

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • AUGUST 5, 2007

**“TAKE CARE TO GUARD
AGAINST ALL GREED,
FOR THOUGH ONE MAY
BE RICH,**



**ONE’S LIFE
DOES NOT CONSIST
OF POSSESSIONS.”**

LUKE 12:15



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: info@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

Jennifer Gallagher

Director of Youth Services

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

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.*

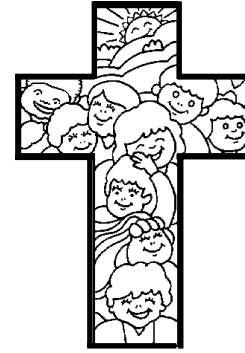
***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***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



Religious Education

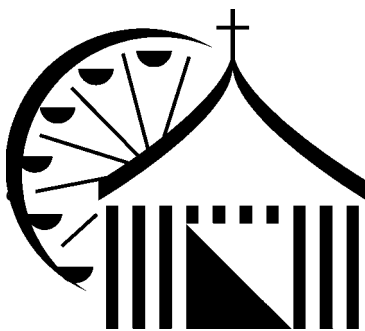
Registration for children in public school entering Grade 1 in September 2007 to be part of Our Lady of Lourdes Religious Education P.E.P. Program...

Family Names A – L	Monday, September 24	10 AM <i>or</i> 7:30 PM
Family Names M – Z	Wednesday, September 26	10 AM <i>or</i> 7:30 PM

Meetings will be held in the Parish Center (*room opposite the playground*) and will begin promptly at the times designated.

Please bring the child's Baptismal Certificate. There is a "Family Fee" of \$115 for families new to the program.

Our Lady of Lourdes Italian Family Feast 2007 September 12 - 16



Super Raffle

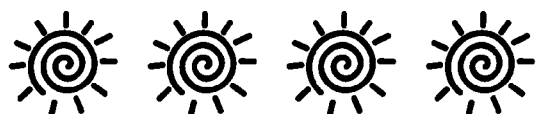
"Super Raffle" tickets will be on sale at the Church doors before and after all weekend Masses **beginning the weekend of August 11/12**. Each ticket is \$100. Only 200 tickets will be sold! Don't wait – get *your* number early!

Volunteers needed!

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to support our annual Italian Family Feast 2007. We have our faithful volunteers that come and help year after year-and to them we are very grateful. We need to attract new volunteers to keep our feast the wonderful annual family event that it is!

Can you help?

If you're interested or have any questions, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



SUMMER

Evening Prayer

2007

Great speakers!

Great food
each night!



Monday evening
August 6
7:30 PM
Great Lawn

Guest speaker:

Sr. Diane Capuano

Campus Minister at Molloy College

Sr. Diane has an inspiring message of word, song and prayer.

Come and be a part of it!

Come early...at 6 PM for our first

Summer Evening Prayer Tailgate Party!

Did you ever go to a football game? A concert? A baseball game? Come to Summer Evening Prayer this week and park your truck (or car or mini-van or motorbike) behind the Rectory. Bring your own grill, dawgs, burgers, sandwiches, music, whatever!! Whatever you want, you bring! Coolers are cool, mobile pizza ovens are hot! Food on a stick, great!! Smores? Is there anything better? Fr. Bob will have a few communal tailgates and tables set up so **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Remember...if it rains or there is a heat warning...we will gather in the All Purpose Room!

OLL NEEDS YOU!

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Extraordinary Ministers distribute communion at Sunday Liturgy, weekday Masses and during Holy Days of Obligation. Some ministers also choose to bring Communion to the Sick in our parish community.

What's the commitment?

There is a training offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre in the Fall and a follow up training here at OLL. We try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Ministers sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

I want more information....

Ask one of our Extraordinary Ministers you might see at Mass, call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org

Altar Servers

Have you ever wondered how Masses come together each week? How it seems that things just happen naturally! It's usually because of the altar servers! WE NEED MANY YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH TO STEP UP AND SERVE as many of our servers have graduated and are moving on to other ministries! Altar servers help to make our Masses and prayer services so great! Also, altar servers go on trips (like Splish Splash, Islanders games, and more!) and do a lot of other fun things. We are always looking for new altar servers and are in need of servers at many of our parish masses. Training will begin in August and September 2007 with servers starting in the Fall.

What's the commitment?

There are five or six altar server trainings sessions before you can actually serve. Being an altar server is a lot of work so we want to make sure you're prepared. For Sunday Masses, we try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Servers sign up for Masses on holidays, holy days and special occasions. Servers can volunteer to serve at weddings and funerals, too!

I want more information....

Contact Mrs. Kate Newman at bounceusa@aol.com or call John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Cell Phones and more...

Please remember to turn off your cell phones, pagers, beepers etc. when coming to pray here at OLL! These are wonderful creations....but they can easily interfere with our prayer and the prayer of others! Rather than telling your friends and family to call you – tell them to come with you to our parish here at Our Lady of Lourdes!



Our Lady of Lourdes School
44 Toomey Road
West Islip, NY
631.587.7200
email: info@ollschool.org

**We are expanding our
Early Childhood Program
for September 2007!**



"Our Nursery Program"

3 days per week

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

half days: 8:30 AM - 11 AM or 12 noon - 2:30 PM

full days: 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

"Mommy & Me!"

2 days per week

Tuesday - Thursday

9:30 AM - 11 AM or 12:30 PM - 2 PM



We're NOT just daycare, we're Catholic Education!

Louise Jane Krol, Principal

"2007 NYS Preschool Teacher of the Year"

If you are interested in enrollment or you have any questions, please call the School Office at 587.7200 and leave a message-we will return your call.



Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday, August 15 is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - *a holy day of obligation.*

Masses will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, August 14 at 5 PM and Wednesday, August 15 at 8 AM and 7:30 PM.

Spiritual Direction

...for those who want the companionship of a director to journey with them in finding God's desire for them in their daily life.

Following is a summary of our exploration and explanation of "Spiritual Direction."



What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual Direction is a specialized ministry in the Church. It is a graced way of serving another believer, helping the other to grow in intimacy with God and to live out the consequences of this intimacy.

Why would I want a Spiritual Director?

The desire for a Spiritual Director comes when one wants to develop a deeper relationship with God, when one's search for God seems to be at a crossroad, or when one wants to explore new methods of prayer, or prayer becomes difficult.

What happens in Spiritual Direction?

The person coming for Spiritual Direction should try to describe to the director one's experiences in their life of faith, hope and love.

What can I expect?

The director helps you to be more aware of who God is for you, to notice God's movement in the events of your life, and in your prayer, to be able to talk about what you are experiencing, to be attentive to God's invitations, urgings, and confirmations and to recognize resistances and roadblocks. The director is not judgmental, but assists the directee to objectify his/her experience.

If you have any questions, or you would like to make arrangements to meet with a Spiritual Director, please call Deacon John DeGuardi at the Parish Office at 661.3224.
(It is recommended that you make a three month commitment of one meeting per month.)



The OLL 23rd Annual Duffers Golf Classic

**Timber Point Country Club
Great River, New York
Thursday, August 23**

The event will start at noon with a 2 PM shot-gun. You can even work a half-day and still join us! We currently have both men and women golfers, as well as non-golfers who are joining us for dinner honoring Mrs. Cioffi for her thirteen years of service to OLL School.

2007 Honoree



Mrs. Regina Cioffi

Please join us for what will be a fun-filled day! The cost is \$175 for golfers - golf package includes green fees, golf cart, driving range, lunch at crossover and dinner. The cost for dinner only participants is \$75. The outing includes a live auction and raffle prizes, contests-longest drive, most accurate, closest to pin, cocktails and more!

For further information or to make reservations, please contact
Joe Macina at 587.0241, Frank Antonawich at 587.7988
or Rich Maher at 661.5478.

*The OLL Golf Committee will be selling raffle tickets
after each Mass on the weekend of August 18/19.*

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.



Rest In Peace

Thomas Napoli,
died on July 28 and celebration of the
Mass of Christian Burial was August 1.
We extend our prayers to his son, Joseph
and family.

Upcoming Marriages

Alissa Thorman and
Shawn Rush, both OLL

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

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, August 6

Transfiguration of the Lord

8:00 AM Neven Vulin

Tuesday, August 7

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

Wednesday, August 8

St. Dominic, priest

8:00 AM Thomas Vincent Riker

Thursday, August 9

8:00 AM Robert Modica

Friday, August 10

St. Lawrence, deacon, martyr

8:00 AM Robert Modica

Saturday, August 11

8:00 AM Lily Turano, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Nicholas & Stella Rotolo,
Margaret Lonergan, Albert Zajac, Richard Logan,
James E. Ford, Lucille Skuba, Reuben Ramos

5:00 PM Barbara McGarrity
Fr. Ed Dowling

Sunday, August 12

8:00 AM Michael Reilly
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Dominick & Mary Assante
Fr. John Asomugha

11:00 AM Robert Beck
Fr. Stan Chukwube

12:30 PM Asuncion F. Castro, Francisco, Felizberta, Ramon,
& Ruperto Dimaculangan
Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Eris Colloca (*1st Anniv.*),
Michael Kostalos, Gerard Francavilla, Gregory Yuknek,
Rocco Padula, Katie Hollod, Rev. Stanley Macholz,
Clara Gregorio
Fr. John Asomugha

Outreach School Supply Drive

Outreach will be collecting school supplies to donate to families in need. School Supplies we could use include:

- *Glue Sticks
- * Marble Notebooks
- *Two Pocket Folders
- * Soft Pencil Cases
- * Pink Erasers
- * Highlighters
- * Markers
- *Pencil Sharpeners that catch shavings
- *Spiral Notebooks
- *Fiskar scissors
- *Post-It-Notes
- *Supply box
- *Tennis Balls

And of course...the old staple...CRAYONS!

Donations can be left in the food baskets at the doors of the Church...as always...our Thanks!

Single Senior Socials

Are you a single Senior?

If you are, then you know that Saturday nights can be difficult.

Join us on **Saturday, September 22 for “Hang - Out Night” for Seniors** immediately following the 5 PM Mass in the Parish Center. This will be the first meeting to determine if there is a need in our Parish for a Single Senior Social Group-a place to plan trips, events, outings and be with others. So, please come and bring a friend!

For more information, call Pat Wallace at 587.4342 or Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.



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

**“Realize that we are not alone,
That we never have been
And never will be.”**

Sri Daya Mata,
Enter the Quiet Heart



This is a story from Outreach and an Invitation.

-Mary McMahon
Director of Parish Social Ministry

In June, I received a referral from the Sage Sisters. A woman in our Parish was to be discharged from Good Samaritan Hospital. Cathy was in her 50's, dependant on oxygen and was renting a room on the second floor of a private home in the area. Help would be needed with meals, doctor's appointments, maybe even assistance finding a more suitable living situation as the stairs to her room would be a challenge... Cathy, it seems had a difficult life. She was estranged from her family and appeared to have no resources to fall back upon. Several days later, I received a phone call from Adult Protective Services inquiring about Cathy, the concern being Cathy's ability to care for herself on discharge from the hospital. I informed the APS worker that Cathy was not a client of Outreach-but that we were aware of the situation.

Marilyn Kolk is an interesting woman. She does a lot behind the scenes- and though she doesn't think of herself as an Outreach volunteer, she really is. Marilyn came in to talk with me after I received the phone call about Cathy Gries. Marilyn knew of Cathy Gries and had gone to visit Cathy in the hospital. Cathy was in tough shape. She was in isolation, on oxygen. Cathy didn't speak too much, she nodded her head when Marilyn asked if she had been to confession and received communion. It was difficult for Cathy to move without discomfort; Marilyn sat so Cathy could keep eye contact with her. Marilyn told Cathy that anything she has done, God has forgiven her. She told Cathy to "Keep your eyes on God." As Marilyn was leaving, Cathy mouthed the words; "Please come back."

Marilyn did return the following week. Cathy was more alert, though still in isolation. Marilyn prayed with Cathy, and offered words of encouragement reminding Cathy that God loved her. No doubt that Marilyn's presence brought comfort to Cathy as a nurse came in and Cathy wanted Marilyn to stay. As she was leaving, Cathy mouthed the words, "Please come back. PRAY."

Cathy died on Sunday, July 22. Marilyn did not make it back to visit with Cathy before she died. Cathy's sister arranged a two hour viewing and then Cathy's remains were cremated. There was no funeral Mass or prayer service.

Outreach has arranged for a **Memorial Liturgy to be celebrated for Cathy on Monday night, August 27 at 7:30 PM.** I will invite Cathy's sister and her family to join us. I would also like to extend this invitation to all members of our Parish Family. Isn't this the meaning of Outreach – to embrace those hearts and spirits that have been broken. This is an opportunity for us, as community, to offer hope and healing to Cathy's family and to pray that Cathy's soul is finally at peace.



©LPI

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Their mother had passed away following complications after surgery. The two sisters, now grown and with families of their own, agreed to meet at her home to carry out the task of dividing or disposing of their mother's possessions. One sister, however, arrived a day early, cleared the house of most items of any value and left the state. Devastated, the other sister didn't speak to her again for more than 20 years.

In Jesus' time, rabbis were often called upon to settle disputes such as the inheritance question posed to him in today's Gospel reading from Luke. Jesus, of course, had absolutely no tolerance for anyone who coveted earthly possessions. The only richness we ever need to accumulate should be the wealth of God's love for us. Filled with such a treasure, we can't help but to share it with everyone!

We have been given a great promise by God, to love, honor and serve him as joyfully as we can. All of creation, every "thing," every act, every feeling, is from God and belongs to God; we are merely trusted stewards of his creation. True richness lies in the love of God. (CCC 1723) If you look at someone's possessions with envy, you will most certainly be looked at as someone lacking the greatest possession - a heart of love. Today, give thanks to God for all you have, especially his love.

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Readings for the Week of August 5, 2007

Sunday:	Ecc 1:2; 2:21-23/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21
Monday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36
Tuesday:	Nm 12:1-13/Mt 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday:	Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/ Mt 15:21-28
Thursday:	Nm 20:1-13/Mt 16:13-23
Friday:	2 Cor 9:6-10/Jn 12:24-26
Saturday:	Dt 6:4-13/Mt 17:14-20
Next Sunday:	Wis 18:6-9/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

Financial Summary

July 29, 2007

Weekly Collection \$ 17,546.00
 Weekly Budget -\$ 21,000.00
 +/- for the week \$ (3,454.00)

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

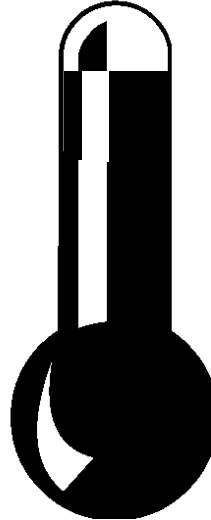
Catholic Ministries Appeal

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.

**87%
to goal!**

PARISH GOAL \$103,000



____ \$103,000
 _____ \$89,335
 _____ Pledged
 _____ to Date

413 Pledges
 \$216 Avg. Pledge

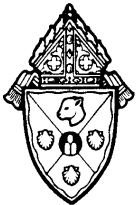
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
 PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

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.

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:

"Growth."

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.

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

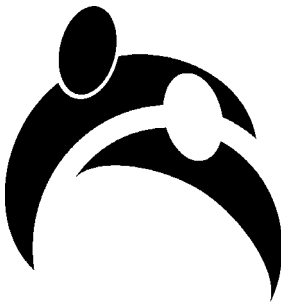
The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday** (*except the first Friday of the month*) **at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM.**

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

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Monenna Kennedy*.

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



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.

Pray for Our Sick

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

Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Joseph Calderale, Sr., Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, TJ Devlin, Edward Doyle, Jason Fisher, Pam Gagliano, Jeremiah Gimblet, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Gertrude Parine, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Arthur Petrino, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Marie "Amy" Turano, Mary Visconti, Loretta Vitale

The Beginning Experience

Help for the heartache of divorce, separation and widowhood. A weekend away for a lifetime of change. The next weekend is August 10 - 12. For information and reservations, call Connie at 516.735.1720 or Mike at 516.812.6417.

Bereavement Support Group

St. Patrick Parish Outreach, Bay Shore is offering a free seven week Bereavement Support Group for those who have suffered the death of a loved one. Group meetings begin on Wednesday, August 15 from 7 PM until 9 PM. For more information or to register, please call Catherine Dennis at 665.7216. Registration is on a first come - first served basis, seating is limited.

Quest for Truth

Vacation Bible School will be held at the Westminster United Presbyterian Church, Udall Road, West Islip from August 13 through August 17 from 6 PM until 8:30 PM. Class size is limited for children entering kindergarten through sixth grade. Family dinner will be served at 6 PM sharp! Call 661.6740 to register. A free will offering will be accepted for dinner.

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.

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.

Charismatic Day of Renewal

Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County will sponsor a Charismatic Day of Renewal on Saturday, August 11 from 10 AM until 4 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel, Bellmore. Fr. Victor Darlington, Ph.D. will give a presentation of the theme in the morning. Fr. Victor will be the celebrant of a Healing Mass in the afternoon. Preregistration is \$5. Bring a bag lunch. Call 785.0054 for flyer on registration.

Dominican Village

We would love to show you our home...

Please join us for one of our upcoming Open Houses.

Dominican Village is a rental retirement community that offers quality of life in a secure environment. The next Open House will be on **Saturday, August 11 from 1 PM until 3 PM**. An Upcoming Open House will also be held on August 26. 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.

Healing Mass

Marian Healing Ministry will have a Healing Mass on Wednesday, August 15 at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Augustine Fernando with Deacon John Dennehy and Deacon Joseph Mercolino assisting. This Mass will be a special healing for couples having difficulty conceiving. Come and experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and healing power of our Savior.

Looking for Volunteers

Catholic Daughters-Court Bishop McDonnell #1403, Babylon is looking for two women to help serve coffee and desserts Wednesday afternoons from noon until 2:30 PM to senior citizens starting in September. If you can help, please call Regent Kathy at 279.0614 for further information.

Sisters of the Good Shepherd

HandCrafting Justice is a non-profit, Fair Trade, project of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. They partner with women struggling with poverty and injustice in eighteen developing countries. You can help support our mission by visiting our website and shop for fair trade goods, contact us about volunteer opportunities or donate to the continuation of their mission. Visit their website at www.handcraftingjustice.org or call at 718.204.0909.

Lessons From Some Young Missionaries

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The religious congregation to which I belong, the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, has a long, proud history of sending young men off to faraway lands.

More recently, however, our biggest challenge has not come from those former faraway lands, but from the place where our congregation itself first took its roots, Western Europe and North America. The toughest missionary territory in the world today is secular culture. It's here where our churches are emptying and greying, where our seminaries and religious houses no longer receive a regular flow of new life, and where our preaching is often ineffective.

With this in mind, two years ago, we, the Oblates, launched a new mission, a pilot-project, to try to re-enter secular culture more deliberately as missionaries, akin to the way we previously used to go off to faraway lands.

Four young men, three priests and one brother, were chosen and sent to England to found this new mission. Two others, a priest and a seminarian, have joined them since. The team took as their setting the Bullring shopping district in central Birmingham, one of the largest shopping plazas in the world.

Before going there, the team spent nearly a year readying themselves. As part of their preparation, they spent some months together in reflection and retreat, pondering, among other things, what they might offer that's unique, new. While doing this, they looked at a number of efforts that were already being made to be more deliberately missionaries within a secular culture.

What they saw were a number of commendable projects which, each in its own way, had a certain success. But, too often, a given project, despite its goodness and effort, would also be driven by a particular ecclesiology and ethos, which would make for a certain exclusivity in its embrace.

Some projects they examined focused on the sacraments and devotions and drew in a good number of people, including the young. A lot of the activity here happened in churches, in shrines, at pilgrimages, at World Youth Days. The approach here was quite traditional, as was the dress of the missionaries (clerical collars, cassocks, liturgical vestments). The appeal was to the mainstream and the invitation was for persons to make themselves solidly at home inside the institutional church.

Some of the other projects they looked at took a

very different approach. Here there was no focus on sacraments and prayer at all, except in rare instances. The missionary venue was not a church, shrine, or pilgrimage, but a secular setting, a drinking bar, a hostel, a coffee house, a drug-laden street corner, a social agency, and the dress of the missionaries was not clerical, but casual, blue jeans, cut-offs, t-shirts. The appeal was not to the mainstream but to those on its edges and the invitation was not so much to make yourself at home in the institutional church as to a prophetic presence at its edges.

Looking at all of this, these young men asked themselves: "Why not both? Why not both sacraments and bars, clerical collars and blue jeans, justice and devotions, the prophetic edge and the institutional church, attention to the margins and to the mainstream? Why not all of these together inside one missionary team and one missionary project?"

What they could offer, they felt, that was new was precisely a wider inclusivity, an ecclesiology that would not force people to make false choices between churches and drinking bars, blue jeans and clerical dress, justice and the devotional life, the institutional and the prophetic. There's a lesson in that.

"Sing to the Lord a new song!" How might we do that in terms of trying to make Christ credible today inside the secular world? What's our old song? What's missing in what we are presently doing? What can we do that's new? Haven't we already tried almost everything imaginable? There are, after all, only so many ways of doing ministry, of trying to preach, of reaching out to those who do not come to church with us. What more can we do?

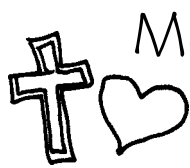
We can, I submit, learn a lesson from this group of young missionaries in Birmingham, England. Like them, we can strive for a wider ecclesial embrace, respect more people and more things. We can try to hold two worlds together. This would be a new song!

Giving witness to Christ today requires precisely that we build communities that are wide enough to hold our differences. What we need is not a new technique, but a new sanctity; not a cooler dress, but a more inclusive embrace; not some updating of the gospel to make it more acceptable to the world, but a more courageous radiating of its wide compassion; not some new secret that catches peoples' curiosity, but a way of following Christ that can hold more of the tensions of our world in proper balance so that everyone, irrespective of temperament and ideology, will find themselves better understood and embraced by what we hold most dear.

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

When you put Jesus first in your life, you will have everything you need. Having a lot of stuff won't really make you or God happy. God doesn't want you to keep your blessings to yourself. God wants you to share what he has given you. Be "rich" in only the things that God cares about. The closer you grow with God, the happier you will be.



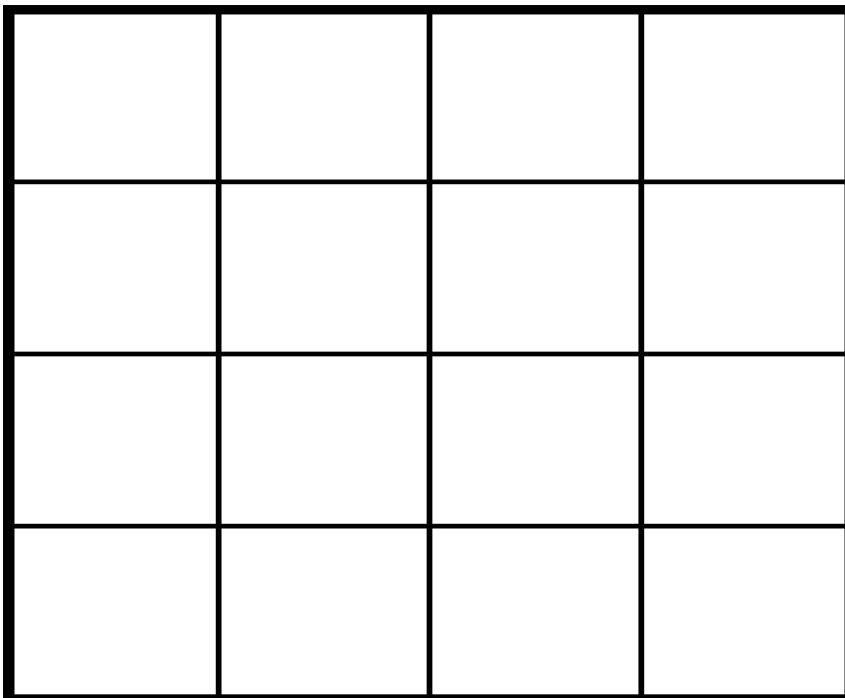
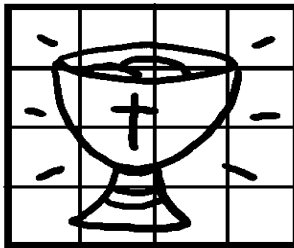
Mission for the Week

When you get home, pack three toys and three books to give to children without any.



Puzzle

Enlarge the picture square by square.



©LPi

Prayer



Dear God,
help me
to remember
what is really
important to you.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture
of yourself giving
one of your books
away to someone
who doesn't
have any.