In This Bulletin...

From the Cardinal.................................................................p.2
Beloved Retreat .................................................................p.3
Morning of Meditation Coming Soon.................................p.6
Come Follow Me.................................................................p.7
RCIA......................................................................................p.9
Parishes across the archdiocese have been asked to print the letter below from Cardinal George written in response to an ad in the Chicago Tribune on July 29, 2013 concerning the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR). The Board of the ICIRR decided to take a position endorsing gay marriage without consulting its membership. This position contradicted Church teaching and made ICIRR members ineligible to receive CCHD funding. Some groups decided to leave the coalition because of the issue of gay marriage and its tenuous connection to immigration reform. Others have separated themselves from ICIRR because the board acted unilaterally and disenfranchised its members. The ad in the Tribune seeks to shift the blame from the ICIRR Board to CCHD and the Cardinal.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

Office of the Archbishop

AN OPEN RESPONSE TO AN OPEN LETTER
JULY 29, 2013

On Monday, July 29, in the Chicago Tribune, a group of Catholics published an open letter addressed to me and to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). They accused the Church of turning her back on the poor. This accusation follows a decision by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) decision to include support for “same-sex marriage” as part of their political agenda. The CCHD cannot fund groups that support this goal.

Donors to the CCHD give to this anti-poverty organization with the understanding that their money will be passed on to organizations that respect the teachings of the Catholic faith. Organizations that apply for funds do so agreeing to this condition.

On May 23, the ICIRR board broke faith with its member organizations when it publicly supported so called “same-sex marriage.” For its own political advantage, it introduced a matter extraneous to its own purpose and betrayed its own members, who were not consulted.

The CCHD had no choice but to respect the unilateral decision of the ICIRR board that effectively cut off funding from groups that remain affiliated with ICIRR. Without betraying its donors or the Catholic faith, the Catholic Church’s long-standing work for immigrant groups and for immigration reform remains intact. This record speaks for itself and is well known. It is carried locally by Priests for Justice for Immigrants and by Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, in collaboration with the Archdiocesan Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education, led by Elena Segura with my complete support.

It is intellectually and morally dishonest to use the witness of the Church’s concern for the poor as an excuse to attack the Church’s teaching on the nature of marriage. Four weeks ago, Pope Francis wrote: “…marriage should be a stable union of man and woman…this union is born of their love, as a sign and presence of God’s own love, and of the acknowledgement and acceptance of the goodness of sexual differentiation, whereby spouses can become one flesh and are enabled to give birth to a new life.” In other words, when it comes to marriage and family life, men and women are not interchangeable. The whole civilized world knows that.

Those who signed the open letter in the Tribune proclaimed their adherence to the Catholic faith even as they cynically called upon others to reject the Church’s bishops. The Church is no one’s private club; she is the Body of Christ, who tells us he is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” Because the signers of the letters are Catholic, they know that in a few years, like each of us, they will stand before this same Christ to give an account of their stewardship. Jesus is merciful, but he is not stupid; he knows the difference between right and wrong. Manipulating both immigrants and the Church for political advantage is wrong.

Francis Cardinal George, OMJ
Archbishop of Chicago
It’s worth it. Make time for the Beloved Retreat!

Experience ~ Inclusive ~ Love ~ Truth ~ Healing

We come up with a thousand excuses as to why we can’t take the time or spend the money to go on a retreat. Do we come up with the same excuses when we want to go to that special restaurant, sign our kids up for travel teams, make that unnecessary purchase at the mall or decide to make that home improvement? Will we remember what we ate at that restaurant or remember if our kids won, lost, or even played in the game? How long does the satisfaction of the unnecessary purchase or home improvement last until we realize we’ve picked the wrong color or chosen the wrong plans? Do any of these things bring lasting contentment and peace, or do they add chaos and stress to our lives?

“Beloved is a good name for this retreat but for men, I think a better title would be “you’re the man.” (It’s a guy thing!) I received an experience and made friendships I will value for the rest of my life. If you aren’t feeling truly fulfilled in your life, this is a great place to discover where to start looking.”

- Don Dvorak

Maybe you have never been on a retreat or have not been on a retreat since high school or PreCana. Maybe you are a regular retreat goer. Regardless of your retreat experience, making Beloved your “getaway weekend” this fall instead of “Vegas” may be one of the best decisions you will make for your personal and spiritual life.

“Before going on the Beloved Retreat, I had not been on a retreat since PreCana before I got married. I had the excuses to not go on Beloved, but finally decided to go and went with a blind eye having no expectations. I cannot count on one hand the number of times I have experienced feeling so much love, acceptance and sense of community among a group of people. What I took away from this experience is irreplaceable.”

- Marie Gerken

Please consider joining us and prepare to call yourself Beloved.

October 11-13, 2013

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. Or go to our parish website.
Background on the Gospel Reading

In Chapter 12 of Luke's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples and the crowd on how to be ready for the coming judgment. A crowd of many thousands has gathered to hear Jesus. At first he speaks only to the disciples, reminding them that it is not persecution they should fear but the judgment that is coming for all who do not acknowledge the Son of Man. Suddenly a man in the crowd shouts out to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” He seems to have grown tired of Jesus speaking only to the disciples. Jesus offers the man no help. Instead he uses the question to teach what, in light of the coming judgment, life really consist of.

Jesus tells the crowd a parable. A rich man's lands have yielded more crops than expected. His response is not to consider how he might share all the extra food with others but to wonder how he can possibly store it all. He has what he thinks is a brilliant idea: to tear down his present barns and build larger ones. Then he will have many things stored up for years of eating, drinking, and making merry.

“You fool” is God’s response to this man because that very night his life will be taken away. To whom will everything belong then, God asks. The rich man's world is small, just him and his possessions, and now he learns that he is to lose his life. What good are his possessions now? Jesus states the moral of the story. This is how it will be for everyone who stores up treasure for himself or herself but is not rich in what matters to God.

Centuries later St. Gregory the Great taught that when we care for the needs of the poor, we are giving them what is theirs, not ours. We are not just performing works of mercy; we are paying a debt of justice. Life does not consist in possessions but in sharing what we possess with others. The goods of the earth have been given to everyone.

Breaking Open the Word

Suggested text for faith sharing: Today’s Gospel

Step One: Listen to the Word

As you hear this reading, what words or phrases strike you? What in this reading touches your heart?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

- **Question for Children:** What is the most important thing in your life?
- **Question for Youth:** It is easy to get self-centered and greedy. What do you have in your life that is unnecessary? In your life, what keeps you close to God? What distracts you from your relationship with God?
- **Question for Adults:** What wisdom do you pull out of this reading to help you set priorities in your life?

Family Activities: Choose one of the following activities as a way to further reflect on the Sunday readings:

- Create a “Household Values” statement. Discuss the family’s priorities and values. Identify values that are most important to the household and write them down. Are the family members’ priorities in line with God’s teaching or do they need some adjusting? Keep the written statement in your home as a reminder for the family of what is really important in life.
- Reflect on how you can use your possessions, money and gifts in the service of God and neighbor. What organizations in your community are helping those in need? Get involved with this group.
- Plan a family fun time together—a whole day if possible. Go fishing, bowling, or skating; go out for pizza. Let it be a time when family members can forget their other concerns and simply enjoy each other. Talk about what each family member has learned lately or accomplished lately or done lately.
- Together with your children sort through your cupboards. Make a commitment in advance that you and your children will donate to a food bank things from the cupboard which would be appropriate. Discuss with your children that this is part of what Jesus meant when he said, “Share your gifts with others.”

If you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

(PSalm 90)
Lifelong Catechesis

Mary Magdalene, Disciple of Jesus, 1st Century

With the exception of Mary, the mother of Jesus, few women are more honored in Scripture than Mary Magdalene.

An unfounded, but persistent legend identifies her as the unnamed, sinful woman who anointed the feet of Jesus (Luke 7:37-38), but this story has largely been discounted by modern church scholars. The next chapter of Luke's Gospel mentions Mary Magdalene as the one from whom Christ cast out "seven devils," - an indication, at the worst, of extreme demonic possession, or, more likely, severe illness.

Mary probably received her name from Magdala, a place on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee near Tiberias. It seems likely that Jesus first met her while on his Galilean ministry. Many legends surround Mary, but no evidence exists to confirm any of them. According to a French tradition, for example, Mary Magdalene is identified as the Mary who is the sister of Martha and Lazarus. In this story, she accompanied Martha and Lazarus to Marseilles where the three evangelized the people of Provence. While no factual evidence supports this legend, a great devotion to St. Mary Magdalene exists today in southern France and parts of northern Italy along the Mediterranean.

Mary was one of many who helped support Jesus and his apostles during Jesus' ministry (Luke 8:3). But perhaps Mary Magdalene is best remembered for her closeness to Jesus during his passion, death, and resurrection. Mary Magdalene stood at the foot of the cross with Jesus' mother and St. John. Out of all of the disciples of Jesus who might have been selected, Mary Magdalene was the first to become aware of the Resurrection when she came to Jesus' tomb early on Easter morning to anoint his body.

Mary's message today: It isn't really important whether Mary Magdalene was a great sinner, possessed by demons, or very sick. What is important is that she became one of Jesus' good friends and a disciple. That is also what is important for us today: the relationship which we have with Jesus right now.

Readings for the Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>19th Sunday O.T.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17</td>
<td>Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9</td>
<td>Ps 106:6-7a, 13-14, 21-22, 23</td>
<td>Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9</td>
<td>Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21</td>
<td>Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9</td>
<td>Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reprinted with permission. Our Sunday Visitor Lifelong Catechesis 2013
Richard Rohr Daily Meditation

People who have learned to live from their center in God know which boundaries or edges are worth maintaining and which can be surrendered, although it is this very struggle that often constitutes their deepest “dark nights.” Both maintaining and surrendering boundaries ironically requires an “obedience” (Romans 16:26) because it requires listening to a Voice beyond your own.

I believe that we have no real access to who we really are except in God. Only when we rest in God can we find the safety, the spaciousness, and the scary freedom to be who we are, all that we are, more than we are, and less than we are. Only when we live and see through God can “everything belong.” All other systems exclude, expel, punish, and protect to find identity for their members in ideological perfection or some kind of “purity.” Apart from taking up so much useless time and energy, this effort keeps us from the one and only task of love and union.

“...the Spirit of God, the Spirit of the Creator of the universe, dwells in our hearts, and in silence is loving to all. In the Christian tradition, meditating is simply being open to this Spirit of Love, the Spirit of God.

(John Main, The Hunger for Depth and Meaning)

Christian Meditation at SJC

Mondays 10:30 11th Step
Wednesdays 2:00pm and 7:30pm
Saturdays 7:00am

As summer draws to an end, you are cordially invited to join us for a Morning of Meditation:

Saturday, August 24 from 9-11:30am
8:30am Hospitality

Reflection on Prayer
(Dvd featuring Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB, Director & Spiritual Leader of the WCCM)
Periods of Meditation
Times for Sharing

All are invited: Those who meditate, those who want to learn to meditate, those who want to know more about meditation
Free will offering accepted
Reservations requested, but not required
Contact: Mary at 708-246-5108 or mary105105@gmail.com

Adapted from Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer, pp. 24-26

www.stjohnofthecross.org

August 4, 2013
Page 6
Jesus sometimes describes a disciple's life in terms of stewardship (cf. Mt 25:14-30; Lk 12:42-48), not because being a steward is the whole of it but because this role sheds a certain light on it. An oikonomos or steward is one to whom the owner of a household turns over responsibility for caring for the property, managing affairs, making resources yield as much as possible, and sharing the resources with others. The position involves trust and accountability.

A parable near the end of Matthew's Gospel (cf. Mt 25:14-30) gives insight into Jesus' thinking about stewards and stewardship. It is the story of "a man who was going on a journey," and who left his wealth in silver pieces to be tended by three servants. Two of them respond wisely by investing the money and making a handsome profit. Upon returning, the master commends them warmly and rewards them richly. But the third behaves foolishly, with anxious pettiness, squirreling away the master's wealth, and earning nothing; he is rebuked and punished.

The silver pieces of this story stand for a great deal besides money. All temporal and spiritual goods are created by and come from God. That is true of everything human beings have: spiritual gifts like faith, hope, and love; talents of body and brain; cherished relationships with family and friends; material goods; the achievements of human genius and skill; the world itself. One day God will require an accounting of the use each person has made of a particular portion of these goods entrusted to him or her.

Each will be measured by the standard of his or her individual vocation. Each has received a different "sum" - a unique set of talents, opportunities, challenges, weaknesses and strengths, potential modes of service and response—on which the Master expects a return. He will judge individuals according to what they have done with what they were given.

God is the origin of life, giver of freedom, and source of all things. We are grateful for the gifts we have received and are eager to use them to show our love for God and one another. We look to the life and the teaching of Jesus for guidance in living as Christian stewards.
Youth Catechesis

“You are the future of The Church!
It is important that we sow seeds of faith in them early to allow those seeds to grow!
Being a Catechist is an opportunity to teach the youth of the Church.

We are in need of Catechists for the Fall. This is such a meaningful role in the parish.

We welcome any adult in the parish that feels called to share their faith and enjoy working with youth.

Please pray about helping in…

Kindergarten Catechist on Sunday & Monday
First Grade Catechist on Sunday
Second Grade Aide on Monday
Third Grade Catechists on Sunday & Monday
Fourth Grade Catechists on Sunday & Monday
Fifth Grade Catechists on Sunday & Monday
Sixth Grade Catechists on Sunday
Seventh Grade Small Group Leaders on Sunday

This year find your treasure at YC!
Call us and find out more!

Help Bring Mary Home
You are invited to join Bethlehem Woods Retirement Community “Bring Mary Home” by celebrating 100 years of the beloved grotto located at Bethlehem Woods Retirement Community. Earlier this year, the Mary statue and others from the grotto had to be moved to make way for a security roadway. With your help we are building a new prayerful place of serenity for residents and the community to enjoy. You are invited to a special Mass to celebrate the Queenship of Mary, as we look to bring Mary home:

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
Feast of the Queenship of Mary
Thursday, August 22, 7:00 p.m.
Congregation of Saint Joseph Chapel
1515 W. Ogden Avenue, La Grange Park, IL

To help preserve this important piece of community history, please send contributions to Bethlehem Woods attention “Grotto,” 1571 W Ogden Ave., La Grange Park, IL 60526. Or go to giving.reshealth.org and click “Donate Now.” To learn more, contact Mary Jester at 708.579.3663.

American Legion Invitation
American Legion Auxiliary Robert E. Coulter, Jr. Unit 1941 cordially invites the wives, mothers, grandmothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters of American Legion members, current active-duty military, veterans, friends of veterans and all current Auxiliary members to a special Tea on Sunday, August 11 at 1:00 p.m. at the Robert E. Coulter, Jr. American Legion Post 1941 at 900 South La Grange Road. Enjoy tea, sweets and savories, meet friends, view Poppy Posters and Americanism Essays, and learn how the Auxiliary helps veterans. RSVP by August 5th to Rita at (708) 354-1884 or ALA1941@aol.com

Plan Ahead for Fall
St. John of the Cross has 2 choirs available to all children in the parish. Grades 1-3 practice on Wednesdays and grades 4-8 practice on Thursdays beginning mid-September. Parents are asked to come to a brief meeting on the first day. Watch the bulletin and website for more details in August.

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Summer Hours
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am- 4:00pm

“Your light must shine before all, so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:16
Grief Support Group
Grief 101: Understanding grief after the recent loss of a loved one for adults who are newly bereaved. Class meets on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 from 6:30-8:00pm at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood. To register or for further information please contact Nancy Kiel at 708-216-1646.

Grief Counseling at The Well
Assistance in alleviating the pain of loss, either recent or past, from a licensed counselor is offered in the peaceful atmosphere of The Well. By appointment with Cecilia Kaiser, LPC and Grief Recovery specialist. Call 708-482-5088. Adjustable rates.

Volunteer Opportunity at Buddy’s Place
Grief Support for Children
Buddy's Place of Pillars is a family-based grief support program for children ages 4-18 who have experienced the death of someone important in their lives. Buddy's Place offers children and their surviving parent(s) a safe and supportive group where they can express their grief and learn coping skills with others who have experienced similar losses.

Buddy’s Place is looking for volunteers to help support grieving children and their families in a variety of ways, including Greeters and Group Facilitators. The required 24 hour training is scheduled for August 5, 7, 9, and 14 from 12:00pm-6:00pm in LaGrange. If you are interested, please contact Kelly Huggins, Buddy’s Place Director, at 708.995.3750 or at buddysplace@pillarscommunity.org.

Are you an unemployed or underemployed homeowner struggling to keep your home?
In the past 2 years over 9,000 families have been helped through the Illinois Hardest Hit Program, a foreclosure prevention resource funded by the US Department of the Treasury, which temporarily assists homeowners struggling to maintain their home while they work to regain employment and financial stability. Because federal funds are almost exhausted, the Illinois Housing Develop Authority will accept applications only through September 30, 2013. Go to www.keeppyourhomeillinois.org for more information or 1-855-KEEP-411 toll free.

St. Thomas Hospice Seeks Volunteers
You do not need to be a professional to do hospice work. What you do need is a listening ear, a supportive, nonjudgmental attitude and a desire to make a difference in the lives of terminally ill patients and their families. Class will met 9 consecutive Tuesdays from 9 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, September 3 ending November 5. If interested, please call Barb at 630-856-6998 ASAP because Pre-class interviews are required.

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.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
Each year people are welcomed into the church at St. John of the Cross Parish through the RCIA process. The RCIA is an engaging, dynamic, respectful, challenging and – ENJOYABLE journey. Fr. Filbert Ngwila and his RCIA team graciously host the RCIA on Tuesday evenings during the school year. If you would like to learn more about how you can become Catholic contact Fr. Filbert Ngwila fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org.

Wednesday, August 7, 7-9 p.m.
Speaker, Fr. Paul Novak
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.

www.stjohnofthecross.org August 4, 2013 Page 9
Outreach Ministry

A New Start On Life
Kolbe House Prison Ministry is currently in need of personal hygiene supplies for men recently released from prison. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, shampoo, body wash and deodorant are requested. Regular and/or travel sizes are appreciated.

Kolbe House also has an ongoing need for men's undershirts, boxers and socks. All sizes from small/medium - XXL will be gratefully received.

It is a blessing to be able to provide basic supplies for someone who is making a fresh start in life. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Matthew 25:36: I was in prison and you visited me.

KOLBE HOUSE PRISON MINISTRY

St. John of the Cross Parish has enjoyed a rich and prayerful relationship with the Kolbe House, thanks to the leadership of Fr. Arturo Perez and Fr. David Kelly. Our connectivity to the Kolbe House Mission has been built around the needs of the adult population at the Cook County Jail including the women and men who are freed from incarceration and are attempting to successfully re-enter civilian life.

During the last six months we also have had the opportunity to learn more about the Precious Blood Center and the hope filled work being done there with the at risk youth in Chicago land. Fr. Kelly and his dedicated staff of Precious Blood priests, sisters and lay volunteers have created a “safe haven” for young men and women in the Back of the Yards neighborhood.

The Precious Blood Center is a converted Catholic School building that now offers a place for Hospitality, Hope and Healing. The mission is to provide a safe place where stories can be told and peace can be found. We read and hear about the shootings in that neighborhood frequently. We will be learning more about this wonderful, albeit difficult, ministry and how we at St. John of the Cross can help young the people who still have a chance.

At the same time, Fr. Arturo and his staff are in Cook County Jail daily. The work with the adult population is so very difficult. Finding a quiet place to pray or simply to talk privately is almost impossible. And yet, each day Fr. Arturo, Fr. David and others are there, on our behalf, doing their best to bring God’s peace to the incarcerated

How can we help these good people?
Keep all of them in your prayers.
Donate needed items.
JOBS, JOBS and JOBS: There is little hope for a person who can’t find work! Let us know if you have a job opening.

Thanks, Bill Bright, Director of Outreach

Interfaith Career Network Request for Jobs

Summertime and the living is easy, but not for all in our community. Unemployment statics have improved from a few years ago, but many of your neighbors remain unemployed or underemployed.

Interfaith Career Network (ICN) offers many tools to assist job seekers, but we need your assistance to provide the most important element in a job search which is open positions. If you are a hiring manager or aware of open positions in your company, please send the information to jkennedy1333@ameritech.net or tom_rohan@yahoo.com. Any and all postings are welcome. ICN job seekers are at all stages of their career, in every industry, with a broad spectrum of education and experience. All job postings will be communicated to the 400 member ICN Yahoo group. Ideally it will be a WIN/WIN for your company and a qualified job seeker in your community. If you have any questions or for additional information you can also contact Judy Kennedy at 708.352.8943 or Tom Rohan at 708.772.4231. Lastly, to learn more about ICN please visit us at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.
Struggling to Understand Suicide

Sadly, today, there are many deaths by suicide. Very few people have not been deeply affected by the suicide of a loved one. In the United States alone, there are more than thirty-three thousand suicides a year. That averages out to ninety such deaths per day, about three to four every hour.

And yet suicide remains widely misunderstood and generally leaves those who are left behind with a particularly devastating kind of grief. Among all deaths, suicide perhaps weighs heaviest on those left behind.

Why?

Suicide hits us so hard because it is surrounded with the ultimate taboo. In the popular mind, suicide is generally seen, consciously or unconsciously, as the ultimate act of despair, the ultimate bad thing a person can do. This shouldn't surprise us since suicide does go against the deepest instinct inside us, our will to live. Thus, even when it's treated with understanding and compassion, it still leaves those left behind with a certain amount of shame and a lot of second-guessing. Also, more often than not, it ruins the memory of the person who died. His photographs slowly disappear from our walls and the manner of his death is spoken about with an all-too-hushed discretion. None of this should be surprising: Suicide is the ultimate taboo.

So what's to be said about suicide? How can we move towards understanding it more empathically?

Understanding suicide more compassionately won't take away its sting, nothing will, except time; but our own long-term healing and the redemption of the memory of the one died can be helped by keeping a number of things in mind:

Suicide, in most cases, is a disease, not something freely willed. The person who dies in this way dies against his or her will, akin to those who jumped to their deaths from the Twin Towers after terrorist planes had set those buildings on fire on September 11, 2001. They were jumping to certain death, but only because they were already burning to death where they were standing. Death by suicide is analogous to death by cancer, stroke, or heart attack; except, in the case of suicide, it's a question of emotional-cancer, emotional-stroke, or an emotional-heart attack.

Moreover, still to be more fully explored, is the potential role that biochemistry plays in suicide. Since some suicidal depressions are treatable by drugs, clearly then some suicides are caused by biochemical deficiencies, as are many other diseases that kill us.

The person who dies in this way, almost invariably, is a very sensitive human being. Suicide is rarely done in arrogance, as an act of contempt.

There are of course examples of persons, like Hitler, who are too proud to endure normal human contingency and kill themselves out of arrogance, but that's a very different kind of suicide, not the kind that most of us have seen in a loved one. Generally our own experience with the loved ones that we've lost to suicide was that these persons were anything but arrogant. More accurately described, they were too bruised to touch and were wounded in some deep way that we couldn't comprehend or help heal. Indeed, often times when sufficient time has passed after their deaths, in retrospect, we get some sense of their wound, one which we never clearly perceived while they were alive. Their suicide then no longer seems as surprising.

Finally, we need not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of those who die in this way. God's understanding and compassion infinitely surpass our own. Our lost loved ones are in safer hands than ours. If we, limited as we are, can already reach through this tragedy with some understanding and love, we can rest secure in the fact that, given the width and depth of God's love, the one who dies through suicide meets, on the other side, a compassion that's deeper than our own and a judgment that intuits the deepest motives of their heart.

Moreover, God's love, as we are assured of in our scriptures and as is manifest in Jesus' resurrection, is not as helpless as our own in dealing with this. We, in dealing with our loved ones, sometimes find ourselves helpless, without a strategy and without energy, standing outside an oak-like door, shutout because of someone's fear, wound, sickness, or loneliness. Most persons who die by suicide are precisely locked inside this kind of private room by some cancerous wound through which we cannot reach and through which they themselves cannot reach. Our best efforts leave us still unable to penetrate that private hell. But, as we see in the resurrection appearances of Jesus, God's love and compassion are not rendered helpless by locked doors. God's love doesn't stand outside, helplessly knocking. Rather it goes right through the locked doors, stands inside the huddle of fear and loneliness, and breathes out peace. So too for our loved ones who die by suicide. We find ourselves helpless, but God can, and does, go through those locked doors and, once there, breathes out peace inside a tortured, huddled heart.

Father Ron Rolheiser,
www.ronrolheiser.com
CALENDAR EVENTS:
Aug 1-4 Kairos 14 retreat
Aug 8-13 Pilgrimage trip to OLPH to help celebrate their 50th Anniversary
Aug. 16 Parent BBQ 6pm
Aug 18 Speaker Mike Patin provides training 9am for adults, noon for teen leaders
Aug. 25 DOS mtg 10-11:30am

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 Saturday, Oct. 26th.
Details about our new leadership board and these positions 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

PRAYER REQUESTS:
- For summer travel of families over the coming weeks—that the time away is enriching, bonding, energizing and renewing
- For the K14 retreat weekend as they complete their spiritual journey. We pray that the love and community built this weekend can be shared with us all!
- For the OLPH work tour group as they travel to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our sharing parish in Williamsburg Kentucky.

INTRODUCING: Our Home Group Coordinators
Mary and Terry Stadler
CONTACT INFO
708-246-3838
Terry Stadler: tjs47@att.net
Mary Stadler:
stadler2@hotmail.com

Maren Craig
CONTACT INFO
708-289-2482
maren_craig@yahoo.com

The late Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago addressed our roles as parents and ministers in both functional and relational aspects. The Scripture story of Martha & Mary in Luke’s Gospels propels us to view our roles as parents and Home Group leaders in two ways, too. But, it is the relational role of our lives as parents and Home Group leaders that invite us to just be there with our Teens. Being a Home Group leader is less about KNOWING what to say or teach the teens. It has everything to do about BEING THERE with the teens as they ask questions and struggle with the balance of sports, studies, relationships, faith and expectations. ~Terry Stadler

Father you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you.
Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay Ministers.
Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call.
We ask this in Jesus name
Amen

CROSSROADS FALL REGISTRATION IS OPEN!
CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER AT www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads
This Week at SJC
Monday, August 5
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

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

Saturday, August 10
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

There will be no Confessions after the morning Mass on Saturday, August 17th. Please mark your calendar.

Wedding Banms
Courtney Odelson & Joe Dynes
Amanda Sine & Matt Medhat

Pray for our Sick
Eve Baron
Kat Egan
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge
Janet Harrington
Karen Hult
Barbara Jacob
Allison Kazragis
Shirley Kazragis
Joe & Rosie King
Fr. William Mannion
Baby Maddie Mayer
Jay Meehan
Vickie McNally
Harry Milani
Baby Meghan Hope Pacyna
Rick Reimer
Teresa Schaefer
Charles Sugrue
Guy Thomas
Mary Catherine Warren
Pam Wilson

Mass Intentions
Monday, August 5, St. Mary Major Basilica Dedication
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Lawrence W. Clark

Tuesday, August 6, The Transfiguration of the Lord
7:45 Bill Broderick; Irene Russell

Wednesday, August 7, Ss. Sixtus & Cajetan
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Catherine Pozen

Thursday, August 8, St. Dominic
7:45 Don Schimizzi; Dorothy Carlini

Friday, August 9, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
7:45 Ellen McGowan; Fred & Mary Lou Landbeck

Saturday, August 10, St. Lawrence
8:00 John Gallagher; Lawrence Hickey
5:00 George Gallagher; Robert Plechaty

Sunday, August 11, 19th Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Gloria Oechsel; Nate Harris
9:00 SJC & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parishioners
10:45 Donald O'Flaherty; Abe and Georgia Tamer
5:00 Ginny Kuchta; Jean Newman

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Thomas Baer, father of Cody and Liani
Son of Mary Jane
brother of Beth, Billy, Katie, Janie and Sally

John A. Pusinelli, Jr., father of Mark

• If you have moved or have a new cell phone or email address, please update your contact information with our parish office. Send any changes to mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Thanks!!

• Please consider making your Sunday offertory gift electronically. It’s easy, secure and automatic. Go to our website giving tab or stop in the parish center to fill out a paper form. You can give from your checking account or credit card.

Trying 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 Caschetta Director of Youth Catechesis jcascchetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Cramer 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
Strong Catholic Adults

Sunday, August 18th
9:00 – 10:30 am
in the Parish Center

As strong catholic adults we share our faith and mentor to youth through our words and actions. We are called through our baptism to spread the Good News and build the Kingdom of God. Mike is a gifted national presenter that shares his love of the Catholic faith with others.

Join us as we learn new ways to strengthen our faith so that as we minister to parish youth they see the joy of Christ working in our lives.

Open to all Adults who minister to our children.

Start your Sunday with Mike’s lively presentation. Attend 7:30 a.m. Mass and join us for hospitality after or you are welcome to attend 10:45 a.m. Mass after the presentation at St. John of the Cross. Over 30 years and one million people later, Mike Patin continues to inspire his audiences with his highly energetic style and sense of humor. Mike uses energy, humor and stories to affirm the goodness of God’s presence among us while inviting others (and himself) to take the “next step” in our journey with God. He considering his ministry as a “faith horticulturist” and speaks to adults and teens throughout the nation. He is the recipient of the National Catholic Youth Ministry Award and has served on many national committees. Mike is engaging, inspiring, interactive and enlightening!