

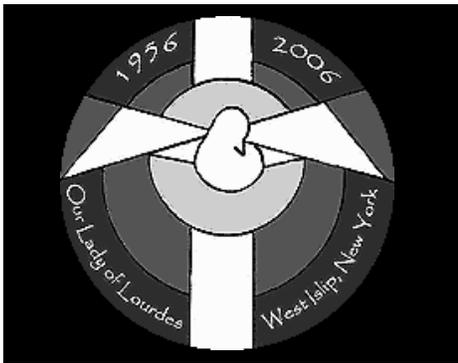
Our Lady of Lourdes • Sixth Sunday of Easter • April 27, 2008

*“Peter and John
prayed for them*



*that they might receive
the Holy Spirit.”*

Acts 8:14-15



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: 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: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday -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

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 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

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorcia

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

Celebrating

“Soon to Be”
Deacon Tom Lucie!



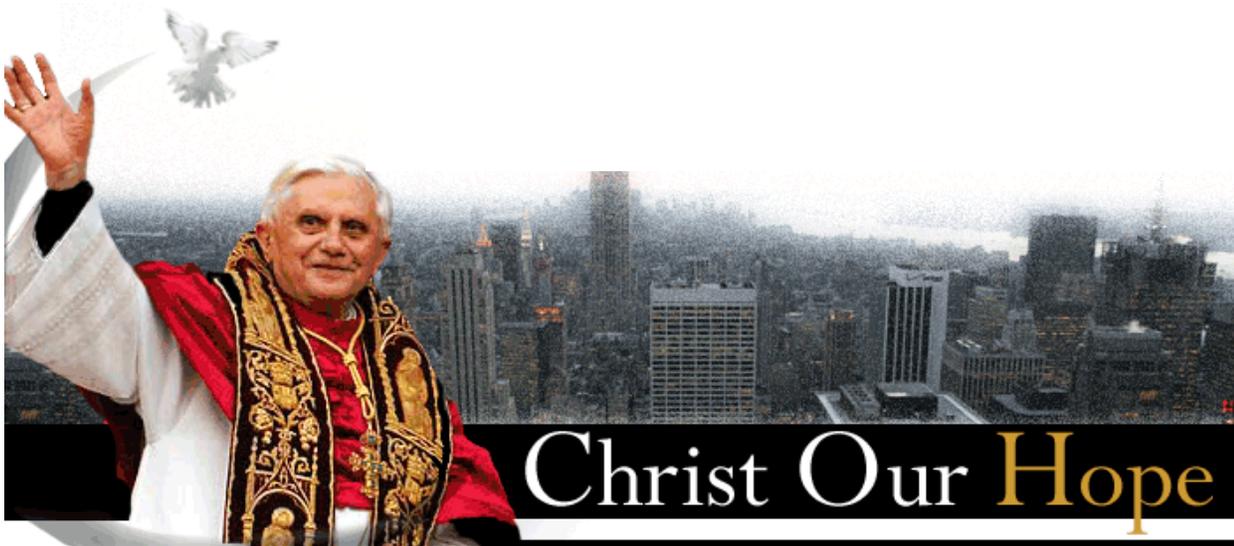
As you know our parish is getting ready to celebrate the ordination of Tom Lucie to the diaconate on Sunday, May 17, at 11 AM at St. Agnes Cathedral. Tom has been studying at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception for the past three years and in other formation experiences before this.

It's probably not a bad time for us as parish to reflect on the ministry of the diaconate in the Church. The National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States tells us...

“The Sacrament of Holy Orders marks deacons “with an imprint (‘character’) which cannot be removed and which configures them to Christ, who made himself the ‘deacon’ or servant of all. Deacons, both married and celibate, serve God’s People by their witness to the gospel value of sacrificial love, a quality of life too easily dismissed in today’s society. In their secular employment, deacons also make evident the dignity of human work.”

Contemporary society is in need of a “new evangelization which demands a greater and more generous effort on the part of [all] ordained ministers.” This is especially an opportunity and obligation for deacons in their secular professions to boldly proclaim and witness to the Gospel of life.”

So, as you can see, Tom has his work cut out for him. It's important for us to realize that Tom's ordination is a real call for each of us to support Tom and all of our parish's deacons.



Pictures from Pope Benedict XVI visit to New York

Fr. Mike and Montfort Fr. Francis Pizzarelli, director of Hope House Ministries, waiting for the Pope at St. Patrick's Cathedral.



Fr. Mike had a great view of Pope Benedict as he blessed priests and deacons from Rockville Centre.



Jerry Esposito—our director of Art & Environment, was part of the crowd at St. Joseph's Seminary for the Youth Rally.



PARISH MAY CROWNING
Sunday, May 4

Come and pray with us at the 9:30 AM Mass as we join with our Rosary Christian Mothers.

Following the Mass we will process to the front lawn of the Rectory, pray a decade of the Rosary and give praise and honor to the Blessed Mother.

Of course, hospitality follows afterwards for everyone!

Come and be a part of it all.



Get Ready...

Empowered by the Spirit Weekend

THE GREAT FEAST OF PENTECOST

Saturday, May 10/Sunday, May 11

All Masses

- Hear from some of our parish's latest "apostles"...those recently touched by the Spirit to become involved in parish life!
- Come to Church in something "red" and bear witness to the Spirit in your life!
- Come to prayerful liturgies that help you to identify the voice of the Spirit in your own life!

So come and be a part of it – and bring a friend!

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

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.

Rosary/Novena

Rosary:

Daily after 8 AM Mass

Miraculous Medal Novena:

Monday after 8 AM Mass

Anointing of the Sick

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

Baptism

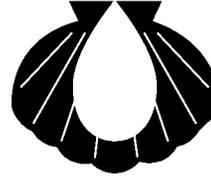
Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Marriage

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

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):

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



Baptisms

Emily Rose Bouros

Michael and Dawn

Gianna Nicole Romano

Joseph and Melanie

Jesse Paul Carrano

Mark and Jacqueline

Aliah Marie Costa

Gary and Arcadia



Rest In Peace

Woodrow T. Slayback died on April 14 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 17. We extend our prayers to his daughter Joy, son Robert and grandchildren.

William Smith died on April 2 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 19. We extend our prayers to his daughter Dawn, son Michael and grandchildren.

Upcoming Marriages

Lauren Afflixio, St. Patrick's, Bay Shore and

Lucas Kuchler, OLL

Laura Putira, St. Patrick's, Glen Cove and

Michael Walker, OLL

Melissa Hutzmann and

Christopher Rehn, OLL

Remembering...

Monday, April 28

St. Louis Mary de Montfort, priest

8:00 AM Fr. Joe Lukaszewski

Tuesday, April 29

St. Catherine of Siena, virgin, doctor

8:00 AM Richard Zocchia

Wednesday, April 30

Pius V, pope

8:00 AM Michaliana Czura

5:00 PM Joseph Sullivan

Thursday, May 1

Ascension of the Lord

8:00 AM Al Velten

7:30 PM People of the Parish

Friday, May 2

St. Athanasius, bishop, doctor

8:00 AM Linda Malave

Saturday, May 3

8:00 AM David McCarthy (*L*), William Schlageter, Mary Laino,
Mildred Hotte, Mary Wood, Isabella Buchanan, Vincent Pepe

5:00 PM Zoriada Padilla

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, May 4

8:00 AM Joseph & Christina Kollmer

Fr. John Asomugha

9:30 AM John & Mary Flynn

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Nicholas Spinelli

Fr. Stan Chukwube

12:30 PM Rocco & Ann Teresa

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Anthony Messina, Michael Memoli,
Kim Ecker, Paul Sauerland, Mary Quinn, Anna Sofia,
Vincent Pepe, Maureen Darrell, Nancy Cusack

Fr. Bob Scheckenback



THURSDAY, MAY 1,

ASCENSION OF THE

LORD, IS A HOLY DAY

OF OBLIGATION.

Our Lady of Lourdes School

Middle States Accredited

What makes us different?

Come and see . . .

Visit our classes in session



NEW Science Lab & Media Center!

Lourdes Academy of Arts & Science

Grades 6, 7, 8

WE WELCOME NEW 6th GRADE ENROLLMENT

Registration for the 2008/09 school year has begun!

Please call the School Office at 631.587.7200

Early Childhood Programs

Somebody Special & Me! 2 year olds

Nursery for 3 year olds

PreK for 4 year olds

Full day Kindergarten

After-Care AVAILABLE

(Dismissal until 6 PM) - Beginning September

Religious Education

Our eighth grade Confirmation Candidates and their Sponsors continue to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation in ninth Grade by participating in "RESCUE"

(Religious Education Sponsor/Candidate United Effort)

"Rescue Closing" - Sunday, May 18 - 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.

and... of course

Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Nites continue...

Friday, May 16 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM Parish Center

Friday, June 20 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, Dance Revolution, music and more... DON'T MISS IT!

also...

Grades 9/10/11/12

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

Reminder...

Important Confirmation Meeting

All Eighth Grade Parents in OLL Parish Family -

Tuesday, May 6 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria or Wednesday, May 7 at 7:30 PM in the cafeteria

or Thursday, May 8 at 10 AM in the cafeteria.

mark your calendar...

24th Annual OLL Golf Classic

Timber Point Country Club
Thursday, June 19 at 2:30 PM



This year's honorees are
Sister Nancy and Sister Diane

- Singles, twosomes and foursomes are welcome
- Sponsorships ranging from \$50 to \$1,500 are now available
- Awards and prizes throughout the day
(including a live auction with professional auctioneer)
- Includes barbeque lunch and gourmet dinner
- \$175 for golf and dinner or \$75 for dinner only
- All skill levels are welcome

Last year we had over 120 golfers and/or dinner guests. Please call Joe Macina at 647.7440 or Frank Antonawich at 587.7988 or the school office at 587.7200 for further information.

Last year's event was a great success and a key fundraiser for the school.

Don't miss it...sign up today!

Adult Faith Formation

The Jubilee Year of St. Paul

Reading Paul's Letters in the Church of Today

Pope Benedict XVI announced a special Jubilee Year dedicated to St. Paul, saying the church needs modern Christians who will imitate the apostles' missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice. As the Church celebrates the missionary zeal and witness of St. Paul...come, let us gather to explore a modern understanding of Christ's missionary mandate and renew our dedication to carrying it out.

Tuesdays, April 29 and May 6

7:30 PM - 9 PM Parish Center

Presenter is Pat Leonard, Instructor- Pastoral Formation Institute

Pre-Registration is necessary and helpful. This will enable us to have enough reading material and refreshments for all those attending. Please call the Religious Education Office, Monday-Friday, between 9AM - 5 PM at 661.5440 x3, or e-mail to: religioused@ollchurch.org.

SAGE

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will have a retreat day on **Tuesday, April 29 at the Montfort Retreat Center in Bay Shore.**

Senior Circle

The Senior Circle meets on the last Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, April 28, at 12:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

Summer Evening Prayer

OLL always celebrates summer with a great spirit of prayer and excitement...but it doesn't come without some good planning and hard work. This year, as always, we are looking for volunteers to be part of our planning committee. Would you be interested? Would you be willing to think about it? There are about 3 or 4 meetings and then presence at Evening Prayer when you're able. Could this be the year for you?

If so, call John Sureau at 631.661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

OLL Seventh Annual Vacation Bible Camp

SURF Camp!! Summer Understanding Real Faith (and Fun!)

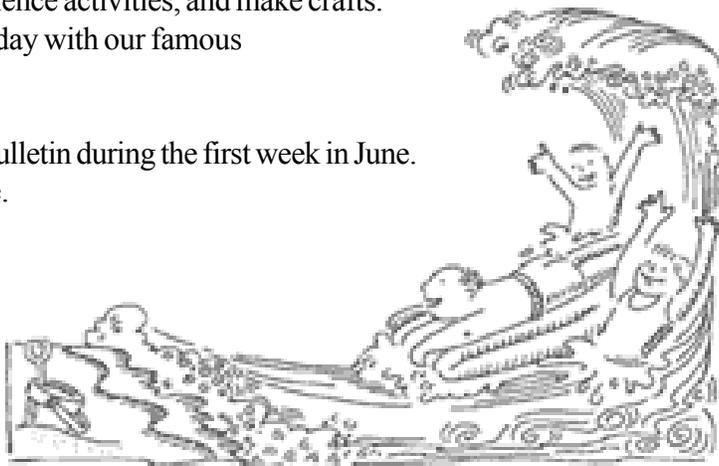
July 28 - August 1---Save the date!

We'll hop on our surfboards and catch the waves of faith and fun as we learn about God, hear stories from the Bible, share cool science activities, and make crafts. And of course, we'll end our camp each day with our famous OLL camp sing-along!!

Look for camp registration forms in the bulletin during the first week in June. Campers can be pre-school to grade five.

Helpers must be at least in sixth grade, and counselors need to be in grade seven through twelve. Adult volunteers are also needed!

Watch future bulletins for details.



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**.

Nocturnal Adoration

Nocturnal Adoration will follow the 5 PM Mass on Saturday, May 3, followed by Benediction at 9:50 PM. Please come and pray with us. All are invited and welcome! Bring a friend.



Rosary Christian Mothers

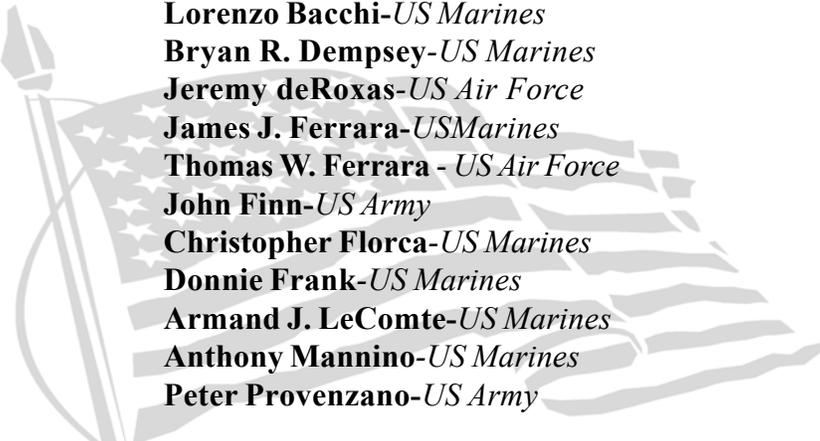
The Rosary Christian Mothers meet on the first Monday evening of each month. The next meeting will be **Monday, May 5**.

We will begin with **Rosary at 7:45 PM in the Church** followed by **meeting at 8 PM in the Parish Center**.

Members in the Military

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

They are:



Lorenzo Bacchi-*US Marines*
Bryan R. Dempsey-*US Marines*
Jeremy deRoxas-*US Air Force*
James J. Ferrara-*US Marines*
Thomas W. Ferrara - *US Air Force*
John Finn-*US Army*
Christopher Florca-*US Marines*
Donnie Frank-*US Marines*
Armand J. LeComte-*US Marines*
Anthony Mannino-*US Marines*
Peter Provenzano-*US Army*

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



©LPI

Sixth Sunday of Easter

We have many voices within us. When faced with a difficult situation, the voice of cowardice may say, "I can get away with it." The voice of greed asks, "How can I benefit by it?" Lust may say, "This will make me happy." But the most important voice, the one that usually speaks first and should be listened to first, is the voice of our conscience. It will see your situation and ask, "Is it right?"

In today's Gospel reading from John, Jesus refers to our inner conscience as an Advocate, the Spirit of Truth. The Holy Spirit within us guides us in every aspect of our daily lives, but as Jesus also points out, the world around us will not accept its reality because such a world cannot see it or hear it. The voice of the Holy Spirit is our gift, the one true guide to living a life with Jesus Christ.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that a person's moral conscience enables him or her to do the right thing at the appropriate time. It also judges the decisions we make, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil (CCC 1777). Today, we are called to listen to our conscience, because when we do, we are truly listening to the voice of God.

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Readings for the Week of April 27, 2008

Sunday:	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21
Monday:	Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	(Easter Weekday) Acts 18:1-8/Jn 16:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	1 Cor 15:1-8/Jn 14:6-14
Next Sunday:	Ascension of the Lord: Acts 1:1-11 Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20

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 ...

*Connie Altadonna, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Brenda Bello,
Pat Bonavita, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Peggy Cornell,
Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Maureen Darrell, Karen DellaVecchia,
TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Jason Fisher, Anne Foote, Susan Gigante,
Samantha Hil, Kathleen Kerrigan, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch,
Anthony Lombardo, Rose Lucio, Diego Marino, Michele McCann,
Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy,
Ginger O'Keefe, Peter O'Leary, Joseph Ortiz, Rocco Panaro, Arthur Petrino,
Joanne Popper, Dorothy C. Proctor, Joe Radosti, Martha Reichel,
Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl, Alison Stemkowski,
Diana Marie Taveras, Jean Virgilio*

Our Lady of Lourdes on the Web

Check out our parish web site at www.ollchurch.org. Visit our website and learn
even more about what is happening here at Our Lady of Lourdes! It's been updated
and adapted for the Lenten and Easter seasons.

Financial Summary

April 20, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 17,135.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (3,865.00)

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

2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Hands of Christ-Supporting the Community Around Us

OLL CMA

April 15, 2008

Amount Pledged	\$85,065
Number of Pledges	353
Average Pledge	\$241

Thank you to all those who have responded!

Our Lady of Lourdes and the Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to thank all those who have made a sacrifice by making a gift to the *2008 Catholic Ministries Appeal*. 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.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
PO BOX 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • www.drvc.org/cma.html

2008 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Supporting the Community Around Us

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

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

If you would like to charge your contribution to your credit card, please check here and see reverse side of this form.

SIGNATURE OF DONOR _____

PARISH OF DONOR _____



A GUIDE TO GIVING	
PLEDGE	10 PAYMENTS
\$ 1,000	\$ 100
\$ 500	\$ 50
\$ 350	\$ 35
\$ 250	\$ 25
Other \$ _____	
EVERY GIFT COUNTS!	

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

FOR GIFTS OF SECURITIES, PLEASE CALL THE APPEAL OFFICE FOR INSTRUCTIONS. 516.379.5210, EXT. 2
MATCHING GIFTS: IF YOU QUALIFY FOR A MATCHING GIFT FROM YOUR EMPLOYER, PLEASE FORWARD TO THE CMA OFFICE.



Parish Outreach

Office telephone: 661-9262, option 4

Office hours:

Monday: 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Tuesday -Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Please Note:

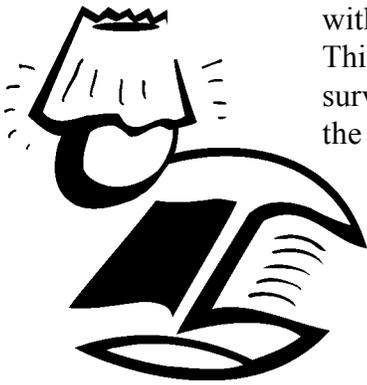
In order to service our clients better, Parish Outreach now has extended hours on Mondays, until 7:30 PM.

baked beans
boxed potatoes
boxed rice
canned meat
cookies
crackers
hot chocolate
mayonnaise

Social Action

Reading Circle

The purest acts of Justice come from an enlightened mind and heart~!



The Social Action Committee invites you to join us as we journey with the book: **“Left To Tell”** by Immaculee Ilibagiza.

This is a most powerful story of hope and forgiveness written by a survivor of the genocide in Rawanda. *“Left to Tell”* is available in the West Islip Library or to purchase at Barnes & Noble.

Our ‘Reading Circle’ will meet on **Thursday, May 15 and again on Thursday, May 29 at 7:30 PM in the Parish Center.**

If you plan to join us, please call Outreach at 661.9262, x.4 to register.

Attention Seniors

If you or someone you know is blind or suffering from a visual impairment, please contact Catholic Charities at 631.789.5218. Catholic Charities is offering free services including orientation and mobility instruction as well as rehabilitation training to help people function independently and safely in their home and neighborhoods.

A Mellow Heart in a Bitter Time

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

In her novel, *A Good House*, Bonnie Burnard tells the story of a relatively happy family. But even happy families have unhappy moments where bitterness chills an otherwise warm house.

She describes one such incident: A young couple, solid and trusting in their relationship, are having a rather intimate talk one afternoon when the woman's instincts tell her that her husband is hiding something from her, not necessarily at the level of infidelity, but something that he, for whatever reason, will not share with her.

Instantly a door begins to close inside of her, her warmth and trust harden, and she feels the need to protect herself, assert some independence from her husband, and let him know that there are aspects of her life that he doesn't necessarily know about either. Their intimacy, so warm and trusting just minutes before, dissolves for a while into a certain coolness and distance. What's happened here?

What's happened is what happens to all of us, spontaneously and daily, in virtually all of our relationships, particularly with those with whom we are most intimate. Such is our emotional metaphysics, the way our hearts try to protect themselves: We tend spontaneously to replicate the energy we feel around us and feed it back in the same way as we feel it.

Quite simply, whenever we feel warmth, mellowness, vulnerability, transparency, generosity, trust, and big-heartedness in a relationship, we tend to respond in kind, with warm, mellow, vulnerable, transparent, generous, trusting hearts. But the reverse is also true: When we feel coldness, bitterness, self-protection, jealousy, dishonesty, pettiness, or distrust, we tend to become cool, hard, self-protective, assertive, small-hearted, and distrustful.

It's not easy not to do this. More than anything else, our hearts crave the warmth and trust of intimacy, but, precisely because these make us vulnerable, are hearts also tend to close doors rather quickly at the first signs of betrayal, distrust, or dishonesty.

Fear, especially, tends to do this to us. Most of our fears and anxieties arise out of a lack of confidence, from a poor self-image. Then, because we are insecure, we try to assert ourselves, to prove that we are loveable, attractive, talented, and worthwhile. When we are afraid, we can't risk vulnerability, instead we try to do things to show that we aren't weak or needy. But, to do this, we have to harden ourselves precisely against the type of vulnerability that invites others into our lives.

Jealousy, especially of a person we love but whose love we can't have, also creates that same hardness in us. That's why we can be caught up in that strange anomaly where we are cold, distant, and perhaps even hostile, to a person whose love we badly want. Our coldness and feigned indifference towards that person is simply the heart's attempt to protect itself, to cope with an intimacy it can't have and the loss of self-esteem that comes with that.

The heart has its reasons, even for turning cold.

Given the truth of this, what makes for a truly big heart is the strength to resist this emotional metaphysics and remain mellow, warm, trusting, and present to others in the face of bitterness, coldness, distrust, jealousy, and withdrawal. More than anything else, this is what defines a great lover.

This is perhaps the greatest moral challenge Jesus left us: We all do pretty well in love when the persons we are loving are warm and gracious, but can we be gracious and mellow in the face of bitterness, jealousy, hatred, withdrawal? That's the litmus test of love.

It's also one of the deeper invitations towards maturity. Everywhere in our world - in our most intimate relationships, in our families, in our workplaces, in our churches, and in society as a whole - we forever find ourselves in situations where we meet suspicion, jealousy, coldness, distrust, bitterness, and withdrawal. Our world is often a hard, rather than an intimate, place.

The challenge is to offer a heart that creates a space for warmth, transparency, mellowness, vulnerability, and trust inside of hard places. The challenge is to offer our hearts as a space within which people can be honest, where nobody has to assert herself, where no games of pretence need be played, and where intimacy isn't held hostage to the momentary fears, jealousies, hurts, and emotional acting out that forever assail us.

And, the more bitter and the more emotionally trying the situation, the more this is needed. When times are bitter, angry, cold, full of disrespect, and fraught with jealousy, when it seems everyone is withdrawing into his or her own world, when most everything seems a lie, and when we are feeling most hurt, taken for granted, slighted, and marginalized, what's called for is not less, but more, attention to the quality of graciousness and warmth within our response. Bitter times call for, precisely, a deeper response of warmth, mellowness, transparency, truth, and compassion.

What's needed most in a bitter time is a mellow heart.

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.

Taize - Prayer Around the Cross

Save the date...

Tuesday, May 13 - 7:30 PM in the Church sponsored by OLL's Evangelization Ministry

Looking for another way to pray? Something that will allow you to “escape” for a short time and just be with your thoughts - and with God? Taize is a form of worship that provides us some time in our busy lives where we can stop and focus on the love of God revealed in the Cross and in those gathered with us. Taize consists of simple chants and prayers which are used to help guide our personal prayer and meditation as we bring our concerns and hopes to the Lord.

Please join us this night as we gather, along with the Taize Prayer Group from Our Lady of Grace in West Babylon, to bring this special prayer experience to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Golden Wedding Jubilee

On **Sunday, May 18** couples married 50 years or more are invited to a special Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Peter Libasci at **St. Lawrence the Martyr, Sayville at 3 PM.**

Please pick up your registration card at the Parish Office. Approximately ten days before the ceremony, you will receive information regarding the day. If you have any questions, you may call 516.678.5800, extension 242.

A Trip for Two to the Holy Land “In the Footsteps of Jesus”

Take a chance on the Trip of a Lifetime!

Proceeds to benefit Christa House, a place of peace, safety and dignity for the dying poor of Long Island.

Tickets: \$100 each – Limited number to be sold. Drawing: May 1, 2008

(winner need not be present). Trip can be taken anytime available from 5/20/08 to 5/20/09.

This is a \$6,000 package!

For tickets and information, call Joy at 631.376.0114.

Donated by 206 Tours, Hauppauge, NY. Includes: Roundtrip airfare, JFK to Tel Aviv-8 nights in a first class hotel. Breakfast and Dinner daily, + tours, escort, entrance fees, etc.

For further information visit: www.206tours.com.

Religion & Rock

Tune into “Religion & Rock” with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on *Sirius Satellite Radio, Channel 159, or the Catholic Channel.*

This week’s theme is: **“Doing and Being.”**

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

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

Gennesaret Retreat

A unique opportunity for persons facing serious illness. The weekend retreat takes place on **May 2-4 at Montfort Spiritual Center, Bay Shore.**

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

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry. Couples who have had problems in their own marriages and have recovered from those problems, share their experiences with troubled couples in the hope that they too will see that their marriage can be saved. For more information about the upcoming Retrouvaille weekend that begins on **Friday, May 16 at the Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston, Queens**, please call 1.800.470.2230 and you will be confidentially connected to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

Music Lovers Club

Scholarship Benefit concert on Sunday, April 27 at 2 PM at the

United Methodist Church, Main Street, in Islip. Donation is \$10/ \$5 for students.

The guest artists are the Hibernian Festival Singers with conductor Christopher Bilella.

One of the 2008 scholarship winners is our own Meggan Kent.

Way to go Meggan-Congratulations!

Help Wanted

Senior Secretary/Transcription

Seeking an experienced secretary to provide transcription from a dictaphone, secretarial and clerical services within the Pastoral Center, Monday through Thursday, 20 hours a week. Send resume and salary requirements to Office of Human resources, DRVC, P.O. Box 9023, Rockville Centre 11571-9023 or fax to 516.678.9566 or email HR@DRVC.org.

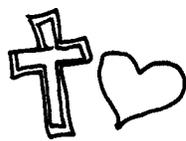
Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Tuesday, May 6 from 2 PM

until 4 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.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus gave us two commandments. The first is Love God above all things and the second is Love your neighbor as yourself. Make good choices. Put God first in your life. Say a prayer before getting out of bed every morning. Say a prayer every night. Treat others like you would like to be treated. If you love Jesus and obey his commandments, the Holy Spirit will be sent to help you.



Mission for the Week

Every morning and every night I will thank God for my family and friends.

Puzzle

Circle the pictures that show love.



©LPI

Prayer



Jesus, help me be kind and helpful to my family and friends.

Something to Draw



Draw yourself saying a prayer before you get out of bed in the morning.