June 29, 2014

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

Upon this rock
I will build my Church
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.

This weekend is the Peter’s Pence Collection which supports the Holy Father in his charitable works. The Peter’s Pence Collection is taken up worldwide to support the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters. This is an opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. Thank you for your generosity.

Friday, July 4th is Independence Day. Join us at the 9am Mass.
Parish News & Notes

Fr. Dennis Koopman, OFM, is celebrating his 50th Jubilee of becoming a Franciscan Friar. Fr. Dennis is a familiar face to many parishioners as he has been helping at our parish for many years, celebrating weekend and weekday Masses, hearing confessions, and presiding at funerals.

All are invited to celebrate his Jubilee Anniversary with Fr. Dennis on Tuesday, July 8 at the 7:45am Mass. A reception will follow in the community room of church.

Summer Sport Camps for All Parish 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. 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.

New Baby? Ready for Baptism?

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.

Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community:

Bianca and Frank Drozd and Family
Cara and Peter Rogers
Cynthia and Jerry Purcell and Family
Nicole Poletti and Michael McCaskey and Family
Amy and John Carolan and Family
Nancy and Dan Collins and Family
Michelle Rojas and Christopher Ing and Family

If you would like to register to become a new member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center. For more information call 708.246.4404x155 or erusselljones@stjohnofthecross.org.

Welcome!
Interested in Catholicism?
Do you want to find out more?

They followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What do you seek?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher) “Where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come and see.” ~ John 1:37-39

Are you satisfied with your faith? What are you seeking in this life? We all search for deeper meaning in our life; whether we know it or not, every action we take is driven by a desire to find purpose. Jesus Christ calls each one of us in a special way, inviting us into a lifelong relationship with Him that will transform the way we live and who we are at the very deepest level. He wants us to “Come and See.”

This fall we will begin again the process of the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. This program is an opportunity for all those interested to explore the Catholic faith and enter into the process of coming into full communion with the Church. If you have ever thought about becoming a Catholic, if you know anyone who might be interested in learning more about our faith, consider this your personal invitation to come and see.

RCIA is about more than just learning the teachings of the Church; it is about prayer, practice, discovery and relationship. Jesus Christ extends the hand of peace to each one of us, calling us into His presence. This fall explore the Catholic Church and learn how transformative a relationship with Jesus Christ can be in a supportive community of faith. Come and see where Jesus Christ is staying. It will change your life.

Call Fr. Bill Vollmer for more information on RCIA. 708-246-4404 x120.

Did You Know?
The parish offers free babysitting in the Garden Room of the Rectory every Sunday during the 9am and 10:45am Masses. No reservations are needed. Just come to the front glass doors of the rectory and ring the bell to be buzzed into the building. The rectory is located between the church and the parish center by the Mary Garden. The front doors face north.

There is no sitting service on holiday weekends. So there will be no sitting on Sunday, July 6th (July 4th weekend) or Sunday, August 31st (Labor Day weekend).

Retreat for the Widowed, August 2-3
Are you widowed? Do you feel that your family and friends don’t understand what you are going through? Come to a special retreat designed to bring you understanding and hope. Retreat for Widowed Men and Women, August 2-3, 2014 at Mary Queen of Heaven Parish in Elmhurst. For information or to register call 708-354-7211 or email joyfulagain7211@gmail.com. Visit joyfulagain.org for more information.
Lifelong Learning

Background on the Gospel Reading

Mark places this incident at Caesarea Philippi. Luke, because of the importance he wishes to give to prayer in his Gospel, places it in the context of Jesus praying. But Matthew keeps it at Caesarea Philippi. In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples for a “field report” by asking what people are saying about him. He refers to himself as the Son of Man, a term derived from the Jewish Scriptures, found in the book of Daniel and in other apocryphal writings. Many scholars suggest that “Son of Man” is best understood to mean “human being.”

As Jesus turns the question directly to the disciples and asks what they believe, Peter speaks for all of them when he announces that they believe Jesus to be the Christ. “Christ” is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word for “messiah,” which means “the anointed one.” At the time of Jesus, the image of the “messiah” was laden with popular expectations, most of which looked for a political leader who would free the Jewish people from Roman occupation.

Because Jesus has referred to himself a number of times in Matthew by Christological titles this moment is not the revelation of who Jesus is as in Mark. Instead it marks an important moment in the development of the Church. Jesus uses this occasion to bless Peter, who represents all the disciples but also has a unique role to play in the founding of the new community. Peter is blessed not because of a personal insight, but because God revealed to him who Jesus is. Peter is the rock on which Jesus will build the Church.

To be faithful rocks upon which the church is built, we must know who Jesus is for us, listen to what he teaches us. We must be unyielding when it comes to living what Jesus has taught us, rock solid when it comes to following him, and rock steady in our commitment to bring his love and care to others. Excerpt from Living Liturgy.

Richard Rohr Daily Meditation

You Have to Be Beloved to Know

Think of the many, many stories about God choosing people. There are Moses, Abraham, and Sarah; there are David, Jeremiah, Gideon, Samuel, Jonah, and Isaiah. There is Israel itself. Much later there are Peter and Paul, and, most especially, Mary.

God is always choosing people. First impressions aside, God is not primarily choosing them for a role or a task, although it might appear that way. God is really choosing them to be God’s self in this world, each in a unique situation. If they allow themselves to experience being chosen, being a beloved, being somehow God’s presence in the world, they invariably communicate that same chosenness to others. And thus the Mystery passes on from age to age. Yes, we do have roles and tasks in this world, but finally they are all the same—to uniquely be divine love in a way that no one else can or will.

May we come to know and love Jesus more fully.
May we, like Peter and Paul, draw nearer to Christ and proclaim him faithfully by our lives.

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Every Act of Love Is a Prayer

Jesus could have formulated a plan of action for his disciples or provided them with a list of helpful hints on how to conduct themselves. Instead, Jesus prayed. He stood before God with open hands and an open heart, and asked for God's tender care and compassion for those he loved. In so doing, Jesus taught his followers that the primary posture of a believer before God is one of prayer. Before any plans are made, before any agenda is set, before all else, those who continue the ministry of Jesus are to pray. This means that we consciously decide to live in the presence of God.

As Henri Nouwen has noted, some consider prayer a weakness, or a support system that we use when there seems to be no other option (The Only Necessary Thing, Crossroad Pub., New York: 1999). But this is only true when the God of our prayers is created in our own image and adapted to our needs and concerns. However, when prayer is authentic and God-centered, it enables us to reach out to God and to be pulled away from self-preoccupations. True prayer encourages us to leave familiar ground so as to enter into a new world beyond the confines of our mind or heart.

Not an exercise to be limited to Sunday mornings or to a set period of time each day, praying, insisted Nouwen, is living (With Open Hands, Ave Maria Press, Notre Dame, Ind.: 1972). It is eating and drinking, action and rest, teaching and learning, playing and working. Pervading every aspect of our existence, prayer is the ever-evolving recognition that God is! God is wherever we are, always reaching out, always drawing us near, ever revealing an unending love for us.

Mother Teresa encouraged her sisters to remember that “every act of love is a prayer. Prayer is action in love and love in action is service” (The Joy in Loving, Penguin Group, New York: 1997). With that conviction, Mother Teresa led her sisters through the streets of the city, seeking out and reverently ministering to those who were regarded as the untouchables. When she bathed a leper, she was praying; when she fed hungry, crying babies, there she was praying too, not with words but with her hands, her heart and her selflessness.

If we could be convinced that all we are and all we do can be a prayer, how might that influence the way we are with one another? Might we be kinder? Perhaps we might be more thoughtful and less selfish, less angry, less critical, less sharp; more tender, more attentive, more giving?

When the followers of Jesus came together in the Upper Room, they were at once fearful yet determined, cautious yet daring, insecure and yet fully trusting in the presence and power of Jesus. Through prayer — that is, through their communion with God and with the strength they gained from one another — they grew stronger and more resolute in their willingness to preach the good news of salvation. The example of Jesus’ followers as well as that of the Johannine Jesus (Gospel) urges us toward a similar devotion to that quality of prayer that will fuel all our efforts and fire our hearts with the energy and fortitude we need to be Christ’s witnesses and servants in the world. This is the posture each of us is to assume before God and all others.

Lifelong Learning

Saint Peter, whom Jesus called to "feed my sheep," to shepherd the fledgling Christian community, to lead his infant church, was a flawed human being. (Even the nickname apparently bestowed on him by Jesus—Cephas, or Peter, meaning "Rocky"—affirms the angularity of Peter's character.) From the beginning, Peter was acutely aware of his own sinfulness and own weakness. Near the opening of the Gospel of Luke, when Jesus first meets Peter and performs a miracle before him, Peter cowers in shame, and says, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

This is not false humility. They are the words of someone who, in the face of the divine mystery, manifests a profound understanding of his own sinfulness and personal limitations. It is also a natural response to the transcendent. Such an awareness is central to the development of the Christian life: it is the sign of a humility that marks the beginning of a true relationship with God. This is the reason that early in his *Spiritual Exercises*, St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Jesuit order, asks the person making the retreat to pray for "an interior knowledge of my sins...and the disorder of my actions."

Anyone who reads even a few gospel stories will encounter what you could call the "historical Peter." He is headstrong, doubtful, confused, impulsive: human. The reader will also discover that Jesus loves Peter and loves him with abandon. Jesus is constantly offering him forgiveness, even for his craven behavior at the crucifixion, and is consistently placing his trust in him. (Scripture scholars note that when Jesus asks Peter "Do you love me?" three times by the seashore, it is meant to counterbalance Peter's triple denial of Jesus before the crucifixion.)

Peter is among the greatest of the saints precisely because of his humanity, his shortcomings, his doubt and, moreover, his deeply felt understanding of all these things. Only someone like Peter, who understood his own sinfulness and the redeeming love of Christ, would be able to lead the infant church and lead others to Jesus.

Only someone as *weak* as Peter would be able to do what he did.

Used with permission. From *My Life with the Saints*, by James Martin, SJ

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**Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O Good Jesus, hear me.  
Within your wounds hide me.  
Permit me not to be separated from you.  
From the wicked foe, defend me.  
At the hour of my death, call me and bid me come to you.  
That with your saints I may praise you.  
For ever and ever. Amen.

A letter of thanks from Kolbe House…

Dear Parishioners,

I want to thank the people of St. John of the Cross Parish for continuing to share in Kolbe House’s ministry to the incarcerated, their families and families of victims. The Sharing check for $1,200 was gratefully received.

Certainly the Gospel mandate found in Matthew 25:36 “I was in prison and you visited me” is our ministerial base. With Pope Francis’ example of visiting prisons draws attention to the fact that this ministry belongs to the entire Church community. St. John’s active support of our jail visits, our individual conversations with the ex offenders, our prayerful remembrance of people hurt by others’ actions unites us as the one Body of Christ. Our ministry would be diminished and made more difficult without the many ways that St. John’s parishioners participate in our work.

We the staff and volunteers of Kolbe House are encouraged and strengthened in our ministry because of your help. We also look forward to the opportunities when we can participate in your parish and school life. Let us remember one another in prayer and those whom we both serve.

Rev. Arturo Perez Rodrigues

Outreach News

Volunteer as a Tutor

Join the Congregation of St. Joseph in their Adult Literacy/ESL Program, Tutors on Wheels. The program needs volunteers to teach in Naperville, Glendale Heights, Addison, and Bloomingdale. Teaching takes place in churches, businesses, and social service agencies. Volunteers are needed to teach one hour a week, on a one-on-one basis in a nearby location. Tutoring sessions are scheduled weekday mornings, some late afternoons (and/or evenings). One training day will be provided on Saturday, July 12, 2014 from 8:30 am-12:30 p.m. No prior second language skills are needed. For more information call 630-217-0396.

Ignatian Volunteer Corps

Are you semi-retired, retired or just ready to serve others? Join the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Members of the Catholic service program volunteer 2 days a week from September to June and also meet to reflect and pray. Volunteers serve as tutors, employment counselors, food pantry volunteers, elderly companions, and hospital and prison ministers. Volunteers must be 50 years old to apply. There is no upper age limit. Register for an information session at 2pm on Thursday, July 10 at Old St. Mary’s on S Michigan Ave. Call Jacqueline Fitzgerald at 312-961-6206 or jfitzgerald@ivcusa.org.

Food Pantry Collection

Next time you are shopping pick up some nonperishable food to bring to the church narthex. The food we collect in June will be delivered to Catholic Charities in Cicero.

Kolbe House

Men’s underwear, jeans, shirts, stamps, stationary, and CTA cards can be donated. Collection boxes are located in the church narthex and the parish center.

I saw Jesus on the train today. He had worked a long shift, his coveralls a patchwork of sweat and grime; yet he joked with a coworker in the adjacent seat. I saw Jesus awhile later, as the crowd filed onto the stairs to the street below—he was a young girl with two small children in tow, her nerves clearly frayed. And then, in the grocery store, there was Jesus again, a check-out clerk who smiled and wished me a good evening. The next time I saw him, he was stuck in traffic, his business suit rumpled and his eyes weary. And when I walked by my neighbor’s house, Jesus sat on the front step, passing the time with a friend.

When Jesus came to share our human existence, he changed what it means to be ordinary people going through the day. Each one of us has a purpose and a place in the world. Each of us experiences pain, fatigue, humor, and hope. If we look more intently at the people we encounter on a typical day, we will see who they truly are—persons loved by God. Regardless of appearance or situation, the woman, man, or child before you is brimming with holy possibility. Consider that you are gazing into the eyes of God. Understand that Jesus comes to you in many faces and places.

Vinita Hampton Wright, author of Days of Deepening Friendship, Loyola Press
Strong Catholic Parents

Raising Faith-Filled Kids • One Word at a Time

Love

One of the things I have learned as a parent is this: when a family member is going through a rough time and I don’t know what to do, I just need to love him or her through it. That’s become a kind of mantra for my wife and me because it works. When we come to the end of our rope and don’t know what the “right” thing to do is, we’ll say, “We can love her through it.” Inviting love into the equation is to invite God into the mix. Bringing our uncertainty and worry into the light of Christ allows us to focus less on the problem and more on the person. God is love, and those who abide in love, abide in God. That is my wish for you and your family. —Tom McGrath

Family Connection

In today’s Gospel, Jesus refers to Peter as “Rock” and says that the Church will be built upon him. We refer to someone as a “rock” when they are very reliable. Talk as a family about who has been and is a rock in your extended family.

The Gospel reminds us that the Church is built on the foundation of faith in Jesus Christ. It is faith that makes Peter the Rock upon which the Church is built. The family, as the domestic church, has this same faith as its foundation.

Talk about people whose faith has helped you to be a member of the Church and talk about what you have learned from leaders in our Church today. Read together today’s Gospel, Matthew 16:13-20. Talk about what you know about Peter and his importance to the early Christian community. Talk about what we can learn from Peter and his profession of faith about Jesus. Conclude in prayer together by praying today’s Psalm or an Act of Faith.

Facts About St. Paul

Paul’s conversion to Christianity occurred after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul left Jerusalem around the year A.D. 46 and began the first of his three major missionary journeys. He eventually traveled through several of the eastern Mediterranean regions, preaching in synagogues and marketplaces.

Paul was also well educated and tackled the broader, theological issues of the new faith, which is evident in the letters he wrote to his fellow Christians. After suffering arrest and persecution several times, Paul was executed in Rome around the year A.D. 65. Saint Paul and Saint Peter share a feast day on June 29.

You are Peter an upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. Alleluia, alleluia.

Peter as Rock

Matthew is the only Gospel writer to use the word church. (Matthew 16:18) The Church that Jesus established rests on a firm foundation, the rock that is Peter. Jesus called Peter the “rock” on which he would build his church. As Catholics, we interpret this passage to mean that Jesus was calling Peter to be the leader of the church he was founding. Peter would not have understood the word pope because it did not come into use until centuries later. There is no doubt that Peter was the first in the long line of Bishops of Rome chosen by Christ to be the leader of the Catholic Church. Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom to represent the ability to interpret correctly all that Jesus had taught. (16:19) Jesus taught with authority. He gives Peter the ability to continue that teaching in the Church he founded.
Crossroads Family News

Calendar of Events
July 7-11th Notre Dame Vision Conference
July 8th Habitat final meeting, 6:30 pm.
July 13-19th Habitat Work Tour

Adults needed for our ministry! Check out our volunteer page for details, located here on our homepage:
http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/
Home Group Leaders
Freshmen Experience Team
Day of the Spirit Retreat
Thanks!

Ever wondered where Jesus went to spread the word of God? Facebook and Twitter of course! Friend the Crossroads Facebook profile and follow the twitter account to receive updates and humorous posts, like the one below!

Keep up with faith & don’t go extinct this summer!

Youth Catechesis

We are so grateful to God for Debbie Pusinelli!
For years Debbie has given her time, talents and her heart to so many ministries at St. John of the Cross. Deb Pusinelli has not only been a teacher of Gospel values to the young adolescents in our parish, her life has been a model for them to follow. Her life has been a true example of the two greatest commandments: Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Debbie leaves the YC office on June 30th after lovingly creating a Confirmation preparation program that is amazing. She is able to teach catechists, parents and children about faith in God because her faith is so strong.

She has been involved over the years in many ministries including the Preschool RE program, Outreach Committee, Evangelization, Women's Club, Bible Studies, Eucharistic Minister and especially as the Confirmation Coordinator for YC for the past 12 years.

She has guided and mentored thousands of students to the Sacrament of Confirmation. Deb finds time and gives of her own time to organize fundraisers, cook meals for families in crisis and collect clothes and toiletries for homeless shelters. She truly allows God to work through her in order that she might bring His love to others.

Debbie will be greatly missed, but we are so thankful for the blessings she shared with YC. We wish her all grace and goodness as she begins a new, exciting chapter with the Lord leading her path. Thank you Debbie!

REGISTRATION for 2014-2015 YC

Remember to register before June 30th!
OPEN UNTIL 7:00 PM on Monday, June 30th!

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

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Praying ~ Serving ~ Sharing
Thank You, Lord, for the courage and selfless service of our military troops. May our loved ones and all who serve around the world turn to You for rest and protection. Keep them safe from all hidden dangers. May they not fear the terrors of night or the disaster that strikes at midday. Order your angels to protect them wherever they go. Keep their feet from slipping, and hold them securely in Your strong right hand until they are safely home.
There's a story in the Hindu tradition that runs something like this: God and a man are walking down a road. The man asks God: "What is the world like?" God answers: "I'd like to tell you, but my throat is parched. I need a cup of cold water. If you can go and get me a cup of cold water, I'll tell you what the world is like." The man heads off to the nearest house to ask for a cup of cold water. He knocks on the door and it is opened by a beautiful young woman. He asks for a cup of cold water. She answers: "I will gladly get it for you, but it's just time for the noon meal, why don't you come in first and eat." He does.

Thirty years later, they've had five children, he's a respected merchant, she's a respected member of the community, they're in their house one evening when a hurricane comes and uproots their house. The man cries out: "Help me, God!" And a voice comes from the center of the hurricane says: "Where's my cup of cold water?"

This story is not so much a spiritual criticism as it is a fundamental lesson in anthropology and spirituality: To be a human being is to be perpetually distracted. We aren't persons who live in habitual spiritual awareness who occasionally get distracted. We're persons who live in habitual distraction who occasionally become spiritually aware. We tend be so preoccupied with the ordinary business of living that it takes a hurricane of some sort for God to break through.

C.S. Lewis, commenting on why we tend to turn to God only during a hurricane, once put it this way: God is always speaking to us, but normally we aren't aware, aren't listening. Accordingly pain is God's microphone to a deaf world.

However none of us want that kind of pain; none of us want some disaster, some health breakdown, or some hurricane to shake us up. We prefer a powerful positive event, a miracle or mini-miracle, to happen to us to awaken God's presence in us because we nurse the false daydream that, if God broke into our lives in some miraculous way, we would then move beyond our distracted state and get more serious about our spiritual lives. But that's the exact delusion inside the biblical character in the parable of Lazarus and Dives, where the rich man asks Abraham to send him back from the dead to warn his brothers that they must change their way of living or risk the fiery flames. His plea expresses exactly that false assumption: "If someone comes back from the dead, they will listen to him!" Abraham doesn't buy the logic. He answers: "They have Moses and the Prophets. If they don't listen to them, they won't be convinced either, even if someone came back from the dead." What lies unspoken but critically important in that reply, something easily missed by us, the reader, is that Jesus has already come back from the dead and we aren't listening to him. Why should we suppose that we would listen to anyone else who comes back from the dead? Our preoccupation with the ordinary business of our lives is so strong that we are not attentive to the one who has already come back from the dead.

Given this truth, the Hindu tale just recounted is, in a way, more consoling than chiding. To be human is to be habitually distracted from spiritual things. Such is human nature. Such is our nature. But knowing that our endless proclivity for distraction is normal doesn't give us permission to be comfortable with that fact. Great spiritual mentors, not least Jesus, strongly urge us to wake up, to move beyond our over-preoccupation with the affairs of everyday life. Jesus challenges us to not be anxious about how we are to provide for ourselves. He also challenges us to read the signs of the times, namely, to see the finger of God, the spiritual dimension of things, in the everyday events of our lives. All great spiritual literature does the same. Today there is a rich literature in most spiritual traditions challenging us to mindfulness, to not be mindlessly absorbed in the everyday affairs of our lives.

But great spiritual literature also assures us that God understands us, that grace respects nature, that God didn't make a mistake in designing human nature, and that God didn't make us in such a way that we find ourselves congenitally distracted and then facing God's anger because we are following our nature. Human nature naturally finds itself absorbed in the affairs of everyday life, and God designed human nature in just this way.

And so, I think, God must be akin to a loving parent or grandparent, looking at his or her children at the family gathering, happy that they have interesting lives that so absorb them, content not to be always the center of their conscious attention.

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
Pray for our Sick
Bill Allen Virginia Nowicki
Patricia DeLong Joe Pozen
Samantha Fedorik Joe Robin
Dan Kelly Harry Stone

Pray for our Beloved Dead
Mitch Allen, brother-in-law of Ginny and Bob Grecco
Joesph Gierlasinski, father of Linda Bremer and Norman
Lenny Kamenjarin, son of Diane and Len
John Kowalik, father of Joan O’Brien and Michael
Grant LaRocque, son of John and Janet, brother of Rebecca, Robert and Emily
Mary Maska, mother of Kathy Steider and Mary Jo Benak, grandmother of Bob, Jamie, Anna and Jeff, sister of Joan Kravcik

Wedding Banns
Irene Duff and Sean Rooney

Peter said to Jesus:
You are the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
And Jesus replied:
You are Peter,
and upon this rock
I will build my Church.
Mt 16:16,18

This Week at SJC
Monday, June 30
10:30 a.m. Christian Meditation, Step 11
2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
2:30 p.m. Spiritual Journaling
Tuesday, July 1
9:30 a.m. Focus on Sunday Scriptures Group
6:30 p.m. Meditation Ministry Meeting
Wednesday, July 2
2:00 p.m. Christian Meditation
7:30 p.m. Christian Meditation
Friday, July 4
9:00 a.m. Independence Day Mass
Saturday, July 5
7:00 a.m. Christian Meditation

Mass Intentions
Monday, June 30, The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
7:45 Our Beloved Dead; Catherine Boyle
Tuesday, July 1, Blessed Junipero
7:45 Larry Hanson; Vivian Stephanini
Wednesday, July 2
7:45 Frances Albertson; Special Intention
Thursday, July 3, St. Thomas, apostle
7:45 Dr. Jerry Scanlon; Frank Hurley
Friday, July 4, Independence Day
9:00 Stephanie Groszek; Barbara Mann
Saturday, July 5, St. Elizabeth of Portugal
8:00 Loraine Janda; Theresa Budzinski
5:00 Edward & Sophie Ciszek;
Mike Cardamone
Sunday, July 6, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 Francesco Brotto; Thomas J. Stack
9:00 Regina Dalton; Bruno Shukis
10:45 Virginia Hague Boylson; Betsy Hage;
Larry Hanson
5:00 John Hogan; Kathleen Gleason

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

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Rev. Joseph F. McDonnell, Pastor Emeritus
Contact Fr. Joe through the Parish Office
Rev. William J. Vollmer, Associate Pastor
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SUNDAY DATE OF BULLETIN — June 29, 2014

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
The St. John of the Cross Parish Beloved Retreat for men and women will be held on October 17—19, 2014 at the Carmelite Center in Darien. The weekend will be filled with prayer, listening, reflection, and discussion that invites a greater awareness of God’s great love and encourages us to be more and more like the One who knows us so well. Come and be filled. Come and discover your belovedness.

Retreat Dates: Friday, October 17 at 7pm-Sunday, October 19 at 2pm

Location: Carmelite Center in Darien

Register online or by dropping an envelope at the parish center with your contact information with a check for $100 (down payment)

Register by July 30 to receive a $30 discount per person

Per Person Cost: Private Room $280 or Shared Room $230 per person before discount

Partial Scholarships are available through Fr. David

Questions: Marianne Firlit at mgfirlit@gmail.com or Andrea Gagliani at agagliani@sbcglobal.net

Can you claim being Beloved as the core of your truth? Learn with us to plant the seed of Belovedness in yourself and learn to nurture it so you can let it shine.
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