“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?”
John 6:9
Dear Parishioners,

Ever since the subprime mortgage scandal and market disaster in 2008, the economy has affected different people in very different ways. Initially it was difficult to detect exactly how it was affecting parishioners, with the loss of jobs having the highest profile.

Over the past year and a half or so it has become increasingly clearer. While some were able to get new jobs, many others weren't. People burned through their savings and whatever reserves may have been before seeking help. A number of parishioners have approached me seeking financial assistance.

So, first the good news. In the last eighteen months or so, because of your generosity to the CARITAS fund, SJC has been paying some parishioners’ mortgages, medical bills, utilities, grocery bills and more. (Using the Latin word for “charity” as its name, the CARITAS fund provides emergency financial support to parishioners, who through unplanned circumstances face difficulty meeting a critical financial obligation. Assistance is provided exclusively to SJC parishioners on a case by case confidential basis through me as Pastor. This account is kept separate from parish donations made to our Sharing Parishes and other outreach efforts.) The parishioners who have been the beneficiaries of your generosity have been so humbled and are so extremely grateful that you should know the overwhelming gratitude they have in belonging to this wonderful parish. ‘Thank you’ is not enough.

Now the bad news. CARITAS is funded primarily through the collection at Thanksgiving and Holy Thursday. We had built up reserves over the years, but due to people’s extreme situations those are now rapidly being depleted. There may be one mortgage payment left in the reserves, but I have been trying to help several families with that expense. So I come to you again, asking for your generosity.

If you could see your way clear to making a contribution to the CARITAS fund, it would have an immediate and direct effect in the lives of fellow parishioners. Whatever you could contribute will help me, on your behalf, serve our fellow parishioners with compassion and very timely financial support. Once the current families get on their financial feet again, they assure me of repaying what they have received when they are able. Please mark the memo line of your check for CARITAS or use the envelopes found at all the entrances.

The parish often comes to you asking for financial support. I know some people think that is all we ever talk about, or so it seems whenever they are in church. In addition to the general offertory, you contribute to Sharing Parishes, Maintenance/Gardening Angels, and a plethora of second collections, all worthy causes. While I hesitate, I come again asking for help. Your neighbor, your fellow parishioner needs it. If you can, please contribute.

Fr. Filbert is due home Tuesday. I won't even be able to talk to him before I leave to take off the following week. I’ll be back August 7th. I am so grateful for all the help of all the priests who have helped out these past six weeks. Squeeze every bit of summer that is left. School starts in a little over 3 weeks from now.

Peace,
Fr. David
Jesus and Buddha
The word “Buddha” means “I am awake.” The last words of Jesus before his arrest in the garden were also “Stay Awake” (Matthew 26:38). To be awake is to be fully conscious. The Buddhists sometimes call it “object-less consciousness”; I might just call it “undefended knowing.” It is a consciousness where we are not conscious of anything in particular but everything in general. It is a panoramic receptive awareness—whereby you take in all that the moment offers without eliminating anything or attaching to anything. You just watch it pass.

This does not come naturally to us, surely not in our culture. We have to work at it. All forms of meditation and contemplation teach some form of compartmentalizing or limiting the control of the mental ego—or what some call the “monkey mind,” which just keeps jumping from observation to observation, distraction to distraction, feeling to feeling, commentary to commentary. Most of this mental action means very little and is actually the opposite of consciousness. In fact, it is unconsciousness. It is even foolish to call it “thinking” at all, although educated people tend to think their self-referential commentaries are high-level thinking.

Prayer: May I be fully awake!

Twelve Step Spirituality/American Pragmatism
Although I have never formally belonged to a Twelve Step program, I have learned very much from people who are in recovery, and I finally wrote a book on it called Breathing Underwater: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps. I think the Twelve Step program represents the best of a unique American spirituality. There’s something in the American psyche that gets mistrustful and impatient with anything that’s too abstract, platonic, theoretical, or distant. For the American, it has to work. We call that pragmatism.

I know that people around the world make fun of Americans because we are so pragmatic. But I think it’s also what people admire about Americans. In international meetings, I often sit there just bored to death by the level of abstraction or beating around the bush. My fellow Americans and I just want to pull it down to earth and get to the point, thinking, “What works? Is this relevant? Does this theory mean anything? Does it change people? Does it change anything?”

What the Twelve Step program does for many people is make the Gospel believable, relevant, practical, and workable.

~ Richard Rohr, 2012
Adapted from Fr. Richard’s teachings on his lineage
Reflecting on Living the Gospel
John 6:1-15

How hospitable of Jesus—he wants to feed the “large crowd that was coming to him.” But how pointed and misleading is his question to Philip about where to buy food. Jesus seems to be testing him. What answer did Philip need to give Jesus to pass the test? When Jesus asks about where to buy food to satisfy the hunger of the large crowd, he is not really thinking about a store and purchases (although Philip thinks he is, judging by the answer he gives). Rather, Jesus is really asking a question about who he is. Jesus knows full well that the “where” of the food will be himself. The superabundance of food Jesus provides from so little is a sign of the fullness of Life—his very self—Jesus gives. So, what should have been the answer Philip ought to have given Jesus? “Give them yourself.” Something entirely new is happening here!

This interruption of Mark, during Ordinary Time, gives us a description of the food that sustains us on our paschal journey. This Sunday’s gospel informs us that Jesus is the one who feeds us on the journey—feeds us himself in word (teachings) and deed (sacramental self). No matter how much “dying” we encounter on our journey, Jesus always nourishes us and sustains us if we have eyes to see and believe in the sign he gives. People are hungry. Jesus feeds them. In this sign we know that we are never alone on our journey to eternal life. Jesus is always with us strengthening us with his very self on our journey. We often appropriately turn to Jesus in our needs. This gospel reminds us that we must also turn to Jesus in gratitude for the fullness of life that he offers and for the special gift of Bread that he gives us to sustain us to live the Gospel well. We must turn to Jesus and see the signs that something entirely new is happening in our midst.

Closing Prayers
May we live in such a way that Jesus’ presence is proclaimed and his offer of nourishment is shared with all.

May we continually grow in the knowledge of who Jesus is and willingness to live the Gospel faithfully.

Our Father . . .

For Reflection:
· I am Jesus’ “bread” for others whenever I . . .
· Jesus feeds me with . . . when . . . because . . .

©Living Liturgy 2012

www.stjohnofthecross Go to our parish website to learn more!
Know the Mass, One Word at a Time

Because they are small or quick, some gestures in the Mass can easily escape our notice. One such action is the breaking of the host during the singing or recitation of the “Lamb of God.” Breaking the bread or the host carries deep meaning. The gesture goes back to Jesus, as the words of consecration in the Mass tell us, “. . . he said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples . . .” In the early Church, the whole celebration of the Eucharist was often simply called “the Breaking of Bread.”

The breaking of bread symbolizes the suffering body of Christ broken for us. The breaking of the one bread to feed many symbolizes our unity in Christ. The breaking of bread for later distribution to the sick symbolizes our union with those who cannot be with us in the Mass.

When the two disciples who were going to Emmaus returned to Jerusalem, they told the apostles how they had recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. Even today, in this small gesture, we recognize his presence among us.

Archdiocese of Chicago + Strategic Pastoral Plan

YEAR OF SUNDAY MASS / YEAR OF FAITH

“Root…root…root for the home team!”
While a ballgame is a great pastime – life is more than just peanuts and Cracker Jacks.
Tune in daily to help you stay focused on the ULTIMATE PRIZE.
Chicago 950AM, Chicago West 930AM, NW Indiana 1270AM

For News & Resources Visit:
Archdiocese of Chicago website: www.archchicago.org

www.stjohnofthecross Go to our parish website to learn more!
This Week at SJC

Monday, July 30
8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp
9:30 a.m. Senior Club Planning Meeting
10:30 a.m. 11th Step Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, July 31
8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp
7:00 p.m. Rosary

Wednesday, August 1
8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
6:30 p.m. Christian Meditation Planning Meeting
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, August 2
8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp
7:00 p.m. Baptism Prep Meeting

Friday, August 3
8:00 a.m. Basketball Camp

Saturday, August 4
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Parish News

Church Women United
We are looking for a parishioner to serve as our representative on the local board of Church Women United.

Founded in 1941, Church Women United (CWU) is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women’s movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. CWU engages millions of women representing twenty-six supporting denominations and participating Christian women.

This is a great opportunity to represent our parish and grow in faith as you build community and share in fellowship with other women. Meetings are monthly and held in local churches.

If you are interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity, please call Sue Bidstrup at 708-246-6822.

Youth Catechesis

Stop by the YC Office to register for next year!
The only way we can reserve a spot for your child is with a completed family registration form.
But it’s easy!! Complete the pre-printed form at our office!

Pass on the Faith you received to others!!
Consider being a YC Catechist.
This is the year for you to grow spiritually by sharing with our students!
The wonderful volunteers teaching children welcome you to join this beautiful ministry.

STOP BY TO REGISTER AFTER WE RETURN July 30th!

Office Closed July 15th to 29th
We will be CLOSED the last two weeks in July due to school maintenance.

Youth Catechesis Office *
yc@stjohnofthecross.org *

Baptism Preparation Meeting
The Baptism preparation meeting this month will be held Thursday evening, August 2nd at 7 p.m. in the Parish Center. Godparents as well as new babies are most welcome to attend with parents. Please call the Parish Center if you are coming or if you have any questions.
2012 Summer Basketball Camps
(For boys & girls entering grades 3 – 8)

July 23 – 27, 2012
July 30 – August 3, 2012
Grades 3-5th: 8:00 – 10:00 a.m
Grades 6-8th: 10:00 a.m. – noon
Fee: $85 per session if registered by July 20th
$95 per session at the door
Includes a T-shirt and basketball
Camps will be held at SJC

To register, go to the SJC School website (www/stjohnofthecross.org/school) under “Athletics” and choose “Basketball Camp.” Complete the registration form and return it with the fee (payable to St. John of the Cross) to SJC Parish School, Attn: Donna Webster, 708 51st Street, Western Springs, IL 60558

For questions, contact Brian Shannon at 708-494-3333.

Thank you from Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Dear People of St. John of the Cross Parish,

Thank you for your July “Sharing” check for $700. And thank you for the support of your prayers and caring.

We look forward to meeting several of you at the end of this month. And we hope to come your way at the end of September.

God bless you always.

Sr. Margie and Sr. Joyce and OLPH Parish

The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season.

-- Psalm 145:15

Volunteer Opportunity
The Dominican Literacy Center (1503 Rice St., Melrose Park) is in great need of women volunteers for the 2012-13 session.

This program offers tutoring in reading and speaking of English to women, on a one-to-one basis (one student with one tutor). Classes are once a week, for an hour and ½ session.

Four consecutive and informative training sessions will be held on the evenings of Aug.21 (Tuesday), Aug.23 (Thursday), Aug.27 (Monday), and Aug. 29 (Wednesday). These will be held at the Dominican Literacy Center, beginning at 6:30pm. Participants need to attend ALL four sessions.

To volunteer and register for the tutor-training sessions, please call Sr. Judith or Sr. Martha Marie at 708-338-0659.
CALENDAR

July 28-Aug. 4 OLPH work tour trip
Aug. 7 Habitat & OLPH Reunion 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 14 Frosh/Soph Retreat team mtg 10 a.m.
Aug. 17 Adult Leader Training 9 a.m. or 6 p.m.

ATTENTION
PARENTS OF TEENAGERS:

TEAMS ARE FILLING & THIS IS OUR FINAL CALL FOR TEEN LEADERS!!!! Check out these ways to get involved:

Day of the Spirit Team met & has designated roles…. we have a couple spots open for teens who would like to help lead small groups!
Our Frosh-Soph Retreat Team met last week & will continue preparing for the IDENTITY retreat in January.
Our Freshmen Experience team is looking for a couple more teens to share their knowledge & experience with our incoming freshmen!

Information about these leadership roles can be found at:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/leadership

WANTED: YOU, adults!

Adult roles vary and can be short-term or long-term, behind-the scenes or leading in front of a group, alone or with a friend or spouse. We are open to the young adult & the young at heart adult who has wisdom & experience to share.

Our Freshmen Experience Team & our Freshmen-Home Group Leaders need a few more adults to join the team!

Descriptions of various adult roles can be found at:
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/leadership

Send questions or concerns to Katie Hayes, 708-246-4404 ext. 140 or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

CALLING ALL ADULTS WHO SERVE OUR YOUTH ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FRIDAY AUGUST 17th for our ADULT LEADER TRAINING SESSION

In the Parish Center, choose your session: 9 a.m. or 6 p.m.

It’s sure to be a great opportunity to meet others, connect with your faith and the mission our ministry!

Speaker Rich Curran will lead the time together and allow all of us to be our best as we serve our youth!

Please pray for the 4th & K11 teams as their efforts increase!
Also keep the future retreatants in your prayers as they prepare for this wonderful weekend!

Spending today attending Mass at our Sharing Parish Our Lady of Perpetual Help & visiting with their parishioners, our work tour group is enjoying a week of community, simplicity, and prayer and service.

Please keep our teens & adults in your prayers:
Brian Fox, Sean Maney, Kim Vitale, Mary Kate Maney, Tera Havey, Rachel Schopp Chris Marquett, Vicky Cisek, Al Narbutaitis, John Schopp

Photos and descriptions will follow here & on our website!
One in Prayer with Loved Ones in the Military

Michael Ryan Burke, grandson of Joseph & Laverne Kusper
Captain Brandy Caify, friend of Julie and Katie Warren
A1c Matthew Callaghan, son of Judy Callaghan
Lt. Mark Callari, grandson of Jane Domagala
Captain Sean Christopherson, friend of Katie Warren
Matthew Curin, son of Donna Curin
2Lt. Ken Engberg, Army National Guard
Capt. Michael Federico, son of Rick & Jeanne
Pfc. Amy Harris, niece of Gary & Barbara Ainge
Private First Class Drew Hillebold, National Guard
Sgt. Joseph Johnson, son of Pete & Jan Van Merkestyn
Capt. Kevin Junius
2Lt Catherine Kane, niece of Michael & Terese Kane
Pfc. John T. King, cousin of Catherine Mini
Lt. Matthew Kopp, nephew of Larry & Mimi Powers
Msg. Carl Kroll, son of Mary Lou Kroll and brother of Judi Llapitan
Master Sgt. Matthew Kusper, grandson of Joseph & Laverne Kusper
Capt. James A. Maicke, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke
Spc. Robert Marburger, son of Kathleen and David
Major Brendan D. Masini, M.D., grandson of Marilyn & Charles Scallon
Tim McMillan
Douglas Murphy, brother of Jeanne Fornari
Rief Murphy, nephew of Bill & Molly Iovino
Sgt. Krista Nelson, USMC, niece of Mary and Len Novotny
Ross Rafferty, nephew of John Rafferty
Sgt. Daniel Roche, cousin of Jacqueline McDonnell
Cameron Saltus, cousin of Jack and Rory Gordon
Alex Scalise, nephew of Cathy Pesch
Lance Cpl. Nicholas Schultz, friend of the Chrusciel Family
Jarett Smith, grandson of Dan and Jo Rudakas
Pfc. Robert M. Sullivan, son of Michael & Helen
Spc. Alex Teckenbrock, 3rd Infantry Div. ARMY
Alex Uribarri, son of Mari Uribarri
Lt. Katie Warren, daughter of Julie Warren
Spc. James C. Woods, nephew of Mary Neel

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in you will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, and that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
There's an adage that says that an atheist is simply someone who cannot grasp metaphor. Thomas Halik, the Czech writer, would suggest rather that an atheist is someone who cannot be patient enough with God.

There is a lot of truth in that. Patience with God is perhaps our greatest faith-struggle. God, it would seem, is never in a hurry and because of that we live with an impatience that can test the strongest faith and the stoutest heart.

Life, as we can all attest to, is not without its bitter frustrations and crushing heartaches. We all live with a lot of pain and unresolved tensions. Who among us doesn't experience regularly the pain of sickness, various kinds of personal and professional failure, some kind of humiliation, the inadequacy of self-expression, the soul-searing losses of loved ones, every kind of frustrated longing, and the nagging pain of life's inadequacy? In this life, there's no such a thing as a clear-cut, pure joy; rather everything comes with shadow. We do in fact live inside a certain valley of tears.

We are built for happiness, but pure happiness never quite finds us. Neither, it would seem, does justice. Jesus promised that the meek would inherit the earth, but mostly it doesn't seem that way. The arrogant among us often belie that. There's an infamous Ziggy cartoon which shows him praying to God in these words: I just want to let you know that the meek are still getting clobbered down here! Often that appears to be the case. So where is God? Where is the truth in Jesus' promise about the meek inheriting the earth? In the face of long-standing global injustice we either live in a long-suffering patience with God or we come to believe that neither God's promises nor God's existence hold true.

When Jesus was dying on the cross, some onlookers where taunting him and challenging his message with the words: If you are the Son of God, let him rescue you! In essence: If God is real and your message is true, proof it right now! And God let Jesus die! The same held true for Jesus himself in the face of the death of Lazarus. In essence, he was being challenged: If you possess God's power in this world and you love this man, why don't you save him for dying? Jesus let Lazarus die! And the first community of disciples, immediately after the Ascension, painfully struggled with the same question: Jesus is God and he loves us - so why does he let us die?

Each of us asks that question in our own way because what we want is a God who rescues us, who intervenes actively for justice and goodness in this world, who acts visibly now in this life, and who doesn't let us get sick and die. None of us want a God who asks us to live in a life-long patience, predicated on the promise that in the end, whenever that will be, love and justice will prevail, all tears will be dried, and all will finally be well. We want life, love, justice, and consummation now, not in some distant future and only after a lifetime of heartache. God, as an old Jewish axiom puts it, is never in a hurry!

And so we live with a lot of expressed and unexpressed impatience with God. Atheists, it would seem, at a certain point just give up on playing the game and, in essence, say the words: I've seen enough; I've waited enough; and it's not enough! I will no longer wait for God! But if atheism is just another way of saying I will no longer wait for God than the opposite is also true: Faith is just another way of saying: I will wait for God. If atheism is impatience, faith is patience.

The Italian spiritual writer, Carlo Carretto, after spending more than 20 years in solitude as a monk in the Sahara desert, was asked what single thing he felt that he heard God most say to him inside of the long, deep silence. What, he was asked, do you hear God saying to the world? His answer: God is asking us to wait, to be patient!

Why the need for such great patience? Does God want to test us? Does God want to see if we indeed have a faith that is worthy of a great reward? No. God has no need to play such a game, and neither do we. It's not that God wants to test our patience. The need for patience arises out of the rhythms innate within life itself and within love itself. They need to unfold, as do flowers and pregnancies, according to their own innate rhythms and within their own good time. They cannot be rushed, no matter how great our impatience or how great our discomfort.

And neither can God be rushed because it is his timetable that protects us from perpetually stunting life and love by drawing them through the birth canal prematurely.

Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.
Readings for the Week

Monday: Jer 13:1-11; Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22; Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday: Jer 18:1-6; Mt 13:47-53
Friday: Jer 26:1-9; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24; Mt 14:1-12
Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Ps 78; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
Josephine Humphrey, former parishioner
Susan D’Oronzo
Kathryn Christensen, mother of Amy Cannon

Baptisms
Grace Lucianne,
daughter of Nicholas and Katherine (Reynolds) Federico
Eric Aidan,
son of Michael Dowdle and Mayra Sanchez

Pray for our Sick
God of love,
ever caring, ever strong,
stand by us in our time of need.
Watch over _______ who is sick,
Look after him/her in every danger, and
grant him/her your healing and peace.
We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 30, St. Peter Chrysologus
6:30 Dorothy Carlini
7:45 Genevieve Ziembka; Alice & Alex Sobey

Tuesday, July 31, St. Ignatius
6:30 Chester Kowal
7:45 Maura Clark; John K. Quinlan

Wednesday, August 1, St. Alphonsus
6:30 Jo Renzi
7:45 Frank A. Piszczor; Eugene Klimek

Thursday, August 2, St. Eusebius of Vercelli
7:45 Rita & John Tiberi; Anthony Adolf

Friday, August 3
7:45 Gora & Maier Families; Anthony Madaio

Saturday, August 4, St. John Vianney
8:00 Our Beloved Dead; Jack Goldrick
5:00 Joseph Kmet; Jack Polivka

Sunday, August 5, Eighteenth Sunday Ordinary
7:30 Patricia Wilson; Peter T. Glen
9:00 Phil Nicholson; Lillian Hanson
10:45 Anthony Jacyno; Angela Baumer
5:00 SJC Parishioners; St. Mark Parishioners

Italics—Living

The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

-- Psalm 145:15

Looking to get in touch with us? More info on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org

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SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN —    July 29, 2012

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS — If you know a trick on how to make the picture on the back page better, let me know. Thanks
Fr. Fred Jenga

This weekend we welcome Fr. Fred Jenga, CSC Director of Holy Cross Family Ministries in East Africa to St. John of the Cross. Fr. Fred was formerly the associate pastor of our East Africa sharing parish, Holy Cross in Bugembe, Uganda. Six years ago in July, 2006, when 12 of our St. John of the Cross parishioners traveled to Uganda, they were warmly welcomed by Holy Cross parishioners and Fr. Fred. He has recently spent time at Notre Dame, Indiana for a conference and being so close is able to be with us, but for just two nights.

We are pleased to welcome to him for a brief but blessed time to renew our friendship and relationship.