

*“This is how
all will
know that
you are my
disciples,
if you have
love for
one
another.”*

John 13:35

Our Lady of Lourdes

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 6, 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

Phoneraiser Fundraiser

Support our school, painlessly!

Protect the environment!

Donate your used cell phones

Our Lady of Lourdes School Parents Club is conducting a fundraiser. There's nothing to buy. We are simply asking you to donate your used cell phones (no earpieces or charges needed). Your donation will help protect the environment. If improperly disposed of, one cell phone can pollute up to 132,000 liters of drinking water. Your unwanted cell phones will be recycled in accordance with EPA regulations or refurbished and recycled.

And, depending on the value of the items you donate, your donation may be tax deductible. All of the proceeds from the items we collect will help fund school events for our children. We greatly appreciate your support! Please drop all used cell phones in the box located in the Narthex of the Church.



School Mass

The School Mass for the month of May will be celebrated on **Thursday, May 10, at 9 AM.** All are invited and welcome!

On Sunday, April 29, the following girls from Junior Troop #1926 received the Catholic Girl Scout Award called "**I Live My Faith**": *Lynn Paz, Katherine Moeller, Christie Finn* (pictured here with Fr. Bob), *Michelle DeVito and Catherine MacGuire*. The girls were presented their award at the Girl Scout Convocation at St Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre.

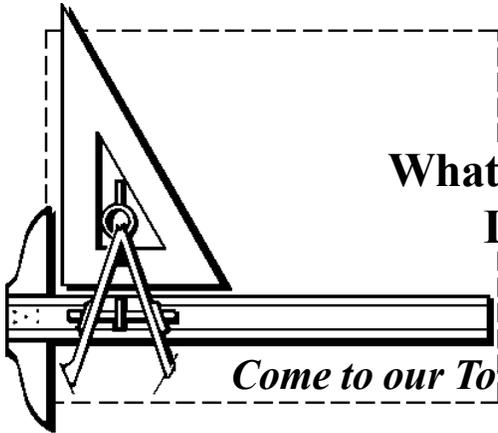


"**I Live My Faith**" is a national award offered to help the scout appreciate more deeply the place God and religion occupy in her life.



(Pictured: Patrick Metzger, Ryan Antonawich, Michael Higley, Daniel Antonawich, Aaron Rogers, Katie Antonawich and Kelly Metzger)

Students and their families did a little Spring cleaning and cleared out their closets to find clothes for the needy! Our Lady of Lourdes School collected over a TON of clothing, shoes, toys and linens for those less fortunate. Hauling the bags was a lot of work, but as Patrick Metzger put it, "It was fun working with my friends for the needy."



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.”

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!

Holy Communion 2007

Throughout the Easter Season, 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!



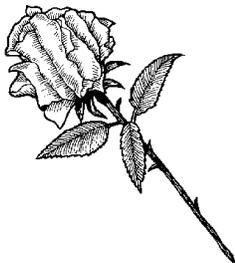
Check Up Point #3: Walking the Walk

If you notice, we are always walking – processing – in our Church. Whether it be the Entrance procession, our beautiful procession to the font at the Great Vigil or in so many other ways, we are always on a journey! So, too, with the Eucharist.

At OLL, all come to the altar to receive the Eucharist! This is important! It's a reminder that we are constantly seeking and moving and journeying to become closer to our God!

This is also a joyful prayer! Sing, smile and rejoice! You are about to receive the greatest gift of Jesus in the Eucharist!

As we seek to be models to those receiving First Holy Communion, let's remember we are always on a journey – seeking to grow closer to the God we hope to imitate in every moment of our lives.



Mother's Day / Father's Day Mass

... for parents who have lost a child

We would like to invite any parent who has lost a child to a special **Mass on Saturday, June 2 at 10 AM.**

Mother's Day and Father's Day can be a difficult times for parents who have lost a child. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

Mass will be followed by hospitality in our Parish Center. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Ministry of Family Healing

I AM NOT A HERO...
I AM NOT AN ANGEL...
I AM JUST A MAN...

Can you hear St. Joseph saying these words to Mary?
We don't know much about St. Joseph, he is rarely mentioned in Scriptures.

Come and join the Ministry of Family Healing for a night of prayer and reflection on St. Joseph. Join us as we listen to our fellow parishioners: *Sal Acosta, Deacon John DeGuardi, Bill Kuchler and Deacon Jack Meehan* share their reflections on St. Joseph.

We will be meeting on **Wednesday, May 23, at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.** Please call the Religious Ed Office to register at 661-5440, option 3. As always, food and fellowship to follow. We hope to see you on May 23 and, please, bring a friend.

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

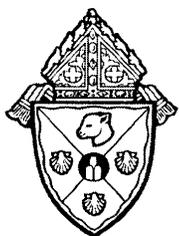
or

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

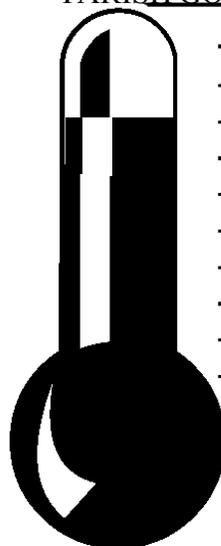
The key ingredient to the success of our appeal is participation. In order to reach our goal, we need to have every family participate in the appeal to the best of their ability. If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the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

Education

Supporting our educational programs is an investment in our young people and in their futures. When we speak about their educations, we are speaking about the future of our Church and of our communities. It is critical to our Church's Mission to help nurture our children in the Catholic faith and to help them grow into compassionate and caring adults who will become tomorrow's leaders.

Funds from the Catholic Ministries Appeal support programs for the over 25, 800 students enrolled in our 53 elementary schools and 3 diocesan high schools. Last year we were able to provide these students with a wide range of critical enhancements such as, smart boards for computers, enhanced computer technology, the development and support of extracurricular programs, the support of academic scholarships and funds for student emergencies

PARISH GOAL \$103,000



 _____ \$ 76,835
 _____ Pledged
 _____ to Date

345 Pledges
\$223 Avg. Pledge

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

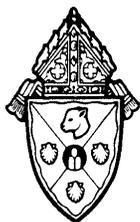
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

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

The Journey Continues...

Last Saturday, Tom Lucie was instituted as an acolyte as part of his preparation and journey to ordination to the diaconate in Spring of 2008. Tom has been studying in the Pastoral Formation Institute and at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in preparation for his ordination.

In the year ahead, Tom will take a more active role in the life of our parish community as a member of the Pastoral Team, in our parish liturgies and in the ministerial life of the community.

As an acolyte, Tom is called to serve at the altar and to assist the priest and deacon. In particular, it is his responsibility to prepare the altar and the sacred vessels and act as a minister of the Eucharist.

Tom's preparation for ordination gives our entire parish community the opportunity to pray for him and his family while learning about the ministry of Deacon in the life of the church.

Let's continue to pray for Tom and his family as we journey with him over the years ahead!



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

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

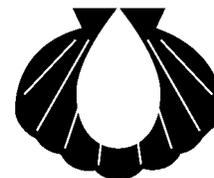
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

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.



Baptisms

Kyle Joseph Dilegame

Joseph and Toni

Brady Joseph Horvath

Ryan and Jessica

David Xavier Aguilar

Jose and Kelly

Aneliese Lynda Ammirata

Gregory and Jennifer

Emerson Frances Ammirata

Gregory and Jennifer

Adriana Day Balint

Steven and Erika

Michael Ethan Malone

William and Lynne

Nico Philip Szymanski

Nicholas and Danielle

Remembering...

Monday, May 7

8:00 AM Paula & Frank Edwards

Tuesday, May 8

8:00 AM John Sweeney

Wednesday, May 9

8:00 AM Anthony LaRocca

Thursday, May 10

8:00 AM Lydia Ann Olsen

Friday, May 11

8:00 AM John Cunneen

Saturday, May 12

8:00 AM Anthony & Mary Sabala, Sue Carlson,
George F. Bukowski, Jennie & George Rodenburg &
family, Margaret & James Libretti & family,
Connie Mansueto, Bob & Winifred Kossmann,
Peggy & David Roark, Blessed Mother, Sr. Mary Imelda

5:00 PM Lillian Daly & Mickey Salegna

Sunday, May 13

8:00 AM Lorraine Perry & Josephine Papa

9:30 AM Louise Riedemann

11:00 AM Theresa Reardon

12:30 PM Dec'd mbrs of Werner & Kozireski Family

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Kathleen McNamara,
Liberta Brusca, Douglas Killane, Mary Carbone,
Rose Prince, Mary Ann Casano, Virginia Adamo,
Rudy Fiorvanti, Violet Carrigan, Terry O'Neil,
Joseph Parro



Rest In Peace

Albert John Weigel

Joseph Parro

Andrew Deyhle

Celebrating Sacraments

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, May 13**. We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the meeting will follow the **8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16**.

Rosary Christian Mothers

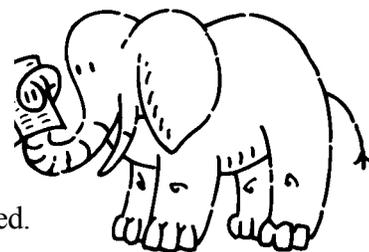
The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, May 7**.

We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center**.

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.



Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of May will be on **Wednesday, May 9 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.

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**.

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 only six places left! Hurry and reserve your place with us for this fabulous trip. Our next travel **meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 21 at 7:30 PM in Room 16.** If you would like to receive the travel itinerary and make a reservation, 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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

At some point in our lives, we have all experienced what we might refer to as our "darkest hour." A job loss, the death of a very close friend or family member, the grip of an evil addiction that refuses to let go - just a few of the many things that may have led us to feel hopeless or abandoned. How did you respond in such a situation? Did you wait for it to pass, or were you led out of that darkness by someone else?

Imagine the pain Jesus must have felt, having to identify one of his 12 as the one who would betray him. Imagine the shock felt by the other disciples as Judas ran from the room and the Last Supper. How did Jesus respond? In today's Gospel reading from John, he turns to the other disciples and calmly gives them the answer, the hope, the light that will help them enter the kingdom of heaven. "Love one another," he says.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that to follow Jesus is to live in the Spirit of truth (CCC 2466). In what could have been one of Jesus' darkest hours, he instead gave his disciples - and subsequently all of us - what he called the new commandment. The love of the Father would lead Jesus out of his darkness, and it will lead us, too, as long as we love one another.

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Readings for the Week of May 6, 2007

Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35
Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29

Financial Summary

April 29, 2007

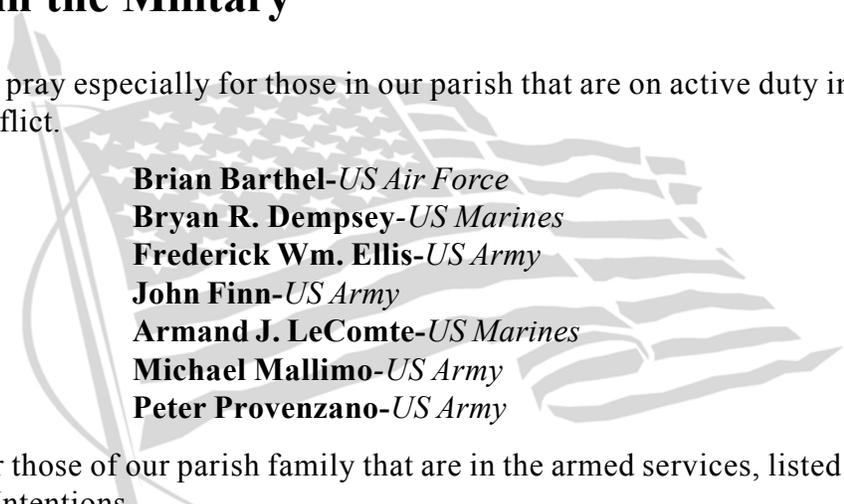
Weekly Collection	\$ 17,141.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,859.00)

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 Air Force*
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.

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)

Demanding Justice for the Mentally Ill

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

Justice is the aim...of all politics...Charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and also their political activity, lived as “social charity.”

-Pope Benedict XVI, *Deus Caritas Est*.

At 9:30 AM on March 12, 2002, representatives from the Catholic Charities’ Public Policy Education Network entered the Albany office of State Senator Owen Johnson to speak with the senator about restoring funds for community-based programs that serve mentally ill people. One member of the delegation, who volunteers at the St. Patrick’s outreach center in Bay Shore, told the Senator that he should vote to restore these funds because many mentally ill people are “back on the streets in Bay Shore.” Bay Shore is in the heart of the Senator’s legislative district.

“I thought we took care of that problem,” Senator Johnson said. “No,” the outreach volunteer told him, “we see them all the time in the parish. They are without medication. They are without shelter. They are not receiving treatment.” Senator Johnson seemed disturbed by her report. “It’s a matter of time,” she told the Senator, “before something terrible happens.”

Back on Long Island, that very hour, during the 9 AM Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church in Lynbrook, Father Larry Penzes and a parishioner were murdered by a mentally ill man who had fallen through the cracks of the County’s community-based treatment services. Moved by this tragedy, Senator Johnson and many other legislators voted for an increase in funding for mental health services in 2002. But, the problem of under-funded services could not be fixed with one vote.

Lacking proper state and county funding, community-based programs for the mentally ill like those run by Catholic Charities have been overwhelmed. This is why Catholic advocates – through the Public Policy Education Network – keep reminding their state legislators to support funding for the often forgotten victims of mental illness.

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



Food
Pantry
Needs

- detergent
- kleenex
- paper towels
- personal feminine products
- shampoo
- soap
- toilet tissue
- toothbrush
- toothpaste

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Nancy Trujillo*.

If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Senior Circle

Wouldn't you like to join us ...

We are a spiritual and charitable organization. We are a group of men & women fifty-five and 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.

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:

"The Great Outdoors."

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, www.religionandrock.com.

Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELECARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

Bereavement Group

Consolation Nursing Facility is offering a Bereavement Group.

This is an 8 week group which will meet every Monday, from 7:30-9 PM starting on June 4.

If you are interested, please phone Peggy Nixdorf at 587.1600, extension 8297.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:

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.

Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 PM at St. Isidore Church, Riverhead.

For more information, call Reina Bonocore at 631.727.2114.

Tuesday, May 15 at 7:30 PM at St. Anthony de Padua, E. Northport.

For more information, call Marion Morrica at 631.368.0137.

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

Voice That Never Dies

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Easter is about many things. We celebrate God's power to overcome death, sin, and injustice, but we also celebrate the voices and wounds of the ones who died on Good Friday.

To illustrate this, I would like to recount one such voice, that of an anonymous, young woman who was brutally raped and murdered by the Salvadoran military in 1981, at a place fittingly called La Cruz. The story was reported by Mark Danner, a journalist.

He describes how, after this particular massacre, some soldiers told how one of their victims haunted them and how they could not get her out of their minds long after her death.

They had plundered a village and raped many of the women. One of these was a young woman, an evangelical Christian, whom had been raped many times in a single afternoon and subsequently tortured. However, throughout this all, this young woman, clinging to her belief in Christ, had sung hymns. Here's how one of the soldiers described it:

"She kept on singing, too, even after they had shot her in the chest. She had lain there in La Cruz with the blood flowing from her chest, and had kept on singing - a bit weaker than before, but still singing. And the soldiers, stupefied, had watched and pointed. Then they had grown tired of the game and shot her again, and she sang still, and their wonder began to turn to fear - until finally they unsheathed their machetes and hacked her neck and at last the singing stopped." (The Massacre at El Mozote, N. Y., Vintage Books, 1994, pp. 78-79)

Gil Bailie, who recounts this story in his monumental book on the cross and non-violence, notes not just the remarkable similarity between her death and that of Jesus, but also the fact that, in both cases, resurrection means that their voices live on when everything about their deaths suggest that their voices should have died.

In Jesus' case, nobody witnessing his humiliating death on a lonely hillside, with his followers absent, would have predicted that this would be the most remembered death in history. The same is true for this young woman. Her rape and murder occurred in a very remote place and all of those who might have wanted to immortalize her story were also killed. Yet her voice survives and will, no doubt, continue to grow in importance, long after all those who

violated and killed her are forgotten. As both Jesus and this young girl illustrate, powerlessness and anonymity, linked to a heart that can sing the words: "Forgive them for they know not what they are doing!" while being raped and humiliated, ultimately become their opposite, power and immortality.

A death of this kind not only morally scars the conscience of its perpetrators and their sympathizers, it leaves something that can never be forgotten, a permanent echo that nobody will ever silence. What God raises up after Good Friday is also the voice of the one who died.

A critic reviewing Danner's book in the New York Times, tells how, after reading this story, he kept "straining" to hear the sound of that singing.

The task of Easter is to rekindle the creed within ourselves. The earliest Christians, immediately upon experiencing the resurrected Jesus, spontaneously voiced a one-line creed: "Jesus is Lord!" That does, in fact, say it all. When we affirm that Jesus has been raised from the dead and is Lord of this world we are saying everything else within our faith as well.

In essence, we are saying that God is ultimately still in charge of this universe, despite any indications to the contrary; that brutality and rape notwithstanding, at the end of the day violence, injustice, and sin will be silenced and overcome; that graciousness and gentleness, as manifested in Jesus, are ultimately what lies at the root of all reality; that this young woman, so brutally violated, has now been raised and lives, joyfully, in the heart of God; and that her death, like Jesus', is redemptive precisely because, like him, she too, in the face of helplessness before the worst brutality the world could perpetrate, could still say: "Forgive them for they know not what they do!"

To celebrate Easter is to affirm that all of this is true. But that also asks something of us:

It asks, as the critic in the New York Times so aptly put it, that we strain to hear the sound of that girl's singing, that we struggle to keep her, and her song, in our hearts. She is still alive in God's heart, but we must keep her alive in ours as well.

Why? Not for sentimental reasons, nor simply because her story is exceptional. No. We must keep her alive in our hearts because her song is the leaven, the yeast, of the resurrection and that, and that alone, can raise us up to become exceptional too.

One of the tasks of Easter is to strain to hear the voices of Good Friday.

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.

