

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Our Lady of Lourdes • August 19, 2007

Jesus said to  
his disciples:

“I have  
come



to set  
the earth  
on fire...”

Luke 12:49



## *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](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax: 661-7143

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

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

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: [info@ollschool.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*

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## *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.*

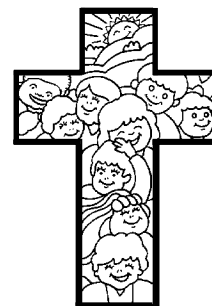
***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

*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 or 7:30 PM**

**Family Names M – Z**                      **Wednesday, September 26**                      **10 AM or 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.

### Captain/Volunteer Meeting

There will be a brief meeting for all Captains and Volunteers on **Thursday, September 6 at 7:30 PM in Room 16**. All are asked to attend.



**The OLL 23rd Annual Duffers Golf Classic**

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

**This  
Week!**

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!

**Reserve  
your  
Spot!**

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 this weekend!*

## 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 training 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](mailto:bounceusa@aol.com) or call John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

## Lectors

Who better to proclaim God's Word than you!? Our lectors prepare and proclaim the Scripture readings at our liturgies and services throughout the year. This is wonderful ministry because you bring the power of God's word to all who gather in our parish community!

*What's the commitment?*

If you are interested, we will assign you to work a "veteran" lector. We will try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Lectors 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....*

Contact Mrs. Kate Newman at [bounceusa@ollchurch.org](mailto:bounceusa@ollchurch.org) or call John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

## New 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 John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail him at [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

  
**SUMMER**  
Evening Prayer  
2007



Guest speaker:

**Dr. Joanne O'Brien**

Associate Superintendent of Schools  
Diocese of Rockville Centre.

As we end our summer evenings  
- and get into the "school mode" -  
we welcome **Dr. O'Brien**  
who will share a message with us  
that is both entertaining and challenging.

Come at **6:30 PM** for an  
**All-You-Can-Eat BBQ!**

Around Our Parish

## We Wish Them Well...

### *Sacristans moving on!*

The month of August sees many of our young people heading off to new challenges and opportunities in college. Two special seniors not only take leave of our parish but leave of an important ministry in the life of the Church, that of Sacristan.



*Michael Abbruscato* graduated from St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School and plans to attend the Webb Institute, a prestigious engineering academy on the North Shore of Long Island. Michael has been actively involved in the life of our parish community in a number of ways – as a server, frequent volunteer and graduate of OLL School – and we’re sure to still see him around.

*Joseph McCormack* graduated from West Islip High School in West Islip. He was a member of the West Islip State Championship Lacrosse team this past year and will be attending SUNY Geneseo in the Fall. Joe has been a sacristan in our parish for the past three years and in that time has brought much to parish’s life and prayer, with a sense of humility and humor.



Both Joe and Mike are reminders to us of the potential for each of us to make an incredible difference in the lives of one another. These two gentlemen – and many others – work behind the scenes to bring our entire community together. Let’s pray for and remember them as they begin a new part of their journey – assured of our gratitude and support.

## Ushers

Unsure of where to go? Need help with the seat? Looking for some information about a parish event? Our ushers serve as the eyes and ears of our parish’s liturgies and prayer services! They are here before Mass, assist with the collection and the communion procession and usually around after to make sure everyone has gotten to their cars! This is a wonderful job for you – young or old, male or female – and a wonderful to welcome and serve God’s people here at OLL!

### *What’s the commitment?*

If you are interested, we will assign you to work a “veteran” lector. We will try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Lectors 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....*

Contact Mrs. Kate Newman at [bounceusa@ollchurch.org](mailto:bounceusa@ollchurch.org) or call John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).



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

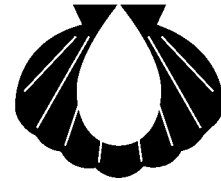
## **Support Groups**

### **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.



## ***Baptisms***

*Isabelle Evangeline Brown*

David and Deborah

*Ryan John Kropf*

James and Lisa

*Kyla Rose Timmer*

Moira

## ***Upcoming Marriages***

*Susan Sivillo, OLL and*

*Stephen Bonitch, St. Patrick's, Smithtown*

*Christine Patricia Phillips, St. James, Pennington, NJ and*

*John Peter Fogarty, 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 20

*St. Bernard, abott, doctor*

**8:00 AM** Frank Barba, Jr.

### Tuesday, August 21

*Pope Pius X*

**8:00 AM** Dec'd. mbrs of Edwards & Sniadowski Families

### Wednesday, August 22

*Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**8:00 AM** Heddy Yuliano

### Thursday, August 23

*St. Rose of Lima, virgin*

**8:00 AM** Joseph Intoci

### Friday, August 24

*St. Bartholomew, apostle*

**8:00 AM** Edward Wernikowski

### Saturday, August 25

**8:00 AM** Nina O'Brien, Pasquale & Anna Gattuso,  
Maria Cecelia Dono, Ernest Holst, Julia Catan,  
Sr. Mary Imilda Buetow

**5:00 PM** Mary Walsh

*Fr. John Asomugha*

### Sunday, August 26

**8:00 AM** Walter Fox

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

**9:30 AM** James M. Quinn

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

**11:00 AM** Helen & Joseph Dyczynski

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

**12:30 PM** James Loretz, Sr.

*Fr. Ed Dowling*

**6:00 PM** People of the Parish, Lawrence Zurlo, Alice Fitzgerald,  
Patricia McBride, Vincent Barbera, Robert Meddis,  
Peter Santoro

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*



## Sunset Mass at the Beach

*"The Six"*

**Sunday, August 26**

**6 PM ish**

**Captree State Park**

*(same location as our Easter Sunrise Mass)*

Let's give thanks to God for the gift of the summer and seek help and support for the year ahead. Mass will begin around 6:15/6:30 PM. Come early and enjoy some time at the Boat Basin and Boardwalk — maybe even make it a "Beach Day" at Robert Moses and come to Mass on the way home. (A small caravan will leave OLL at 5:50 PM if you want to follow along.)

We'll have an after Mass BBQ for all so don't miss it! Please bring your own drinks and a small dessert for our sharing table. (Please refrain from bringing any alcoholic beverages.)

If you're interested in helping in anyway, you can e-mail [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org) or call 661.3224, x. 135.



## 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 for the generous donations of school supplies and food throughout these summer months. Please continue to remember Outreach when shopping for groceries and school supplies.

## 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 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.

## Farmers Market

This time of the summer may find some of our 'local farmers' with an overabundance of tomatoes, cucumbers, string beans and other delicacies from the garden!

Why not donate your surplus to Outreach?

If you have abundant fruits from your crops...you can leave these in the food baskets also...how our customers would love to receive fresh vegetables!!



## 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



## Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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They now attend Mass together but alone; their children, now in their 20s, don't join them anymore. One questions his faith altogether, the other thinks she may convert to a different denomination. How do the parents reconcile their children's attitudes with the faith-based home in which they were raised? Very simply, the parents can only continue to extend the welcoming arms of the Church and God's love.

One couldn't help but feel the disciples must have been stunned to hear Jesus tell of divided homes and fire brought down upon the earth in today's Gospel reading from Luke! While at first it may seem that Jesus is admitting not all will follow God's path, his use of the image of fire is meant to imply that God's love is all-consuming, and those of us who truly believe and follow God's path must do everything we can to bring others along.

As Christians, we have a duty to profess or give witness to the truth of the saving grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God when the situation arises. This witness is the transmission of the faith in words and deeds. (CCC 2472) Whether it is our children who watch and learn everything we do or the co-worker or friend who is struggling with life, the Holy Spirit will guide us in our efforts to show God's love to them.

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### Readings for the Week of August 19, 2007

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<b>Sunday:</b>	Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53
<b>Monday:</b>	Jgs 2:11-19/Mt 19:16-22
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Jgs 6:11-24a/Mt 19:23-30
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jgs 9:6-15/Mt 20:1-16
<b>Thursday:</b>	Jgs 11:29-39a/Mt 22:1-14
<b>Friday:</b>	Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51
<b>Saturday:</b>	Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Mt 23:1-12
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 66:18-21/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

## Financial Summary

**August 12, 2007**

Weekly Collection           \$ 15,558.00  
 Weekly Budget           -\$ 21,000.00  
 +/- for the week           \$ (5,442.00)

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

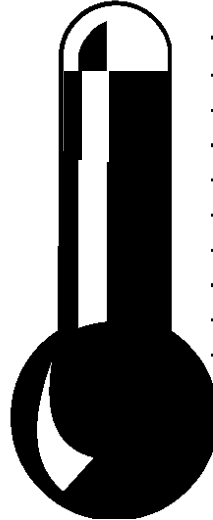
## Catholic Ministries Appeal

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.

**88%  
to goal!**

PARISH GOAL \$103,000



— \$ 91,060  
 — Pledged  
 — to Date  
 —  
 —  
 —  
 —  
 —  
 —

421 Pledges  
 \$216 Avg. Pledge

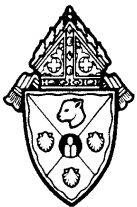
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
 PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • [www.drvc.org/cma.html](http://www.drvc.org/cma.html)

### 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](http://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:

**"Uncertainty."**

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com).

Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on 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.

## **Schedule Change**

Our interpreter for the hearing impaired of our parish, Kelly Cardosa, has made a change. Kelly will now be signing at the 12:30 PM Mass each Sunday. Please make a note of this change and let anyone you know who would benefit from her services of the change also.

## **Altar Society**

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Rose Grant*.

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, 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, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento,  
Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Joseph Menite,  
Bryan Monahan, Jean Muller, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Gertrude Parine,  
Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti,  
Delphine Reynolds, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan,  
Marie "Amy" Turano, Loretta Vitale*

## Christian Concert

On Monday, September 10 at 7 PM Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Patchogue will be hosting a concert with John Michael Talbot; This is the 50th album release of this internationally known number one selling Christian recording artist. His trademark solo guitar and voice are an experience meant to touch your hearts. For more information and tickets please call 475.4739.

## You Can Help Your Marriage Now!

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Does talking about it only make it worse or- Have you just stopped talking to each other?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages.

For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend beginning on Friday, September 7- 9, please call 1.800.470.2230.

## Vendors Wanted

St. Joseph's Parish in Babylon is having their Holiday Fair on Saturday, November 17. They are looking for vendors for their craft sale and flea market. For information call Terry at 669.0198 or Valerie at 236.2222.

## 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.

## Dominican Commercial High School

The former students and staff of Dominican Commercial High School are invited to attend a special celebration at the Queen of the Rosary Motherhouse in Amityville on **Sunday, September 23**. Please call Benincasa Family Services at 631.842.6000, ext. 351 if you would like to receive an invitation.

## 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 **Sunday, August 26 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](http://www.dominicanvillage.org).

## Graced Journey

The Cenacle in Ronkonkoma offers a program called "Graced Journey." It is designed especially for persons who have begun a journey with God and who desire to find ways to let God enter their lives more fully. For more information and/or a descriptive brochure, please call Sister Mary Spratt at the Ronkonkoma Cenacle at 631.588.8366.

## 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](http://www.handcraftingjustice.org) or call at 718.204.0909.

## On Carrying Ecclesial Tension

*Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI*

We disagree a lot and are forever frustrated with each other. That's true in all families, communities, and churches. In this world, there's no life together without a shadow.

Inside of our churches, we have more than enough things about which to disagree: God, Jesus, church, morality, worship, spirituality, justice, discipleship.

It has never been different: We see major divisions already within scripture itself. The bible does not give us one, clear understanding of God, Jesus, church, Eucharist, morality, and discipleship. It gives us a series of understandings, some of which almost seem to contradict each other and some of which had the apostles at odds with each other. Peter and Paul disagreed on a number of things, quite heatedly it seems, and John's theology of the church and the Eucharist is very different than Matthew, Mark, Luke, or Paul. In scripture, we already see many of the tensions and divisions that divide us today.

But this doesn't necessarily mean that we're doing something wrong, that sin and infidelity are the problem. Sometimes they are, but not always. Even the great saints didn't always see eye to eye on everything. There can be legitimate reasons to see things differently. There's no principle that says that truth, as it is held in the hearts of sincere people, should fit together without friction. And there's a reason for this.

God, by definition is ineffable, beyond grasp, beyond imagination, and it is a given, a truth beyond dispute, that our understanding of God (and of all the deep mysteries within life) will of necessity have a variety of expressions, none of them adequate to the reality. All the religious expression in the world will still never give adequate expression to God and to Christ, just as all the psychological and aesthetic expressions in the world will never give adequate expression to the mystery of the love that grounds our lives.

That principle, that all our language and concepts are inadequate, is in fact enshrined in church dogma, but has never been properly respected. If we really accepted that our concepts and language are inadequate, we'd more easily accept too the differences, tensions, and disagreements that are inherent in family, church, and community.

But none of us like to live in tension and neither do our church communities. Tension is painful and so the temptation is always to try to resolve it. And this often leads to a resolution that is premature, simplistic, and too

much dictated by liberal or conservative ideology.

Thus, if I'm a conservative, my sense will be that things are clear, but get confused because false freedom sets itself against truth and community. My itch will be to resolve tension and differences by appealing to authority, dogma, tradition, law, and rubrics, but without an equal appeal to the complexity of life and individual freedom.

Conversely, if I'm a liberal, my approach to understanding things will be to start from life's ambiguity rather than from its clarity. My worry will be that complexity and private conscience are not being sufficiently respected and my itch (suffered in the name of conscience, freedom, and the spirit) will be to resolve issues without an equal appeal to tradition, dogma, authority, and law.

Who's right here? Neither and both.

The conservatives are right to appeal to tradition, authority, dogma, and law. Freedom and sincerity alone are not enough. We need to be reminded of the lessons learned from history, of mistakes already made, of moral imperatives that we're not free to accept or reject on our own terms, and of the dangers of naive freedom and the unchecked ego.

But the liberals are right too in keeping us aware that human authority, even of the ecclesial kind, is not God and is always inadequate to the task of representing God's parental hand. There's a place where everyone stands in conscience, alone, before God, and nobody, not even the church, gets to judge what goes on there. Liberals are right as well in making us uncomfortable every time we believe that we've arrived in truth and that our present way of understanding things is sufficient to do justice to the complexity of reality and to God's understanding of things.

Thus, we need to carry both, the conservative and the liberal understanding of things. There's an important place both for authority and conscience, dogma and truth's incapacity to be captured in any one formula, and for the demands of church and the demands of individual freedom. The secret is to respect both, refuse to betray either, and then accept the tension that ensues.

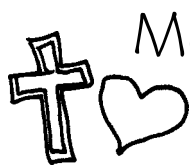
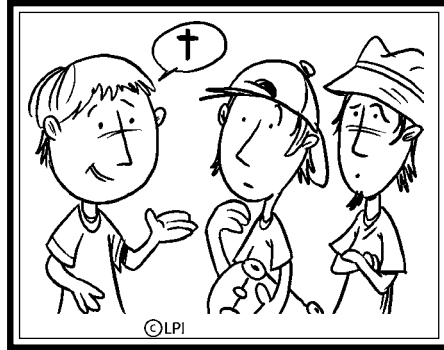
This isn't be easy. We hate tension. But we must try to carry it because life and truth need both sides of the equation. To quote Karl Rahner: "You must try to bring about the miracle of this double identity over and over again. The sum will never work out. But try for it, over and over again. One of the two on its own is not enough. Only the two together are sufficiently crucifying."

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

## Sharing the Gospel

When you talk about Jesus, you will probably get a strong reaction from people. Some people love Jesus with their whole heart, and their lives really show it. Other people don't want to follow Jesus, and talking about him may even make them angry. Families and friends can be torn apart by that anger. No matter what, stay close to Jesus, and he will stay close to you.



## Mission for the Week

Be very loving when you tell others about Jesus.



## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
help me to stay  
close to you  
always.

## Something to Draw



Draw a picture of a  
family broken apart  
because Jesus  
makes some of  
them happy, and  
Jesus makes the  
rest of them angry.