

**“God chose the weak
of the world**



to shame the strong.”

1 Corinthians 1:27

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Lourdes • February 3, 2008**



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

Dominic Armano

Youth Ministry

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Jennifer Gallagher

Children's Choir/Women's Chorale

Summer Program Director

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 Scorcio

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*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorcio

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

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 6

Invite your friends and loved ones to come back to Church this Lent beginning on this day. Come before work, after work, during work, during the day, at night, whenever!
There's a time and place for everyone at OLL!



- **Prayer Services** on the hour, as we pray together as a parish family:
7 AM, 9 AM, 10 AM, 11 AM, 12 Noon, 1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM,
7 PM and 9 PM.
- **Mass** will be celebrated at 8 AM and 8 PM.
- On Ash Wednesday, we invite all in our parish family to fast and pray for ourselves and for one another. Lent is such a powerful time for us to celebrate God's healing love for us – we can do that in prayer.
 - Our Church will be open all day for you to come and pray privately.
 - The Scripture readings for the day speak to us of the challenges and benefits of this season...*Joel 2:12-18*
2 Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18
 - We are challenged to fast, limiting food to one full meal with minimal food at the other two meal times and abstain from meat. (This is required of all adults from ages 18-59 and only of those whose health would not be at risk by doing so.)
We fast and abstain - not as punishment - but to focus our prayer, unite with the less fortunate, and reflect on the ways God's love can change our hearts.



R.C.I.A.-The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Family Grows

We have begun our parish's work with the candidates and catechumens of the R.C.I.A. They are gathering every Sunday for Mass and every Monday for catechesis and reflection. Please pray for them as they continue on this journey of new life and hope!

save the date...

Parish Lenten Retreat

Monday, **March 3**, Tuesday, **March 4** and Wednesday, **March 5**

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

7:30 PM



Fr. Bob Lauder

Columnist for The Long Island Catholic and professor at St. John's University.

Look in the bulletin and our parish web site for more information!

Burning of the Palms

We have been and are actively preparing for the season of Lent at OLL and we need your help!

Ash Wednesday, February 6 begins the Lenten season and the signing of ashes is a powerful reminder to us of this time of reflection, reconciliation and renewal. The ashes come from burned palm – preferably the palm distributed last Palm Sunday.

Please bring back any palm you have at home. You can bring it to church this weekend, February 2/3 and place it in the baskets at the doors of the Church. This palm will be burned at the beginning of “The Six” on February 3.

The purpose of this action is twofold. First, it actively involves each of us in the celebration of Ash Wednesday and Lent. Second, it demonstrates the continuous work of our liturgical cycle/year. By connecting last Palm Sunday with this year's Ash Wednesday we are reminded of the dying and rising of Christ – the Paschal Mystery - which the liturgy invites us to experience.



mark your calendar...

24th Annual OLL Golf Classic

Timber Point Country Club

Thursday, June 19 at 2:30 PM

This year's honorees are *Sister Nancy and Sister Diane*

- Singles, twosomes and foursomes are welcome
- Sponsorships ranging from \$50 to \$1,500 are now available
- Awards and prizes throughout the day (including a live auction with professional auctioneer)
- Includes barbeque lunch and gourmet dinner
- \$175 for golf and dinner or \$75 for dinner only
- All skill levels are welcome

Last year we had over 120 golfers and/or dinner guests. Please call Joe Macina at 647.7440 or Frank Antonawich at 587.7988 or the school office at 587.7200 for further information. Last year's event was a great success and key fundraiser for the school. Don't miss it...sign up today!

Letter from Iraq

The 2nd and 4th Grade classes at Our Lady of Lourdes School were busy in December writing and designing Christmas cards for Major John W. Kallo of the U.S. Army. We were lucky enough to receive a letter back from him.

Our Lady of Lourdes School
ATTN: Mrs. Sullivan's Class
44 Toomey Road
West Islip, NY 11795

Dear Mrs. Sullivan and Students,

7 January 2008

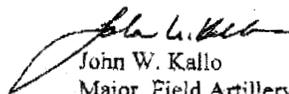
Marhaba (informal Arabic for "Hello") from Iraq! Let me begin by wishing all of you a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2008! I hope each of you had a very good holiday season.

I personally want to thank each of you for the holiday cards. It was a very special surprise to get these words of encouragement and support along with all of the great drawings. It was a very thoughtful gesture and meant a lot to me to get the cards while so far away from my wife and family. During my mission in Iraq, my team and I see a lot of Iraqi children while we are driving on our daily patrols. Your cards helped remind me that while the work the American Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps is doing is intended to help everyone in Iraq, a safe country will be most beneficial to the children of Iraq. For the time being, it is good to see them go to school, play soccer, and just doing other activities kids enjoy doing.

In the short time my team has been in Iraq, we have developed a very good relationship with the Iraqi unit we are responsible for assisting. I look forward to working with them and helping them get better at their job of protecting the Iraqi people. Although there are many differences between Americans and Iraqis, we have gotten closer with the Iraqis we are helping by learning some basic Arabic words and phrases, working with interpreters, and sharing Iraqi tea (called chai) when we meet to talk.

On behalf of myself and my entire team, best wishes to each of you and your families for a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2008! Thank you again for the cards and keeping my team, along with all of America's military members, in your thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,



John W. Kallo
Major, Field Artillery
U.S. Army Combat Advisory Team Leader

Adult Faith Formation

Celebrating Life...

Beyond Breast Cancer

An evening to reflect on our journey through breast cancer.
How have I been changed or healed physically, emotionally, spiritually?

Tuesday, February 12

7:30-9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenters are Vita Scorcia, OLL Ministry Spiritual Director and Mary McMahan, Director of Parish Social Ministry

Pre-Registration 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, between 9AM – 5 PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org.

upcoming courses...

Paul...Us

The Jubilee Year of St. Paul

Pope Benedict XVI announced a special Jubilee Year dedicated to St. Paul, saying the church needs modern Christians who will imitate the apostles' missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice. As the Church celebrates the missionary zeal and witness of St. Paul...come, let us gather to explore a modern understanding of Christ's missionary mandate and renew our dedication to carrying it out.

Tuesdays, April 22, 29 and May 6

7:30 PM - 9 PM Parish Center

Presenter is Pat Leonard, Instructor- Pastoral Formation Institute

Introduction to Computers and the Internet

Come and join us as we learn and also have some "hands on" experience. Computers will be available. We will cover basic introduction to computers and the internet, basics of word processing, email, useful links and so much more!

Tuesdays, April 1, 8, 22

7:30 PM - 9 PM Room 16

Presenter is Anthony Buonaspinga, Consultant, GRQ Innovations, Inc.

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.

Rest In Peace

Sophie Perkins died on January 15 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 19. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

Delphine Reynolds died on January 14 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 21. We extend our prayers to her sons and grandchildren.

Peter Lynch died on January 20 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 24. We extend our prayers to his wife, Connie their children Jeanne and Kathy, their grandchildren and entire family.

Baby Lyla Crowe died on January 22 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was January 25. We extend our prayers to her parents, Lorrie and Nick and her twin sister, Baby Rosalie.

Mass Schedule

Monday, February 4

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Family

Tuesday, February 5

St. Agatha, virgin, martyr

8:00 AM Barbara McGarrity

Wednesday, February 6

Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM John Wallace

8:00 PM Elinor Shaddock

Thursday, February 7

8:00 AM Albert Ritacco

Friday, February 8

8:00 AM Joseph & Eleanor Tuohy

Saturday, February 9

8:00 AM Mike Lorento, Anthony Onorato, Sue Quinn,
Michael Zenna, Daniel O’Gallagher, Hugh O’Brien,
Lillian Buchanan, Stig Hagstrom, Peter Morgan,
Grace Valda Ambat

5:00 PM John Lovari
Fr. Stan Chukwube

Sunday, February 10

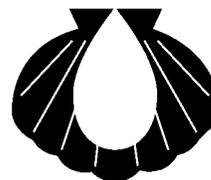
8:00 AM Michael Reilly
Fr. John Asomugha

9:30 AM Mary Jane Perrotta
Fr. Stan Chukwube

11:00 AM Joseph Rizzo
Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Frank Gagliano
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Cheryl Nappo, Thomas LaPierre,
Dennis Hind, Robert Herr, Rocco Fausto, Donna Peluso,
Patricia Palumbo, Andrew Brennan, Vito Adamo, Peter Lynch
Fr. Mike Vetrano



Baptisms

James Michael Faulkner
Patrick and Rosalie

Carly Joan Penna
Gregory and Jacqueline

Jonathan James Tasso
Neil and Patricia

Kayla Ann Harbord
Michael and Gina

Michael Anthony Harbord
Michael and Gina

Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
For information/assistance call 661.9262.



canned fruit
canned vegetables
jelly
peanut butter
pudding/jello
soup

The Red Stripe

Let me set the record straight-I am not Suzy Homemaker. I like a clean home, but I do not take pleasure in the tasks of cleaning the house. I ignore dust as long as possible and it is only when the kids complain of 'monsters' in their rooms that I tackle the dust ball colonies. I can't explain what happened to me, but for some reason; on a day between Christmas and New Year's, I decided I could not tolerate the dust that had accumulated on the once white vinyl blind in the bathroom". My first thought was to pull the blind out and soak it in the tub. I remembered that my mother always did something like that with the venetian blinds at our windows when I was a child. Much to my chagrin, I couldn't get the blind to budge from the sockets. This could only mean one thing, I would have to wipe each individual slat-but the task was started and I would not abandon it! I laboriously wiped each slat then reversed the blind and did the opposite side. Time consuming-but I admit, I did enjoy the moment when I stepped back and saw the results of my work-a clean white blind again! (I even washed the window-and there was sun!)

Later that evening, after the children went to bed, I went to turn off the light in the bathroom. There, on the clean white blind I had washed earlier in the day, was a thick red stripe running the length of the blind. On closer inspection, the red stripe turned out to be bright red electrical tape. Edward must have heard me because when I turned around, he was

standing there pinching his fingers together. "Edward", I said, "do you know anything about this?" Sheepishly he shook his head 'yes' and explained that he was pulling on the blind and the 'whole thing cracked' in the middle. Afraid he would be in trouble Edward thought he would fix it without anyone noticing. Red stripe down a white blind screams out Look At Me!!!

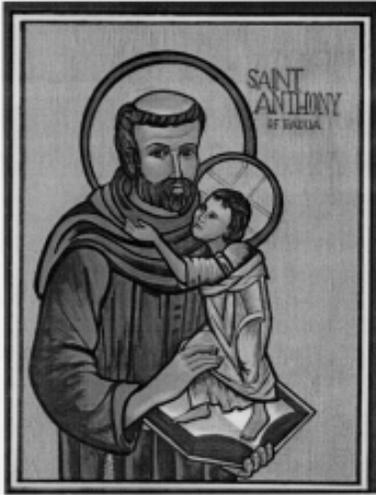
Edward did not get in trouble. I left the red tape on the blind as a reminder- What do I need to pay attention to that I might easily overlook-what areas or relationships in my own life need healing? Lent offers us a time to slow down, to pay heed to areas of our life that are in need of repair.

On that note, Outreach is in need of some repair work. We are looking for a dentist who would be willing to offer service at a reduced fee to clients in need of dental care. Oral hygiene is so important when seeking employment -and sometimes that is what stands in the way of actually going for the interview.

We are also looking for an auto mechanic we can call upon when a client requests financial help with car repairs. We request several estimates before helping with the cost of repair-we would like a mechanic we can call on regularly for this.

Finally, an update. Many of our clients are working and come in to Outreach for food on their lunch breaks. We understand that this is difficult for them with a limited amount of time. Therefore, beginning on Monday, February 18 Outreach will be open until 7:30 PM.

-Mary McMahon
Director, Parish Social Ministry



Icons In Our Prayer and Meditation: An Evening of Prayer and Reflection Tuesday, February 26 7:30 PM in the Church

Bring your faith to another level during an evening of prayer in the presence of nine icon images. Experience this rare moment to be with both iconographer Deacon John DeGuardi and nine of his icons guiding you in prayer and contemplation.

Our Christian heritage is vast in both the European and Byzantine images that can inspire deeper levels of prayer. The differences between the Eastern and Western churches are apparent in their art, however, according to the Eastern Church, icons are not art in the general sense, but a method of prayer.

When one looks at an icon, one can have the experience that the image is looking back at the viewer in prayer. The ministry of the icon painter is that of a theologian: first, to know and love God, second: to praise God, and third: to reflect on one's own experience of God from within a community of praise and present that reflection for the community's deeper understanding of its faith.

The Church in Need

On February 6, Ash Wednesday, a special collection will be taken for **"The Church in Need."** Traditionally, this Ash Wednesday collection was taken only for Central and Eastern Europe, but as need increases in other areas of the globe, so does the desire to share our resources with them. The monies collected at this time will be shared among three areas of the world where there is particular need for help:

- **Central and Eastern Europe** – the collection will help needy families materially and spiritually rebuild churches that have fallen, and support the sisters and brothers who have suffered for the faith.
- **Latin America**- the funds collected will go to promoting solidarity throughout the hemisphere by providing support for pastoral projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- **Africa** – the funds will go to assisting African countries where poverty, sickness and political strife prevent people from living in dignity. The collection will take place at our Masses. Baskets will be available at the doors of the Church for your donations at all Prayer Services. Thank you for your generosity.

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.**

Holy Name Society

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of each month. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, February 10.** We will begin with the **Rosary at 7:40 AM in the Church** and the **meeting will follow the 8 AM Mass at 9 AM in Room 16.**

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, February 5,** in the **Parish Center at 9 AM.**

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, February 4.** We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center.**

OLL on the Web

Check out our parish web site – www.ollchurch.org – and learn more about what is happening here at Our Lady of Lourdes!

Mass Book of Intentions

The 2009 Mass Book of Intentions will be opening on **Tuesday, February 26** at **9 AM in the Parish Office**. As always, we will do our best to accommodate your Mass Intention requests.

Altar Society

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



Pastoral Care of Our Sick

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

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

Pray for Our Sick

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

Susan Aviza, Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Josephine Carrano, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Charles Diesso, Jean Dobson, Kim Ecker, Jason Fisher, Samantha Hil, Vincent Iacopelli, Kathleen Kerrigan, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Bryan Monahan, Marguerite Mooney, Jimmy Murphy, Maryann Nordhausen, Joseph Ortiz, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

One of the most misunderstood concepts of our society today is the pursuit of happiness. Sadly, it is a generally accepted concept that the acquisition of "things," of being able to go wherever and say and do whatever we want will provide us with happiness. The truth, however, is that happiness is already within us, one of the gifts of grace of the Holy Spirit. We need not chase happiness; in leading a Christian life, it will naturally emerge.

Jesus addresses true happiness within his Sermon on the Mount. The beatitudes extol peace and joy to the poor, the sad, the merciful, even the persecuted, for it is those who exhibit such things in their lives for the betterment of others that will receive eternal happiness in the grace of God's kingdom. To love one another, to offer the charity of our spirits to those who need it most, is the one true path to happiness.

St. Augustine wrote, "We all want to live happily; in the whole human race there is no one who does not assent to this proposition, even before it is fully articulated." The beatitudes respond to this natural desire for happiness, placed within our hearts by God in order to draw us to the One who can fulfill it (CCC 1718). To restate an old saying, it is happiness that loves company, the company of Christ.

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Readings for the Week of February 3, 2008

Sunday:	Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a
Monday:	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday:	Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Financial Summary

January 27, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,655.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,345.00)

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

Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:



Lorenzo Bacchi-*US Marines*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Jeremy deRoxas-*US Air Force*
James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*
John Finn-*US Army*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Donnie Frank-*US Marines*
Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*
Anthony Mannino-*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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Ellis Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Frederick Wm. Ellis** -*US Army* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty. Thank you, Frederick, for your generous service to our country! The Ellis Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

MICAH: A Campaign to End LI Poverty

(Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

“Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8

Free Markets, Government Funding and Child Care



*An excerpt from Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good,
Catholic Charities USA 2006 policy paper, Pp7, 8, 17*

A disturbing number of people in our society, who are guided by a philosophy of radical individualism, argue that government has little or no role in alleviating poverty. They say that government intervention is ineffective, and the market should be allowed to operate virtually without restraint because free markets will maximize overall growth. In this view, economic inequality is seen merely as the unfortunate side effect of market forces, and poverty is viewed as primarily the result of individual choices that people make and not the result of faulty structures or policies.

It is our conviction that this view is seriously misguided and even dangerous. It clearly runs counter to [our Judeo-Christian values.] While [we] support the free market and recognize its value, . . . there are distinct limits on what the market can do and not do . . . The market is inherently incapable of meeting the needs of those who are poor and . . . the market produces vast inequalities in the distribution of income and wealth. Remediating these serious failings constitutes a public good, a common good, and it requires the involvement of government. . . . The dignity of the person who is poor is precisely the kind of good which the market ignores. . . . [Below is a] specific [government] policy change that we think [is] necessary to combat poverty.

Improve access to safe and stable child care. Every child deserves quality child care and the early education they need to get a strong start in life. They also need to be safe and secure when their parents are working. For many low-income families, access to child care determines the choice between work and training, on one hand, and a lifetime of poverty on the other. Unfortunately, federal child care funding continues to be insufficient to meet the needs of working families, and even fewer families gain access to quality child care. The federal government should provide adequate child care funding to allow more low-income parents to place their children in safe, nurturing learning environments while they are working or going to school.

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities at Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc

A MARDI GRAS TO REMEMBER
Feeding the Hungry and Fighting Poverty
on Long Island

AN INTERFAITH YOUTH REFLECTION

Tuesday, February 5th , 2008
7:15-9:45 PM

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church
1434 Straight Path, Wyandanch

Sponsored by MICAH*: A Campaign to End LI Poverty
(Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against hunger)

Hosted by the Youth Ministry and Public Policy Education Committee of OLMM:

ADMISSION: Please bring a canned food, clothing item or toiletry as your admission, These items will be collected and moved by *Rock and Wrap It Up* volunteers to the Gerald Ryan Outreach Center recently destroyed by fire at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church.

This evening of Prayer, Music and Reflection will explore:

- Who is poor on Long Island?
- Where do our poor neighbors live?
- How can we help poor people out of poverty?
- How do poor families survive Long Island's high cost of living?

Directions to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church: From Southern State Parkway, exit at Straight Path north. The church is about 3 miles north on your left. From Northern State or the LIE, exit at Rte. 231 south (Deer Park Ave.) Proceed about a mile south of the LIE to Straight Path which intersects diagonally on the right (Across from the Upper Tabernacle Church.) Go south on Straight Path about 5 miles, crossing the railroad tracks. The church is ahead on your right.

REGISTRATION

Return by January 31st to: PSM, Catholic Charities, 90 Cherry Lane, NY 11801 OR call (516)-733-7037 OR Fax (516) 733-7098 or e-mail: robinson.mary@catholiccharities.cc

Name _____ Parish _____

Persons attending _____

The Ninety-Nine and the One

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Throughout the years that I've been writing, I've received lots of criticism. Sometimes it's bitter and mean-spirited and I tend, then, not to respond to it, believing that things are furthered by familial conversation, not by a fist fight.

Sometimes, though, the criticism is sincere, thoughtful, and genuinely challenging. One such critique has to do with my approach in general: "Why," people sometimes ask me, "do you write the way you do, invariably with some kind of secular bent? Why don't you focus more on catechesis, on teaching church doctrine, on explaining the creeds, on defending the church's position on moral issues such as abortion, and on doing apologetics for the church?"

Fair enough. The Christian community needs these things, particularly today when many Christians, including regular churchgoers, lack clarity about what they are supposed to believe and lack the tools they need to explain and defend their beliefs in the face of an ever-growing number of critics.

So why do I write the way I do? Why, as my critics put it, "the invariable bent toward the secular"?

My answer: Because I am trying to be a missionary and missionaries have been asked, by Jesus himself, to leave the ninety-nine and go after the one.

Allow me an image:

Midway through his pontificate, John Paul II instituted World Youth Day. When he first proposed this concept, his advisors were pretty skeptical: "Young people aren't going to come out to see an old man," they said. But his critics were wrong, and in a huge, huge way. His meetings with youth brought together some of the largest crowds ever assembled. Millions of youth gathered to pray with him.

I was living in Toronto when World Youth Day was held there in 2002 and I joined with the nearly one million young people from around the world who gathered to meet with John Paul II. And it was a wonderful, graced event.

But, while nearly a million young people came out for that event, 50 million young people didn't—and not just because they didn't have the practical or financial means to go to Toronto. For every young person who was excited about that event, there were probably 50 who were indifferent to it or, worse still, turned off by it.

That's not a commentary on John Paul II, this event, or the church, but a commentary on the lived reality and attitude of the majority of persons, including the majority of baptized

Christians today, at least inside of our highly secularized culture. Those people who were indifferent to, or turned off by, World Youth Day, are the "strays" that Jesus told us to search for lovingly in the desert, even if it means not being able to focus as much as we'd like on the ninety-nine who are being faithful.

Please don't misunderstand this: Those who are faithful and practice regularly, the million who show up for World Youth Day, need to be nurtured and fed—with doctrine, catechesis, clear moral teaching, and the apologetic tools they need to explain their faith to their over-zealous critics.

But Jesus' mandate is still there: Leave the ninety-nine who haven't strayed and go after the one who has strayed. Today, however, the default seems to have shifted and it's perhaps more a case of leaving the one and going after the ninety-nine.

And this requires that our teaching and preaching, and our reaching out to the world in general, must contain more than only catechesis, explanations of our creeds, clarity around dogma and morals, and even the repetition (however valid, needed, and timeless) of the language of Scripture and the creeds. Those things need to be done, but that is only part of the task. The other part, equally needed and perhaps more difficult, is the task of relating these things (Scripture, the creeds, our dogmas, our moral teaching) to the energy, the color, the endeavors, the longings, the health, the sickness, the virtues, the sin, the beauty, and the pathos of our world.

More and more people feel themselves thoroughly disconnected from our church circles and our church language, and the fault isn't all on their side. We need missionaries to the world, people like Henri Nouwen, who can stand solidly within the church and invite the world, with all its desires and grandiosity, to join us, not as adversary but as family.

And the language we need to do this isn't simply out there, in our catechisms and dogmas, to be picked up and deployed. Much of the language we need has to be created anew by our own generation which, like every generation, needs itself to eat God's word, digest it, and then enfold it so that God's written word becomes a living word, inside our own flesh.

I don't claim to have accomplished this, nor to be anybody's expert, but I do know that Christ's mandate is to reach out to the world and not just to those who are coming to our churches.

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.

Pancake Breakfast

Boy Scout Troop 179 of West Islip, sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes Church is having its annual Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, February 10 following the 8 AM, 9:30 AM and 11 AM Masses in the OLL school cafeteria.** The hearty breakfast served by the Scouts will include pancakes, sausage, juice and coffee. There will be a donation of \$5, children under 3 are free. Please come and enjoy a great breakfast and support Troop 179!

American Sign Language Classes

Clery School for the Deaf is offering evening American sign Language classes, levels 1 - 5. The Spring session begins on March 3. Call Carolyn Kelly at 631.588.0530 for more information.

Girl Scout Silver Award

Save the date: March 14

Are you interested in helping to feed those less fortunate than you are, right here in our own neighborhood? Please come and help two independent West Islip Girl Scouts, Marissa DeMarzo and Caitlin Dolan, earn their Silver Award by attending a concert right here at Our Lady of Lourdes Church that the girls will be hosting. The cost of admission is either a monetary donation or a non-perishable item, all of which will benefit the OLL food pantry.

Free Irish Classes

The Gerry Tobin Irish Language School begins its new semester of free, weekly, Irish Gaelic classes on Thursday, February 7. The classes take place at the Ancient Order of Hibernian Hall on Locust Avenue in Babylon. For information, call Jerry Kelly at 516.221.2910.

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. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on *Sirius Satellite Radio, Channel 159, or the Catholic Channel.* This week's theme is: **"Renewal."** You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at www.religionandrocks.com.

For more information about our television shows go to www.TelecareTV.org.

Dominican Village Open House

Dominican Village invites you to an Open House on **Saturday, February 9 from 1 PM until 3 PM**. Conveniently located on a sprawling 13 acre campus on Albany Avenue, Amityville. Dominican Village is a non-sectarian, not-for-profit independent and assisted living rental retirement community that offers outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For further information , please call 631.842.6091.

Valentine Evening for Married Couples

Come and spend a romantic evening celebrating the gift of love with a candlelight dinner and renewal of vows in the context of the Eucharist. The Valentine Evening will be on **Thursday, February 14 at the Ronkonkoma Cenacle**. Registration begins at 5:30 PM and dinner will be at 6:30 PM. The program will conclude by 10 PM. The presenters are Marcia and Brant Johnson. For further information, please call The Cenacle at 588.8366.

Pasta Night

Our Lady of Grace Columbiettes will be hosting a Pasta Night on Friday, February 15 from 7 PM until 10 PM at Our Lady of Grace Church, Fr. Shanahan Hall, West Babylon. Tickets are \$10 per person and include pasta, salad, soda, dessert, coffee and tea. For tickets, please call Tina at 671.9492.

Charismatic Renewal Center

Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County will sponsor an evening of Prayer and Praise on Monday, February 11 beginning at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel, Bellmore. After a period of Praise and Worship we will have a Youth Witness given by Anthony Gentile. Anthony and his wife Crystal head up a Totus Tuus Ministry. Everyone is welcome. For information call Charismatic Prayer Groups in Nassau County at 516.785.0054.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Are you living the beatitudes in today's Gospel in your marriage? Learn how to live the way God wants you to in your marriage. Let go of your worries and responsibilities for one weekend to enrich and renew your marriage and bring Christ into the center of your marriage. Please visit the website at www.wmme.org to find out the next scheduled Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend.

