

“He will be called



Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
Our Lady of Lourdes • June 24, 2007

“John.”

Luke 1:60



Pastoral Team

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano
Pastor

Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit our Parish Office.

Parish Office

661-3224
Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM
Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM
Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM
email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org
fax: 661-7143
website: www.ollchurch.org

Our Lady of Lourdes School

587-7200
Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM
email: rcioffi@ollschool.org

Religious Education Office

661-5440
Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon
1 PM - 5 PM
7 PM - 9 PM
email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

Parish Outreach Office

661-9262
Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

S.A.G.E.

661-3224
(Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment)
email: Sage@ollchurch.org

Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube

Associate Pastor

Rev. Robert Scheckenback

Associate Pastor

Deacon John DeGuardi

Deacon Jack Meehan
Coordinator of Stewardship

Deacon John Teufel

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Regina Ann Cioffi

School Principal

Jennifer Gallagher

Director of Youth Services

Carol M. Goetz

Parish Music Director

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorcia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Michael Abbruscato
Salomon Acosta
Regina Ann Cioffi
Jane Desthers
Stephen Frodell
Jen Gallagher
Anne Kerrigan
Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)
Mary McMahon
Doreen Spiller
Mary Steck
Fr. Mike Vetrano
Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catusco
Religious Education Office
Mary Anne Lettieri
Parish Office
Debbie Meyer
Bulletin/Parish Office
Rosemary Multer
School Office
Rex Muro
Organist
Rita Spera
Religious Education Office
Lori Walsh
Parish Office

Mission Statement

As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.

Vision...

so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to:

***Live** out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.*

***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.*

***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

*Our Lady
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue
West Islip, New York 11795



F.L.I.G.H.T. Camp

Fun Learning in God's Holy Time!

Our Lady of Lourdes Sixth Annual Vacation Bible Camp

July 23-27, 2007

9 AM - 12:30 PM Daily

Don't miss the fun!

Where?

Right on the grounds of Our Lady of Lourdes, which will be transformed into FLIGHT Camp! (FLIGHT stands for Fun Learning in God's Holy Time)
Vacation Bible Camp runs daily from 9 AM-12:30 PM.

What will we do?

Our campers will participate in lots of fun daily activities: singing super songs, making cool crafts, participating in awesome flight-themed science activities (including a visit from a hot air balloon company!), and learning about God through different Bible adventures! And, of course, there'll be snacks!

Who can come?

Campers should presently be in Pre-K (age 4) through 5th grade.
Students in grades 5-12: we need you as volunteer counselors and assistants.

Who's running the camp?

The camp director is Dr. Jennifer Gallagher, the Youth Services Director at OLL. She'll be working with a volunteer team of adults and teens from our parish family.

How much does it cost?

The cost is \$65 per child. The fee includes all materials, snacks, crafts, an official camp T-shirt, and a closing camp celebration for all!

How do I sign up?

Fill out the registration form which can be found on our parish website at www.ollchurch.org or at the Parish Office. Please return it to the Parish Office or mail it to OLL at 455 Hunter Ave. (att. Jennifer Gallagher) with all fees by June 30.

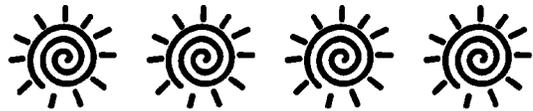
Questions?

Email jengallagher@ollchurch.org.

Camp Volunteers Needed!

We need adults and teen volunteers.

If you can spare a week to help out at camp, email jengallagher@ollchurch.org



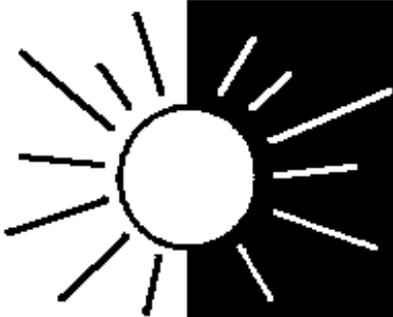
SUMMER

Evening Prayer

2007

Great speakers!

Great food
each night!



Monday evenings
beginning
July 9
7:30 PM
Great Lawn

Great nights for
families and friends!

beginning July 9 with...

Monsignor Night!

- We welcome back and honor Msgr. James Vlaun -
our own Fr. Jim!
- What a great way to begin the summer!
- Family Dinner...
"Summer Sauce" from Fr. Jim's cookbook
beginning at 6:30 PM.

Guest speakers, so far, include...

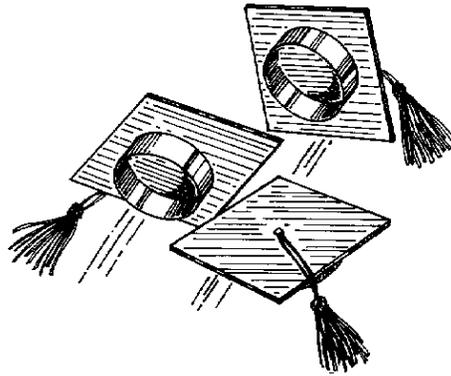
- Sister Mary Alice Piel, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation
- Crossfire, the musical band
- Christian Sullivan, Campus Minister at St. Francis Prep
High School, Queens
- Michael Chiappone, Social Worker at Hope House Ministries
....and more!

Around Our Parish

Congratulations Graduates! OLL Class of 2007

Peter Calves-Valedictorian
Alyssa Acompora-Salutatorian

Rosemary Buonaspina
Julie Cappetta
Kelly Clarke
Taylor Coupe
Christopher deLeon
Sarah Filosa
Michelle Fioravanti
Jacqueline Gallagher
Nicole Giannino
Maire Hannigan
Brianna Harman
Catherine Hess
Michael Higley
Douglas Janicek
Kelly Kerner
Amanda Khoury
Nicole Madden
Mark Mejia
Michael Pescuma
Jessenia Rodriguez
Aaron Rogers
Daniel Ryan
Alicia Ryder
Brad Stentiford
Jessica Takats
Thomas Tobin
Joseph Vanderveldt
Richard Wilkinson



Prayer for Graduates

God of our beginnings,
We thank you for the gifts of these graduates;
their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity,
their open speech and encouraging words.
Their contributions have blessed and challenged us,
and we have become a richer
and more diverse community because of them.
As they step forward into the world that awaits,
comfort their fears with the full knowledge
of your divine presence.
Strengthen their resolve
to walk in the footsteps of Jesus
as modern-day disciples in
a world that needs their spirit.
Guide their feet as they move through life,
protecting them from
the pitfalls of darkness
while they help to lead future generations
into the warmth
and promise of your light.
We ask this blessing upon each of them,
In the name of the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Religious Education

Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites

More things always happening...
at Hangout Nites - A BIG THANKS... to all HIGH SCHOOL
CHAPERONES AND ADULT CHAPERONES who helped
with set-up, participated in activities, refreshments, clean-up,
etc... COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU !!!



BIG THINGS ALWAYS HAPPENING ... AT HANGOUT
All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family...
Celebrated SUMMER... THIS past Friday... June 22...

They said... "What a GREAT time"... "AWESOME"...
"the BEST"... "You can hang out with your friends and
meet other kids"... "There was something for everyone!"



A Word of Gratitude

A special note of thanks to all of you who repented to our appeal
and contributed to the Religious Retirement Fund. Be assured of the
grateful prayers of all who will benefit from your generosity.

Gratefully,

Fr. Mike and religious of OLL

El Salvador Mission Sending Mass

Come to the 6 PM Mass tonight, Sunday, June 24 and join us as we
bless the twenty-three parishioners who will be traveling to our sister
parish in El Salvador this week, June 30 - July 5.

All are welcome!

Fr. Joe Lukaszewski "Walk of Life"

Preserve your name, or that of a loved one with a personalized brick paver.

There will be two upcoming placements of bricks. The first cutting of bricks will be July 31 with placement of bricks the second week of August. The second cutting of bricks will be September 30 with placement of bricks the second week of October.

Paver size is 4" x 8" and are \$150 per paver.

If you have any questions or are interested in ordering a brick, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or fill out the order form below and return to the Parish Office.

Preserve your name, or that of a loved one,
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 to: Our Lady of Lourdes-Dedication

Mail or drop off check with order form to:

455 Hunter Avenue • West Islip, NY 11795

Altar Servers

Summer is time for the servers – that means new ones!

We are always looking for new altar servers and are in need of servers at many of our parish masses. Training will begin in July with servers starting in August.

If you are entering the fourth grade and want to come to our training, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, extension 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org



Be a Life Saver – GIVE BLOOD

On Wednesday, June 27, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will hold a Blood Drive from 3:30 PM until 8:30 PM. The Drive will be held in the Parish Center.

All eligible donors are strongly urged to give blood. To donate you must be between the ages of 17 and 75, in good health, and weigh at least 110 pounds. All donors must show proof of identification and should eat some food before donating.

Donating blood is easy and completely safe. The donation process takes only an hour and includes a mini-health exam, including blood pressure, pulse, temperature and iron count. Free Cholesterol Testing for all blood donors. The donation itself takes about ten minutes, plus time for refreshments. For more information about the Drive or to make an appointment, please call Marie at 669.5837 or just walk in the day of the drive.

Collection Counters

Our collection counters would like to thank our parishioners in advance for your cooperation in preparing your weekly contribution envelopes.

In order to facilitate and ease this accounting function, we kindly ask that you refrain from using scotch tape, glue or staples to secure your envelopes.

Please refrain from folding envelopes, currency and/or checks and please write or print clearly and legibly.

Your help will assure an accurate and quick accounting of the weekend's collection. More importantly - Thank you for your continued financial support and generosity.

Daily Mass

8 AM

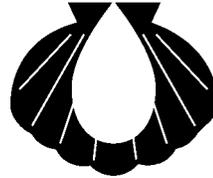
Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

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

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM



Baptisms

Noah James Keiser

Christopher and Jaime

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous:

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

ALANON:

Each Wednesday at
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-
convent lower level.

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, June 25

8:00 AM Mary Homann

Tuesday, June 26

8:00 AM Sean Barraga

Wednesday, June 27

St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Kathryn Chazey &
Anthony Strefvater

Thursday, June 28

St. Irenaeus, bishop, martyr

8:00 AM Anne Reed

Friday, June 29

Ss. Peter and Paul, apostles

8:00 AM Liberta Brusca

Saturday, June 30

8:00 AM George F. Bukowski, Anna Citarrella, Joyce Mamalakis,
In Thanksgiving to Blessed Mother, Gioia LaCava,
Angelo D. Conti, Gloria Desmond, Sean Barraga

5:00 PM Barbara McGarrity
Fr. Stan Chukwube

Sunday, July 1

8:00 AM Galbo & Casertano Families
Fr. John Asomugha

9:30 AM Joseph Rizzo
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Dec'd mbrs of Lynch Family
Fr. Stan Chukwube

12:30 PM Nicola & Anna Santa Andriola
Fr. Ed Dowling

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Paul Kunzinger, John Howard,
Angelo Artuso, Joanna M. White, Lillin Tartaglia,
Betty Ann Wilson
Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Rest In Peace



Sylvia M. Campo,
died on June 11 and celebration of the
Mass of Christian Burial was June 16.
We extend our prayers to her son,
Salvatore and family.

Edward T. Femister,
died on June 13 and celebration of the
Mass of Christian Burial was June 18.
We extend our prayers to his wife, Barbara
and family.

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

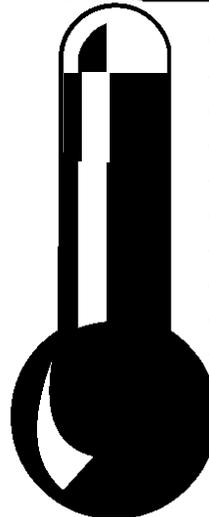
The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in **front of the Blessed Sacrament**.

Catholic Ministries Appeal

The key ingredient to the success of our appeal is participation. In order to reach our goal, we need to have every family participate in the appeal to the best of their ability.

If you have not had an opportunity to make a gift to the appeal or have been waiting to make a pledge, please complete the pledge card below and place it in the collection basket.

PARISH GOAL \$103,000



— \$87,195
— Pledged
— to Date

404 Pledges
\$216 Avg. Pledge

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO Box 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • 516-379-5210 EXT 2 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2007 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL *Supporting the Community Around Us*

TO PROVIDE FUNDS I/WE AGREE TO MAKE A GIFT OF:

PLEDGE \$ _____ INITIAL PAYMENT \$ _____ BALANCE \$ _____

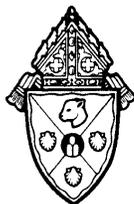
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____



A GUIDE TO GIVING

PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$5,000	\$500
2,500	250
1,500	150
1,000	100
500	50
300	30
150	15
OTHER \$ _____	

EVERY GIFT COUNTS!

Please make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal
Thank you for your support

For more information, please call 516.379.5210, extension 2 or email to www.drvc.org/cma.html.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, June 26**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**. All older parishioners are welcome.

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, June 25**, at **12:30 PM in the Parish Center**.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Dottie Collins*.

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.

Pray for Our Sick

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

Christopher Bartley, Pat Bonavita, Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Lynn Castellano, Peggy Cornell, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Bernadette DeVirgilis, Edward Doyle, Jason Fisher, Elizabeth Fredriksen, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento, Diego Marino, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Frieda Perry, Gene Perry, George Prygocki, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds, Felix Rivera, Jeanne Roccaro, Zack Sawers, Carol Scheid, Dorothy Schiavone, Dorothy Sullivan, Marie "Amy" Turano, Loretta Vitale, Betty Walsh, Grace Weidner



He will be called
JOHN

©LPI

The Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Are you a namesake? Were you named for your father, or some long-passed uncle? If you have young children, were you "influenced" a bit by your relatives when it came time to name your child? Many of us have first and last names that just sound good together; others have creative and fun names. Imagine being told ahead of time what you were going to name your baby!

Zechariah and Elizabeth held a very special promise in their unborn child. Remember, the angel Gabriel had appeared to Zechariah as he prayed in the temple, promising the couple a child to be named John, which means "God is gracious." But Zechariah had questioned Gabriel, who in turn made him mute until John's birth. The restoration of his voice was a miracle to their friends and family, causing them to wonder what greatness lay in store for this child.

Throughout the Bible, we are reminded of God's covenant or promise of heavenly glory by revelations, such as Gabriel appearing and speaking to Zechariah. God so loves us and wants us to live peaceful, faith-filled lives that we are forgiven of our sins when we are truly sorry. (CCC 54-55) We were promised John the Baptist, and he came. We were promised Jesus Christ, and he came. When God promises glory in heaven, I believe!

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Readings for the Week of June 24, 2007

Sunday:	<i>Vigil:</i> Jer 1:4-10/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17 <i>Day:</i> Is 49:1-6/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
Monday:	Gn 12:1-9/Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday:	Gn 13:2, 5-18/Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wednesday:	Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Mt 7:15-20
Thursday:	Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/Mt 7:21-29
Friday:	<i>Vigil:</i> Acts 3:1-10/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 <i>Day:</i> Acts 12:1-11/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
Saturday:	Gn 18:1-15/Mt 8:5-17
Next Sunday:	1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21/Gal 5:1, 13-18/Lk 9:51-62

Financial Summary

June 17, 2007

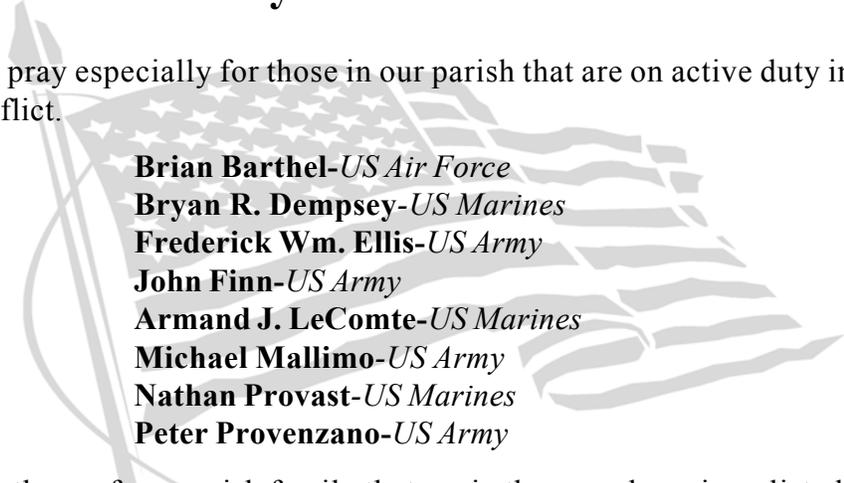
Weekly Collection	\$ 16,594.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,406.00)

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

Members in the Military

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

They are:



Brian Barthel-*US Air Force*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Frederick Wm. Ellis-*US Army*
John Finn-*US Army*
Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*
Michael Mallimo-*US Army*
Nathan Provast-*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.

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.

Next Sunday's theme is:
**"Independence Day/
America."**

Don't forget to tune in!

Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, www.religionandrock.com.

Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELE CARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

Apartment Needed

Single, working mother with two children is looking for apartment in West Islip.

Children attend day care /school during day. If you know of an apartment, please call Mary in Outreach at 661.9262, option 4.

Donations

Outreach has received donations in memory of Jo Brogan, Sylvia Campo, Phyllis Conforte, Walter and Pearl Gizuoski, and Vincent and Mary Mirabella . Thank you.

Food Pantry Needs

Please, please, please continue to donate food to our Food Pantry through the summer months. We are desperately low on all food items including-coffee, cereal, juice boxes, peanut butter/jelly, pasta sauce, canned vegetables, crackers, small cans of soup... Thanks for your generosity

“Outreach Wishes”

Our wishes have been granted! Outreach would like to extend thanks to Frank Edwards for his donation of two bicycles.

“The Chosen One”

No, this is not a homily! It is in fact, a life experience. This happened at St. Peter’s Square, Italy. A group of us from OLL were on a pilgrimage organized by John DeGuardi. The day was June 28, 2000. The temperature had to be at least 100 degrees! (It seemed to me, anyway!)

There were thousands of people in attendance to see Pope John Paul II. Since this writer was incapacitated and in a wheelchair, Jack Gordon, my driver and I were told to move to the front. We were five rows from the Pope! It was awesome! Jack quipped excitedly: “Someone up there must be putting in a good word for you!”

After the service, those of us in wheelchairs were directed to the area where the Popemobile would pass. We went to the area designated, but as there were so many people; Jack and I were sent to the back of the crowd. I was very content to be there. However, as I was positioning myself in order to see over the crowd, a man in the front row motioned me to come forward. In response, I motioned back: did he mean me? The man nodded. Now, there were many others beside myself in the same predicament, straining to catch a glimpse of the Pope. As I was moved to the front, once again, all looked at me as if to say “why were You Chosen?”

This stranger asked people to move to make room for me in the front row. Jack did as the stranger directed and pushed me to the front. Jack said, vigorously this time: “It looks like your benefactor was able to have your wish granted: to see the Pope up close and personal!” Needless to say, when Pope John Paul passed by so close, his aura brightened the entire area. It seemed to reach the sky! There were no words to describe what a sense of peace and joy I experienced. What I didn’t know at the time, was my husband, Bill had passed away two days before on June 26.

-Wilma

Parish Outreach

Resiliency: The ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.

(part II of last week's article "Hope.")

A bird never hatched from the cracked egg. It was just not meant to be. In spite of Evelina's efforts: wrapping the egg in paper towels, setting the egg in the sun, bringing the egg to school and leaving it under an incubation light in the science lab...she finally came to the inevitable conclusion, that even with hope, there would be no bird from this egg. Before the funeral, Evelina needed to see what was in the egg. Donning a surgical mask, latex gloves and paper apron, Evelina placed the egg on top of the brown box which had become its temporary home. Edward handed her the plastic knife and with that, the autopsy began. Putting the knife in the crack, Evelina plied the shell apart. Inside the egg was a tiny, fully formed bird with just the hint of down. While Edward peered over her shoulder, Evelina gingerly picked up the bird and placed it in the palm of her hand. "This is sad, Edward, it just couldn't live."

While Edward wrapped a band-aid around the bird, Evelina arranged the paper towels in the box and gently placed the bird inside. Edward dug the grave. Together they placed the box in the ground, said a prayer and filled the hole with dirt. Edward put a tulip and statue of St. Francis on the mound of dirt to mark the site of the burial.

In a previous article, I wrote about the importance of hope in our relationships with our clients. As true in any relationship, there exists a give-and-take between us and our clients. If we indeed model hope-it is our clients who teach us about resiliency and strength.

The single mom of two school age children working two part time jobs-juggling work hours with her children's schedules in order to be home with them; struggling to manage on a food stamp allotment. She doesn't have a car and her bicycle was stolen from the backyard. She walks several miles to the Outreach office each week for the food bags we distribute. The last time she came to the office, she told us the building she is living in has been sold and she will need an apartment-but it needs to be near the stores and work because she has no transportation and must walk to work. Resilient!

The married woman with three children – her husband was self-employed until he was forced to close his business when a chain super-store opened in the area. At the same time, one of the children was diagnosed with a life threatening illness involving painful treatments. The family lives in a small part of their home now because they can no longer afford the electric or heat bills for the entire home. She also has no car and either walks or borrows a car to get to Outreach for food. Resilient!

The young mother who comes to Outreach for help with a food stamp application, ashamed to need help-but courageous enough to ask. Resilient.

Each woman has embraced their personal misfortune and with a strength of spirit has been able to persevere and move forward. Have they overcome the tragedy? NO! but certainly, for each, the tragedy has not overcome them! The ability to honor the moments of tragedy while simultaneously choosing life is Grace. We, in Outreach are humbled by the presence of these courageous women.

-Mary McMahon
Director of Parish Social Ministry

American Sign Language Classes

Cleary School for the Deaf is offering evening Adult Education classes in American Sign Language. Summer session is July 2 through August 8 for both children and adults. If you are interested, please call Carolyn at 631.588.0530 or email ASL4CK@CS.com

Mercy INN

Help feed the Hungry.

The Mercy INN Soup Kitchen in Wyandanch is in need of a person to pick up food early Sunday mornings. We hope you can help.

Please call Kathy at 631.422.1420.

Direct Care Counselors

Catholic Charities is seeking Direct Care Counselors who are committed to our mission of "Care with Dignity, Life with Hope" in working with developmentally disabled adults in group homes. Full time, part time and per diem hours are available. Valid NYS driver's license and HS Diploma/GED required. Please email resume to

heimann.linda@catholiccharities.cc or fax resume to 516.733.7038 or call 516.733.7009.

Family, Marriage and Individual Therapy

Professional therapy, provided by New York State licensed or certified therapists, is available to our parish. Services are provided by the Catholic Counseling Center, a proprietary professional corporation, which is independent of and not controlled or supervised by the parish or diocese. Most insurance policies are honored. Confidential information and appointments are available by calling Dr. Giuliani at 631.243.1550.

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program

Telephone Reassurance Program

If you live alone and would like a daily phone call from a volunteer, just call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

Friendly Visitor Program

If you live alone and would like a visit from a volunteer, just call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

If you are 55+ and would like to volunteer to call and/or visit a homebound senior, call the **Retired and Senior Volunteer Program** at 631.979.9490.

Three New Priests

They came from different walks of life—a businessman, a teacher, a college recruiter—but each answered the call to the priesthood when Bishop William Murphy ordained them as priests for the Diocese of Rockville Centre at St. Agnes Cathedral on June 9.

How lucky we are to have three new priests for our diocese this year! Let us pray for them and their families as they embark on a new path in their life journey.

Mother-Daughter Tea

The Diocesan Respect for Life Office is sponsoring a Mother-Daughter Tea on **Saturday, June 30 from 11:30 – 2:30 at St. Agnes Cathedral**, 29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre. Topics to be discussed are: The Virtue of Chastity, Physical and Emotional Development, God’s Gift of Fertility and The Importance of the Mother-Daughter Relationship. Tickets are \$15 for each family.

If interested, please call the Respect for Life Office: 516.379.8292: ext. 915 or respectlife@drvc.org

40th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving

St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School 40th Anniversary Mass of Thanksgiving and BBQ honoring former faculty and staff

on Sunday, June 24—Feast of St. John the Baptist at 12 noon.

We come together to remember, thanking God for their presence in our school community! We come together to celebrate, sharing faith and a meal as students, staff, faculty, alumni and friends of this community. We come together in belief, seeking God’s blessing on this community and summer season. Please come and be part of this beautiful celebration! RSVP to 631.587.8000 extension 116 or email to campusministry@sjbdhs.org.

Maria Regina Residence

Maria Regina Residence is a skilled long term care facility located on the property of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Brentwood. It provides Adult Day Health Services offering a wonderful day program including transportation and meals, as well as a loving atmosphere provided by an inclusive staff.

If interested, or for further information, please contact Veronica Anderson, Director at 631.299.3045.

Vendors Needed

Vendors are needed for the 25th Annual Our Lady of Perpetual Help International Feast, So. Wellwood Avenue, Lindenhurst - July 11 to July 15, 2007 and the OLPH International Street Fair, Wellwood Avenue from West Gates to Hoffman Avenues on Sunday, July 15, 2007. Limited space available at the feast! Call Rich 631.539.4942 or visit us online at OLPHLindenhurst.org.

Taking our Rightful Place with the Scheme of Things

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

What do we need to achieve to make us happy? What brings us peace and meaning?

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin once wrote this about his own life: "Some sort of essential instinct makes me guess at the joy, as the only worthwhile joy, of cooperating as one individual atom in the final establishment of a world; and ultimately nothing else can mean anything to me. To release some infinitesimal quantity of the absolute, to free one fragment of being, forever - everything else is but intolerable futility."

For him, at the end of the day, there is only one worthwhile joy, the feeling you get from cooperating rightfully within the big picture of things, from taking your place within the great cosmic jigsaw puzzle. Joy and meaning come from being one tiny piece within the overall progress of the universe, nothing more and nothing less.

At first glance this might all seem a bit abstract, idiosyncratic, and applicable only to the spiritually elite, but what Teilhard says here is really true for everyone. We all feel this, deep down, though perhaps we are not as aware of it as he was. What he says is universally true. There is only one thing that can bring real meaning, only one joy that doesn't bring as much anxiety as peace, and that joy is had only when we fill-in with our own lives that particular space within the universe that has been uniquely allotted to us and when we take no more space and no less space than is truly ours.

But how is this true? When and how do we feel these things?

We experience these things all the time in our everyday lives. Why do we feel good when we succeed at anything? Is it because we are admired for it, our ego gets stroked, or because we enjoy the satisfaction of doing something well? Yes, for all of these reasons, though none is the deepest one. Ultimately, though we aren't generally aware of it, we feel good because, deep down, we have contributed our little piece to the big picture, filled in a piece of the jigsaw puzzle that only we can provide, been one necessary atom in the final establishment of things. That is why we feel good whenever we build something, help someone, give birth to something, help raise someone, teach something, complete something, nurse someone, perform a successful surgery, score a goal, clean a bathroom, cook

a meal, do the dishes, or simply do anything properly. The satisfaction we feel at these times has a deep root. We have just filled in our little piece in the big picture, helped free up one fragment of being.

Conversely, why do we feel badly whenever we fail at something, betray someone, or realize that we have wasted some of our potential? Is this simply a feeling of wounded pride, frustration, shame? Yes, all of these things, but, again, it is more. Ultimately we feel a certain intolerable futility because we have not taken our rightful place in the cosmos, not filled in our proper piece of the jigsaw puzzle.

It can be helpful to recognize this more consciously, especially so as not to misread our own restlessness. Why do I say this?

Because we are born so restless, so incurably driven by the sense that we are special and meant to achieve something of significance. Nobody wants to live and not leave some mark in the world. "Have child, plant a tree, write a book!" says a popular axiom. Translated that means: "Make sure you do something to guarantee, a little at least, your own immortality." We often lack the self-knowledge or honesty to admit this, but something inside us (the part that fuels our restlessness) understands exactly what that means. We want and need to leave a permanent mark somewhere. We are born for that reason.

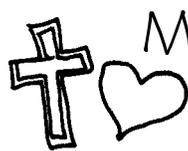
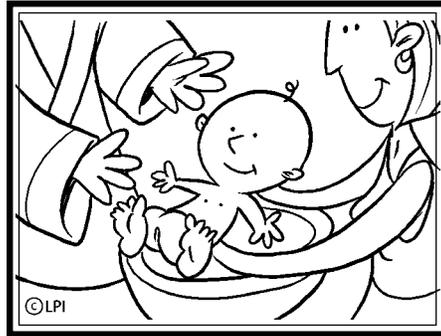
But generally we misread this restless and what it is asking of us. The logic runs this way: We know that we need to leave a permanent mark somewhere. But we think we can only do this by becoming famous in some way, a person known to the world, a household word, someone with his or her name in lights, on the cover of TIME magazine. That is why we are always trying to achieve something of significance, something that will stand out, something that will last. Most often though our lives do not seem to measure up. We feel ourselves small-town, ordinary, unimportant, and so our restlessness begins to eat us up.

Our everyday satisfactions and disappointments though can teach us something. We need to listen closely to what makes us feel good or bad. Our lives can seem small, but we do not especially enlarge them through fame and recognition. You don't get immortality - nor restfulness - for being a superstar. You get these for filling in that little piece of the big picture, that one wee atom, that is uniquely yours.

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.

Sharing the Gospel

Naming a baby is a special job. Grown-ups often think long and hard before picking a name for a baby. When John the Baptist was born, his parents knew he was a special gift from God. Their friends were surprised at his name - John - and everyone was curious to know what that special child would grow up to do for God.



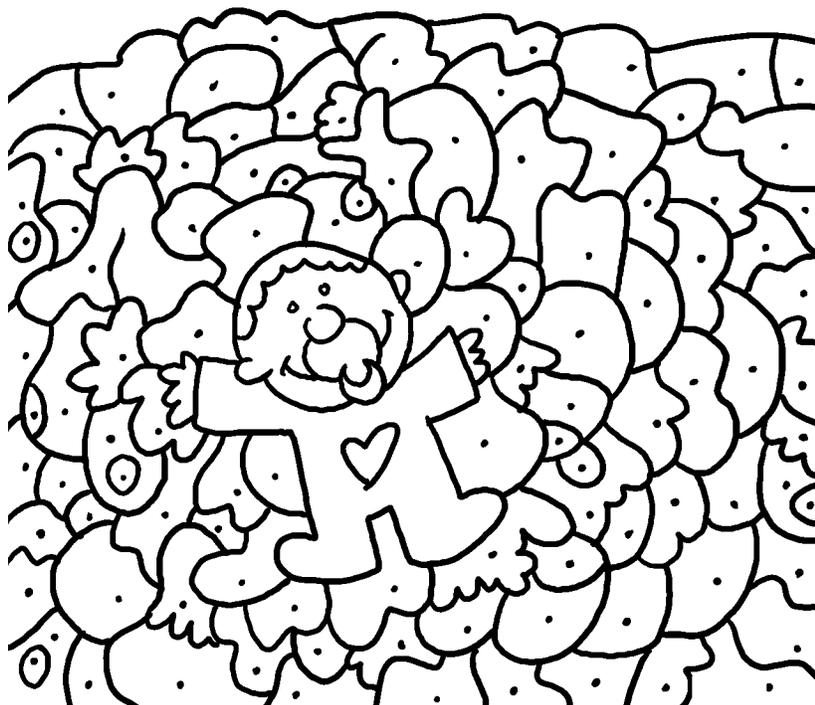
Mission for the Week

Choose three names you think would be good for a new baby.



Puzzle

Color the area marked with a dot and you will discover the drawing!



©LPI

Prayer



Dear God,
thank you for
babies. Each one
is a special gift
from God.

Something to Draw



Draw a picture of
yourself holding a
baby.