

Our Lady of Lourdes • Fifth Sunday of Easter • May 2, 2010



**“Behold, I make
all things new.”**

Revelation 21:5



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 (option 1)

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 (option 2)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschooll.org

Religious Education Office

661.5440 (option 3)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661.9262 (option 4)

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

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!

We are so happy to welcome everyone who has come to worship with us today! Whether you have come a long distance or you live locally, we are glad that you have decided to spend some time with us as we worship our Lord together. Please know that your presence today is a blessing to our parish family.

Would you like to know more about our parish family?

All are welcome at Our Lady of Lourdes and we do our best to reach out to everyone.

If you would like more information about our parish or if you would like one of our team to be in touch with you, please fill this form out and place it in any collection or offering basket, mail it to us, or send an email to parishoffice@ollchurch.org

Welcome...

to Our Lady of Lourdes!



I would like information about:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religious Education of my Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Becoming a Catholic or Adult Confirmation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage or Annulment / Remarriage | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Direction or Counseling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Our Parish Catholic School | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Joining the Parish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baptizing my Children | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

I would prefer to be contacted:

Your Name: _____

Phone at: _____ Email at: _____

Mail at: _____

Mark your calendars...

Upcoming Events

Monday, May 3rd:

Middle School and High School Youth Groups meet at 7 PM in Room 16 for a joint meeting!

Friday, May 14th:

Movie Night in the cafeteria at 7 PM. We're showing "The Blind Side," and snacking of course.

Monday, May 17th:

Middle School Youth Group starts at 6:30 PM in Room 16.

Friday, May 21st:

Hang Out Night-7 PM-you take over the church and bash each other with volley balls. Fun to do, fun to watch. Stop in.

Monday, May 24th:

High School Youth Group starts at 7 p.m. in Room 16.



Youth Group Meeting Schedule

Middle School

May 3, 17

June 7, 21

High School

May 3, 24

June 14, 21

**All meetings will be in Room 16 of the school*



Youth Group

High School students! Youth Group for grades 9-12 has moved from Thursdays to Mondays at OLL! We will still meet at 7 PM in Room 16. For a full list of dates please go to ollchurch.org/youth, email Allegra@ollchurch.org or check the bulletin board in the All Purpose Room!

Rosary Christian Mothers

The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, May 3**. We will begin with **the Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center**.

Holy Name Society

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



Eucharistic Adoration

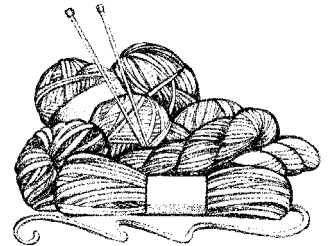
Please come and join us on **Friday, May 14 at 7:30 PM in the Church** for Eucharistic Adoration. All are invited, especially the youth of our parish, to come and adore our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Come and bring a friend.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Join us ...

Wednesday, May 12, 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.



Men's Group

An Invitation to all men from OLL and beyond...

We invite all men of the parish to meet for prayer and reflection after 8 AM Mass on **Thursday, May 20, in the Parish Center**. We meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We'll gather for conversation and fellowship. Join us in this pioneering experience for men. Call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for more information.

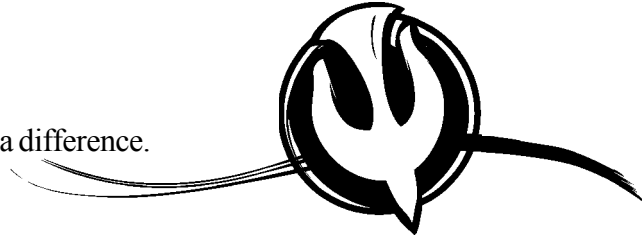
Save the date...

Pentecost Weekend - May 22/23

The Great Ministry Event

Come and see how our many Ministries make a difference.

All are welcome!



Around Our Parish

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**.

Daytime Eucharistic Devotion

The afternoon adoration for the month of July will be on **Wednesday, May 5 from 1- 3 PM**. All are invited and welcome! We will be praying for our children, our country, our men and women in the military and our clergy.



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.

Donations to Outreach

Parish Outreach has received many donations in memory of loved ones.

If you would like to make a donation to Parish Outreach in memory of a loved one, please call Mary McMahon, Director of Parish Social Ministry at 661.3224, option 4.

Victorian Tea

Grandmothers, mothers and daughters sporting their finest Victorian Haberdashery, carrying their most delicate china and table linens of superlative quality transformed the Parish Center into an 'English Parlour' on Sunday April 18th. As the tables were set and decorated-a true Victorian Repast ensued: scones, tea sandwiches and of course, TEA! While feasting



on delicacies to delight the Victorian palate, all were entertained by the melodious strings of a violin accompanied by the tender tones of the piano. If you were among the 'unfortunates' who were not able to participate in this most cultured of affairs-do take heart: the event was of such success that we would be remiss not to host this again. So next year, do check your calendars as soon as there is a hint of



Victorian Tea in the springtime aire and you will be guaranteed to be counted among the 'fortunates'!

Monies generated from the Tea are supporting the works of Outreach. A portion of the funds will be used to purchase Payless gift cards for Outreach families to purchase sneakers for their children during the summer months, funds were already used to assist a family, with five children, pay rent. As we approach the summer months,

the balance of the revenue will be used to supplement the pantry and for additional financial aid as it is requested of Outreach. The list of people and merchants to thank is beyond the scope of this article. A heartfelt thanks to Valerie



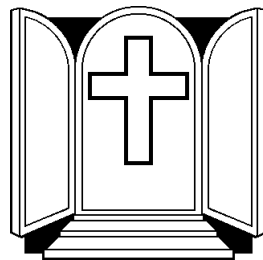
Dunne, Marcy Chapuisat, and Barbara Evans for suggesting, organizing and doing the 'grunt' work involved in hosting this Tea. Thanks to Marie Duncan for making so many of the raffle baskets- and to Dottie Perdue for 'begging' local merchants for their contributions. Michael Dunne and Steve Duncan made the sandwiches and donated the bread and sandwich fixings. Hours in the kitchen baking the all the scones- Trish Frodell, (recipe to follow at a later date)! John DeGuardi, Bill Kuchler and Vera Kavanaugh provided art work for the raffle. The flat screen TV was donated by the Evans. Finally, thanks to all who assisted before and during the Tea: Arlene Accosta, Josephine Barone, Barbara Foster-and of course, Thank you to the Buonospinas for providing their time and talent throughout the afternoon on the violin and keys!

Please patronize the many merchants who contributed to the raffle baskets: *Best Chinese Kitchen, Anthony's Pizza, Sushi on Union Blvd, Captree Deli, Café Europa, Café Mojós, Long River Chinese Restaurant, Carousel Diner, Hometown Heroes, Flavor Crisp, Higbie Bagels, Zeiglers Deli, King Kullen, Stop and Shop, Panda Garden Chinese Restaurant, Dynasty Café, Italiano's, Carvel, Towers Flowers, Café Flowers, Beebes Flowers, West Islip Liquors, Higbie Discount Wines & Liquors, Union Wine & Liquor, Economy Cleaners, All Brite Cleaners, 99Cent Plus Store, Godfather's Music, Shear Instincts, Kathy's Hair Corner, Village Salon & Spa, In-Style Salon, West Islip Opticians, BTJ Pet Store, Mike's Getty Station.*



Open Wide the Door!

Let the Spirit In!



A Spiritual Evening for Women

Presenter: Sister Joy Castiglione, OP

Tuesday, May 18

7:30 - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

As women, we are always great with hospitality. Did you ever wonder what it would be like to welcome Jesus into your heart and entertain him there?

During our evening of prayer we will reflect on “opening the door” of our heart to have Jesus feel “at home” and how can we grow in a more intimate relationship with him.

As part of the evening, we will have group discussion, sharing, and a guided meditation.

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.

Good Grief...

We are sure that when you think of that phrase, you immediately think of “Good Grief, Charlie Brown.” Not exactly what we had in mind.

So, what’s so good about grief? Come together as we share the many losses in our lives. Together, with Jesus, we can mend broken hearts. The Ministry of Family Healing invites you to a night of prayer on **Thursday, May 20 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Call the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3, to register. Please, bring a friend and, as always, food and fellowship to follow.



A Night in the Garden

An Evening of Prayer and Reflection

Tuesday, May 18

7 – 8 PM

Spiritual Life Center

What does Christ’s experience in the Garden mean for all of us as we try to understand:

- The importance of prayer
- The role of friends and angels in our lives
- The connection between our suffering and the suffering of Jesus
- Our struggle to live and accept the words– “Thy Will Be Done”

Presented by: Students of the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception - Seminarian John Sureau (remember him?!), Donna Spoto, John Mc Mahon and Deacon Tom Reilly. This presentation is part of a final group project for an elective class entitled, Passion Narratives. Help John Sureau and his classmates get an A!

Hospitality will follow the presentation.

Holy Skype!

Giving students the power and tools to stop Bullying is one of the most important topics covered in our schools today. Mrs. Loeffel's fourth grade Health class at Our Lady of Lourdes School in West Islip shared a lesson that the students created with their counter-parts at St. Christopher's School in Baldwin via Skype!

Our Lady of Lourdes has been on the cutting edge with their implementation of technology in the classrooms. Skype is just another tool in helping our students learn and share their knowledge with other schools.

Discovery Camp

Sponsored by
Our Lady of Lourdes 44 Toomey Road, West Islip

Registration Now Being Accepted*

June 28th – August 6th
9am – 5pm, Monday - Friday

A full time day camp program for students entering grades K – 7 beginning with an academic based morning and a fun-filled afternoon of sports provided by F.A.S.T. Athletics.

Program choices include:
K – 1 "Under the Sea" or "Bugs Galore"
2 – 4 "Rain Forest" or "Space Camp"
5 – 7 "Mind Games" or "Teen Spirit"

Before / After Care and School Provided Lunch Available for an Additional Fee. For More Information Contact:

Lisa Kennedy, Director
lkennedy@ollschoo.org 631.587.7200 ext.100

*non-refundable/non-transferable



OLL Golf Outing

Monday, July 19, 2010

Island Hills Country Club, Sayville

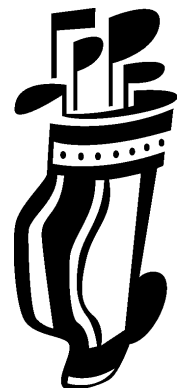
Do you miss the outdoors? Do you miss the warm feeling of sunshine?
Join us and swing ahead to summer!

This year we will be honoring:

Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi

Paul and Diane Munch

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



Religious Education

at Our Lady of Lourdes during the Easter Season...

For all in Grade 7 in our Parish Family...

Sponsor/Candidate Enrollment Sunday

Sunday, May 2

6 PM Mass

All seventh graders in our Parish Family choose a Sponsor in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please come and join with all the seventh graders of our parish, their families and their newly chosen Sponsor, as we celebrate this commitment. They look to their Parish Family for prayers and support on their faith journey.

For all in Grade 8 in our Parish Family...

“Rescue Closing”

Sunday, May 16

6 PM Mass

All eighth graders in our Parish Family, their Sponsors and parents share in celebrating their time together. The eighth graders and their Sponsors have been getting together and doing service for others.

For all in Grades 6/7/8 in our parish family...

Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday May 21	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center
Friday June 18	7:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Parish Center

Don't forget... there's something for everyone !

All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family- come play volleyball, basketball.

We have Guitar Hero 2, free raffles, music and more. DON'T MISS IT !

also...

Grades 9/10/11/12

ALL ARE WELCOME! Be a part of the Team. High School leaders help with set-up, participating in activities, refreshments, clean-up, etc... and assist Adult Chaperones.

For more information, call 661.5440, option 3 or email religioused@ollchurch.org.

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

For all Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Wednesday, May 5 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center

or

Thursday, May 6 at 10 AM in the Parish Center

or

Thursday, May 6 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center

Did you know?

You can go to “eChalk” at www.ollreled.org to link and follow your “own” grade to find new and exciting activities, important parent info, and view our OLL Religious Education Calendar.

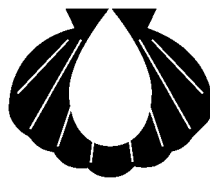
Support Groups

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-
9:30 AM beginners meeting
convent lower level.
(Free babysitting available.)



Baptisms

Abigayle Rose Bray

Joseph and Gayle

Jennie Margaret Longo-Cestaro

Robert and Holley

Lena Kay Okurowski

Adam and Carey

George Dory Elasmarr

Dory and Therese

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, May 3

Saint Philip and Saint James, apostles

8:00 AM Carmela & Vincent Stumpo

Tuesday, May 4

8:00 AM Lydia Ann Olsen

Wednesday, May 5

8:00 AM LaRocca & Sweeney Families

Thursday, May 6

8:00 AM John Lovari

Friday, May 7

8:00 AM Frederick Hellmers

Saturday, May 8

8:00 AM Matthew Badamo, Mary Fannon, Gerald Belanger,
Marilyn Yung, Brian Thibadeau, Dennis Buckley,
Leighanne Stewart, Linda Kelly (*living*)

5:00 PM Anthony LaRocca

Sunday, May 9

8:00 AM Colin & Yankel Moms and Kay Sullo

9:30 AM Theresa Reardon

11:00 AM Charlotte & James Quinn

12:30 PM John Sweeney

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Anna VanBramer, Jack Timmer,
Frances Cannizzaro, Yvonne Winthers, Grace Mounsey,
Helen Kolar, Barbara Ann Pratt, Rosemaria Russo,
James Ryan, Grace M. Smith, Patricia Moriarty,
Elsie Sharp, Marilyn Shaw



Rest In Peace

Bryan Monahan died on April 20 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 23. We extend our prayers to his mother, Sandra, his brother, Sean, grandmothers, Yvonne and Maria, and entire family.

Celebrating Sacraments



5th Sunday of Easter

One of the great lines of the Bible, and one of its most important theological concepts, appears in today's second reading from the Book of Revelation. The author testifies that he hears the One who sits on the throne say: "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev 21:5). Recall that when Revelation was being written, the church was undergoing persecution. Those Christians familiar with Jewish writings (what we Christians call the Old Testament today) looked to the past to seek out the ways that God had acted before. They found resonance in the oracles of deutero-Isaiah, who promised a Messiah after the leaders of Israel had been taken to captivity in Babylon. In chapter 43 of Isaiah, God proclaims that he will restore Israel, he will do something new by rebuilding the city of Jerusalem.

Jerusalem becomes symbolic of the eternal dwelling of God's chosen people. It is the place of peace and contentment. It is God's dwelling to which every nation on earth comes to dwell. And so it is no surprise when the writer of Revelation proclaims to the persecuted Christian community (who saw themselves as God's new chosen people, enduring trials just like the Hebrews of long ago) that a new Jerusalem is coming down out of heaven as a dwelling place for God and his people.

This promise of hope in a time of persecution is meant to encourage those who may be tempted to falter. In our own day, so many of us have been battered by difficult times. Each of us may have our own tale of woe. The Gospel for today reminds us that Jesus gave us a new commandment: to love one another. No matter how difficult things may be, that commandment endures. It also gives us hope, for we are united in love. 2010 Liturgical Publications Inc

Readings for the Week of May 2, 2010

Sunday:	Acts 14:21-27/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35
Monday:	1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14
Tuesday:	Acts 14:19-28/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15:1-6/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday:	Acts 15:7-21/Jn 15:9-11
Friday:	Acts 15:22-31/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16:1-10/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday:	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29

Our Lady of Lourdes

Fr. Joe Lukaszewski

“Walk of Life”

In Loving
Memory of
Mary Jones

Peter Jacobs
Baptized
January 2002

In Gratitude
Jean & John
Reilly

God Bless the
Smith Family

Johnson's
Married
Sept. 20, '99

Preserve your name, or that of a loved one, well into the
next millennium, with a personalized brick paver.

Order Information:

Name	
Address	
City	State
Phone	

Paver size 4" x 8"

\$150.00 per Brick

Maximum of 13 characters per line. NOTE: Spaces are considered a character.

Make check payable with order form:
Our Lady of Lourdes-Dedication
455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, NY 11795
Mail or Drop off at Rectory

Financial Summary

April 25, 2010

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,934.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 19,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,066.00)

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 *Pat Wissing*.
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, Ben Bellotti, Antoinette Bongiorno, Theresa Buffa, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Jerry Castonguay, Nicholas Cibelli, Michael Ciotkosz, Donald L. Coffey, Regina Cranor, Jeanne DellaRagione, Ann Donlon, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, John Fallon, Edward Herger, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Max Illiano, Diana Kaehne, Mary Kaval, Kathleen Kerrigan, Josephine Kosiczky, Charles LaSala, Joseph Lehmann, S. Diane Liona, Kara Lobasso, Charlie Maccio, Louise Malcuit, Vicky Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Donie McDermott, Dorothy Meloni, Rick Mirabella, Rae Morris, Brenden Muldoon, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, John O'Brien, Joyce Petersen, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Laura Prichard, Joe Radosti, Carol Randazzo-Hopkins, Baby Skyler Rene, 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

There is a Season for Everything

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

A friend of mine likes to explain his religious background this way: "I have powerful conservative roots. I was raised in a very strong conservative, Roman Catholic, immigrant, German, farming family, with all the inhibitions, protectiveness, exclusivity, and reticence that this entailed. It would be hard to find a more strongly conservative religious background than mine. And I'm grateful for that. It's one of the greatest gift you can be given. Now I'm free for the rest of my life!"

There is something both healthily conservative and healthily liberal in that assessment. The instinct within the liberal wants to push edges, to widen the circle, to move away from narrowness, to be more inclusive, to not always see the other as threat, and to protect the ineffability of God and God's universal salvific will. Whereas the conservative intuits the necessity of being rooted in truth, in grounding yourself in the essentials, in having proper boundaries, and in not being naive to the fact that everything that's precious and true will invariably be under attack.

Both protect the soul. The soul, as we know, has two functions which are often in tension with each other. On the one hand, the soul is the source of all energy inside of us, the fire that fuels everything we do. We know the precise moment when the soul leaves a body. All energy ceases. On the other hand, the soul is also the source of unity and integration. It glues us together. Decomposition begins the very second the soul leaves the body. Without the soul, every element goes its own way.

The liberal instinct is mostly about the fire, the conservative instinct is mostly about the glue. The story of the man who was raised in such a strong conservative background and who now feels rooted enough to be more liberal illustrates that both are necessary. There is a time to be liberal and there is a time to be conservative and it is important that we know which time is right both as regards to our own growth and as regards to the growth of others.

Malcolm X once said something to this effect: I have a strong allegiance to both Christ and Muhammad because we need them both. Right now, so many of the men to whom I am trying to minister need the discipline of Allah. Their lives are in such disrepair that they need clear,

hard rules of discipline that are spelled out for them without ambiguity. Later on, once they have their lives more in order, they can turn more to the liberal love of Jesus. First we need the discipline of Allah, later the freedom of Jesus.

He understood that there are stages to the spiritual life and that what is needed in one stage will sometimes be very different than what is needed in another. What are the basic stages of the spiritual life?

The gospels, the mystics, and the great spiritual writers, with some variation in how they express this, concur that there are three clear stages to the spiritual journey or, in another way of putting it, three levels of discipleship:

The first level, which might aptly be termed, Essential Discipleship, is the struggle to get our lives together, to achieve basic human maturity (which itself might be defined as the capacity for essential unselfishness, the capacity to put others before ourselves). The second level can be called Generative Discipleship and is the struggle to give our lives away in love, service, and prayer. The third level can be called Radical Discipleship and consists in the struggle to give our deaths away, that is, to leave this earth in such a way that our deaths themselves become our final gift and blessing to our families, churches, and society.

The first stage, Essential Discipleship, is precisely about essentials, about getting our lives together by properly channeling our energies through discipline (the origin of the word, discipleship). By definition, that task is mainly conservative: learning proper teaching so as to have a healthy vision, submitting to rules of behavior that ground us and move us beyond our instinctual selfishness, and being a learner within family and church community. Metaphorically speaking, at this stage we are learning the "discipline of Allah".

But, once this stage is achieved with a certain proficiency, the challenge becomes different. Now the task is to give our lives away - and to give them away ever more deeply and to an ever-widening circle. That's a more liberal task and it becomes even-more liberal as we move towards that truly great unknown, death, where all that we have grounded ourselves in must be left behind as we are opened to the widest circle of all, cosmic embrace, infinity, and the ineffable mystery of God.

In our discipleship, our spiritual journey, there is an important time to be conservative, just as there is an important time to be liberal. We are not meant to pick one of these over the other.

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

CMA 2010

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Amount Pledged	\$ 71,194
# of Donors	321
Average Pledge	\$ 222
<i>as of April 15, 2010</i>	

100% of all money raised by the Catholic Ministries Appeal goes to support the five critical ministries of the Appeal.

Every year, through the support and commitment of individuals and organizations, we serve more than 500,000 people in our Long Island community. This support enables our children to continue to receive the gift of spiritual formation, sacramental preparation, and quality education. It allows seminarians, deacons, and lay leaders to fulfill their calling to serve their community. With your support Catholic Charities can maintain its services for the poor and disadvantaged, and we can continue to reach out to our young people and others to find the best ways to guide and pass on our faith from generation to generation.

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A Guide To Giving

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<input type="checkbox"/> 250	31.25
<input type="checkbox"/> 150	18.75

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Other6.com - the missing piece in your daily search for God.

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Our Lady of Consolation is offering free opportunities to exercise every morning from 10 - 11:30 AM. Come and help transport wheelchair residents to and from Mass any day that you're free.

Call the Pastoral Care Department at 587.1600, extension 8297.

You can help your marriage now!

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins Friday, May 21 at the Montfort Retreat House in Bay Shore, please call 1.800.470.2230 and you will be connected to a couple who can help.

Fatima Day

Thursday, May 13 at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, Manorville. Beginning with stations at 10 AM and ending with Benediction. Day to include rosary, Holy Mass at 11:30 PM, lunch, and guest speaker, Anthony Fuina, Padre Pio miracle, at 1:30 PM.

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 “**Outdoor Experience.**” 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 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus gave his disciples a new rule. He told them they had to love each other, just like he loved them. What did Jesus mean? Jesus was very patient with his friends. He forgave his friends when they let him down. Jesus comforted his friends when they were afraid. Most of all he helped them grow closer to God.



Mission for the Week

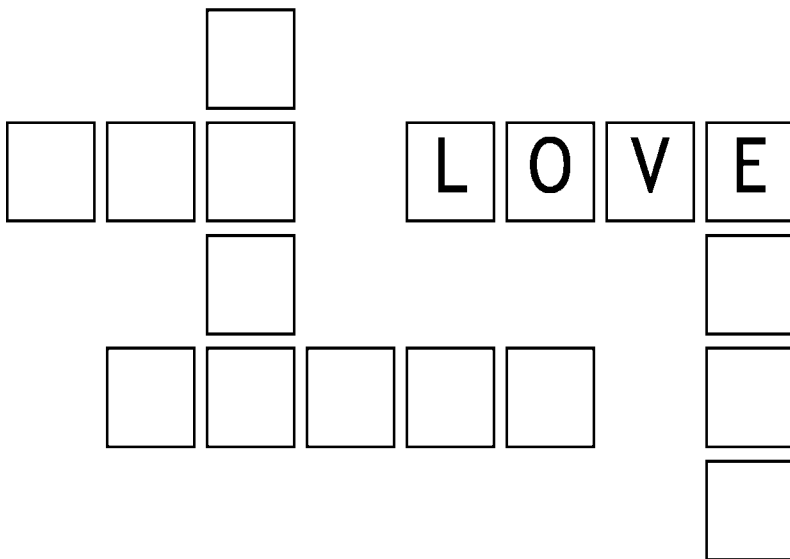


I will follow Jesus and forgive those who have hurt me.

Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

You must love each other.



©LPi

Prayer



Dear God,
 help me to
 love my friends like
 Jesus did.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
 yourself talking to a
 friend who is afraid.