

Fifth Sunday of Lent April 10, 2011 - Our Lady of Lourdes



# Welcome to our Parish Family!

New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family.

Please call or visit our Parish Office.

## Our Lady of Lourdes

455 Hunter Avenue West Islip, New York 11795

**Daily Mass** 8 AM

Weekend Masses Saturday: 5 PM

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

**Reconciliation Saturday:** 4 PM - 4:45 PM

#### 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.

## Mission Statement

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

## Vision...

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

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

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

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

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

## Pastoral Jeam

Rev. Michael A. Vetrano Pastor

Rev. Patsy Amabile
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Robert Scheckenback** 

**Associate Pastor** 

Rev. Ambrose Cabildo

In Residence

Deacon John DeGuardi Deacon Tom Lucie Deacon Jack Meehan

Coordinator of Stewardship **Deacon John Teufel** 

Sr. Margaret Bickar

Senior Ministry-SAGE

Sr. Nancy Campkin

Director of Religious Education

Allegra D'Alo

Youth Minister/Social Action

Louise Jane Krol

School Principal

Sr. Diane Liona

Director of Religious Education

Mary McMahon

Director of Parish Social Ministry

**Robin Reynolds-Brennan** 

Director of Music and Worship

Vita Scorcia

Ministry Spiritual Director

Sr. Betty Toohig

Senior Ministry-SAGE

**Anthony Trombino** 

**Business Manager** 



## Pastoral Council

Diane Ackerly

Stacie Baltrusitis

Mary Borgs

Lisa Cantalino

Sonia DaSilva

Nilo DeLeon

Jerry Esposito

Trish Frodell

Rosalie Mangels

Maryellen McKee

Deacon Jack Meehan

John Muldoon

**Bob Natale** 

Eileen Rega

Vita Scorcia

Fr. Mike Vetrano

## Parish Staff

Jennifer Gallagher

Women's Chorale Director

Mary Anne Lettieri

Parish Office

**Debbie Meyer** 

Bulletin Editor/Parish Office

**Rosemary Multer** 

School Office

Rita Spera

Religious Education Office

Lori Walsh

Parish Office

#### **Parish Office**

661.3224 (option 1)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: ParishOffice@ollchurch.org

fax: 661.7143

website: www.ollchurch.org

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

587.7200 (option 2)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: lkrol@ollschool.org

#### **Religious Education Office**

661.5440 (option 3)

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org

#### **Parish Outreach Office**

661.9262 (option 4)

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday:

9:30 AM - 3 PM

S.A.G.E.

661.3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth

and Enrichment)

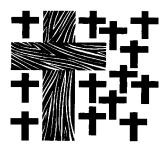
email: Sage@ollchurch.org

#### Come and Pray this Lent...

All fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth Graders **and** their families are invited to come and pray this Lent at "The Six" -Sunday Mass at 6 PM. Please join "The Six" with your grade on...

April 105th Sunday of LentGr. 7"SERVE" Service Project SundayApril 17Palm SundayGr. 8"PRAY" as Holy Week begins

Come celebrate Lent and be a lector, greeter, presentation of the gifts, and more...



#### **Stations of the Cross**

We remember the road to Jesus' death and link his journey to our own as our parish's deacons lead us through this beautiful devotion. Come and pray with us...

Each Friday during Lent – 12 Noon and 7 PM

Save the date...

## **Living Stations of the Cross**

#### Good Friday, April 22 at 7:30 PM in the Church

This is a must for your Lenten and Holy Week journey! Our parish community comes together – led by our young people, our Music Ministries and members of our parish community – who share their own personal experiences on this most holy and solemn night. The celebration includes the Veneration of the Cross.

#### **Easter Flower Offering**

As the Easter season approaches, we invite you to join in our Easter Flower Offerings-you can have your loved one remembered and the name of your loved one will be listed in our Easter Sunday bulletin.

Please PRINT the name of your loved one to be remembered on the Easter Flower Offering envelope and enclose it with your donation. Envelopes can be returned to the Parish Office or they may be returned in the collection basket.

The deadline for Easter Flower Offerings, so that they appear in the Easter bulletin, is April 10. Flower offerings received after this date will appear in a subsequent bulletin.

### **Diocesan Day of Reconciliation**

Monday, April 18

#### 3 PM until 9 PM in the Church

Churches throughout the Diocese of Rockville Centre, including Our Lady of Lourdes, will be open between the hours of 3 PM and 9 PM for individual confessions. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a powerful way for our community to celebrate and pray for God's grace and healing. We also celebrate this Sacrament every Saturday from 4 - 4:45 PM in the Church and always by appointment with a priest.

## Holy Thursday, April 21



- · Morning Prayer at 8 AM.
- · Chrism Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral at 11 AM. All are invited.
- · Children's Washing of the Feet at 4 PM in the Church.
- Mass of the Lords Supper at 7:30 PM in our Church.

## Good Friday, April 22



- Morning Prayer at 8 AM.
- · Children's Good Friday Service at 12 noon.
- · Good Friday Liturgy of the Passion at 3 PM.
- · Evening Living Stations of the Cross at 7:30 PM.

#### Holy Saturday, April 23



- · Morning Prayer at 8 AM.
- · Confession 9:30 11 AM in Church.
- · Easter Egg Hunt at 11:30 AM.
- · Blessing of Food at Noon
- · No 5 PM Mass!
- · Easter Vigil Mass at 7:30 PM.

## Family Liturgies during Holy Week 2011



#### Thursday, April 21

Children's and Family Holy Thursday Service – 4 PM - Church

#### Friday, April 22

Children's Good Friday Service – 12 Noon -Church

#### Saturday, April 23

Easter Egg Hunt – 11:30 AM – Great Lawn We love our children and families here at OLL and want you to be a part of our parish community!



#### **Easter Mass - Sunrise Service**

A beautiful Easter tradition at OLL is our Sunrise Mass at Captree State Park. (We meet at OLL—this year around 5:30 AM—and caravan to the beach for a spirit filled liturgy.) Consider making this a new part of your Easter tradition.

Are you interested?

We are looking for people to help with planning and carrying out the Liturgy. The commitment is minimal but the reward is maximum! If you're interested, or you have any questions, please contact Allegra D'Alo at *Allegra@ollchurch.org* or call 661.3224 extension 135 or contact Father Mike at *pastor@ollchurch.org*.

#### **SAGE**

The SAGE Group (Senior Advocates for Growth and Enrichment) will meet on Tuesday, April 12 in the Parish Center at 9 AM.

Our Lady of Lourdes 27th Annual Golf Classic Monday, July 18, 2011 Southward Ho Country Club Bay Shore



By now, you've probably all figured out, from our previous hints, our Honoree for this year's Golf Classic is none other than our own Father Mike Vetrano! For more information, please contact Golf Committee member Rich Maher at 661.5478 or Frank Antonawich at 587.7988.

#### **Adult Faith Formation**

#### Monday Mornings in Lent April 11

#### Fr. Pat Amabile - Fr. Bob Scheckenback

Come to 8 AM Mass on Mondays in Lent. You will be able to pray the Rosary after Mass or just take some time for your own prayer. At 9 AM, we will gather in the Parish Center for coffee, rolls and a talk, with some time for discussion and reflection.

(If you can't make Mass, please join us at 9 AM.)

#### The Passover of the Lord-Our History

Families of the parish are invited to join in a Passover type celebration on **Tuesday, April 12 at 7 PM in the Parish Center.** A Seder is a family celebration, all members of the family are welcome. Experience a deeper understanding of the Mass and Eucharist by sharing a Seder-like celebration. For more information, call Fr. Pat at 661.3224, option 1.



**Reservations are necessary and helpful.** This will enable us to have enough for all those attending. Please reserve your spot by calling the Religious Education Office at 661.5440, option 3 or email to *religioused@ollchurch.org*. Donation is a "Free-Will Offering."

# Divorce and Remarriage in the Catholic Church

Where do I stand with the Church? Can I be married in the Church again? Fr. Mike Vetrano

Tuesday April 12 • 7:30PM-9:30PM • Spiritual Life Center

Our Pastor, Fr. Mike, is also an advocate with the Tribunal in our Diocese. Advocates help those seeking annulments to bring their case before the Tribunal in a pastorally sensitive and compassionate manner. This evening is geared for those who want to know where they, or a friend or a family member, stand with the Church. Fr. Mike will also explain the various options open to those who were once married in the Church, and now wish to seek an annulment for the good of their own conscience or to begin a new relationship with the full recognition of the Church.





#### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

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

Wednesday, April 13 at 9:30 AM in the Parish Center.

All you need to bring is scrap yarn, knitting needles or crochet hooks (patterns and instructions will be given to you) and your gifts of love and prayer.

#### **Prayer for Divine Mercy**

An invitation to all men and women to be part of God's plan.

We invite you to meet in prayer for the world and our nation to put their trust in God. Our hope is that the nations will have a new spirit of morality. Please come with your love and hope for humanity as well as your prayer requests. We gather together every **Thursday at 1:30 PM before the Blessed Sacrament** for about one half hour. For more information, call Charles Argento at 586.8528.

#### Men's Prayer Group-Morning

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

We invite all men of the parish to meet for prayer and reflection after 8 AM Mass on **Thursday, April 14, in the Parish Center**. We meet once a month to read and discuss the Scriptures for the following Sunday. Come with your ideas and suggestions. We'll gather for conversation and fellowship. Join us in this pioneering experience for men. Call Jack Fitzgerald at 587.5548 for more information.

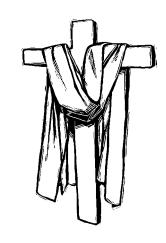
#### Men's Prayer Group-Evening

A new *evening* men's prayer group! It will be held once a month, on the third Tuesday of each month from **7:30 PM until 8:30 PM in the Spiritual Life Center**. The next meeting will be **Tuesday night, April 19**. Come with your ideas. We'll read and discuss the Liturgy for the following Sunday Mass. For more information, call Bob Natale at 893.3041, Charles Zeiss at 669.7189 or Cliff Proctor at 669.3198.

#### Lent at OLL School

"To those who are given much, much is expected in return...."
Lent is a special time when we can share the concepts of prayer
and giving with our children. We take time each day to offer
devotional prayers as a school community. As a school we
consider how we might help others in need by giving of our time

and resources and to become aware that there are others less fortunate than themselves. These are projects to encourage our students to think outside of themselves and to make a good will gesture to another person. Even our very young children understand and enjoy participating in the process.



At Our Lady of Lourdes School, our students are taught the good feelings and simplicity of 'giving back' on a daily basis but it is brought to the forefront during Lent. Children are naturally engaged by practical activity, and it allows them to explore the meaning of Lent for themselves. Our ideas are designed to connect our students to the subject of Lent, it's fasting and giving of themselves, in a meaningful and symbolic way.

While the story of the Stations of the Cross may be a violent one, it is important for children to understand what Jesus Christ did for humankind to truly appreciate his sacrifice. Understanding his sacrifice will inspire many of your students to choose meaningful sacrifices of their own for Lent.

Our lower grades use a The Stations of the Cross coloring book which is a book that teaches students what happened to Jesus and shows them how great his love is. The students color each of the stations. Then we post them around the classroom so that our class can walk through the Stations of the Cross.

Throughout our school you will see decorated crosses, to remind us what we have to be grateful for. Each student will decorate a cross. They can make collages of as many images as they like and write down on the cross some of the things they are grateful for. Then we display the finished prayer crosses in the classrooms and in the corridors until the end of Lent, when they are sent home with our students. Students are encouraged to use their crosses as inspiration for prayer.

The crosses are meant to remind and encourage our students to be grateful to Jesus for even the little things in everyday life.

The Academy is planning "Hush" days as their sacrifice ... starting with Hush Friday afternoons after Ash Wednesday and increasing days as we get closer to Holy Week. This means that our students will be quiet in the hallways, stairs, and in the cafeteria, using this movement time between classes to speak with Jesus.

They will also attend the Stations of the Cross each Friday afternoon at noon with the parishioners.

We are "planning" Living Stations: grades 4-8 have the opportunity to portray the Way of the Cross in costume as narrated by student readers. Mr. St. George will direct the creation of the tableau scenes. School wide students, Family members and friends are welcome to share in this service.

## Baptisms



Anna Yunlan Lettieri
Robert and Nina
Chase Michael Hagen
Michael and Christine
Gabriella Madonia
Brian and Stacy



## Rest In Peace

*Thomas Biehayn* died on March 25 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 29. We extend our prayers to his wife, Mary, children, and entire family.

Lorraine Bartunek died on March 27 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 31. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren and entire family.

*Rose Grillo* died on March 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was March 31. We extend our prayers to her husband, John, children, grandchildren and entire family.

*James Fortunato* died on March 30 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 2. We extend our prayers to his entire family.

*Patricia M. Wallace* died on March 31 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 4. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren and entire family.

Anthony Drexler died on April 1 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 4. We extend our prayers to his wife, Theresa, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

*Jerry Fabozzi* died on April 3 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was April 5 in Good Shepherd Curch, Brooklyn. We extend our prayers to his daughter, Diane Garretson, children, grandchildren, and entire family.

## Remembering...

Monday, April 11

Saint Stanislaus, bishop and martyr 8:00 AM Pasqualina Galluzzo

Tuesday, April 12

8:00 AM Monks Family

Wednesday, April 13

Saint Martin I, pope and martyr

Gustave Lemke 8:00 AM

Thursday, April 14

8:00 AM Mary Godnig

Friday, April 15

8:00 AM Lucy & Edward Regina

Saturday, April 16

8:00 AM Antonia Spellman, Christine Sklarsky,

Dorothy Simmons, Catherine Dolan,

Mary Alice Burk

5:00 PM Henry Gau

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Sunday, April 17

8:00 AM Marie Manganis

Fr. Ambrose Cabildo

9:30 AM Robert Mancuso

Fr. Bob Scheckenback

11:00 AM Harry Hogan, Jr.

Fr. Mike Vetrano

12:30 PM Patricia Weppler

Fr. Pat Amabile

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Salvatore LoVerde, Helen O'Connor,

> Mario DeLotto, Dolores Nulty, Gasper Guastella, Frank & Margaret Riggio, Beby Joseph Ryan O'Hara, Agnes Musalo, Carmine Maiocco, Michael C. Beltrami, Sr. *Fr. Pat Amabile*

Altar Bread and Wine

*In Celebration of the* 



# OLL Pilgrimage to the Holy Land Walking in Jesus' Footsteps

April 25 - May 4, 2011

#### Come and walk in the footsteps of Jesus along with our Pastor, Fr. Mike Vetrano.

Consider being with family and friends on a trip of a lifetime! Walk the streets of Jerusalem and be in the place of our Christian heritage. Come to Bethlehem, visit the Basilica of the Nativity. Be at the Baptism site of Jesus on the Jordan River, sail on the Sea of Galilee and walk in the Garden of Gethsemane. You will visit the room of the Last Supper, walk on the Via Dolorosa "The Way of the Cross", and drive through the wilderness of Judea and the mountains of Jerusalem. All this on your trip of a lifetime.

For more information, our final meeting will be on Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 in the Parish Center

Discovery Summer Camp Sponsored by Our Lady of Lourdes June 27 - August 5 9 AM - 5 PM Monday -Friday



A full-time day camp program for students entering grades Pre-K - 7, beginning with an academic based morning and a fun-filled afternoon of sports. Choose from the four or six week program. Before/After Care and school provided lunch available for an additional fee. Registrations now being accepted. For further information, or to register, please contact Lisa Kennedy, director at 631.587.7200, extension 101 or email to *lkennedy@ollschool.org*.

	OLL We	Week-at-a-Glance	
	Church/APR	Parish Center/Rm 16	Spriritual Life Center/LH
Monday April 11	8 AM Mass after 8 AM Mass Miraculous Medal Novena	8 AM Mornings in Lent PC	
			8PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Tuesday April 12	8 AM Mass	9 AM SAGE PC	
		7 PM AFF-The Passover of our Lord PC	7:30 PM Divorce and RemarriageSLC 8PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Wednesday	8 AM Mass	9:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry PC	10 AM AlAnon LH
		7:30 PM PEP 1 Parent meeting PC	7:30 PM Bereavement Support Group SLC
<b>Thursday</b> April 14	8 AM Mass 1:30 PM Prayer for Divine Mercy 5 PM Youth Choir 7 PM Combined Choir	7 PM Youth Group Rm. 16	6 PM RCIA SLC 7:30 PM Evangelization mtg. SLC
<b>Friday</b> April 15	8 AM Mass Noon Stations of the Cross 7 PM Stations of the Cross		
Saturday	8 AM Mass	8 PM Good Samaritan Prayer Group	2 PM Alcoholics Anonymous LH
Арпі 10	4-4:45 PM Confessions 5 PM Mass		Alcoholics Anonymous
Sunday April 17	8 AM Mass 9:30AM Mass- CLTW 11 AM Mass, 12:30 PM Mass 6 PM Mass Contemporary		



## 5th Sunday of Lent

With Easter coming so late this year much of the natural world in the country has already begun to come back to life. The seasonal death that began in the northern hemisphere back in September is already well on its way to reversal as we enter more deeply into spring. The grip of winter's cold is being broken as bud break begins to overtake trees and vines and bulbs push up their leaves and buds through the thawing earth. The seasons come and go with such regularity, that we have no doubt about their inevitable cycle. Life renews itself in its persistent return as is readily seen in the sprouting seeds that only came to be through the death of the parent plant.

Human death is not met with such easy renewal. Christianity's belief in a personal soul does not harbor a belief in reincarnation. One physical birth and one spiritual birth (baptism) is enough for us. But we do believe in the resurrection of the dead and the power of God to restore life. The raising of Lazarus is a concrete manifestation of the power of God to save. Lazarus, who was in the tomb for four days, is called forth by Jesus. And Jesus tells the onlookers to unbind Lazarus and let him go.

The Gospel today reflects all the grief and pathos that the death of a loved one can engender in the human heart. The death of Lazarus touched not only Martha and Mary and the people of Bethany. Jesus himself was moved with sadness. But as he indicates to Martha, everyone who believes in him will never die, for he is the resurrection and the life. Yes, we will experience physical death, and we will not return as easily as the cycle of the seasons. But that cycle does remind us that life is persistent. And our faith tells us that life will win out, even over death.

2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

#### Readings for the Week of April 10, 2011

**Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45

or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

**Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mt 21:1-11/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14—27:66

or 27:11-54

#### **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 ...

Giovanni Andriola, Frank Artese, Susan Aviza, Viola Callanan, Edith Caputo, Nicole Cerny, Grace Ciccarello, Edward Cronin, Beverly DeCanio, Jeanne DellaRagione, Tony Drexler, Debbie Eichen, Baby Reagan Farrell, Jake Feldman, Marguerite Filippone, Mike Gaffney, Kenneth Garretson, Baby Gavin Gradiska, Peter Joseph, Sr., Kathleen Kerrigan, Marty Kerrigan, Robyn Kerrigan, Baby Kiara Larson, Eric Lee, Ann Losee, Christopher J. Maher, Louise Malcuit, Vincenza Massaro, Rosa Mastrorocco, Connell McGee, John McNevin, Vincent Meade, Frances Miranda, Julio Miranda, John Mordente, Joe Morris, Rae Morris, Ruth Murray, Evelyn Nonnon, Philomena Owens, Karen Parpounas, Joe Radosti, Patricia Sanchez, Dorothy Schiavone, AnnMarie Schiraldi, Baby Isabella Shaw, Derek Stahl, Lindsay Stahl, Patrick Tardo, Nancy Turano, Patricia Wilkinson, Joe Yezek

## **Financial Summary**

#### **April 3, 2011**

Weekly Collection \$ 21,792.00 Weekly Budget -\$ 19,000.00 +/- for the week \$ 2,792.00

The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$19,000.

## **Members in the Military**

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

They are:

Stephen Cochrane-US Marines
Bryan R. Dempsey-US Marines
Christopher Florca-US Marines
Cari Kelly- US Air Force
Anthony Mannino-US Marines
JD Montefusco-US Marines
Joshua Tyrrell-US Army

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

# Our Lady of Lourdes "Renewing Our Spiritual Home"

WE WORK AS THE HANDS OF JESUS CHRIST

Vol. 4

April 9/10

## \$467,440 and Heading Toward Halfway!

Thank you to the following parishioners who have made their pledge of sacrifice to our Capital Campaign. Our campaign is off to a great start; however we can only meet our goal through the participation of the entire parish. Over the course of the next few months you will be hearing more about our capital campaign.

**This listing is updated as of Tuesday, April 5.** Should there be any discrepancies or questions about this listing, please contact the campaign office at 661-3224.

(If you do not wish to have your name listed ,please indicate it on your pledge card or call the Parish Office.)

Richard and Margaret Flynn

Anonymous Gifts (8) Philip and Concetta Ambrosino William and Frances Angeloro Francis and Lynn Marie Antonawich Frank and Tina Aparo Charles Argento Gregory and Stacie Baltrusitis Larry and ProviAnn Bennett Barbara Bertine Donald and Ellen Bolin Anne Bolin Mary Borgs James and Patricia Bowers Helen Bukowski Douglas and Doris Cameron Donald and Lisa Cantalino Mary Caputo Michael and Eleanor Carrano Susan Castonguay Carole Civile-Timothy Keegan Anthony and Angela Conti Gregg and Barbara Corrigan Patric and Joan Crowley Michael and Debbie Cuniglio Francis Curry JoAnn D'Angelo Charles and Lynn Dean Deacon John and Anne DeGuardi Nilo and Estrellita DeLeon John and Elisabeth Dolan John and Carol Fitzgerald Joseph and Virginia Florio

Vincent and Patricia Fiust

Aloisia Foote Glenn and Mary Alice Gans John Gilmartin Daniel Golden Catherine Goldstein John and Barbara Gordon Jean Ann Gottsch Edward and Joann Guiffré Edward and Ida Haase Francoise Heim Cecelia Heinz Barry Hesdorfer Frances Hodgkins Daria Johannesen Robert and Nancy Kaminski Gerald and Margaret Kapalko Patrick Kennedy Monenna Kennedy Marilyn Kolk Bill and Dorothy Kuchler Angela LaGiglia Joseph and Marie Lanfair Dominick and Mary Anne Lettieri Richard and Janet Loehr Deacon Tom and Maria Lucie Richard and Joanne Maher Robert and Kathryn Manley Ann and Robert Mannarino Connell and Eleanor McGee Patricia McKeefery Jean Ellen McNamara Robert Meditz Deacon Jack and Celeste Meehan

Josephine Melton

Pascal and Carmela Messina Martin Moses John and Christine Muldoon Paul and Diane Munch Zbigniew and Anna Musial Deborah and Edward Nikl John and Maria Ninivaggi Kenneth and Grace O'Connor Robert and Adele O'Shea Roberta Palumbo David and Carolyn Paprocky Bob and Joyce Petersen Robert and Lorraine Petito John Radosti James and Teresa Reilly Victor Schaller Raymond and Lila Schmitt Ted and Vita Scorcia Lorraine Shillitto Corazon Smith Mary Steck John and Kathleen Sullivan John and Margaret Sureau John and Maryann Tammaro Carmine and Connie Telesca Deacon Jack and Betty Teufel Rev. Michael Vetrano Joseph and Elvera Vieni Neil and Jeanne Weingarten Ralph and Patricia Wilkinson Robert and Doreen Yagarich William and Patricia Young John and Leslie Zimmerly Joseph and Cecelia Zito

# Living with Frustration and Tension

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Among William Blake's infamous *Proverbs from Hell* we find this one: *Sooner murder an infant in its cradle than nurse unacted desires*.

There are subtle layers of meaning to this, but on the surface it speaks volumes, especially for our generation. Today we are for the most part congenitally unwilling and existentially unable to carry tension for long periods of time, to live with frustration, to accept incompleteness, to be at peace with the circumstances of our lives, to be comfortable inside our own skins, and to live without consummation in the face of sexual desire. Of course, in the end, we do not have a choice. We are not above our humanity and simply have to accept and live with the tensions of incompleteness, but we struggle to do so without bitter impatience, pathological restlessness, and all kinds of compensatory activities.

Emotionally and morally, this is our Achilles heel. Our generation has some wonderful emotional and moral qualities, but patience, chastity, contentment with the limits of circumstance, and the capacity to nobly live out tension are not our strengths. The effects of this can be seen everywhere, not least inside of our struggle to be faithful to our relational commitments.

We have made life-long commitment in marriage very difficult because we find it hard to accept that any marriage, no matter how good, cannot take away our loneliness. We have desacralized sexuality and severed its link to marriage because we are unable accept sex as limited to a marriage commitment. We have basically rendered consecrated celibacy existentially impossible because no one, we feel, can be expected to carry sexual tension for a lifetime. And, most painful of all, we have sown a deep restlessness inside of ourselves because, in our incapacity to accept the incompleteness of our lives, we torture ourselves with the thought that we are missing out on life, that we should not have to live with so much incompleteness, and that the full symphony for which we so deeply long should already be ours.

And the fault is not entirely our own. Much of it lies with those who were supposed to prepare us for life and did not give us the emotional and psychological tools to more naturally and nobly accept life's innate frustrations and the conscriptive asceticism that brings with it. More simply, too many of us were not taught that life is hard,

that we have to spend most of it waiting in one kind of frustration or other, and that this is the natural state of things. Too many of us were given a false set of expectations. We were given the impression that indeed we could have it all, clear-cut joy without a shadow and full intimacy without frustration or distance.

Worse still, many of us were not given the simple, basic permission to live in frustration, that is, to feel okay about ourselves and about our lives even when for the most part we are frustrated. We were not given permission to accept that frustration is natural, the normal state of things, and that it is okay to accept ourselves and our lives as they are and find joy and happiness inside of them, in spite of the frustrations.

I'm still part of the generation whose moral and religious elders gave us this permission. I got this from my parents who, deeply schooled in the concept of original sin, understood themselves as "mourning and weeping in a valley of tears". This, rather stoic, perspective which believes that on this side of eternity all joy comes with a shadow, did not make them morbid. The opposite, it gave them permission to accept the limits of their lives and the circumstances of their lives and, paradoxically, find joy in the imperfect precisely because they were not expecting the perfect. They understood that it is normal to be frustrated, to not have everything you want, to have to live in incompleteness, and to accept that in this life we will experience more hunger than satiation.

Most of us will have to learn this the hard way, through bitter experience, through tears, and through a lot of restlessness from which we might be spared if we already knew that hunger, not satiation, is what is normal. As Karl Rahner famously puts it: In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable we finally learn that here in this life all symphonies must remain unfinished.

Wisdom and maturity invariably do find us and life eventually turns each of us into an ascetic. We may kick against the goad for a while, like a child kicking against a mother's restraining arms, but eventually we tire, stop wailing, and accept the restraints, though not always peacefully. But it can be peaceful, if we accept that frustration is normal. And so I would amend Blake's proverb: Better to murder an infant in its cradle ... unless you give that child a realistic set of expectations with which to deal with unrequited desire and frustration.

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.

#### **Outreach Donations**

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

## Victorian Tea Sunday, May 22 "The English Parlour Room"

Do polish your silver and air your linens. There will be no excuse deemed acceptable for those attending in less than their finest of Victorian fashion and lace.

(Advance tickets are not yet on sale-but do mark your calendars as we have no tolerance for weeping if your request for tickets is denied!)



#### **Donations: March 2011**

- Outreach has received a donation in memory of *Gene Falciano* from Jerry Esposito.
- Jack and Celeste Meehan have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Gene Falciano*.
- Helen Bukowski has made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Deacon Dick Barry*.
- Cheryl and Ed Kelly have made a donation to Outreach in memory of Salomon Acosta, Sr.
- Charles and Andrea Romeo have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Salomon Acosta, Sr.*
- Rae Martino has made a donation to assist a family working with Outreach.
- Edward and Margaret Valenti have made a donation to Outreach in memory of *Salomon Acosta, Sr.*
- Sal and Arlene Acosta have made a donation to Outreach in memory of Sal's father, *Salomon Acosta, Sr.*
- Suzanne Fasano has made a donation to Outreach in memory of her brother, *Anthony Alfieri*.

#### **Dominican Commercial 75th Anniversary**

The former students and staff of Dominican Commercial High School are invited to Catch the Spirit for the **Dominican Commercial 75th Anniversary at 161-06 89th Avenue, Jamaica, NY on Wednesday, May 4 from 10 AM until 2 PM**. For more information, please call 631.842.6000, extension 351 or email *dcgrads@yahoo.com*.

#### 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.

#### The Bishop McDonnell High School Reunion

The Bishop McDonnell High School Reunion will be held on **Saturday, April 16, from noon to 6PM at the former Bishop McDonnell Bldg, 260 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn**. Classes ending in 1 and 6 will be honored. Grads from the 30s and 40s classes always welcome. For specific info. please contact Rita Monaghan-Maloney'59 at 718-857-2700 ext 2253 or **rmaloney@blmhs.org** 

#### **Dominican Village**

Please join us for an Open House on Saturday, April 16 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 or *info@dominicanvillage.org*.

#### **Religion & Rock**

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island. Listen on Saturdays at 11 PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and at 11 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117. Next Sunday's theme is "The Issues in Life." Don't miss it! To listen online or receive more information regarding "Religion & Rock" go towww.religionandrock.com or at "Religion & Rock" on ITUNES. Don't forget to tune into TELECARE, Cablevision Channel 29/137 or Verizon FIOS 296 for the Best in Catholic Television!

## Sharing the Gospel

Instead of telling people he was the Savior, Jesus showed them. By raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus sent a message loud and clear. Jesus was the Savior they had all been waiting for. He was filled with God's love and power, and many people believed in him.





## Mission for the Week

Write the words, "God can do anything" on a piece of paper. Read it every morning.

# ၌ Puzzle

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

GOD'S SON SICKNESS RISE LAZARUS MARY MARTHA BELIEVES WEEPING WRAPPED

S A O E T R H I E T Y T W R A P P E D H O N

OEKRWYAOYUT

BELIEVESTSH

H P T S A O M Y N I E

TIHEUNAJHCS

UNSVMARYLKO

OGKHEITDWNU

TPAYNOHSYEA

I S D L A Z A R U S H

G O D S S O N

F E S

R

©LPi

Prayer



Thank you for showing me that you are my Savior, Jesus.

Something to Draw

Draw a picture of Lazarus wrapped up like a mummy, walking to Jesus.