

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
OUR LADY OF LOURDES ✦ MARCH 21, 2010



IT'S NHOF

**“NOR DO I
CONDEMN
YOU.”**



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.

Our Lady of Lourdes

*455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795*

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

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

Robin Reynolds-Brennan

Coordinator of Worship

Vita Scorcio

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 Scorcio

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Christine Volk

Parish Staff

Barbara Catuosco

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

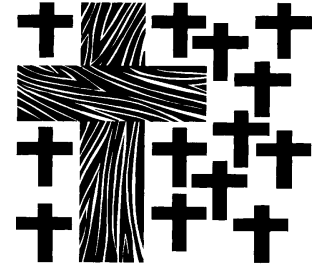
(Senior Advocates for Growth
and Enrichment)

email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Stations of the Cross

We remember the road to Jesus' death and link his journey to our own as our parish's deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion. Come and pray with us...

Each Friday during Lent – 12 Noon and 7 PM
(Please Note: March 19 - Stations will be at 6:30 PM.)



Living Stations of the Cross

Good Friday, April 2 at 7:30 PM in the Church

This is a must for your Lenten and Holy Week journey! Our parish community comes together – led by our young people, our Music Ministries and members of our parish community – who share their own personal experiences on this most holy and solemn night. The celebration includes the Veneration of the Cross.

Come and Pray this Lent...

All fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth Graders **and** their families are invited to come and pray this Lent at “The Six” -Sunday Mass at 6 PM. Please join “The Six” with your grade on...

March 21	5th Sunday of Lent	Gr. 7	“SERVE” Service Project Sunday
March 28	Palm Sunday	Gr. 8	“PRAY” as Holy Week begins

Come celebrate Lent and be a lector, greeter, presentation of the gifts, and more...

Taize-Prayer Around the Cross

Take some reflective time this Lent to join us...

Friday, March 26 at 7:45 PM in the Church (*following Stations of the Cross*)

Taize is a form of worship that provides some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God. Together we will share simple chants and prayers that will help guide us as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord. Please join us for a Taize Prayer Service.

If you're interested in singing/playing with our Taize Group, please contact Carol Goetz at music@ollchurch.org for further information.

Diocesan Day of Reconciliation

Monday, March 29

3 PM until 9 PM in the Church

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a powerful way for our community to celebrate and pray for God's grace and healing.

Churches throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre, including Our Lady of Lourdes, will be open between the hours of 3 PM and 9 PM for individual confessions. If you'd prefer not to go to your home parish, you can easily do so. By making the sacrament so widely and easily available, the hope is that many who are hesitant to go to confession will find it easier.

Here at Our Lady of Lourdes, we also celebrate this Sacrament every Saturday from 4 - 4:45 PM in the Church and always by appointment with a priest.



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The journey of our candidates and catechumens – now called “The Elect” continues...

Continuing on the Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent, at the 11AM Mass, we will celebrate the “*scrutinies*” – times for the candidates and “The Elect” to continue to remain “united with Christ and make progress in their efforts to love God more deeply”.

The Church gives us this public and life-giving process, **during Lent**, so that these good and holy people can be nourished and supported by our parish family. At the same time, we know that when we initiate others, we confront and renew our own identity as members of the Catholic Christian community.

These are important steps in the journey of the R.C.I.A. It's a clear sign to the community that they are coming closer to receiving the Sacraments of Initiation and full communion with the Church at our Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 3.

Please continue to pray for these women and men and our beautiful RCIA team who minister with them each week.

The Seminarian Sent Forth

Dear Friends:

Greetings again from the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington. I am sorry it has taken me so long to write. I hope you haven't forgotten about me. This month has seen some changes in life here at the Seminary....all good things, for sure!



First, on Friday, March 5, 2010, I was formally instituted as a Reader. This is, traditionally, one of the first "ritual" steps in the formation process for seminarians.

The ceremony itself took place within our regular daily Mass. Bishop John C. Dunne, Auxiliary Bishop of Rockville Centre presided at the liturgy. (He also confirmed me at OLL! – so it was nice that he was part of this celebration.) After the homily, each seminarian to be instituted came forward. Bishop Dunne led the community in prayer for us. Then, we knelt before Bishop Dunne, placed our hand on a lectionary as he called us to:

"Take this book of holy Scripture and be faithful in handing on the word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of his people."

What does this mean? Well, first, it is one of the "official" steps on the journey and that makes the reality of things come into focus. Second, it is call, not just for me but for all of us, to reflect more powerfully on the Word of God in our lives. More than how we proclaim it, how do we hear it? Listen to it? Reflect upon it? Those have been questions for my own prayer these weeks. Third, it is a reminder of the great diversity of ministries in the life of the Church. As we look to the wonderful lectors at OLL – we should give thanks to God for such powerful witnesses! The picture attached was taken after the celebration with Bishop Dunne.

Last weekend, I began a series of parish visitations to speak about vocations. I visited and spent the weekend with the good people of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Hicksville. They were wonderful! Their pastor is Fr. Bob Blyman, who served at OLL a number of years back. (He told me that he misses all of us at OLL!) It was good to see a different parish life than OLL. First, with no disrespect to the parish of Our Lady of Mercy, it reminds me of what a wonderful parish family we have here at OLL. There is no place like home! Second, it's good to see how parish life "runs" in another part of our diocese. We have a great diversity of parishes, priests and people throughout Long Island. It's good to have some contact with them throughout these weekends.

So, life here has been busy! Things are moving along and going well. (Remember you can follow along at www.johnsureau.blogspot.com.) This is, in no small part, because of all of your support and prayers. It makes an incredible difference!

See you at Easter!

Peace –

John Sureau

SAGE

The SAGE Group (**S**enior **A**dvocates for **G**rowth and **E**nrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, March 23**, 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, March 29**, at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Bereavement Group

We will be starting our next bereavement group on **Wednesday, April 14**. The group will run for six weeks and meet in the **Spiritual Life Center from 7:30 to 9 PM**. Please call Diane at 226.9373 to register.

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**.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Serving the Body of Christ...

What does it take to be an Extraordinary Minister?

- Participation in Sunday Eucharist
- Commitment to serve two or three times a month
- Attendance at a Diocesan training and parish training
- Openness to bring Communion to the sick

If you have other questions or are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister, please contact Mrs. Mary J. Borgs of our Parish Liturgy Committee at 665.2928 or you can email Fr. Pat at FrPat@ollchurch.org.

Pre-registration is necessary. Please respond no later than April 13 to be registered in the upcoming Diocesan training.

Family Liturgies during Holy Week 2010

Thursday, April 1

Children's and Family Holy Thursday Service – 4 PM - Church

Friday, April 2

Children's Good Friday Service – 12 Noon -Church

Saturday, April 3

Easter Egg Hunt – 11:30 AM – Great Lawn

We love our children and families here at OLL and want you to be a part of our parish community!



Easter Flower Offering

The deadline for Easter Flower Offerings, so that they appear in the Easter bulletin, is March 23. Flower offerings received after this date will appear in subsequent bulletins.

Learning & Spirituality

Why We Pray the Way We Do

Fr. Bob Scheckenback
Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20, 27 and May 4
7:30 - 9:30 PM
Parish Center



What's really happening when we go to Church on Sunday? Understand the liturgy and its role in your life and the life of the Church. Does God need the Sacraments? Understand the sacramental principle of Roman Catholicism and how we believe God communicates with us.

There is a \$5 fee for each session. No fee is required for those who have paid the Religious Education Family Fee or Our Lady of Lourdes School tuition. Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. To register, please call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3 or email to religioused@ollchurch.org.

Ministry of Family Healing

Nights of Prayer and Reflection

...watch the bulletin for upcoming nights in March and May.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Bring your prayer and creativity together in a gift of love.

Join us...Wednesday, April 14 at 9:30 AM in the Parish Center. All you need to bring is scrap yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks (patterns and instructions will be given to you) and your gifts of love and prayer.



OLL CASA Project Two Homes and Counting!



Through your generous donations, we have been able to fund the building of two complete houses and we are well on our way to completing a third house!
Keep up the good work. Through your donations to the OLL Casa Project we will be able to continue to build homes for those belonging to our sister parishes.

Young Women's Faith Group

Are you a young woman? Are you finding it hard to keep your faith and spirituality a part of your everyday life? We have just the thing!
Young Women's Faith group has moved its night. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 23 at 7 PM in the Spiritual Life Center** to talk about challenges and to give one another support. Stop by one of our meetings!

Youth Group Meeting Schedule



Middle School

April 5th, 19th (PC)
May 3rd, 17th (PC)
June 7th

High School

April 8th (PC), 22nd
May 6th, 20th
June 3rd

**All meetings will be in Room 16 of the school unless otherwise specified.*

Learning Technology Grant

Our Lady of Lourdes School has been accepted to receive the NYSED STEM Project Grant for a duration of 3 years in the amount of \$150,000. (\$50,000/year)

We are in partnership with the Edmund W Miles School in Amityville applied to NYSED for the Learning Technology Grant. This project will focus on improving the academic performance in science, math and literacy in grades 6, 7 and 8.

The purposes of this grant are to:

1. Promote an increase in integration of instructional technology in classrooms and library media centers
2. Improve student academic performance in relationship to the NYS Learning Standards
3. Provide ongoing, sustained professional development focused on increased knowledge and skills of teachers in the use of instructional technology
4. Help students attain higher levels of performance in the NYS Learning Standards
5. To make use of recognized model programs that are based on research and have shown promise of significantly increasing student academic achievement.

This program will focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) This partnership entitles OLL to receive – Videoconferencing equipment and professional development in the first of the three year grant to work with the scientists at NASA Space Center in their Challenger Program. The project will focus on habitats for life on the moon, which will engage students in project based learning under the guidance of their teachers and the scientists at NASA. The project will begin in 6th grade and follow the students for the time in middle school.

In years two and three of the grant, it will entitle OLL to receive additional equipment – possibly Mac notebooks, iPods for podcasting, and video recorders, along with professional development



OLL Golf Outing

Coming July 2010

Do you miss the outdoors? Do you miss the warm feeling of sunshine?

Join us and swing ahead to summer!

This year we will be honoring:

Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi

Paul and Diane Munch

For more information contact Rich Maher at rmaher@ollschool.org

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)



Rest In Peace

Hazel Ann Ashley died on March 3 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 10. We extend our prayers to her husband, Lawrence, children, grandchildren, great-grandchild, and entire family.

Mary G. Rogers died on March 10 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 15. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and entire family.

Elizabeth Ann Faulconer-Mordini died on March 2 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 10. We extend our prayers to her cousin Pat Paolicelli, and entire family.

Joseph Walsh died on March 14 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 17. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren and entire family.

Veronica Kenny died on March 14 and the Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on March 17 at St. Ignatius, Hicksville. We extend our prayers to her husband, Thomas, children, including daughter, Patrice Davidson, grandchildren and entire family.

Rosary/Novena

Rosary

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA)

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.

Remembering . . .

Monday, March 22

8:00 AM Louise Riedemann (*anniversary*)

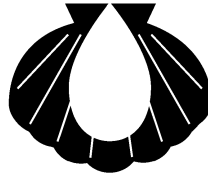
Tuesday, March 23

Saint Toribio de Mogrovejo, bishop

8:00 AM John Varley

Wednesday, March 24

8:00 AM Marie D. Turano



Baptisms

Gianni Nicholas Bench

Jared and Gina

Karah Lynn Conzone

John and Jo-Ann

William Finn Desmond

Scott and Kelly

Alyssa Dawn Kriegsman

Paul and Crystal

Alora Jo-Leen Ingenito

Robert and Lauren

Lily Ellen Vereline

James and Colleen

Thursday, March 25

The Annunciation of the Lord

8:00 AM Jack Butler

Friday, March 26

8:00 AM Frank Cafaro

Saturday, March 27

8:00 AM Daniel DiMonda, Richard Kenny,
Ross Goldin, John Parker,
Robert A. Ledee, Jr

5:00 PM Franics Durante

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, March 28

8:00 AM Sheila Garcia

Fr. Pat Amabile

9:30 AM Barbara Young

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Michael Worysz

Fr. Pat Amabile

12:30 PM Elizabeth Homann

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Howard Campkin, Florence Worysz,
Roger Morneault, Ernest H. Liebow, Mary Chimento,
Asher Weinstein, Deacon G. Frank Bruno, Camille Narissi,
Bill Barci, Charles Van Manen, Cecilio & Josefa Rivera

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

be ready to
give another
chance



©LPI

5th Sunday of Lent

Once again we have a well-known and familiar Gospel story proposed for our Lenten reflection. The account of the woman caught in the act of adultery is something that we can all relate to. She was found out-discovered-publicly shamed. It happens to most of us at some point in our lives, usually when we are young. We do something wrong, and get caught. And then we have to endure the humiliation of our wrongful act being known by others. It is expected that we will learn from our mistakes, but that doesn't always happen.

On the other hand, we're sometimes like the Scribes and the Pharisees who bring the accusation. We discover something we can hold against another. Occasionally it is a secret knowledge that can fester in our hearts. At other times, it is a public shame that we do not hesitate to propagate for our own advantage. For whatever reason-vengeance, jealousy, mean-spiritedness-we want offenders to "get what's coming to them."

Maybe in the end, the story of the woman caught in adultery is to invite us to be neither sinner nor judge. Maybe the point of the story is to act like Jesus. Could we put ourselves in his role? He extends mercy, but he also proposes expectations ("do not sin anymore").

These past three Sundays before Holy Week have been about God giving us time. The fig tree that was allowed to grow another year, the prodigal son who was allowed to come back home, and the woman who was not condemned, were all given another chance. We all want that second chance when we sin. This Sunday's Gospel would suggest if we're going to follow Christ, we have to give another chance to those who sin against us as well.

2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of March 21, 2010

Sunday:	Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11
Monday:	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 <i>or</i> 13:41c-62/Jn 8:12-20
Tuesday:	Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday:	Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14---23:56 <i>or</i> 23:1-49

Parish Outreach

Office telephone:

661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

Grandmothers ~ Mothers ~ Daughters

Your presence is requested at a

Victorian Tea

To honor the memory of two devoted

Outreach volunteers

Flo Worysz and Anne Nardone

Sunday, April 18, 2010

2 PM - 5 PM

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Center.

Please purchase tickets in Parish Outreach

Tickets are \$20 each

Proceeds to benefit the works of Outreach.

Financial Summary

March 14, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 14,871.00
Weekly Budget	<u>-\$ 19,000.00</u>
+/- for the week	\$ (4,129.00)

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

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:

Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*

Christopher Florca-*US Marines*

Michael Mallimo- *US Army*

Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*

JD Montefusco-*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.

Altar Society

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

Pastoral Care of Our Sick

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



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

Pray for Our Sick

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

Roy Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Andrew Bartlett, Ben Bellotti, Antoinette Bongiorno, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Donald L. Coffey, Thomas Courtney, Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Debbie Eichen, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Max Illiano, Diana Kaehne, Mary Kaval, Kathleen Kerrigan, Josephine Kosiczky, Joseph Lehmann, S. Diane Liona, Kara Lobasso, Charlie Maccio, Louise Malcuit, Vicky Massaro, Philip Matzen, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Margaret McHugh, Dorothy Meloni, Matthew Mirabella, Rick Mirabella, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Arthur Petrino, Helen Pitkowitz, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Baby Skyler Rene, Reneida Rivera, Michael Savino, Ann Marie Schiraldi, Jayna Schmidt, Dorothy Shiavone, Joe Shields, Derek Stahl, Mary Clair Stephen, Stephen Straub, Sr., John Tramazzo, Nancy Turano, Vera Vieni, Pat Wallace, Kyle Williams, Geraldine Wloszczyna, Joe Yezek

Spirituality and Sexuality

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

A common complaint about the classical Christian teachings on sexuality is that so many of these have been written by vowed celibates, unmarried priests and nuns who do not have sex. The complaint is not that these people (and I am one of them) teach something that is wrong but that, not being married, they invariably tend to over-idealize sex and encase it in unrealistic sacred romance.

No doubt there is some truth to this. But, in fairness, everyone struggles with sexuality. Every religious tradition has its struggles with sexuality and so does every culture. No self-respecting theologian would say that Christianity or any other religion has made full peace with sexuality, just as no self-respecting analyst would say that there exists in this world a culture that has come to a healthy peace with sexuality. Religion and the world both struggle with sex, just in different ways. Everyone struggles.

And this is no accident because sexuality is always partially beyond us, too powerful to always healthily contain. In this life nobody comes to full peace with it. It is too powerful and too wide. It lies at the base of everything, life and non-life alike. Molecules are sexed, atoms are sexed, all life is sexed, and every human person is sexed in every cell, body and soul. Much of this, of course, is inchoate, dark, a longing and an aching without an explicit focus, though from puberty onwards it also has a focus and deeply colors every person's consciousness.

Ironically it is on this point, the failure to take the centrality of sexuality seriously enough, where liberals and conservatives concur, conservatives by denying that centrality and liberals by trivializing it. Both tend to be naive, just in different ways.

Moreover, beyond the sheer, brute power of sexuality there is still its complexity. Sexuality is both the most creative and the most destructive force on the planet. It is a great force not just for heroic love, life, and blessing but also for the worst hate, death, and destruction imaginable. It is responsible for most ecstasies on the planet, but also for a lot of murders and suicides. When healthy, it helps glue personalities together, when unhealthy, it works at disintegrating personalities. It can unite families and communities and it can also destroy them. It is a unique power to mellow the heart and produce gratitude even as it has equal power to make the heart bitter and jealous.

It is the best of all fires and the most dangerous of all fires.

And this paradox is what lies at the root of so many of the tensions that surround any discussion on sex. On any given day, which aspect of sexuality should be emphasized? Purity or passion, its goodness or its dangers, its power to trigger ecstasy or its power to produce murder, its sacramental power to unite or its chaotic power to divide?

Because these questions are not easy to answer, what we often see are two opposing tendencies: the temptation to over-idealize and the temptation to trivialize, the temptation to be too fearful and the temptation to be too casual, the temptation to be unhealthily frigid and the temptation to be unhealthily irresponsible. We rarely get it right. Invariably the symbolic hedge is too high or too low.

How do we find a balance? Not easily. But, as with all complex issues, a good starting point is the refusal to compromise either of its paradoxical poles, to sell out any of its truths, no matter how apparently contradictory.

So it is important to admit that sex is a power beyond us even as we accept that we have a responsibility to control it. Its goodness must always be affirmed even as its dangers are highlighted. Its holy, sacred character should always be taught even as its earthiness should never be denigrated. We must be clear that it is meant to be sacrament even as it is meant to be playful, that it is meant to bring children into this world even as it is meant to express love, that it is meant to be healthily enjoyed even as it needs to be carefully guarded, and that it is not something before which we should stand in unhealthy fear even as we surround it with enough taboos to properly safeguard its meaning and our own emotional safety.

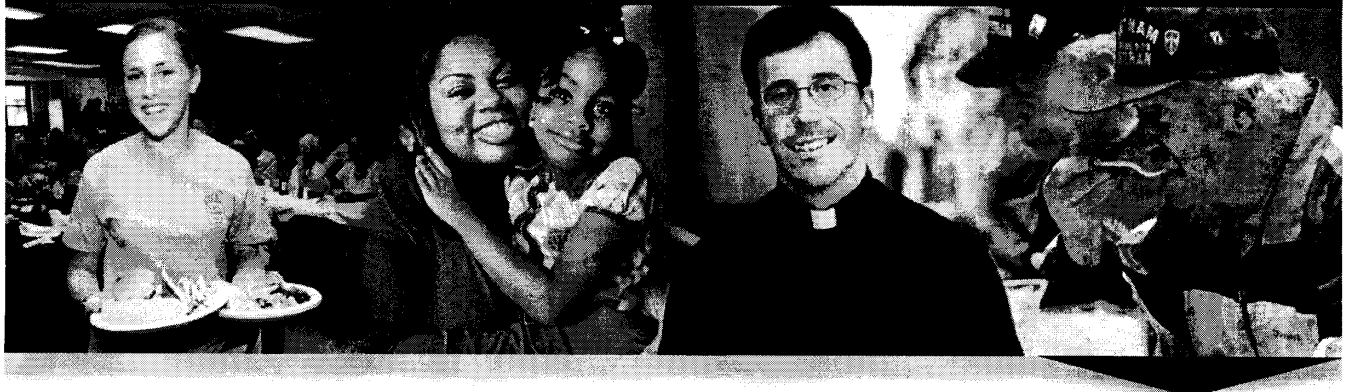
Sexuality might be compared to a high-voltage electrical wire. The 50,000 volts inside of that wire can bring light and heat to a building, but there are two risks: First, we may be so afraid of its dangers that we never connect our house to it. We then deprive ourselves of its light and heat. The second danger is the opposite: This powerful energy is safe only if its raw power is channeled through the right transformers and safely encased in proper insulation, otherwise we risk a deadly fire, inside the house and inside the psyche.

Conservatives tend to struggle with the first danger, liberals with the latter.

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.

2010 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL


One Faith, One Hope, Many Gifts



Because of the Catholic Ministries Appeal, we are able to help support many of our Parish outreach programs that provide food to the disadvantaged and homeless.

One such program, *Project Hope*, began five years ago as an occasional Sunday supper for the disadvantaged. Today, because of the ever-growing need in the community, volunteers cook, serve and socialize with the almost 200 people who come for a nutritious meal twice a month.

Joe, a Vietnam veteran, started coming to the program when it started. *"We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of kids and others who give up their time to help those who need it,"* says Joe, who tries to come for every supper. *"When I meet homeless vets or others who are struggling, I bring them here with me, so they too can get a good meal. There are so many more people suffering than I think most people are aware of and the Catholic Church is a blessing to all of us."*

Supporting the services of
The Catholic Church
of Long Island 
Diocese of Rockville Centre

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THE FIVE MINISTRIES OF THE APPEAL

www.CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org

2010 Catholic Men's Conference - Diocese of Rockville Centre

Saturday, April 24 at Holy Trinity High School, Hicksville

Your life is a journey. It is a journey of family, of work, of play, and of faith. It is our hope that this men's conference will serve to enrich your faith so that family, work and play will be filled with more joy than ever before. For additional information, visit the conference website at

www.catholicmensministry.net or call 516.678.5000, extension 1234.

Contact Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 if you plan to attend.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

On Sunday, April 18, 2010, couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop John Dunne at **St. Lawrence the Martyr in Sayville at 3 PM.**

Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office, fill it out and return it to the Parish Office no later than March 28. Approximately one week before the ceremony, information regarding the day will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 583.

Diocesan Pilgrimage: Yes, Lord, We do believe!

Diocese of Rockville Centre Youth Event

Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC on Saturday, April 10. There will be a special youth prayer experience for all young people at the Basilica as part of the diocesan pilgrimage. We hope many of the teens from our parish youth groups and our Catholic High Schools will join us on our pilgrimage to the National Shrine.

If you have any questions, or are interested in attending, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224, extension 121. Please call as soon as possible. (*group transportation may be arranged.*)

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, March 27, from 1 PM until 3 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

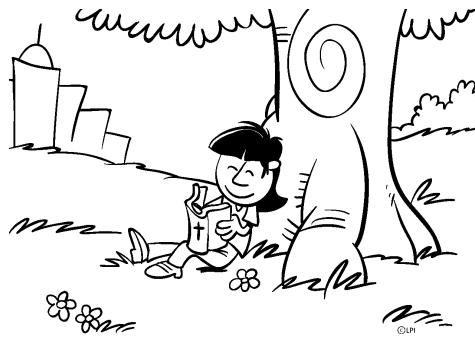
Religion & Rock

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 "**Traditions.**" 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 TELE CARE, Cablevision 29 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Instead of telling people he was the Savior, Jesus showed them. By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus sent a message loud and clear. Jesus was the Savior they had all been waiting for. He was filled with God's love and power, and many people believed in him.



Mission for the Week

Write the words, "God can do anything" on a piece of paper. Read it every morning.

Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

GOD'S SON
SICKNESS
RISE

LAZARUS
MARY
MARTHA

BELIEVES
WEEPING
WRAPPED

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

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Prayer



Thank you for showing me that you are my Savior, Jesus.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of Lazarus wrapped up like a mummy, walking to Jesus.