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Living the Gospel

The gospel demonstrates many expressions of hospitality: welcoming, listening, serving. While each expression is valuable, none is complete in itself nor an end in itself. There is no one way to be hospitable. Hospitality in its deepest meaning makes possible a personal encounter of the kind that Mary is having with Jesus. This is the “better part” to which Jesus refers. Martha’s generous hospitality is marred by her upbraiding Jesus and complaining to him about Mary. Rather than being truly hospitable, she is “anxious and worried” only about accomplishing a task. Her welcome shifts away from Jesus to herself. Busy about herself, she misses the “better part”: centering on Jesus. The “better part” is to be undividedly present to the person of Jesus. Even when serving.

How do we keep Jesus at the center of our lives when we are always so busy? One way is to practice seeing Jesus in every person we meet. Another way is to remember that all the good we have and do ultimately comes from God who is the source of all good. Yet another way is to stop and think about why we are doing things: simply to accomplish a task, or to build a stronger relationship with others? In the “busyness” of the average person’s everyday life, we must take time to be present to others so that we truly encounter them. This is primary if we disciples are not to lose sight of the One who teaches us—and often teaches us through those to whom we are truly hospitable. Discipleship relativizes our noble and pious instincts to be busy about others and calls us to become present and take the other into our heart. It necessarily requires our surrender to the One who speaks, and that surrender looks like self-giving. The encounter with Jesus is essential for Christian hospitality. Let us hear that well!

Closing Prayers:

May we become more attentive to the presence of Jesus in others.

May we never lose sight of Jesus as the center of our lives.

Our Father . . .

For Reflection:

· To be less “anxious and worried” and become more attentive to the needs of those around me, I need to . . .
· What helps me be undividedly present to the person of Jesus is . . . What interferes with this is . . .

Readings for the Week

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Considering Priesthood?
Jesus desires that we, like his friend, Mary, would spend time in his presence. Take time regularly to be with Jesus and listen to his living word.

If you have ever considered a vocation to the priesthood, contact Fr. Francis Bitterman, fbitterman@archchicago.org or at 312-534-8298, or go to www.ChicagoPriest.com. For information on religious life contact Sr. Elyse Ramirez, OP at 312-534-5240 or eramirez@archchicago.org, and for the Permanent Diaconate program contact Deacon Bob Puhala at 847-837-4562 or bpuhala@usml.edu.

Baptism Preparation Meeting
Thursday, August 1st
The next Baptism preparation meeting 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.

Counseling: If you or a family member is having difficulty dealing with this complex and stressful world in which we live, Holbrook Counseling Center of Catholic Charities can help. The Center, located in our Rectory, offers assistance that is confidential and convenient. For further information or to schedule an appointment please call Catholic Charities at 312.655.7725.

Becoming Catholic (RCIA)
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process designed for those who are considering joining the Catholic Church by celebrating the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. The process welcomes adults who have never been baptized and those who have been baptized in another Christian tradition, as well as adult Catholics who wish to be confirmed. Call or email Fr. Filbert for information.
The Beloved Retreat began in 1999 and is still offered to the Old St Pat's Community in Chicago. The hope of the retreat is to rediscover what often eludes us, but what God wants us to know: that We Are Beloved. Over 1,000 participants have experienced the retreat since it began over ten years ago.

The Beloved Retreat will be offered the weekend of Oct. 11-13th by St. John of the Cross at the Carmelite Center in Darien. It will be facilitated by Dr. Terry Nelson-Johnson. The retreat is for adult men and women of all ages, single or married. It is for those who have never experienced a retreat as well as for those who are seasoned retreat veterans. It is a retreat for all - Catholics and non-Catholics. The retreat has proven to be invigorating, healing, transformative, and provocative. It begins on Friday evening at 7pm and concludes Sunday afternoon at 2pm. After the retreat, there will be opportunities to get together as a community and to stay connected as a community of believers.

“I had never gone on a retreat before and it didn't seem like the right time to go on a retreat with a 4th grader and 3 year old twins at home. I went on the Beloved Retreat this past April and came away from the retreat with an amazing sense of peace and an overwhelming feeling that 'I am enough' and 'I am loved by God unconditionally.’ The sense of community on the retreat was beautiful and something that I am looking forward to sharing at St. John of the Cross.”
-Tiffany White

“The retreat was an awakening in which I have rediscovered the loving presence of God in my life and truly came to know myself as a Beloved son of God.”
-Eddie Sandrick

Please consider joining us and prepare to call yourself Beloved.

Questions? Please contact Andrea Gagliani, agagliani@sbcglobal.net, 246-1520, Tiffany White, tfoxwhite@gmail.com, 246-8896, or Marianne Firlit, mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org, 839-0377

Please pick up a pamphlet at the exists of the church for more information and registration.
Sharing Together
Looking to share your gifts with others? Here are opportunities for you to consider.

Altar Committee: This committee washes and irons Mass linens and helps with dusting and cleaning in church. Please call Marietta Moore to help. 246-3579

Baptism Team: Celebrate the miracle of new life in Christ. Join us as we welcome and help parents prepare for the baptism of their new baby. Please call Fr. Filbert for information about joining our team. Training will be provided.

Usher: Ushers assist with seating and help with the offertory collection at Sunday and holy day Masses. Call John Kravcik at 246-2837

YC or Crossroads Volunteer: Share the teachings of our Catholic faith with our younger parishioners. Volunteer opportunities available as a catechist or home group leader as well as on many individual service and educational projects. See pages 7 and 8 of today’s bulletin.

New Parishioner Host: After registering, new members are matched with an “experienced” parishioner who serves as a host introducing them to our parish and being a friend who can answer questions and make them feel part of our parish community. Your connection to the new member can be as simple as meeting after Mass, talking on the phone, sending an email, sharing a walk in your neighborhood, or dropping off some “welcome” cookies to their home. You decide how best to welcome our new parishioner. Call Elizabeth Russell-Jones at the Parish Center.

Join our Music Ministry: Spend some time practicing this summer singing or playing your favorite hymns from Mass to ready yourself to join one of our choirs this fall. Call or email Jessica Koch at the Parish Center.

Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be. They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God’s many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another.

Giving Together
Sunday Offertory: Consider making your Sunday offertory donation electronically through our parish website.
http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/giving/
You can give from your bank account or credit card. Giving online is easy, secure and helps the parish budget more effectively.

Food Pantry: Bring a can of soup or tuna or a jar of peanut butter with you to Mass. During the month of July the food collected in the church narthex goes to St. Barbara Parish Food Pantry in Brookfield.

Planned Giving: St. John of the Cross Parish would be honored to be remembered in your will or estate plans. Call Marguerite Chrusciel, Finance Manager for more information.

Caritas Needy Family Fund: Using the Latin word for “charity” as its name, this fund provides emergency financial support to parishioners, who through unplanned circumstances face difficulty meeting a critical financial obligation. Confidential arrangements are provided on a case by case basis through the Pastor. Our offertory collections on Holy Thursday and Thanksgiving are directed to this fund, however donations can be made to the Caritas Needy Family Fund throughout the year.

Praying Together
Prayer Request: Parishioners who are ill or who have a family member who is ill may request to have the person remembered on the prayer request list. Only immediate family members may place names on the list. The person will be remembered in a special intention at Sunday Mass and will be remembered in prayer in the bulletin. Call the Parish Center.
Helpful Hints

The internet provides so much information that it can be difficult to find the sites that are best for you. Check out some of our favorite websites for Catholic Parents.

Catholic Mom  www.catholicmom.com  This site was created by Catholic mom, Lisa M. Hendey to “celebrate all things Faith, Family and Fun from a Catholic perspective.

Vibrant Faith @ Home  www.vibrantfaithathome.org  
Vibrant Faith @ Home supports families who are intentional about their faith and religious practice as they raise the next generation of committed Christians. Creator, Leif Kehrwald empowers households to:

TALK with each other about their faith
PRAY together in ways that are comfortable and comforting
RITUALIZE their important moments
REACH OUT in service and support of others.

The Vatican Online  www.vatican.va  
The Official Vatican Website offers the latest news about the Pope and events taking place in Rome.

United States Catholic Conference of Catholic Bishops  www.usccb.org  
This site will put you in touch with resources at the National Bishop’s Conference in Washington, D.C. The Bishop’s Ad Hoc Committee on the Catechism has a page on this site as well as the Committee on Education. Two helpful features are the Scripture readings for daily Mass throughout the year and Catholic reviews of movies

Catholic Answers  www.catholic.com  
This site contains a wealth of information for Catholics. It takes a gentle, positive approach to responding to the challenges Catholics often hear from people of other denominations. There are many references to scripture throughout.

Year of Strong Catholic Parents
Crossroads

PRAYER REQUESTS:
- In gratitude for our teens & adults who served with Habitat for Humanity
- For the Kairos 14 team—that they are open to the Holy Spirit during their final preparations
- For the teens & adults piligriming to Rio de Janeiro to meet Pope Francis for World Youth Days—that they feel the love of the world as they gather together

CALENDAR EVENTS:
- July 23 post-habitat reunion mtg 7pm
- July 30 OLPH final pre-trip mtg 7pm
- Aug 1-4 Kairos 14 retreat
- Aug 8-13 Pilgrimage trip to OLPH
- Aug. 16 Parent BBQ 6pm
- Aug 18 Speaker Mike Patin provides training 9am for adults, noon for teen leaders

LEADERSHIP ROLES AVAILABLE on Fall Ministry Teams:
- Spots open for both teens & adults:
  - to welcome our newest high schoolers during their Freshmen Experience for the fall semester!
  - to lead our confirmation candidates on their Day of the Spirit Retreat Day Oct. 26th.
Details can be found on our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/descriptions
Contact Katie Hayes at 708-246-4404 khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or Christopher Zurowski, teen retreat coordinator, 708-724-0419 to have questions answered

Our teens & adults engaged their hands, head & hearts during their service week with Habitat for Humanity!
Youth Catechesis

Take Heart!

It is our baptismal call to spread the Good News of Jesus!

You can do that by touching the hearts of our young. It is a privilege of the religion teacher to reveal the presence of God to them. We have over 120 volunteers returning and of that we are very proud!

The most effective catechesis comes not from a book, but from a person. It is our goal this year to not only prepare effective Catechists, but to touch the innate creativity already within their hearts.

All are welcome to help - adults and grandparents, high school teens, -whether you have someone in YC or not, please contact us to share your heart.

Prayerfully consider joining us this year and share the joy of Christ in your heart! We still need teachers for:

- Kindergarten ~ 1st grade
- 3rd grade ~ 4th grade
- 5th grade ~ 6th grade
- & 7th grade small group leaders

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Summer Hours
Closed July 15 to 26—please email jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org

Youth Basketball Camp

Summer Basketball Camp
Still Time to Sign Up

(Designed for all boys and girls entering Grades 3-8)

- Basketball Camp will emphasize instruction on proper basketball techniques. Fundamentals, advanced skills, competitions and contests will be included.
- This year’s camp will be run by Coach John Quinn. Coach Quinn and his team have many years of coaching experience at the Junior High and High School levels.
- Session Dates: July 22 – 26, 2013 and July 29 – August 2, 2013
- Grades 3-5th: 8:00 – 10:00am
- Grades 6-8th: 10:00am – noon
- Fee:$95 per session at the door. Includes a T-shirt and basketball
- Camps will be held at SJC

More information and to register go to school website.

Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.
Alleluia, alleluia.
God Bless the Garage Sale Volunteers!
The Women’s Club is proud and so very grateful to have the best, most loyal and hardworking volunteers from age 8 to 80 years old! YOU help us to accomplish our mission: helping others in need. Thank you for all you do to make the Garage Sale happen and make it fun at the same time.

Over 200 volunteers came out to make this year's sale our biggest and best yet! With the highest sales to date, the profits YOU helped bring in - and the items donated after the sale - will support OUR parish and many local, non-profit organizations such as: Friends of Epilepsy, National Children's Cancer Society, Vietnam Vets, St. Vincent DePaul, Salvation Army, Deborah's Place, Almost Home Kids, Community Nurse Association of LaGrange, Kolbe House, Compion Missions, Companions Journeying Together, Center for Independence, BEDS Plus, Aspire, Aging Care Connections, Helping Hand Center, Holy Cross Mission, House of the Good Shepherd, PILLARS, School and Tutor on Wheels, Leadershop, Girl Forward and Our Lady of Charity.

Volunteer Tutors Needed
School on Wheels, the adult literacy/English as a Second Language program sponsored by the Congregation of St. Joseph of La Grange Park, is seeking volunteers. Tutors are needed to teach one hour or more per week from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Cicero, Hodgkins, Lombard, Summit, Villa Park, Westmont, or Woodridge. A free two-day training will be provided on Saturday, August 10 and on Saturday, August 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Volunteers must attend both sessions. No prior second language skills are needed. For more information, please call (708) 482-5060 or (708) 482-5077.

Be an Angel! We Need Your Help!
The Dominican Literacy Center, 1503 Rice St., Melrose Park) is in great need of women volunteers for the 2013-14 session.

This program offers tutoring in reading and speaking of English to women, on a one-to-one basis (one student with one tutor). Classes are once a week, for an hour and 1/2 session.

Four consecutive and informative training sessions will be held on the evenings of August 20 (Tuesday), August 22 (Thursday), August 26 (Monday) and August 28 (Wednesday). These will be held at the Dominican Literacy Center, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Participants need to attend ALL four sessions.

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

Save the Date
ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER
For Bishop Abramowicz Seminary of the Archdiocese of Chicago
Sunday, September 8, 2013
Westin O’Hare Hotel in Rosemont

THE FATHER WILLIAM H. SHERIDAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND
FOR ST. PHILIP NERI SCHOOL STUDENTS
Father William H. Sheridan - Born November 9th, 1926—the 7th of 8 siblings
Attended - St. Nicholas of Tolentine Grammar School, Mt. Carmel High School Quigley Prep Seminary & St. Mary of the Lake Seminary.
Ordained - May 5th, 1954.
First Assignment - St. Bonaventure Church in 1954. Appointed to the Faculty of Quigley Preparatory Seminary teaching Latin, Religion, and also serving as Spiritual and Athletic Director retiring in 1995.
In Residence - St. Agatha Church until 1963; St. Philip Neri Church for 49 years (1964 to date).

www.spnschoolchicago.org
For Donation Information – Please call Maureen McKenna 773-288-1138

Outreach

THE FATHER WILLIAM H. SHERIDAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND
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Garage Sale Thank You

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MANY THANKS AGAIN!

To Ellen Smith and Megan O’Malley
who assisted our FEST Committee
(accidentally omitted on last week’s list)
TO OVER 400 VOLUNTEERS!!
WITHOUT YOU
THIS Event WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE!!

AND ALL WHO ATTENDED !!!

CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR RAFFLE WINNERS!
$5,000 WINNER Irene Waldeck
$2,500 WINNER Bruce Harken
$1,000 WINNER Edward Chott
God is ineffable. This is a truth that's universally accepted as dogma among all Christians and within all the great religions of the world. What does it mean?

In essence, it means that God is beyond us, not like us, but in an utterly different sphere. More especially, it means that God cannot ever be captured in thought, imagination, or word. Any concepts, images, or words we have about God are inadequate at best and idolatrous at worst. God is always beyond what we can think, speak about, or imagine.

But we do have thoughts, images, and words about God and many of these are given to us in scripture. What's to be made of our traditional biblical and theological images of God? Aren't they accurate and adequate? In a word, no, they aren't. To paraphrase Annie Dillard, the concepts and language about God that are given us in scripture and church tradition are simply words that we have permission to use without being struck dead for idolatry. We should never pretend they are accurate and adequate; scripture itself makes that clear. Not understanding this confuses our notion of faith and doubt.

Because we do not existentially grasp and accept that God is ineffable, we generally confuse faith with imagination. Simply put, because we think God can be imagined and conceptualized, we feel that we have faith precisely to the extent that we can imagine God's existence and God's person. Conversely, we feel we are in doubt and agnostic when we cannot imagine these. And so we naively identify faith with the capacity to create the right imaginative fantasies and feelings about God, and vice versa.

But, since God is ineffable, we can never imagine either God existence or God's person. This is an impossible task, by definition. We have only finite concepts within which to try to capture infinity and thus all our human faculties are incapable of conceptualizing God, tantamount to trying to think of the highest number to which it is possible to count.

Does this mean then that faith opposes human reason? No. Faith doesn't negate human reason, it simply dwarfs it, akin to the way the most sophisticated formulae within contemporary astrophysics dwarf elementary arithmetic and the way the blinding light of a noonday sun dwarfs the paltry light of a candle. Moreover, though helpful, even these analogies limp and are inaccurate. God's existence and person may not be imagined as that of some supreme Super-person, someone like us, except supremely greater. To imagine God in this way still puts God into the realm of the finite, a creature still, even if Super-supreme, imaginable, able to be conceptualized, not ineffable, a number we can still count to. God, though, is not a reality that can be counted. God's existence and person can never be conceptualized.

Moreover, this is true as well for our understanding of God's love. It too is beyond our imagination and capacity to conceptualize. Our universe, though finite, is so vast and prodigious that our imaginations already run out of room in their efforts simply to picture the finite world. Beyond this, just on this one planet, earth, we have billions upon billions of persons, each of which has a heart and meaning that is individually precious. How can we imagine a God who somehow knows and loves this all intimately? We can't! Our minds and our hearts simply don't stretch that far; though they do stretch far enough to ask: Why wouldn't an infinite God create so an unimaginatively huge a universe and so many billions and billions of people to love and share in this creation? And why wouldn't an infinite God suddenly say (after we have been born): "That's enough! I now have as many people as I want!"

God befuddles the mind, the heart, and the imagination. It cannot be otherwise. Any God who could be understood would not be God. God is not a supreme Superman, like us, only bigger, stronger, and more powerful. The infinite, precisely because it is infinite, cannot be circumscribed and grasped, either in its existence, its person, or its capacity to love. We can know the infinite, but we cannot think the infinite.

Because of this, at some point in our lives, faith will feel like darkness, belief like unbelief, and God's person and existence will feel like nothing, emptiness, non-existence, nada. Our minds and hearts will, at that point, come up dry and empty when they try to imagine or feel God, not because God doesn't exist or is less present than the physical world, but because God is so massively present, so real, so above all other lights, that God's reality will dwarf everything to the point to where it gives the impression that it itself doesn't exist.

In faith, God is known this way: As a light so bright that it's perceived as darkness, as a love so universal that it's perceived as indifference, and as a reality so real that it's perceived as nothing.

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, July 22
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Wednesday, July 24
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Theology on Tap
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Friday, July 25
9:30 a.m. Bridges

Saturday, July 27
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Pray for our Sick

| Linda Drone | Jay Meehan |
| Kat Egan | Baby Meghan Hope Pacyna |
| Melissa Morrissey Eldredge | Rick Reimer |
| Todd Goldstein | Primet Rotondo |
| Karen Hult | Teresa Schaefer |
| Barbara Jacob | Guy Thomas |
| Allison Kazragis | Freddy Ulrich |
| Shirley Kazragis | Ed Veomd |
| Joe & Rosie King | Mary Catherine Warren |
| Fr. William Mannion | Pam Wilson |

Pray for our Beloved Dead

Lawrence Hanson, husband of Rita, son of Maria and father of Matthew, Susan, James and Michael
John Gervase, brother of Prudy Flexman
Sylvia Riley, former parishioner
Robert Pickell, father of Lynda Carey

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 22, St. Mary Magdalene
7:45 Richard Hassel; John Vesley; Meghan Hope Pacyna

Tuesday, July 23, St. Bridget
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Kevin Gunnin

Wednesday, July 24, St. Sharbel Makhluf
7:45 Walter Cebula; Catherine Pozen

Thursday, July 25, St. James
7:45 Frank Zwierzyna; Dr. William Buckingham

Friday, July 26, Ss. Joachim and Anne
7:45 Joan Kraul; Michelle Sprinkle

Saturday, July 27
8:00 Miles Maly; Rosemary O’Connell
5:00 George Gallagher; Theresa Ripoli

Sunday, July 28, 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 St. Mark Parishioners; Lucille Nelson
9:00 Dolores Williams; Gene Miley
10:45 Colleen Nilles; Mary & Ben Carnevale
5:00 SJC Parishioners; Rogelio Cervantes

Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, who is called the Prince of Peace, who is our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you," grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.

Pope John Paul II

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

Fr. David P. Dowdle Fr. Filbert F. Ngwila
Pastor Associate Pastor
ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org
John Schopp Bill Bright
Deacon Outreach
john.schopp@newhemispheres.com bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Cascetta Jim Clauer
Director of Youth Catechesis Worship
jcascetta@stjohnofthecross.org 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
CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS IN THEIR 20’S AND 30’S MARRIED OR SINGLE:
Theology on Tap: at SJC Parish Center
No need to RSVP, Just Come ~ Friends Welcome

Theology-on-Tap is a free summer speaker series for Young Adults in their 20’s and 30’s (married or single). All the talks occur in a casual environment with time for socializing, learning and sharing. Light refreshments will be provided. Please join us each week to learn more about our Catholic faith and ourselves.

Dr. Kate DeVries 7/24/13 from 7-9PM
Why Bother With Church?
Dr. Kate DeVries was the associate director of Young Adult Ministry for the Archdiocese of Chicago. She holds a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Catholic Theological Union, and Masters Degrees in Divinity, Pastoral Studies and Special Education. She is an amazingly talented and caring individual, speaking on an important question we should all answer.

Fr. Terry Keehan 7/31/13 from 7-9PM
Reconciliation & Eucharist: Two Fascinating Fonts of God’s Desire to Connect With Us
Fr. Terry Keehan is the Pastor of Holy Family parish in Inverness. He has led retreats, missions and workshops nationally with a special focus on young adult issues, and responding to God’s call in life. He always speaks from the heart with great enthusiasm.

Fr. Paul Novak 8/7/13 from 7-9PM
Letting Go & Letting God: A Catholic Strategy for Getting Free?
Fr. Paul Novak, O.S.M., who was ordained a Servite priest in 1990, currently is president of De La Salle Institute High School. Additionally, he currently assists at Old St. Patrick’s Church. He will help us to understand that we don’t have to hold onto our baggage.