

OF THE HARVEST

ASK THE MASTER



TO SEND OUT LABORERS.

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our Lady of Lourdes

June 15, 2008



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 Tom Lucie

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 McMahan

Director of Parish Social Ministry

Vita Scorgia

Ministry Spiritual Director

John Sureau

Coordinator of Worship

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Anthony Trombino

Business Manager

Pastoral Council

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorgia

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

Parish Staff

Barbara Catuosco

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

Dear Parish Family,

As you drive around the neighborhood, you may see some homes that have a paper chalice in the front window. This represents a child who has received First Holy Communion this spring. I can't tell you how much I appreciate your prayerful support! About nine weeks ago, we put the names of each candidate in the bulletin and asked you to pray for them. So many of you sent cards to the children and they were overwhelmed by the fact that "people who didn't even know us are praying for us!"

As part of their preparation, they worked on a little booklet, part of which included some questions about their impression of the parish and parish life. Over the next few weeks, we'll be printing some of their responses. It is especially heartwarming to read about their great love for this Parish Family. Enjoy!

Love,

Sister Diane and the Pep 2 Program

Things I like best about our Church...

- the cross
- the priests
- the statues
- it is beautiful and welcoming
- the decorations during the holiday seasons
- I know Jesus is there
- the music and the singing
- the carnivals every year
- going to the Children's Liturgy of the Word on Sundays
- Easter time when we do the Easter egg hunt and bless the food
- the priests are very nice to everybody
- the people that work there are nice
- it's like a family
- it is caring, loving and everyone is nice
- we care for others and we don't fight
- there's always something for the kids to do
- it makes praying fun
- it teaches me about God, love and Jesus
- it is not boring
- the kid liturgy
- Christmas pageant
- I like the baptism font because it looks like a river
- the garden because my Grandpa has a memorial brick there
- how it's so pretty and how they decorate for the holidays
- that it is so big and I like the stained glass window

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 Diane and Sister Nancy
Co-Directors OLL Religious Education

- 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

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!

Living Liturgy – Summer 2008

Many times people are overwhelmed or fear they are too busy to get involved in parish life. The summer is a great time to explore some more and see if a particular ministry is for you! Each week we're including a brief description of some ministries and ways you can get involved. Think about it...and know how much we need and want you to be part of our parish's liturgies and prayer services.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist



Extraordinary Ministers distribute communion at Sunday liturgy, weekday Masses and during holy days of obligation. Some ministers also choose to bring Communion to the Sick in our parish community.

What's the commitment?

There is a training offered by the Diocese of Rockville Centre in the Fall and a follow up training here at OLL. We try to schedule you based on the Mass you most frequently attend. Ministers sign up to serve on holidays, holy days and special occasions. We also offer opportunities for reflection and prayer that all are invited to and requested to be a part of throughout the year.

I want more information...

Ask one of our Extraordinary Ministers you might see at Mass, call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org.

Children's Liturgy of the Word/Family Liturgy Committee

Our Lady of Lourdes wants young people and their families to know they are a vital and active member of the Church community! These two exciting ministries work closely together to help that happen. **The summer is a great time to think about getting involved and learning if this is the ministry for you!**

Children's Liturgy of the Word: Each Sunday at the 9:30 A.M. Mass, we invite young people from age four to about fourth grade to share God's Word in a special way. Children leave Mass and process to the Parish Center to hear the Sunday readings in a way designed for them. Teams of adults and teenagers work together to plan out each Sunday to include unique homilies, creative activities, music and ideas for parents. We are always looking for new Team members for each of our teams. Each team presents approximately once a month. For more information, contact Mrs. Joanne Maher at 631.661.5478 or e-mail to jsureau@ollchurch.org

Family Liturgy: This group meets monthly, along with the members of Children's Liturgy of the Word teams, to create events and opportunities for families to come together for social, spiritual and fun activities. This group helps to plan events like the Blessing of the Animals, Children's Liturgy services, and much, much more! This group meets only about eight times a year after the 9:30 A.M. Mass.

Religious Education

Grade 6/7/8 Hang Out Nite

Friday, June 20

7:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Parish Center

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

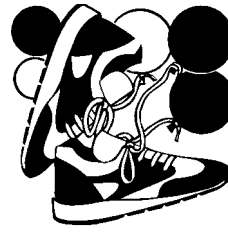
All 6th / 7th / 8th graders of our Parish Family ... come play volleyball, basketball.

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.



A Word of Gratitude

A special note of thanks to all of you who responded to our appeal and contributed to the Religious Retirement Fund. Through your generosity, we can continue to care for our elderly members while seeking young members for future service. Be assured of the prayers of all who will benefit from your generosity.

Gratefully,

Fr. Mike and religious of OLL

"Becoming a member of this church community through the RCIA has been a beautiful journey for our family. We didn't realize how much we had clouded our lives. We met Deacon Jack who baptized our Angelika and he pointed us towards the RCIA..... where we were welcomed with open arms and filled hearts ... We have been transformed, empowered by the Holy Spirit."

-Fernando DeLeon

Confirmed at the Great Vigil, 2008

RCIA-Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

What's it all about?

IF you are an adult and

... you were never Baptized

... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic

... you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)

... you never received your Confirmation

IF you are an adult AND one or all of the circumstances above apply to you. . .

IF you feel you would like to become a Baptized Catholic or become more fully initiated into your Catholic faith...

please contact John Sureau, S. Nancy, Fr. Bob or Fr. Stan at the Parish Office, 661-3224 #1, and we would be happy to help you.

Daily Mass

8 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5 PM

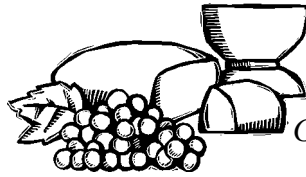
Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

Reconciliation

Saturday: 4 PM - 4:45 PM

Altar Bread

and Wine



*Frank Monroe &
Geroge Shaddock*

Support Groups

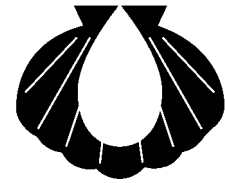
Alcoholics Anonymous:

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.

Baptisms



Christopher James Aprigliano

George and Jennifer

Thomas Barend Clark

Roger and Michele

Caidence Simone Leftenant

Thomas and Elli

Olivia Paige Nappo

Vincenzo and Aimee

Katie Marie Tapp

Joseph and Francine

Ethan Sebastian Colon-Valbuena

Giancarlo and Alejandra

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.

Upcoming Marriages

Melissa McLoughlin, OLL and

Fred Van Liew

Remembering...

Monday, June 16

8:00 AM Carmella Parasole

Tuesday, June 17

8:00 AM Henry Riedemann

Wednesday, June 18

8:00 AM Pasquale & Jay Perri

Thursday, June 19

St. Romuald, abbot

8:00 AM Cody Serr

Friday, June 20

8:00 AM Lucy Zaccaria & Mario Lombardi

Saturday, June 21

8:00 AM Fannie Cudlipp, Rita Anderson, Robert Herr,
Connor Corish, Arielle Rose Estremo, Ginger O'Keefe,
Catherine O'Rourke, Leonardo R. Vicencio,
Fr. Thomas Pietrantonio

5:00 PM John Wallace

Fr. Stan Chukwube

Sunday, June 22

8:00 AM Rita Rybak & Gertrude Hawxhurst
Fr. Stan Chukwube

9:30 AM George Zeitler

Fr. Mike Vetrano

11:00 AM Joseph DiMola III

Fr. John Asomugha

12:30 PM Marie Conforti

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Mary Laino, Joseph Bownes,
George Cronk, Joann Jones, Patricia DeLyra,
Nicholas Caldarola, Ruth Kalt-Rosen

Fr. Bob Scheckenback



Rest In Peace

Robert Fisher died on June 1 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was June 6. We extend our prayers to his wife, Megan, children and entire family.

Celebrating Sacraments



Swan Song

Ray Santiago, a long time parishioner and choir member will be retiring from the OLL Adult Choir.

Ray has been sharing his musical gift and talent since the inception of the Choir in 1973.

We will certainly miss his rich baritone voice along with his cheerful smile and ready laugh.

Good luck, Ray, in all you do!

Summer at “The Six”

Our Six Committee is busy working to make our Sunday night liturgy a relaxing, meaningful and great way to end the summer weekends.

So, this summer – sleep late, go to the beach, relax and then give thanks to God (and we’ll help!)

this week...

“Blessing for the Stressin”

It’s exam time and the pressures of the end of school are upon us. Get ready for a special Mass that will offer you God’s peace for the weeks ahead.

after Mass...

We’re HELPING THE HOMELESS. We’ll gather in the Cafeteria after Mass and make Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches for local homeless shelters. A lot of time, volunteerism wanes in the summer but not here at OLL!

Summer Evening Prayer

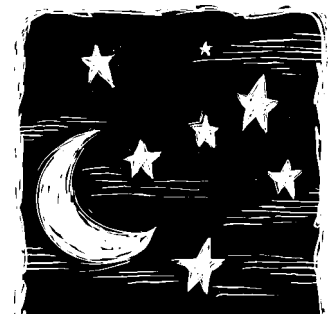
OLL always celebrates summer with a great spirit of prayer and excitement. ...but it doesn’t come without some good planning and hard work. This year, as always, we are looking for volunteers to be part of our planning committee.

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.





Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Car Raffle

Our friends at Atlantic Hyundai are donating a three year lease for a 2009 Hyundai Sonata. Raffle tickets are \$50 each - buy two and get one free. Raffle will be drawn at the 24th Annual OLL Golf Classic, June 19, 2008 at the Timber Point Golf Club in Great River. Winner need not be present. Winner is responsible for tax, title, and tags.

Tickets are available at the Parish Office, Our Lady of Lourdes School, or see Dan Toomey of Atlantic Hyundai located on the Sunrise Highway Service Road in West Islip.

The car will be on display this weekend, June 14/15 after all Masses and at the 24th Annual OLL Golf Classic at Timber Point on June 19.
Come and see what can be yours!



Pastoral Council Accepting Nominees

Our Pastoral Council is currently accepting nominations for new members to fill several open seats. A person who wishes to serve on the pastoral council must be a parishioner who desires to offer their time and insight to help the pastor and pastoral team form the vision and future of the parish. Pastoral Council members must have an interest and investment in the parish. Practically, this means that a nominee for the pastoral council must be a person who:

- Worships weekly in the parish and takes full part in the spiritual life of the community
- Offers their time and talent in service or ministry to this community
- Supports the parish financially in a manner appropriate to their means

Parishioners may nominate either themselves or another parishioner for the council. Applicants will be reviewed by the pastoral council nominating committee and if willing and qualified will be asked to complete a profile.

- Parishioners are appointed to the council by the current council in consultation with the pastor and pastoral team in a process of discernment. The goal of this process is to insure that the council represents the diversity of Our Lady of Lourdes and has the gifts and interests necessary to our present goals.
- To nominate oneself, or another, for membership on the council begin by sending a letter or email to pastoralcouncil@ollchurch.org or by postal mail to Pastoral Council, c/o Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip, NY 11795. All letters of nomination will be acknowledged and must include your name and return address.

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**.

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*

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.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the deRoxas Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty.

Jeremy DeRoxas -*US Air Force* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty.

Thank you, Jeremy, for your generous service to our country!

The deRoxas Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Bacchi Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty.

Lorenzo Bacchi -*US Marines* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his tour of duty.

Thank you, Lorenzo for your generous service to our country!

Lorenzo's father Albert, brother Anthony and Grandma Frances wish to thank all the parishioners for their prayers for bringing him home safely.

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.

Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Joyce Petersen*. 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, Pat Bonavita, Nicholas Buscemi, Jr., Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano, Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, TJ Devlin, Josephine DiBenedetto, Jason Fisher, Susan Gigante, Samantha Hil, Brian Hinkelman, Lili Hinkelman, Kathleen Kerrigan, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Dorothy Meloni, Regina Mirabella, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz, Arthur Petrino, Joanne Popper, Joe Radosti, Jean Rubino, Patricia Salimbene, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl, Mary Stone, Diana Marie Taveras, Grace Terranova, Baby John Tramazzo, Jean Virgilio, Pat Wallace, Flo Worysz



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

How often have you heard the phrase "ordinary people doing extraordinary things"? Our history is filled with such people, and all around us you can see them today. There are the doctors and nurses who routinely save lives; teachers who shoulder most of the responsibility of educating our young people; or even the thousands of people who participate in countless fundraising events to try to help eradicate deadly diseases. Their calling comes from within.

Today's Gospel reading from Matthew tells of Jesus' act of selecting his twelve disciples. So filled with compassion at the sight of thousands of people who came to hear his word, he prayed for and received "shepherds for the flocks." But in the same vein as his humble beginnings, Jesus did not seek those who spoke with authority of the orthodox laws, but rather his disciples were ordinary men called to do the most extraordinary thing.

Would you answer such a call? We have, in fact, already been called! The apostles handed down the gift of love in Christ, a treasure we are entrusted with to pass down to our children and everywhere in the world open to God's word (CCC 3). If we turn to God with all of the trust and faith promised by Jesus and delivered through the Holy Spirit, we have made real the kingdom of heaven. What an extraordinary accomplishment!

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Readings for the Week of June 15, 2008

Sunday:	Ex 19:2-6a/Rom 5:6-11/Mt 9:36-10:8
Monday:	1 Kgs 21:1-16/Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday:	1 Kgs 21:17-29/Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday:	2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Sir 48:1-14/Mt 6:7-15
Friday:	2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20/Mt 6:19-23
Saturday:	2 Chr 24:17-25/Mt 6:24-34
Next Sunday:	Jer 20:10-13/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33

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.



canned pasta, ravioli, etc.
chili
macaroni & cheese
pasta
tomato sauce

Donation

Outreach has received a donation from the Giuffre's in memory of *Maryann and Filippo Pezzuti*.

Single Senior Social Night

Our next meeting will be on **Saturday, June 28 following the 5 PM Mass**. We will have live dancing and a light supper.

Gentle Reminder: We no longer accept clothing donations. Please do not leave them on the premises.



Help Save a Life - Give Blood

Over **800** pints of blood are needed **EVERY DAY** to meet the needs of the patients in our Long Island area hospitals. One pint of blood can save **FIVE** lives because blood is divided into components and can be used for up to five patients with different critical needs.

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

The need for blood is daily. It must **BE THERE** when it is needed (think about 9/11). Almost half the blood that is transfused is done on an **EMERGENCY** basis. Blood **CANNOT BE STOCKPILED**. Red cells are viable for 35–42 days, but platelets must be used within 5 days. Please care enough to give blood on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25th** from 3:30 to 8:30 PM in the Parish Center. To make an appointment, please call Marie at 669-5837 or just walk in the day of the drive.

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

Financial Summary

June 8, 2008

Weekly Collection	\$ 16,656.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (4,344.00)

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

May 14, 2008

Amount Pledged	\$88,570
Number of Pledges	371
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.

A Call to Action on Behalf of Poor Long Islanders: Part 2

The public-policy issues below were developed on April 28th, 2008 at the MICAH/Adelphi University Conference, *Ending Poverty on Long Island: An Action Plan*. These issues are now the MICAH Agenda for addressing specific, school district, village/town, county and state public-policy issues to help poor Long Islanders make ends meet.

4. Securing Decent Pay for Decent Work

- The State should continue to expand wage supplements for the working poor by allowing telephone enrollments for Food Stamps or increasing the amount of the State Earned Income Tax Credit.
- The State should adopt a Domestic Worker's Bill of Rights.
- The Jobs with Justice *Worker's Rights Board* should receive interfaith support in its efforts to call attention to unfair labor practices on Long Island.
- The State should adopt Industrial Development Agency (IDA) reforms requiring that companies receiving IDA tax breaks be required to comply with fair wage and benefits, job creation and accountability standards.

5. Ensuring Health Care for Poor Long Islanders

- The State should expand the number of Child Health Plus (CHP) enrollment sites, the number of facilitated CHP enrollers and should simplify the application process with a shorter application and more than a one-year enrollment cycle.
- The State should expand Timothy's Law to require health insurance coverage parity to include Post Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) and substance abuse.

6. Expanding Public Transportation for Working Long Islanders

- The State should increase funding for public buses in Nassau and Suffolk Counties so as to increase routes, frequency of bus runs and improve scheduling.

7. Funding Departments of Social Services for Success

- Nassau and Suffolk County Departments of Social Services should hire two mentors each to help clients complete their education and training programs.
- Suffolk County Department of Social Services should open one night a week to accommodate working poor people.
- The State should allow on-line courses and unsupervised homework to count as a work activity and should permit clients to enter a four year college program.
- The State should raise the basic needs Public Assistance Grant (which has remained the same since 1990) to \$491 a month, thereby restoring it to its 1990 value.
- The State should cap transfers from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) surplus to pay for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) at the 2007 amount (\$603 million) so that more of the TANF surplus can be used for education and training and other programs to help clients transition from welfare to work.

Measuring Ourselves in Love

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

When I was younger, I was pretty confident that I knew what love meant. After all, we all experience love in some way, being in love, loving someone, being loved by someone. Virtually everyone has known the love of somebody, a friend, a family member, an acquaintance.

But the older I get the more I wonder sometimes whether I, or most anyone else, has much sense of what that over-used word, love, really means? When we are honest, we sense our own distance from its full meaning. Why?

Because, the older we get, the more we also begin to know love's dark side. Too common are these experiences: We fall in love and think it will last forever, but then fall out of love, feel love go sour, feel love grow cold, see love betrayed, feel ourselves wounded by love, and wound others. Finally, even more upsetting, we all find that there are always people in our lives who are cold, bitter, and unforgiving towards us so that it is not always easy to feel love and be loving.

In the light of this reticence, I would like comment on Jesus' most important commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you!"

We too easily read that simplistically, romantically, and in a one-sided, over-confident manner. But this command contains the most important challenge of the whole gospel and, like the deepest part of the gospel to which it is linked, the crucifixion, it is very, very difficult to imitate. Why?

It's easy to consider ourselves as loving if we only look at one side of things, namely, how we relate to those people who are loving, warm, respectful, and gracious towards us. If we rate ourselves on how we feel about ourselves in our best moments among like-minded friends, we can easily conclude both that we are loving persons and that we are measuring up to Jesus' command to love as he did.

But if we begin to look at the skeletons in our relational closets our naive confidence soon disappears: What about the people who hate us, whom we don't like? What about the people whom we avoid and who avoid us? What about those people towards whom we feel resentment? What about all those people with whom we are at odds, towards whom we feel suspicion, coldness, anger? What about those people whom we haven't been able to forgive?

It's one thing to love someone who adores you, it's quite another to love someone who wants you dead!

But that's the real test. Jesus' command to love contains a critical subordinate clause, "as I have loved you!" What was unique in the way he loved us?

Where Jesus stretches us beyond our natural instincts and beyond all self-delusion is in his command to love our enemies, to be warm to those who are cold to us, to be kind to those who are cruel to us, to do good to those who hate us, to forgive those who hurt us, to forgive those who won't forgive us, and to ultimately love and forgive those who are trying to kill us.

That command, love and forgive your enemies, more than any creedal formula or other moral issue, is the litmus-test for Christian discipleship. We can ardently believe in and defend every item in the creed and fight passionately for justice in all its dimensions, but the real test of whether or not we are followers of Jesus is the capacity or non-capacity to forgive an enemy, to remain warm and loving towards someone who is not warm and loving to us.

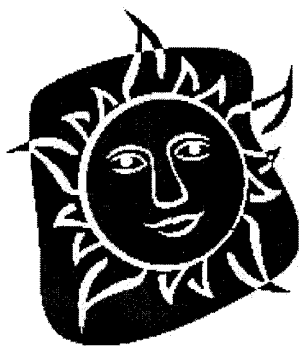
We shouldn't delude ourselves on this. It is easy to rationalize this away and, if we do, no doubt there will be more than enough false friends around who will furnish us with both theological and psychological arguments that will justify us in not loving our enemies. But the gospel is uncompromising: We are loving or non-loving not on the basis of how we respond to those who love us, but on the basis of how we respond to those who hate us, and are cold, hostile, and murderous toward us. That's the hard, non-negotiable truth underlying Jesus' command to love and, when we are honest, we have to admit that we are still a long ways from measuring up to that.

There's a sobering challenge in an old Stevie Nicks' song, *Golddust Woman*: She suggests that it's good that, at a point in life, someone "shatters our illusion of love" because far too often, blind to its own true intentions, our love is manipulative and self-serving. Too often, the song points out, we are lousy lovers who unconsciously pick our prey.

What shatters our illusion of love is the presence in our lives of people who hate us. They're the test. It's here where we have to measure up: If we can love them, we're real lovers, if we can't, we're still under a self-serving illusion.

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.

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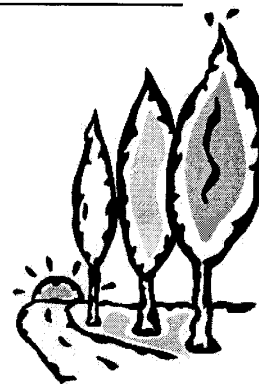
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Vincent Whitfield, Instructor, Pastoral Formation Institute.

Rev. Andrzej Zglejzewski, Director, Office of Worship, Diocese of Rockville Centre.



Contemplative Outreach of Long Island/Queens

Centering Prayer Retreat Weekend at St. Ignatius Retreat House, Manhasset from June 27, Friday at 5 PM until June 29, Sunday departure after lunch. For further information please call Diane at 631.587.0966.

Divine Intervention

You are invited to come on down and be a part of our new season of *Divine Intervention*, Telecare's hit game show hosted by Fr. Joe DeGrocco. We are looking for you to be a contestant or a member of our studio audience. Tapings will take place from July 8 to July 21. To be a contestant or to make a booking to be in the audience, call 516.538.8704, extension 155 or email to divineintervention@telecaretv.org.

International Feast and Street Fair

Non-food vendors are needed for the 26th Annual Our Lady of Perpetual Help International Feast and Street Fair, July 9 - July 13. Both venues sold out last year, so get your application in soon! Please call Bill at 516.242.9531 or visit OLPHLindenhurst.org and click on the feast image for more details.

Dominican Commercial High School

A 50th Anniversary Reunion for the class of 1958 has been planned for October 4, 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Plainview. We are looking for former classmates. Please email dc1958@optonline.net for further information.

Dominican Village

Please join us for an Open House on Tuesday, June 24 from 2 PM until 4 PM and Saturday, June 28 from 1 PM until 3 PM. Dominican Village is an independent retirement community that offers assisted living and respite care, outstanding programs, all-inclusive services and bountiful amenities. For more information, or to schedule a tour at your convenience, call 631.842.6091.

Religion & Rock

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

This week's theme is: **"Parents and Commitment."** 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.

Sharing the Gospel

Jesus told his 12 apostles to heal the sick. Today doctors work with God, just like the apostles did years ago. In hospitals you can see the hand of God at work. Many times doctors are able to find medicines and treatments to cure people of their illnesses. Sometimes even very sick people are healed. God sent these medicines and doctors to heal. By praying for the sick, you can help, too.



Mission for the Week



I will make and send a cheerful card to a child in the hospital.



Puzzle

Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Send out workers into his harvest field.

					H				

Prayer



Holy Spirit,
please teach
us to love, care for,
and cure the sick.

Something to Draw



Draw God looking
over the shoulders
of doctors and
nurses helping make
people well.