

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OUR LADY OF LOURDES • OCTOBER 21, 2007



BUT
WHEN
THE
SON
OF
MAN
COMES,
WILL HE
FIND
FAITH
ON
EARTH?¹¹

LUKE 18:8



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 McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorgia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

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

Adult Faith Formation

...this month



Gospel of Matthew

Tuesdays - October 23, November 6, 13, 20, 27
with Fr. Bob
7:30 PM until 9:30 PM
Parish Center

Invitation to trust in God's presence...challenge to live as true disciples

Matthew's Gospel excites us with the news that Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel. During these five weeks, we will explore the Jesus of Matthew's Gospel from the perspective of this year's Sunday readings...our Liturgical Cycle.

...coming in December

Apparitions of Mary Visits of the Mother of God

Tuesday - December 4
with Deacon Jack Meehan
7:30 PM until 9:30 PM
Parish Center

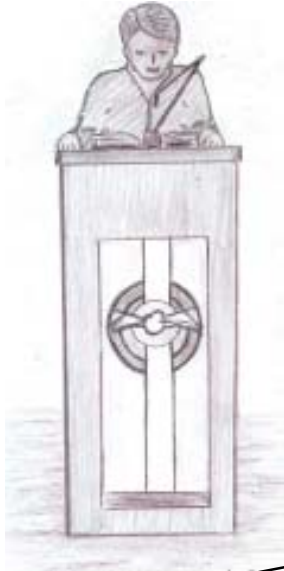


What are the implications of her messages for all of us?

Together we will explore many of the well known apparitions of the Blessed Mother, including Lourdes, Fatima, Garabandal, and Medjugorje. Emphasis will be given to the time, context, and content of the messages.

Gentle Reminder: Preregistration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office Monday-Friday from 9 AM until 5 PM at 661.5440, option 3 or email to religioused@ollchurch.org. Fee is \$25 and may vary with each class. No fee is required for those who have paid Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition.

When we love...



Renewing our Support for Our Lady of Lourdes

Dear Parishioners:

Each year, our parish uses the weeks at the end of October and beginning of November to celebrate parish stewardship.

Stewardship is a way of life, an attitude of generosity and faith that allows us to use our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to do the work of the gospel. Our parish community would not exist without the generosity of our members. Please pay special attention to the message of stewardship on these upcoming weekends.

...we serve.

Saturday and Sunday, October 27 and 28 Our Parish Annual Report

Our Pastor, Father Mike Vetrano, will speak at all weekend Masses and present the Annual Report from our Finance and Stewardship Committees.

Saturday and Sunday, November 3 and 4 Parish Commitment Weekend

We will be invited, this Sunday, to listen and understand the importance of the stewardship of time, talent, and treasure in our lives. Parishioners will also be invited to make or renew a commitment to support Our Lady of Lourdes. The commitment cards may be put into the collection baskets at this Mass or at Mass over the next several Sundays. In addition, the commitment cards can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parish Office in the Rectory.

Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11 Commitment Weekend

Parishioners will be invited to return their commitment cards if they did not do so last weekend. In addition, we will have cards available at the entrances of the Church over the next several weeks for your use. All cards can be returned in the collection baskets at Mass or they can be dropped off at or mailed to the Parish Office in the Rectory.

Fabulous 50's

Football Wedding

with music by the notable
* Dominick and the Vel-tones

Saturday, November 10

7:30 PM - 11 PM

Old School Cafeteria

donation of \$25 per person
includes food and soda (byob)
proceeds to benefit
Our Lady of Lourdes
Parish Outreach *

tickets now on sale at
Outreach Office
10 AM - 3:30 PM
661-9262



Confirmation 2007

“Let the power of the Holy Spirit sanctify our lives, and restore all creation, bringing closer ev’ry nation; let this be the celebration that brings hope into the world.”

Let Us Come to Be One Body...Cortez

On **Thursday, October 25, Bishop Paul Walsh** will administer the **Sacrament of Confirmation** to our Candidates. They look to their Parish Family with an even greater awareness of what the words of the above hymn means to them. Through their “Spirit Nights” with their parents and sponsors, they have come to realize how great their responsibility as Confirmed Catholics is in our world today. Please continue to keep them, their parents and sponsors in your prayers as they continue their Journey begun at Baptism and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Ministry of Consolation

We Remember We Celebrate We Believe

All Souls Mass of Remembrance

During this past year at Our Lady of Lourdes, more than 100 Funeral Masses have been celebrated for members of our parish family who have died. Their families will be invited to participate in a special Mass of Remembrance and Communion Breakfast on Saturday, November 3 at 10:30 AM.

If there is someone you wish to honor, whose Funeral Mass was not celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes, please contact the Parish Office at 661.3224 so that we may include them on this special day, no later than October 31st.

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

Monday and Tuesday at
8 PM and Saturday at 2PM
and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

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

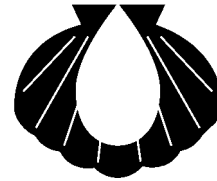
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

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.



Baptisms

Jack Thomas Egan

Paul and Holly

Amanda Grace Vlkovic

Stephen and Meaghan

Gabriella Anzelma Alfaro

Jose and Marissa

Hailey Maureen Cardineau

Daniel and Christina

Angelika Daniela DeLeon

Fernando and Dominika

Amelia Rose DiBenedetto

John and Jennifer

Julia Marie Faulkner

Cornelius and Annemarie

Aidan James Okurowski

Steven and Margaret

Ella Eileen Okurowski

Adam and Carey

Sienna Rae Pollock

Jason and Erica

Arden Marie Sarcona

Steven and Danielle

Mateusz Dominik Sitariski

Klaudiusz and Jolanta

Makenna Jaymes Gagliardi

George and Jaymee

Samuel Abraham

Biju and Lena

Mass Schedule

Monday, October 22

8:00 AM Andrew (Al) Velten

Tuesday, October 23

St. John of Capistrano, priest

8:00 AM Donald & Patrick Manning

Wednesday, October 24

St. Anthony Mary Claret, bishop

8:00 AM George Bukowski

Thursday, October 25

8:00 AM Frank Cafaro

Friday, October 26

8:00 AM Valerie Moscarelli

Saturday, October 27

8:00 AM Howard, Dorothy & William Ahland, Grace Paruolo,
Joseph Sullivan, Marie Gruienheid, To the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Cyril Cunningham, Mary DuRussel, Michael Baldwin II

5:00 PM Edward DeMatteo

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

Sunday, October 28

8:00 AM Carmela Stumpo

Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM John Gennuso

Fr. Stan Chukwube

11:00 AM John & Mark Nardone

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

12:30 PM Helen Gerda

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Brian Bogart, Sue Fornatora, Joseph Sullivan,
Louis Prudenti, Mabel Fiel, Mary Kay DuRussel, James Karisinski,
Thomas McInerney, Paul Smith

Fr. Stan Chukwube



Rest In Peace

Mary Kay DuRussel, died on October 5 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was October 10. We extend our prayers to her husband Robert, sons Robert and Scott, daughters Deborah and Wendy and her entire family.



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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The movie "The Pursuit of Happyness" portrays the true-life story of Chris Gardner. Despite suffering many setbacks, Chris never lost sight of his dream of providing a better life for himself and his son. His perseverance and faith kept him looking forward to the goal; he had a responsibility to his son and to himself, and not even homelessness could move his eyes from that goal. He endured, and today gives all of his thanks to God.

Some people mistake perseverance with stubbornness. Jesus' parable of the poor widow who persistently sought justice from a judge teaches us that above all things, we must persevere in our faith. Just as she lived most of her life enduring an injustice before she was rewarded, we must also return day after day, hour after hour to the belief that God is with us and will welcome us into his arms on that last day.

Jesus Christ, from God, gave us the Our Father, containing seven petitions. The fourth petition, "Give us this day our daily bread?" refers not only to the food we need daily to survive, but also refers to the Bread of Life needed to sustain our faith. (CCC 2861) Through this petition, we seek all that we need to find true joy and contentment in our lives. We only need to ask, and we will receive. We can persevere!

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Readings for the Week of October 21, 2007

Sunday:	Ex 17:8-13/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8
Monday:	Rom 4:20-25/Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday:	Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday:	Rom 6:12-18/Lk 12:39-48
Thursday:	Rom 6:19-23/Lk 12:49-53
Friday:	Rom 7:18-25a/Lk 12:54-59
Saturday:	Rom 8:1-11/Lk 13:1-9
Next Sunday:	Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14

Ministry of Family Healing

We welcome you to the 2007-2008 Ministry of Family Healing nights of prayer and reflection. Our first night will be Wednesday, November 7 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center. The theme for the night will be Grace and Gratitude. Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home and a stranger into a friend. Please join us by calling the Religious Education Office at 661-5440 to register and please bring a friend. Food and fellowship to follow. In the spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving, please bring a non perishable food item for our food pantry. Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday, November 7.



50th Year Anniversary of the

Rosary Christian Mothers

Past and present members of the Rosary Christian Mothers are celebrating our **50th Anniversary November 18.**

We will begin with the celebration of Mass at 9:30 AM and brunch to follow at the Marconi Manor, Islip. Tickets are \$35. Members and families are welcome.

If interested, please call Claire at 669.3178, Patty at 669.1727, Angie at 586.2084 or Angela at 669.7275.

Operation Holidays

The Rosary Christian Mothers are sponsoring "*Operation Holidays.*"

Our parish family is asked to join us in this effort by donating items for our troops. Some suggestions are phone cards, travel size toiletries, writing paper/note cards, envelopes, pens/pencils. There are also magazines, paperback books, cards, puzzles, and games. Some food items that make good donations are gum, nuts, hard candy, non-perishable boxed food items such as macaroni and cheese and soups. Or, if you would like to make a monetary donation to help defray the cost of shipping, please contact Doris at 893.5053 or Claire at 669.3178. If you know of someone serving in the armed forces from our parish, and their comrades, who would like to receive a care package this holiday season, please call Doris or Claire so we can include them on our list.

There are some restricted items such as foods containing pork, aerosol products and products containing alcohol. Please call if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support.

Single Senior Social

Our **next meeting will be October 27 after the 5 PM Mass.**

The meeting will be Game Night-so bring the game of your choice.

Dinner will be pizza, salad and dessert! This group is open to all single seniors!

Please feel free to join us for fun and companionship!

-Pat Wallace

Outreach Volunteer

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*

James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*

John Finn-*US Army*

Donnie Frank-*US Marines*

Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*

Michael Mallimo-*US Army*

Peter Provenzano-*US Army*

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

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, October 23**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

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.
- would like to receive the sacred anointing.

Pray for Our Sick

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

Rocco Altieri, Cathy Badalmenti, Deacon Dick Barry, Carol Booth, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Joseph Chirichella, Erin Corcoran, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Frank Curcio, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Jason Fisher, Frank Freudenberg, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Robert Lubeck, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Olga Michaluk, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Christine Neal, Joseph Ortiz, Eleanor Pavia, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Sam Viola, Loretta Vitale

A Formidable Force - The Many Faces of Denial

by Paul J. Ashton, Psy.D., D. Min.
Consultant to the VIRTUS® Programs

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am!
Isaiah 58:8-9

When bad things happen we often close our eyes and pray that it is all a bad dream; we try with all our might to wish it away. If only we could go back in time and change things. We play the scenes over and over again in our mind; we try to bargain it all away. We respond by staying in control and operating in normal mode, yet the reality still exists. When this is how we cope, we find ourselves in denial.

Denial is a psychological defense mechanism that individuals and groups use to cope with a difficult reality or set of circumstances and to maintain a particular image. This is generally done when faced with a trauma or event that is overwhelmingly difficult to bear.

There are several forms of psychological defense mechanisms, for example: dissociation, intellectualization, repression, reaction formation, displacement, sublimation, altruism, suppression, humor.

Throughout a person's life they might use any number of these defenses to confront and cope with the challenges, disappointments, and traumas of life. The appropriate use of defense mechanisms is healthy. However, a defense mechanism becomes pathological when it is used persistently and leads to irregular behavior that can eventually threaten the physical and/or mental health of the individual.

We hear a lot about "healthy denial," which involves self-deception in the face of accurate perception. Individuals who engage in this mainly pre-conscious process basically understand the threat to their life situation. Persons are able to see and register the reality of their situation, but to balance and accept the full impact of the emotional strain placed upon them, they simultaneously seek to dissociate from its personal impact. This is done by positively reconstructing its personal meaning or significance. They then turn despair into hope.

With that brief introduction to denial as a defense mechanism, we will now look at why victims of sexual abuse often deny their experiences. If you have worked with a person who has been victimized at all, you will sometimes see that they will seek the feedback of many other people to check whether what has happened to them can be really classified as abuse.

A.J. Mahari, herself a sexual abuse survivor, has written much about the reasons why some victims deny their sexual abuse and has identified five primary reasons. In the next installment of this topic we will examine these reasons.



canned fruit
canned vegetables
jelly
peanut butter
pudding/jello
soup

Parish Outreach

Our Lady of Lourdes Food Pantry clients receive food on a weekly basis. Many of our clients just need our assistance during a time of crisis and some need ongoing help.

The donations you make allow us to ease the financial burden for these clients and supply them with nourishment for their families. We at Outreach are grateful for your ongoing support and ask you to continue to help us in our effort to assist our clients.

Financial Summary

October 14, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,621.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,379.00)

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

Education of a Lifetime

A Catholic High School education offers young people a challenging, value-centered liberal arts education. It also affords each student an opportunity to test abilities, add skills, build confidence and develop an understanding of faith, while preparing for college and for life. Learn more about each school by attending its Open House. For more information, contact the individual High School or the Catholic Secondary School Administration at 516.739.5030.

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam is scheduled for **Saturday, October 27** and will be held at several locations. Applications for the Catholic High School entrance exam are available at the Religious Education Office and the OLL School Office. If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option #3 or the OLL School Office at 661.7200, option #2.

Operation Andrew

Learn about the priesthood by joining Bishop Murphy along with priests of our diocese on Tuesday, October 23 at 5:30 PM. The evening will begin with Mass followed by dinner and conversation at Chaminade High School.

If you are interested in attending, contact the Vocations Office at 631-424-9888 or vocations@drvc.org.

World Mission Sunday

The theme for this year's celebration on October 21st is, "*All the Churches for all the World.*" The special collection taken up this day goes to support the worldwide missionary activity of the Church. Please be generous in remembering the missionaries and those they serve both with your prayers and donations.

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: "**Autumn Changes.**" 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.

Communion Breakfast

Everyone is welcome! Msgr. Jim Vlaun invites you to join Telecare at their First Communion Breakfast on Sunday, October 28 at St. John the Baptist High School. Mass at 10:30 AM. Breakfast at 11:30 AM.

Guest speaker will be Rev. Joseph DeGrocco, Professor of Liturgy and Director of Liturgical Formation, Seminary of the Immaculate Conception.

Topic: Finding God in Popular Culture-Can Superman, The Price is Right and Olivia Newton-John tell us anything about Faith?

Tickets are \$25 each and children 7 years or younger admitted free. Reserve now at 516.538.8704, extension 111.

Sisters of Charity-Halifax Luncheon

Tickets are on sale now for the **8th Annual Sisters of Charity-Halifax Luncheon to be held Sunday, November 11 at the Milleridge Cottage at the Milleridge Inn, Jericho.** This year's Elizabeth Seton Award recipients are *Patricia Holahan and Sister Maureen Murphy SC.* Tickets for the Luncheon are available for \$55. For further information or to make reservations, please contact Adam Szczepanski at 718.424.1813 or email to aszczepanski@schalifax.org.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

On **Sunday, November 18, 2007** couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop John Dunne at **Christ the King, Commack at 4 PM.** Please pick up and fill out your registration card at the Parish Office no later than October 29. Approximately one week before the ceremony information regarding the celebration will be mailed to you. If you have any questions you may call 516.678.5800, extension 242.

Help Wanted

Ss. Philip and James Parish in St. James is in need of a part-time bookkeeper. The position calls for someone with knowledge of general bookkeeping and payroll. The individual would work three days a week for six hours per day. For more information, please contact Bob Balla, Business Manager at 631.584.5454, extension 102.

St. Kilian's Church, Farmingdale is in need of a Rectory Cook. The position is full-time with benefits. For information, please call 516.249.0127.

On Healthy, Constructive Criticism

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Liberals and conservatives both pride themselves on speaking out for the truth, on thinking critically. But too often both are deluded as to what it means to be critical. Generally we think of a critic as someone who debunks what's false, heretical, naive, inflated, or superficial. Partly that's true, but it leaves too much room for us, liberals and conservatives alike, to criticize others according to our own image and likeness.

What does it mean to be critical? The word comes from the Greek word *kritus*, which refers to a judge. A judge (a critic) is someone who hears the evidence and then tries to make a judgment concerning guilt or innocence. What's important then is not to debunk, bash, or challenge, but to tease out the truth without pre-judging as to where it might lie and then to make sure that it gets a fair hearing.

A good critic, therefore, is someone who agitates for fairness, objectivity, depth, wholeness, and aesthetics, without first self-defining himself or herself as belonging to one camp or the other.

But this is difficult to do because too many things derail objectivity. Our minds and hearts simply have too many subjective crevices.

This is one of the insights given us by many of the great minds of the recent past, Einstein, Heisenberg, Durkheim, Freud, Jung, Lonergan, and Habermas. All of these concur on the fact that virtually all of our judgments are shaped and colored by perspective, temperament, ideology, self-interest, and historical conditioning. It's not easy to criticize something on anything other than self-interest. Most criticism is a form of autobiography. It tells us more about the critic than about the issue. Sadly, too, the same is often true too for much of what passes for research.

Given the truth of that, it's fair to ask whether it's even possible to think a truly critical thought.

Perhaps that's overly sceptical, given that there is within our conscience a critical faculty that has a grounding in something beyond temperament and historical conditioning. Be that as it may. What all of this suggests is that we should be more humble, more careful, and more self-critical in what we consider to be critical thought. Our criticism must be much more self-scrutinizing if it is to be based upon anything more than ideology and private likes and dislikes.

True criticism starts with the admission that we, like everyone else, are far from objective. All of us think and feel through a certain software, a pre-ontology, a bias (in common language). It is never a question of "Are we biased?" but only a question of "What are our biases?" And that is true for everyone.

But this doesn't mean we can't attain truth. The task of being critical is not to rid oneself of all bias (an impossibility, even if it were desirable). The task of critical thought is instead to have the correct bias, to think and feel through the right software. But what is the correct bias? What kind of thinking makes for true criticism?

Jesus tells us "the pure of heart will see God", that there is a certain internal attitude that will make us see straight. What constitutes this attitude?

I like the answer given by the medieval philosopher and mystic, Hugo of St. Victor. His axiom for objectivity was: "Love is the eye!" For Hugo, we see things properly and objectively only when we see them through the eyes of love because then we see them the way God sees them. This is the critical eye: We see straight, objectively, when we look out at the world with the eyes of love. When we see things with sufficient compassion then, and only then, are we good judges, critics in the best sense.

John of the Cross says essentially the same thing when he suggests that we attain purity of heart when our motivation is the same as Christ's, when our reasons for interacting with others and the world issue from a real desire to help bring about a permanent community of life among all people and all things. When we think and feel like that, which is how Jesus felt, then our thoughts and actions are genuinely critical and we will criticize the status quo or try to conserve it on the basis of whether or not it is aiding or hindering this community of life, and not on the basis of temperament, personal neuroses, or the adolescent urge to "kill the king".

True criticism, unlike so much of what tries to pass itself off as criticism today, is, first of all, marked by a deep compassion. Beyond this, it is recognized by its openness, its respect for those with whom it disagrees, its self-criticism, and its keen sense of the importance of aesthetics and enjoyment. True criticism does not radiate panic, pompousness, elitism, dogmatism, or cynicism, but rather charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, longsuffering, fidelity, faith, mildness, and chastity - and, not least, a good sense of humor.

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.

A Day of Reflection...

on the Root Causes of Poverty and the Issue of Human Trafficking sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Globalization, poverty, and human trafficking are part of the same complex phenomenon. Many perspectives compete with that of the Gospel of Jesus to confound and confuse us as we struggle to understand them. We invite you to a day of reflection whose goal is to de-mystify these very issues in the context of prayer. Join us on Saturday, November 3 at St. John's University from 9 AM until 4 PM. If you have any questions or to register, please call 718.651.1685.

Holiday Craft and Gift Fair

Please come and join us for our annual Holiday Craft and Gift Fair. There will be over 100 vendors with selections to suit everyone's tastes. There will also be raffles, prizes and food. The fair will be on **Sunday, November 4 from 10 AM until 4 PM at Saint John the Baptist High School**. For further information, please contact Linda at 631.422.5150.

The annual R.C. Church of the Resurrection Chinese Auction will be held on Wednesday evening, November 7. Admission is \$7 and includes 50 tickets and coffee and cake. Doors open at 6 PM. For more information or advanced ticket purchase, please call Rosemarie at 631.696.0270, extension 25.

St. Matthew's Church, Dix Hills is having their Annual Holiday Craft Fair on Sunday, November 11 from 9 AM until 4 PM. There will be raffles, prizes and over 50 vendors! For information, call Louise at 586.4515.

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry. Couples who have had problems in their own marriages and have recovered from those problems, share their experiences with troubled couples in the hope that they too will see that their marriage can be saved. Thousands of couples have found hope, help and healing by participation in the Retrouvaille program. A Retrouvaille weekend is a deeply personal and private experience between a husband and wife that can help a couple reconnect. The next weekend begins Friday, November 2. For more information, please call 1.800.470.2230 and you will be connected confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille that can help.

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

*What God arranges for us to experience at each moment is the best
and holiest thing that could happen to us.*

-Jean-Piere de Caussard

Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens will be hosting a **Welcoming Prayer Retreat on October 26-28 at Our Lady of Grace Retreat House in Manhasset**. This weekend workshop includes learning the method of the Welcoming Prayer and having opportunity to practice under the guidance of an experienced and trained presenter. The Welcoming Prayer is a prayer during activity, especially moments of anxiety, stress, and emotional or physical pain. Also included are discussions of the Human Condition and False-Self System as the conceptual background of prayer. For further information, please call Diane Garretson at 631.587.0966.

Introduction to Centering Prayer

"Be still and know that I am God."

Psalm 46

St. Brigid's Parish, Westbury on Saturday, November 10 from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM. There will be a six week follow-up session. For further information, call Diane Garretson at 587-0966.

Military Bridge

Our Lady of Grace Columbiettes will host **Military Bridge on Friday, November 2 from 7:30 PM until 11 PM in the Father Shanahan Hall, Our Lady of Grace Church, West Babylon**. Doors will open at 7 PM. Admission is \$8 per ticket and includes hot dogs, coffee, tea, cake and pretzels. There will be prizes, raffles, 50/50 and more! For ticket information, call Terry at 884.4840 or Madelyn at 884.7517.

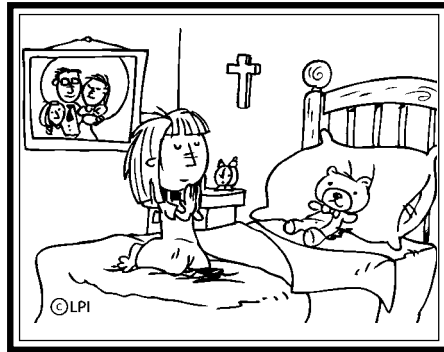
Spiritual Care Companion Program

Are you looking for an avenue to volunteer your time with others? Come and learn more about sharing your gift of time and presence as a Spiritual Care Companion with those that are hospitalized or living in a nursing home.

Spiritual Care Companions will attend a free six-week training program from early October through mid November covering such topics as: -goals of ministry to the sick, -how to be a good listener and serve as a spiritual companion, -how to respond to crisis and grief. For more information, please call Mary T. O'Neill at 631.474.5663 or Peg Nixdorf at 631.587.1600.

Sharing the Gospel

The widow in Jesus' story never gave up. She needed help. She kept asking for help over and over until the judge gave her what she needed. God is so much more loving than the judge in Jesus' story. If you need help, you can ask God over and over. Don't give up. Tell God when you are hurt. Tell God when you need help. He listens carefully to you, and he enjoys helping children who love him.



Mission for the Week

Many children do not have homes or shoes or beds. Ask God to show you how to help them.

Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

STORY
PRAYING
JUDGE

WIDOW
FAIR
PROTECT

CONCERNED
HURRY
HELP

M A K S E W U R H T
H P R A Y I N G E A
T R I G T D E F L I
E O A S T O R Y P T
M T N I C W H O U J
R E F R A I U L T U
H C O N C E R N E D
E T J U D G R F U G
F A I R S E Y D T E
O D N Y T H I F N A

Prayer



Dear God,
thank you for
caring about me
and listening to my
prayers.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
the woman who kept
asking the judge for
help.