

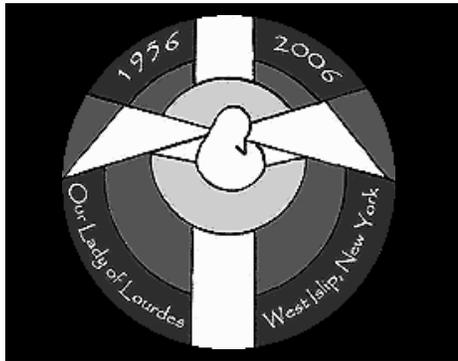
Third Sunday of Lent
Our Lady of Lourdes • February 24, 2008

**“Whoever drinks the
water I shall give...**



will never thirst.”

John 4:14



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 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*)
Deacon 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

Not sure what to do for Lent?

Are you ready for something new and meaningful?

Let us show you the way!

Come and experience what Isaiah, the prophet, described as a fast that is pleasing to God.

Here is what Isaiah said...

*Would that today you might fast
so as to make your voice heard on high!
Is this the manner of fasting I wish,
of keeping a day of penance:
That a man bow his head like a reed
and lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Do you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
This, rather, is the fasting that I wish:
releasing those bound unjustly,
untying the thongs of the yoke;
Setting free the oppressed,
breaking every yoke;
Sharing your bread with the hungry,
sheltering the oppressed and the homeless;
Clothing the naked when you see them,
and not turning your back on your own.
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed;
Your vindication shall go before you,
and 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!*

Here is the invitation...

We invite you and your family to take upon yourself a simpler way of life – the life lived by millions who suffer poverty and low income.

We invite you to live on a food stamp budget for one week—a minimal amount barely sufficient for basic needs.

In this way we invite you to experience life as the poor and needy do each day.

Why is it pleasing to God?

We will invite you in your own way and in your own time to use the time, the energy, the money you save to benefit someone who is truly needy through our outreach program.

In this way your fast will be the giving up of what someone else needs.

**Co-sponsored by our Sister Parish Team
and OLL Youth Ministry**

A Fast that is Pleasing to God

Guidelines for OLL Lenten Food Stamp Fast

Sunday, March 2 - Sunday, March 9

All participants will be invited to begin their week of fasting with a blessing at mass on the weekend of **March 1/2**. The blessing will be given at all masses that weekend and will officially begin our week of fasting in solidarity with the poor. We ask that, as much as is possible, you observe the following guidelines. Participating in the fast is symbolic, and we recognize that some may not be able to keep to the guidelines exactly (especially where there are health concerns, etc.) It is the spirit of the fast that is important, rather than how well you adhere to individual guidelines below. Let's spend the week mindful of those who do not have choices as we do.

Participation Guidelines

1. The Food Stamp budget is approximately \$21 per person per week. Since those on food stamps might also receive some other assistance, we will also add:
 - a) a \$40 allotment per family to buy staples only (rice, canned food, etc.) as these are items a needy family would receive from a food pantry or outreach center.
 - b) If there are children in your household add \$10 per child per week since school children often receive a federal free lunch program.
2. All food purchased and eaten during the Challenge week, including fast food and dining out must be included in the total spending.
3. During the Challenge, only eat food that you purchase for the project. Do not eat food that you already own (this does *not* include spices and condiments).
4. Avoid accepting free food from friends, family or at work.
5. Since part of a typical food stamp recipient's week might include a visit to a soup kitchen, you will be invited to a Soup Supper at OLL on Wednesday, March 5 at 6 PM.
6. Please keep track of receipts on food spending and take note of your experiences throughout the week. Whenever you go to a store to buy food bring only the cash that is in your budget. In this way you will not be able to buy more than you are supposed to.

**We will end our fast on Sunday, March 9 with a
"Break-fast" right after the 9:30 AM Mass.**

save the dates...

OLL Parish Lenten Retreat

Faith, Hope and Love for the Christian Journey

**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.



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.

Our Lady of Lourdes Talks!

Our Convent and Sisters Need Your Help



Our Convent and Sisters need your help this spring! Home to Sisters Nancy and Diane and five other members of the Sisters of St. Joseph, our Convent is desperately in need of roof repairs. The roof over their Chapel and first floor living area must be replaced to eliminate the many leaks and flooding that have occurred this year.

Our Convent has not only been a home to our Sisters for more than 40 years, it also serves the many ministries and members of our community. We would like to make improvements to our Convent Chapel so that it can be a more welcoming

and private place for parish support groups, such as our bereavement ministries. We would also like to renovate Lourdes Hall, our convent basement, which is a home to many of our AA and other 12 step support groups. Our Convent serves both our Sisters and us—and now it needs your help.

HELP US RAISE \$30,000 THIS SPRING BY TAKING THE “CHAPEY CHALLENGE.”

Our Friends at Chapey and Sons Funeral Home have donated a 37” wide screen LCD HDTV to be raffled off in appreciation for all those who help our Convent Project. Our prize winning drawing will be held on March 19, St. Joseph’s Day.

Here is how it works: For each \$25 donation to the project, your name will be entered into the drawing for the HDTV. For each \$100 donated, you will receive 5 entries in the “Chapey Challenge.”

CHAPEY CHALLENGE/CONVENT PROJECT

Yes, I want to help our Convent Project.

Here is my donation of \$ _____ to support our Sisters and our Convent at Our Lady of Lourdes. Drawing will be held on March 19, St. Joseph’s Day.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

The blue donation/entry envelopes for the Chapey Challenge/Convent Project will be located in the pews this weekend and the weekends of March 2 and March 9. You may drop off your donation/entry at the Parish Office, drop your donation/entry in the collection basket or you can mail your entry to: **Convent Project**, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795. You may make copies of this form, but...there is no need to make multiple copies—we will enter you in the contest the correct number of times according to your donation.

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.

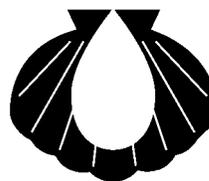
Rest In Peace

Mary Elizabeth Penna died on February 7 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 11. We extend our prayers to her son, daughter and entire family.

George F. Brielmeier died on February 9 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 12. We extend our prayers to his daughters, grandchildren and entire family.

Helen Menite died on February 14 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 18. We extend our prayers to her husband, children, grandchildren and brother.

Evelyn P. Albert died on February 15 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was February 19. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren and sister.



Mass Schedule

Monday, February 25

8:00 AM Thomas Calogero

Tuesday, February 26

8:00 AM Salvatore Testa

Wednesday, February 27

8:00 AM Richard Zocchia

Thursday, February 28

8:00 AM Edward Cameron III

Friday, February 29

8:00 AM Lucille Harsch

Saturday, March 1

8:00 AM Sister Rita Mileti, Daniel Coyle,
Jerry Kugler, Lucille Del Gaudio,
Elsie Shattles, Thomas Alini, Frances Kohl,
Peter Schreiner, Ester Beltrano

5:00 PM Thomas Dowling

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, March 2

8:00 AM Rose Monroe

Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM Michael Walsh

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Charlotte J. Sweeney

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Ann D. Murray

Fr. Stan Chukwube

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Robert Herr, Peter Lynch,
Angela Sibilla, Eugene Arnold, Marjorie Chironno,
Ralph Schioppa, Carolyn Furnell

Fr. John Asomugha

Baptisms

Cole Paul Lyons

Aidan and Christine

Taylor Marie Greenfield

Geoffrey and Melida

Olivia Marie Luvera

Vincent and Angela

Aidan James Mackin

Timothy and Jennifer

Kaitlyn Marie Mahon

Michael and Christine

Nicholas Christopher Martin

Christopher and Laura

Erin Kathleen Tumminello

Vincent and Lizabeth

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Pilgrimage Rome, Florence, Assisi and Milan October 16 - 25, 2008

Our next information meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

As promised, Italian pastries will be served along with updated travel information.

If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please call Deacon John at 661.3224, extension 132.



You're Invited to Join Us for Our... 6th Annual Mission Awareness Retreat

Attention young people in grades 9 - 12... Our Lady of Lourdes Parish announces our sixth annual **Mission Awareness Retreat from June 28 - July 3 in El Salvador.**

Our information meeting will be on Wednesday, February 27 at 7 PM in the Church.

Would you like to spend a few days this summer living and working with the poor, experiencing another culture? Join Fr. Mike, Jen Gallagher and a team of 20 adults and students as we spend six days in El Salvador on a trip sponsored by the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. We'll have a tightly planned itinerary led by the CFCA team, we'll visit homes, schools, churches, and workplaces as we experience the culture, spirituality, and simple lifestyle of the Salvadoran people. Accommodations will be safe, simple, and comfortable. We will even be able to run a mini-Vacation Bible Camp in our sister Parish at Tacuba!

If you are interested in hearing about the trip, we invite you to come to an initial planning meeting on Wednesday, February 27 at 7 PM in the Church. Because of the trip costs (approximately \$1200) and the need to do individual fundraising this year, we urge all students who are thinking about the trip to be at this initial meeting. We will talk about all trip details and fundraising possibilities.

If you are interested in attending the trip but cannot make the meeting, email Jen Gallagher at jengallagher@ollchurch.org.

Scribbling in the Sand

In John's Gospel, after writing in the sand, Jesus forgave the woman that the Pharisees had condemned. Come, let us discover how we can live a freer more abundant life through forgiveness of self, others and God.

Who do we need to forgive?

What do we need to forgive?

Where do we need to forgive?

Why do we need to forgive?

Please join us for an evening of prayer and reflection given by the ministry of Family Healing on **Wednesday, March 12 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.** Please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440 to register. Food and fellowship to follow. Bring a friend.

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?

New Date!

Monday, February 25

7:30-9:30 PM

Parish Center

Presenters are Vita Scorcia, OLL Ministry Spiritual Director and Mary McMahan, Director of Parish Social Ministry, each one having experienced their own journey.



Adult Faith Formation

upcoming courses...

The Jubilee Year of St. Paul

Reading Paul's Letters in the Church of Today

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 Buonaspina, Consultant, GRQ Innovations, Inc.

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.

2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal

The Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

You Can Make the Difference

We are asking each Family to make a commitment to both their parish and to their faith. By responding to this appeal it shows that your faith is deeply rooted in the teachings of helping one another to serve one another as Jesus has taught us.

God has blessed us all in many different ways and we ask that every family please consider making a sacrifice to the best of their ability based on those blessings. Your responses will help the many families across our diocese that look to the ministries for funding. Your gift will continue the mission of helping those in need.

Making a sacrifice for another is an unselfish act that will help so many. **Pledges are a journey of faith in both the Ministries future as well as your own.** Please consider what God has blessed you with and return a portion back.

Catholic Ministries Appeal Mailing

The Catholic Ministries Appeal packet has been mailed to every registered parishioner that is on the diocesan database. When your packet arrives, please take the time to review the information, which outlines this appeal. To be successful, we need to hear from everyone. For those who do not receive a packet in the mail, extra materials are available in the back of the Church. If you should have any questions please don't hesitate to call the Appeal office at 516-379-5210 x2.

Commonly Asked Questions & Answers

What is the Catholic Ministries Appeal?

The *Catholic Ministries Appeal* is the Diocese of Rockville Centre's annual drive to help fund a variety of programs and services found throughout our communities. It provides the means necessary to continue to carry out the mission Christ has entrusted to us and to ensure the quality of Catholic life in the future.

Will this appeal fund only the programs in the brochure?

Yes. All the money raised will meet the basic funding needed to support the ministries explained in the brochure.

How will parishioners be contacted during the Appeal?

It is intended that each and every Catholic household within the diocese be presented with the needs of the appeal and learn how their gifts benefit our communities. This will be achieved through a series of presentation talks by the Pastor and lay people from the pulpit along with pulpit announcements, newsletters, and mailings.

How much should I give to the Appeal?

Each family is asked to consider a sacrificial gift to the appeal in the spirit of Christian Stewardship. Pledges can be paid in either monthly installments or on a schedule most suited for your family. All gifts are greatly appreciated and accepted to the appeal.

Why are pledges encouraged, instead of one-time donations?

While one-time donations are greatly appreciated, pledges provide parishioners with the opportunity to make a more sacrificial gift to the mission of the Church by spreading their intentions over a ten-month period that will help raise the necessary funds.

For More Information, please call 516-379-5210, Ext.2
or e-mail us at www.drvc.org/cma.html

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 *Nancy Trujillo*. 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 ...

Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Pat Bonavita, Joseph Bott, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Louis Castellano, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, T.J Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Kim Ecker, Jason Fisher, Susan Gigante, Samantha Hil, Wade Kromhout, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Maria Pereira, Arthur Petrino, Joe Radosti, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Carolann Sokol, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Diana Marie Taveras, Jean Virgilio, Loretta Vitale



Third Sunday of Lent

In many areas of the Midwest over the last couple of years, we have experienced periodic drought conditions. Long periods of hot, rain-free days have left many lawns browned, the grass starved for water. Some choose to water their lawns because they don't like the way it looks; others prefer to wait faithfully for the nourishing rains that eventually do come, restoring the grass to its lush, green fullness.

Water is used as a strong symbol in today's Gospel reading from John. As a liquid, we are refreshed momentarily. As a font of faith and love, we never thirst again. In breaking with Jewish tradition, Jesus speaks to a Samaritan woman with a questionable past. By offering her the living water of eternal life, he is also speaking to us, reminding us that everyone is entitled to it regardless of their place in society. All are welcome.

During this season of Lent, our baptismal fonts are dry as we focus our attention on penance in preparation for the observation of Christ's passion. For 40 days, we fast in remembrance of Jesus' time in the desert, and renew our pledges to share the many gifts we have with others (CCC 1438). We are called to thirst, thirst for the living water of eternal life first promised at Jacob's well. In doing so, we will be rewarded with the most refreshing of showers.

©2007 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of February 24, 2008

Sunday:	Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 <i>or</i> 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
Monday:	2 Kgs 5:1-15b/Lk 4:24-30
Tuesday:	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Mt 18:21-35
Wednesday:	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Mt 5:17-19
Thursday:	Jer 7:23-28/Lk 11:14-23
Friday:	Hos 14:2-10/Mk 12:28-34
Saturday:	Hos 6:1-6/Lk 18:9-14
Next Sunday:	1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 <i>or</i> 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Financial Summary

February 17, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,356.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,644.00)

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.

El Salvador Mission News

A TIME TO REFLECT

By: Kristin Schmidt

After being greeted by countless unfamiliar yet friendly faces, our group began our journey with an hour or so drive to Santa Ana's CFCA (Christian Foundation for Children and Aging) Mission Center. I was immediately struck by the beauty of this country. Never have I seen such picture perfect landscapes. There were shades of green that I never saw in my Crayola box. But how could such beauty hide the overwhelming poverty of the people in this land? Along the side of the roads stood homes of the people; homes constructed with walls made of plastic bags and sticks; and rooftops made with sheets of tin. Seeing this I realized the harsh reality of life for these people.

Each day we visited towns and villages with arms full of donations from the United States. We were able to interact with the villagers and get a sense of who these people really were. Warm welcomes awaited us in each town along with humble gifts of wild flowers. I was amazed to find that many had walked miles to meet with us and thank us. Even more astounding was that all of these miles were walked by men, women and children, some with no shoes! The children had walked for hours from one side of a mountain to another on unpaved dirt roads, shoeless. There was not one complaint, just happy faces and pure gratitude.

This mission to El Salvador was a life altering experience. It hit me hard after I returned home and went straight to sleep my own room complete with TV, Internet, and stereo and with my warm bed next to my closet filled with the latest \$100 sneakers. I can't help but ponder my experiences in El Salvador and its disparity with my everyday world.



**Christian Foundation for
Children and the Aging**
By Daniel Frodell

After spending a week in El Salvador and seeing all of the problems around me, I felt that it would be nice to see what the CFCA, or the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, was doing to help out. While searching online, I was able to discover that the CFCA offers personal attention to the poor, serving them under God's will, and helping restore their dignity worldwide. They offer respect, understanding, and support to those who would otherwise feel worthless, with their main goal being to strengthen communities in the process. The CFCA also holds certain core values closely in its mission to serve the poor. These values include a strong foundation in the Gospel, recognizing the dignity of all people and developing a relationship of mutual respect between the sponsor and the sponsored person. They also work hard to keep the administrative costs to a minimum and use nearly 90% of sponsor contributions to fund the community projects in each country. In 2006, the CFCA raised a total of \$92.2 million and under its program over 310,000 children and aging in 25 different countries are provided their basic needs through sponsorship. Our parish missionaries have been able to witness firsthand how CFCA uses the contributions of sponsors worldwide to make significant and long-lasting improvements to the quality of life of those they serve. Now that I've learned about the CFCA, I feel empowered and willing to contribute to their great mission!

To find out more about CFCA's sponsorship program, please visit their website at

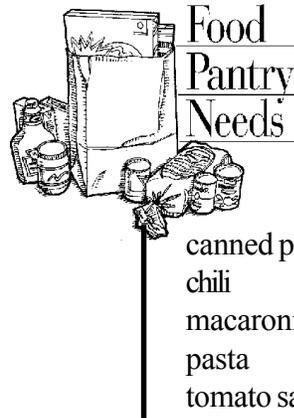
www.cfcausa.org

If you would like to contribute to our newsletter by sharing your trip or sponsorship experience, please email Michelle at mbudion@optonline.net.

Parish Outreach

Outreach Office Hours

Monday from 9:30 AM until 7:30 PM and
Tuesday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.
For information/assistance call 661.9262.



canned pasta, ravioli, etc.
chili
macaroni & cheese
pasta
tomato sauce

Donation

Outreach has received a donation in memory of
Mary Anne Nordhausen from Robert and Barbara Evans.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet
on **Tuesday, February 26**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting
will be held on **Monday, February 25**, at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.



Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament will **follow the 5 PM
Mass on Saturday, March 1**, and will conclude with Benediction at 9:50 PM.
Let us prepare our hearts this Lent for the coming of Easter by joining together in
prayer for religious men and women in the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

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.

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.

The Agony in the Garden – The Place to Stay Awake by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

As Jesus and his disciples enter the Garden of Gethsemane, he tells them: “Stay awake, watch!” The implication is that they’re about to learn something, a lesson is to be taught.

But, as we know, they didn’t stay awake, they fell asleep, not because the hour was late and they were tired after a long day, nor even because of the wine they’d drunk at the supper. They fell asleep, Luke says, “out of sheer sorrow”. They fell asleep because they were disconsolate, disappointed, confused, depressed. And, because of that sleep, they missed the lesson they were supposed to learn from watching Jesus in his prayer. What was that lesson?

Jesus, himself, explains it three days later on the road to Emmaus when, in speaking of his suffering and death, he asks: “Wasn’t it necessary?” What the disciples were supposed to see and grasp in the Garden of Gethsemane was the intrinsic connection between suffering and transformation and the necessity, in that process, of being willing to carry tension, disappointment, and unfairness without giving into despair, bitterness, recrimination, and the urge to give back in kind.

We fall asleep out of sorrow whenever we become so confused and overwhelmed by some kind of disappointment that we begin to act out of hostility rather than love, paranoia rather than trust, despair rather than hope. We fall asleep out of sorrow whenever we sell short what’s highest in us because of the bitterness of the moment.

And this is one of perennial temptations we have in life, to fall asleep out of sorrow. Most times when we give in to weakness or commit sin we do so not out of malice or bad intent, but out of despair. For example: A number of times, I have had friends who gave themselves over to periods of sexual promiscuity even though they knew better. They weren’t so naive nor rationalizing to believe for a minute that what they were doing was either life-giving or morally right. So why did they do it? Flat-out loneliness, inchoate depression, practical despair. They were asleep out of sheer sorrow. Unspoken in their actions were these words: “Given my life, my practical situation, that’s the best I can hope for. I’ll take second-best, even fifth-best, because for me there can be no first-best.” Their action was simply compensatory.

The same often holds true too when we give into bitterness, anger, jealousy, hostility, and the urge to give back in kind. Why are we sometimes so petty? Why are we sometimes less than the gracious, understanding, and forgiving persons we would like to be? Simply put, we’re biting in order not to be bitten. Some deep disappointment has rendered us asleep to what’s highest inside of our own selves and some depression has rendered us powerless to our own goodness.

It’s not easy to stay awake to the lesson Jesus was trying to teach in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Whenever we feel so weak and overcome by disappointment that we give into actions that we know are not good for us, but seem to be the best we can do given our practical situation, we have fallen asleep out of sorrow, just as the disciples did in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Whenever the unfairness of life so embitters us that we cannot resist the urge to give back in kind, anger for anger, recrimination for recrimination, pettiness for pettiness, we have fallen asleep out of sorrow, just as the disciples did in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Whenever the complexity of life so confuses us so that we no longer feel any obligation to take care of anyone beyond ourselves, but only want to protect ourselves, to hide, and to find a secure place of shelter, we have fallen asleep out of sorrow, just as the disciples did in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Whenever we feel so overwhelmed by the fact that God seems silent, withdrawn, and unwilling to intervene and clean up the world that we can no longer imagine the existence of God, we have fallen asleep out of sorrow, just as the disciples did in the Garden of Gethsemane.

*Whenever we feel like a minority of one, so alone, little, and despairing before the powers of chaos and darkness that we believe that Christ is no longer Lord of this world, we have fallen asleep out of sorrow, just as the disciples did in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We’re all familiar with the popular song: Help me make it through the Night. Its chorus gives us, in effect, a dictionary-description of practical despair: “I don’t care what’s right or wrong; I don’t try to understand, let the devil take tomorrow, because tonight I need a friend.” That’s exactly the kind of sorrow that overwhelmed the disciples in Gethsemane and drugged them into sleep, numbing them both to what Jesus wanted them to see there and to what was highest inside of their own ideals.

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.

Girl Scout Silver Award

Save the date: March 14

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

8 PM

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.

American Sign Language Classes

Cleary 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.

Women in Art in the Bible

Ageless Visions form Soul to Canvas

See the beauty of Rachel. The spirit of Ruth, the rescue of Dinah, the face of Mary, the finding of Moses and the strength of Mary Magdalene. This unique and unforgettable program is a celebration of lives, lived deeply through laughter, tears, passion and hardships of Biblical times. Find yourself among the great women in the history of our Church. You will ponder, reflect and even giggle at times. You are welcome to join the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Bishop McDonnell #1403 for the Annual Communion breakfast following the 9 AM Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Babylon, Saturday March 1. Tickets are \$25 per person. Please call Trish for tickets at 669.0068

Help Wanted

Dominican Village is looking for Community Relations Associate-part time/ weekends included and an Activities Assistant for Saturdays from 9 AM until 2 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community. Our staff is dedicated to providing quality service to the residents who call Dominican Village their home. If you are interested in joining our team, please call Human Resources at 631.842.6762 for more information.

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: **"Forgiveness."**

You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at www.religionandrock.com.

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

HUNGRY LONG ISLANDERS... HOW CAN THIS BE?

“Poverty in the United States [and on Long Island] is a wound in the soul of our country [and our region.]”

Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good, Catholic Charities USA, 2006

How To Find and Fund Quality Child Care

This information is published by:
MICAH*: A Campaign to End LI Poverty
(*Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities (Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc) or Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the LI Council of Churches (LICCHemp@aol.com)

Do You Need Help Finding and Paying For Child Care?

Many parents feel overwhelmed when they try to find safe, nurturing, reliable child care for their children. The Child Care Councils of Nassau and Suffolk have professionally-trained staff who can help you:

- Develop a child care plan that suits your child’s needs.
- Locate local, regulated child care services such as: licensed day care centers; registered family child care providers; licensed group family child care providers; registered school age providers.
- Advise you on regulations, sources of government child-care subsidies and resources about specific child-care issues.

For professional Child Care Help, Call:

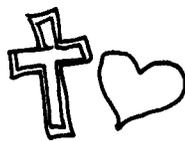
- Child Care Council of Nassau: 516-358-9288
- Child Care Council of Suffolk: 631- 462-0303

Do You Want to Help Working Families Receive Affordable, Quality Child Care?

Ask your congressional representative and your State senator and assembly person to support additional funding for subsidized child care so that the Family Share can be reduced to 10% of gross family income from 17.5% (Nassau County) and 25% (Suffolk County.)

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus told the Samaritan woman that when people drink his water they will never be thirsty again. When you are very hot, you would like this kind of water. The water that Jesus gives us to drink is his word which will last forever. It will help us get to heaven. Jesus said that he was the Messiah sent to explain everything. When you want to know the way, Jesus helps you. When you do not understand, Jesus explains it to you.



Mission for
the Week

I will give a cup of water to my
family and friends today.



Puzzle

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

Sychar	well	truth
woman	worship	faith
drink	Father	Savior

Scyhra	<u>S</u> <u>y</u> <u>c</u> <u>h</u> <u>a</u> <u>r</u>
wroshpi	_____
fatih	_____
wmoan	_____
Fethar	_____
Svairo	_____
wlel	_____
turth	_____
dirkn	_____

©LPi

Prayer



Lord,
give me your
water to drink.

Something to Draw



Draw Jesus and the
Samaritan woman
drinking water from
the well.