

NO ONE WHO
PUTS A HAND TO
THE PLOW AND
LOOKS BACK IS
FIT FOR THE
KINGDOM OF GOD.

LUKE 9 : 6 2



THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • JULY 1, 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



F.L.I.G.H.T. Camp

Fun Learning in God's Holy Time!

Our Lady of Lourdes Sixth Annual Vacation Bible Camp

July 23-27, 2007

9 AM - 12:30 PM Daily

Don't miss the fun!

Meeting for all camp volunteers - Tuesday, July 10 at 8 PM in the Parish Center.

Where?

Right on the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes, which will be transformed into FLIGHT Camp! (FLIGHT stands for **Fun Learning in God's Holy Time**)
Vacation Bible Camp runs daily from 9 AM-12:30 PM.

What will we do?

Our campers will participate in lots of fun daily activities: singing super songs, making cool crafts, participating in awesome flight-themed science activities (including a visit from a hot air balloon company!), and learning about God through different Bible adventures! And, of course, there'll be snacks!

Who can come?

Campers should presently be in Pre-K (age 4) through 5th grade.
Students in grades 5-12: we need you as volunteer counselors and assistants.

Who's running the camp?

The camp director is Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, the Youth Services Director at OLL. She'll be working with a volunteer team of adults and teens from our parish family.

How much does it cost?

The cost is \$65 per child. The fee includes all materials, snacks, crafts, an official camp T-shirt, and a closing camp celebration for all!

How do I sign up?

Fill out the registration form which can be found on our parish website at www.ollchurch.org or at the Parish Office. Please return it to the Parish Office or mail it to OLL at 455 Hunter Ave. (att. Jennifer Gallagher) with all fees.

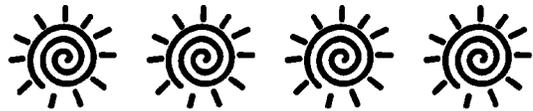
Questions?

Email jengallagher@ollchurch.org.

Camp Volunteers Needed!

We need adults and teen volunteers.

If you can spare a week to help out at camp, email jengallagher@ollchurch.org



SUMMER

Evening Prayer

2007

Great speakers!

Great food
each night!



Monday evenings
beginning
July 9
7:30 PM
Great Lawn

Great nights for
families and friends!

beginning July 9 with...

Monsignor Night!

- We welcome back and honor Msgr. James Vlaun -
our own Fr. Jim!
- What a great way to begin the summer!
- Family Dinner...
"Summer Sauce" from Fr. Jim's cookbook
beginning at 6:30 PM.

Guest speakers, so far, include...

- Sister Mary Alice Piel, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation
- Crossfire, the musical band
- Christian Sullivan, Campus Minister at St. Francis Prep
High School, Queens
- Michael Chiappone, Social Worker at Hope House Ministries
....and more!

Around Our Parish

Fr. Joe Lukaszewski
“Walk of Life”

Preserve your name, or that of a loved one with a personalized brick paver.

There will be two upcoming placements of bricks. The first cutting of bricks will be July 31 with placement of bricks the second week of August. The second cutting of bricks will be September 30 with placement of bricks the second week of October.

Paver size is 4” x 8” and are \$150 per paver.

If you have any questions or are interested in ordering a brick, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or fill out the order form below and return to the Parish Office.

Preserve your name, or that of a loved one,
with a personalized brick paver .

Order Information:

Name												
Address												
City						State						
Phone												

Paver size 4” x 8”

\$150.00 per Brick

Maximum of 13 characters per line. NOTE: Spaces are considered a character.

Make check payable to: Our Lady of Lourdes-Dedication

Mail or drop off check with order form to:

455 Hunter Avenue • West Islip, NY 11795

Our Lady of Lourdes Mission Awareness Trip 2007

Reflecting on the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching in a situation of poverty.

Why do we go to El Salvador?

The trip is very much a “retreat,” an opportunity to step back and reflect on our responsibilities and relationships with God and with our brothers and sisters. We go not just to “help,” but to grow in understanding—of another culture, of the nature of global relationships, and especially of the gospel mandate to serve the poor.

A fundamental principle of Catholic Social Teaching, the “preferential option for the poor,” means that God calls us to be advocates for the voiceless and the powerless among us and to be agents who restore right relationships. The trip offers all who participate, and most especially the young people of our parish, an opportunity to experience and reflect on the importance of faith and on our call to be responsible stewards of the many gifts we have been given. It is so much more powerful to experience this reality than to read about it or hear it.

This year, we hope to even run a version of our famous OLL Vacation Bible Camp for the children of Tacuba!

Visit our website, www.ollchurch.org/elsalvador,
to follow the progress of our mission group
as they share their experiences of visiting our sister parish.

Altar Servers

Summer is time for the servers – that means new ones!

We are always looking for new altar servers and are in need of servers at many of our parish masses. Training will begin in July with servers starting in August.

If you are entering the fourth grade and want to come to our training, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, extension 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org

F.L.I.G.H.T. Camp

Attention all camp volunteers!

There will be a meeting for all camp volunteers on Tuesday, July 10 at 8 PM in the Parish Center.

Food Pantry Needs

Please, please, please continue to donate food to our Food Pantry through the summer months. We are desperately low on all food items including-coffee, cereal, juice boxes, peanut butter/jelly, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, crackers, small cans of soup... Thanks for your generosity



The Parish Office will be closed on Wednesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day.

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

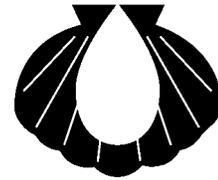
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

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

Dylan James Adamson

Brian and Monica

Michael Anthony Amato

Michael and Jennifer

Kenneth James Anderson

Kenneth and Melanie

Olivia Marie Auerbach

Michael and Debora

Kaylee Gloria Barbieri

Jonathan and Jessica

Eva Marie Connell

Peter and Catherine

Elizabeth Victoria Fiore

Daniel and Heather

Matthew David Greenwald

Keith and Vincenza

Sienna Elise Piñero

Ricardo and Sonia

Dylan Joseph Virga

Christian and Tara

Matthew Cruz, Jr.

Matthew and Jacqueline

Daisia Marie Salgado

Peter and Nicole

Liliana Marie Salgado

Peter and Nicole

Remembering...

Monday, July 2

8:00 AM Gregory Hallahan, Sr.

Tuesday, July 3

St. Thomas, apostle

8:00 AM Josephine Laino

Altar Bread & Wine

in loving memory of ...

Rick Munkwitz

Wednesday, July 4

St. Elizabeth of Portugal

8:00 AM Nicholas Petrucci



Rest In Peace

Robert Carro,

died on June 12 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was June 23.

We extend our prayers to his mother, Patricia and family.

Thursday, July 5

St. Anthony Zaccaria, priest

8:00 AM Rick Munkwitz

Friday, July 6

St. Maria Goretti, virgin, martyr

8:00 AM Joseph Buccola

Saturday, July 7

8:00 AM Lily Turano, Frank Flanagan, Margaret Flanagan, Michael Flanagan, John Flanagan, Carmela Winski, Lisa Hertlein, Thomas Barraga, William E. Oleshko, Michael Magnatta

5:00 PM John Lovari

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, July 8

8:00 AM William & Lillian Fennikoh

Fr. Stan Chukwube

9:30 AM Barbara McGarrity

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM William Otterbeck

Fr. Ed Dowling

12:30 PM John & Mary Flynn

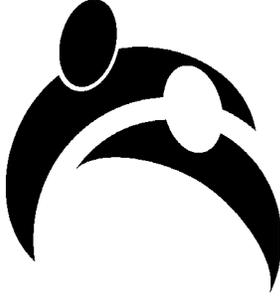
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Frank Van Bramer, Rick Munkwitz, Liberta Brusca, Michael T. Dolan, Christian Bullock, Anita Balbi Catapano, Michele LaPlaca, Angela Dell'Accio, Patricia Keane, Cody Serr, Ms. Turner, John McGrath

Fr. John Asomugha

Altar Society

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



Pastoral Care of Our Sick

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

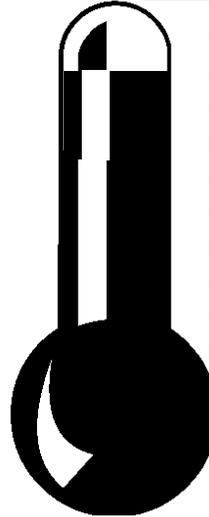
- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited
by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.

Catholic Ministries Appeal

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.

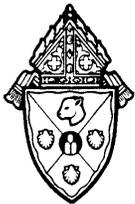
PARISH GOAL \$103,000



— \$ 88,025
— Pledged
— to Date
—
—
—
—
—
—
—

409 Pledges
\$215 Avg. Pledge

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

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

Financial Summary

June 24, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,316.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,684.00)

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

There will be no summer vacation this year!

Well that got your attention, didn't it. But don't worry - we are not suggesting that you cancel your plans - summer vacation is far too important. It is a time for rest, relaxation, and renewal.

But we are reminding you that our parish never takes a break. We are here day by day ministering to the needy, celebrating sacraments, reaching out to our parishioners in so many ways. Our need for your support is just as important, maybe even more important, during these summer days.

So don't forget us when you are away on vacation. Please continue to provide your generous support to our community. Many parishioners find that using the mailing envelope that we send with your weekly envelopes to be a wonderful and thoughtful way of continuing their support during these summer months.

Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Lynn Castellano, Peggy Cornell, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Bernadette DeVirgilis, Edward Doyle, Jason Fisher, Elizabeth Fredriksen, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, George Prygocki, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Jeanne Roccaro, Zack Sawers, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Marie "Amy" Turano, Loretta Vitale, Grace Weidner



Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

When my wife Penny was a young girl first learning to drive, she had quickly developed the habit of looking in both the side mirrors and the rearview mirror almost too frequently. Her driving instructor, who was also her father, finally admonished her by saying "Keep your eyes on the road ahead. Don't worry about where you've been, worry only about where you're going!" Today, she lives that advice, guiding our family ever forward.

Today's Gospel reading from Luke reminds us to avoid the human temptation to look back to places and times in our lives where things may have been better, or to wish we were in another person's circumstances who seem to have it better than us. If we have accepted God's promise of the glory of heaven and live our lives with that promise first and foremost in our minds, we will be truly happy and never want for anything.

The sixth petition of the Our Father, "Lead us not into temptation," is an acknowledgement that we may be tempted to move our eyes and hearts from the love of the Lord, but also that we can ask for help in not doing so. (CCC 2848) A popular song reminds us that walking is easy when the road is flat, but God gave us mountains so we could learn to climb. With eyes fixed firmly on the kingdom of heaven, we must move onward and upward!

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Readings for the Week of July 1, 2007

Sunday:	1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21/Gal 5:1, 13-18/Lk 9:51-62
Monday:	Gn 18:16-33/Mt 8:18-22
Tuesday:	Eph 2:19-22/Jn 20:24-29
Wednesday:	Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Mt 8:28-34
Thursday:	Gn 22:1b-19/Mt 9:1-8
Friday:	Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Mt 9:9-13
Saturday:	Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Mt 9:14-17
Next Sunday:	Is 66:10-14c/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

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.

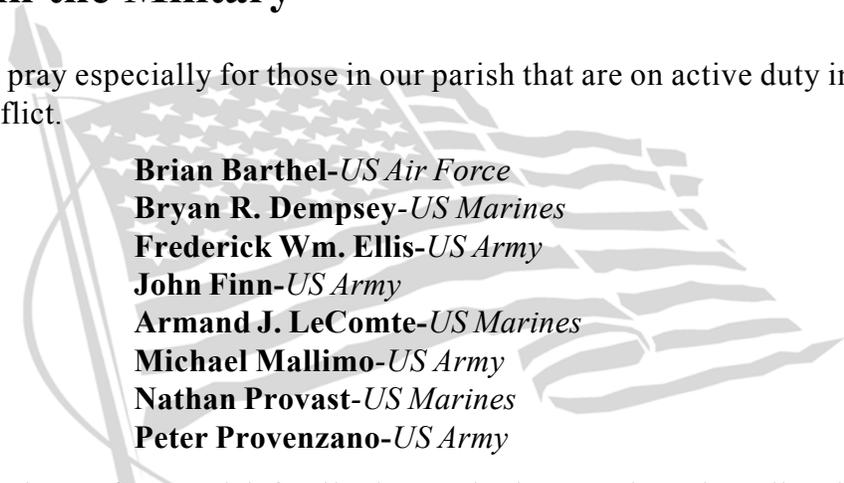
Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

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.**

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*
Nathan Provast-*US Marines*
Peter Provenzano-*US Army*

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

Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. 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:

**"Independence Day/
America."**

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.

American Sign Language Classes

Cleary School for the Deaf is offering evening Adult Education classes in American Sign Language. Summer session is July 2 through August 8 for both children and adults. If you are interested, please call Carolyn at 631.588.0530 or email ASL4CK@CS.com

Mercy INN

Help feed the Hungry.

The Mercy INN Soup Kitchen in Wyandanch is in need of a person to pick up food early Sunday mornings. We hope you can help.

Please call Kathy at 631.422.1420.

Direct Care Counselors

Catholic Charities is seeking Direct Care Counselors who are committed to our mission of "Care with Dignity, Life with Hope" in working with developmentally disabled adults in group homes. Full time, part time and per diem hours are available. Valid NYS driver's license and HS Diploma/GED required. Please email resume to

heimann.linda@catholiccharities.cc or fax resume to 516.733.7038 or call 516.733.7009.

Free Health Screening

The Tzu Chi doctors are all Buddhists who donate time to help the poor/vulnerable. They are involved with the Doctors without Borders Program.

Tzu Chi International Medical Association-TIMA will conduct a free health screening on Sunday, July 15, 2007 from 10 AM ~ 2 PM at St. Anne's Church, 88 Second Ave., Brentwood. For more information, please call Tzu Chi Long Island Office at 516.873.6888 or St. Anne's Church at 273-8113.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Telephone Reassurance Program

If you live alone and would like a daily phone call from a volunteer, just call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

Friendly Visitor Program

If you live alone and would like a visit from a volunteer, just call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

If you are 55+ and would like to volunteer to call and/or visit a homebound senior, call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

Healing Mass

Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County will sponsor a Healing Mass on Monday, July 9 beginning at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel, Bellmore. The celebrant shall be Fr. Philip Tah. Everyone will have the opportunity to be prayed with. For further information, please call Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County at 516.785.0054.

St. Joseph Prayer Center, Patchogue will sponsor a Charismatic Healing Mass on Saturday, July 14 at Our Lady of The Island Shrine on Eastport Manor Road in Eastport. Praise and worship will be at 1 PM and the Mass will begin at 1:30 PM. Prayer teams will be available for healing after Mass. For further information, please call the St. Joseph Prayer Center at 631.730.6210.

Dominican Village

We would love to show you our home...

Please join us for one of our upcoming Open Houses. The Open House will be on Sunday, July 15 from 1 PM until 3 PM and again on Saturday, July 28 from 1 PM until 3 PM. We have a Summer Special - If you sign your lease by Labor Day your first month's rent is free! For more information, please call 631.842.6091 or visit us at www.dominicanvillage.org.

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.

Vendors Needed

Vendors are needed for the 25th Annual Our Lady of Perpetual Help International Feast, So. Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst - July 11 to July 15, 2007 and the OLPH International Street Fair, Wellwood Avenue from West Gates to Hoffman Avenues on Sunday, July 15, 2007. Limited space available at the feast! Call Rich 631.539.4942 or visit us online at OLPHLindenhurst.org.

The Therapy of Family, Community and Church

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Thirty years ago, Philip Rieff wrote a book entitled, *The Triumph of the Therapeutic*. In it, he argues that the widespread need for private therapy today exists mainly because community has broken down. In societies where there are strong communities, he contends, there is much less need for private therapy, people can more easily live with or work out their problems through and within the community.

If Rieff is right then the answer for at least some of the problems for which we seek professional therapy today is fuller participation within community life, including church life, rather than private therapy. We need, as Parker Palmer suggests, the therapy of a public life.

What is meant by this? How does community heal and strengthen us? In caption, community (life beyond our private selves and private intimacies) is therapeutic because it draws us outside of ourselves, gives us a steadying rhythm, helps us feel ordinary, and connects us with resources beyond our private helplessness.

Simply put, to participate healthily within community and family takes us beyond the pathology and fragility we so often sense within the recesses of our own souls. Community steadies us. It has a rhythm and regularity that helps calm and make ordinary the feelings of disorientation, depression, paranoia, and obsession which can wreak havoc in our private lives. Participation in community gives us clearly defined things to do, regular stopping places, and regular events to structure and steady us. This is a commodity that no therapeutic couch can provide. Beyond this, community links us to resources that can empower us beyond our own helplessness. What we dream alone, remains a dream. What we dream with others can become a reality.

This may seem abstract, so let me try to illustrate it: While doing doctoral studies in Belgium, I was privileged to be able to attend the lectures of Antoine Vergote, a renowned psychologist and doctor of the soul. I asked him one day how one should handle emotional obsessions, both within oneself and when trying to help others. His answer surprised me. He said something to this effect: "The temptation you might have, as a priest and a believer, is to simplistically follow the religious edict: 'Take your troubles to the chapel! Pray it all through. God will help you.' It's not that this is wrong. God and prayer can help. But obsessional problems are mainly problems of over concentration, and over concentration is broken mainly by getting outside of

yourself, outside your obsession. So, to break an obsession, get involved in public things: from entertainment, to politics, to work. Get outside of your closed world. Enter more into public life!"

He went on, of course, to distinguish this from the simplistic temptation to simply bury oneself in distractions and work. His advice here is not that one should run away from painful inner issues, but that solving one's inner private problems is also, and sometimes massively, dependent upon outside relationships, both of intimacy and of a more public nature.

Thus, for example: For 16 years I taught at a theological college. Many is the emotionally unstable student, fraught with every kind of inner pain and unsteadiness, who would show up at that college and slowly get emotionally steadier and stronger during his or her time there. That new strength and steadiness came not so much from the theology courses themselves, but from the rhythm and health of the community life within the college. These students got well not so much from what they learned in the classrooms but by participating in the overall life of the college itself. The therapy of community life helped heal them. How?

The rhythm of community, its constant interaction, its regularity, its demands, its common prayer, its common meals, its social interaction, all of these conspire to help steady the unsteady, order the chaotic, firm up the fragile, and give those who feel abnormal a sense of being ordinary. There is a healing and wholeness that can only come from participation in community life. To feel ordinary, it helps to be immersed in the ordinary.

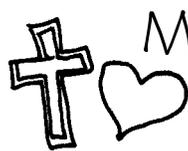
More specifically for us as Christians: The therapy of community life also means the therapy of an ecclesial life, church life. We become emotionally well, steadier, less obsessed, less a slave of our own restlessness, and more able to become who and what we want to be by participating within the life of the church. Monks, with their monastic rhythm, have long understood this, namely, that program, rhythm, public participation, the demand to show up, and the discipline of the community bell have kept many a man and woman sane, not to mention relatively happy.

Regular Eucharist, regular prayer with others, regular church meetings, and regular duties and responsibilities within a community or family not only nurture the soul, they keep us sane and steady. Private therapy can sometimes be helpful in supplementing this, but church life, with its regular rhythms and demands, can help provide a steadiness that's not available on a therapist's couch.

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.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus knew that following him would not be easy. He could have made a lot of money. He could have had a beautiful home and a family to enjoy it with. Instead, Jesus chose to walk from town to town, teaching people about God. He gave up having nice things so that he could stay focused on God's work. That's what he asked his disciples to do, too.



Mission for the Week

I will love God more than all the things he has given me.



Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

welcome

foxes

dead

people

birds

home

village

Son of Man

kingdom

wlecmoe

w e l c o m e

knigdm

deda

brisd

peepol

hmoe

SnofoMna

fxose

vigllae

©LPI

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
thank you for
giving up so much,
so that I could
grow close to
God.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
Jesus walking with
his friends.