PARISH LENTEN MISSION
begins today at Mass and continues on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in church

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Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we welcome Fr. Bob Colaresi, director of the Shrine of St. Therese in Darien. As a Carmelite priest Fr. Bob is an educator, administrator and employee of his friend and boss, St. Therese of the Child Jesus, the “Little Flower.” He has directed many missions and retreats. He has also led many pilgrimages to the Holy Land that several people from our parish have attended.

The spiritual journey is a journey inward in order to journey outward, to be one with our deepest self and the Christ within so that we can be used as instruments of God’s peace with others and the world. There are many difficulties, wrong turns, and false choices, wounds inflicted by others and by ourselves that cause us to delay or abandon the journey. It is not easy, at one level, because we make it more complicated than it is. If we can see ourselves and others clearly, it can be simplicity itself by reflecting the face of Christ in each other.

There is further purpose in asking Fr. Bob to be our Lenten Mission director this year. It is our hope that this Mission will also arouse in you a desire to be part of The Beloved Retreat which the parish will sponsor in October at the Carmelite Center in Darien. You will hear much more about this in the coming months, but our hope is that we and Fr. Bob can begin a relationship that will lead to participation in the retreat in October. Either event can stand on its own, but if you experience something you want more of in the parish mission, then the follow up retreat may be just the thing.

There is so much happening at this time of year. Last weekend had both the Friday Fish Fry and on Saturday, the Teacher’s Recognition Trust Fund Gala at Butterfield Country Club. Both were great successes. KUDOS to the Men’s Club for all the organizing and the cooking for the Fish Fry. The teens from Crossroads were great hosts and servers. Whatever the financial benefits, a good time was had by all. The TRT party was also a great success. For the first time, people were using their Smart phones for the auction and bidding on a variety of items. KUDOS to Maggie McGarel and all the Trustees and to Molly Morrissey for hosting such a fun event. There were many, many school parents who were involved in various aspects of planning and all the details of the event to help give our teachers and administrators the recognition and appreciation they deserve.

Finally, this past Friday was the last session of Matthew Kelly’s Rediscovering Catholicism book discussion series. Beginning with the distribution of the books last December, the five sessions (repeated three times each) have involved numerous parishioners in conversations about their faith. (Even Fr. Joe enjoyed the sharing!) I am very grateful to Mary Runger who led this successful effort in adult formation for our parish. Working with a team of committed parishioners, together they put in many hours over many months developing and printing the comprehensive study guide, coordinating and marketing the book seminar and the Matthew Kelly Passion & Purpose Live event (attended by over 800 people), and contributing to the format and discussion topics at each session. Many on the committee have said that being part of this evangelization effort has been life-changing for them as they got to know each other at a deeper level from working, praying and sharing together. I am also very grateful to the anonymous donors whose generosity made all of this possible. Where it all goes from here remains the challenge. How do we live the ‘new evangelization’ so that the Gospel is offered ever-new to a hungry world? While we have some future decisions to make about programming, quite simply it begins with each one of us. Live your faith every day, share with those who are seeking more, witness to the love of God in your life every opportunity you have. And as St. Francis of Assisi said, ‘Preach the Gospel always, use words if necessary.’

Peace,
Fr. David
Living the Gospel

This gospel parable is a familiar one and is often referred to as the parable of the prodigal son. How in the world is the son prodigal—lavish, extravagant—when he acted so selfishly? On the one hand, the younger son is prodigal when he prodigiously squanders his inheritance. On the other hand, the real prodigality of the son lay in that he loved his life enough to swallow his pride, return home, and throw himself on the mercy of his father. While this son’s situation was desperate enough—he was “dying from hunger”—he also knew his father well enough to know with confidence that he would not be turned away. He would not let him die. The younger son chooses life, even if it might be different.

Our Lenten penance calls us to go beyond where we are and come to the compassion and generosity of the father. Every day in countless ways we are faced with a choice to repent and make stronger our relationships with others. Ultimately, our Lenten (and life) journey is one of reconciliation which brings healing and restored relationship. Reconciliation implies a letting go of whatever binds us or hinders us or turns us in on ourselves and a “passing over” to receiving the compassion and mercy which can only be celebrated as new life. Lent tends to pass all too quickly. We cannot let it go by and be satisfied only with “giving up” something. Lent also offers us a positive opportunity to reflect on our many relationships, especially with those closest to us (family, parish community, colleagues at work). Repentance challenges us to look deeply into our own selves and root out whatever self-centeredness keeps us from receiving God’s mercy and compassion and from offering forgiveness to (or seeking it from) others. Repentance invites us to choose life. Reconciliation compels us to give life to others.

Closing Prayers

May we seek new life for ourselves and give new life to others through our generosity and compassion.

May we be reconciled with those whom we have hurt and come to new life during Lent.

Our Father . .

For Reflection:
The lavishness of God that I have experienced in my life is ... I love life so much that I . . . I have received new life from . .

Special Collection this Weekend

The Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe illuminates the way for the people of the region by helping Catholic organizations provide food, shelter, medical care, and compassion for the depressed and lonely, in addition to pastoral care and catechesis. Your donation today helps to reinforce the Christian ideals of charity, family values, and kindness in a place struggling in the aftermath of 70 years of atheistic Soviet rule. Please be generous to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections to learn more about the important projects funded by the Collection.
Lenten Parish Mission
March 9 – 13

Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm. will lead us in reflecting on what images of God define us, what has to die or be stripped away to become more whole and healed and authentic.

Monday: Who is that stranger in the mirror?
Tuesday: Now we see dimly as in a mirror.
Wednesday: You are my beloved, in you I delight.

Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., has been Director of the Society of the Little Flower since 1991. A native of New Britain, CT, he entered the Carmelites in 1959. Ordained a Priest in 1967, he served in Catholic high school ministry in Louisville, KY and then served as Principal of Joliet Catholic High School in Joliet, IL from 1975 to 1988. He has Masters Degrees in Theology, Medieval History, and Religious Education. Fr. Bob claims “St. Therese is my friend, as well as my boss!”

Meditation by Richard Rohr
Your image of God, your de facto, operative image of God, lives in a symbiotic relationship with your soul and creates what you become. Loving people, forgiving people have always encountered a loving and forgiving God. Cynical people are cynical about the very possibility of any coherent or loving Center to the universe. So why wouldn’t they become cynical themselves? Of course they do.

When you encounter a truly sacred text, the first questions are not: Did this literally happen just as it states? How can I be saved? What is the right thing for me to do? What is the dogmatic pronouncement here? Does my church agree with this? Who is right and who is wrong here? These are largely ego questions, I am afraid. They are questions that try to secure your position, not questions that help you go on a spiritual path of faith and trust. They constrict you, whereas the purpose of The Sacred is to expand you. I know these are the first questions that come to our mind because that is where we usually live—inside of our mental ego. They are the questions we were trained to ask, because everybody else asks them, unfortunately!

Having read sacred text, I would invite you to ponder these questions:

What is God doing here?
What does this say about who God is?
What does this say about how I can then relate to such a God?

Our SJC Lenten Experience at a Glance...
Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowls: Weekly interactive website and bulletin information help us to give alms and pray for the poor around the world.

Return Your Rice Bowl to Mass Palm Sunday, March 24 at any Mass

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday at 6pm in church

Parish Mission: March 9-10 weekend at all Masses and March 11, 12 and 13 at 7pm

Evening of Meditation: Friday, March 15, 7pm

RCIA 3rd Scrutiny: 10:45 Mass Sunday, March 17

Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service: Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 pm

Taize Prayer: After Stations on Friday, March 22 at 6:30 pm

Kolbe Lenten Retreat: ongoing via email

Holy Hour & Benediction: Fr. Filbert will lead us in prayer on Monday of Holy Week, March 25 from 8-9pm in church.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule on page 9 and our parish website.

In the oldest known Book of Gospels, called the Wurzberg Evangelary (c. 645), the three passages from John’s Gospel listed for RCIA rites are included in the readings for Lent. These Johannine stories have had significant prominence in the preparation of the Elect for Easter Sacraments.

Just as the scrutinies themselves are meant to be a series of rites spanning over an extended period of time, so too are these three Gospel readings meant to be “digested” little by little with time in between each set of readings. This is because the readings in their assigned sequence reflect the very purpose of the Scrutiny Rites. That is, little by little, these readings with their prescribed rites uncover what is weak and sinful and strengthen what is good and upright in the elect. Through them, “the elect are instructed gradually about the mystery of sin, from which the whole world and every person longs to be delivered…” (RCIA, 143).

In the story of the woman at the well, the Samaritan woman hears Jesus then goes and tells the villagers what she has heard, causing them to seek him out for themselves. The reading ends with the villagers saying to the woman, “We no longer believe because of your word; for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the savior of the world” (John 4:42). Was this not the starting point of every elect? They heard a word, a word that they discovered over time to be Christ. Upon discovering who was speaking to them, they no longer believed because of hearsay, obligation, or pressure, but because they heard Christ’s voice for themselves. This is what we heard and reflected upon Last Sunday in our First Scrutiny. We prayed for our elect’s continual conversion and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead them into the waters of baptism.

In the story of the man born blind which we hear this week in our second scrutiny, the man healed of his blindness gradually grows to see as Christ sees. He regains his sight right at the start of the story. But only because of the interrogation he receives from his neighbors and the Pharisees and his struggle to respond to them faithfully, does he little by little begin to see the identity of who it was who healed him. By the end of the story, the one who healed him was no longer to him just “the man called Jesus” (John 9:11) or simply “a prophet” (John 9:17) or “from God” (John 9:33). He was “Lord” (John 9:38) in whom he believed. For the elect this progression may be familiar. At the start of their catechumenate, their eyes are signed “that they may see the glory of God”. Through their catechesis over the years and their experience with the community of believers they grow in understanding of what they see—who the man Jesus was, the prophetic words he spoke, his unique relationship with the Father, and finally his true identity as Lord.

Lastly, in the story of the raising of Lazarus, we come to the final days before the elect must stand before the font and profess their faith. We will hear this reading next week at our third scrutiny Mass. In this reading, the miracle happens at the end of the story, but faith is already expressed long before the miracle takes place. Martha makes her profession of faith in Jesus the Messiah even as her brother is lying dead in the tomb. She needed no words and no miraculous deeds to believe in him; she only needed to believe.

In this final story, we see what those who have been entrusted to continue Jesus’ work have hopefully been doing in order to prepare the elect to make their profession of faith. They have been preparing them, like Jesus prepared Martha and Mary, to understand the paschal mystery they would witness in the resurrection—that out of death comes new life in Christ.

As a community of believers, we have received the sight and have come to believe that Jesus is the One who has eternal life. Let us continue to allow these scriptures to inspire us during these scrutiny rites. Let us experience Jesus the Messiah like the Samaritan woman at the well, open the eyes of our hearts to encounter Christ and be healed like the man born blind, and like Martha and Mary may we come to believe that Jesus is the Eternal Life.

Let’s continue to pray for our elect Krista and Chris and our candidates Linda, Kevin and Brian as they prepare for Easter Sacraments.

Fr. Fil Ngwila
Evening or Morning of Meditation

During this Lenten season you are cordially invited to join us for a special meditation program, Progress not Perfection. We will meditate, share, watch A Symbol of the Journey, a DVD presentation narrated by Laurence Freeman, OSB, and there will be a period of Lectio Divina, a way of prayerful listening to scripture. All are invited: those who meditate, those who want to learn to meditate, and those who want to know more about meditation. Reservations are requested but not required—contact: Mary at 708-246-5108 or mary105105@gmail.com

Friday, March 15, 2013, from 7 – 9:30pm, 6:45pm hospitality

Stations of the Cross help us to make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer through meditating upon the chief scenes of Christ's sufferings and death. It has become a staple during Lent at our parish and is often performed in a spirit of reparation for the sufferings and insults that Jesus endured during His Passion. All ages are welcome on Fridays at 6-6:30pm in church.

Join us for Taizé Prayer on Friday, March 22nd following Stations.

What is Taizé Prayer?

Set aside some time to spiritually prepare for Easter and join us as for a Prayer Service in the style of Taizé on Friday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m., following Stations of the Cross. Taizé prayer, named for the tiny village in France where it originated, is sung, meditative prayer. Drawing upon the calming repetition of simple melodies and short, impactful texts, Taizé prayer invites individuals to express their faith through song and to experience unity with God and with each other. Organ, guitar, & instruments add to our prayer, expressing what words alone cannot.

Come to Me

Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the easiest person in the world to be with. Even if you cannot pray very well, or even if you do not say anything at all, the mere fact that you come to HIM in the Blessed Sacrament is, in itself, a prayer of faith that will greatly benefit your soul. Adoration Chapel is open on Mondays from 2:30 - 9:00 p.m. The Rosary is prayed at 2:30 and 8:45 p.m. This Lent--come and spend some time with HIM.

Holy Hour & Benediction: Fr. Filbert will lead us in prayer on Monday of Holy Week, March 25 from 8-9pm in church.
Last week’s first reading from the book of Exodus told us of the story of Moses and how he encountered God in the burning bush. The God who introduced Himself to Moses as “I am who I am” is the God of love who brings deliverance to His people Israel. The Gospel reading also challenged us to be fruitful. God is patient with us and gives us more time to repent and produce fruit. As we experience God’s love in our lives and as we appreciate God’s abundance grace, let us share with others what we have received.

CRS Rice Bowl Program helps us to share that love with the hungry and the less fortunate. In this Lent, let us be more generous, loving and caring. Last week we learned about Lesotho, a small country in Southern Africa and how our little contributions could help bring early childhood education in some villages in this poor country. This week we will learn about Dominican Republic and how CRS programs help the saving groups.

Savings Groups in Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, CRS-supported savings groups help community members improve their livelihoods and support their families. The savings groups are organized and managed by the members, which helps to promote unity, empowerment and long-term sustainable development within the community.

In the Dominican Republic, 42 percent of the population currently lives below the poverty line.

Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) is a methodology developed by CRS to target the poorest populations who lack access to formal financial services and who are often overlooked by major microfinance institutions. 15-30 group members meet 2-4 times each month to save money in a collective fund.

The fund gradually grows larger, allowing the group to provide small-scale loans.

Members can use loans to develop business activities or for consumptive purposes.

Members also have access to a “social fund” that provides interest-free loans for social services and emergencies, such as funerals, school fees and medical treatments.

REFLECTION

Who is God calling you to be? How has God been generous with you, and how have you stewarded God’s gifts?

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS:

Dignity of Work and Rights of Worker

The opportunity to work to earn living is a right of all people. All workers have the right to fair wage, to organize themselves and to work in good conditions.

CRS Rice Bowl Program

Let us pray.
Abundant God, help us this Lent to let go of those things that weigh us down.
May our prayers and sacrifices bring us closer to your Son, Jesus, and help bring life to our brothers and sisters who struggle with hunger and poverty.
May we proclaim the dignity of life, and celebrate the witness of your love each day.
Amen.

Return your Rice Bowl donation box on Palm Sunday, March 24th to the baskets at the foot of the altar at Mass.
The Catechism of the Catholic Church is organized around four Pillars: the Creed (what we believe), the Liturgy, specifically the Sacraments (how we celebrate the Christian mystery), Morality (how Christians live their lives based on the Ten Commandments), and Prayer.

Join us for a 12-week study on the first of the four Pillars of the Catechism: The Creed. During the twelve sessions we will study the twelve articles of the Apostle’s Creed through a video presentation, group discussion, and at-home preparation.

**Thursdays, beginning March 21 at two times: 1:30pm or 7pm in the Parish Center.** The cost of materials is $35 and includes all study materials, a binder and a paperback copy of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Please register at the Parish Center or online before March 15. Study materials are available in the Parish Center now if you would like to check them out. If cost is holding you back, please email Fr. David at ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org.

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**Parish Reconciliation Service**  
Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m.

**Palm Sunday, March 24 Masses**  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. Vigil  
Sunday 7:30 a.m.  
9:00 a.m.  
10:45 a.m.  
12:30 p.m. (Note this Mass starts 15 minutes later than usual.)  
5:00 p.m.

**Holy Thursday, March 28**  
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:30 p.m.  
(Contemporary Ensemble, Flute & Cello)  
Bus Pilgrimage to Neighboring Churches following Mass

**Good Friday, March 29**  
Stations of the Cross for Families 12:00 p.m.  
Passion of the Lord 3:00 p.m.  
(Parish Choir, Cello)

**Holy Saturday, March 31**  
Blessing of Easter Baskets 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Center  
Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.  
(Parish Choir, Flute, Cello & Trumpet)

**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, March 31**  
7:30 a.m.  
(Cantor, Flute & Cello)  
9:00 a.m.  
(Combined Children’s Choirs, Flute & Cello)  
9:15 a.m. First Floor Multi-Purpose Room in School  
(Cantor, Flute, & Trumpet)  
10:45 a.m.  
(Parish Choir, Flute, Trumpet, & Cello)  
11:00 a.m. First Floor Multi-Purpose Room in School  
(Teen Choir, Flute, Trumpet, Bass Guitar, & Drums)  
12:30 p.m. (Note this Mass starts 15 minutes later than usual.)  
(Contemporary Ensemble, Flute, Trumpet, & Cello)

**No 5:00 p.m. Mass on Easter Sunday**
Mrs. Laurie Petersen, our full time school nurse received the “Heart of the School Award” in the “Behind the Scenes” category awarded by The Archdiocese of Chicago’s Office of Catholic Schools. Mrs. Petersen is committed to serving the students in the best possible way, “I bring enthusiasm and a genuine concern for the well being of students and staff along with a commitment to our common purpose of providing a Christ-centered, Catholic education for our students and families. The needs of the students keep me focused, keep me striving to learn what I need to know to provide quality care.”

Each year, the Archdiocese calls for nominations of faculty and staff who are actively engaged in student achievement. The Archdiocese only named fourteen elementary and secondary school personnel in recognition of outstanding, unique, and innovative accomplishments. We are thrilled that one of our own received this prestigious honor.

**This Week At SJC**
March 11  All School Liturgy, 9:15, Church
March 11  Athletic Board Meeting, 7-8 p.m. Parish Center
March 15  Out of Uniform Day

**YC Schedule**

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<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>Classes K-6</td>
<td>10:15-11:30 am</td>
<td>Sunday, Mar 10, 17</td>
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<td>FFC</td>
<td>Noon to 1:30</td>
<td>Sunday, April 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Groups</td>
<td>Noon to 1:30</td>
<td>Sunday, March 10*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Needs</td>
<td>Noon to 1:30</td>
<td>Sunday, March 10*</td>
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*all 7th grade students come to the Parish Center for a special presentation at 6:30 pm instead of their regular schedule small group

**Youth Catechesis Office**

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

Sunday during class ~ Monday 8:30am-7:00pm ~ Tues thru Thurs 8:30am- 4:00pm

With such an exciting time in the Catholic Church history, students grades 3-6 experienced a presentation that explained the process of a conclave with the College of Cardinals.

They were very interested and had great questions about the process. The students are now anxiously awaiting the white smoke from the news out of Rome! They also held an election from five cardinals. The students were presented information on Cardinal Scola, Cardinal Ouellet, Cardinal Turkson, Cardinal Dolan and Cardinal O’Malley, then they voted. Although there was not a 2/3 rule as in the conclave, a simple majority was won by Cardinal Dolan, with Cardinal Turkson in a close second. Now let’s see who the College of Cardinals choose!
CALENDAR EVENTS:
March 10 Easter Basket Service Project
   Teens arrive 3pm, 2nd graders 3:30pm
March 14-17 Kairos 13 retreat
   Please pray for a spirit filled retreat!
April 14 Home Group Mtgs
April 28 Spring Mass 5pm

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
This school year’s needs have been met...please keep in mind joining our team for next year!
Adults & teens may always join in!
We do need adults to join our summer conferences & work tours so if you’ve ever thought of spending quality time in service, please contact Katie Hayes, 708-246-4404!

CONFERENCE & WORK TOUR spots are available!
   pick-up in the Parish Center office or download from our website www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/service
   REGISTER ASAP as final deadlines for conferences are at the end of this month!

Please keep our Kairos 13 & 4th teams in your prayers as they lead nearly 50 retreatants on a prayerful, spirit-filled retreat weekend March 14-17!
Many thanks to all who have helped behind the scenes & sharing prayer with us!

EASTER BASKET FILLING PROJECT
All Parish 2nd Graders are invited to join our high school teens to fill & decorate baskets for kids who will not otherwise receive a basket!

Join us THIS WEEKEND, Sunday March 10
Teens arrive 3pm, 2nd graders arrive 3:30pm, all finish by 4:30pm

Please bring items to fill the baskets:
   - little stuffed animals
   - small toys like cars and dolls
   - coloring books & crayons
   - small toiletries
   - stickers

If you have any questions, contact Kathleen King at kheals@aol.com or 708-784-9453
Interfaith Career Network

Ask A Hiring Manager!
Interfaith Career Network invites you to join us on Thursday, March 21, 7-9 pm for a dynamic panel of professional recruiters who know the ropes from the inside and want to help you boost your search strategy! Unlock the mysteries to…how can I help recruiters find me and make that initial connection…what is the secret to getting that call back and keeping them interested in me…and so much more. Learn the well-worn tips, proven techniques and industry insights from 3 seasoned corporate recruiters…Human Resources Director, SitterCity; Enterprise Talent Acquisition, Blue Cross Blue Shield; plus a Senior Search Executive from the executive search firm of Bloom, Gross and Associates. Join us for this highly interactive evening at St. Cletus Education Building, 700 West 55th Street in La Grange. Please enter the building at the flag pole entrance. This program is open to everyone and there is no fee to attend.

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

Thank You from Little Brothers
Dear Friends,
We wish to take this opportunity to thank you for participating in our Elder Holiday Gift Program. You generously shopped and purchased personalized gifts for 125 seniors! We received many special notes and cards from elders, so be assured your brightened their Christmas. Each year volunteers and staff strive to come up with the perfect gift idea for elders in our family, this year with your help, 1,041 elders received a holiday gift. When elders opened their presents they received a personal gift chosen just for them and an additional gift—a reminder that they are a valued member of the community and that they are not forgotten.

So from all of us, and especially our elders, we extend our gratitude for your caring, sharing, and remembering our deserving elders in this way.

Sincerely,
Sherri Gorski

Visit our website at www.littlebrotherschicago.org to view our newsletters, see our elders and volunteers in action, and learn how you can be a part of it all.

Protecting God’s Children Workshop
A VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children workshop will be held in the Parish Center on Wednesday, March 20 at 7:00 p.m. All SJC volunteers who have contact with children are required to be VIRTUS trained. Register online at www.virtus.org. Contact Mary Beth Drafz at mbdrafz@stjohnofthecross.org or 708-246-4404 with questions.

Other News

Augustinians’ Inaugural Gala
Friday, April 26, 2013 6:30-9:30 p.m.
The Augustinians of the Province of Our Mother of Good Counsel have faithfully served the Church in the Midwest since 1905. On Friday, April 26, the Solemnity of Mary Our Mother of Good Counsel, the Province’s Patroness, they will hold their inaugural gala with a reception and dinner at the Hyatt Regency, Chicago. Individual tickets are $250, couples $500, tables (8) $2,000, and special tables of honor start at $2,500. Program book ads and sponsorships are also available. The proceeds will benefit retired and infirm Friars, new seminarians and vocations outreach, and the Augustinians’ Peruvian missions.

Francis Cardinal George will be the special guest that evening. The Friars would be very grateful if anyone interested in attending or sponsoring the event would call Ms. Becky Schmitt at 773-595-4008 or Michael Gerrity at 773-595-4035, or email augadvmw@gmail.com.

Please join us for this joyful musical production featuring many young performers from SJC Parish.

MARCH 15, 16, 22, 23  7:30 pm
March 17  3:00 pm
Tickets on line: www.fenwickfriars.com
or call: 708-955-3377
Fenwick High School
505 Washington  Oak Park
Women's Club Open Board Positions
Do you look forward to Women's Club functions such as Cooking Night or the Flower Sale? Perhaps you have ideas for new events. Would you be interested in working with the charities we support or helping to get the word out about what's happening in the Women's Club? Maybe you enjoy meeting new people and helping out behind the scenes. No matter what your talents are the Women's Club welcomes you! Please contact Jeannie Francis at 708-246-4695 or Connie Madden at 417-2012 to learn more about open positions beginning next school year 2013. You can also learn more about the Women's Club at our page on the SJC website.

Annual Women's Club Fashion Show…
Help Needed!
The Women's Club is seeking Fashion Show committee members to coordinate this exciting event in the fall. We need help in many areas including invitation design, response coordination, securing silent auction items and more. Share your talents and join the team that makes this bi-annual tradition happen! Contact Katie Pruitt at 784-0065 for more information.

SJC Mom’s Club
March 15: All moms of young children are welcome to join us for a play date. We will read aloud books about Easter, make our own Peter Cottontail, and enjoy carrots for snack! Parish Center

March 22: Physical Friday! Meet us at the Parish Center at 9:30 for a Spring Scavenger Hunt! Moms and their littles will take a walk around the parish campus, looking for signs of spring. We will return to the Parish Center for a snack and to draw pictures of our findings!

March 29: There will be no meeting as we will be celebrating Good Friday.

April 5: There will be no meeting as SJC will be on Spring Break. Enjoy this time off with your families!

April 12: A Mom’s Only discussion will take place. Babysitting will be provided and more details will appear in the bulletin as the date nears.

Congratulations to our New Eagle Scouts!
On Saturday, February 23rd, 2013, Boy Scout Troop 217, sponsored by St. John of the Cross Church awarded the Eagle rank to four young members of the parish.

This is the highest rank that a Boy Scout can achieve. Numerous requirements had to be met, including leadership and scouting skills, as well as executing a service project for the benefit of the community. The four boys honored were (from left to right) Vance Smith, Matt Pesch, Michael Clancy and Riley Marshall.

Michael Clancy held a collection of cleaning and paper goods for a battered women’s shelter in Chicago. Damian Marshall sponsored a collection of personal care items to benefit the Hines Veteran Hospital and Fischer House. Matt Pesch built four sorting tables on wheels for the Secret Santa project of the Community Nurse Association of La Grange. And Vance Smith built four wooden benches that grace the courtyard of St. John of the Cross School.

We are proud of these fine young gentlemen!

SJC Men’s Club
Men’s Night Out
Friday, March 22
6 p.m. until ??
Parish Center Basement
Pool
Cards
Foosball
NCAA Basketball
Food and beverages
Come join your fellow parishioners for a night of fun and games.
There's a disturbing trend within our churches today. Simply put, we are seeing the embrace of our churches become less-and-less inclusive. More-and-more, our churches are demanding a purity and exclusivity not demanded by Jesus in Gospels.

Indeed the very word "inclusivity" is often glibly dismissed as being part of the "I am spiritual but not religious" ethos, as if being inclusive were some kind of light-weight, New-Age, thing rather than a central demand within Christian discipleship itself.

What does it mean to be inclusive? We can begin with the word "Catholic": The opposite of being "Catholic" is not being "Protestant". The opposite of "Catholic" is being narrow, exclusive, and overly selective in our embrace. The opposite of being "Catholic" is to define our faith-family too-narrowly. "Catholic" means wide, universal. It means incarnating the embrace of an abundant and prodigal God whose sun shines on all indiscriminately, the bad as well as the good. Jesus once defined this by saying: "In my father's house there are many rooms." God's heart is wide, abundance, prodigal, and universally-embracing, a heart that takes care to pray for those "other sheep who are not of this fold". To be "Catholic" is to imitate that.

In the Gospels we see that Jesus' passion for inclusivity virtually always trumps his concern for purity and worthiness. He associates and dines with sinners without setting any prior moral conditions that have to be met to before those sinners are deemed worthy of his presence. His disciples, much like many good sincere church-people today, were forever trying to keep certain people away from him because they deemed them unworthy; but Jesus always protested that he didn't need that kind of protection and that, indeed, he wanted them all to come to him: Let them come to me! Indeed, that is still Jesus' call: Let them come to me, all of them!

We need to be more inclusive. I highlight this because today our faith families are shrinking and instead of us weeping empathically about this loss of wholeness we are more prone to be secretly gleeful about it: Good riddance: they weren't real Christians anyway! Or, in the words of some Catholic commentators, they were Cafeteria-Catholics, picking and choosing which parts of the Gospel they like and turning a meaty Catholicism into Catholic-Light.

Such a judgment, however sincere and well intentioned, needs to operate under two huge caution flags: First, such a judgment leaves the person making it rather vulnerable. Who is a true, fully practicing Catholic? Several years ago, I was asked by a Roman Catholic School Board to write a definition of what it means to be a "practicing Catholic". I agonized over the task, examined the classical working definitions for that, and eventually produced a bit of a formula. But I prefaced the definition with this preamble: Only Jesus and Mary were fully practicing Catholics. Everyone else, without a single exception, falls short. We are all Cafeteria-Catholics. We all fall short; all have shortcomings, and all live the Gospel somewhat selectively. To cite the most salient example: Many of us bear down more on church-going and private morality, to the neglect of the non-negotiable Gospel demand apposite justice; others simply reverse this. Who's closer to Jesus? Who's more of a Cafeteria-Catholic?

The answer to that question lies inside the secret realm of conscience. But what we do know is that none of us gets it fully right. All of us stand in need of God's forgiveness and all of us stand in need of the patience of our ecclesial communities.

The second caution flag is this: The God that Jesus reveals to us is a God of infinite abundance. Inside God there is no scarcity, no stinginess, no sparing of mercy. As the parable of the Sower makes clear, this God scatters his seed indiscriminately on every kind of soil - bad soil, mediocre soil, good soil, excellent soil. God can do this because God's love and mercy are limitless. God, it seems, never worries about someone receiving cheap, undeserved grace. As well, Jesus assures us that God is prodigal: Like the father of the prodigal son and his older brother, God embraces both the missteps of our immaturity as well as the bitterness and resentment within our maturity. Good religion needs to honor that.

Today, on both sides of the ideological divide, conservative or liberal alike, we need to remind ourselves of what it means to live under an abundant, prodigal, universally-embracing, and "Catholic" God. What it means, among other things of course, is a constant stretching of the heart to an ever-wider inclusivity. How wide are our hearts?

Exclusivity can mask itself as depth and as passion for truth; but it invariably reveals itself, in its inability to handle ambiguity and otherness, as rigidity and fear, as if God and Jesus needed our protection. More importantly, it often too reveals itself as lacking genuine empathy for those outside its own circle; and, in that, it fails to honor its own abundant and prodigal God.

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.
O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity, and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings, and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its peoples from enemies from within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will toward all. Amen.

~~Franciscan Mission Associates; prayer card
Our Weekly Calendar and Intentions

Monday, March 11
9:30 a.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
9:30 a.m. Senior Planning Meeting
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
1:00 p.m. Sacred Space Faith Sharing Group
1:00 p.m. Little Rock Scripture Study
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
2:30 p.m. Adoration
7:00 p.m. Parish Mission

Tuesday, March 12
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. SJC Teacher Recognition Trust
7:00 p.m. RCIA
7:00 p.m. Parish Mission
7:30 p.m. Boy Scouts

Wednesday, March 13
9:00 a.m. Women’s Club Flourish Lenten Faith Sharing
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:00 p.m. Endow Group
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts
6:45 p.m. Cub Scouts
7:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
7:00 p.m. Parish Mission
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, March 14
9:30 a.m. Sacred Space Faith Sharing Group
12:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group
6:30 p.m. Tuesdays with Mary and Family Rosary Group
7:00 p.m. Bridges Faith Sharing Group (school chapel)
7:30 p.m. Men’s Club

Friday, March 15
9:00 a.m. Mom’s Club
12:00 p.m. Senior St. Patrick/St. Joseph Day Luncheon
6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
6:45 p.m. Christian Evening of Meditation

Saturday, March 16
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:30 a.m. Morning of Meditation

Sunday, March 17
1:30 p.m. Kairos Closing

Mass Intentions

Monday, March 11
6:30 Our Beloved Dead
7:45 Ellen McGowan

Tuesday, March 12
6:30 Anthony Shafranski
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Virginia Kuchta

Wednesday, March 13
6:30 Bill King
7:45 Walter Kogler; Raymond Matusik

Thursday, March 14
7:45 Edward Wolak

Friday, March 15
7:45 Walter J. Piszczor; Margaret Cochran

Saturday, March 16
8:00 Hope Holiona; Eugene Garvy
5:00 Michael Mahoney; Julianne Burns-O’Connor

Sunday, March 17, Fifth Sunday of Lent
7:30 Special Intention; Catherine Boyle
9:00 Georgeanne Ferro; Thomas Muldowney
10:45 Michael Mahoney; Thomas Muldowney
12:15 SJC & Kolbe House Parishioners
5:00 Patricia Cebula; Brian Donovan

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

Fr. David P. Dowdle              Pastor          ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Fr. Filbert F. Ngwila            Associate Pastor fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
John Schopp                      Deacon          john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright                      Outreach         bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Gaschetta                  Director of Youth Catechesis jgaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Clauer                       Worship         jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman                  School Principal gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Katie Hayes                      Crossroads High School khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch                     Music           jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin                        Operations      mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones           Welcome       erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
SJC Saintly Seniors Annual St. Patrick-St. Joseph Party

Come be a part of the FUN!
Friday, March 15th, 11:30 a.m.
at the Parish Center

Enjoy Lunch and Socialize with other Seniors in the Parish!
Delicious Corned Beef, Cabbage, Boiled Potato, Ham, Potato Pancakes, Applesauce, Soda Bread, Rye Bread, Kolacky Luncheon & Entertainment

Members: $15  Guests: $20

RSVP to the Parish Center by Monday, March 11
Questions? Call Trudy at 708-246-1421

Name:_______________________________________________________
Phone: ______________________________________________________

___ Members       ____ Guests                     $ _____ Total Enclosed