ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS PARISH
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 1, 2013

The Humble Will Be Exalted

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5005 S. WOLF ROAD WESTERN SPRINGS 60558
708-246-4404
WWW.STJOHNOFTHECROSS.ORG
Dear Parishioners,

Labor Day weekend often marks the end of summer for families as they lock up summer homes and settle in to the new school year routine. If the weather holds it can also be a time of BBQ’s and family gatherings. It’s a three day weekend that folks seem to relish as the inevitable changing of the seasons waves its flag to grab our attention yet again. But the weekend should be focused on Labor Day.

The dignity of work and of the worker has been a hallmark of the church’s social teaching for over a hundred years, dating back to the encyclical of Pope Leo XII in 1891, Rerum Novarum (“Of new things”). In some ways it is a document that shows the church’s acceptance of capitalism as it rejects socialism. It also attacks the great divide between the wealthy few and the poor masses beginning in and created by the Industrial Age. The encyclical began a long tradition of speaking of the dignity of work and the rights of workers to be treated humanely and paid a fair wage.

Even after all this time the dynamics don’t seem to have changed that much as globalization puts more strain on the middle class in the United States and treats workers in the developing world with little respect. Why is it easy to see the greed of 19th Century England and the Robber Barons yet remain blind to the same crimes in 21st Century India, or China, or any number of countries? I have to admit I didn’t pay a lot of attention to the clothing factory complex collapse last May that killed over 1,000 people when it occurred. When you couple that story with what has been coming out of China for a number of years now about how APPLE treats its employees worse than slaves were treated, the scope of the issue becomes immense. Clothing and computers: aren’t we all touched in some way by those two industries?

Unions at one point in history (now less than 8% of the work force) won workers benefits like a 40 hour work week and health insurance. It is almost quaint today to speak of those and other issues that were once taken for granted as part of employment in this country. Now, eating lunch at your desk while continuing to work and not taking vacation days lest you get behind in your job seem to be the norm. 50 hour work weeks are not unusual, and many more hours are routine for others. No one may be ‘forcing’ you to do those kinds of things, but when ‘downsizing’ occurs, who is first in being ushered to the door? College graduates seem to have an advantage in securing some jobs when they are cheaper than older employees. What will happen to the job market by the time today’s graduate reaches middle age and all those jobs have also disappeared?

I know several parishioners who had terrific work records for a number of years and now cannot find employment in their fields. They would love to have a decent job, no matter the field. They have 15 to 20 years ahead of them before reaching age 65, but even that number is a distant memory for many still in the work force by necessity. (I fully anticipate a change in the mandatory retirement age from administration for priests to rise from its current 70 yrs. to 72 or even 75 yrs. The problem is you can't raise the average life expectancy of a priest in the United States from the current 67 yrs. to keep up).

Pray for those looking for work. Appreciate more how fortunate you are if have a job today. Be aware of the huge social issues here and around the world regarding the dignity of work and workers and put your troubles in perspective. And don’t burn the burgers!

Peace,

Fr. David
New Adult Formation Opportunities
For Fall

Like a mustard seed, the seed of faith will mature and flourish as we grow in our relationship with God.

Pillar Study II: The Sacraments
A twelve week study of the power, purpose and origin of the Sacraments through reflective discussion, dvd learning, and home study. Class meets on Tuesdays beginning September 10th at 1pm or 7pm in the parish center. $25 covers the cost of the study book. To register drop off an envelope at the parish office marked Sacrament Study with your contact info and book fee enclosed.

Flourish Faith Sharing for Women
Grow in faith and friendship every other Thursday beginning September 12th from 9-10:30am in the parish center. The first eight sessions will focus on scripture study using a dvd by Jennie Allen. (Here is a link to the study called “Stuck” http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMzh11pVQ2g.) Book order and registration to Sue Bidstrup at jsbidstrup@ameritech.net or Liz Williams at lisbethwill@sbcglobal.net

Spirit Packed into Soul with Fr. Harry
Wednesdays from 9-11:30am beginning September 4th. Fr. Harry will offer a brief intro into the power of poems in all of life. Each session will include examples of the power and surprise of poems and reflection on the Sacred (Lectio Divina) in prose and poems. Participants are invited to bring a poem to memorize in whole or part and share what it means to you. Bring a note pad.

**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.

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 please contact Fr. Filbert Ngwila at fngwila@stjohnofthecross.org.

**Come September 17th at 7pm in church to learn more.**

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**Divorce and Beyond**

is a program designed to offer support, fellowship and respect to our brothers and sisters experiencing or having completed divorce. Come share and know that others have gone through the same things as you. Know that you are loved and welcomed as part of our parish family.

Three trained parishioners will help you through the journey of initial stress, anger and guilt to ultimate forgiveness, happiness and growth. The sessions will cover experiences and emotions that divorcing people go through and will discuss activities for making divorce a growing experience.

Everyone is very welcome to this eight week support group, no matter where you are in the divorce process. It is important to know you are not alone. Participants are encouraged to attend all eight sessions.

Friday evenings from 7-9pm in the parish center: Sept. 13, Sept. 27, Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 8, Nov. 22, Dec. 6th and Dec. 20. Program book is $10. To register, drop off money and your contact info to the parish center office in an envelope marked Divorce & Beyond by Sept. 9. Any questions, contact Ann Marie at 708-784-9311.

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**Grief Support in our Area**

Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood has 2 classes beginning the second week in September:

**General Journey Toward Healing**

For adults grieving loss of a loved one
Tuesdays, Sept. 10—Oct. 15 6:30-8pm

**Widow-Widower Group**

For adults grieving the loss of a spouse
Thursdays, Sept. 12—October 17 3-4:30pm

To register for either group call: Nancy Kiel at 708-216-1646

Adventist St. Thomas Hospice offers several grief support groups for kids, teens, and a support group for parents/caregivers.

**Tommy’s Kids and Teens for Teens** is a 6 week grief support group for children 4-17 who have experienced a significant loss due to death. They are grouped by age. A support group for parents/caregivers meets at the same time to understand a child’s grief, experience support and encouragement.

Thursdays, Sept. 12—Oct. 17 6-7:30pm in Hinsdale
Call Rosie Cohen at 630-856-6993 to register.
It’s worth it.
Make time for the Beloved Retreat!
October 11-13, 2013

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?

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.

Got Questions? Want answers?
Join us next weekend
September 7th—8th after all Masses.
Ask the St. John of the Cross Parish Beloved Team what it has meant to them.
We will be in the church narthex to answer your questions.

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 exits of the church for more information and registration or go to the parish website.
Gospel Reading: Luke 14:1,7-14

Background on the Gospel Reading
Meals played an important role in the society in which Jesus lived. More than a time for sharing nourishment, they were a time to share ideas and to model different aspects of social relationships. In Luke's Gospel, the places that a person ate (at the home of a tax collector, 5:29), the people with whom a person ate (sinners, 5:30), whether a person washed before eating (11:38), and, as is the case here, the place that a person sits while eating are all important. The narrator says Jesus tells a parable, but it is really wise advice to both guests and hosts about finding true happiness at the heavenly banquet.

Jesus warns guests to wait before taking their places at the table lest they be asked to move if someone more important arrives. This is more than just a lesson about dinner etiquette. It is advice on how to find your true place in the Kingdom of God. Jesus advises hosts not to invite people who would be expected to repay them to dinner but to invite those who could not repay: the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. This is where real blessings can be found.

In these sayings, Luke gives us not only advice on how to approach the end times but also on how to live according to Jesus' vision of a good society. Luke's Gospel also advises us how the Church must be part of bringing about this society. It is yet another example in Luke's Gospel of the reversal the kingdom brings about.

Let us pray
that we may accept the grace of Christ,
who gives us the power we need to remain faithful.

Step One: Listen to the Word
As you listen to the Gospel today, what did you hear God saying? What word or phrase touched your own heart and is memorable for you?

Step Two: Look into Your Life

Question for Children: Jesus tells us that we should treat everyone as a guest. Who do you tend to shun or not be nice to?

Question for Youth: God asks us to do for others without hope of repayment. This past week, what did you do for someone else for which you won't be repaid? Who are the people most in need of your generosity?

Question for Adults: Who are the people living near you that you would find it most difficult to invite to a meal in your home? Or to invite to be part of your life?

Within each of us lies the desire to find meaning beyond the moment... to discover our true selves... to grow closer to God and to one another.

Spiritual Direction

In spiritual direction you reflect deeply on the experiences of your daily life. Gradually, as you contemplate, you may begin to recognize God's presence and grace in your life. You may come to realize how God's spirit is truly with you every day and everywhere. You discover that God has been waiting for you to seek this closer relationship.

You might come to spiritual direction to identify and trust your own experiences of God, integrate spirituality into your daily life, discern and make difficult choices, share your hopes, struggles and losses, develop a sensitivity for justice and concern for the poor.

For more information contact Marianne Firlit at: mgfirlit@stjohnofthecross.org

Readings for the Week

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<th>23rd Sunday in O.T.</th>
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<td>Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13</td>
<td>Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14</td>
<td>Ps 52:10, 11</td>
<td>Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6</td>
<td>Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5</td>
<td>Ps 54:3-4, 3, 6 and 8</td>
<td>Ps 90:3-4, 5-6,12-13, 14, 17</td>
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www.stjohnofthecross.org
Stewards of God’s gifts are not passive beneficiaries. We cooperate with God in our own redemption and in the redemption of others.

We are obliged to be stewards of the Church—collaborators and cooperators in continuing the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, which is the Church’s essential mission. This mission—proclaiming and teaching, serving and sanctifying—is our task. It is the personal responsibility of each one of us as stewards of the Church. Through the sacrament of Baptism we place our gifts, our resources—our very selves at God’s service in and through the Church.

All members of the Church have their own roles to play in carrying out its mission according to our gifts, talents and circumstances:

Parents, who nurture their children in the light of faith
Within the family, parents must teach their children the truths of the faith and pray with them; share Christian values with them and initiate them into the practice of stewardship itself. Parents must be models of stewardship by their selfless service to one another, to their children, and to the church and community needs.

Parishioners, who work in concrete ways to make their parishes true communities of faith and vibrant sources of service to the larger community
Parishioners must accept responsibility for the vitality of their parishes and contribute generously to programs and projects.

All Catholics, who give generous support—time, money, prayers, and personal service according to their circumstances to the parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church.
The diocese joins parishes into a local church which unites its people in faith, worship and service. Parishioners must express a personal sense of responsibility through support and self-giving at this level as well to one’s brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere.

Let us love the Lord our God with all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength.

God of power and might, you command us to love one another. Strengthen us in our love for neighbor and for self. May those you entrust to our care see in us signs of your everlasting love. May we learn to love you more—with all our understanding, all our strength, and hearts overflowing with joy. We ask this in the name of your Son, the everlasting sign of life and love, Jesus Christ, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

CLASSES BEGIN SOON!!

Last week letters were mailed to all families of registered children. Emails will be sent the week of September 9th with room assignments. Please watch for this important correspondence.

Sunday, September 15th and
Monday, September 16th
First Day of Classes!
Open House for Parents!
During class attend the classroom for part of the time, then come to a presentation on the year ahead.

Plan to Join us!!!

Catechist Meetings
Thursday, September 5th
Kindergarten through 8th grade volunteers
10:00 am to 11:30 am
Or
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
ALL VOLUNTEERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND if you did not attend the August 22nd meeting

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@stjc.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Summer Hours
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am- 4:00pm
12 Tips to Pray through the Day

Many believers have come to realize that their day goes better when they pray early and often. Here’s a list of suggestions for praying your way through your day. Pick one or two suggestions that seem to be calling you and make a habit of them. You can always add more prayer to your day as time goes by.

1. **Start with a Morning Offering.** Start each day by declaring your intention to make a gift of all the “joys, works, prayers, and sufferings” of the day ahead. Use words such as “God, I offer you my whole day. I offer you all that I am, all that I have, and all that I will do. Help me to know and do your will.”

2. **Think ahead.** Imagine the toughest challenge facing you in the day ahead. Now imagine that these are moments of grace in which God is especially present to you.

3. **Take a quiet time.** Early in your day, spend a brief period of quiet. Starting your day with ten minutes to half an hour in meditative prayer will make a huge difference in your whole day.

4. **Pray as you sit down to eat breakfast.** Ask for strength and direction in your day.

5. **Make lemonade.** Pray during the day whenever you hit a snag and feel frustrated.

6. **Pray with joy.** Pray when you feel glad to see or hear from someone—a friend, a coworker, a student, a customer.

7. **Pray before your noontime meal.** Ask for patience, perseverance, and hope.

8. **Take a three-minute prayer break.** In midafternoon simply breathe and ask to be refreshed. Imagine rays of light filling your soul.

9. **Pray at transition times.** Be aware of your body as one part of the day comes to an end and another begins. Slow down and breathe deeply.

10. **Pray before your evening meal.** In addition to thanking God for your food, take a moment for everyone at the table to answer the questions “Who blessed me with their presence and their actions today?” and “Whom did I bless?”

11. **Pray to let go of the cares of the day.** Find a “trigger moment,” such as putting your keys on your dresser; turning off the television, radio, or computer; or laying out clothes for the next day, that can serve as a reminder to take a moment for reflective prayer.

12. **Finish your day with night prayer.** Before you drift off to sleep, thank God for all the gifts you received and for rest, assurance, calm, and peace.

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Have mercy on me, 0 Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. 0 Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Entrance Antiphon

Contemplation, or meditation in some groups, was rediscovered in contemporary Christian times beginning with the writings of Thomas Merton in the 1950s and 1960s. The word most Christians are more familiar with is simply “prayer.”

Unfortunately, in the West, prayer had become something functional; something you did to achieve a desired effect—which too often puts the ego back in charge. As soon as you make prayer a way to get what you want, you’re not moving into any kind of new state of consciousness. It’s the same old consciousness, but now well disguised: “How can I get God to do what I want God to do?” It’s the egocentric self deciding what it needs, but now, instead of just manipulating everybody else, it tries to manipulate God.

This is one reason religion is so dangerous and often so delusional. If religion does not transform people at the level of both mind and heart, it ends up giving self-centered people a very pious and untouchable way to be on top and in control. Now God becomes their defense system for their small self! Even Jesus found this to be true of his own scribes, Pharisees, and teachers of the law.

Adapted from CAC Foundation Set: Gospel Call to Compassionate Action

Richard Rohr Daily Meditation
Parish News & Notes

Protecting God’s Children Workshop Dates at our Parish

| Who | All Parents, Coaches, Room Parents, any Volunteer in the parish who has regular contact with children. Sign up now as seating is limited. |
| What | Protecting God’s Children Workshop includes two thirty minute videos and discussion |
| When | September 18 6:30-9:30 pm  
September 24 9am-Noon  
September 24 6:30-9:30 pm |
| Where | St. John of the Cross Parish Center |
| How | You will need to register for this training by going on-line to the internet site for Virtus Training at www.virtus.org Click on the “registration” on the left side, choose “begin the registration process” and then choose “Chicago, IL” |
| Why | We are all affected by the abuse of children by representatives of the Church and society. In response the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops provided guidelines for the safety of our children in their Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. These recommendations have then been translated into an action plan by Cardinal George. Every employee and volunteer who has regular contact with children is required to attend a training session of Protecting God’s Children. These workshops will inform and inspire participants to be part of the solution and to help keep our youth safe from harm. |

Mass Schedule
Only one Mass is scheduled at 9am on Labor Day, September 2nd. Please join us as we thank God for the blessings of labor and seek his continued blessings upon us.

The 12:15pm Mass returns on Sunday, September 8th, the weekend after Labor Day.

Choir News
Traditional Choir rehearsals begin Wednesday, September 4, and Contemporary Ensemble rehearsals begin Thursday, September 5. New members are invited to try us out by attending our first rehearsal without further obligation. Contact Jessica Koch, Director of Music, to find out more!

Children’s Choir News—Start up Dates!!
Did you know that St. John of the Cross has 2 choirs available to all children in the parish? Cherub Choir serves children in grades 1-3 and practices on Wednesdays from 3:45 – 4:30 in the church. The start date is Sept. 11th with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20. Youth Choir serves students in grades 4-8, and practices on Thursdays from 3:45-4:30 pm in the church. The start date is Sept. 12th with registration and a brief meeting at 4:20. Questions? Contact Ann Bourjaily-Maney at bourjman@sbcglobal.net.

“5 Alive” Sunday Night Choir
Are you a high school/college aged person looking for a way to get involved in music at SJC? Our Sunday night 5:00 Mass is looking for you! The choir sings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month with a rehearsal just before mass at 4:00. No regular commitment is needed – you only come when it works for you! Start date is Sept. 15. Questions? Call or email Ann Bourjaily-Maney at (708) 246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net or visit the 5 Alive Facebook page.

Ministers of Care Meeting
On Saturday, Sept. 7th all parish Ministers of Care will attend the 8am Mass and will meet in the parish center after Mass. Please call Fr. Fil for more information.

Mom’s Club
Gather with other moms and kids in our parish. Friday, Sept. 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the parish center. All Welcome!

Upcoming Interfaith Career Network Events
www.interfaithcareernetwork.org
Your Brain, Your Interview
Please join us on Thursday, September 19 from 7-9 pm for an interesting program on how the brain works... replacing negative messages with positive ones so you can be at your best for your interview and life in general. St. Cletus Education Building in La Grange.

Job Support Group Workshop
Five week job support skills workshop on Tuesday evenings beginning September 17 from 7-9 pm at First Presbyterian Church of La Grange. Whether you have lost your job or are looking for a new one this workshop is for you.

May your favor, O Lord, be upon us, and may you give success to the work of our hands. Amen.
Outreach

St. Thomas Hospice Seeks Volunteers
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, non-judgmental attitude and a desire to make a difference in the lives of terminally ill patients and their families. Class will meet for 9 consecutive Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, September 3 ending November 5. If interested, please call Barb Zerby, Coordinator of Volunteer Services at 630-856-6998.

Misericordia Family Fest
All are invited to the 33rd annual Family Fest on Sunday, September 8th from 11-6 at Misericordia’s Campus at Ridge & Devon in Chicago. There will be live entertainment, children’s games, kiddie rides, free parking, auctions & raffles, and food & drinks. All proceeds support Misericordia’s programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities. For info and tickets, call 773-273-2768.

Annual Benefit Dinner
On Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013, the annual benefit dinner for Bishop Abramowicz Seminary will take place at the Westin O’Hare Hotel in Rosemont. The evening will start with Cocktails and Silent Auction at 5:00 pm followed by dinner at 6:00 pm. Tickets are $175 per person. For tickets and reservations call Camille Kopielski 847-394-2520.

Food Pantry Collection
During the month of September your nonperishable food donations will be delivered to Catholic Charities in Cicero.

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.keepphomedifferent.org for more information or 1-855-KEEP-411 toll free.

Operation Support Our Troops Annual Parishwide Collection:
Sept. 6th—16th
Donation Boxes in Church and Parish Center
The mission of Operation Support Our Troops IL is to supplement the basic provisions provided to American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan and overseas. The packages we send include packaged treats and toiletries that our troops cannot easily obtain. Top Ten Items Needed at This Time:

1. Individual cold drink mix packets (Gatorade, Propel)
2. Slim Jims/Jerky
3. Crackers (16 oz or less)
4. Nuts (20 oz or less)
5. Cereal/breakfast bars
6. Flyswatters/flystrips
7. Sunscreen (8 oz or less, no aerosol please)
8. Antibiotic or anti-itch cream
9. Toilet paper
10. Insect Repellent Wipes or Spray (8 oz or less, no aerosol)

Please do not donate glass items, larger sizes than listed or expired items. No pre-packed boxes can be accepted. Thank you for helping us support our troops!!

Questions: Contact Debbie Pusinelli (708) 246-6760 ext 251

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O God, the giver of all good gifts, you give the gift of work as blessing and as task. In whatever work you have given us to do, small or great, grant that we may serve with love and praise with joy, through Christ our Lord.
Amen
Prayer Requests
We ask the parish to include our intentions in their prayers:
- For all students, as academics and activities get into full swing may they have strength to accomplish their goals.
- We pray for the teachers and faculty who have so much to do with developing our youth. May they have the patience and the enthusiasm to inspire future leaders.

Crossroads Calendar
Sept. 8 DOS mtg 10am
Sept 8 Kick-off Party for ALL TEENS 6pm
Sept. 14 Kickball game 3:30pm
Sept 15 Fresh-Soph retreat mtg
Sept 15 10am DOS mtg Noon

SEPT 8TH KICK OFF PARTY
All parish teens are invited to our Crossroads kickoff party next Sunday at 6-8pm at the parish center! Join us as we begin the new year of Crossroads with food, fun and games.

WANTED: ADULT AND TEEN LEADERS on Fall Ministry Teams:
Welcome our newest high schoolers during their Freshmen Experience for the fall semester! Lead our confirmation candidates on their Day of the Spirit Retreat Day Saturday, Oct. 26th. Become a home group leader for our freshmen!

Details about these positions and our new leadership board can be found on our website at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/descriptions
For further information contact Katie Hayes at 708-246-4404 khayes@stjohnofthecross.org or Christopher Zurowski teen retreat coordinator, 708-724-0419

CROSSROADS REGISTRATION FOR FALL IS OPEN! CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER AT
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads

Check out our volunteers training info section of our Crossroads website for snippits and legacy points of the two presentations! Password is training :-)

Join us for hot dogs, hamburgers, s’mores and beverages for the boys. Great treats for the moms too!

THE MOTHER & DAUGHTER CAMPOUT 2013!
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH — 6:30-9:30 PM
Candy Hunt - Inflatable Fun Movie on the Big Screen
Bring your tent and gear for a night of fun! We will supply the food, drink and games! $10.00 per person ★ RSVP by Sept. 16th

PLEASE RETURN BOTTOM PORTION TO RSVP

NAME: ________________________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________________
PHONE: _______________________________________
E-MAIL: _______________________________________
NUMBER ATTENDING: ADULTS _____________
CHILDREN ___________
AMOUNT ENCLOSED $ _______________
(COST $10.00 PER PERSON)

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

Questions? Contact: Denise Schullo (deec7@hotmail.com)
Nurturing Prayer with the Imagination

One foolproof way of engaging children in prayer is to pray from stories. You can use folk tales, children’s books, videos, and the Gospels. Most children identify readily with characters and situations. Here’s how you can bring stories, Jesus, and the children together.

Have the children go to a favorite place.

An easy way to engage their imaginations is to invite them to think of a place they like to be. It can be real or made-up, just as long as they like being there. Practice going to this favorite place regularly. If the children are accustomed to meeting Jesus in their favorite place, it’s very easy to guide their discussion with Jesus.

Invite Jesus to join them.

As the children sit with their eyes closed, each in his or her favorite place, begin a conversation, something like this: “Jesus meets you in your favorite place. He looks at you just as he would look at a good friend, and he says, ‘How are you?’ Go ahead and answer him.”

“Then Jesus asks, ‘What story were you just reading?’ Tell him.”

Have Jesus talk with them about the story.

Continue having Jesus ask questions about the story, with plenty of silence between questions for the children to speak to him in their imaginations.

Continue reading this article on the home page of our parish website......
This week our Parish School welcomed new faces to our school family with the start of preschool. On the first day parents were invited to join their child in the classroom as the children became acquainted with their teacher and comfortable with their new surroundings. Parents also were able to meet and connect with other new parents.

After our track and field team triumphed over 25 teams to win the Suburban Parochial League Championship last season, our cross country runners began this season with the largest number of students on a team in history. GO!!

Girls’ basketball, girls’ volleyball, football, and cheerleading also began their seasons.
HAVE I BEEN SAVED?
The famed and feisty psychologist, Fritz Pearls, was once asked by a well-meaning Christian if he was saved. He responded by saying, I am still trying to figure out how to be spent! His retort echoes a line from Theresa of Avila who states that once we reach the highest mansion of maturity we are left with only one question: How can I be helpful? They're right, and their insight is a needed challenge. We too easily and too frequently get the wrong focus opposite both Christian discipleship and human maturity.

The real question in our lives, at least during our adult years, shouldn't be: What must I do to go to heaven? Or, what must I do to avoid going to hell? Not that concerns about our own salvation are unimportant or that heaven and hell are unreal, the point is rather that our deepest motivation has to be to do things for others and not for ourselves. For the main part, our own salvation will take care of itself if we focus on the needs of others. Granted, both scripture and what's best in human wisdom do say that we may not be so overly-focused on helping others that we neglect our own needs, but both also make it clear, as does the Prayer of St. Francis, that taking care of ourselves is paradoxical and we that receive what we need for our own lives primarily by giving it away to others.

And so our primary concern shouldn't be with the questions: Am I saved? Or even with the question: "Have I found Jesus as my personal savior?" Again, this needs qualification: A personal and affective relationship to Jesus is not, for a Christian, any Christian, an unimportant or negotiable thing. Indeed in Gospels, particularly in the Gospel of John, a deep, affective, personal relationship to Jesus is the central component within Christian discipleship and is an end in itself. We don't, at the end of the day, develop a relationship to Jesus so that we have the energy and proper compass out of which to minister to others, though that is very much part of it. Rather we develop an intimate relationship with Jesus because that is an end in itself, the ultimate reason we become Christian.

In affirming that, the traditions of Evangelical Christians and of Roman Catholic devotional practice are correct. Nothing trumps a personal, affective relationship to Jesus and outside of that connection we aren't in fact real disciples of Christ. However Jesus, himself, mitigates any fundamentalism or one-sided devotional understanding of this by linking intimacy to him with the other half of the great commandment: Love God and love neighbor. Simply put, we show our love for God, our intimacy with Jesus, by laying down our lives for our neighbor. Christian discipleship is never only about Jesus and me, even as it is always still about Jesus and me.

A priest friend of mine who teaches at a secular university was once asked by one of his students: "Father, have you met Jesus Christ?" His answer, no doubt, reflected some fatigue: "Yes," he replied, "I have met Jesus Christ, and it messed-up my whole life! There are days when I wish I hadn't met him!" What his answer, in its irreverence, correctly highlights is that meeting Jesus implies a lot more than a private, romantic, affective, and safe encounter with him and that meeting Jesus is more than having a private feeling in the soul that we are loved by and secure with God.

A non-negotiable part of meeting Jesus means being sent out, and not just alone on some private spiritual quest or individualized ministry. It means being called into community, into a church, and then sent out with others, "in pairs", to, as Nikos Kazantzakis poetically puts it, "walk in Christ's bloody footsteps", that is, to walk inside of mess and failure, misunderstanding and crucifixion, confusion and tiredness, darkness and God's seeming silence, wondering sometimes if you will indeed find a stone upon which to lay your head. Intimacy with Jesus mostly doesn't look like intimacy in a Hollywood film or like intimacy as defined in the manuals of privatized spirituality. It looks more like the intimacy that Jesus experienced with his Father as he walked resolutely towards Jerusalem, against the advice of his intimate circle, swallowing hard, knowing what awaited him there. The Jesuit volunteer corps summarize their discipleship in these words: "Ruined for life!" That wonderfully grasps both the intimacy and what it means.

Theresa of Avila suggests that we're mature in following Christ if our questions and concerns no longer have a self-focus: Am I saved? Have I met Jesus Christ? Do I love Jesus enough? These questions remain and remain valid; but they're not meant to be our main focus. Our real question needs to be: How can I be helpful?

Fritz Pearls simply puts it more graphically: How can I be spent? During our adult lives that trumps the question: Have I been saved?

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Reminder: The 12:15 Mass is back next Sunday, Sept. 8th!

Schedule at SJC this Week

Monday, September 02, 2013
Labor Day~ No School ~ Parish Office Closed
9:00 AM Mass

Tuesday, September 03, 2013
9:30 AM Focus on Sunday Scriptures
7:00 PM RCIA Team Meeting
7:00 PM YC Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 04, 2013
9:00 AM Father Bonin Reflection Group
9:30 AM Wednesday Morning Bible Study
2:00 PM Christian Meditation
7:00 PM Traditional Choir Rehearsal
7:30 PM Christian Meditation

Thursday, September 05, 2013
10:30 and 6:30 PM YC Catechist Meeting
9:15 AM Resurrection Choir Practice
7:00 PM Infant Baptism Prep Meeting
7:30 PM Contemporary Choir Practice

Friday, September 06, 2013
9:30 AM Mom’s Club
6:00 PM Men’s Club Bags and BBQ

Saturday, September 07, 2013
7:00 AM Christian Meditation
8:30 AM Ministers of Care Meeting following Mass

Sunday, September 08, 2013
10:00 AM Crossroads Advisory
6:00 PM Crossroads Kick Off Party for ALL Teens

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Edward Flanagan, brother of Marian McNulty
Harry Milani, father of Michael, grandfather of Renata, Elaina, and Katherine
Dolores “Dutchie” Adamenas, mother of Tom, Mike, Bob and John Yuknis
Mary Ellen Janowski, mother of Mark, Jim, Chris, and Deb Kapitan, grandmother of 9
Dorothy T. Willey, sister of Pat Hutchison
Justin Chenelle, husband of Nancy, father of Susan and James

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 2, For the Sanctification of Human Labor
9:00 Orlanda & Raphael Ambrosino; Franklin Kellogg

Tuesday, September 3, St. Gregory
7:45 Arlene Bishop; Bob Cosgrove

Wednesday, September 4
7:45 John Pecis; Kevin McGann

Thursday, September 5, Bl. Teresa of Calcutta
7:45 Helen McDonnell; Evelyn & Chester Kowal

Friday, September 6
7:45 Gora & Maier Families; Our Beloved Dead

Saturday, September 7
8:00 Thomas H. Woolridge; Robert Madlenar
5:00 Dorothy & Joe Surdyk; George Gallagher

Sunday, September 8, 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Frank J. Rock, Jr., Henry Tymick
9:00 Walter & Patricia Cebula;
Kolbe House & SJC Parishioners
10:45 Jack McDonnell; Gerald Gardner
12:15 Dr. Robert Strzyz; Steve Ryan
5:00 Dr. James Watts; William Sturgeon

Italics—Living

Pray for our Sick

Dale Alm
Baby Maddie Mayer
Jay Meehan
Eve Baron
Vickie McNally
Paul Cervony
Harry Milani
Terry Cullen
William Dwyer
Baby Meghan Hope Pacyna
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge
Bob Pietras
Bernadine Gordus
Rick Reimer
Karen Hult
Teresa Schaefer
Barbara Jacob
Charles Sugrue
Allison Kazragis
Guy Thomas
Joe & Rosie King
Baby Kameron Walters
Mary Catherine Warren
Fr. William Mannion
Pam Wilson
Olga Theresa Matusik
Elizabeth Witek

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

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Jessica Koch  Music  jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin  Operations  mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones  Welcome  erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
All men of the parish are invited to
Men’s Club BBQ & Bags Tournament
Friday, September 6th
at 6:00 pm

Food & beverages will be provided by the Men’s Club.
Please bring a friend, lawn chairs and competitive spirit!
The Men’s Cub will also host its
5th Annual 2-Man Team Bags Contest
so be sure to bring along your favorite bags partner to participate and enjoy the competition! The Bags competition will begin at 6:30 pm and requires a $10.00 Entry Fee.
Please RSVP if you plan to attend the BBQ to either Barrett Long at longbarrett@hotmail.com or John Cisek at john cishek @ netscape.net. Also, please let us know if you plan to participate in the Bags Contest.

All the festivities are on the lawn east of the Parish Center