Called to be Holy through Prayer, Service & Sharing to Build Up the Kingdom of God.
The Most Holy Trinity Sunday
June 15, 2014

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; to God who is, who was, and who is to come.
Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate the Most Holy Trinity liturgically and Father's Day culturally. They are not totally incompatible celebrations.

After the lengthy seasons of Lent and Easter the Church effectively sums up all that has gone before today. The idea of a covenant with our God starts with Genesis, page 1, and is one of the great themes of the Hebrew Scriptures. God is creator and we are creatures. It is a fundamental starting point, a beginning so necessary yet so often taken for granted that it can easily be dismissed.

When the People of Israel and their spiritual heirs (us!) break the covenant with God, they, and we, suffer estrangement from one another as well as from our True Selves. Sin keeps us broken and in need of God’s mercy, in order that we might be healed and made whole. The whole of Lent is a reflection on the effects of sin and the cost of being estranged from self and others. Lent is also a reflection of how we are utterly forgiven and made for eternal life.

Recently I have been asking where we teach our children about their soul. The answer is harder than you might think. There are parts of our religion books that focus on choices and values, on conscience and moral decision making, on ethical behavior and the goodness of creation, but there is very little evidence that any grade level focuses on each person having a soul. You’d think that the teaching of our immortal soul would be in every text at every level, but there does not seem any evidence yet that the concept of a soul is taught explicitly at any level in grade school.

That’s why Jesus is so important. Our creator God who establishes a covenant with his people not only creates the galaxies and beyond, but creates each and every human being and fills them with divine love, a soul, from the moment of conception, knitted into a human being in the secret of their mother’s womb. Yet as much as we are drawn to our greater selves in this life, we fail with our lesser selves even more frequently. Despair of ever taming the animal part of ourselves will quickly rush in if there is no other way of arriving in the loving arms of God and come to know ourselves as eternally forgiven. And so it is Jesus who finally breaks the needless and violent suffering of sin and is raised up with new life, Easter life. The Holy Spirit guides and graces what the historical Jesus could only point to.

The mystery of the Trinity is the mystery of a Triune God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, yet One God. It is to say that faith is relationship, a mutuality, a dynamic dialogue of the Lover with the Beloved. Without a father no family is complete; there is a void. Without a father every child has a hole in their soul that cannot be filled in by anyone or anything else. It is our fathers who complete us, protect us, provide for us and lead us when we are afraid. It is the love of a father, both necessary wound and lifelong gift, that makes us strong enough to cry when we are hurt and to yield when force is a temptation.

Fathers, grandfathers, fathers-in-law and step fathers, living and deceased, adopted and adopting fathers, godfathers all-thank you for all you give and all you are. For your strength and your laughter, your encouragement and anxiety for us, for being there when we needed you, whether we knew it or not-thank you. We love you.

And if you are a father of a young child, be sure to teach them that they have an immortal soul. How else will they be with you for all eternity?

Peace,
Fr. David

JOIN IN THE JOY!!
St. Isaac Jogues Parish to Host Feast of Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession through the streets of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills Sunday, June 22, 2014 Come and be a part of this sacred, historic, visible display of our faith and public proclamation that Jesus Christ is present in the Holy Eucharist. Join a joyful, musical Procession of praise departing from St. Isaac Jogues Parish (306 West 4th Street, Hinsdale) at 1:00. The Procession through the streets of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills will be about one mile and end at Notre Dame Parish for Benediction followed by an Ice Cream Social. Transportation will be provided between St. Isaac Jogues Parish and Notre Dame Parish. To find out more and to reserve your place, go to sij.net.
Being a parent involves a lot of lifting. We lift our infants from their cribs when they need to be fed or comforted. Later on, we lift them when they fall and scrape a knee. We “give them a lift” to soccer practice or piano lessons. When they are sad and “need a lift,” we find ways to cheer them up. In the musical Les Misérables, the hero promises a dying mother that he will care for her daughter. “I will raise her to the light,” he says. Strong Catholic parents raise their children toward the light of Christ. We do this in many ways throughout the days, weeks, and years they are in our care. Ask yourself, How have I “raised my child to the light” in recent days? How else does my child “need a lift” right now?
—Tom McGrath

Family Connection
Because of God’s great love for us, he sent his Son, Jesus, to save the world. Jesus, in turn, sent the Holy Spirit so that our faith in God and his love would be strengthened. The nurturing experiences of family life also help us to understand and have faith in God’s love.

Create a family poster together showing all the ways in which your family experiences God’s great love. Use symbols, pictures, and words to show how you have seen God at work in your family life and in our history. Then read together today’s Gospel, John 3:16-18. Pray together, thanking God for his gift of love. Conclude by praying the Glory Be to the Father or today’s Psalm.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Teaching Children
The Sign of the Cross
The Sign of the Cross symbolizes God blessing us and embracing us with his blessings. At the same time, in the Sign of the Cross we express our belief in God from whom all our blessings flow. The God of the Old Testament blessed Noah and saved the world from the Flood. God blessed Abraham and Sarah with the blessing of a nation of descendants. He blessed the Jewish people, redeeming them from the slavery of Egypt. The Israelites taught us always to approach God as one who blesses.

Christians follow this tradition of prayer, and in addition we praise the one who gives us the blessing of Jesus Christ. When we bless ourselves with the Sign of the Cross, we remember the Trinity of persons who bless us: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We especially recall the blessing of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We trace a cross on ourselves, the cross of Jesus. The Sign of the Cross reminds us of his love, a love found in the past but also here and now, as we make this sign upon ourselves. The Sign of the Cross is an expression of our relationship with God. When we trace this holy sign on our foreheads, on our hearts, and on our shoulders, we remember we are blessed in mind and heart and all our being.

Loyola Press 2014. Used with permission.
This mystery of the Trinity does not so much challenge us to understand as it challenges us to a worshipful response to God's utter goodness and Presence to us, to God's love and nearness. At the same time that we are uplifted in praise, we are also brought down to earth by this solemnity for it reminds us that the only way we share in God's glory is to give of ourselves in the same way God gives to us: in love and mercy, graciousness and faithfulness, nearness and communion. Our simple, good, everyday actions toward one another express the very Life of God and God's desire to be near to us.

The Old Testament period is the era of the Father. The gospel period is the era of the Son. And the post-gospel period, which the Acts of the Apostles treats, is the era of the Holy Spirit.

The Creed which we recite each Sunday at Mass preserves this pattern. It begins with God the Father as Creator, moves on to God the Son as Redeemer, and ends with God the Holy Spirit as Life-Giver.

The Catechism teaches that “by sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange” (221). The complete Trinity dwells in us. By worshiping the Trinity we realize the full truth of ourselves. “In the communion of grace with the Trinity, man’s living area is broadened and raised up to the supernatural level of divine life. Man lives in God and by God” (Saint John Paul II).
Prayer

O my God,
I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because you have revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.
Amen.

Making the Trinity Come Alive in our Prayer

What can we do to make the Trinity come alive in our own personal lives?

One way that some people find helpful is a prayer exercise they follow each night before falling asleep. They take three minutes to replay the day that has just ended for them.

During the first minutes, they pick out the high point of their day, something good that happened to them—like keeping calm when falsely accused. They speak to the Father about it and thank him for it.

During the second minute, they pick out the low point of their day, something bad that happened—like ignoring someone who really could have used their help. They speak to Jesus about it and ask him to forgive them.

During the third minute, they look ahead to tomorrow, to some critical point—like having to confront someone about something. They speak to the Holy Spirit about it and ask for the wisdom and courage to deal with it properly.

As you can see, this exercise combines prayer with an examination of conscience. But more importantly, it brings the Holy Trinity into the nitty-gritty of our everyday lives.

Mark Link, SJ

Richard Rohr

The Trinity

Niels Bohr, the Danish physicist who was a major contributor to quantum physics and nuclear fission, said the universe is “not only stranger than we think, but stranger than we can think.” Our supposed logic has to break down before we can comprehend the nature of the universe and the bare beginnings of the nature of God. I think the doctrine of the Trinity is saying the same thing. The “principle of three” breaks down all dualistic either-or thinking and sets us on a dynamic course of ongoing experience.

There are some things that can only be known experientially, and each generation must learn them for themselves. The “prayer of quiet” is a most simple and universal path. Of all the religious rituals and practices I know of, nothing will lead us to that place of nakedness and vulnerability more than regular experiences of solitude and silence, where our ego identity falls away, where our explanations don’t mean anything, where our superiority doesn’t matter and we have to sit there in our naked “who-ness.”

If God wants to get through to us, and the Trinitarian Flow wants to come alive in us, that’s when God has the best chance. God is not only stranger than we think, but stranger than the logical mind can think. Perhaps much of the weakness of the first two thousand years of reflection on the Trinity, and many of our doctrines and dogmas, is that we’ve tried to do it with a logical mind instead of with prayer. The belief in God as a Trinity is saying God is more an active verb than a stable noun. You know it in the flow of life itself.
Reflect Retreat for Catholic Singles in Mid-Life
Catholic singles in mid-life, 30’s and 40’s, who are divorced, widowed, or never married are welcome to an annual retreat called Reflect which will be held at the Stritch Retreat House in Mundelein on June 20-22. This very popular retreat allows an opportunity for participants to refresh themselves spiritually through prayer, discussion, reflection, confession and Mass, as well as to meet others who understand some of their challenges. Following the retreat is a follow-up dinner to encourage continuing friendships among fellow participants. The cost is $175 for a single room and meals. Call 312.532.8286 or visit www.reflectionretreat.com.

Catholic Family Day: June 22
Catholic families from around the Archdiocese of Chicago are invited to Catholic Family Day at Six Flags Great America theme park in Gurnee on June 22. The event will begin with Mass at 9:30am in Wilderness Theater before the park opens at 10:30am. Tickets are $34 per person (a discount from full price tickets which are $64.99) and a picnic package is $47.62, which includes admission and a buffet from 1:30-3pm. For more information call 312.534.5316 or www.archchicago.org

WorldWide Marriage Encounter (WWME) June 20-22
Looking for the perfect weekend to bring husband and wife closer together? The emphasis of WWME is communication between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together, away from the distractions and tensions of everyday life and concentrate on each other. Couples who make WWME weekends rediscover the joy, intimacy and romance in their relationships. It’s neither a retreat, nor a marriage clinic, nor a sensitivity group. It’s a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage. This is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together and to rediscover each other. Every marriage deserves that kind of attention! Rediscover the spark that was there on your wedding day and the best friend you had when you were first married. Join the millions of couples worldwide who have learned how to keep their marriage vibrant and alive. Upcoming weekends in Burr Ridge: June 20-22, August 8-10, and October 10-12. Contact Kris and Jim McCulloh 630.577.0778 or jkmcculloch945@sbcglobal.net. Go to wwme.org for more information.

50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, September 14 at 2:45pm at Holy Name Cathedral. Couples married in 1964 interested in attending this celebration should contact the parish center office to register. More information can be found at www.marriageandfamilyministries.org or 312.534.8351.

WCCM John Main Seminar July 24-27
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 of the Word, July 24-27 led by Fr. Daniel Madigan, SJ. Prior to the seminar, Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB will lead a silent retreat on July 21-24. Visit www.wccm.org or contact parishioner, Betsy Spiering at wccmchgo@gmail.com.
Advice to the Groom on Father’s Day
by John Przybysz, Christian Family Movement-USA, USCCB

Dear Dave,

When your mother and I got married, we used the standard vows right out of the book. I did not even know what my promises would be until the priest read them to me at the rehearsal. Just in case you have not read ahead, they go like this:

“I, David, take you, Lisa, to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.”

No trick phrases. No hidden clauses. These vows are simple enough for Forrest Gump.

“I take you to be my wife,” is a very vague job description. Who will cook? Who will clean? Fix the car? Mow the lawn? Change the diapers? Different couples work it out different ways. It is not about who does what. The important thing is with whom you do it.

In the Song of Songs, the groom says, “There are sixty queens, eighty concubines, and maidens without number. One alone is my dove, my perfect one.” (Songs 6:8-9) There are beauty queens, video stars, and girls everywhere you look. This vow says, “Of all the girls, in all the world, you are the one for me. I take you”

“I promise to be true.” No cheating. No fooling around. Enough said.

“I will love you.” Do not confuse romance with love. Romance is an unreliable feeling that incites romantic notions such as, “I will climb the highest mountain for you. I will fight dragons for you. I will die for you.” Real life poses a different challenge:

You are sitting on the couch, watching TV, and go looking for a snack during a commercial. You find some apples in the refrigerator and pick out a good one. Then you call, “Lisa, do you want an apple?” “Sure, Dave. Thanks.” But there is no second apple that looks good. Heading back to the couch, you ponder which apple to give her. Romance says, “I will die for you.” Real life asks, “Are you going to give her the good apple?” Love says, “Yes, give her the best.”

“I will honor you.” This was the surprise vow for me. I did not expect to make a promise to honor her. But I gave it a try, and it worked out well. I stopped teasing her and made it a habit to defend her and take her side when friends or family wanted to pick on her.

Honor is the most unappreciated vow. Some husbands make jokes about their wives, with little put-downs that are supposed to be funny. These are bad jokes. They cut, they wound, and they destroy trust. A marriage can die the death of a thousand tiny cuts. Avoid negative humor. It is not funny.

Honor is about respect. Treat her like a queen. Make your children respect their mother. Don’t let anyone put her down. She is your lady, and your lady always gets treated with respect.

God bless you, Dave.

Love, Dad

What helps a marriage grow? Many things: shared spiritual values, healthy intimacy, recreational activities—even caring for a beloved pet!

While it’s easy to focus on the challenges and obstacles to married love, it’s harder to identify and utilize the many opportunities for growth. Each day presents opportunities to do something positive for one’s marriage, whether it’s a heartfelt goodbye kiss in the morning, a shared prayer before bedtime, or a spirited game of tennis. Day by day couples build a strong marriage by recognizing and acting upon these invitations to growth.
Thank you to all the Dads that shared their faith this past year with the students of YC.

Drew Frech * Eric Schumm * Tim Woods
Ken Fiedler * Tom Walsh * Tim Kenny
Tom Clausing * Kevin McGann
Glenn Aldridge * Joe Haberkorn
Tom Muth * Steve Schell * Jim Hogg
Mike Mikulski * Ed Jamrozik
Brian Cannon * Paul Siegfried
Christopher Brynda * Scott Hoffman
Bob Montesano * Mark Zator
Bill Casey * Tom Smith

Blessings to all YC Dads this Father’s Day!

Youth Catechesis Office
yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc
Summer Hours
Monday thru Thursday 8:30am – 4:00pm
Or call for an evening appointment
SJC Fest News
The countdown until SJC Fest 2014, the Parish annual carnival and fundraiser, is now less than two weeks away. Visit the table in front of the Parish Center after Mass to sign up to volunteer, to purchase raffle tickets, or Mega Passes for carnival rides. The Fest will run from June 26-29. We hope everyone will join us for great food, fun, and music!!

Regular Summer Mass Schedule
Parishioners should know that Masses will continue to be celebrated in church that week and weekend at regular summer Mass times.

Parking
Fifty parking spots will be available in the main parking lot for weekday Mass. Parking for weekend Masses will be on the grass north of the church. The handicap lot will remain available everyday. All cars will enter on Wolf Road. Here is a picture of our campus. There will be parishioners directing traffic too, so not to worry!!

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On Your Mark, Get Set, Go to the Garage Sale this Saturday!!!

Details on Donations and Volunteering:
- Donations this Week: Monday-Wednesday 10am-8pm; Thursday 10am-6pm; No Drop offs on Friday
- Baked goods can be donated to the school kitchen during drop off hours above.
- Large Item Pick-Up Monday through Thursday: Call Marian 246-2160 or Connie 708-417-2012
- Volunteer Set-Up Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30am-8:30pm and Friday 11am-3pm
- Volunteer Sale Day Hours: 8:30-2pm & Half Price Day: 8:30-1pm
- Volunteer Clean up Day June 23 Hours: Noon-6pm
- Volunteers who work 6 or more hours can shop before the sale on Friday from 3-6pm.
- Student volunteers: www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F44ABA23A57-41st
- Babysitter volunteers 7th grade and older: Call Denise Schullo 312-415-6465 246-0254

General Sale & Volunteer Questions Call Mary Beth White 708-246-6339
Go to our parish website to see donation items not accepted.

The mission of the Garage Sale means giving to those in need, respecting others less fortunate, bringing together volunteers in a Christian spirit, raising funds to support local charities within our community, supporting the parish as a whole, and it means making a difference in the lives of others! Thank you for your support. Sponsored by the SJC Women’s Club.

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41st Annual SJC Garage Sale: Saturday, June 21st 9am-2pm
Half –Price Bag Sale: Monday, June 23rd 9am-1pm
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 two 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.

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*Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their child baptized last Sunday! Pictured from left to right are: Hannah Mae Leonard, daughter of Lauren and Matt Leonard, Camila Citali Juarez, daughter of Elizabeth and Emmanuel Juarez, Jack Michael Ryan, son of Michael and Jillian Ryan, and Anna Cathleen Beutjer, daughter of Megan and Jon Beutjer.*

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*God of all creation, we are made in your image and are signs of your love. Bless these children who were given new life as your adopted sons and daughters through the waters of Baptism. May they grow up to know your name and give you praise. Bless the mothers and fathers of these children. Fill them with your strength so that they will be models of faith for their children, nurturing and teaching by word and example to know you and walk in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*
Volunteer at the Annual Garage Sale
Volunteer before and during the sale held in the parish school. The sale is next Saturday, June 21 from 9am-2pm. See more Garage Sale information on page 9 in today’s bulletin.

Volunteer At St. Thaddeus, Our Sharing Parish
Volunteer at St. Thaddeus Parish’s Outdoor Jamboree on Sunday, June 22 following their 10:45 am Mass. SJC volunteers are in charge of face painting from noon until 2pm. Call Ann Marie Calistro if you would like to volunteer and for more information. 708-784-9311.

Volunteer at the Parish Fest
Many volunteers are needed to make this parish fundraiser a success. Dates are June 26-29. Go to our parish website and click on the Fest logo to see days/time/volunteer jobs that work for you. See the Fest page in today’s bulletin for more info.

Baked Goods Needed for the Fest Bake Sale
Do you like to bake? We need your help to make the Fest bake sale a success. Please drop off your donations to the parish center on Thursday and Friday, June 26-27 noon until 3pm or in the multipurpose room anytime during the Fest. All items should be marked with ingredients, e.g. nuts, chocolate, for allergy purposes. Questions: Pat DeMars 708-246-6127 or Antonia Adducci 708-246-4079.

Help with Vacation Bible School
Volunteer at VBS five weekday mornings beginning July 7th. Call the YC office for details. 708-246-6760

Looking for a Job?
Interfaith Career Network wants to help you!
Tuesday, June 17, 7-9 pm: learn how to write a compelling profile, how to find company postings, how to learn about and research companies of interest, how to join professional groups, and how to get noticed by employers…all on LinkedIn! If you are in a career transition, hopefully you have discovered how powerful a resource LinkedIn can be in your search. LinkedIn is a professional networking tool unlike other social media sites that millions of professionals, administrative and hourly workers use to extend their reach into the business community. This meeting is for any one new to LinkedIn and intermediate users as well. Even if you are an experienced LinkedIn user, you will learn some helpful new ideas on how to use LinkedIn more effectively in your job search. Our speaker is Matt Kerr. You can read all about him on LinkedIn. Held at SJC Parish Center. All are welcome. This event is free.

Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love. Entrance Antiphon
Boy Scout Religious Emblem Program
Calling all Catholic Boy Scouts ages 13 – 15 who have completed 6th grade! We will be holding an Ad Altare Dei Religious Emblems Program this summer at St. John of the Cross Parish Center on specific Sunday afternoons from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. This is an exciting opportunity for all the Catholic scouts from any troop in the parish who wish to earn this award! The medal will be presented at a special Religious Awards Assembly at Holy Name Cathedral on Sunday, January 25, 2015. A mandatory parent meeting will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2014 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm in the Parish Center. All Scout participants should also attend and bring their Ad Altare Dei workbook. If you are interested in this program, you can register by contacting Religious Emblems Counselor Beth Korenchan at bkorenchan@comcast.net.

Summer Sport Camps for Kids
Running Camp for children in grades 3-8 is held every Wednesday through August 6th from 7:30-8:30am. Kids meet at the flag pole. Fee is $60. Register at www.stjohnofthecross.org/school/athletics. Questions: Michelle Fink, 708-784-1599

Basketball Camp for children in grades 2-8 will be offered at 2 sessions: July 28 through August 1 and August 4 through August 18. grade 2-5 attend from 8-10am and grades 6-8 attend from 10am-Noon. Fee is $85 per session or $95 at the door. Register at: stjohnofthecross.org/school/athletics. Questions: Tom Taylor, 312-617-8535.

The 40 Film: A WAKEUP CALL FOR AMERICA
Illinois Citizens for Life will sponsor the showing of this documentary which investigates the aftermath of legalized abortion over the last 40 years. Tuesday, June 24 at 7pm at St. Mary of Gostyn’s Gathering Place, 445 Prairie Ave., Downers Grove. The documentary lasts about one hour. Goodwill offerings will be accepted. If possible, call ICL to let us know how many are coming, 630-852-5448.

You can make all the difference!

Donating Electronically: Parishioners are encouraged to make their offertory donations from their bank account through our online giving program on our parish website.

Go to stjohnofthecross.org and
1. Click on the Sharing Picture, then
2. Click on the words, Sunday Offertory, on the left side.

You can schedule your donation to arrive at SJC on a weekly, monthly, quarterly or annual basis, and you can change or stop your donation with the click of your mouse.

Giving electronically from your bank account (instead of using a credit card) is less costly for the parish which absorbs the credit card fees.

E-giving is easy and convenient and helps our parish budgeting by providing a consistent revenue source and increased efficiency in recording of donations. You will receive an email acknowledgment each time you donate.

Some parishioners prefer to fill out a paper form which can be downloaded from our website and then mailed to the parish center. Paper forms are also available at the parish center.

We are ready to help you and answer any questions that you may have about your donations. We can also make any changes over the phone to your e-giving plan in the parish center office. Please call MJ x123 at the parish office with any changes or questions.

“OLD” ACH to Online Giving: Years ago parishioners donated to the parish by filling out a paper form with their bank account information, directing our bank to automatically withdraw their donation on a weekly or monthly basis. If you donate through this “old” program, you are asked call MJ, and we will switch you over to the newer online program. If you are not sure which program you are in, give a quick call and MJ can look it up. 708-246-4404 x123.

Plan Ahead: St. John of the Cross Parish would be honored to be remembered in your will or other long term giving plans. Call MJ for information.

Thank you for your generosity to our parish.
In her recent book, The Invention of Wings, Sue Monk Kidd presents us with a deeply conflicted heroine, Sarah, a highly sensitive woman who grows up the daughter of a slave-owner and a child of privilege. But Sarah's moral sensitivity soon trumps her sense of privilege and she makes a series of hard choices to distance herself from both slavery and privilege.

Perhaps the most difficult among those hard choices was the choice to refuse an offer of marriage from a man. Sarah badly wants marriage, motherhood, and children; but, when the man she has loved for years finally proposes, there were things inside her that she won’t compromise and she ends up saying no. What was her hesitancy?

When her suitor, Israel, finally proposes, Sarah asks him whether, inside their marriage, she could still pursue her dream to become a Quaker minister. Israel, a man of his time who could only grasp a woman's role as that of wife and mother, is frank in his reply. For him, that could not be a possibility. Sarah immediately intuits the implications of that answer: "It was his way of telling me that I could not have him and myself both." Her suitor then further aggravates the situation by suggesting that her desire to become a minister is simply a compensation, a second-best, for not being married. She turns down his offer.

But a renunciation does not cease being painful just because it's has been made for a noble reason. Throughout her life, Sarah often feels an acute regret for her choice, for having her principles trump her heart. However she eventually makes peace with her regrets. Feeling the bitterness of her loss more acutely on the day her sister's wedding, she shares with her sister how: "I longed for it [marriage] in that excruciating way one has of romanticizing the life that she didn't choose. But sitting here now, I knew if I'd accepted Israel's proposal, I would have regretted that too. I'd chosen the regret that I could live with the best, that's all. I'd chosen the life I belonged to."

There will always be regrets in our lives, deep regrets. Thomas Aquinas wrote: Every choice is a renunciation. For this reason, we find it so difficult to make hard choices, particularly as these pertain to any type of permanent commitment. We want the right things, but we do not want to forego other things. We want it all!

But we can't have it all, none of us, no matter how full of talent, energy, and opportunity we are; and sometimes it takes us a long time to properly understand why. At one point in Kidd's story, Sarah, in her thirties, single, unemployed, mainly alienated from her own family, frustrated by society limits and her limited choices as a woman, is living as a guest with a woman friend, Lucretia, a Quaker minister. One evening, sitting with Lucretia, lamenting the limits of her life, Sarah asks: "Why would God plant such deep yearnings in us? ... if they only come to nothing?" It was more of a sigh than a question, but Lucretia replies: "God fills us with all sorts of yearnings that go against the grain of the world - but the fact that these yearnings come to nothing, well, I doubt that's God's doing. ... I think we know that's men's doing."

For Lucretia, if the world was only fair, we'd have no broken dreams. Partly she's right; much of what's wrong on this planet is our doing. But our frustrations ultimately tap into a deeper, less-culpable root, the inadequacy of life itself. Life, this side of eternity, is not whole. We, this side of eternity, are not whole. This side of eternity, nothing is whole. In the words of Karl Rahner: In the torment of the insufficiency of everything attainable we ultimately learn that in this life all symphonies must remain unfinished.

This has many implications, not least the simple (though not-easily-digestible) fact that we can't have it all or do it all. Our lives have very real limits and we need to stop crucifying what we have and what we have achieved by what we haven't got and what we haven't achieved. Despite the current myth to the contrary, no one gets it all! Most of us, I suspect, can relate to some of these regrets: I've raised my children well, but now I will never go anywhere professionally. I'm very successful at work, but I am less successful as a husband and father. I never married for the wrong reasons, but now I am single and alone. I've sacrificed ordinary life for an ideal, but now I fiercely miss what I've had to give up. Or, like Sue Monk Kidd's, Sarah: I've never compromised my principles, but that has brought a brutal loneliness into my life.

It's never a matter of living with regrets or without them. Everyone has regrets. Hopefully, though, we've chosen the regret we can live with best.

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

The Regrets We Can Live With
God Bless Our Graduates!

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This Week at SJC

Monday, June 16
10:30 a.m. Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling

Tuesday, June 17
7:00 p.m. Career Networking
7:00 p.m. School Board

Wednesday, June 18
9:30 a.m. Bible Study 3
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:00 p.m. Family Festival Meeting
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation

Thursday, June 19
2:00 p.m. Market Day pick up

Saturday, June 21, Garage Sale, 9am-2pm
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Sunday, June 22
12:00 p.m. Baptism Prep Class

Eternal Rest Grant unto These, O Lord

Sally Bacon, mother of Shelley Bacastow and grandmother of Sean and Ryan
Helen Bowen, mother of Pat Brown
Barbara Jane Adolf, sister-in-law of Irene Adolf
Frank Kranz, husband of Helen and father of Karen and Paul

Mass Intentions

Monday, June 16
7:45 John Joseph; Barbara Mann; Ed & Leona Rompala

Tuesday, June 17
7:45 John Rydzewski; Brian Donovan

Wednesday, June 18
7:45 Matthew Flood & Jorge Paez; Martha Matrisciano

Thursday, June 19
7:45 John Spalo; Maureen & Daniel O’Brien

Friday, June 20
7:45 Eileen & Don Dempsey; Joseph L. Naponiello

Saturday, June 21, St. Aloysius Gonzaga
8:00 James G. Clark; Loraine Janda
5:00 Elizabeth Wojtowicz; Patricia Rankin

Sunday, June 22, Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
7:30 Joseph L. Naponiello; Patrick O’Reilly
9:00 Margaret Cochran; Barbara Mann
10:45 George Jakicic; Martha Matrisciano
5:00 Patricia Rankin: Vito Nocero

Pray for our Sick

Patricia DeLong Virginia Nowicki
Don Heldmann Joe Pozen
Dan Kelly Joe Robin
Florence Link Harry Stone

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.
John 3:16

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

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
St. John of the Cross Parish presents......

SJC FEST 2014
June 26-29th
51st & Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL - www.SJCFEST.com

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, June 26th
- Safety 2nd 6 pm
- Red Seven 7:30 pm

FRIDAY, June 27th
- August Son 6 pm
- Maggie Speaks 8:30 pm

SATURDAY, June 28th
- Grand Avenue Big Band 6 pm
- One Night Band 8:30 pm

SUNDAY, June 29th
- Raisin Rhyme Noon
- Radio Rock 4:00 pm

THE OASIS
Bake sale
Refreshments
Prize BINGO
Face Painting

CARNIVAL HOURS
THURSDAY
5pm-10:30pm

FRIDAY
5pm-Midnight

SATURDAY
1pm - Midnight

SUNDAY
Noon - 7pm

MEGA PASSES
UNLIMITED RIDES FOR ALL 4 DAYS
$50 pre-sale / $65 at door
ON SALE NOW!
@Parish Center
@Parish School Office & ONLINE www.SJCFEST.com

St. John of the Cross Fest
Cash Raffle
1st Prize $5,000
2nd Prize $2,500
3rd Prize $1,000
Drawing to be held during the SJC Fest June 26 - 29, 2014
Winner need not be present
Make checks payable to: St. John of the Cross
$6/Ticket or 12 Tickets for $60

SPECIAL NEEDS EVENT
FREE CARNIVAL RIDES AND GAMES
Thursday, June 26th
2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Call (708) 292-1100
For more Information

Food & Drinks
Pizza
Italian Beef
BBQ Pork & Chicken
Gelato Dessert
and much more

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