken relationships, caught inside a dysfunctional family, frustrated inside a far-from perfect church, not in great health, and trying to find happiness without a perfect body or a perfect job.

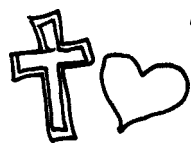
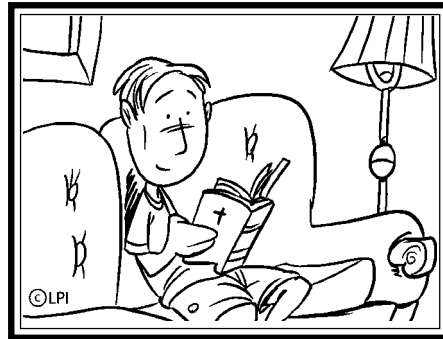
Today, many of our artists are doing for us what the church used to do, namely, they're telling us that it's okay not to feel happy all the time and that if we're trying to smile all the time we're probably in denial because life isn't simple, joy is elusive, and it's perhaps found in places where we haven't been looking lately.

There are many reasons why artists tend to focus on what's unhappy. Partly it's the artistic temperament itself, its hypersensitivity, its tortured complexity, its capacity to name what's under the surface, its sensitivity to how beauty reveals itself ("That's how the light gets in") in the cracks of our brokenness. Partly too, and less flattering, it is simple arrogance, an elitism, a condescending intellectualism that can easily make an ideology out of unhappiness because it secretly believes that ordinary joys, and laundry commercials, are beneath its dignity.

But partly it's an insight which sees life deeply enough to understand that happiness is not an easy thing, that a genuine smile should be sparked by more than just the right toothpaste, that there are problems that cannot be solved by a newer software, that there are lonely seasons too in life, and that honesty compels us to admit that we cannot always be smiling and happy.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus loves you so much! He knows what makes you happy and what makes you sad. You are his precious child, and he wants to be close to you forever. Get to know Jesus by reading about him in your Bible. Find out what makes him happy. Learn how he loves people who need help, and try to follow his example.



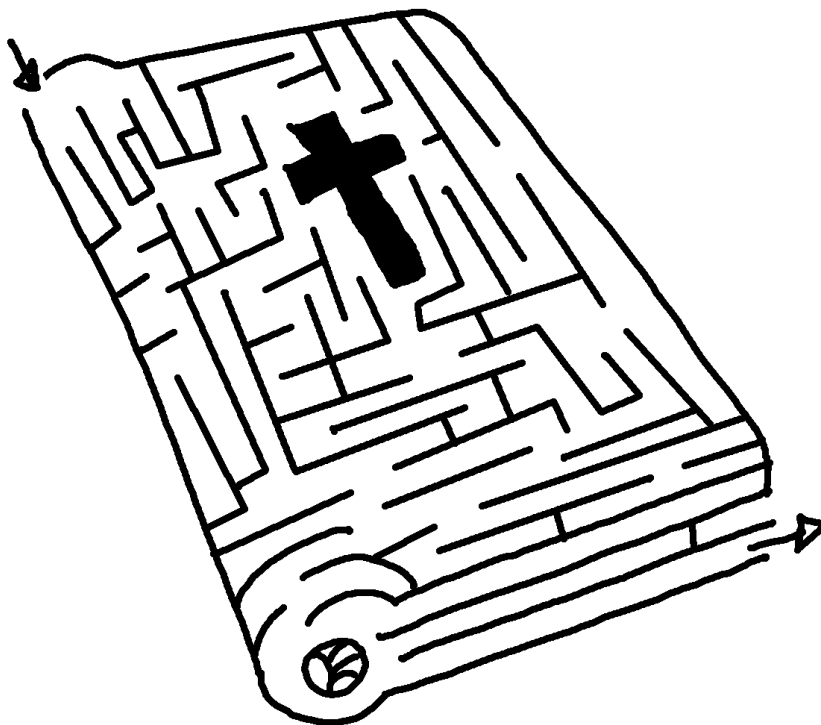
Mission for the Week

Every night before you go to bed, read from a Bible storybook. Ask God to help you love him more and more.



Puzzle

Find your way through the bible maze.



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Prayer



Dear Jesus, help me to stay close to you.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself reading a Bible storybook.