

**Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Our Lady of Lourdes • September 20, 2009**

**“Whoever receives
one child
such as this**



receives me.”

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795

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.

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.

Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Rev. Patsy Amabile
Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback
Associate Pastor

Rev. Ambrose Cabildo
In Residence

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Tom Lucie

Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Allegra D'Alo

Youth Minister/Social Action

Jennifer Gallagher

Childrens' 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 McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorgia

Ministry Spiritual Director

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Stacie Baltrusitis

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jane Desthers

Jerry Esposito

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

Bob Natale

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorgia

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco

Religious Education Office

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

Debbie Meyer

Bulletin Editor/Parish Office

Rosemary Multer

School Office

Rex Muro

Organist

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

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: lkrol@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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



Italian Family Feast 2009

September 16 - 20, 2009

Opens Saturday at 6 PM

Opens Sunday at 2 PM

Clip to Save

Official Feast Sponsor

**West Islip
Wines & Liquors, Inc.**

Munch Landscape Inc.

**Chapey & Sons Funeral
Home, Inc.**

Rides! Games!

Family FUN

on the
Midway

OUR LADY OF LOURDES R.C. CHURCH
ITALIAN FEAST
SEPT 16-20
School Grounds • Hunter Ave. • West Islip
Las Vegas Games
International Food

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SPOTLIGHT GRAPHICS • SARASOTA, FL



St. Agnes Medal of Service

Congratulations to Dom and Mary Anne Lettieri — this years recipients of the St. Agnes Medal of Service which was awarded to them on Friday, September 18, 2009 by Bishop Murphy in the Cathedral of St. Agnes. Each year one person or couple from each parish in our diocese is given this award in recognition of their stewardship and love for both their parish and the entire church on Long Island.

Dom and Mary Anne, who we often call the godparents of our parish feast, have both served our parish for over 25 years. Dom is the driving force behind our parish feast and a long time member of our Holy Name Society. Mary Anne is best known as our parish secretary who welcomes every new family to our parish and is the voice of Our Lady of Lourdes to all those who call our rectory office.

Thank you Dom and Mary Anne for all you do for OLL!



Confirmation

On **Thursday, October 29**, Bishop William Murphy, Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to the candidates of our parish. These young women and men are the chosen members of this community who have studied, served and prepared for this Sacrament.

During the next few weeks, they will begin the final steps of their journey towards Confirmation and even greater involvement in the life of our Church. The Confirmation Candidates of our parish will participate in “Spirit Nights” with their parents and sponsors. These times together will be an opportunity for them to experience how important it is to be active faith-filled members of the church community. Each evening will include celebrating mass with our parish family at “THE SIX”.

Please pray for our Confirmation Candidates as they embrace this very important commitment in their faith journey and that they will continue to be strengthened, loved and supported by YOU... their parish family.



Peace and Justice Club

Our Lady of Lourdes first Peace and Justice Club meeting will take place on **Wednesday, September 23 at 7 PM in the School Library.**

ALL ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO JOIN!

We will discuss the concept of social justice in today's world and ways in which we can encourage peace. Refreshments will be served! Contact Allegra@ollchurch.org with any questions.

Peace and Justice Spotlight

The Church has taken a strong stand on health care and it'd be helpful for each of us to consider the Church's teaching as form our own opinions at health care reform. Bishop William Murphy, our bishop, is also the Chairperson of the Bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. This week we read again from his letter to the Congress of the United States:

Reform efforts must begin with the principle that decent health care is not a privilege,, but a right and a requirement to protect the life and dignity of every person. All people need and should have access to comprehensive, quality health care that they can afford, and it should not depend on their stage of life, where or whether they or their parents work, how much they earn, where they live, or where they were born. The Bishops' Conference believes health care reform should be truly universal and it should be genuinely affordable. Many lower-income families simply lack the resources to meet their health care expenses. For these families, significant premiums and cost-sharing charges can serve as barriers to obtaining coverage or seeing a doctor. Therefore, Medicaid cost-sharing protections should be maintained and new coverage options should protect the lowest income enrollees from burdensome cost sharing. We urge Congress to limit premiums or exempt families earning less than 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level from monthly premiums. We also recommend limiting co-payments and other costs which could discourage needed care. In order to move toward universal coverage, we urge increases in eligibility levels. For example, we urge Congress to maintain at least the proposed minimum national eligibility level for Medicaid at 150 percent and CHIP at 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level; to ensure comprehensive coverage; and to provide states with the resources to expand coverage.

Look for information in our bulletin soon about our parish's efforts in the areas of peace and justice with a new group forming soon. If you have ideas or thoughts or are interested in getting involved in issues of peace and justice, contact Allegra D'Alo at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to allegra@ollchurch.org.



El Salvador!

This year's trip to El Salvador was a wonderful success and a beautiful experience for all those who participated. We are all looking forward to next year's trip and in the meantime we aim to help our friends in Central America as much as we can.

On **Saturday, September 26, and Sunday, September 27**, participants in our Mission Trip will be sharing their experiences at all Masses. We are also going to ask every parishioner to join us in helping our brothers and sisters in El Salvador.

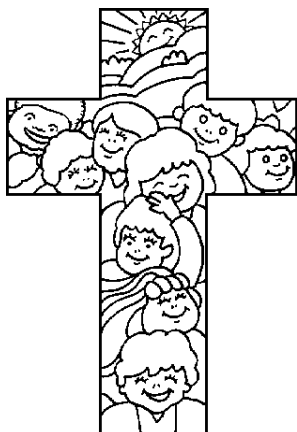
There are many ways to be involved, but two special projects will be introduced that weekend:

- 1) Sponsor a child or elderly person in El Salvador through the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging (CFCA).** Each year, CFCA hosts our trip and shows us the wonderful work they do among the poor in El Salvador. They have sent us photos and profiles of 100 children and elderly from El Salvador who need our help. Sponsorship costs \$30 per month, and helps to provide for basic nutrition, health, and education. We saw firsthand the difference sponsorship makes, and we hope that some of our OLL family will join this important work. We will have sign-up information on the 26th-27th, or you can visit CFCA's website at www.cfcausa.org.
- 2) Participate on Our Lady of Lourdes' CASA Project** to build homes for people in our sister parish communities. For only \$1500, a solid and safe home can be constructed in El Salvador. Our goal this year is to build 20 homes as a parish. To fund this project, we will be selling special house-shaped piggy banks, and the "Piggy Back Project" will return to OLL! We will ask our parishioners to return their spare change (not the banks) to our special coin receptacles at the doors on the first Sunday of every month. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could take pictures of the 20 homes we built when we go to El Salvador next year!

Both the sponsorship papers and house banks will be available at all of the masses on **September 26-27**. Just speak with a member of our El Salvador team and you can help in this great way without ever setting foot in JFK! Contact Allegra@ollchurch.org with any questions

Religious Education Registration

for children in Public School, Grade 1, September 2009



Information Meeting & Registration

Meetings will take place in the Parish Center. (room opposite the playground on Hunter Ave)

Please note: Baptismal Certificates required for any child being registered in PEP 1.

Wednesday, September 23	10:00 am or 7:30 pm
Thursday, September 24	10:00 am or 7:30 pm
Wednesday, September 30	10:00 am or 7:30 pm
Saturday, October 3	10:00 am

If this is your *first child in our program*, the registration fee (Family Fee) is \$160 and textbooks are \$20 (if needed.) Details will be provided at the meeting.

OLL Music Ministry

After Labor Day, the CHOIRS are Back !!! JOIN US!!!

There are so many ways to become involved in the OLL Music Ministry. If you've always wanted to sing with a choir or play with a music group, now is the perfect time to join.

Adult Ministries

The OLL Choir rehearses on Thursday night from 8-10 PM and sings at the 11AM mass and once each month at the 5. Adults who are proficient in playing a musical instrument are also needed and welcome.

Can't make a weekly commitment? Consider one of these options:

Come to a **OLL Choir** rehearsal on a Thursday and sing just the following Sunday.

Join our **Holiday Choir**, attend these special rehearsals and sing for Christmas or Easter.

Join our **Concert Choir** and audition to sing at special events

Join our **Women's Chorale** which sings at the 11 am mass on the first Sunday of the month.

For Youth

The Contemporary Group, middle school through young adult, rehearses on Sunday afternoon 4:30-6 PM and sings at "The Six." Musicians as well as singers are welcome and needed and remember that this choir counts for community service.

Our Youth Choir, sings each week at the 9:30 AM Mass. The junior members of our group, Grades K-8 meet on Thursdays from 7 to 7:45 PM for rehearsal, and our senior helpers (high school and college) meet once a month for rehearsal after the 9:30 AM Mass.

For information about the OLL Choir, Holiday Choir, Concert Choir, Contemporary Group and Taize Ministry contact Carol Goetz at 661-3224 or music@ollchurch.org.

For information about Youth Choir and Women's Chorale contact Jen Gallagher at 661-3224 or jengallagher@ollchurch.org

Bereavement Support Group

You are invited to join our next Bereavement Support Group. This is a wonderful opportunity to be supported in a small discussion group with people who have also suffered a loss.

The group will meet on **Wednesdays for six weeks starting on September 23, from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM**. Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to register. The meeting will be held in the Spiritual Life Center, located in the Convent at 50 Toomey Road (please use the entrance between the school and convent.)



Summer Scholars

Grace Shapiro and *Grant Macina* just recently completed the National Young Scholars Program representing Our Lady of Lourdes School. The students were selected for their leadership and scholar abilities and spent a week at Hofstra University advancing their skills. Along with leadership building classes each student was able to pick a science strand to focus on. Grace chose Medicine and was able to dissect a real cow's heart. Grant chose Creative Construction and was able to plan and build a model of a real museum.

Young Women's Faith Group Forming

We are Sisters and Mothers and Friends and Wives and Girlfriends and Catholics. As we get a little older each year it sometimes becomes difficult to find our place in the Catholic Church, as young women of faith. Here is that place!

Young Women's Faith Group will have its first meeting on **Thursday, September 24 from 6:30 to 8 in the evening**. The meeting will take place in the new Spiritual Life Center at the Convent. (Please use the entrance between the school and convent.)

Young women and new mothers are welcome to come discuss their faith and their goals as Catholics over coffee and snacks. Contact Allegra D'Alo by email at Allegra@ollchurch.org or phone at 661.3224 extension 135.

Daily Mass

8 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

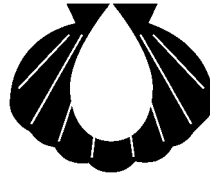
Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM



Upcoming Marriages

Jennifer Silvestri, Port Chester, NY and
Lawrence Fantauzzi. OLL



Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.
(Free babysitting available)

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

Christian James Alfaro

Jose and Marissa

Justin Robert Anderson-Desforge

Justin and Jenna

Olivia Lyn Casale

Michael and Christine

Veronica Paige Estridge

Eric and Yenny

Sophia Nicole Kelskey

George and Joleen

Madison Rose Murdocco

Louis and Nancy

Ella Irene Perakakis

Michael and Suzanne

Emily Skye Seda

David and Lisa

Leah I. Antipappas

William and Christine

Lucille Grace Charbonneau

Paul and Jeanine

Paul John Vasaturo

Paul and Donna

Emily Marie Ball

Louis and Maria

Remembering . . .

Monday, September 21

St. Matthew, apostle & evangelist

8:00 AM Rose Petrone

Tuesday, September 22

8:00 AM Lawrence Klein

Wednesday, September 23

St. Pio of Pietrelcina, priest

8:00 AM Frank Scardasi

Thursday, September 24

8:00 AM Laura Abela

Friday, September 25

8:00 AM John Cunneen

Saturday, September 26

8:00 AM Michael Conroy, Michael J. Podhany, John Klein, Kathy Herb,
Natalie Drago, Josephine Cusumano, Mary Melito,
Mary Romano, David McCarthy

5:00 PM William B. Basso

Fr Bob Scheckenback

Sunday, September 27

8:00 AM Barbara McGarrity

Fr. Mike Vetrano

9:30 AM Arthur Gallagher

Fr. Pat Amabile

11:00 AM Rose Facineili

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Thomas Coletto and Joseph Lombardi

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Rob Peterson, Katherine (Betty) Walsh,
George Cronk, William McLaughlin, Lynn & Bill Quinn,
Frances Hodgson

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo



Rest In Peace

James Petillo died on August 5 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was August 8 at St. Gerard Majella Church, Port Jefferson Station. Jim was one of the founding parishioners of OLL. We extend our prayers to his entire family.



Dosado!

Save the date...

Swing yer partners!

Parish Outreach Square Dance

**Saturday, October 24
8 PM until Midnight**

Promendae!

Did you know...

- A square dance consists of 8 people (four couples) in each square and that there can be several squares dancing at the same time (could that get confusing!)
- Square dance attire for men includes bolos, western-style shirts, dress pants and boots! For women, gingham dresses with plenty of crinolines, petticoats or pettipants.
- Parish Outreach is hosting a Square Dance on October 24. Join us and you might see some of the Outreach workers all "gussied up!"

...more information in upcoming bulletins!

Men of the Parish-Relax

When was the last time you stopped to relax? Spend a weekend of meaningful time together. Make a retreat at **Bishop Molly Passionist Retreat House in Jamaica Estates the weekend of October 2 -4, from 6:30 PM Friday until noon Sunday.** (*Transportation can be arranged if needed.*) Stroll the beautiful Monastery Garden and enjoy your time to rest, reflect on life, and renew your relationship with God. If you have any questions or for further information call Jack Gordon at 661.4147, Ed Hawkins at 666.7284, or Pete Cunningham at 661.0273.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, September 29**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM.**

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.

Be a Life Saver – GIVE BLOOD

800 pints of blood are needed **every day** to meet the needs of the patients in our area hospitals. One pint of blood can save three lives because blood is divided into components and can be used for up to three patients with different critical needs.

But... We do not collect enough blood in this area to meet this need. Blood that was available to us from Europe is no longer available. Maintaining the blood supply has become a national problem. Only 2 people out of 100 who are able to donate blood are actually doing it!

The need for blood is daily. It must be there when it is needed. Almost half the blood that is transfused is done on an emergency basis. **Blood cannot be stockpiled.** Red cells are viable for 35–42 days, but platelets must be used within 5 days.

Please care enough to give blood on **Wednesday, October 7, from 3:30 to 8:30 PM in the All Purpose Room.** To make an appointment, please call Marie at 669.5837 or just walk in the day of the drive. (Whole blood can be donated every 56 days.)

Your gift of blood may mean another day of life for someone, another birthday, another anniversary, another hug, another smile. Love makes it all worthwhile.



OLL CYO Basketball

Registration Grades 3 to 9

Wednesday, September 23 and Thursday, September 24

7 PM - 8 PM

All-Purpose Room

The travel Fee is \$160

Intramural Fee is \$110

The season runs November thru February on weeknights and weekends.

If you have any questions please email Dan White at

DANIELFWHITE581@AOL.COM or Ed Ryan at

EDRYAN@EDRYANREALESTATEGROUP.COM

We Need Your Help

Are you computer savvy?

Can you do some computer work at home?

The Parish Bereavement Ministry is in need of a volunteer to help with mailings three to four times per year. This would consist of working with mail-merge, word, and excel. The content would always be provided. The task would be to put the names and letters together and label the envelopes to be mailed.

This would be a significant and yet simple way to be a part of an important Ministry. Please leave a message for Diane at the Parish Office at 661.3224, ext 121.



©LPI

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It is perhaps one of the most exciting and yet frightening times of a young couple's lives. From the moment they discover that they are expecting a child to the very moment that he or she enters the world, the parents-to-be are filled with joy, but also concern. Will their baby be healthy? Today's doctors can detect health issues long before the baby is born; if something is discovered, how does the young couple receive the news? Are they faced with difficult decisions, or are they bolstered by the message found in today's Gospel?

Given the circumstances of today's fast-paced life, it is difficult to imagine the pace of life in Jesus' day. On a journey by foot through Galilee, Jesus and his disciples had many hours to discuss the meaning of life and the role of Christ in their lives. He tried to explain his final days and hours, but even with seemingly all the time in the world, they did not grasp the immense message he was giving them. Perhaps seeking an easier way to say it, he held a small child, telling them that if they accept an innocent child, they are accepting him, and in accepting him, they are accepting God.

In praying the Lord's Prayer, we first and foremost proclaim "Our Father." This is done with the intent to remind us that in order to be fully revealed in our hearts, we must appear to God as innocents, children willing to accept his love unconditionally. We are asking for a purification of our hearts (CCC 2779). As Jesus held that small child out to his disciples, he gave absolutely no conditions as to acceptance of a child. As innocents, children are the symbol of the purity of life and the purity of the love Jesus has for us all. 2009 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of September 20, 2009

Sunday:	Wis 2:12, 17-20/Jas 3:16---4:3/Mk 9:30-37
Monday:	Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13
Tuesday:	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday:	Ezr 9:5-9/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday:	Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9
Friday:	Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22
Saturday:	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday:	Nm 11:25-29/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Financial Summary

September 13, 2009

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,892.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ 892.00

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,000.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Angela MacDermott*.
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 Sacrament of the Sick.



Pray for Our Sick

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

Andrew Albert, Christine Ausiello, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Ben Bellotti, Bill Best, Anne Bolin, Antoinette Bongiorno, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Jeanne Della Ragion, Andrea Flathman, Marge Flem, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Mary Kaval, Veronica Kenny, Kathleen Kerrigan, Kara Lobasso, Vicky Massaro, Charles Matushefske, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Anna Medina, Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Brenden Muldoon, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Frances Parine, Jacqueline Patwell, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Santa Quevedo, Joe Radosti, Frank Raimo, Lucy Raimo, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Albina Sipplak, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., Baby John Tramazzo, Nancy Turano, Vera Vieni, Flo Worysz

2009 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

Thank you to all those who have responded!

Our Lady of Lourdes and the Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the *2009 Catholic Ministries Appeal*.

OLL CMA

September 15, 2009

Parish Goal	\$101,839.00
Amount Pledged	\$111,537.00
Total Paid	\$ 94,486.50
Number of Pledges	457
Average Pledge	\$244

As you can see, we have reached our parish goal in the amount pledged. However, we do not see the benefits of reaching our goal until the total paid has met or exceeded our parish goal amount.

Therefore, our work is not done yet!

Please continue to make your annual pledge.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility Fund

“Caring for those who cared for us”

Today is the inaugural special collection for the retired priests of our Diocese who are residing at St. Pius X Enriched Living Facility in Amityville. The collection aims to fill the gap in the budget for St. Pius X in Amityville, a new special care facility for retired priests of our Diocese.

There are currently 116 retired priests in our Diocese, a group of whom requires assistance with daily living. To accommodate these priests, our Diocese has created an innovative enriched living facility to replace the former St. Pius X Residence in Uniondale. The new facility, also called St. Pius X, is located within Dominican Village in Amityville. It offers wheelchair accessibility, nutrition counseling, transportation into town, and computerized emergency call systems. In addition to these necessities, St. Pius X in Amityville allows our retired priests to live together in community, in a setting that fosters their spiritual lives, nurtures their physical and mental well being, and guarantees that they can continue to live their older years with dignity.

It is important to differentiate between this new upcoming Second Collection for Retired Priests and the Retired Religious Collection. The Retired Religious Collection, held annually in June, supports the retirement needs of religious brothers and sisters who have lovingly served our Diocese. It is critical, however, it does not provide any support to the retirement needs of our priests.

Please consider assisting our retired priests with a gift today, as generous as your means will allow. Your gift may be placed in the collection basket or, if you prefer, you can mail a donation by using one of the postage-paid envelopes available in church. Brochures describing this appeal are also in church today, and some parishioners may have received one at home. Any monies received through this collection above and beyond the need for St. Pius X will be applied to the Priests' Sickness, Disability and Retirement Fund, with the aim of controlling the premiums on priests' pension plans.

On behalf of all the priests serving our Diocese, and all current and future residents of St. Pius X in Amityville, thank you for your generosity.

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:
9:30 AM - 3 PM



Pantry Needs

- detergent
- kleenex
- paper towels
- personal feminine products
- shampoo
- soap
- toilet tissue
- toothbrush
- toothpaste

Outreach hours have changed.

Due to the volume of services offered, it has become necessary to close Outreach on Wednesdays to allow time for the necessary paperwork to be completed.

Outreach will remain open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 AM– 3 PM.

Outreach News

For the month of July, your donations of food and money allowed Outreach to provide food to 150 families-which break down to 361 individuals. Outreach provided medical assistance to two individuals, food cards to eight families, and referred twelve persons for further assistance to the Department of Social Services. Three new families completed the Outreach Intake process. Three hundred forty-one dollars was spent to supplement donations to the food pantry.

Thank you to the “**anonymous Angel**” who donated over six-hundred dollars of canned food from Best Yet Market. The pantry has been running on low, your donation filled some empty shelves!

Thank you again to *West Islip Wines and Liquors* and *Forerunner Communications*, (members of our Angel Network) for their monthly financial contributions to the Food Pantry. Each month these donations are used to supplement the pantry as the shelves become bare. If you know of a local business or organization who could contribute to the Food Pantry each month, please ask them to consider our Angel Network. Donations are tax deductible.

Finally a sincere thanks to all who faithfully volunteered in Outreach throughout the summer months. Poverty does not take a vacation, Outreach functions only through your donations and the dedication and commitment of these faithful women and men. . . .*Anne Basso, Doris Cameron, Jane Desthers, Claire Donovan, Helen Lehmann, Jane Desthers, Pat Heithaus, Pat Horne, Pat McKeefery, Pat Wallace, Josie Melton, Marie Ricigliano, Kate Shields, Wilma Willis, Flo Worysz.* A special thanks to *Fran Angelora and Barbara Foster* for their dedication (sweat and grunt work) in the food pantry. Many were the days when the bags of food couldn’t be put together fast enough. Thanks to *Bob Petersen* for his weekly shopping trips and *Bob Evans* for weekly pick-ups from Long Island Harvest.

On the Shores of Babylon

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Henri Nouwen once remarked that he found it curious that many of the people he knew who were very angry and bitter were people he had met in church circles and places of ministry.

He is not alone in that. Many of us, I suspect, could say the same thing. We often find more anger and whining than joy within church circles because there we can justify anger and disappointment in the name of something sacred.

There is a biblical name for this particular type of anger and whining. This is called being on the shores of Babylon, feeling exiled from your own faith experience.

We are all familiar with the Psalm 137 (popularized in songs) that sings out the lament: By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps. How could we sing a song of the Lord on alien soil? Let my tongue cleave to my mouth, if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

There is an interesting background to this lament: After Israel had entered the Promised Land, received God's law, became one kingdom, and built a temple to worship in, she felt politically secure and confident in her faith. Her confidence in faith was very much rooted in possessing three material things: a land, a king, and a temple. God had promised these and God had delivered on that promise. After much struggle they finally had their own land, their own king, and their own temple. These were now the pillars of their faith, their guarantee that God was real and with them. Naively they expected it would stay that way forever.

It was not to be: neighboring Assyria, overtook them, conquered the land, deported the people, killed the king, and knocked the temple down to its last stone. Israel now found herself in exile in Babylon, with no land, no king, no temple; and, seemingly, no reason to continue to have faith in God. Her faith, anchored as it was in land, king, and temple, now seemed empty, a dream gone sour. She felt exiled, not just from her own land but from her own faith. Someone had taken away her land, king, and temple and, with them, seemingly her reason to trust in God.

She was left with some painful questions: How can there be a God, if God promised to be present in a

land, a king, and a temple, and these are gone? Moreover, how can we be happy in such a situation? Someone had stolen my faith and my church and I will not be happy about that! The laments of Babylon are in the end a euphemism for whining and anger.

But they echo the bitter, whining poetics we hear today in our own church circles: liberals and conservatives, equally unhappy, each blaming the other for somehow stealing away the other's church, for ruining something that was dear to them, and for putting them on an unhappy shore. In Roman Catholic circles these laments often pit Vatican II against John Paul II with both sides are equally protesting: How can we be joyous and gracious in this situation! It is no different in Protestant circles. There is lamentation everywhere. We are on the shores of Babylon, unhappy, given over to whining.

What we need to hear in all this is the answer that God gave to Israel when she first expressed that religious unhappiness: Where is God when someone has taken away your land, king, and temple? God's answer: "You will find me again when you search for me in a deeper way, with your whole heart!"

God is beyond any material land, ruler, or church building. God is also beyond any church council and any pope, no matter how true or great these may in fact be. The dark night of pain and insecurity we experience whenever we feel like we are on the shores of Babylon is the purifying pain that comes with finding out that everything that is religiously precious to us, everything we want to identify with God himself, eventually gets crucified (just as Jesus did) and in the wake of the disillusionment we find ourselves in a free-fall, losing a grip on what once anchored our faith. And we will continue to free-fall until ultimately we lose everything so as to fall right to the bedrock of faith itself, God, solidity beyond all material lands, kings, and temples.

That is the difference between an icon and an idol. Idolatry forgets that the icon is not God. No matter how true and wonderful an icon might be, there comes a time when it has to be taken away from us. Then we find ourselves on the shores of Babylon, insecure, feeling exiled, unhappy, but hearing this from God: You will find me and your joy again when you search for me in a deeper way, with all your heart, mind, and soul!

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.

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*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Michael Mallimo- *US Army*
Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*
Peter Provenzano-*US Army*
Frank Sliva-*US Army*

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

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.

Open Houses present students and parents with a special opportunity to gain information about the programs, faculty, and facilities of the Catholic High Schools on Long Island. Administrators, faculty members, staff, and students are available to describe school programs and to answer questions at the Open House events. For additional information on particular schools, plan to attend one or more of the Open House.

Open House Schedule

Sunday, September 20	10 AM - 1 PM	St. Anthony's High School
	1 PM - 4 PM	St. Dominic High School
Sunday, September 27	12 PM - 2:30 PM	Holy Trinity D.H.S.
	2 PM - 4:30 PM	St. Mary's College Prep. High School
Saturday, October 3	9 AM - 12 PM	Sacred Heart Academy
	10 AM - 1 PM	Kellenberg Memorial H. S.
	2 PM - 4 PM	Chaminade H. S.
Saturday, October 17	10 AM - 1 PM	McGann-Mercy D.H. S.
Sunday, October 19	10:30 AM - 2 PM	St. John the Baptist D.H.S.

The Catholic High School Entrance Exam is scheduled for Saturday, October 3. 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.

Spiritual Care Companion

Pastoral Care Volunteer

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

Catholic Health Services of Long Island sponsors this free six-week training, for volunteers of all faiths, with basic pastoral care skills and information to become a caring, attentive, listening presence. Spiritual Care Companions will attend this evening training from mid-October to Mid-November.

Tuesday, September 22 9:30 - 11:30 AM Our Lady of Consolation, West Islip

Thursday, September 24 6:45 - 8:45 PM St. Catherine's Nursing Home, Smithtown

For more information, please call Peggy at 631-587-1600, ext. 8236 or Carol at 516-705-3714.

Gennesaret Retreat

...for those facing serious illness.

A retreat, especially designed for persons who live with a serious illness, is planned for

September 25 -27, 2009 at Montfort Spirituality Center on Saxon Avenue in Bay Shore.

This retreat offers a respite, a quiet time, an oasis, to enable one to continue the journey. The retreat focuses on God's love, God's forgiveness and God's faithfulness. To register or to receive more information about this weekend, please call: Colette Fanelli 631.665.7052.

Golden Wedding Jubilee

On **Sunday, October 18, 2009** couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special mass to be celebrated by Bishop Paul Walsh at **Christ the King, Commack at 2:30 PM**. Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office, fill it out and return it no later than September 28. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 242.

Pastoral Formation Institute

The Diocese of Rockville Centre celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Pastoral Formation Institute. You are invited to the celebration! **Saturday, November 7 at St. Agnes Cathedral**. Liturgy begins at 6:30 PM, Bishop William Murphy presiding, followed by cocktail hour, dinner and dancing. Limited seating so reserve your tables early! Tickets are \$55 per person. Ticket purchase includes cocktail hour, full course buffet dinner, dessert, wine, beer and soft drinks. Please make check payable to "Pastoral Formation Alumni Association" and mail to Diocese of Rockville Centre, Office of Faith Formation, P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-9023, Attn.: Patricia Schreck.

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 Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, channel 117. Next Sunday's theme is "**Boredom.**" Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go to www.religionandrock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 271 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Even though they were friends, sometimes the disciples fought with each other. In today's Gospel reading, they were fighting over who was the most important. All twelve of them wanted to be number one-the best disciple. Then Jesus told them a secret. The best disciple is the one who helps other people.



Prayer



Dear God,

when I am tempted to fight with my friends,
show me ways to help them instead.



Empty Squares

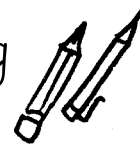
Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Which one of them was the greatest?

□	□	O	□
□	□	N	
□	□	E	
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□	□	□	□
	□		
□	□	□	
	□	□	□

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Something to Draw



Draw a picture of yourself helping someone who is younger than you.

Mission for the Week



Ask your family members how you can help each of them this week. When you help them with a cheerful heart, God smiles.