TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME
Dear Parishioners,

Today is the kick-off weekend for our religious education program, Youth Catechesis. Or as everyone calls it, ‘YC’. There will be close to 1,100 children (eventually—we know we have some unregistered children and families) enrolled in all of the programs that YC offers. There will be approximately 625 families sending their children to us for religious education. In order to pull off a program of this size we have 206 volunteers, made up of 161 parents, 22 teenagers and 23 adults with no children in the program.

All of that being said, there is one more critical component to understand the YC program, and that component is the dedication of the staff. Our director, Janet Caschetta, together with the grade level coordinators, Deb Pusinelli (7-8), Cathy Mahoney (3, 4, 5 & 6), and Barb Campbell (K-2 and Special Needs) do an incredible job in each of their areas of responsibility. The very meager salary they receive in no way comes close to genuinely compensating them for their expertise, passion and depth of faith they are eager to share with children and their parents. Our sacramental programs culminate in liturgies that capture the preparation and hard work of everyone involved. And God is praised!

You are invited to YC’s Open House Sunday morning and Monday evening. Please call their office if you have any other questions about our program.

The day school is still floating on the news of being awarded the Blue Ribbon for academic excellence from the Department of Education. Here are some more numbers for you: 269 elementary, middle and high schools from across the nation were recipients of this year’s Blue Ribbon. Of those, only 50 were non-public schools. In the entire State of Illinois, only 21 schools were selected. Across the archdiocese, we are one of the six schools that are being recognized by this award for overall academic excellence. The archdiocese as a system, then, was awarded six of the 21 Blue Ribbons for Illinois in 2012. We have much to be proud of in Catholic education.

Fr. Fil went to a meeting this week encouraging the use of social media. Crossroads is all over Facebook and Twitter. We are doing more communication electronically through email blasts, podcasts and on-line giving. We have much more we can be doing. Fr. Fil said we should write blog. I told him I do. You are reading it now. He just shook his head.

Peace,
Fr. David
For two thousand years, the story of Christian people gathered in the Church has been stitched together with the action of sending. Jesus sent the Apostles to the whole world. In fact, the word Apostle in Greek means “one who is sent.” Across the centuries, the Church has commissioned or sent missionaries to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Sending has meant both proclaiming the Word and celebrating the sacraments, especially Baptism and Eucharist. Today, we can celebrate Mass because priests have been sent to us to lead our celebration. The sending, however, does not stop here with priests.

At the end of every Mass, we are all sent. We are all told to go into the world. “Go forth, the Mass is ended.” “Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.” There are different formulas for this short, easily overlooked ritual at the end of Mass. It is decisively important, however, for us to know that we are sent, that we are commissioned, that we have an extraordinary purpose in the world.

Archdiocese of Chicago + Strategic Pastoral Plan

YEAR OF SUNDAY MASS / YEAR OF FAITH

Visit our website at www.LTP.LOUIS J. CAMELI ©2012 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy

September 16, 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Next weekend we celebrate Seminary Sunday in the parishes of the Archdiocese of Chicago. On this occasion, we honor the ministry of the many priests who serve you so faithfully each day, as well as those who are preparing to serve you with that same charity in the future.

In the Archdiocese of Chicago, Mundelein Seminary is a place where vocations to the diocesan priesthood are discerned and strengthened. Each year, as I ordain the graduates of Mundelein Seminary to the priesthood of Jesus Christ, I do so with confidence that they have been formed for fidelity and service and are well educated in the Catholic faith. The best example of the work of the seminary is reflected in the quiet and compassionate ministry of your pastors and parish priests as they live out their ordination commitment each day to bring Christ to you as they preach, teach and administer the Sacraments. I thank them for their good example, and I thank you for your prayers and financial contributions, which provide our future priests with the education and environment they need to “prepare well” to serve God’s faithful. I ask you to pray for those whom God is now calling to the ordained priesthood from among our families and friends. Talk to young men you know whom you think might be good priests; encourage them to explore the possibility of priesthood.

I ask you to especially remember your bishops, your parish priests and our seminarians each day in prayer. You and your intentions are in ours. May God bless you and those you love.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago

Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org
**Living the Gospel Everyday**

Peter recoils at Jesus’ revelation that as “the Christ” he must “suffer greatly . . . be rejected . . . be killed, and rise after three days.” Peter is so aghast at Jesus’ words about suffering and death that he fails to hear the most important part of the revelation about who Jesus is and what he is to accomplish. He fails to grasp that through death Jesus will be raised to new life. Hearing Jesus’ teaching about taking up his cross to follow him can cause us similarly to recoil as did Peter. But we live on the other side of the resurrection. We know that death brings risen life. This assurance of new life is what gives us the courage to “take up [our] cross, and follow” Jesus.

Why choose to go to one’s death? Peter has yet to understand the condition Jesus has laid down for saving one’s life—we must lose our lives, be willing to die for the sake of others. In this gospel we find in a nutshell the meaning of the paschal mystery and how we live it—deny ourselves, lose our lives for the sake of others. This is the difficult lesson to be learned from the gospel and from discipleship—we will not be spared what Jesus himself undertook for our sake. We cannot avoid dying to self if we wish to rise to new life with Jesus. Denying ourselves for the sake of others is not about a dramatic martyrdom like in the early church, nor about any great, showy act. Rather it is about how we live every single day. For example, we must die to our way of thinking (taking the easy way of self-seeking, self-gratification, self-interest) and embrace how God thinks (carrying the cross of goodness, righteousness, justice, integrity, wholeness, fullness of life). Or we must empty ourselves for the good of another even when we are tired or frustrated or don’t like the other person who is in need. The only way to follow Jesus is by dying to self. The only way.

**Closing Prayers**

May we deny ourselves, take up the cross, and follow Jesus through suffering and death to new life.

May we hear Jesus call us by name and follow him faithfully. Our Father . . .

**For Reflection**

- To take up my cross and follow Jesus means to me . . .
- As I take up my cross, what gives me hope and strength is . . .

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**Readings for the Week:**

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<tr>
<th>24th Sunday in Ord. Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>25th Sunday in Ord. Time</th>
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**Meditation**

**Rev. Richard Rohr**

**Contemplative Prayer**

The contemplative mind is the most absolute assault on the secular world view, because it really is an altogether different mind. The ego cannot rely upon it to do its bidding.

The calculating mind of the “small self” reads everything in terms of personal advantage, short-term effort, and “What’s in it for me?”—“How will I look?”, “How can I look good?”. It cannot see things in a new, imaginative, or disinterested way. It is still “all about me.”

All the great religions have taught that we need an utterly different perspective, a different vantage point, and a different starting point to see things as God sees them. It cannot start with “me,” or it will end with “me,” too.

Adapted from the CAC Foundation Set: Gospel Call to Compassionate Action

**Prayer:**

Clear my mind for your truth.

**Year of Mass:**

**Question of the Week**

St. James challenges us in today’s Mass: “What good is it if some says he has faith but does not have works?”

**Identify 2 things you’ve done within the last week that were specifically motivated by your faith.**
Preparing for Mass

Imagine coming to Mass each Sunday aware of the readings and how they apply to your daily life! Join us for **Focus on the Scriptures**, a Bible study which uses the free website from the Center for Liturgy at St. Louis University for reflection on the spirituality of the scriptures read at Sunday's Mass. We meet each **Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the Parish Center**.

Just as physical exercise strengthens our bodies, spiritual exercise strengthens our faith. Personal prayer ideally flows from Sunday Mass and back toward it in a weekly cycle of prayer. Also, we can greatly enhance our experience of Mass if we are spiritually prepared each week. This comes when we read Sunday's readings ahead of time, and make this part of our personal prayer.

On the internet, this very useful website can help you and your family or friends prepare each week for Sunday Mass: On this site, you will find links to Sunday’s readings, prayers, spiritual reflections, and interesting explanations all based on those readings. There is also a section that helps you pray with the music of the Mass.

The material is designed for ordinary Catholics of all levels of understanding – the people in the pews. Please consider spending a few minutes each week with this website as part of your personal prayer and/or join our weekly discussion on Tuesday at 9:30 AM in the Parish Center. The site is completely free of charge, sponsored by the Center for Liturgy at Saint Louis University. [www.liturgy.slu.edu](http://www.liturgy.slu.edu) Call Mary McGovern with any questions at 708-246-1835.

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**flour • ish:**

**(v)** 1: to grow luxuriantly: to thrive  
**(n)** 2: a new faith sharing group for women who want to walk the talk: **beginning October 24th**

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**CTU Vatican II Fall Lecture Series**

Please join **Catholic Theological Union** in a series of lectures on the Second Vatican Council. The lectures take place on **Wednesday evenings through Dec. 5th 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 $15 per lecture. You may pay at the door. Come to one or all of the lectures. To ensure a spot, register by phone at 773-371-5432 or email at jhoffman@ctu.edu. Complimentary parking is available in the CTU garage. For more information go to www.ctu.edu.

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**Living Vatican II in the 21st Century Symposium Sept. 18-21**

Lewis University in Romeoville—Center for Ministry & Spirituality presents 4 days of quality speakers. To learn more information go to www.lewisu/LivingVaticanII or call 815-836-5786.

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**September 16 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*The Lord God opens my ear that I may hear….Is God calling you to be a priest?*

Consider attending the next **Exploring Priesthood Weekend** retreat held on October 5-7 at Mundelein Seminary to learn about, reflect and discuss the possibilities of diocesan priesthood in Chicago. Contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or at bwelter@archchicago.org or go to [www.stjohnofthecross.org](http://www.stjohnofthecross.org)
Endow Women’s Study will meet on eight Wednesdays from 1-3 p.m. in the Parish Center beginning on this Wednesday, September 19th.

In Honor of the Year of Faith *Lumen Gentium* - Light of the Nations Vatican II Document will be studied. 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 Questions? Call Sue 708-246-7870 or email strokase@yahoo.com.

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

Join us at Loretto Center this Saturday, September 22, 2012 from 10:30 am-noon. The program will be led by Tom Garlitz, Director of the Office for Human Dignity Christie Billups, Prof. of Theology, Lewis University, Romeoville, and Barb Nelson, IBVM, Teacher, St. Francis High School, Wheaton. Loretto Center is located at 1600 Somerset Lane in Wheaton. Call 630-653-7918 for more information. This program is sponsored by IBVM Justice, Peace, Integrity of Creation Committee.

**New Thinking for a New Era: How Contemplative Prayer Transforms Consciousness and the World with Richard Rohr, OFM and Laurence Freeman, OSB**

Friday-Sunday February 15-17 at the Chicago Marriott O’Hare, Chicago, IL

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 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. Discounted Early Registration thru November 30, 2012

**Christian Meditation Opportunities at SJC**

Times for Christian Meditation at St. John of the Cross Parish Center are:
Mondays: 10:30 a.m. ~ 11th Step Christian Meditation, Wednesdays: 2:00-2:45 p.m. & 7:30-8:15 p.m. and Saturdays: 7:00-7:45 a.m.

We are a part of The World Community for Christian Meditation, www.wccm.org. For information, contact Mary Novotny at mary105105@gmail.com or Betsy Spiering at wccmchgo@gmail.com.

Christian Meditation, also known as contemplative prayer, is the prayer of silence. In meditation we go beyond words, thoughts and images into the presence of God within. St. John of the Cross said, “God is the center of my soul.” Meditation is this daily pilgrimage to one’s own center—a spiritual discipline that we undertake to open ourselves more to the Spirit within. St. Paul said that “We do not even know how to pray, but the Spirit prays within us” (Rom. 8:26). As we pray, we first have to learn to become still, to become attentive. Only then can we enter into loving awareness of the Spirit of Jesus deep within our own heart. Silence is the language of the Spirit.

Christian Meditation as an 11th Step Practice on Mondays

We are a group of men and women from 12 step programs, following the teachings of John Main and the World Community for Christian Meditation. We are not a replacement for, nor are we affiliated with, any 12-step program of recovery. We are here to share this ancient path of contemplative prayer as a way to practice the 11th Step: “Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of his will for us and the power to carry that out.” Please join us for a time of meditation at 10:30 – 11:30 am every Monday. All 12 step members are invited.

All are welcome: those who meditate, those who want to learn to meditate, and those who want to know more about meditation.
We invite you to become involved in a liturgical ministry! Call Jim Clauer if you have any questions—x137.

**New Communion Minister Training**  
**Sunday, September 23, 2:30 p.m.- 4:30 p.m.**
Adults and high school teens who have a sincere love and appreciation for God’s gift of the Eucharist are welcome to become Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assisting in the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ during weekday and Sunday Masses. In addition to the desire to serve, Extraordinary Ministers must be baptized Catholics who have received their First Holy Communion and Confirmation, must go through training and be free to receive the sacrament and no restrained though a marriage situation. Training Sessions are held in church. No need to register, just come!

**New Lector Training**  
**Sunday, September 30, 2:30-3:30 p.m.**
Lectors proclaim the Word of God during Mass. This ministry is open to all adults and high school youth who are registered members of the parish, have a sincere love for the Word Of God contained in scripture, have been fully initiated into the Catholic Church through the sacrament of confirmation, who preferably possess good reading skills and a clear speaking voice. Training is provided several times a year.

**Ushers Needed at All Masses**
Ushers, Ministers of Hospitality, are men or women of high school age or above willing to give their time during liturgies to help others attending mass. This includes welcoming and guiding people to their seats before mass, at communion time, taking up the collection and aiding the handicapped or anyone taken ill. Parishioners interested in joining this ministry are welcome and needed, particularly at the 12:15 p.m. Mass.

**The Anointing of the Sick**
On Sunday, September 30th at the 12:15 p.m. Mass we will celebrate the Anointing of the Sick. This sacrament of healing is offered to anyone who is suffering in any physical, mental or emotional way and provides spiritual graces during the difficult time of illness. If you or someone you know is sick or suffers from a chronic illness, we invite you to join fellow parishioners as we pray for healing and strength.

A reception will follow the Mass. Please let us know that you will attend the Mass and reception by contacting the Parish Center at 708-246-4404. For more information, call Fr. Fil at 708-246-4404 x 120.

**Music Notes**
This weekend, the Contemporary Ensemble and Traditional Choir resume leading music at the Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday 10:45 a.m. Masses. We are all eager to lift our hearts and voices in song again!

We also welcome Keith Kalemba to the music staff. Keith will accompany the Contemporary Ensemble at the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass and for special occasions. He is no stranger to the St. John community, having served as a substitute accompanist on various occasions over the past several years. Keith also works as a music editor for World Library Publications, the company that publishes our Word and Song books. His knowledge of contemporary liturgical music will no doubt be an asset to our parish!

| will walk before the Lord,  
in the land of the living.

**Catholic High School Night: October 2nd**
St. John of the Cross Parish School will be hosting a Catholic High School Fair for all parish junior high students on Tuesday, October 2nd from 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.in Hynes Hall in the the SJC Parish School. Representatives from 17 Catholic High Schools (Benet, Brother Rice, Fenwick, Immaculate Conception, La Lumiere, Marist, Montini, Mother McAuley, Mount Carmel, Mt. Assisi, Nazareth, Queen of Peace, St. Ignatius, St. Joseph, St. Laurence, St. Rita and Trinity) will be available that evening and are anxious to meet 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade students and parents. Also, flyers explaining the Rev. Joseph McDonnell Catholic High School Scholarship Fund will be available. Questions regarding the SJC High School Fair may be directed to Mrs. Kathleen Gorman, Principal, at (708)246-4454.
**Parish News**

*Celebrating 120 years as The Newspaper for the Archdiocese of Chicago*

Archbishop Feehan, Chicago’s first Archbishop, recognized the need for a strong Catholic voice in Chicago, and started the New World in 1892. 120 years later, our publisher Cardinal George continues to provide that strong Catholic voice in the Catholic New World. It has news and information about the Church in Chicago and around the world. What’s inside the newspaper? Stories of faith reflecting ministries of the ordained and the laity; the Cardinal’s column, schedule and appointments; Editorial focus on living life as a Catholic.

Research shows people are more likely to grow in their faith when their family puts faith into practice by doing religious or spiritual activities together; talking about religious faith; helping other people together as a family. Families where a Catholic newspaper is present are more likely to be active in religious education.

Pick up a complimentary copy of our anniversary edition the weekend of September 23rd.

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**Protecting God’s Children Workshop**

**WHO:** All Parents, Coaches, Room Parents, any Volunteer in the parish who has regular contact with children.

**WHAT:** Workshop includes 2 (two) thirty-minute videos and discussion.

**WHEN:** Wed. Sept. 19 7-10 p.m.
Thurs. Sept. 20 9-Noon

Participants need to be present for the entire workshop to receive approval. No one will be admitted once the workshop begins.

**WHERE:** St. John of the Cross Parish Center

**HOW:** You will need to register for this training by going on-line to the internet site for Virtus Training at www.virtus.org.

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**This Week at SJC**

**Monday, September 17**
- 10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
- 1:00 p.m. Little Rock Scripture Study
- 2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
- 2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
- 5:30 p.m. Finance Council Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. SJC Teacher Recognition Trust

**Tuesday, September 18**
- 9:30 a.m. Focus on the Sunday Scriptures Study
- 1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. RCIA
- 7:00 p.m. School Board Meeting
- 7:30 p.m. Boy Scout Troop 117 Lower Level E & W

**Wednesday, September 19**
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
- 11:30 a.m. Ladies Bridge
- 1:00 p.m. Endow
- 2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
- 7:00 p.m. Protecting God’s Children Workshop
- 7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

**Thursday, September 20**
- 9:00 a.m. Protecting God’s Children Workshop
- 9:00 a.m. Women’s Club Meeting
- 2:15 p.m. Market Day Pick-up
- 6:30 p.m. YC 7th Grade Parent Meeting
- 7:00 p.m. Career Networking Meeting

**Friday, September 21**
- 9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Room Parent Orientation

**Saturday, September 22**
- 7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

**Sunday, September 23**
- 9:00 a.m. YC Home Groups
- 6:00 p.m. Crossroads Freshman Experience
- 6:30 p.m. YC 7th Grade Kick-off

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**Support the Mission of SJC**

**Online Giving is Here for Your Convenience**

You can access the SJC online donation form by using the above QR Code.

Don’t have a smart phone? Visit: www.stjohnofthecross.org/giving/

St. John of the Cross Parish is most grateful for your continued support of our mission!
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH SCHOOL NAMED 2012 NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, announced we have been selected as one of the 50 private schools across the nation as a 2012 National Blue Ribbon School based on our overall academic excellence in student academic achievement levels.

St. John of the Cross Parish School qualified for the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program by being an exemplary high performing school. High performing is defined as “the achievement of the school’s students in the most recent year tested which places the school among the highest performing schools in the nation in reading (or Language Arts) and mathematics as measured by a nationally normed test.” The Blue Ribbon Committee not only examined recent test scores, but the scores of our students over the last five years.

“We thank our parish for its generosity and support these last fifty years. We are grateful for our outstanding parents and their continued support over the years. We recognize our wonderful students for their efforts,” says Principal Kathleen Gorman, “our excellent teachers, staff, and administration, both past and present, provided and continue to provide a high quality of education. Our staff has always gone above and beyond in providing for the individual needs of each of our students. This award certainly reflects their dedication and commitment to Catholic education.”

The school will be hosting a variety of events to celebrate this incredible achievement including a recognition ceremony and an all parish Mass. We hope you will join us in our celebration.

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.

Welcome to the Senior Club at SJC

Welcome to the St. John of the Cross Saintly Senior Club. Anyone in the parish, young or not so young, married or single, male or female is invited to join our group. We are looking forward to another great year—welcoming new members and seeing old friends!

Dates & Dues

An exciting season of luncheon programs with great food and entertainment has been planned just for you! So we invite you to add these dates to your calendar today and also become a member of the Club. Membership is $10 per year which covers our administrative and miscellaneous expenses. Members also pay a lower rate to attend the luncheons!

Save the Dates!

October Fest: October 12th
Christmas: December 14th
Valentine’s Day: February 15th
St. Patrick’s-St. Joseph’s Day: March 15th

Yes, I want to join the Saintly Senior Club!

Name:
Address:
Phone:
Email:

Drop off your dues at the Parish Center or in the Sunday collection basket in an envelope marked Senior Club Dues. Or you can mail it to us at St. John of the Cross, 5005 S. Wolf Road, Western Springs 60558.
First Day of Classes!

Open House for Parents!

Sunday, September 16th
10:15-11:30 a.m.
and
Monday, September 17th
6:15-7:30 p.m.

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@stjohnofthecross.org * 708-246-6760 * stjohnofthecross.org/yc

During the Year of Sunday Mass, YC students and their families will celebrate Mass together. Mark your calendar to join us at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass on:

- September 30th ~ November 4th
- December 9th ~ February 24th
- April 28th

Our children will be active participants throughout the Mass.

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@stjohnofthecross.org * 708-246-6760 * stjohnofthecross.org/yc

September Office Hours
Mondays 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. ~ Tues thru Thurs 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Crossroads

CALENDAR

Sept. 16 Frosh/Soph Retreat Team mtg
Soph-Jun-Sen Home Groups meet
Sept. 17 Frosh Experience Team mtg
Sept. 23 Freshmen Experience Kick-off

Crossroads Youth Ministry Registration CONTINUES!

Parents of high school teens log onto our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
to fill out permission forms & learn about training dates!

I WANT YOU,
adults of our Parish!

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!

Check out ways to get involved on our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
Under the Leaders Tab!

Contact me to get involved!
Katie Hayes,
Director of Youth Ministry
708-246-4404 ext. 140 or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org

Crossroads Youth Ministry
Registration CONTINUES!

Parents of high school teens log onto our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
to fill out permission forms & learn about training dates!

BEGINS September 23rd 6 p.m. in the Parish Center Lower Level!

All freshmen are welcome to join us.
Register online and come on the 23rd!
We have one couple ready to serve as home group leaders when we transition into home groups 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!

DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT WAS AWESOME!
Thanks to all who had fun playing!

FRESHERMEN EXPERIENCE

BEGINNS September 23rd 6 p.m. in the Parish Center Lower Level!

All freshmen are welcome to join us.
Register online and come on the 23rd!
We have one couple ready to serve as home group leaders when we transition into home groups 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!
Outreach

Shawn Sweeney, coordinator for SJC’s Food Pantry, helps Deacon Pablo of Kolbe House sort a recent donation of food and paper goods.

Every month our parishioners fill up the space just inside the narthex doors with food and paper products for SJC’s Food Pantry Collection. At the end of each month, these donations are packed into several vehicles and delivered to an area food pantry. It’s a simple corporal work of mercy that impacts many lives.

The need for volunteers to pack and deliver the donations is on-going. Should you have an hour or two one day a month (and it can be just one month or every month), please contact our coordinator, Shawn Sweeney to offer your help.

Shawn’s phone: 708-246-2622 or email: Shawn430@sbcglobal.net

Outreach to Adults with Mental Illness

Faith and Fellowship, the archdiocese’s Outreach to Adults with Mental Illness, will host Mrs. Janice Benton, the executive director of the National Catholic Partnership on Disabilities, at a prayer service and reception on Wednesday, September 26, at 7:00 pm. The event will be hosted at St. Catherine-St. Lucy Church (34 N. Washington Blvd., Oak Park) and will include a free-will offering to benefit Faith and Fellowship. The church is accessible, and there is ample parking. We’re hoping for a great turnout to show Jan what a warm, hospitable, inclusive Archdiocese we are!!!

For details, call Connie Rakitan, 708/383-9276.

Riley Marshall Eagle Scout Collection Project for Hynes VA Hospital (Maywood) ends September 30th. Your donation would be a huge help to our vets. For a list of personal care items, clothes, books and miscellaneous items please go to the Outreach Section of the church website and/or the collection bins in the church lobby. There is also a list for the Vas Fisher House (similar to the Ronald McDonald House) for visiting relatives. Thank you for your generosity.

With gratitude in my heart, I would like to sincerely thank the Saint John of the Cross community for their week of service at Our Lady of Charity School. In completing the work of painting staircases, waxing floors, and rearranging classrooms, you helped to prepare the learning environment for a new school year. As the students have returned to school, many commented on how bright and cheerful the building looked. More than the bright fresh coat of paint, the light of your goodness has truly blessed our community.

Thank you for being a part of Our Lady of Charity. I pray that you continue to feel God’s strength and love in your lives as you do His work and serve as witnesses to His love.

May God bless you,
Katie Olson
School Principal
Outreach

Operation Support Our Troops ~ Illinois
Annual Parish-wide Collection
Extended through September 23rd
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. Please help our troops.

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

From Our Sharing Parish...

Dear SJC Parishioners,

Thank you for your “August Sharing” donation of $700. Part of this was used to help cover the cost of supplies to build ramps for people in need—ramps built by the hard-working volunteers from your parish,

Thank you for sharing some of the dedicated young (and young-at-heart) folks from your parish, They are an inspiration to all of us and a true blessing to those they were able to help.

I look forward to visiting St. John of the Cross Parish at the end of September.

Gratefully,
Sr. Margie (for Sr. Joyce & OLPH Parish)

Help for the Long Term Unemployed

Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, September 20 at 7:00 p.m. for our first speaker program of the season. Our presenter, James Fitzgerald, was one of the founders of the Chicago Career Transition Center at Old St. Pat’s and has published over 150 articles on career management, leadership and the job search process. Jim’s refreshingly direct and candid presentation will help inspire you to: 1) develop a positive, upbeat resume loaded with accomplishments, 2) prepare a “HERE’S WHO I AM” presentation sprinkled liberally with significant achievements, 3) target the job and circumstances that really appeal to you, 4) get your mind set in gear, stop being complacent, 5) use goals as a motivator. Jim’s insights on each of these points promise to be of tremendous value to both the long-term unemployed and those just beginning their job search. This meeting is open to everyone and there is no charge to attend. We look forward to welcoming you at St. John of the Cross Parish Center.

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Job Support Group Six-Week Workshop
Begins 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.

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.interfaithcareernetwork.org.
The Three Levels of Christian Discipleship

Nikos Kazantzakis once suggested that there are three kinds of souls and three kinds of prayers:

- I am a bow in your hands, Lord, draw me, lest I rot.
- Do not overdraw me, Lord, I shall break.
- Overdraw me, Lord, and who cares if I break!

When I look at life, I also see three great struggles, not unlike those so poetically named by Kazantzakis. And each of these has a corresponding level of Christian discipleship. What are those great struggles and those levels of discipleship? There are three major phases in our human and spiritual journey:

- Essential discipleship - The struggle to get our lives together.
- Generative discipleship - The struggle to give our lives away
- Radical discipleship - The struggle to give our deaths away

Essential discipleship and the struggle to get our lives together is our initial task in life. Beginning with our first breath, we struggle to find an identity and to find fulfillment and peace there. We are born in a hospital and soon taken home to where we have parents, a family, and a place that's ours. This period of our lives, childhood, is intended by God and nature to be a secure time. As a child, our major struggles have not yet begun. But that will change dramatically at puberty.

Simply put, puberty is designed my God and nature to drive us out of our homes in search of a home that we ourselves build. And it generally does its job well! It hits us with a tumult and violence that overthrows our childhood and sends us out, restless, sexually-driven, full of grandiose dreams, but confused and insecure, in search of a new home, one that we build for ourselves. This struggle, from being restlessly driven out of our first home to finding a place to call home again, is the journey of Essential discipleship.

Normally we do find our way home again. At a certain point, we land. We find ourselves “at home” again, namely, with a place to live that's our own, a job, a career, a vocation, a spouse, children, a mortgage, a series of responsibilities, and a certain status and identity. At that point, the fundamental struggle in our life changes, though it may take years for us to consciously realize and accept this. Our question then is no longer: "How do I get my life together?" Rather it becomes: "How do I give my life away more deeply, more generously, and more meaningfully?" At that stage, we enter the second phase of discipleship.

Generative discipleship and the struggle to give our lives away is a stage most people reach sometime during their twenties or thirties, though some take longer to cross that threshold. Moreover, the crossover is never pure and complete, the struggle for self-identity and private fulfillment never completely goes away; but, at a certain point, we begin to live more for others than for ourselves. Generative discipleship begins then and, for most of us, this will constitute the longest period of our lives. During all those years, our task in life is clear: How do I give my life away more purely, more generously, more generatively?

But being the responsible adults who run the homes, schools, churches, and businesses of the world is not the final stage our lives. We still must die; the most daunting task of all. And so our default line must shift yet one more time: There comes a point in our lives, when our real question is no longer: 'What can I still do so that my life makes a contribution?' Rather the question becomes: 'How can I now live so that my death will be an optimal blessing for my family, my church, and the world?'

Radical discipleship and the struggle to give our deaths away is the final stage of life. As Christians, we believe that Jesus lived for us and that he died for us, that he gave us both his life and his death. But we often fail to distinguish that there are two clear and separate movements here: Jesus gave his life for us in one movement, and he gave his death for us in another. He gave his life for us through his activity, through his generative actions for us; and he gave his death through his passivity, through absorbing in love the helplessness, diminutions, humiliations, and loneliness of dying.

Like Jesus, we too are meant to give our lives away in generosity and selflessness, but we are also meant to leave this planet in such a way that our diminishment and death is our final, and perhaps greatest, gift to the world. Needless to say that's not easy. Walking in discipleship behind the master will require that we too will eventually sweat blood and feel "a stone's throw" from everybody. This struggle, to give our deaths away, as we once gave our lives away, constitutes Radical discipleship.

When we look at the demands of discipleship, we see that one size does not fit all!

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.
Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Steve Sagat, father of Mary Lynn

Gene Miley, husband of Christine, father of David and Dan

Joseph Zygmunt, husband of Wanda

Join a 54 Day Rosary Novena for the November Elections!

Pray with Relevant Radio® that our nation be blessed with leaders who will govern according to God’s Will. The novena began Sep 14th and ends Nov 6th - Election Day. The last nine days will be prayed LIVE at 7:30 AM CT during Morning Air®. For more information, go to www.relevantradio.com, keyword “novena.”

Chicago 950AM, Chicago West 930AM, NW Indiana 1270AM
Join us for hot dogs, hamburgers, s’mores and beverages for the boys. Great treats for the moms too!

The St. John of the Cross Women’s Club invites you to THE MOTHER & SON CAMPOUT 2012!

Friday, September 28th – 7:00-10:00 PM

Bring your tent and gear for a night of fun! We will supply the food, drink and games!

$10.00 per person ★ RSVP by Sept. 23rd

Don’t Miss...
The Candy Hunt
Inflatable Fun
And a Movie on The Big Screen!

PLEASE TEAR OFF BOTTOM PORTION TO RSVP

NAME: ____________________________

ADDRESS: ____________________________

PHONE: ____________________________

E-MAIL: ____________________________

NUMBER ATTENDING: ADULTS ________ CHILDREN _____________

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ _____________ (COST $10.00 PER PERSON)

Please make your check payable to: St. John of the Cross Women’s Club
(Checks or cash can be dropped off at the Parish Center)

Questions? Contact: Elizabeth Turcich (elizabeth@turcichfamily.com)
or Denise Schullo (deec7@hotmail.com)