Dear Pastors and Administrators:

With comprehensive immigration legislation now in the hands of the House of Representatives, we have entered truly critical months that could determine the future livelihoods of thousands of our brothers and sisters, including those in our parish communities.

Symbolically and prophetically, our Holy Father, Pope Francis chose the plight of migrants as the context for his homily during his first trip outside of Rome, which was to the Sicilian island of Lampedusa – called by some the “Ellis Island of Italy.” Over 20,000 migrants from North Africa have died at sea trying to journey there in hopes of a better life in Europe. During his visit to Lampedusa, Pope Francis begged the Lord for forgiveness “for our indifference to so many of our brothers and sisters” and “for those who by their decisions on the global level have created situations that lead to these tragedies.”

During these next several months we have the opportunity and moral obligation to take concrete actions, as part of our wider evangelization efforts on the issue of immigration, to address this human tragedy in the United States. I am committed to doing so. I recently wrote the attached op-ed on this topic, and I have asked my episcopal vicars to offer their support as well. I am writing now to ask for yours.

I encourage you to participate in our archdiocesan initiative, coordinated through the Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education, to help pass bipartisan immigration reform. Since 2005, this office has taken a national leadership role in carrying out the USCCB’s Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform/Justice for Immigrants. Led by Elena Segura, with my support, the work of the Office for Immigrant Affairs and Immigration Education includes educating native-born congregations, advocating for immigration reform, and empowering immigrants.

Please use and share the resources offered by the Office for Immigrant Affairs, and participate with your people in its upcoming activities, such as the 40 Days of Prayer, Fasting and Action for Immigration Reform in Congress, which will begin on August 15th; and an Archdiocesan Pilgrimage on October 12th. Resources about immigration reform, and information about these and other activities, are available online at www.archchicago.org/immigration, or by contacting Elena Segura at (312) 534-5333 or esegura@archchicago.org.

Fraternally yours in Christ,

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
Archbishop of Chicago
Reforming Immigration Laws
Cardinal Francis George, OMI

For several decades, our country failed to enforce its own laws. Farm workers and others regularly crossed back and forth across our borders as they were needed. As their families and children became woven into the fabric of civil life here, their numbers increased to the eleven million undocumented people whose illegal status keeps them in the shadows of public life. They are both here and not here; and that is the tragedy, for them and for us.

Every Sunday morning, tens of thousands of friends and neighbors in pews of many churches across Illinois and the country pray in Spanish, Polish, English and languages from across the globe that they will not be torn from their brothers and sisters, wives and husbands and children.

Social policy that systematically destroys families makes no sense when illegal immigration has been at net zero for nearly five years in the United States. And yet, every day, eleven hundred individuals who pray, work and live with us are seized from their communities and families and deported. The number of deportations and the disruption of family life they cause have steadily increased under the present administration.

There is good reason to hope. In June, a truly bipartisan effort in the Senate produced sound legislation that, if passed, would bless our nation with a far more humane system. It includes a tough, but fair, path to earned citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Hope wanes when the leadership in the House of Representatives reject this legislation without releasing a plan themselves that would lead to just, humane and timely immigration reform. House Speaker John Boehner and his leadership team have said they will not allow a vote on any legislation that does not have the support of a majority of Republican house members. This makes political sense, but it sacrifices the common good of society to party unity.

The Senate legislation has the backing of an unprecedented coalition of religious, business, labor, community and immigrant organizations. I hope that Speaker Boehner and the House leadership can find a path to address this human tragedy fairly, either by taking up the Senate bill for a vote in the House or releasing their own comprehensive legislation that includes an earned path to citizenship for the millions of immigrants who are illegally here but who are a part of our common life.
What is the Beloved Retreat?

Welcoming ~ Peaceful ~ Nourishing ~ Renewing ~ Beautiful

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. Or go to our parish website.
Meditation

Change Is Good
Meditation by Richard Rohr

Turn around and believe the good news! — Jesus’ first preached words, Mark 1:15

The authentic religious life is a matter of becoming who we already are, and all that we truly are! Can you imagine that? Is the seed already within you—of all that God wants you to be? Do you already know at some level who you authentically are? Are you willing to pay the price, even the mistrust of others? Could that be what we mean by having a unique “soul”? Most saints thus described the path as much more unlearning than learning. There are so many illusions and lies that we must all unlearn. And one of the last illusions to die is that we are all that different or that separate. Finally we are all one and amazingly the same. Differentiation seems to precede union and communion, for some strange reason. This growing illumination is not just one “decision for Jesus.” It is a whole journey of letting go and developing an ongoing practice of letting go, and turning around one more time, until it becomes a way of life. As the old Shakers used to sing and dance, “… To turn, turn / will be our delight, / ’Till by turning, turning / we come round right.” To be authentically human is to change, and to be a whole human is to change many times—away from my smallness and toward an Unspeakable Greatness—which itself is never fully attained.

— From unpublished notes

“What are you looking for?”
John 1:38

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
You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

Background on the Gospel
Jesus' instructions on how to be ready for the coming judgment continue in the stories and sayings found in today's Gospel. We are not to be like the greedy rich man in last Sunday's Gospel who planned to store his great harvest in barns rather than share it. We are, rather, to share our wealth with those in need. The antidote for the anxiety brought on by the coming judgment is to relinquish our possessions and provide for the needs of others. Our treasure will be in heaven where it will not wear out or be destroyed.

The other major way to be ready for the coming judgment is to be watchful. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about watchfulness to begin making this point. We must be like servants waiting for the master's return from a wedding banquet, which, even now, can last for a few days in the Middle East. We must be watchful so that even if the master comes after midnight, we will be ready for him. This is what the coming of the Son of Man will be like.

Peter asks if this parable is meant for the apostles or for the large crowd that has gathered to listen to Jesus. Without answering Peter's question, Jesus responds with another parable about servants awaiting the return of their master. It begins with a question: "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?" This parable adds to the theme of watchfulness; it explains how to wait and reminds us of the reward for the faithful follower at the heavenly banquet after the judgment.

If it is addressed to the apostles, then it could also be addressed to leadership in the early Church. Either way, the parables reminds us that we should be found doing our jobs when the master arrives. If we are doing our jobs, our reward will be great. But if we relax, neglect our duties, and begin to act like the greedy rich man—eating, drinking, and making merry—we will not have a place in the kingdom.

Watchfulness means living in such a consistently moral and obedient way that we are always ready to give an account to God of how we have lived.

Question for Children: Jesus tells us to always be ready to hear him. What are some ways that he speaks to us?

Question for Youth: If Jesus were to knock on your door today and give you a report card on your life as His disciple, what grade would you get? Where would be your areas for improvement?

Question for Adults: On a daily basis, what are some ways to keep yourself “ready for God to act?” How do you pay attention to God's often-less-than-obvious actions?

Let us pray that our hearts may be open to God's word today, and that we may keep ourselves ready at all times.

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Readings for the Week

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday, Assumption</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>20th Sunday in O.T.</th>
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Family Connection

Years ago, most families had only one or two clocks in their home. Today, we have clocks everywhere—on our walls, on our microwave ovens, on our DVD players, on our cell phones, and so on. As a family, go through the house and count how many clocks (time-telling devices) your family has. Talk about important events for which family members need to be on time. Recall experiences of being late for something, either as individuals or as a family. Explain that in this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus talks about how important it is for us to be aware and alert, otherwise, we will miss something.

Read aloud Luke 12:32-48. Talk about the parable that Jesus told and discuss how the master will feel if he arrives to find his servant doing his job. Discuss what our job is as disciples of Jesus. Explain that, just as we need to be aware of the time so that we don’t miss anything important, we also need to be alert and focused on our jobs, our responsibilities as followers of Jesus.

Encourage each family member to place a sacred symbol near the clock that they use most in the house and to use the symbol and the clock as a reminder that it is always “time” for us to be acting like disciples of Christ.

Children (and adults) can talk with God while doing other things.

One good time is when you first get up in the morning. Some of the best conversations with loved ones happen in the kitchen or in the car. In the same way you and your children visit while chopping up a salad or when running errands, people can talk to God in the middle of their daily routines.

Children can talk with God or sing to him while picking up their clothes or walking the dog. Look for activities that lead naturally to quiet time, such as coloring or playing in the sand. Help your children recognize opportunities to pray with their hearts by letting God know what’s going on inside, heart to heart, while they are working with their hands or feet. Do younger children have a daily nap time? Talking with God can turn into something meaningful and less stressful because God is invited to sit there too.

Why not pray for others when wrapping gifts for birthdays, graduations, weddings, and baby showers? You and your children can do this together, talking to God about the loved one while you wrap.

We can pray to God anytime because God is paying close attention to us all the time.

Life is full of little opportunities to say “hi” to God and just catch up on what’s happening in life. When your children learn that prayer is simply being with or having a conversation with a constant companion, they will begin to turn to their loving heavenly Father no matter what is happening or how they feel.

You too will notice a huge difference when you simply stay in touch with God throughout the day and discuss life as it happens. Then be quiet a moment with the One whom you know always loves you, no matter what.
Holy Day Masses for Thursday, August 15th, a holy day of obligation, are at 6:30am, 7:45am, and 6:30pm.

Marian Feasts
January 1
Mary, the Mother of God
February 2
Presentation of the Lord
March 25
Annunciation
May 31
Visitation
August 15
Assumption
September 8
Birth of Mary
October 7
Our Lady of the Rosary
December 8
Immaculate Conception

God creates human life and gives it value. And Jesus gave his life on the cross to redeem each individual human person. By doing this, Jesus said, “Your life is worth my dying to save you.” Through his own Resurrection, Jesus showed us the glory of our resurrection and of our living in the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised that the body and soul of a person, separated at death, will be joined together again in glory at the Last Judgment. The person will be whole for all eternity.

The feast of Mary’s Assumption is a preview of what our lives will be. At the end of her earthly life, Mary was assumed, or taken up, into heaven body and soul. She did not have to wait for the end of the world, as we do. God granted her this special privilege because of her sinlessness and her fullness of grace. (Excerpted from Saints and Feast Days, by Sisters of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio).

Pope Benedict XVI wrote that “precisely because Mary is with God and in God, she is very close to each one of us. Being in God, who is actually within all of us, Mary shares in this closeness of God. Our Lady knows our hearts, can hear our prayers, can help us with her motherly kindness. She listens to us and being Mother of the Son, participates in the power of the Son and in his goodness.”

After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as “handmaid” in terms of service and fidelity.

As Mother of God, her stewardship consisted of her maternal service and devotion to Jesus, from infancy to adulthood, up to the agonizing hours of Jesus’ death. Mary is one of the first who ‘believed,’ and precisely with her faith as Spouse and Mother she wishes to act upon all those who entrust themselves to her as children.

We look to Mary as the ideal steward.
As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call.
Youth Catechesis

Youth 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 still need volunteers! This is such a meaningful role in the parish. Find your treasure at YC!

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

Please pray about …

Sunday morning needs Catechists for:
Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th grade

Monday evenings needs:
2nd grade Aide, 3rd, 4th & 5th Catechists

The Youth Catechesis Office bids a grateful farewell to Barbara Campbell.

Barb has been a Coordinator in YC for the past 7 years. She has faithfully served the families of our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders, as well as our students in Special Needs.

Barb is attending Loyola University and will continue to volunteer as an active member of the St. John of the Cross community. We are deeply appreciative of the hours of love Barb shared with the children and families throughout the years. We wish her the best and will keep her in our prayers as she pursues new, exciting ministries in the Catholic Church.

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

Thank You from Our Sharing Parish

Dear Parishioners,

On behalf of St. Barbara Pastoral Care, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all the members of St. John of the Cross for again remembering St. Barbara Food Pantry with your generous donations of food during your July food collections.

Summer is a particularly difficult time for the less fortunate in our communities. Food donations decline during the summer, and families are stretched to feed themselves. Your continued support helps us keep our shelves stocked and ready to help.

Thank you again for your generosity. Wishing you all a blessed summer!

Sincerely,
Sister Margaret Halligan, CSJ
Director
St. Barbara Pastoral Care

"Make us worthy, Lord, to serve those throughout the world who live and die in poverty or hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread; and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen."

~ Mother Teresa of Calcutta
Parish News

GLUTEN-FREE HOSTS
St. John of the Cross offers gluten-free hosts to address the needs of those affected by Celiac disease or other conditions. If you wish to receive a gluten-free host, before Mass begins go to the sacristy and tell the high school sacristan that you need a gluten-free host. It is important that you tell only the sacristan, and not the priest or an usher as that causes confusion for how many may be needed. (If you are unsure who the sacristan is, by all means ask the priest or an usher to help you identify them.) The unconsecrated hosts will be brought up during the gifts procession and consecrated during the Mass. When it is time to receive communion, we ask that you go to the presiding priest and say "gluten-free" clearly and audibly for the priest to hear. Please do this every time, even when you think the priest knows who you are. If you have a child who will be receiving gluten-free please make sure that they also speak clearly as well.

Used Uniform Sale
The Used Uniform Sale will be held on Monday, August 12th from 12:00 - 4:00 and 6:30 – 8:00. Also Tuesday, August 13th from 9:00 – 12:00 noon at the Parish Center.
Plaid skirt, skort, or jumper for only $10!
Boys and Girls shirts for only 50 cents!
Pants, shorts, and sweaters will also be available.
All proceeds support the Art in the Classroom program. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Hohl at vhohl@yahoo.com

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

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 fnqwila@stjohnofthecross.org.

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.

Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.
(Psalm 33)
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 708-216-1646.

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 708-482-5088. 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.

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.

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.

Watch the bulletin next week for new fall programs.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Who</strong></th>
<th>All Parents, Coaches, Room Parents, any Volunteer in the parish who has regular contact with children. Sign up now as seating is limited.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>What</strong></td>
<td>Workshop includes two thirty minute videos and discussion</td>
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| **When** | August 28 Evening 6:30-9:30 pm  
September 18 Evening 6:30-9:30 pm  
September 24 Evening 6:30-9:30 pm  
September 24 Morning 9am-Noon |
| **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 Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago. 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. |
Our Need to Give to the Poor

We need to give to the poor, not because they need it, though they do, but because we need to do that in order to be healthy. That's an axiom that is grounded in scripture where, time and again, we are taught that giving to the poor is something that we need to do for our own health.

We see this truth expressed in many religions and cultures. For example, a number of indigenous North American people practiced something they called potlatch. This was a festival, sometimes attached to the celebration of a birth or wedding, at which a rich person gave away gifts to the community. Its primary purpose was to ensure a certain distribution of wealth but also to ensure that wealthy individuals stayed healthy by being solicitous in terms of not accumulating too much wealth. Too much excess, it was believed, left a person unhealthy. This has been a perennial belief in most cultures.

In Christianity we have enshrined this in the challenge to be charitable to the poor and we have classically seen our giving to the poor as a virtue, rightly so. Charitable giving is a virtue; but, for a Christian, perhaps it's more obligation than virtue. When we look at the Law of Moses in scripture we see that a certain amount of giving to the poor was prescribed by law. The idea was that giving to the poor was an obligation, not a negotiable moral option. Simply put, the Law of Moses obligated people, legally, to give to the poor.

Scripture abounds with examples of this. Consider, for example, these precepts and laws:

- First of all, the Law of Moses assumed that everything we have belongs to God and is not really ours. We are only its stewards and guardians. We may enjoy it at God's pleasure, but ultimately it's not ours. (Leviticus 25, 23)
- Every seventh year, all slaves were to be set free and each was to take with him or her enough of the master's goods to be able to live an independent life. (Deuteronomy 15, 14).
- Every seventh year all economic debts were to be cancelled (the original meaning of the "statute of limitations").
- Every seventh year one's land was to lie fallow and enjoy its own Sabbath. During that year, the land's owner not only didn't sow anything, he or she didn't reap anything either. The poor were to reap whatever the fields and vineyards produced that year.
- And, at all times, landowners were forbidden to reap and harvest the corners of their fields, with the intent that these edges were to be reaped by the poor.
- Finally, even more radically, every fiftieth year all lands were to be restored to the original tribe or household who had first owned them. One's "ownership" of property had a certain time limit. Things weren't yours forever.

Moreover doing all of this was not considered as virtue; these were laws, legal obligations.

And there was a double intent behind these laws. On the one hand, they were intended for the health of the one who was giving something away to the poor and, at the same time, they were an attempt to ensure that the poor did not become so destitute so that they would have to steal what they needed in order to live.

We have much to learn from this as a society. For the most part we are generous and charitable people. We give away some of our surplus and, despite warnings from professionals who work with street people that this isn't helpful, our hearts are still moved by those begging on our streets and we continue to slip them money (even as we don't believe their claim that they need money for food or bus-fare). For the most part, our hearts are still at the right place.

But, we tend to see this as something we are doing purely for someone else without realizing that our own health is a vital part of the equation. Further, we tend to see this as virtue more than as obligation, as charity more than as justice. And perhaps it's for this reason that, despite our good hearts and our generosity, the gap between the rich and the poor, both with our own culture and within the world as a whole, continues to widen. Millions and millions of people continue to fall through the cracks without the getting the benefit, in law, to reap the corners of our wealth and have their debts forgiven every seven years.

We need to give to the poor because they need it, admittedly; but we need to do it too because we cannot be healthy unless we do this. And we need to see our giving not so much as charity but as obligation, as justice, as something we owe.

On this deathbed, Vincent de Paul is reputed to have challenged his followers with words to this effect: It is more blessed to give than to receive- and it is also easier!

Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

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

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.
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 our sharing parish in Williamsburg, Kentucky as they celebrate their 50th anniversary and for the OLPH work tour group as they travel to celebrate the bond between our Parishes.
- In this time of summer travel we pray for our parishioners safe return. May your travels be safe and relaxing.

CALENDAR EVENTS:
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

SPOT LIGHT ON MIKE PATIN AND NCYC
When: Sunday August 18th
9am for Parents and 12 for Teens
Where: The Parish Center
For over 30 years Mike has been traveling the nation inspiring parents and teens alike through energy, stories and humor, to take the next step in their faith journey. Over 1 million people have heard him speak and it is easy to see why he received the National Catholic Youth Ministry Award.

When: November 21-23
Where: Indianapolis
National Catholic Youth Conference is a national event with some of the most passionate and well known speakers in the US. Feel the connection as thousands of teens gather from across the nation to grow in faith. Discover more at www.ncyc.info www.facebook.com/NationalCatholicYouthConference

SPOT LIGHT ON MIKE PATIN AND NCYC
When: Sunday August 18th
9am for Parents and 12 for Teens
Where: The Parish Center
For over 30 years Mike has been traveling the nation inspiring parents and teens alike through energy, stories and humor, to take the next step in their faith journey. Over 1 million people have heard him speak and it is easy to see why he received the National Catholic Youth Ministry Award.

When: November 21-23
Where: Indianapolis
National Catholic Youth Conference is a national event with some of the most passionate and well known speakers in the US. Feel the connection as thousands of teens gather from across the nation to grow in faith. Discover more at www.ncyc.info www.facebook.com/NationalCatholicYouthConference
This Week at SJC

Monday, August 12
9:00 a.m. School Uniform Sale
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, August 13
9:00 a.m. School Uniform Sale
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts Court of Honor-Nolan Sovick

Wednesday, August 14
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, August 15
7:30 a.m. Teacher Meeting

Friday, August 16
9:30 a.m. Spiritual Advisory Committee—Bridges
6:00 p.m. Crossroads Parent Party

Saturday, August 17
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
8:00 a.m. Respect Life Commission and Training

Sunday, August 18
9:00 a.m. Crossroads, Speaker, Mike Patin adults
12:00 p.m. Crossroads, Speaker, Mike Patin, teens

Pray for our Sick

Eve Baron
Paul Cervony
William Dwyer
Kat Egan
Melissa Morrissey Eldredge
Janet Harrington
Karen Hult
Barbara Jacob
Allison Kazragis
Shirley Kazragis
Joe & Rosie King
Fr. William Mannion
Olga Theresa Matusik

Baby Maddie Mayer
Jay Meehan
Vickie McNally
Harry Milani
Baby Meghan Hope Pacyna
Rick Reimer
Teresa Schaefer
Charles Sugre
Guy Thomas
Mary Catherine Warren
Pam Wilson
Elizabeth Witek

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 12, St. Jane Frances de Chantal
7:45 Jo Renzi; Robert Cosgrove

Tuesday, August 13, Ss. Pontain & Hippolytus
7:45 Dorothy DiSalvo; Jean Onesto

Wednesday, August 14, St. Maximillian
7:45 Vincent Domagal; John S. Piszczor

Thursday, August 15, The Assumption of Mary
6:30 a.m Rosalie Krupski; Stephanie Freitag
7:45 a.m. Shawn Feeley; John Ohanesian
6:30 p.m. Julia & Carl F. Eigelsbach; Czestawa Rybka

Friday, August 16, St. Stephen of Hungary
7:45 Louis & Margaret McGuire; Victor Comforti

Saturday, August 17, St. Stephen of Hungary
8:00 Paul Doyle; Thomas E. Doyle
5:00 Dr. Norbert & Barbara Mann; Shawn Feeley

Sunday, August 18, 20th Sunday Ordinary Time
7:30 Helen Devereux; Jim Munch
9:00 Michael Zacher; Mark LaFond
10:45 SJC & St. Mark Parishioners
5:00 Galvin/Grogan Families; Becky Cosentino

Italics—Living

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

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Barbara Rovtar,
sister of Mary Maska and Joan Kravcik

Robert McNulty,
husband of Marian and father of Lynn, Diane, Jean and Dave

Markey Foley Ringwood, sister of Cathy Laskey

Ronald Mayar, brother-in-law of Gina Millette

Wedding Banns
Amanda Sine & Matt Medhat
Claire Linehan & Mark Peterson

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

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Fr. Filbert F. Ngwila   Associate Pastor   fn gwila@stjohnofthecross.org
John Schopp   Deacon   john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright   Outreach   bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta   Director of Youth Catechesis   jcascetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Clauer   Worship   jcclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman   School Principal   kgorman@stjc.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 to 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 Mass and join us for hospitality after or you are welcomed to attend 10:45 am 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...