Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing
to Build Up the Kingdom of God.
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 2014
Dear Parishioners,

I wish a Happy Mother’s Day to all women who give life, and who give life in so many ways. These past two weekends have been plenty for some mothers (and fathers) as they celebrated their child’s First Communion. A tear or two was in the eyes of a few as they watched their child literally grow up right in front of them.

For others the best Mother’s Day gift they will have this year is seeing a child complete their college education, or start a first job, or plan a wedding day, or give birth for the first time. The gift to mothers is the fruition of their worry and concern, their hard and never ending work of parenting, the transition from the roots they gave to the wings they hoped for their children.

Maybe Mother’s Day is really more for children, whether minors or adult, to appreciate all they have received from their mothers. Every once in a while I see a mother do something small but necessary for a child, like wipe a nose or straighten a piece of clothing, that surely the child will never remember and will remain incapable of expressing gratitude to their mother for having done it for them. After all, it is their mother that teaches them to say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ in the first place. Who has ever thanked their mother for teaching them how to do that? And I think of all the unspoken gratitude I have for my own mother. I hope she knew.

Mother’s Day is certainly not always flowers and cards. For those who have lost a child it may very well be the worst day of the year, a day when they do not want to remember that they are mothers yet their child has died. For women struggling with infertility, it may be the most frustrating of days. They would like nothing more than to be a mother and yet somehow it eludes them.

The prophet Isaiah asks, “Can a mother forget her child?” As impossible as that may seem, it can and does happen. And yet the voice of the prophet promises that even if that should happen, God will never forget. I know that thought gave great hope to an old friend of mine. Adopted with another child not her brother, she was to grow up in a house terrorized by a mentally ill mother and a father helpless to intervene or protect. It took years, years of therapy and prayer and failed relationships and a bankruptcy before she was able to stabilize and accomplish a professional identity that gives her life great satisfaction these many years later. And yet every Mother’s Day she is tortured by her relationship to her birth mother and the crucifixion that was her relationship with her adopted mother. It’s just hard.

So for mothers living and deceased, for mothers great and grand, for mothers-in-law and mothers-in-waiting, for godmothers and second mothers, for stepmothers and foster mothers, for all those who bravely and boldly claim the banner of motherhood in any way—a Happy and Joyous Mother’s Day to you.

And if this is the first time you are marking this day since your mother died, or if it has been that way for many years, say a quiet prayer for her and thank her for teaching you to say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’ and so much more.

Peace, Fr. David
Spring PAC Meeting
The Parish Advisory Council Spring Meeting is Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30pm. Watch the bulletin for a summary letter updating you of our work.

Parish Babysitting
Our parish offers free babysitting in the Garden Room of the rectory during the 9am and 10:45am Sunday Masses. Just ring the bell at the front doors of the rectory. (The front doors are glass and face north.)

New Parishioner Welcome Weekend
Join us at Mass the weekend of May 31/June 1 as we welcome new parishioners. There will be coffee and donuts after the 9am and 10:45am Masses!

Liturgy of the Word
Volunteers are needed for Children’s Liturgy of the Word. Please help us to continue to offer this ministry. The commitment is only once a month but the reward is great! Please call Megan O’Brien at 708-784-0732.

Cookbook Sales to Support New Playground
Spiral bound cookbooks filled with favorite recipes enjoyed by our preschool families are available. Proceeds from the sale of our cookbooks will benefit our early childhood playground to be built this summer. Order online or drop off a check for $20 with ‘cookbook’ in the memo line to school. A great gift idea.

Mary Statue
Mary Statues are available for purchase online or by check at the parish center. Stop by to see Mary in the parish center or church narthex.

New Evangelization Program Continues
All are invited to the 7th follow-up session to Fr. Robert Barron’s New Evangelization series held during Lent. Please join us to explore our parish mission for the New Evangelization. Thursday May 15 from 7 pm to 9pm in the Parish Center.

The World Community for Christian Meditation invites all parishioners to attend a special event at Elmhurst College, The 2014 John Main Seminar Muslims and Christians: Listeners for the Word July 24-27, 2014. Led by Fr. Daniel Madigan SJ, the seminar will explore what Christians and Muslims have in common and what distinguishes us from each other in the context of esteem that Vatican II expresses for Muslims and their religious practice.

Fr. Laurence Freeman OSB will also lead an optional 3-day silent retreat entitled Changing Patterns: The Power of Stillness and Silence in Meditation, prior to the seminar on July 21-24.

For a brochure on this unique opportunity for prayer and understanding, visit www.wccm.org or contact Parishioner, Betsy Spiering at wccmchgo@gmail.com. Register before May 30th for a discount. Scholarships available.

All parishioners are invited to attend our next program at The Well co-sponsored by our parish on

Monday, May 19 from 7-8:30pm
Entering into Cosmic Theology with Ilia Delio, OSF

Today we are at the dawn of a new religious consciousness, an evolutionary leap into a new path of Christian life. The challenge for some people is frightening and for others liberating. Ilia Delio will explore the spiritual values and creative freedom, based on her spiritual journey that can help lead us from death into cosmic resurrection.

This program is free for our parishioners. Simply call the parish center to register. The Well is located at 1515 W. Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park.

Summer Mass Schedule: Just a reminder, our summer Mass schedule begins in a few short weeks. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, on May 25th, there will be no 12:15 p.m. Mass on Sundays until the week after Labor Day, September 7th.
As part of collaborative efforts across the parish that are focused on strengthening and supporting the vocation of all Catholic parents, we have developed new resources for parents bringing their infant for baptism.

**What do I need to do to have my baby baptized?**

Pre-baptism sessions are now offered for all parents whether it is your first child being baptized or a subsequent child. The sessions are offered on the fourth Sunday of each month at 1:30pm (noon during the summer). It is our expectation that both parents will attend this session. Feel free to bring your new baby and invite the godparents too. The session which runs 2 hours is designed with input from parents like you who are eager to provide an environment that will foster faith in Jesus Christ. Parents are asked to register to attend a pre-baptism session.

Simply call the parish center front office during regular business hours (9am-4pm). One of our full-time staff members will take all the necessary information and answer any questions you may have.

---

**Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following family who had their child baptized last Sunday!**

- Callie Victoria, daughter of Edward & Alison (Bonn) Carithers
- Avery Lorraine, daughter of Mark & Jennifer (Carlson) Bliss
- Halina Naomi, daughter of Peter & Anna (Komperda) Kurtansky

---

Seeing with Eyes of Faith

I wish I had my mother’s eyes. No, I’m not talking about the color or shape of her eyes, as beautiful as they are. Nor am I talking about her eyesight (mine is actually better). I’m talking about her ability to see God’s hand in every aspect of life. I guess that’s another way of saying that I wish I had her perspective.

My mother is coming up on her 85th birthday but still has the wonder and awe of a child. She has this amazing gift of being able to appreciate God’s presence in the smallest details of life. Recently, we were making small talk when she said, “Just the other day, I was reading a book and this tiny dot was moving across the page. I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me but then I realized it was the teeniest, tiniest little insect I ever saw. I was thinking about how they say that all of God’s creatures have a purpose and I was watching this little fellow crossing the page of my book, wondering what purpose it served in God’s creation and realizing that God alone knows!”

Me? I probably would’ve swatted the little thing!

Which is precisely why I wish I had my mother’s eyes. Somewhere along the way, she learned to recognize God’s presence in everyday living and in the smallest details of life. Unlike the color of a person’s eyes, this trait is not inherited but is learned. Each one of us can learn to see with the eyes of faith—eyes that reveal the presence of God all around us and in our everyday lives and experiences. Like corrective lenses, the Gospel of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit can help us to see more clearly so that we can love the Lord more dearly and follow him more nearly.

OK…I’m not making this up. As I wrote that last paragraph, a tiny fruit fly flew across my field of vision. Thankfully, I did NOT swat it. Perhaps there is hope for me yet!

Joe Paprocki, author of *The Catechist’s Toolbox*
If God were in charge of the Mother’s Day celebration, what would it be like?

1. It would be on a weekday, and every mother could stay home with her children, join in their play, read them stories, teach them about life—and all of that without losing income.

2. Every mother would have a community around her to help out, give encouragement and advice, and remind mom that her love is good and true and praised by the angels.

3. Every workplace would hand out bonuses to employees who had children in appreciation for their willingness to share their strength and wisdom with the rest of the world. Anyone who can deal well with children and teenagers should probably help run the country.

4. Friends and loved ones would gather around each mother and give thanks to God for her gifts of nurturing, teaching, and protection. They would also lift up to God the holy calling of motherhood, thanking God for the vocation and thanking their mom for embracing it so bravely.

If God were in charge of the Mother’s Day celebration, we wouldn’t even need the greeting cards.

Loyola Press

Who Loves You Most of All

Almost everyone suffers from rejection. Our children deal with specific kinds of rejection. They are upset when “the other kids won’t let me play.” No matter what their bodies are like, adolescents find something to hate. They suffer acutely from rejection because of not fitting in.

What can you do to prevent children from being devastated by rejection? How might you help them develop a deep inner security?

Establish some truths and repeat them often:

- God loves you more than any person ever could.
- God makes you and loves you into being.
- God loves you in all your goodness.
- God loves you no matter what.
- God never gives up loving you.

From time to time, ask these questions:

- Who loves you more than anyone can love you?
- Who loves you no matter what?
- Who will never give up on you?
- Whom can you count on, no matter what?

Children receive negative messages all the time from all around them. You are one of the few people who can offer them consistently positive messages. Ask God to remind you how much the children need to be reminded of God’s unconditional love. The children may sigh at the repetition, but each time they hear that God loves them, the message will go deeper into their souls, and that will make a difference when life becomes difficult for them.

One young mother told me that, when she prays with her children at bedtime, they name all the people who love them. (Pets get named, too, of course.) At the end of the list they say together, “And God loves me most of all!”

If children “from little on up” are aware that they are known thoroughly and that they are loved unconditionally and for always, they can have an inner security that is unassailable.

Sister Marlene Halpin, O.P., Loyola Press
Background on the Gospel Reading

This fourth Sunday of the Easter season is sometimes called Good Shepherd Sunday because in each of the three lectionary cycles, the Gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In each cycle the reading is from the tenth chapter of John’s Gospel. This chapter sets the framework for Jesus’ teaching about himself as the Good Shepherd.

Today’s reading falls between the stories of Jesus’ healing of the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus. Both of these stories were proclaimed in the Gospels found in this year’s season of Lent. Following the controversy that ensued when Jesus healed the man born blind, Jesus directs his allegory about the sheep and the shepherd toward the Jewish religious leaders of his time, the Pharisees.

Throughout John’s Gospel the Pharisees fail to accept Jesus’ ministry and teaching. They show themselves to be “robbers and thieves” because they try to lead the sheep without entering through the gate, Jesus. Through these metaphors, Jesus is telling his listeners that those who follow him and his way will find abundant life. He identifies himself both as the shepherd and the gate. The shepherds who are faithful to him are the ones whom the sheep (Jesus’ disciples) should follow.

The relationship between the sheep and their shepherd is based on familiarity. Sheep recognize their shepherd and will not follow a stranger. At the end of the day, shepherds lead their sheep from pastures to a common gated area called a sheepfold. There, one shepherd protects all of the sheep until the next day when each shepherd returns to lead his own sheep to pasture. As shepherds move among the sheep, the sheep follow only their shepherd.

Today’s Gospel also gives us the opportunity to reflect on Christian leadership. Jesus’ words suggest to us that those who will lead the Christian community will be known by their faithfulness to Jesus. The leaders will recognize that Jesus is the gate for all of the sheep and that having a good relationship with Jesus is the primary characteristic of a Christian leader. Jesus’ allegory also suggests that faithful Christian leadership requires a good relationship with the community: the shepherd knows his sheep, and they know him. Christian leaders follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, by being faithful to him and by being a good shepherd.

Jesus models for us how we, too, are to be both gate and shepherd for others. Scripture gives us a practical blueprint for our shepherding: patience in suffering, doing good, return no insult or threat, hand ourselves over for the good of others. In these ways our own gate must be wide open. This may seem demanding, and it is. However, Jesus is always there, walking ahead of us, guiding us toward being good shepherds ourselves. We are reminded this Sunday that our simple, everyday actions of being faithful to the Gospel are how we live out our baptism, our entry into following Jesus. When we embrace our baptismal commitment, we enter through Jesus the gate into a life of being gate and shepherds ourselves.

Hearing, following, recognizing:
we are to open our ears in faith, open our hearts in trust, open our minds in love.
This is the way to abundant life.
The Gate is wide open.

Prayer to End Human Trafficking

O God, our words cannot express what our minds can barely comprehend and our hearts feel when we hear of children and adults deceived and transported to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor because of human greed. Our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are being transgressed through threats, deception and force. We cry out against the degrading practice of trafficking and pray for it to end. Strengthen the fragile-spirited and broken-hearted. Make real your promises to fill these sisters and brothers with a love that is tender and good and send the exploiters away empty handed. Give us the wisdom and courage to stand in solidarity with them, that together we will find ways to the freedom that is your gift to all of us. Amen.
Prayer

Mother's Day is my day to shine. My family is now scattered across the country, but there are always the lovely cards, flowers, phone calls and incredible memories of my two children reaching adulthood. Happily married, successful and having presented us with awesome grandchildren, I could only feel pride and an overwhelming love for my precious family. Sadly for many of us, Mother's Day will be a painful reminder of the losses that we endured this past year.

There were tragic losses due to illness and accidents, yet far too many to suicide and violence. Several months ago, my life was drastically changed, as I, too, lost my beautiful son to violence. Last year, while shopping at our local farmer's market, his familiar, "Hi Mom" brought happy tears to my eyes. He had returned home to spend the weekend with me. This was to be the last time that we would be together...and the finality of his warm hugs.

Somehow, I've found the strength to accept life as it has become. My family has spent the year of "firsts" creating new memories. I'm amazed to find that the trees will still bloom and the flowers will still force their way through the mulch. There is comfort in the warmth of the sun. My life didn't end, but there is a sadness and emptiness that will be in my heart forever. If I had only five minutes more to spend with him, he would assure me that he's OK, and in the hands of God. He would want me to continue to have love in my heart and to never allow anger to consume my life.

I think of the other Moms whose faces and stories have become so familiar. We are together in this journey, regardless of our race, nationality, lot in life or faith. We have all suffered the loss of a beloved child and for this, there is no adequate compensation. With Mother's Day only a few days away, I can only wish them peace, joy and love with family and friends. I am at the beginning of this long journey...and my prayers are with all of the Mom's feeling a loss. May our loved ones shine on us forever.

Forever a Mom

We pray for our mothers: for grandmothers and stepmothers and godmothers; for the women who have taught us, nurtured us and believed in us. We pray for those for whom Mother's Day is a painful day: for women longing for motherhood; for mothers mourning the loss of their child and children mourning the loss of their mothers; for those who never knew their mothers or whose mothers could not love them...for the comfort of our loving, nurturing, caring God. Amen.

Passing the Torch

You can tell me anything and I will listen and laugh or listen and cry or listen and do nothing at all except love you—indisputably, irrefutably, infinitum.

—from Dancing with my Daughter, by Jayne Jadon Ferrer

For My Mother: A Child's Prayer

Dear Blessed Mother Mary, help my mom to be a good mother. Give her peace and wisdom, strength and courage, grace and happiness. Be nearby when she needs help. Keep her close to your Son, Jesus. Help me to always show my mom how very much I love her. Amen.

Love Song

How blessed I am, Father, to be replenished every day by the joy of this little child's love...

—from A Mother of Sons, by Jayne Jadon Ferrer

www.stjohnofthecross.org  5-11-14  page 7  praying ~ serving ~ sharing
41ST ANNUAL SJC GARAGE SALE
Saturday, June 21st 9am to 2pm
Half-Price/Bag Sale:
Monday, June 23rd 9am to 1pm

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION:
All volunteer meeting
May 19th at 7PM in the Parish Center.

Pre-Sale Shopping Night: Work 6 or more hours
and shop before the sale on Friday, June 20
from 3 to 6 pm

Student Volunteers: Volunteers for service
hours are required to sign-up. 7th graders or
older who would like to volunteer or baby-sit
please call Denise Schullo c. 312/415-6456
h. 246-0254

DONATION INFORMATION:
All Donations Accepted at the School:
Saturday, June 14: 9am – 2pm
Mon - Wed, June 16 – 18: 10am – 8pm
Thursday, June 19: 10am - 6pm

Thank you for your support!
-- The SJC Women's Club

Men's Club Golf Outing: Friday June 6th
Flagg Creek Golf Course

Cost: $26.00 includes golf, cart, 2 beverage
tickets, entry into contests. Contests: low score,
closest to the pin, longest drive, longest putt.
Tee times: 1:00 to 2:34 pm. Please drop off an
envelope with your contact information, your
name and/or the names of your foursome and a
check(s) made payable to SJC Men's Club.

Questions: contact Barrett Long (708-784-9224)
or John Cisek (708-784-1998)

Calendar of Events
May 18 End of the Year Dodgeball
June 5 Work Tour & Conference formation meeting
June 6 S.Wo.R.D. Retreat Day—forms due May 16
June 8 Summer Softball starts—forms due May 16
June 9-13 OLC work tour week

DODGEBALL TOURNERY
May 18th! Get ready for FUN!

- SJC Parish School
- 6-7:30 on Sunday May 18th
- All Crossroads Home Groups
  invited!
- Pizza and refreshments will be
  served

Our End of the Year Leader’s Meeting was a
wonderful morning! We shared a meal and
community, while evaluating and planning for next
year! The injured reserve pair demonstrated that
even when we do not feel our best, or have all our
working parts—we show up and smiles & goodness
come while we point to
Christ together!
Thank you!!

Planning for next year—we will need adults & teen
leaders in areas of service, mass, retreats! More
info on our website: www.stjohnofthecross.org/
crossroads.descriptions.

FORMS ARE ONLINE FOR SUMMER
Softball & Retreat Day!
www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads & /sports
OR /retreats
2014 Summer Running Camp (Designed for boys & girls entering grades 3 – 8)
The Running Camp will emphasize speed, endurance, agility and conditioning. Michelle Fink, Cross Country Coordinator will coach the Camp. **Every Wednesday, June 11th- August 6th from 7:30am to 8:30am** Fee: $60 Includes a T-shirt Meet each Wednesday morning in the SJC parking lot near the flagpole. **To Register:** Go To: www.stjohnofthecross.org/school, Athletics, 2014 Running Camp Flyer and Form from the drop down. Print the registration form and return it with the fee (payable to St. John of the Cross) to: SJC Parish School, Attn: SJC Running Camp, 708 51st Street, Western Springs, IL 60558 **For questions:** contact Michelle Fink at: (708) 784-1599 OR am_fink@sbcglobal.net

Go to our parish website Photo Gallery for more pictures from last Saturday’s First Holy Communion Celebrations.
Parish Advisory Council Candidate: Patricia Surdyk
I currently live in Westmont and have been a member of our parish for 25 years. I am active in our parish music ministry and volunteer through our outreach Sharing Parish program helping Our Lady of Charity School as a member of the Catholic Schools of Cicero Board of Directors. I have also taught in our parish Youth Catechesis program.

Educationally, I hold a doctoral degree in education from Loyola University Chicago and master degrees in training and development and religious studies. My work experience includes teaching grade school and high school and was a director of religious education in the Archdiocese of Chicago. I have also managed operations for the Chicago offices of McKinsey & Company, and for the past 25+ years, I have worked in medical education, currently serving as Executive Director for the Institutional Review Committee for the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), supporting over 700+ teaching hospitals across the country.

I firmly believe in our parish mission and understand the challenge of balancing life in order to find time to pray, serve, and share, especially having been the sole caregiver for her parents for many years. I hope to share my energy and enthusiasm for our parish with this special commitment to serve on the Advisory Council as an at-large representative.

Parish Advisory Council Candidate: Ed Giles
My wife Mimi (Moore) and I have been parishioners since we moved to Western Springs eight years ago. Our two sons, Liam and John, attend St. John of the Cross School where they are finishing 6th and 2nd grade respectively. [Mimi attended and graduated from St. John of the Cross School shortly after its founding.]

Both Mimi and I have served as Crossroads Leaders and leaders for the parish Cub Scout Pack 117. I am an active member of the Lector Ministry, and look forward to the opportunity to participate as a member of the Parish Advisory Council.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Hillsdale College, and I am a Vice President for Security Technology Operations & Architecture at The Northern Trust.

In support of the mission of St John of the Cross Parish, "to love as Christ loved and to proclaim the Good News," I will strive to "communicate effectively... and faithfully steward the
School Advisory Board Candidate: Jim Morrissey

I would like to join the St. John of the Cross Parish School Advisory Board to help the School maintain the excellent education that the School provides to its students, seek ways to enhance the curriculum, and promote the principles of Catholic education. I grew up in Oak Brook and attended Fenwick High School and Boston College. After college, I attended DePaul University’s Law School and Business School and obtained a law degree and MBA. After graduating from DePaul, I began my legal career at Vedder Price P.C. in Chicago. I am currently a member of the Financial Institutions Group at Vedder Price and work with financial institutions on a range of corporate issues.

My wife, Rose, and I have lived in Western Springs, and have been parishioners at St. John of the Cross, for the past 10 years. We have five children: Charlie (11); Caroline (9); Genevieve (8); Ronan (5); and Michael (1). In addition, Rose and I are members of the Parish’s Baptism team. Four of our five children are currently enrolled at the School. Rose and I know that our children are benefitting from the education and Catholic teaching provided by the School and I would like to help ensure that the School continues to offer the benefits of Catholic education to other families. I look forward to the opportunity of contributing to the School as a member of the Advisory Board.

School Advisory Board Candidate: Lorraine O’Malley

I live in Western Springs with my husband Tom, and our three children, Maggie -5th Grade, Grace-3rd Grade, and Jack-Kindergarten who attend St. John of the Cross Parish School. We have lived in the community for almost nine years.

I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Elementary Education, as well as a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a Master's Degree in School Administration and Leadership. I have 18 years experience in Education, and I currently work for Chicago Public Schools.

I am committed to being active in my children's education at St. John of the Cross. My interest in the school advisory board is to work collaboratively with the staff and community members of St. John of the Cross to advance to the next level of excellence for our children.

School Advisory Board Candidate: David Zich

I would greatly value the opportunity to further contribute to the quality education provided here at St. John of the Cross Parish School.

I have been a member of the parish since 2004, and our two children have attended St. John of the Cross since preschool. My wife, Julie, has been a parishioner all her life, and she and all her sisters were educated at St. John of the Cross Parish School.

My educational background is an undergraduate degree from the College of Engineering from University of Illinois with a minor in Biomedical Engineering. I have my medical doctorate from University of Iowa and did both residency and chief residency at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where I was trained in both Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine. After 12 years as a core faculty member at Northwestern Memorial Hospital teaching both Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine, I am now in full time private practice in downtown Chicago. I retain my Assistant Professorship at Northwestern and continue to lecture and teach in the medical school. As a fellow educator, I greatly admire the efforts of the parish school’s faculty and staff and would love to be able to help in any way I can.
Youth Catechesis Advisory Council Candidate: Julie Montesano

I am originally from Clarendon Hills and was a member of Notre Dame Parish and went to Notre Dame Grammar School. I attended Montini Catholic High School and then went on to attend the University of Illinois/Urbana-Champaign. For 14 years I worked in Broadcast Television Sales selling advertising for the various tv networks. In 1999, I met my husband, Vincent Montesano, and in 2001 we were married at Notre Dame and moved to Boston. While in Boston, we had two sons, Vincent (11) and Daniel (8). I was very active volunteering for the many non-profit organizations in our community of South Boston.

After 12 years, we moved back to the Midwest and settled in Western Springs in 2012. We are really happy with the decision. I am grateful to be a part of such a robust and active parish and our children love going to school one block away from home at Laidlaw!

I'm looking forward to being more involved in the YC program in the years to come and I appreciate the opportunity to give back to the community.

Youth Catechesis Advisory Council Candidate: Becky Harrigan

My husband Jim and I have been parishioners at St. John of the Cross for 8 years. Our Children Luke (7), currently attends YC and Maggie(6) and Claire (3) look forward to attending in the future. The Catholic faith is very important to us as both my husband and I attended Catholic Grammar School and High School. I have been a nurse for the last twelve years and currently work at Lurie Children's Hospital Outpatient Center in Westchester. I am impressed with the Youth Catechesis program and look forward to becoming more involved with the organization by serving on the YC Council.

Youth Catechesis Advisory Council Candidate: Karen Olenec

I have been a parishioner of St. John of the Cross since 2004, with my husband Shawn and our children, Hannah (13), Henry (12), Hayden (12) and Hallie (7). I have taught YC for the past 7 years. I attended St. Cletus, Nazareth Academy and University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I am a special education teacher, currently substitute teaching in all the surrounding districts. This year, we have one child making her First Communion and another who made her Confirmation. Although I have been involved in the YC program for years, I am looking forward to broadening the experience to another level. I look forward to working towards building a greater sense of community among all parishioners.

Youth Catechesis Advisory Council Candidate: Patrick Ormsby

My family and I have been members of St. John of the Cross Parish and residents of Western Springs since 2007. I have three daughters: Ella, 9; Evelyn, 7; Lyla Rose 4. They have been enrolled in the YC program for the past three years. My wife, Susan, has been an active volunteer in the Youth Catechesis Program.

My family and I have been thrilled with the YC program and I look forward to the opportunity to contribute on a greater level.
Outreach News

Help us fill the “Camp Closet” for our friends at Off the Street Club for their summer camp in Wheaton. We are collecting items for K-12th grade children. Please bring items to our boxes in school, the parish center or church between May 5-19.

Off the Street Club Camp Closet Wish List 2014
(in order of need):
• Twin bed sheet sets and standard pillowcases (new or gently used)
• Regular-sized bath towels (new or gently used)
• Older kids’ clothing items (size 12 and larger for boys and girls):
  • T-shirts
  • Shorts (pants not needed for camp)
• Swim goggles, swim suits
• White athletic socks (new only -- various sizes needed for boys and girls)
• Standard pillows (new only)
• Mosquito repellant
• Toiletries (any size) including:
  • Toothpaste / toothbrushes
  • Shampoo/conditioner, Liquid soap
  • Body lotion
  • Wide tooth combs / hair brushes

Please consider sponsoring a child at camp this summer. The fee for one child is $500 but donations in any amount are welcome and tax-deductible. Checks should be made payable to Off the Street Club. Thank you!

May Food Pantry News

This month our nonperishable donations brought to the church narthex will be given to our Sharing Parish, Assumption Parish-Kolbe House and Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation in Chicago. Thank you!

Thank You From St. Thaddeus…

The Liturgy Committee would like to thank St. John of the Cross for your presence at our Black History Celebration on February 23.

We are grateful for your kindness, friendship and generosity toward us. We are blessed to have you as a sharing parish and we hope in some small way, we are a blessing to your parish.

We are appreciative of the beautiful Prayer Shawls. We will continue to keep St. John of the Cross in prayer and we also ask you to keep St. Thaddeus in prayer. God Bless.

Many Thanks,
The Liturgy Committee of St. Thaddeus Parish
Rev. Father Frank Sasso, Pastor

Interfaith Career Network  Career Transition Workshop

Tuesday, May 13 from 7-9 pm, join us at The First Presbyterian Church of La Grange, 150 South Ashland Avenue for Week 2 of this supportive 5-week workshop. Our keynote speaker, Dennis Hamilton, will provide a special presentation on identifying your skills and quantifying your accomplishments...which are the keys to preparing a compelling resume and “elevator speech”. For further information, contact Susan Sedler at sqsedler@aol.com

How IDES Works For You

Thursday, May 15 from 7-9 pm, join us at St. John of the Cross Parish Center for an informative program regarding IDES, an Unemployment Trust Fund that provides unemployment benefits to jobless workers. We will discuss services available to help get Illinois workers back to work.

Resume Review

Saturday, May 17 from 9-11 am, join us at the St. Cletus Education Building, 700 West 55th Street in La Grange for a helpful 20-minute one-on-one conversation with a HR or other search related professional. Get ideas and suggestions that may enhance or refresh your resume.

St. Edmund Parish Fundraiser

My dear friends at SJC:
I am writing to seek your help. I’ve been at St. Edmund Parish for ten years, although it doesn’t seem that long since I was your associate pastor. St. Edmund’s is not wealthy. Our hope is simple: to make ends meet. As the end of our fiscal year draws near, we’re struggling to eliminate a deficit of $200,000. Our fundraiser takes place on May 17, and I am seeking your help. Event proceeds will pay our bills, with the hope that we can break even at the end of June. Though not a glamorous use of funds, it is crucial for us.

Although you help many charitable causes already, would you consider offering some help to St. Edmund’s too? If so, you can:
• purchase a raffle ticket for $50 (you could win $5,000, $3,000 or $2,000!)
• make an outright donation to the event.
• attend the event. I would love to see you!

This year the event will take place at the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, 6200 Joliet Rd, in Countryside.

There are several ways to make a contribution:
• E-mail me at jwmcgivern@stedmund.org
• Mail your gift to my attention at St. Edmund Parish: 188 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302
• Log on to www.stedmund.org and follow the fundraiser link on the left side of the home page.

Whether you are able to help or not, I’d be grateful for your prayers for the success of the event. Thanks!!

Fr. John McGivern, Pastor, St. Edmund Parish

www.stjohnofthecross.org  May 11, 2014  page 13  Praying, Serving, Sharing
When I was student in the seminary, I had two kinds of teachers: One kind, precisely because they were fiercely loyal to all that is Christian and Catholic, would have us read great secular thinkers but always with the intent of wanting to help show where these thinkers were wrong. Our intellectual task as a Catholic seminarian, they would tell us, is to be able to defend Catholicism against the kinds of criticisms found in the writings of these secular, sometimes, anti-Christian thinkers and to keep our faith and teaching free of their influence. The second set of professors approached things differently: They would have us read great secular thinkers, even if they were bitterly critical of Christianity and Catholicism, but with the intent of seeing what we could positively learn from them. These are great minds, they told us, and, whether sympathetic to Christianity or not, we have something to learn from them. Do not read uncritically, was their challenge, but still read with the intent of being instructed.

Early on as a seminary student, because I was still insecure intellectually, I leaned more towards the self-protective approach of the first set of professors and read most secular thinkers defensively. I have to smile now as I look back on the idealistic, but naive and intellectually frightened, young man I was then, a nineteen year-old undergraduate trying to poke holes in the likes of thinkers like Nietzsche, Feuerbach, Marx, Freud, Durkheim, and Lenin. I imagined myself, David fighting Goliath. It seems misguided and grandiose now, but I still have a fondness for that nineteen year-old who was engaged in this battle.

Later on, precisely because some of the valuable insights in a number of great secular thinkers began to break through, despite my resistance, I began more and more to lean towards the approach of the second set of professors who had invited us to learn from others' insights, no matter the cloak of the author. Now as I age, both chronologically and in ministry, I find that I am richer and more compassionate to the exact extent that I can do that, namely, remain faithful to the truth wherever I find it, no matter its source. Hence, today I find myself drinking from intellectual wells of every sort, particularly from secular novelists and essayists, my critical faculties are still patrolling like soldiers on duty, but now with a thirst for the insights these writers have into life and the soul. I no longer read with the intent of trying to prove someone wrong, even if that author is anti-Christian. I have too much to learn.

Sometimes in our fear of being tainted in our orthodoxy we forget that many of the great theologians in Christian tradition were unafraid to pick up pagan thinkers, mine their insights for truth, and then blend these with their faith: St. Augustine did this with Platonism. Thomas Aquinas, in the face of considerable ecclesial criticism, did the same thing with Aristotle. Ironically, centuries later, we now take many of their intellectual categories, which they originally took from pagan thought, as our very criteria for orthodoxy.

More recently, Liberation Theology, at its best, has done this with Marxist theory; just as, Feminism, at its best, has done the same with secular social theory. But much of these efforts have been, in the name of orthodoxy, viewed with either suspicion or positive rejection. Dare one say that Jesus did the same thing? He picked up parables and stories that were current in his culture and tailored them to further his own religious and moral teachings. Moreover, he taught, and with precious little equivocation, that we are to honor truth wherever we see it, irrespective of who's carrying it.

But isn't this syncretism? If one picks up truths from diverse pagan and secular sources and harmonizes them with one's Christian faith, how does one avoid the accusation of being syncretistic?

Picking up truth from a variety of sources is not syncretism. Syncretism is combining insights gleaned from everywhere in a way that is uncritical of internal contradiction. But we must not confuse tension with contradiction. Tension is not necessarily a sign of contradiction; it's often the opposite: True faith is humble enough to accept truth, wherever it sees it, irrespective of the tension it causes and irrespective of the religion or ideology of whoever is speaking it. Big mind and big hearts are large enough to contain and carry large ambiguities and great tensions. And, true worshippers of God accept God's goodness and truth wherever these are manifest, no matter how religiously or morally inconvenient that manifestation might be.

God is the author of all that is good and all that is true! Hence, since no one religion, one church, one culture, one philosophy, or one ideology contains all of the truth, we must be open to perceive and receive goodness and truth in many, many different places - and we must be open to the tensions and ambiguity this brings into our lives.

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.

Now on Facebook www.facebook.com/ronrolheiser
This Week at SJC

Monday, May 12
9:00 a.m. Formation Day
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
11:00 a.m. May Crowning & Ribbon Ceremony
2:00 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts

Tuesday, May 13
9:05 a.m. Rosary
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scripture
9:30 a.m. Spiritual Advisory Committee
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00 p.m. Spiritual Advisory Committee
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. Family Festival Meeting
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Wednesday, May 14
8:30 a.m. Fr. Bonin Music Thru the Ages
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
9:30 a.m. Spiritual Advisory Committee
1:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:00 p.m. Spiritual Advisory Committee
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. SJC Teacher Recognition Trust-

Thursday, May 15
9:00 a.m. Flourish
7:00 p.m. Career Networking
7:00 p.m. New Evangelization Meeting
7:00 p.m. Women’s Club Meeting

Friday, May 16
9:30 a.m. Mom’s Club
3:30 p.m. 3rd Grade Brownies

Saturday, May 17
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation
10:00 a.m. YC—A Child Shall Lead Them

Sunday, May 18
5:00 p.m. Crossroads End-of-the-Year Meeting

Wedding Banns
Amanda Brazis & Mitchell Cook
Kathleen Napleton & Kevin Kysiak
Stephanie Grey & Nick Satariano

Mass Intentions
Monday, May 12, Ss. Nereus & Achilleus
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Mary & Frank Reilly

Tuesday, May 13, Our Lady of Fatima
7:45 Janet Darovic; Gerard Hildenbrand

Wednesday, May 14, St. Matthias
7:45 Muriel Albertson; Eileen Carlson

Thursday, May 15, St. Isidore
7:45 Rosemary Simpson; Jack Scriba

Friday, May 16
7:45 Kevin McGuire; Brian Costello

Saturday, May 17
8:00 James F. Mikulski; Madeleine Cronin
5:00 Susanne Walsh

Sunday, May 18, Fifth Sunday of Easter
7:30 Dennis Mair; Joe Marturano
9:00 Stephanie Groszek; William Impens
10:45 Jack Fash; George Jakicic; Madeleine Lanzendorf
12:15 Alice Sobey; Anne M. Flanagan
5:00 Cynthia Boyer; Vincent Candela, Sr.

Pray for our Sick
Mitch Allen             John Munch
John Cozza             Mary Nowicki
Margaret Daley         Alexander Obi
Karen Hult             Harry Stone
Joe Jezmoinka          Mary Catherine Warren
Allison Kazragis       Donna Webster
Shirley Kazragis       Sharon Wildman
Frank Kranz            Edward Wojcik

Pray for our Beloved Dead
Marian Tomaso, mother of Anthony
Donald Ureel, husband of Thelma

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

Rev. David P. Dowdle        Pastor          ddowdle@stjohnofthecross.org
Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell    Pastor Emeritus  Contact Fr. Joe through the Parish Office
Deacon John Schopp         Deacon           john.schopp@newhemispheres.com
Bill Bright                Outreach         bbright@stjohnofthecross.org
Janet Caschetta            Youth Catechesis  jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org
Jim Clauer                 Worship          jclauer@stjohnofthecross.org
Laura Dragich              Reservations     ldragich@stjohnofthecross.org
Kathleen Gorman            School Principal  gorman@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us
Katie Hayes                Crossroads      khayes@stjohnofthecross.org
Jessica Koch               Music            jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org
MJ Martin                  Operations       mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Elizabeth Russell-Jones    Welcome         erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org
CHURCH NAME & NUMBER —
Saint John of the Cross    #9239

ADDRESS —
5005 S. Wolf Road
Western Springs, IL 60558

PHONE —
708-246-4404

CONTACT PERSON —
Shirley

SOFTWARE —
Microsoft Publisher 2003
Adobe Acrobat 6.0
Windows XP Professional
HP Scanjet 6200C

PRINTER — HP Laser Jet 6P

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT —
Cover through 17

SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN —  5/11/14

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
...a little child shall lead them

Preschool Session on Creation

Come and share a wonder-filled morning with scripture, singing, games and crafts with your child. A family faith program designed for our Littlest Angels, preschool children ages 2-5. Parents or grandparents come too!

Saturday, May 17th
10-11:30am  Parish Center

Dress comfortably—we’ll be sitting on the floor. This is our 4th and last preschool session for the Year of Strong Catholic Parents. Call YC office (708-246-6760) to register.