

**DO NOT BE AFRAID;**



**YOU ARE  
WORTH MORE  
THAN MANY SPARROWS.**

**MATTHEW 10:31**

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Our Lady of Lourdes**

**June 22, 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](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax: 661-7143

website: [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes School**

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: [lkrol@ollschool.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Sage@ollchurch.org)

### **Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube**

Associate Pastor

### **Rev. Robert Scheckenback**

Associate Pastor

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### **Deacon John DeGuardi**

**Deacon Tom Lucie**

**Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

**Deacon John Teufel**

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### **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*)

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## *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.*

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## *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



**OLL Vacation Bible Camp '08**  
**S.U.R.F.F. Camp**  
**Summer Understanding Real Faith and FUN!**

July 28-August 1  
 9 AM -12:30 PM daily

**Camp Registration Form**

*Return to OLL rectory or school along with fees (\$75 per child) before July 6th.*

*Please make checks payable to Our Lady of Lourdes Church.*

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!!

Please list below the names and present grade levels of the children in your family who will attend camp. Camp is for Nursery (age 4) through Grade 5. (Students entering grade 6 and up are volunteer counselors and assistants and do not need to pay any fee. Please note that 5th graders cannot be helpers this year.)

Child's First & Last Name	Grade Level in Sept. '08
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

**Full Names of Parents/Guardians:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Address (Street, Town, Zip):** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell and/or Business Phone(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Emergency Contact and Phone #:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*Please indicate below any health problems, food allergies, or special situations that it might be helpful for the camp staff to know about your child.*

\_\_\_\_\_

*You will receive a letter with your child's group name and all important camp information around July 15th. We need adult and teen volunteers! If anyone in your family (teens and/or adults) would be willing to help out at the camp, please list their names and ages. We will hold a meeting for all volunteers in mid-July.*

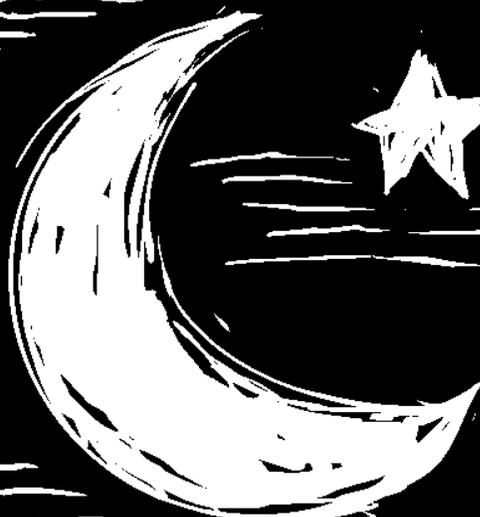
*Summer*



*Evening*



*Prayer*



*2008*



**Summer Evening Prayer Concert**

Welcoming a very special music group,

**"The Servants of the Shepherd"**

**Monday, July 7**

**7:30 PM – Great Lawn**

**The evening starts with a special *Potluck Supper***

*(see next week's bulletin for more details)*

And there's more...

July 14th – Special Guest Homilist!

July 21st – Summer Evening Prayer – ON LOCATION

## 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.

### Wedding Ministry

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How do you feel when you get to share in the most special days of a couple's life? Excited? Joyful? Blessed? Nostalgic? These are words we use to describe our feelings about being a part of the Wedding Ministry. We are there for the couple on the day of their wedding rehearsal to go through the steps of the ceremony and answer any last minute questions they may have. More importantly, we are there to calm, reassure, and offer our support. On the "big day" we are at the Church early to prepare and welcome the couple and their guests to OLL. In the wedding ministry it is all about the little things. We hope to help make their day as beautiful as they dreamed it would be!

-Theresa Moy

*For more information...*

Our Wedding Ministry is growing and changing and looking for some new members! Our Wedding Ministry will meet this Thursday, June 24 at 7 PM in the Faculty Room. We would love for you to come and find out more. If you're interested in being a part of this ministry, please come to the meeting or contact John Sureau at [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

### Children's Liturgy of the Word/Family Liturgy Committee

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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 AM 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 661.5478 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto: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 AM Mass.

# Blood DRIVE

## Help Save a Life - Give Blood

On Wednesday, June 25, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish will hold a Blood Drive from 3:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Parish Center. All eligible donors are strongly urged to give blood.

I gave my blood...

*Christ gave His.*

I gave a pint...

*He gave all.*

The needle is small and sharp...

*The nails were large and dull.*

The table soft, relaxing...

*The cross rough, painful.*

The nurses kind and gentle...

*The soldiers cruel and mean.*

The crowd applauds my sacrifice...

*"They that passed by reviled Him".*

Mine is O-Positive...

*His for positively all.*

Mine, at best will prolong life for awhile...

*His, without doubt, saved all...forever!*

## Top Reasons for NOT going to Mass during the Summer...

1. It's hot.
2. It's too early.
3. It's a drag.
4. It's too long.
5. I'm wearing shorts.
6. I love the beach...I have to be there early.
7. We have so much going on during the day.

*We've got the answer for you....*

### **"THE SIX!"**

Our Sunday night Mass, "The Six," continues throughout the Summer! It's air-conditioned, casual, lively, less than an hour, at the end of the summer day and a great way to have some great summer fun and make God a part of it all!

*In August....look for us outside and on the beach! Check the bulletin for information soon!*

*Interested in helping to make "The Six" happen?*

We need lectors, set up people, clean up people, greeters, and more! If you're interested or have some questions contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org)

## **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*

*In Memory of Mary Laino*

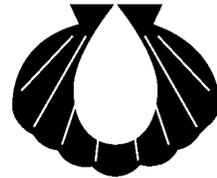
## **Support Groups**

### **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*

*Mason Graham Coppola*

Paul and Samantha

*Zachary Joseph Thomas*

Ronald and Denise

## *Upcoming Marriages*

*Melissa McLoughlin, OLL and*

*Fred Van Liew*

## **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 23

8:00 AM Robert T. Beck

## Tuesday, June 24

*Nativity of John the Baptist*

8:00 AM Richard Zocchia

## Wednesday, June 25

8:00 AM Jane & John Aspromanti

## Thursday, June 26

8:00 AM Kathryn Chazey & Anthony Stiefvater

## Friday, June 27

*St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop, doctor*

8:00 AM Mary & Edna Garcia

## Saturday, June 28

8:00 AM Ted Adams, Angelo Conti, Theresa DiPaolo, Edward Herman,  
Robert Keith Fisher, Gerald Carlos, Frank Kellner,  
Eleanor McGee (*living*), Mr. & Mrs. Gary LaCarrubba (*living*),  
Robert Charles McGrath, Sr.

5:00 PM Anthony Zucco

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

## Sunday, June 29

8:00 AM Henry Deery

*Fr. John Asomugha*

9:30 AM Kenneth Ross

*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

11:00 AM Mona Rose Lianes

*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

12:30 PM Rose Tessitore

*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Judy Gerena, Gaetano Bartoli, Topper Bartoli,  
Karen Purves, Patricia DeLyra, Thomas Dexter, Robert Kelly,  
Frank Miceli, Tommy Gilmartin, Karissa Melnyk (*living*)

*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

## Rest In Peace

George "Yura" Mandzych died on June 4 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was June 11. We extend our prayers to his wife, Patricia, children and entire family.

*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*

**The best thing I learned this year...**

that it is about giving to others and not receiving  
that we get to sing the Vine and Branch song  
a little boy shares his bread and fish  
about Jesus' last supper  
to share things that people do not have  
about the Holy Gospel  
Jesus loves us and gave his life for us  
about Communion and Penance  
stories about Jesus' life

to ask for forgiveness and to treat everyone with love

Jesus is my friend, I can pray with him, too

when Jesus feeds the people

I can talk to Jesus anytime I need to

that the apostles recognized Jesus when he broke the bread

Jesus is my friend like the Vine and Branches  
that Jesus is the Vine and we are the Branches  
I can receive Jesus  
taking part in Reconciliation

how to receive Communion  
Jesus loves me

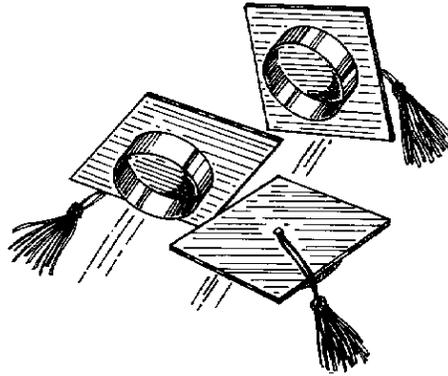
that God loves everyone no matter what  
how to pray the Our Father  
is that even when I am nervous, I can talk to Father Mike  
about Jesus' miracles about the loaves and fish  
how you can change bad things into good things

# Congratulations Graduates!

## OLL Class of 2008

*Danielle King-Valedictorian*  
*Alexandra St. Laurent-Salutatorian*

Ryan Antonawich  
 Daniel Archilla  
 Gaille Bottex  
 Kathleen Calves  
 Amanda Capizzi  
 Nicole Cunningham  
 Matthew Desiderio  
 Shawn Fasano  
 Marybeth Finn  
 Jonathan Force  
 Joseph Goldin  
 Thomas Gorman  
 Robert Harman  
 George Khoury  
 Keiji Kimura  
 Christopher LaMarr  
 Matthew Matheis  
 Ryan Newman  
 John Pannacchione  
 Chelsea Papocchia  
 Kathleen Ponzio  
 Molly Roper  
 Emily Rosa  
 John Tozzi  
 Michelle Yuliano



### **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.

## **SAGE**

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on **Tuesday, June 24**, in the **Parish Center at 9 AM**.

## **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.**

## **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.

## 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.

## 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.
- would like to receive the Sacrament of the Sick.

## Pray for Our Sick

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

*Connie Altadonna, Lucas Anderson, Susan Aviza, Deacon Dick Barry, Eric Becker, 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, Evelyn Lang, Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Kara Lobasso, Vicki Massaro, Michele McCann, Peter McCann, Sr., David McCarthy, Eleanor McGee, 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*



©LPI

## 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Are you familiar with the term "conundrum"? By definition, it means a paradoxical, insoluble, or difficult problem—a dilemma. Many high school and college students probably think their mathematics exams are filled with conundrums! Such difficult problems can lead to the fear of getting the wrong answer; in turn, this fear can lead to a sort of paralysis, where no answer at all seems better than potentially being right.

Jesus offers a difficult problem to his disciples in today's Gospel reading from Matthew. In it, he tells them (and us) to fear only two things: the one who can kill both body and soul; and the Lord. But do we live our lives in fear? Absolutely not, because the fear of the Lord that Jesus speaks of is really a call for us to proclaim the love of God from the very depths of our souls no matter the reaction we may receive. It is our cross to bear.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that there are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord (CCC 1831). Receiving these gifts allows us to complete and make perfect all of the virtues we have, and gives us the opportunity to cleanse our minds and easily accept the word of God. With these gifts, we will never again face truly difficult problems alone.

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### Readings for the Week of June 22, 2008

<b>Sunday:</b>	Jer 20:10-13/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33
<b>Monday:</b>	2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Mt 7:1-5
<b>Tuesday:</b>	<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
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3/Mt 7:15-20
<b>Thursday:</b>	2 Kgs 24:8-17/Mt 7:21-29
<b>Friday:</b>	2 Kgs 25:1-12/Mt 8:1-4
<b>Saturday:</b>	Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/Mt 8:5-17
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	<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



canned fruit  
canned vegetables  
jelly  
peanut butter  
pudding/jello  
soup

## 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.

I would like to thank the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes, my co-workers at Outreach, members of the Single Senior Group and Renew Group, the priests and sisters for their prayers, support and help during the last month and a half.

This is an incredibly loving and giving parish. Once again I have been the recipient of that love. To all of you who said a prayer, sent a card and helped me out or just thought of me, I thank you from the bottom of my well repaired heart. I know the doctor's were great, but I do not doubt for a minute that it was all of those prayers that worked their miracle.

Thanks so very much,  
*Pat Wallace*

*Gentle Reminder:* We no longer accept clothing/ household donations of any kind. In recent weeks, there have been donations left on a regular basis. **Please do not leave them on the premises.**

## Financial Summary

**June 15, 2008**

Weekly Collection	\$ 19,037.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (1,963.00)

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

## CMA Over the Top Weekend !

### OLL CMA

**June 17, 2008**

Amount Pledged	\$90,520
Number of Pledges	376
Average Pledge	\$241

We have almost reached our Catholic Ministries Appeal Goal of \$94,778.

This weekend, we are happy to welcome speakers at our Masses who will explain the importance of our partnership with our diocese in supporting the many ministries served by the appeal.

Please be generous in your response and be one of those who will join with the 376 parishioners who have already contributed to the appeal. Your generous pledge may be just the boost we need to reach our goal!

If this is the weekend that you will make your gift to the Appeal, please complete the pledge card below and place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office.



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL • DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
PO BOX 4000 • ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11571-4000 • [www.drvc.org/cma.html](http://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 \$ _____	
<b>EVERY GIFT COUNTS!</b>	

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.

***Cut Poverty in Half: Help Make Our Nation Whole***

**MICAH Asks You to Sign on to  
The Catholic Charities USA Campaign  
To Reduce Poverty in Half by 2020**

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities ([Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc)) or Rev. Thomas Goodhue at the LI Council of Churches ([LICCHemp@aol.com](mailto:LICCHemp@aol.com))

Poverty in America is a moral and social crisis. It threatens the health and economic well-being of our families and our nation as a whole. In response to this crisis, Catholic Charities USA has launched the *Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America*. Since September, 2007, MICAH (Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger,) an interfaith campaign to end poverty on Long Island, has published excerpts from the Catholic Charities USA policy paper, *Poverty in America: A Threat to the Common Good*. In addition to publishing educational materials that raise awareness about poverty on Long Island, MICAH has also compiled an agenda of 21 public-policy issues that address the causes of Long Island poverty at the school district, village or town, county and state levels of government.

Now, MICAH is asking you to join a national effort to combat poverty by signing on to the *Catholic Charities USA Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America*, a multi-year, multi-faceted approach to alleviating poverty in the United States. **Cut poverty in half to help make our nation whole!**

**The goals of the *Catholic Charities USA Campaign to Reduce Poverty in America*:**

- To reduce poverty in the United States by 50 percent by the year 2020.
- To call upon the government to do more to serve those who are poor, and to improve public policies that strengthen and support families.
- To educate policymakers and the public about the struggles of those living in poverty and the good work of those who serve them in local communities.
- To engage those who are most impacted by government policies to be active participants in developing solutions to reducing poverty.
- To work with individuals and organizations across the country to address poverty in our country.

**You can electronically sign on to the *Catholic Charities USA Campaign to Reduce Poverty* by going to the Catholic Charities USA website, click “Campaign to Reduce Poverty,” click “Act Now” and then “Option 2: Endorse the Campaign.”**

## Our Three Temptations

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Cosmologists today tell us that the universe has no single center. Its center is everywhere, every place, every planet, every city, every species, and every person. But we already know this.

Faith tells us that what ultimately defines us and gives us our identity and energy is the image and likeness of God in us. We are God's blessed ones, masters of creation, special to God and special within creation.

And we know this long before religion tells it. Deep down, whether we admit it or not, we each nurse the secret of being special. And this is not just ego or narcissism but a congenital imprint inside our very souls. Imprinted in the core of our being is the sense that we are not just an accidental, anonymous chips of dust, almost invisible on the evolutionary conveyer-belt, destined to flicker for an instant and then disappear forever. We know we are more. We, literally, feel timelessness, eternity, and immortal meaning inside of ourselves.

In our daily lives that often causes more heartaches than it solves. It is not easy to live out our blessed, special status when, most of the time, everything around us believes that we are special. As much as we experience ourselves as special, we also experience emptiness, anonymity, and our ordinariness. And so it can be easy, in the end, to believe that we aren't special at all, but are precisely small, petty spirits, haunted by over-inflated egos.

But, while over-inflated egos do cause their share of heartaches, it is still an unhealthy temptation to believe that we are not blessed simply because life finds us one-among-six-billion-others, struggling, and seemingly not special in any way. Faith tells the true story: We are, all of us, made in God's image and likeness, blessed, and our private secret that we are special is in fact the deepest truth.

However that isn't always easy to believe. Life and circumstance often tire us in ways that tempt us to believe its opposite. It happened to Jesus.

He too was tempted, and there was a particular prelude to his vulnerability:

During his baptism, he had heard his Father say: "You are my blessed son, in whom I take delight!" Those words then formed and defined his self-consciousness. Knowing that he was blessed, Jesus could then look out at the world and say: "Blessed are you when you are poor... and meek ... and persecuted."

But throughout his life Jesus struggled to always believe that. For instance, immediately after his baptism,

we are told, the spirit drove him into the desert where he fasted for forty days and forty nights - and afterwards "he was hungry". Obviously what scripture is describing here is not simply physical hunger. Jesus was empty in ways that made him vulnerable to believe that he was not God's blessed child. These were his three temptations:

First, the devil tempted him to this effect: "If you are God's specially blessed one, turn these stones into bread." In essence, the devil's taunt was this: "If you believe that you are God's specially blessed creature, why is your life so empty?" Jesus' reply, "One doesn't live on bread alone!" might be rendered: "I can be empty and still be God's blessed one! Being blessed and special is not dependent upon how full or empty my life is at a given moment!"

The second temptation has to do with human glory and its absence. The devil shows Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and says: "All of these will be yours if you worship me!" The taunt is: "If you're God's blessed one, how come you're a big, fat nobody? Not famous, not known, anonymous." And Jesus' reply might be worded this way: "I can be a big nobody and still be God's blessed one. Blessedness doesn't depend upon fame, on being a household name!"

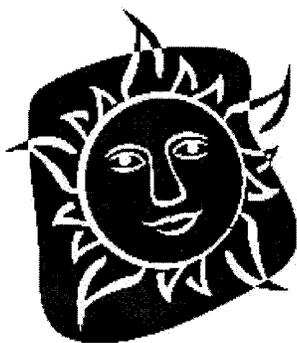
The third temptation follows the same lines: The devil takes Jesus to the top of the temple and challenges him to throw himself down to make God catch him since, in faith, it is promised that God won't let his blessed one "dash his foot against a stone". Jesus responds that we shouldn't put God to the test. The temptation and how we should resist it are both contained in his reply. In essence, what Jesus says when the devil challenges him to throw himself off the top of the temple to prove his specialness is this: "I'll take the stairs down, just like everyone else!" Our blessedness is not predicated on having a VIP elevator, or on having any special privileges that set us apart from others. We are God's blessed ones, even when we find ourselves riding the city buses.

And it is good to remember, namely, that we are God's special, blessed sons and daughters, even when our lives seem empty, anonymous, and devoid of any special privileges because then we won't forever be putting God and our restless hearts to the test, demanding more than ordinary life can give us.

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*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](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*

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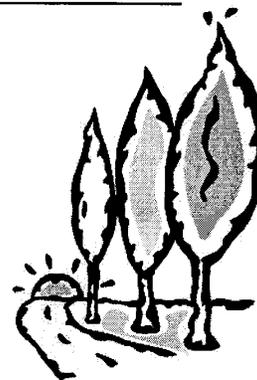
**Margaret Mannino**, Instructor, Pastoral Formation Institute.

**James Philipps**, Religious Studies Dept, Holy Trinity High School; Instructor, PFI.

**Mary Alice Piil, CSJ**, Director, Office of Faith Formation, Diocese of Rockville Centre.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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: **"Remaining Excited."** You can visit us anytime to listen or download a show at [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com). For more information about our television shows go to [www.TelecareTV.org](http://www.TelecareTV.org).

# Sharing the Gospel

Counting the hairs on your head can get tiresome and confusing. However, God knows exactly how many you have. Your body works on its own. You do not have to tell your heart to beat or your lungs to fill with air. Every day your body needs exercise to make all parts work well. Every day your soul needs pray-er-cise or talking with God. Pray-er-cise will fill you with peace and make your fears go away.



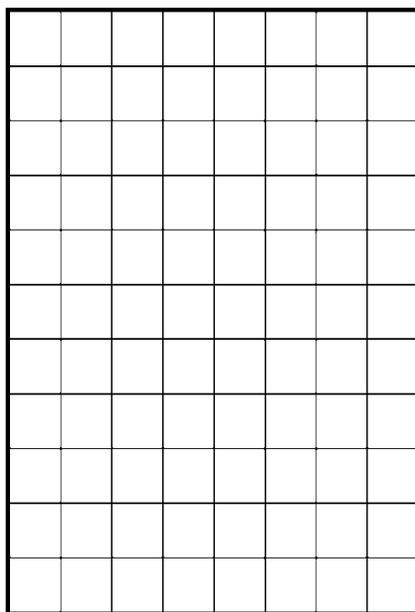
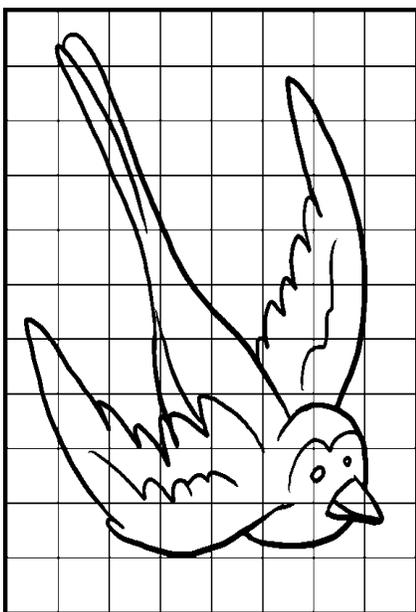
## Mission for the Week



I will exercise my body and pray-er-cise my soul for 10 minutes every afternoon.

### Puzzle

Copy the picture square by square. Then color it.



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### Prayer



Thank you for my body and soul, Lord.

### Something to Draw



Draw a picture of everyone in your family exercising and/or pray-er-cising together.