Keep the commands of the Lord
Dear Parishioners,

Quite often the greatest motivation to continue your education when you are a teenager is getting a summer job. I won’t bore you with the long list of different jobs I had when I was in school, but I did want to share that I was once a card carrying member of the UAW, the United Auto Workers union. Of course, the job had nothing to do with cars except in a very tangential way but that didn’t stop the union from taking payroll deductions from me for a job lasting less than ninety days. It was my privilege to pay my ‘dues’, the older workers told me. The name of the company had nothing to do with cars either. What would long gone ‘Superior Concrete’ in Franklin Park have to do with the cars? Especially since the company didn’t seem to have anything to do with concrete.

If it had been the steel workers union, it may have made more sense. Among a myriad of steel products the company produced, I was involved in making the concrete support racks for a road bed, thus the UAW. When you drive by a road project you can often see these when they are in position just prior to the concrete being poured over them. The approximate one inch round steel bars (often green in color) were laddered in a frame that required spot welding on the joints. Now the spot welder was someone with training and technical skill. He was probably five years older than I was. He worked behind a curtained off area with heavy gloves and a welder’s mask and sparks would fly all over the place. When he finished he would slide out an eight foot length of steel framed support on a conveyor belt and another college kid and I would then lift it from each end and stack them together. The entire plant was so hot and noisy from all the machinery you could barely talk to the person next to you without shouting. I was doing this one day and it was barely eight o’clock in the morning and I was in a complete body sweat from head to toe and I thought to myself: ‘Maybe God is calling me to priesthood.’

Not exactly, but it was certainly clear to all of us that maybe a college degree would help us get the kind of job where you didn’t have to do this stuff all day.

This Labor Day weekend we participate in a long tradition of honoring the place of work in society and the importance of the American worker. The history of labor and the role of unions in organizing workers is more than a simple bulletin article can bear. Mistakes have been made on both sides of management and labor, often costing people’s lives, so we should not forget those sacrifices during these days of recreation. The role of the Church in the labor movement is also long and storied and it would be naïve to romanticize it. For all the long tradition of the Church siding with workers from the days of the papal encyclical *Rerum Novarum* issued in 1891 through Pope John Paul II’s support of the *Solidarity* movement of the rights of workers in Poland, most church employees do not belong to a union. (In fact, less than 12% of the total work force in the United States belongs to a union these days.) Let me share a quote with you I came across recently:

“The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker.”

Pray for a just work place for every worker in the United States and around the world. Pray for those who are underemployed and undercompensated and those who struggle to find any kind of employment in order to provide for their families. Pray for a resolution of the challenges providing health insurance that is connected with employment. What was once seen as a benefit of a generous employer to employees is now forcing life and death decisions by insurance companies and health care providers. Who sleeps easily at night if they do not have health insurance for themselves and their family? We’ve got to figure it out.

With so many issues of today being connected with work or the lack of it, pray we learn how to provide for ourselves while caring for others as well. Dedicate yourself to safe work environments and systems of employment and the creation of wealth that are also rooted in liberty and justice for all. What could be more American?

Peace,
Fr. David
Reflections

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

Central to this gospel is the question, Where does the heart lie? Jesus teaches that observance of the Law and tradition is not an end in itself but an indication of where the heart lies. External actions reveal the internal desire to remain faithful to our covenantal relationship with God. Jesus calls us to the true purpose of the Law: a heart centered on God. Jesus restores the priority of God’s Law over various interpretations of the law and moves the discussion with the Pharisees and scribes from outward observances to inward intention. In this way Jesus calls all of us back to the true purpose of Law and tradition: conversion of heart.

It’s relatively easy to change outward things about ourselves, for example, hairstyle, clothes, facelift, etc. But to change a lifestyle (for example, following a healthy diet, stopping smoking) requires a consistent, lifelong effort. So, too, is conversion a life-long struggle to do the work of interior transformation so that our interior intentions and external actions match up. In baptism we are plunged into the waters that destroy our old selves so we might rise in the new identity of Body of Christ. This baptismal identity and life in Christ defines our relationship with God. The real challenge is to surrender to God’s action deep within us and allow that interiorization of our identity and relationship with God to be expressed in our observable actions. The dying and rising of the paschal mystery urge that our interior and exterior selves be the same. Only when our actions witness to hearts turned toward God can we be “pure.” We spend our whole lives learning how to conform our interior intention with our identity as members of the Body of Christ. Conversion is not easy nor swiftly achieved. The process does ensure us life in God and right relationships with each other. Ongoing conversion assures us hearts centered on God.

Closing Prayers

May we always keep our hearts centered on God.
May we heed Jesus’ call to discern where our hearts lie and choose to follow him more faithfully.
Our Father . . .

For Reflection

· When God is not at the center of my life, what comes out of my heart is . . .
· When my loving relationship with God is at the heart of my life, my choices are . . . my values are . . .

Readings for the week:

22nd Sunday in Ord. Time
Deut 4:1-2, 6-8
Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5
Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Monday
1 Cor 2:1-5
Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102
Luke 4:16-30

Tuesday
1 Cor 2:10b-16
Ps 145:8-9, 0-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14
Luke 4:31-37

Wednesday
1 Cor 3:1-9
Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-21
Luke 4:38-44

Thursday
1 Cor 3:18-23
Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6

Friday
1 Cor 4:1-5
Ps 37:3-4, 5, 6, 27-28, 39-40

Saturday Nativity of Virgin Mary
Mic 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30
Ps 13:6ab, 6c
Matt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

23rd Sunday in Ord. Time
Isa 35:4-7a
Ps 146:7, 8-9, 10
Jas 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

Year of Sunday Mass
Question of the Week

In today’s Mass, we hear JAMES urge us: “Welcome the word…be doers of the word and not hearers only…”

After hearing the readings for today’s celebration of the Mass, how might you, in the next week, “be a doer of the word?” Be specific.

Meditation on Silence
Rev. Richard Rohr

At times we have to step into God’s silence and wait. We have to put out the fleece as Gideon did (Judges 6:37-40), and wait for the descent of the divine dew, or some kind of confirmation from God. That is a good way to keep our own ego drive out of the way.

There are other times when we need to go ahead and act on our own best intuitions and presume that God is guiding us—but even then we must wait for the divine backup. Sometimes that is even the greater act of faith and courage.

When either waiting or moving forward is done out of a spirit of union and surrender, we can trust that God will make good out of it—even if we are mistaken! It is not about being correct; it is about being connected.

Prayer:

Listen to the stillness, the language of God.

www.stjohnofthecross.org  Go to our parish website to learn more! 3
In discernment there is always a confusion of options, because there are many things that stir our interest.

Suggestion: Reach for the dominant interest.

In discernment the decision-making process is a complicated process because there are layers of decisions in shaping any real direction in life.

Suggestion: Follow the leads that are in front of you.

In discernment the present moment always feels a bit uncertain because we only get a partial glimpse of life in that present moment … never the full picture that we want.

Suggestion: Trust what you know.

In discernment you will always encounter a certain amount of inner resistance because there is real risk in making any significant decision.

Suggestion: Explore the depth of love in making an important decision.

In discernment the road is always a bit foggy because the future remains a bit hidden from our view.

Suggestion: Take one step at a time.

For more information contact:
Fr. Brian Welter, Vocation Director
835 N. Rush Street
Chicago, IL 60611
312-534-8298
bwelter@archchicago.org

INSEARCH DISCERNMENT GROUP: Begins October 9th

INSEARCH is a program for post-college-age men with serious interest in diocesan priesthood. The program runs from October through March. The design of the program is based on the principle that a man must first attend to growth as a human being, then as a Christian disciple, and finally a priest. INSEARCH meetings are held in downtown Chicago. The program includes opportunities to learn and grow in Catholic prayer forms such as Lectio Divina, Liturgy of the Hours, and other forms of meditation common to priests. The program also features seminarian guest speakers sharing their vocational call stories as well as priests sharing the stories of their spiritual lives and current work in ministry. It has a long history of success in helping men to discern their vocation. This "success" is helping men know more clearly God's vocational call for them.

www.stjohnofthecross.org  Go to our parish website to learn more!
Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life
A Live-Streamed Presentation by Richard Rohr, OFM

Friday, September 21: 6-8 p.m.
Saturday, September 22: 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
The Well ~ A Ministry of the Congregation of St. Joseph
1515 W Ogden Avenue, LaGrange Park

The first half of our lives is centered on establishing our identities, building our world, and moving up. As we transition into the second half of life, however, our worlds often fall apart in certain ways and we begin to search for meaning. In this event we will explore how experiences of failure and suffering are integral steps on the path to spiritual growth and maturity. We will also explore the counterintuitive and inspiring concept that is through falling down that we can truly begin to understand what it means to go “up.”

Richard Rohr, OFM, is a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico province and acts as a founding director of the Center for Action and Contemplation. Rohr also founded the New Jerusalem Community in Cincinnati. He is an internationally known speaker, has authored more than 20 books, and contributes to numerous spiritual periodicals.

Because our parish co-sponsors this event at The Well, the cost of attending the presentation is waived for SJC parishioners. You are only asked to cover the cost of your lunch ($10) which you may pay that day. To reserve a seat, please leave your name, phone, and email with the parish center receptionist. 708-246-4404.

Adult Formation: Presentation by Richard Rohr, OFM

Adult Formation: Rediscovering Vatican II Lecture Series

Please join Catholic Theological Union in a series of lectures as we celebrate and reflect on the 50th anniversary of the convening of the Second Vatican Council by Pope John XXIII in October of 1962.

The lectures will take place on Wednesday evenings, September 12 through December 5, from 7 to 8:15 p.m. on the second floor of the Academic Center located at 5326 S. Cornell, Chicago. The lectures are open to guests for $10 per lecture. You may pay at the door. Come to one or all of the lectures. To ensure a spot, register after August 27th by phone at 773-371-5432 or email at bernardincenter@ctu.edu. Complimentary parking is available in the CTU garage.

This lecture series will first set the event of Vatican II within its historical context and will offer a brief overview of what happened in the Council’s four sessions from 1962 until 1965. It will then reflect on issues emerging from the four major Constitutions that the Council produced—documents on the Liturgy, Revelation, the Church, and the Church in the Modern World—and from selected additional documents, such as those on the Laity, Missionary Activity Priesthood, Religious Life, Non-Christian Religions, and Religious Freedom.

September 12  Big Perspectives on a Big Meeting: Vatican II in Context, Stephen Bevans, S.V.D.
September 19  Vatican II and the Church, Antonio Sison, C.PP.S.
September 26  Vatican II and Revelation, Donald Senior, C.P.
October 3     Vatican II and the Liturgy, Ed Foley, Capuchin
October 10    Vatican II and the Church in the World, Robert Schreiter, C.PP.S.
October 24    Vatican II and the Laity, Carmen Nanko Fernandez
October 31    Vatican II and Ordained Ministry, James Bacik
November 7    Vatican II and Religious Life, Barbara Reid, O.P.
November 14   Vatican II and the Church’s Mission, Stephen Bevans, S.V.D.
November 28   Vatican II, Ecumenism and Religious Freedom, Jeff Gros
December 5    Vatican II and Other Religious Ways, Scott Alexander

If you are unable to attend in person, the lectures will be available online beginning October 1, 2012 at Learn@CTU.
**Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study Begins**
**Tuesday, September 4th**
1:30 p.m., Parish Center

**Little Rock Fall Scripture Study Begins**
**September 10, 1 p.m.**
Parish Center

“**Good News in New Places**”
This nine-week study describes how Christianity spread from its beginning with the Jews and other followers in Jerusalem to the gentiles in Antioch and beyond. The associated commentary references selected scriptures, especially in Acts and Paul’s Epistles, but also in other passages of the Old and New Testaments.

The commentary is read by the Little Rock group in preparation for a discussion based on questions in a study guide. The discussion is followed by a video lecture by a bible expert about the study for that week. Meetings of the group are on Mondays from 1-2:30 p.m. The cost of materials for this study is $20. Please call Joan Roeder at 708-354-4862 to register even if you have previously participated in Little Rock. All are welcome.

**Writing with Women**
**Starting September 19**
Wednesdays for six weeks from 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Where: 1218 Morgan Ave., La Grange Park, IL

Do you enjoy journaling? Are you looking for spiritual growth? Would you like meeting and sharing with other women? Then you will enjoy this unique opportunity of coming together to unearth your pearls about aging and share your wisdom using the questions from Aging As A Spiritual Practice by Lewis Richmond. Cost: $40 (plus cost of book)

Jane Kucera, your facilitator and author is a Spiritual Director who has been journaling for over 30 years. She also has extensive experience in facilitating a variety of groups. She has led classes such as: The Artist’s Way, Vein of God, Ira Progoff’s Journaling and numerous others. Her latest journaling was using the Bridges Spiritual Series. We are hoping for fun, new insights and reflections on this wonderful stage of life.

Space is limited. Call Jan Kucera today to reserve your place. 708-579-1785

**New Thinking for a New Era**
**How Contemplative Prayer Transforms Consciousness and the World**
With Richard Rohr, OFM and Laurence Freeman OSB
Chicago Marriott O’Hare, Chicago, IL
Friday-Sunday February 15-17

**Discounted Early Registration thru November 30, 2012**
You are invited to hear and interact with these two spiritual leaders as they teach and share their wisdom in Dialogue on Contemplative Prayer and the Spiritual Urgency of Our Time. In this seminar, these two spiritual friends for our time will be offering ways we can put our deepest aspirations for personal realization and social transformation into practice. Their combined focus on contemplation and action and their shared passion for truth illuminate the origins of our crisis and show us the path toward lasting change and a more just and loving humanity. For more information 708-246-8315 or nt4ne2013@gmail.com. To register by phone with credit card: 520-829-3197 Sharon@mediomedia.org.
Are you a “woman in the pew?”
Join the next Endow Group

Begins Wednesday, September 19, 1-3 p.m. (8 weeks)
In Honor of the Year of Faith

*Lumen Gentium* - Light of the Nations
For an authentic understanding of the Vatican II Document

Meet in the Parish Center. No homework! We do everything together when we meet.
The cost of the course is $80 (Scholarships are available) Child care will be made available if you wish.

Register at: [www.endowgroups.org](http://www.endowgroups.org)
Questions? Call Sue 708-246-7870 or email strokase@yahoo.com.

Love the learning. Build the friendships. Live the faith.

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Join us at Loretto Center on Saturday, September 22, 2012
Sponsored by IBVM Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Committee

**Faithful Citizenship**
An Exploration of the Catholic Church’s Social Teaching
A Discernment Guide for Voters

**Presenters:**
Tom Garlitz, Director of the Office for Human Dignity
Christie Billups, Prof. of Theology, Lewis University, Romeoville
Barb Nelson, IBVM, Teacher, St. Francis High School, Wheaton

Saturday, September 22, 10:30 a.m.—12:00 noon
Loretto Center, 1600 Somerset Lane, Wheaton, IL
630-653-7918

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**Special Needs Religious Education Offered**

SPRED (Special Needs Religious Education) for children ages 6-10 years old is being offered at neighboring Divine Providence Parish. This program is offered to all children with a developmental disability in our vicariate. For more information please call Ms. Christine Schweins-DeFoe, Director of Religious Education at 708-562-3422 or divprovduc@dprov.org. She will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

*Divine Providence Parish*
2550 Mayfair, Westchester, IL
**KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME**

Do you actually walk at Mass? Yes, in fact, you do. You walk in. You walk out. You walk up for Holy Communion. A few people walk up to bring the gifts to the priest. The priest himself and other ministers walk and move across the sanctuary. There is more movement in the Mass than you might expect to find. But, does it mean anything? It does.

Walking is a way of getting from one place to another. Walking in the Mass is a sign of our movement. We are going somewhere. We have a destination, and we are on the way. This is what the Second Vatican Council meant when it called the Church the “pilgrim people of God,” people on the move, people with a destination in God. Each time we celebrate Mass and engage its movements, we remember who we are. And, even more, we recall our holy destination.

Archdiocese of Chicago + Strategic Pastoral Plan

**YEAR OF SUNDAY MASS / YEAR OF FAITH**


**This Week at SJC**

**Monday, September 3**
9:00 a.m. Mass

**Tuesday, September 4**
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
7:00 p.m. YC Council Meeting

**Wednesday, September 5**
9:30 a.m. Wednesday Morning Bible Study
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
6:30 p.m. 8th Grade Catechist Meeting
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

**Thursday, September 6**
7:00 p.m. Baptism Prep Meeting

**Friday, September 7**
9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club Meeting
7:00 p.m. Men’s Club BBQ and Bags

**Saturday, September 8**
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:30 a.m. How to Meditate with Your Children

**Sunday, September 9**
10:00 a.m. Crossroads Advisory Meeting
6:00 p.m. Crossroads Kick-Off Lower Level East & West

**Labor Day Mass Monday**
**September 3, 9 a.m.**

Today, Lord, we pray for not only all workers, but also for those who struggle to find a job in this frail economy. Watch over those who work long hours for very little compensation. May everyone who works find happiness in their lives, with time to enjoy family, friends and Your love. Amen.

For News & Resources Visit:
Archdiocese of Chicago website:
www.archchicago.org
USCCB: US Catholic Council of Bishops website:
www.usccb.org

Our regular Mass schedule resumes with the 12:15 p.m. Mass next weekend on Sunday, September 9.

www.stjohnofthecross.org Go to our parish website to learn more!
Celebrate your Wedding Anniversary with Us!

Beginning this month, couples celebrating their wedding anniversary during the month are invited to share a photo of themselves, a copy of their wedding invitation or marriage ceremony program with our parish. These will be posted together in the main kiosk in the church narthex. Mementos can be dropped off at the Parish Center or given to one of the priests after Mass. All items will be returned at the end of the month. Married and engaged couples will be remembered in prayer regularly at Mass.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA)

CLASSES BEGIN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, at 7 P.M. IN THE PARISH CENTER

AN INFORMATION SESSION WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 11, 7 P.M. IN CHURCH TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RCIA PROGRAM

If you are an adult who has thought about becoming Catholic or who was baptized Catholic but never completed the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation, then the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) is the program for you! For more information about this adult formation program, join us on Tuesday evening, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. in church to have all your questions answered. The evening will last about an hour and will offer an overview of the RCIA program and more information about joining this year’s RCIA.

Contact Fr. Filbert, 708-246-4404 or email fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org for more information.
CALENDAR

Sept. 1 Crossroads Registrations DUE!
Sept. 9 Soph-Jun-Sen Kickoff Event
Sept. 16 Frosh/Soph Retreat Team mtg
Sept. 17 Frosh Experience Team mtg
Sept. 23 Freshmen Experience Kick-off

Crossroads Youth Ministry
Registration CONTINUES!

Parents of high school teens can log onto our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

Check out our reflections from our teen work tourists at the top of the page & then just below them on the left is a photo collage that says REGISTRATION for you to click on and begin the process.

We appreciate your patience as we adjust & improve this registration process!

I WANT YOU, adults of our Parish!

In the past week we have had three Crossroads Alumni, young adults back in the area sign-on to help our Youth Ministry. They are giving back to a ministry that guided them during their tough high school years because they know it helps foster faith in our teenagers. We are grateful to have their support with our Freshmen Experience Team & the Kairos 12 retreat team!

The more adults we get involved in our youth ministry, the more we can actively engage our teens & their families in becoming disciples of Christ.

Check out our Mission Statement online at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads (scroll to bottom of main page to read it)

My role is to engage our parish in guiding our teens in their faith & the only way I can do this is with YOUR HELP!

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

Send questions or concerns to me! Katie Hayes, Director of Youth Ministry
708-246-4404 ext. 140 or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

ALL SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS & SENIOR HOME GROUPS will join together at our kick-off for a dodge ball tournament!

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9th 6 p.m.
Wear gym shoes, meet at the Parish Center & you’ll get directions to your court, enjoy pizza and visit with friends in between matches.

BEGINS Sept. 23rd 6 p.m. in the Parish Center Lower Level!
Our team met last week to begin preparations for a great welcome to all our freshmen. Upper-class teens will lead this group with the support of caring adults.
We have one couple ready to serve as home group leaders when we transition later in the fall. The sooner our next couples join us the more experience and training they can receive!
Please keep this need in your prayers!
This year begins as our students continue the school theme of being ready, respectful, and responsible. We have also expanded the theme this year to include, “Sharing our Gifts of Faith,” in conjunction with the Archdiocesan strategic plan, Year of the Sunday Mass. Students at SJC will be acknowledged for recognizing their faith in their daily lives.

Pre School Begins its 2012-13 Year in Full Color.
The Pre School teachers welcomed 76 students into their classrooms this week. While the three year olds work focused around the color red by listening to stories, participating in projects, and singing songs all about the color, the four year olds began their reading program, “Happily Ever After” and studied the story, Little Red Riding Hood.
Our week concluded by celebrating our first all school liturgy.

Wildcats are Busy.
While the football and cheerleading program had a wonderful first game, volleyball and girls’ basketball spiked with 40 participants on the 5th and 6th grade volleyball teams and 53 participants in the 7th and 8th grade girls’ basketball program.

First Game Huddle

This Week at SJC
September 3 – Labor Day, No School
September 5 – Meet the Teacher Night, 6:30 p.m.
Helping Hand Center in Countryside is working to provide apartments for 8 developmentally disabled adults who require care 24/7. The apartments which are owned by Helping Hand and are located in Lyons are being totally rehabbed for the occupants. If you can help, please contact Bill Bright our Director of Outreach. 708-246-4404 x130

Labor: Painting of all common areas – Walls in Living and activity room, kitchen, 2 bathrooms and hallways. Painting is ready anytime starting Monday, 8/27, and available Monday through Fridays 9am-3pm. Window trim will be ready for painting in approximately 2 weeks, after installation of windows.

Furnishings and materials: Will need anytime starting next week, 8/27.
- Cabinets and countertops for activity room
- Round Activity table with 6 chairs
- Living room couch and 3 chairs
- Area rug – 10x12 or larger
- 4 end tables
- Lamps – table and floor styles
- Entertainment center
- Kitchen supplies/equipment:
  - Dishes (dinner and salad plates, soup/cereal bowls) & flatware – service for 16
  - Glassware (juice and water sizes) & coffee mugs – service for 16
  - Toaster, Blender, coffee maker, hand mixer, can opener
  - Cookware – Large sizes of fry pans, sauté pans, pasta/soup pots
  - Cooking utensils
  - Knife set and cutting board
  - Baking and casserole dishes – cookies sheets, pizza pans, muffin pans, loaf pans, 9x13 or larger casserole dishes and baking pans
  - Pot holders and oven mitts (6), kitchen towels (8-12)
- Window blinds: 2” faux wood white in Kitchen, Dining Room, Living Room, Activity Room – will be ready for installation in 2-3 weeks after window installation and painting is complete.
Hello, my name is Riley Marshall. I am part of Boy Scout Troop 117 and I am working on my Eagle Scout project. I went to SJC from kindergarten through 8th grade and am now a freshman at Benet Academy. Many of you may know my Grandpa, Mike Marshall and Grandma, Diana Marshall, who have been parishioners here since 1962.

For my project, I am doing a collection drive for the Hynes VA Hospital in Maywood, Illinois. Our veterans have sacrificed so much for us; it would be great if we could do something for them. Hynes Hospital does so much great work helping our vets; I am hoping you will join me in giving back to them by donating to this drive. I know this firsthand because they have taken great care of my Grandpa, a WWII veteran, for many years.

Below is a list of items they always need. Most of these are rather inexpensive so if you could donate as many of these as possible it would be a huge help. There are plastic collection totes in the Church lobby with signs on them. They will be there for 4 weeks running from September 8th through the 30th.

Also, similar to the Ronald McDonald House, the VA also has a residence for out-of-town relatives visiting patients for an extended period of time, and that is called Fisher House. There is a separate list/tote for that area as those visitors also need things when they area here. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping our veterans.

**PERSONAL CARE ITEMS**

(INDIVIDUAL SIZES PLEASE)

- AFTERSHAVE (alcohol free)
- DENTURE ADHESIVE
- DENTURE CLEANER (tablets)
- DEODORANT / ANTI-PERSPIRANT
- DISPOSABLE DIXIE CUPS
- COMBS
- LIP BALM / CHAPSTICK
- LOTION, HAND &/or BODY
- MAGNIFYING GLASSES
- MIRRORS (hand held)
- MOUTHWASH (alcohol free)
- NAIL CLIPPERS
- RAZORS (disposable)
- SHAMPOO
- SHAVING CREAM
- TISSUE (pocket size)
- TOOTHBRUSH
- TOOTHPASTE

**CLOTHES, BOOKS & MISC. ITEMS**

- NEW UNDERSHIRTS (L, XL, XXL, +)
- NEW UNDERWEAR (L, XL, XXL, +)
- NEW WHITE SOCKS
- NON SKID SLIPPER SOCKS
- SWEATPANTS (L, XL, XXL, +)
- SWEATSHIRTS (L, XL, XXL, +)
- WINTER STRETCH GLOVES
- WINTER STRETCH HATS
- CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOKS
- FIND-A-WORD BOOKS (WOOD SEARCH)
- PLAYING CARDS
- SUDUKO BOOKS
- PAPERBACKS (MUST BE EXCELLENT CONDITION – NO HARDCOVERS)
- WEEKLY MAGAZINES NO OLDER THAN ONE MONTH
- MONTHLY MAGAZINES NO OLDER THAN ONE YEAR

**ITEMS FOR THE VA’S FISHER HOUSE**

(for relatives of hospital patients, similar to Ronald McDonald House)

- GROCERY STORE GIFTS CARDS (Target, Jewel etc)
- LIQUID DETERGENT FOR HE WASHERS
- FABRIC SOFTENER SHEETS FOR DRYER
- LIQUID DISH SOAP
- MULTI PURPOSE CLEANERS
- DISHWASHER ALL IN ONE SOAPS
- TUPPERWARE CONTAINERS (large)
ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER
For Bishop Abramowicz Seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago

On Sunday, September 9, 2012, the annual benefit dinner for Bishop Abramowicz Seminary will take place at the Westin O’Hare Hotel in Rosemont. The evening will start with Cocktails and Silent Auction at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are $175 per person.

Bishop Abramowicz Seminary program is unique. Commencing in September, 1999, it has annually recruited seminarians in Poland who, with the approval of their respective bishops there, have each freely elected to leave their native Poland with the idea of completing their seminary training here, first at Bishop Abramowicz Seminary program in Chicago, then at Mundelein Seminary.

Among those attending will be His Eminence Cardinal Francis George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago along with the auxiliary bishops of Chicago. During the dinner Mr. Roman Szabelski, Executive Director for the Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Chicago, will be honored with the Caritas Christi Award.

For tickets and reservations please call Mrs. Camille Kopielski 847-394-2520. For further information call also Very Rev. Marek Kaspirczuk 312-915-0598.

Job Support Group Six-Week Workshop
BEGIN TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us at the First Presbyterian Church of La Grange for a six-week job support skills workshop beginning Tuesday evening, September 18, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Whether you are unemployed, under-employed, looking for a career change or a recent grad looking for your first professional position, this workshop is for you.

First Presbyterian Church of La Grange is located at 150 South Ashland Avenue. Meetings will be held in Westminster Hall. Please enter church on Catherine Avenue.

Everyone is welcome and there is no fee for attending. We hope you will join us!

For further information, please call FPCLG’s church office at 708.354.0771.

Interfaith Career Network offers job support through various programs throughout the month. For further information, please visit our website at www.interfaithcareerternetwork.org.

Top Ten Items Needed at This Time
1. Peanut Butter (28 oz or less, plastic jars only)
2. Jelly (32 oz or less, plastic jars only)
3. Individual cold drink mix packets (Gatorade, Propel, etc)
4. Mints-Starlight, Lifesavers or Tic Tac types
5. Individually wrapped snacks
6. Dried fruit: raisins, apricots, cranberries, cherries, blueberries, etc.
7. Shaving cream (non aerosol preferred)
8. Body wash for men (18 oz or less)
9. Dental floss/floss picks
10. Lip Balm (Chapstick, etc)
11. AA or AAA Batteries

Operation Support Our Troops ~ Illinois

Annual Parish wide Collection:
September 2nd through September 16th
Donation Boxes in Church and Parish Center
Questions: Contact Debbie Pusinelli
(708) 246-6760 ext 251

The mission of Operation Support Our Troops IL is to supplement the basic provisions provided to American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and stationed overseas. The packages we send include packaged treats and toiletries that our troops cannot easily obtain.

ANNUAL PARISH WIDE COLLECTION
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Outreach
The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord. (Psalm 15)

The Contemporary Ensemble and the Traditional Choir rehearsals begin soon!
The Contemporary Ensemble is a group of singers and instrumentalists (guitars, flutes, you name it!) who provide contemporary style music at the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass. Rehearsals meet on Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:30 p.m., beginning September 6th.
The Traditional Choir sings music in a variety of styles including Classical masterworks and traditional hymns and leads singing at the 10:45 a.m. Sunday Mass. Rehearsals meet on Wednesday evenings, 7:30–9:30 p.m., beginning September 5th.
Contact Jessica Koch to find out more or to try us on for size at our first rehearsal without obligation!
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org  (708) 246-4404, ext. 136

Children’s Choir Start up Dates!!
Did you know that St. John of the Cross has two choirs available to all children in the parish?
Cherub Choir serves children in grades 1-3 and practices on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 4:30 p.m. in the church. The start date is Sept. 12th with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20.
Youth Choir serves students in grades 4-8, and practices on Thursdays from 3:45 – 4:30 in the church. The start date is Sept. 13th with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20.
Mark your calendars as you schedule your kids for fall activities!
Questions?
Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708)246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Night Choir – “5 Alive”
Are you a high school/college aged person looking for a way to get involved in music at St. John of the Cross? St. John’s Sunday night 5:00 p.m. Mass is looking for you! The choir sings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month with a rehearsal just before Mass at 4:00 p.m. No regular commitment is needed – you only come when it works for you! Start date is Sept. 16.
Questions?  Call or email Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708)246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net

SJC Men’s Club
All men of the parish are invited to our annual Cookout and Bags Tournament
Friday September 7th at 7:00 p.m.
East Lawn of the Parish Center
$20.00 per team entry fee
Any questions contact:
Steve Ryan  246-6303
Barrett Long 784-9224

Calling all Parish Moms!
Please join us for our next meeting on Friday, September 7th in the Parish Center from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Childcare will be available for this meeting, as it will be every first Friday of the month, to allow for more adult-centered conversation.
So, please join us with your little ones for our first monthly Coffee Talk!
Questions? Contact Colleen Whittingham at whitting910@yahoo.com

SJC Cub Scout News
The new year is here and the Cub Scouts have just kicked off a new web site. To see the fun things in store or to see what we are about, visit http://www.pack3117.org.
Remember, Scouts not only can be fun for the family, but it builds character in the boy, and strengthens faith and family.
The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.  (Psalm 15)
There's a well-known axiom that I will phrase more delicately than its usual expression. It goes this way: Every time you tell yourself that you should do something, you pay a bad price. The insinuation is that we are forever mistaking the voice of neurosis for the voice of conscience and putting ourselves under false obligations that rob us of both of freedom and maturity.

Is that true? Yes and no. The axiom sounds cleverer than it is. It says that there should not be any shoulds in our lives; but that statement is self-contradictory.

Still it needs to be given its due. There's wisdom in its instinct, even if it is expressed with the subtlety of a sledgehammer. It has this positive challenge:

Many times when we feel a nagging obligation inside ("I must do this! I should do that!") the imperative is not coming from God or truth but from some other voice that is being falsely heard as the voice of God. Put more technically, most of the voices we hear inside that demand that we do something are psychological and emotional rather than moral or religious. They don't tell us what's right or wrong, or what God wants of us, they only tell us how we feel about certain things. For example: a feeling of guilt does not indicate that we did something wrong, it only tells how we feel about what we did, and that feeling can be healthy or unhealthy. Perhaps we didn't do anything wrong at all, but are only wounded and neurotic. Sorrow and contrition are better indicators of morality than any feeling of guilt.

So where do these feelings of obligation and guilt come from? They come from nature and nurture, from genetics and socialization, from our unconscious and from our wounds. Freudians, Jungians, and Hillmanians offer different explanations, but they all agree on the main thing, that is, many of the voices inside of us that speak of right and wrong and demand that we do this or that are not moral or religious voices at all. They may well have important things to teach us but, if we take them as the voice of God and morality, we will end up acting out of something other than God and conscience. Many of the 'shoulds' we feel inside of us are not the voice of conscience at all.

But, with that being said, some important qualifications need to be added: Simply put, sometimes the voice of obligation that we feel inside is profoundly moral and religious, God's voice. False voices speak inside but so too do true ones. C.S. Lewis, for example, in describing his own conversion, shares how he didn't want to become a Christian but something inside of him told him that he had to become one. Despite being "the most reluctant convert in the history of Christendom", at a point in his life, he came to realize that God's compulsion was his liberation. He became a Christian because, paradoxically, in a moment of genuine freedom, he came to know he had no other choice existentially except to surrender himself to something, God's compulsion, which presented itself to him as an obligation.

"God's compulsion" is precisely a deep and authentic 'should' inside us, and the great paradox is that when we submit to it we become freer and more mature. It's also what brings joy into our lives. It's no accident that the book in which Lewis describes this experience is called, Surprised by Joy.

There's a great paradox at the heart of life that's hard to accept, namely, that freedom lies in obedience, maturity lies in surrender, and joy lies in accepting duty and obligation. Jesus clearly taught and embodied this paradox: He was the freest human person to ever walk this planet, yet he insisted constantly that he did nothing on his own, that everything he did was in obedience to his Father. He was the paradigm of human maturity, even as his life was one within which he habitually surrendered his own will. And he was free of all false religion, false morality, and false guilt, even as he constantly drew upon moral and religious imperatives deep inside of his own soul and inside of his own religious tradition.

Simone Weil, that extraordinary philosopher and mystic who guarded her freedom so deeply that, despite her belief in the truth of Christ, she resisted baptism because she wasn't sure that the visible church on earth merited this kind of trust, was, despite fierce instinctual resistance, clear that what she ultimately wanted and needed was to be obedient. We spend our whole lives, she once stated, searching for someone or something to be obedient to because unless we give ourselves over in obedience to something greater than ourselves, we inflate and grow silly - even to ourselves. She's right.

We need to stop obeying false voices inside of us. Neurosis is not to be confused with conscience. But, that being admitted, there are some 'shoulds" that we should do!

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.

www.stjohnofthecross.org  Go to our parish website to learn more!
### Eternal Rest

Grant unto These, O Lord

Patricia Neumann, sister of Tom McGorey
Theresa Ripoli, mother of Mary Cavalieri, grandmother of Suzanne Placzek and great grandmother of David, Marla and Laura
William Sturgeon, husband of Alice

### Mass Intentions

- **Monday, September 3, St. Gregory the Great**
  - 9:00 Arlene Bishop; Edward and Joanne Lewis

- **Tuesday, September 4**
  - 6:30 Josephine Humphrey
  - 7:45 John Pecis; Ted & Leona Rompala

- **Wednesday, September 5**
  - 6:30 Our Beloved Dead
  - 7:45 Chester & Evelyn Kowal; Helen McDonnell; Mark Koscielski

- **Thursday, September 6**
  - 7:45 Eugene Garvy; Elizabeth Langenderfer

- **Friday, September 7**
  - 7:45 Eugene Garvy; Lyons Family

- **Saturday, September 8**
  - 8:00 Sally Greenan; Esposito Family
  - 5:00 Betty Cook; Patricia Hamilton

- **Sunday, September 9, Twenty-third Sunday**
  - **Ordinary Time**
  - 7:30 Walter & Patricia Cebula; Susan D’Oronzo
  - 9:00 Dr. Robert Strzyz; Gora & Maier Families
  - 10:45 Don Spiering; Dr. Wm. Buckingham
  - 12:15 SJC and St. Thaddeus Parishioners
  - 5:00 Donald Parker; Henry Tymick

*Italics—Living*

### 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, andgrant him/her your healing and peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Angie Babicz
Mary Bartucci
Tracy Bucciarelli
Garth Christie
Ashley Davis
Mary Sue
Donohue
Kimberly Edwards
David Harrington
Karen Hult
Ruth Ilg
Tom Jass
Emily Johanns
Adriane Kane
Jacob Kenny
Betty Knott
Rita Koziol
Ray Kula
Cathy Laskey
Greg LaValle
Yvonne Lowry
Meredith Mangold
Thomas Martin
Olga Matusik
Moon Meehan
Mack Nelson
Patricia Neumann
Tommy Niemeyer
Elmina Ngwila
Nancy Olin
Greg Palaschak
Andrew Park
Matthew Pecis
Raymond Principe
Rosemary Rissler
Kathie Saldana
Rita Shetelpie
Bob Sturenfeldt
Norma Sumpay

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<td></td>
<td>1 Cor 2:1-5; Lk 4:16-30</td>
<td>1 Cor 2:10b-16; Lk 4:31-37</td>
<td>1 Cor 3:1-9; Lk 4:38-44</td>
<td>1 Cor 3:18-23; Lk 5:1-11</td>
<td>1 Cor 4:1-5; Lk 5:33-39</td>
<td>Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]</td>
<td>Is 35:4-7a; Ps 146; Jas 2:1-5; Mk 7:31-37</td>
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### Bapctism Preparation Meeting

**Thursday, September 6, 7 p.m.**

**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.

**Wedding Banns**

Andrew Meyer and Kimberly Caplis

### Website

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

Fr. David Dowdle
Fr. Fil Ngwila
John Schopp
Bill Bright
Janet Caschetta
Jim Clauer
Kathleen Gorman
Katie Hayes
Jessica Koch
MJ Martin

Pastor
Associate Pastor
Deacon
Outreach
Director of Youth Catechesis
Worship
School Principal
Crossroads High School
Music
Operations

ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org
jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
As the summer is coming to an end, you are cordially invited to join us for

A Morning of Meditation
How to Meditate with Your Children

All are invited:
Parents, grandparents, teachers, catechists, meditators
Those who want to learn to meditate, and
Those who want to know more about meditation.

Saturday, September 8, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
St. John of the Cross Parish Center

Sponsored by the Christian Meditation group (wccm.org)
Freewill offering accepted.
Reservations are requested but not required.

Contact:
Mary – 708-246-5108 or mary105105@gmail.com