MASTER, I WANT TO SEE
Dear Parishioners,

It was a year ago that Kelli Joy O’Laughlin’s brutal murder rocked our community. Her family and friends and many in our wider community are still shocked and continue to grieve her death. Grief is hard work, everyone does it differently, there is no precise timetable for how long it will take and it always takes longer than you want.

Grief is physical. It can affect your energy, your ability to concentrate, your appetite, your sleep patterns and your overall outlook on life. It opens the door to overindulgence in food or drink or other addictive behaviors. Terms like ‘being kicked in the gut’ come from the physical experience of grief. Grief can destabilize what had previously been balanced routines of health and hygiene.

Grief is emotional. Just when you think you have gotten past one wave of grief, another comes and knocks you down. Tears can be triggered by the simplest of things that you could never have guessed had the power to make you cry. You can’t believe your body could produce so many tears and you’ve just cried enough to float the Queen Mary. Interest in hobbies or sports or other activities that previously gave you enjoyment no longer do. You can lose your sense of humor or stop caring about what is happening in other people’s lives. You can be tempted to isolate and to be by yourself in order to avoid the well-intentioned but frequently burdensome good intentions of others.

Grief is spiritual. When someone you love is the victim of a violent crime, as was Kelli, you are forced to re-think your understanding of the nature of God. What had been a comfortable image of God, perhaps even since childhood, suddenly is shattered and you must do the hard work of finding another image that can hold this new reality. Grief can tempt you to believe that you don’t even believe in God anymore.

Grief stays pretty much unresolved until and only when you come to some level of acceptance. Acceptance frequently requires forgiveness first. A year ago, the news of Kelli’s murder was so destabilizing that teenagers as well as adults were literally in shock. I have never been part of a community that was so affected by the death of one person. Some people make the mistake of trying to move to forgiveness too quickly and then when they can’t quite get there, they feel like they are even more unprotected, more vulnerable, and more helpless. When those feelings are allowed to come to the surface in full force, everything you may have staked your life on loses both its power and its usefulness. Your life might lose its meaning.

Kelli’s murder brings up the difficult issues of mental illness, personal violence, racial stereotypes and a broken criminal justice system. The person charged with this horrific crime was so broken himself that even his family did not believe he belonged on the streets. You cannot make sense out of something that has no sense to make of it. Anger and rage and the poison of revenge become daily acquaintances and temptations.

And so we lament. We bring our anger and our tears, our loss and numbness to God and demand to know why this happened. Kelli certainly did not deserve this; no one deserves this. And yet it happened. Grief can either draw us together or drive us apart. There is no answer to the horror of Kelli’s death. But slowly, tentatively, we begin to trust again. We plant white crocus flowers to remind us. We organize tennis outings or 5k runs as excuses to come together and speak of Kelli. We dedicate a park near her home to remind us of her energy, her love of life, her joy. We miss her terribly. And she has taught us to cherish one another more deeply, to be more aware of how fragile this life is, and to be more loving toward those known and unknown.

One day, when even death has been destroyed, we shall see each other face to face. And Kelli’s smile will be the brightest. And there will be no more killing or being killed. And, at last, we will live in peace. May God make it so.

Peace,
Fr. David
KNOW THE MASS, ONE WORD AT A TIME

The priest says, “Lift up your hearts.” We say, “We lift them up to the Lord.” In the Mass, we lift or raise up our hearts to God. We lift up our offering to God. And that offering is the self-sacrificing love of Jesus Christ. We join him and, because we are in him, we can lift ourselves up to God. We are part of the one offering, the one sacrifice.

We can — and sometimes do — stay stuck in our daily struggles, temptations, and even sins. In the Mass we break free. In Jesus lifted high on the cross, we lift up our hearts, our very selves. We break free of the gravity of sin and death and doubt.

Are you interested in the priesthood?

In today’s Gospel the blind man said to Jesus, “Master, I want to see.” Jesus told him, “Go your way; your faith has saved you.” What is your deepest desire?

Men 22 to 40 years old are invited to participate in the INSEARCH Priesthood discernment program. If you feel called to the priesthood, INSEARCH will help you gain clarity around the call you feel. We meet every Tuesday night at Quigley Pastoral Center.

For more information, contact Fr. Brian Welter at 312-534-8298 or bwelter@archchicago.org.

November 1st is All Saints Day
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass Times: 6:30 a.m., 7:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m. All School, and 6:30 p.m.

November 1st we celebrate the solemnity of All Saints, remembering all the saints known and unknown to us who enjoy the glory of heaven. In the Gospel we hear the Beatitudes, which are guidelines for true joy and the attainment of sanctity in our Christian lives. We hear how to live lives of holiness so that we may attain happiness in this life, but even more happiness in the next life as we strive to likewise be numbered among the saints in heaven.

All Saints honors the “merits of all the Saints” who rejoice in God’s presence: the towering figures like Augustine, Francis, Therese of the Child Jesus, as well as the humble saints whose names are known to few or none, our own grandparents, friends, and teachers who lived their faith to the fullest. This is the day to celebrate them all. Source: sourcebook 2012

Please join us on Friday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the Feast of All Souls. Our liturgy will commemorate parishioners and loved ones who have died during the past year. As the names of all deceased are read aloud, families will be invited to light a votive candle as we prayerfully remember them. After Mass, our bereavement ministers and priests will gather in the community room of church to share hospitality.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Volunteers are needed for Children’s Liturgy of the Word at Saturday evening and Sunday Mass. Preparation materials and training are provided. Please help us to continue to offer this wonderful ministry. The commitment is only once a month but the reward is great!

Please call Megan O’Brien at 708-784-0732.

Read about Faithful Citizenship.
Go to the Archdiocese of Chicago Website:
http://www.archchicago./departmentspeace_and_justiceFaithfulCitizenship/
Under Resources click on Forming Consciences
Remembering All Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Remembering the Dead

In parishes around the world, the Church remembers the names of their dead. We hear their names at the Prayer of the Faithful during Mass and in the chanting of the Litany of the Saints at the Easter Vigil. The names of the deceased are seen on holy cards, memorial cards, and grave markers and Masses are prayed for the repose of souls. These rituals and practices serve to keep the memory of those who have gone before us in faith present in our minds and hearts.

The Book of Remembrance

During the month of November, the Month of All Souls, parishioners and visitors to St. John of the Cross are invited to write the names of their beloved dead in The Book of Remembrance found by the Ambo. The Book of Remembrance will remain there until the final feast of the Church year, Christ the King. Please put their name on the envelope and they will be prayed for every week. Remembering all of those who have gone before us, “marked with the sign of faith,” helps us better understand and appreciate our faith in the Christ, our risen Lord, who conquers sin and death and brings new life to all.

Unlike the Books of Life, which list only deceased parishioners of St. John of the Cross, our Book of Remembrance may include the names of all our deceased loved ones.

Month of All Souls

The origins of the solemnity of All Saints (November 1) and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day, November 2) are connected. From the beginnings of the Church, Christians have cherished the memory of those martyred for the faith and those who lived a life of virtue as icons of Jesus Christ. The martyrs and saints became venerated as disciples and imitators of Christ. All the saints are celebrated each year on November 1; however, most Christian traditions of honoring the dead are linked with All Souls Day on November 2. On this day, we remember our own loved ones who have gone before us in faith. These tributes extend beyond the day itself and last through the month of November, the Month of All Souls.

The Books of Life

In keeping with the important observance of this month, our parish Books of Life will be placed along the north wall of our church. These books, one for each month, list the names of every person who has been buried from St. John of the Cross Parish. As a parish that is rooted in faith in our Lord Jesus, let us prayerfully recall these deceased members of our community.

Take time to look through the books. Find the names of those you know and offer a prayer for them.
Reflections on the Gospel

Living the Gospel

Those traveling with Jesus look upon Bartimaeus as an interruption on the journey. Jesus, on the other hand, sees Bartimaeus as the point of the journey. The point of Jesus’ journey? To bring salvation to all who are open to Jesus’ presence and gifts. Like Bartimaeus and the crowd, we are called to receive “sight” along our journey of following Jesus. Had some in the crowd succeeded in silencing Bartimaeus, they would have “silenced” a manifestation of why Jesus came to bring “sight” not only to Bartimaeus, but to all. The miracle doesn’t stop with Jesus’ offer of salvation and the healing of Bartimaeus. What happens to Bartimaeus in this miraculous healing also happens to some in the crowd. They gain “sight.” They deepen their faith. They more faithfully follow Jesus.

Faithfully following Jesus means that we take a critical look at ourselves and root out whatever it is that keeps us from seeing who Jesus is, whether that is self-centeredness, preoccupation with getting ahead, amassing more money and material goods, seeking comfort above all else. All these kinds of actions demand dying to self, and only by dying can we rise to “see” the glory of new life. Jesus always responds to our faith in him by inviting us along his path to glory. In turn, since we ourselves are to be the presence of the risen Christ for others, we also are the ones calling others, are the ones helping others to a new way of “seeing,” helping others along the road of discipleship. Discipleship means more than following, it means that we spring up and give ourselves over for the sake of others. It means that we are Jesus’ presence in all the myriad circumstances of daily living. We are to stop during our busy days and invite others to come to us for a new “seeing.” Acting through us, Jesus will recognize their faith in him to heal whatever keeps them from seeing clearly the ministry of their own discipleship.

Closing Prayers:
May we walk faithfully in the footsteps of Jesus to bring healing and faith to others.

May we continually help one another to see more clearly Jesus’ abiding presence and healing.

Our Father...

For Reflection:
• If Jesus were to ask me, “What do you want me to do for you,” I would respond . . .
• The point of my journey with Jesus is . . .

©Living Liturgy 2012

Meditation by Richard Rohr

Luke tells us that Jesus walked the journey of faith just as you and I do. He did not have all the answers down pat beforehand. That’s the compelling message in each of the various moments where Jesus needed faith—during his temptation in the desert, during his debates with his adversaries in the garden, and on the cross. We like to imagine that Jesus did not flinch, doubt, or ever question God’s love. The much greater message is that in his humanity he did flinch, have doubts, and ask questions—and still remained faithful.

You see Jesus’ faith first tested in the temptation scenes in Luke 4:1-13. The question is basically this: “Can God be trusted, is God on our side?” That is the great question that the human race is always asking. We hear Jesus in effect answer, “Yes, God is totally on your side. In fact, God is more on your side than you are on your own.” One only knows this to be true in the book of life, by trial and error, over many years. Children “believe” while elders “know.”

Adapted from The Good News According to Luke: Spiritual Reflections, p. 92

Prayer:
Teach me to be humble and live simply.

Year of Sunday Mass:
Question of the Week

If you became blind would you ever think about seeing a priest? Christ’s priesthood, today’s first reading and Gospel passage indicate, cures both physical and spiritual blindness.

Think about a time during the Liturgy of the Word when your eyes were opened, providing you with an essential insight which you later put into practice. How did this make you feel?

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday All Saints</th>
<th>Friday All Souls</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>31st Sunday in OT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6</td>
<td>Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5</td>
<td>Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 13cd-14</td>
<td>Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6</td>
<td>Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6</td>
<td>Ps 42:2, 3, 5def</td>
<td>Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 57</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Matt 5:1-12a</td>
<td>John 6:37-40</td>
<td></td>
<td>Mark 12:28b-34</td>
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Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org 10/28/12
Crossroads

CALENDAR EVENTS:
Nov. 4 FE & Home Groups Meet
Nov. 10 Flyer Day 9-11:30 a.m.
Nov. 16 Boxes Night 6-7:30 p.m.
Nov. 17 Harvest Saturday, Meet 9:30 a.m. & Prep for 10 a.m. Mass
10:30-1 Collecting, Sorting, Boxing
1-2 p.m. Loading trucks
2-6 p.m. Delivery Crew
Nov. 18 Home Groups Meet

See all Freshmen on November 4th for service extravaganza!
One more adult couple needed to lead these awesome teens!

Crossroads Youth Ministry Registration CONTINUES!
Parents of high school teens log onto our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

Our Day of the Spirit Team did a fabulous job leading our Confirmation retreat.
MANY THANKS! Photos will be online soon!

HARVEST SATURDAY
HELP IS NEEDED:

Adults willing to drive contact home group leaders

Teens willing to do extra tasks like set-up & clean-up & food delivery contact teen leaders Maggie Long & Katie McAuliffe!

Contact info & details on our website www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/service

ALL PARISHIONERS:
Start shopping & gathering your food! The non-perishables we collect go to numerous local & city pantries who serve the hungry.

PARENTS OF TEENS:
CHECK OUT OUR UPDATED SECTION ONLINE FOR YOU!!!!

Parent volunteer Steve McGee is going to post ways for you to bring faith conversations from home groups into your family time!

www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/

PARENT TAB
Students at Saint John of the Cross Parish School have had a busy few weeks. Governor Quinn visited along with Representative Durkin and Congressman Lipinski. The three government officials congratulated SJC on the Blue Ribbon as well as addressing our students on the importance of achieving high academic standards. It was a moving experience for all involved.

Grades 1st through 4th welcomed their grandparents & special friends. The day was exciting as the visitors were able to partake in the activities of the classes for the morning. Kids and adults all had a great time.

The eighth graders having been using the mobile computer lab in their social studies classrooms & are busily preparing for high school English by beginning work on their research paper.

And, on the athletic circuit….Our football team tackled their inaugural season. Our cross country team made significant strides past many of their competitors winning many ribbons. Our girls 7th grade volleyball team spiked this year to win the Suburban Parochial League Championship!

October was filled with exciting activities. The kindergarten children welcomed their parents to join them for a very special session in which they learned about Noah. Also, our fifth grade class presented the church’s seven newly canonized saints at a prayer service.

During the Year of Sunday Mass YC will celebrate five Masses at the 9:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. Children will be active participants in the Mass - Join us November 4th at 9:00 a.m. Mass. Watch throughout the year as YC celebrates the Year of Sunday Mass!

**YC Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classes K-6</th>
<th>10:15-11:30 a.m.</th>
<th>Sunday, 28, Nov 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FFC</td>
<td>6:15-7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Monday, 29, Nov 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Groups and Special Needs</td>
<td>Noon to 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Sunday, November 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Youth Catechesis Office**

eyc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc

Mondays 8:30 am to 7:00 pm ~ Tues thru Thurs 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
We Pray For Our Parishioners and Their Loved Ones
Who Have Entered Everlasting Life
November 2011– November 2012

Feast of All Souls Memorial Liturgy

Anthony Adolph
Andrew Applegate
Connie Ariola
Terence Aversa
Mildred Baltikas
William Bell
James Bennett
James Benstent
Dorothy Bergl
Doloros Boblick
Catherine Boyle
Michael Brady
Tom Brown
Theresa Budzinski
Aldona Buinauskas
Patricia Cebula
Raymond Cellitti
Kathryn Christensen
Bette Clark
Wilma Clarke
Thomas Collins
Mary Corcoran
JoAnne Costigan
Katie Courtemanche
Catherine Cunnea
Phyllis Curtin
Mary Beth Cusack
Bahija Dandan
Mary Danly
Felix Daukus
Patricia Delanay
Theora Denaro
Helen Devereux
Mary Cleo Kelly DeVito
John Alvin Dicken
Bill Dieker
Dorothy DiSalvo
Susan D’Oronzo
Anastasia Esposito
Fr. Gene Faucher
Shawn Feeley
Joseph Feeney
Robert Feldmeier
Gail Fetterolf
Jean Finn
Sister Mary Flaherty
Dave Gallagher
George Gallagher
Tracey Gannon
Scott Garrett
Eugene J. Garvy
Mark Glassgow
Peter Glen
Frank Gorcowski
Frances Grady
Judy Grezlik
Mabel Grimes
Walter Grimes, Sr.
Sharon Haggerty
Patricia Ann Hamilton
Gene Harris
Mary Jane Harrison
William Hilger
Gerald Hogan
Dorothy Anne Holland
Josephine Humphrey
William S. Impens
Mary Inzano
Philip James
David Jensen
Raymond Kalis
Anne Kay
Francis Keane
Dennis Keeler
Jim Kenny
William King
Betty Knott
Mark Koscieliski
Richard Kuchta
Sylvester Kwit
Janice Lackey
Matt Lamb
Elizabeth Langenderfer
Cyril Latona
Steve Leninger
Sally Levin
Tom Lowry
Lino Lupetini
Michael Mahoney
Robert Maliszewski
James E. Mangan, III
James Martin
Tom Martin
Clyde Masters
Fr. Ed Maxa
William McDermot
We Pray For Our Parishioners and Their Loved Ones
Who Have Entered Everlasting Life
November 2011– November 2012

Feast of All Souls Memorial Liturgy

Jack McDonnell
William McMahon
Helen Micetich
Gene Miley
Frieda Milligan
Barbara Miniea
Mary T. Moneer
Mildred Moorman
Armantina Morales
Virginia Moran
William Mueller
Michael Muldoon
Thomas Muldowney
Gendelimage Mungongo
Helen Muszynski
Fr. Sigsbert Mzaga
Patricia Neumann
A. J. Nilles
Catherine O’Connor
Julianne O’Connor
Gregory O’Kelly
Kelli Joy O’Laughlin
Mary O’Malley
Carol O’Malley
Jacob Oriatti
Lorraine O’Rourke
Dr. Michael W. Orth
Robert Parker
Dr. M. Jack Parker
Laverne Peters
Leo A. Peters
Edward L. Peterson
Bob Petkus
Alfred Pistauer
Floyd Placzek
Carolyn Plunkett
Jack Polivka
Dorothy Poro
Bonnie Porter
Jean Premo
Margaret Hoyle Prost
John Ptak
Victoria Racanelli
Vito Racanelli
Agnes T. Rice
Edna Richard
Harry Richards
Theresa Ripoli
Rose O’Brien Rispin
Alvina Rizzo
Frank Rock
Raymond Roffi
Richard Ronk
Anthony Rosati
Raymond Rotolo
Fr. Joe Ruiz
Steve Ryan
Steve Sagat
Viola Scala
Catherine Schnitzer
Marie Schueler
Thomas Schuman
Marie Schuster
Sally Sebastian
Ralph Sewall
Joanne Shea
Bruce Soielt
Jerry Spahn
Henry Spetter
Ben Spinato
Frank Strocchia
William Sturgeon
William Sugrue
Patrick Synnott
Olga Szpara
Joan Thiel
Rose Tichenor
Margaret Tolitano
Jim Toner
Anthony Tunney
Margaret Ullmayer
Ophelia Vazquez
Donna Wahlborg
Patricia Wehner
Irene Wenat
James E. Whetton, Sr.
Patricia Wilson
Olga Wogronic
Theodore Zaggy
Stanley Ziemya
Jeffrey Zurblis
Joseph Zygmunt
Dear Parishioners,

Before each PAC meeting each Goal Committee shares progress updates since our last meeting in an effort to keep each other informed. Then at our meeting Council members discuss any questions and share suggestions for future action. Outlined below are some of the main points from our meeting. A complete copy of each pre-read report can be found on our parish website.

Communication Committee
- Future work includes a quarterly parish newsletter to all parish households to connect and evangelize.
- Installation of a large electronic sign on Wolf Road is on hold until funding is available.
- Improvements continue on our parish website. The website has been adapted for hand held devices.

Outreach-Social Justice Committee
- Relationships with our 6 Sharing Parishes focus on spiritual, service, and social sharing as well as financial support.
- The Women’s Club has donated funds for new clothing for individuals newly released from prison. Work is underway to introduce Kolbe House and its mission to other parishes in our vicariate in an effort to raise awareness and involvement among parishes.
- Efforts underway to coordinate outreach efforts within each parish organization.

Spirituality Committee
- Plans to hire a new director of adult formation are on hold until funding is available.
- Mary Runger from St. Margaret Mary Parish is working with a team of parishioners on a book seminar based on the book by Matthew Kelly, Rediscover Catholicism.
- Work is underway on a new retreat, Beloved, to be introduced in Lent, 2013.

Welcome Committee
- A parish Liturgy Council is being formed to assist in fostering more meaningful worship. Its first task is to conduct a self-evaluation of our weekend Masses.

Stewardship Committee
- This new committee will explore fundraising among the various groups at our parish and recommend how we can best faithfully steward our time, talent, and treasure (the last line in our parish mission statement) and help raise awareness and funds for future parish operations.

Next week I will share the PAC’s self-evaluation and ask for your feedback.

Karin Teglia
PAC Chairperson

Thank you from Kolbe House

Dear Parishioners,

We are very grateful to you for the $1,200 Sharing that was recently received. This generous donation is greatly appreciated. Our relationship continues to bring new life to our ministry.

Sometimes people will ask me how I can go into jail, aren’t you afraid, what do you do, isn’t it hard? I am no stranger to these questions now. My answer doesn’t really change. I can go into the jail because I am never alone. I feel the Lord’s presence is strengthened by the feeling that I am backed up by people like the parishioners of St. John’s. I am never afraid because I find the presence of Christ inside and outside of the jail in the faces of the people that I meet. I can’t do more than just be present, sometimes quietly listening, other times voicing a prayer, most times just being aware that God is everywhere. Together all of us are never alone.

As the season changes, as we begin to move into the holiday festivities, know that I carry the people of St. John’s with me in prayer and heart. May these days be filled with blessings for all of us. I remain

Your brother in the Lord,
Rev. Arturo Perez Rodriguez

AGING CARE CONNECTIONS

111 W. Harris, La Grange

Aging Care Connections, is in urgent need of volunteers for front desk reception responsibilities.

If you are interested, please contact Niki Chibucos, director of development and public relations, at 708-354-1323, x 226.

Interfaith Career Networking

Monthly Networking

Interfaith Career Network invites you to a supportive evening of networking on Thursday, November 1st at 7 p.m on what you are looking for in your job search. Join us at First Baptist Church, 20 North Ashland Avenue (across from the La Grange Post Office). Please use the Bell Avenue entrance.

For information, please visit our website at: www.interfaithcareernetwork.org
**SJC Women’s Club**

**flourish**

The Women’s Club new faith sharing group has begun! Join us at the next meeting on November 7th to discover and celebrate God’s unique dream for each of us!

**Join us anytime throughout the year!**
Contact Sue Bidstrup at jsbidstrup@ameritech.net for info

**Wednesday mornings , 9 to 10:30 p.m.**
November 7, January 9 & 23, February 6 & 20, April 3 & 17

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**SJC Parish Moms’ Club**

Please join us in the Parish Center from 9:30-11:00 a.m. ever Friday! Bring your little ones, enjoy a cup of coffee, visit and meet other moms in the parish. A small snack (appropriate for most food allergies) will be provided.

**Our Upcoming Events:**

- **November 2:** SJC parishioner, mom, and family practitioner Dr. Clodagh Ryan will discuss the many stages of children's development. Childcare will be provided.
- **November 9:** ROAR with us as we celebrate all things animal! We look forward to story time, a craft, and other animal-related fun!
- **November 16:** Moms and kids will work on thank you cards to share with active military personnel. Please let us know if you have a friend or family member who is currently serving and would like to receive some special mail!

Questions? Contact Colleen Whittingham at whitting910@yahoo.com

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**Father-Daughter Dance**

**ALL PARISHIONERS WELCOME!**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.
at St. John of the Cross
in the Parish Center * $25.00 per family

DANCING * DESSERTS * PICTURES

To purchase your tickets, simply mail your check or drop it off to the SJC YC Office (lock box located just outside the office during non-office hours), 708 51st Street, Western Springs, IL 60558. You may also purchase your tickets at the door.

*Make a reservation at Mecenat Bistro, 708-246-8668 in Western Springs prior to the dance and enjoy a discount on your dinner.

Hosted by: SJC Youth Catechesis Council
YCC Members:
Ellen Meyer, Cindy Blum, Katie Larmon, Nancy Montana, Megan Brennan, Sharon Gardner, Michelle Fink, Carolyn Ferguson, Michelle Snorewicz, Mary Hays, Lisa Geneser, Karen Lipinski and John Amico

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Visit www.stjohnofthecross.org 10/28/12 11
There is a Norwegian proverb that reads: Heroism consists of hanging on one minute longer.

When I was a child in elementary school one of the stories assigned to us in our textbook for literature had that title and it told the story of a young boy who had fallen through the ice while skating and was left clinging, cold and alone, to the edge of the ice with no help in sight. As he hung on in this seemingly hopeless situation he was tempted many times to simply let go since no one was going to come along to rescue him. But he held on, despite all odds. Finally, when everything seemed beyond hope, he clung on one minute longer and after that extra minute help arrived. The story was simple and its moral was simple: This young boy lived because he had the courage and strength to hang on one minute longer. Rescue comes just after you have given up on it, so extend your courage and waiting one minute longer.

This is a tale of physical heroism and it makes its point clearly, heroism often consists in staying the course long enough, of hanging on when it seems hopeless, of suffering cold and aloneness while waiting for a new day.

Scripture teaches much the same thing about moral heroism: In the Second Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul ends a long, challenging admonition by stating: You must never grow weary of doing what is right. And in his letter to the Galatians, Paul virtually repeats the Norwegian proverb: Let us not become weary of doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

This sounds so simple and yet it cuts to the heart of many of our moral struggles. We give up too soon, give in too soon, and don't carry our solitude to its highest level. We simply don't carry tension long enough.

All of us experience tension in our lives: tension in our families, tension in our friendships, tension in our places of work, tension in our churches, tension in our communities, and tension within our conversations around other people, politics, and current events. And, being good-hearted people, we carry that tension with patience, respect, graciousness, and forbearance - for a while! Then, at a certain point we feel ourselves stretched to the limit, grow weary of doing what is right, feel something snap inside of us, and hear some inner-voice say: Enough! I've put up with this too long! I won't tolerate this anymore! And we let go, unlike the little boy clinging to the ice and waiting for rescue. We let go of patience, respect, graciousness, and forbearance, either by venting and giving back in kind or simply by fleeing the situation with an attitude of good riddance. Either way, we refuse to carry the tension any longer.

But that exact point, when we have to choose between giving up or holding on, carrying tension or letting it go, is a crucial moral site, one that determines character: Big-heartedness, nobility of character, deep maturity, and spiritual sanctity often manifest themselves around these questions: How much tension can we carry? How great is our patience and forbearance? How much can we put up with? Mature parents put up with a lot of tension in raising their children. Mature teachers put up with a lot of tension in trying to open the minds and hearts of their students. Mature friends absorb a lot of tension in remaining faithful to each other. Mature young women and men put up with a lot of sexual tension while waiting for marriage. Mature Christians put up with a lot of tension in helping to absorb the immaturities and sins of their churches. Men and women are noble of character precisely when they can walk with patience, respect, graciousness, and forbearance amid crushing and unfair tensions, when they never grow weary of doing what is right.

Of course this comes with a caveat: Carrying tension does not mean carrying abuse. Those of noble character and sanctity of soul challenge abuse rather than enable it through well-intentioned acquiescence. Sometimes, in the name of virtue and loyalty, we are encouraged to absorb abuse, but that is antithetical to what Jesus did. He loved, challenged, and absorbed tension in a way that took away the sins of the world. We know now, thanks to long bitter experience, that, no matter how noble our intention, when we absorb abuse as opposed to challenging it, we don't take away the sin, we enable it.

But all of this will not be easy. It's the way of long loneliness, with many temptations to let go and slip away. But, if you persevere and never grown weary of doing what is right, at your funeral, those who knew you will be blessed and grateful that you continued to believe in them even when for a time they had stopped believing in themselves.

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.
This Week at SJC

Monday, October 29
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

Tuesday, October 30
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
1:30 p.m. Sr. Josephine’s Bible Study
3:00 p.m. Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
7:00 p.m. School Parent Meeting
7:00 p.m. RCIA

Wednesday, October 31
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
1:00 p.m. Endow Group
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, November 1
7:00 p.m. Baptism Prep Meeting
7:00 p.m. Seasons of Hope Grief Support

Friday, November 2
9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club
6:30 p.m. All Souls Mass
7:00 p.m. Father/Daughter Dance

Saturday, November 3
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 4

Dear St. John of the Cross Parishioners,

On behalf of hundreds of American servicemen and women, Operation Support Our Troops—America (OSOT—America) wants to thank you for your generous collection of 436 lbs. of goods on 10/4/2012 to be sent to the troops. At this time we are sending an average of one hundred packages a week and this contribution will help us continue with our mission. The boxes we send go a long way to brighten the day of those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We still have thousands of members of the armed forces in very difficult and dangerous living conditions. They need to know that we have not forgotten them. On our web site (www.osotamerica.org) you can read some of the responses from our package recipients, expressing their gratitude and telling us how these packages have lifted their morale. It is not only the contents of the package but the love that is enclosed from people who care and make it possible.

Our entire staff of volunteers thanks you for being part of Operation Support Our Troops—America. Without your support and help we would not be able to continue our work. We sincerely appreciate your contribution and are very grateful.

Sincerely,
Deborah Rickert
President
Operation Support Our Troops—America
osotamerica.org

Benet Academy Open House October 3/4 & 10/11
Benet Academy in Lisle is a Catholic, Benediction, College Prep HS. Benet welcomes junior high families to their all open house on Tuesday, November 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meet our faculty and staff, take a guided tour, & attend a featured presentation by the Dir. Of Admissions.
Baptisms

In September, 2012, we welcomed the following children into the Christian community through the sacrament of Baptism.

Mia Gabrielle, daughter of Gabriel and Jamie (Wolf) Alvarado

Hannah Mary, daughter of Aaron and Vanessa (Heitz) Cornell

Sophia Marie, daughter of Stephen and Jill (Prosi) Corr

Lacey Ann, daughter of Robert and Carrie (Matusik) Sullivan

John Tuck, son of Robert and Carrie (Matusiak) Sullivan

Gabriella Lynne and Madelyn Rose, daughters of Vincent and Stephanie (Janos) Pellegrino

Joseph Sylvester, son of Jeremy and Aimee (Nosalik) Hojnicki

Connor Xavier, son of Anthony and Mary (Lembach) Morrone

Joaquin Braulio, son of Emmanuel and Elizabeth (Alvarez) Juarez

May we remember your light today when we see the radiant sun, a burning candle, or a shining lamp.
Jesus, our light, we praise and thank you.
Shine on us forever.

John 12:46

Baptism Preparation Meeting
Thursday, November 1

The Baptism preparation meeting this month will be held Thursday evening, 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.
Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

James Bennet, father of Joan Sewall
Irene Wenat, mother of Jim Kotowicz

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       | Rita Koziol       |
| Tracy Bucciarelli  | Ray Kula          |
| Garth Christie     | Cathy Laskey      |
| Connie Crane       | Yvonne Lowry      |
| Ashley Davis       | Chick Meehan      |
| Mary Sue           | Moon Meehan       |
| Donohue            | Joan Nicholson    |
| Kimberly Edwards   | Tommy Niemeyer    |
| Karen Hult         | Jean Onesto       |
| Ruth Ilg           | Greg Palaschak   |
| Tom Jass           | Kathie Saldana    |
| Emily Johanns      | Rita Shelhouse    |
| Lois Corrine Johnson | Bob Sturenfeldt |

Lord Hear Our Prayer

Monday, October 29
6:30 Catherine Boyle
7:45 Walter J. Piszczor; Genrose Hlavin

Tuesday, October 30
6:30 John C. Gleason; Pat Hickey
7:45 Dorothy Rydzewski; Don Winkel

Wednesday, October 31
6:30 Our Beloved Dead; John & Elizabeth Treacy
7:45 Fr. Bill Martin; Gora & Maier Families

Thursday, November 1, All Saints
6:30 Genrose Hlavin; Raymond M. McCarthy
7:45 Marie Capellani; Bahija Dandan
6:30 Dr. Lawrence Goslawski; Brian Donovan

Friday, November 2, All Souls
7:45 Anthony Jacyno; Rocco & Helen Di Iorio
6:30 All Souls

Saturday, November 3, St. Martin de Porres
8:00 Timothy Sweeney; Margaret Prost
5:00 Lenny DiPompeo; Anne & Charles Ward

Sunday, November 4 Thirty-First Sunday OT
7:30 Murray & Gerard Ferrill; John P. Ryan, Jr.
9:00 Raymond & Margaret Cochran;
   Patricia Ann Hamilton
10:45 Deceased Members of Jakicic Family;
   A. J. Nilles
12:15 Robert Bruce McArthur; Bob Feldmeier
5:00 SJC & Kolbe House Parishiners

Italics—Living

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
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!

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord
James Bennet, father of Joan Sewall
Irene Wenat, mother of Jim Kotowicz

Wedding Banns
Daniel Corcoran and Elizabeth Stelter

Trying to get in touch with us? More info is on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org
WOMEN'S CLUB

ANNUAL COAT DRIVE

To benefit St. Vincent De Paul
October 6 - November 4

Volunteers are needed on November 4th to help prepare the donation boxes
GREAT SERVICE HOUR OPPORTUNITY!

Please contact Colleen Pabst at mahoney5674@yahoo.com or Amanda Collins at aj_collins03@yahoo.com

Thank you for your support!

Drop boxes are located in the Church, Parish Center and school