0 Woman, great is your faith!

August 17, 2014

20 Sunday in Ordinary Time

...our mission is to love as Christ loved
and to proclaim the Good News.
Living the Gospel

The Canaanite woman in the gospel refuses to be rebuffed even by the exclusionary and harsh words of Jesus. Nothing gets in the way of her seeking healing for her daughter “tormented by a demon.” The woman “keeps calling out” to Jesus because she wants him to remove the demon—to remove the evil which separates. Her great faith moves Jesus to grant her request. Faith, by nature, is persistent. Persistence, by nature, is single-minded. Single-mindedness, by nature, achieves the end it seeks. Like the woman in the gospel seeking healing for her daughter, our faith must be great enough to overcome barriers, must focus persistently on Jesus, and must bear the fruit of salvation and healing for others. Our faith must be strengthened by hope and spurred to action by great love. The woman in the gospel demonstrates something significant about faith: sheer persistence matters. Although rebuffed by disciples and ignored by Jesus, she persists with surprising results. Rather than being sent away without her request fulfilled, the woman’s persistent faith moves Jesus to grant her request: “the woman’s daughter was healed.” Yes, deep faith can move the mountain of religious tradition and achieve the end it seeks.

There is a fine line between “persistence” and “nagging.” The latter is about getting what we want, being turned toward ourselves. The persistence in the gospel which models great faith arises from being turned toward the good of others. Persistence in seeking the good of others is possible only when we have established healthy relationships. Our prayer and spiritual disciplines are related to our good works, for they are all concrete ways we establish solid relationships with God and each other. Both prayer and good works require persistence, for that is how we form ourselves in the good habits of being turned toward God and others.

May we be a source of encouragement to all who search for greater faith. May we focus our hearts and expectations on Jesus, the source of all healing and Life. Amen.

Faith, Hope & Love

St. Paul commends the people of this local church for three things: their work of faith, their labor of love and their endurance in hope. He also reminds the people that God loves them and chose them to live the Gospel. The consequences are many: the work of faith is to impact their daily decisions; the labor of love means that everyone — be it at work or play — deserves deep respect and care; the endurance in hope calls the people to be encouraged in making a difference in this world so as to enjoy the blessings of heaven. Faith, hope and love are not abstract theological virtues but graced habits that plunge us into the messiness of history so that we can bring light where there is darkness, love where there is hatred and hope where there is despair.

How does your faith impact your everyday life?

Bishop Morneau is the auxiliary bishop of the Green Bay Diocese and pastor of Resurrection Parish in Allouez.

All of us struggle with persistence—in prayer, in good works, with any spiritual discipline. The gospel woman reminds us that sometimes the sheer persistence can be the prayer, the good work, the spiritual discipline.
Why do some people have a strong faith and others a weak faith? Why do some people find it easy to believe when others find it hard? If our faith is weak, is there anything we can do to make it stronger?

Asking why some people have weak faith and others strong faith is like asking why some people have poor health and others do not. Some have poor health and a fragile body because their parents did; some people have poor health because they do not take care of themselves. What is true of physical health is also true of spiritual health, our faith.

Some people have weak faith because their parents did. Spiritual health is inherited in almost the same way physical health is. If parents are lukewarm in their faith, this usually rubs off on their children. On the other hand, our faith may be weak because we have not taken care of it.

Regardless of the reason for our weak faith, what can we do to strengthen it?

Faith might be compared to a muscle. If we don't exercise a muscle, it grows weak. On the other hand, the more you exercise it, the stronger it grows. Our faith, like our muscles, will respond to exercise.

There are several way to exercise faith. We can study the gospels and talk about them. We can be more attentive at Mass. We can take up the habit of daily prayer. But there's one exercise that is especially powerful for our faith that deserves attention. Here is a story.

There was an old woman whose spiritual health began to deteriorate as rapidly as her physical health. One day she discussed her problem with an old priest. She tells him about her weak faith and the doubts she is beginning to have: Is there a God who cares? Is there life after death?

The old priest responded, "There is no way to prove these things, but you can become more sure of them."

"How?" cried the old woman.

"By love," he said. "Try to love your neighbor from the heart. The more you love, the surer you will become about God's existence and life after death. The more you love, the stronger your faith will grow and the weaker your doubts will become. This is sure. This has been tried. This works."

The old priest's message is beautiful, and he makes the point that faith and love go hand in hand. They are like the two rails on a train track. Where you find one, you find the other. Faith and love are linked like body and soul.

Albert Schweitzer made the same point: Do you want to believe in Jesus? Do you really want to believe in him? Then you must do something for him. In this age of doubt there is no other way. If for his sake you give someone something to eat, or drink, or wear—which Jesus promised to bless as though it were done to him—then you will see that you really did it for him. Jesus will reveal himself to you, as one who is alive.

Back to the woman in the gospel today. She came to Jesus for another, not herself. She came out of love. She came as a loving, faith-filled mother.

If you are a parent who feels the need to strengthen your faith, do what the woman did. Begin the habit, starting this week, of going to Jesus daily to ask his blessing on your children. If you are a young person who feels the need to strengthen your faith, begin acting in a more loving way toward your parents and brothers and sisters.

Even the most physically healthy person has bad days. One day life is depressing and exasperating. We find fault with everyone and everything. On another day it's exciting and exhilarating. We love everyone and everything.

Faith is a lot like this too. Some days it is bright and exciting; other days it is dark and exasperating. The next time you have a bad faith day keep in mind the story below; it will help you get through the day and keep your perspective.

Shortly after World War II, workmen were clearing out debris from a bombed out house in Cologne, Germany. On one of the cellar walls of the house they found a moving inscription. It had apparently been written there by a fugitive Jew who had used the basement to hide from Nazis. The inscription read:

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
I believe in love even when I feel it not.
I believe in God even when he is silent.

Excerpts used with permission. MLink
The disciples couldn’t hinder that courageous Canaanite woman, nor religious boundaries, nor gender rules, when she told him her needs.

Dear Lord,
give us faith like this wonderful woman.
Make us persistent, even pushy, fearless, and creative, whatever it takes.
Let us hear, “O, great is your faith. Let it be done for you as you wish,” said to us.

Just remember: “Faith is a gift from God,” as Fr. Richard McBrien, a professor of theology, said, “but … unless the gift is accepted and the ‘package’ is opened, it is of no real value to the intended receiver. It is as if it doesn’t even exist. Accordingly, only a faith that is thought about … and acted upon (via discipleship) is a living faith.”

Believing is an action verb. Faith is about action.

Richard Rohr Meditation: Jesus Praises Faith More than Love

Without the sign of Jonah—the pattern of new life only through death (“in the belly of the whale”)—Christianity remains largely an impotent ideology, another way to “win” instead of the transformative pain of faith. Or it becomes a language of ascent instead of the treacherous journey of descent that characterizes Jonah, Jeremiah, Job, John the Baptist, and Jesus. After Jesus, Christians used the metaphor “the way of the cross.” Unfortunately, it became “what Jesus did to save us”—or a negative theology of atonement—instead of the necessary pattern that is redemptive for all of us. Yes, love is always the final goal, but faith seems to be the way you get there. It is the only way to keep your mind, heart, and body open—when it wants to close down.

Faith is thus an end in itself. Faith is not what we do in order to get to heaven. Faith is not belonging to a group or believing a set of intellectual truths. Mutual perfect faith would be a bit of heaven now! To have faith is already to have come alive. “Your faith has saved you” (Luke 18:42) is the way Jesus put it to the blind man. Faith is the opposite of resentment, cynicism and negativity. Faith is always, finally, a self-fulfilling prophecy. Faith actually begins to create what it desires. Faith always re-creates the good world. Without faith, we will inevitably sink into various kinds of despair. Faith is a matter of having new eyes, seeing everything, even our most painful suffering, through and with the eyes of God. It is the only way to keep on the path toward love.
St. John of the Cross Parish 2014 Family Fest Committee raised $77,000 for our parish which enables us to live out our mission, celebrating the Sacraments, reaching out to those in need locally and across the world, and pursuing life-enriching religious education and formation opportunities for children, youth and adults. Fundraising also helps the parish cover its operational expenses from buildings and grounds to maintenance and utilities.

Our 2014 Festival was a huge success thanks to our festival committee, our faithful parishioners and guests, and our generous sponsors. We sincerely hope that you enjoyed spending the sunny summer weekend with us. Our sponsors are listed below so you'll be able to say thanks as you patronize them this year.

Adolf Funeral Home
Al's Auto
Arctic Snow Plowing, Inc.
Aurelio's Pizza
Automatic Rain
Baines & Winslow Construction
Todd & Eden Bateman
BISG LLC
Bolt Trash Company
Cameo Endodontics
Chuck's BBQ
Community Bank W Springs
Conboy Westchester Funeral
Creations Landscaping LTD
The Daily Method - La Grange
Davanti Enoteca
Alexander R Domanskis
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Finn Insurance
Francis & Francis Accounting
Griffin Custom Homes
Goombay Bash
Heartland Bank
Ann-Marie Hickey, Realtor
Horton's Lighting
Interfaith Community Partners
Isabella's Desserts
Kirschbaum Bakery
Tony LaMantia
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Jude Marchetti, Realtor
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Ed Napleton - Elmhurst
Naylor Automotive Engineering
Tricia Orndorff, Realtor
Overt Press
Pacella Trucking
Papa Charlie's Italian Beef
Petersen & Assoc Partnership
Pinnacle Financial Group
The Portillo Restaurant Group
Prairie Medical Group
RyTech, LLC
J2 Santi
St. Ignatius High School
SJC Men's Club
SJC Women's Club
Lori Scelsi
Scout Electric
Skydan Real Estate
SSI
Tri Star Cabinet & Top Co
Turano Bread
United Home Loans, Inc.
Vedder Price
Village Hardware
Walsh Construction
Willow Insurance
Wolf and Company
Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross Parish faith community:
Katie and John Dills and Family
Elizabeth and Robert Cooper and Family
Alberta and Brent Limoges and Family
Ana and James Janson and Family
Julie and Matthew Canna and Family
Maria Rogowski and Family
Shannon and David Leuzzi and Family
Julie and Larry Krema and Family
Elizabeth and Joseph Poslusny 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 708.246.4404 x155

Are you grieving? Do you need someone to help you make sense of life? Here are some resources that you might find helpful.

Grief Support Groups
Little Company of Mary Hospital, Evergreen Park—Call 708-229-5484 to register.
Adults: 6 Wednesdays beginning Oct. 1 from 7:30-9:30pm. Groups are formed according to age. Registration required.
Children: 8 Mondays beginning Sept. 15 from 6-7:30pm for kids ages 5 to 18. Early registration required.

Individual or Family Counseling
High quality professional counseling is available through Catholic Charities Holbrook Counseling Center. There are many downtown and suburban locations, including our parish rectory. Call 312-655-7725 for more information.

Spiritual Direction
Marianne Firlit, our parish certified Spiritual Director, will help you draw closer to God, recognizing him in the experiences of daily life. Marianne’s office is in the rectory. Email her at mgfirlit@gmail.com.

Music at SJC
If you love music, take advantage of this opportunity to create vibrant music for worship in our parish! Music ministries will provide you with a creative outlet, an invitation to deepen your prayer life, and the opportunity to meet new people. Contact Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries to find the best match for your musical gifts and your availability.

Cherub Choir (Grades 1-3)
Youth Choir (Grades 4-8)
Sunday 5 Alive! Teen Choir (Sunday 5 p.m.)
Contemporary Ensemble (Saturday 5 p.m.)
Traditional Choir (Sunday 10:45 a.m.)
Resurrection Choir (funerals)
Cantors
Instrumentalists

Contact us to get involved!
Jessica Koch, Director of Music Ministries
jkoch@stjohnofthecross.org (708) 246-4404, ext. 136
Ann Bourjaily-Maney, Associate Director of Music Ministries (Teens & Children)
bourjman@sbcglobal.net (708) 246-4171
Visit our website for more information:
www.stjohnofthecross.org

The mission of Music Ministries at St. John of the Cross Parish is to proclaim the gospel message through song by providing vibrant music for worship in our parish. There is an opportunity for every parishioner to participate: as a choir member, instrumentalist, cantor, or participant in congregational song.
Sacraments and Christian Living

There is a certain parallel between the sacraments and a person's life. Between our birth (Baptism) and our growing old (Anointing of the Sick), we mature (Confirmation), nourish ourselves (Eucharist), establish relationships (Matrimony), repair those relationships (Reconciliation), and do work that serves the community (Holy Orders). The sacraments are not intended to be supplements to our lives. They are to be part and parcel of our lives, so that at each moment of our life, there is a sacrament to help us with what we are doing. To look at it another way, each moment of our lives is sacramental, a sign of God's presence in the world. The sacraments give us another message, that the ordinary things we use in our lives—water, oil, bread—and indeed our very bodies, are instruments of grace. The sacraments show us that nothing in our lives should be detached from our journey back to our creator.

How to Raise Kids Who Care

How do you raise kids who care? Education professor William Damon says that one of the first and most important steps in raising moral children is to nurture their ability to feel empathy. According to Damon, “Empathy toward those in distress” is one of the “elements of a universal morality.” The good news for parents is that empathy arises naturally in children at an early age and is easily nurtured through fun family activities such as watching movies together. You don’t have to go looking for special events or situations to make this happen. A child receives the best moral education during normal daily situations when adults are actively engaged in that child’s life. Here are a few ordinary opportunities where you might cultivate empathy in your children:

1. **Read stories and watch movies together.** Occasionally stop and ask your child, “How do you think this character feels?” There is no right answer. The point is to encourage empathetic feelings and reflection. Such questioning will give children opportunities to hone their ability to sense the feelings of others. It will also help them to base their future actions on compassion rather than self-centeredness.

2. **Allow your child to fully declare their feelings when they're having a difficult time with a sibling or friend.** Ask your child if they can also express what the other person might be feeling and why. The point of this exercise is not to put down or dismiss your child’s feelings but to widen his or her sense of all that is truly going on in the situation.

3. **Create a safe climate for your child to take responsibility for his or her actions—both good and bad.** Professor Damon says, “There is no more effective facilitator of moral development than fostering children’s willingness to take responsibility for good and bad deeds.” You can encourage this willingness by responding calmly and evenly when your child admits to misdeeds. Your child can still experience the consequences of those misdeeds, including your measured expression of disappointment or anger. Emotional tirades will just suppress your child’s willingness to admit mistakes.

4. **Be a good listener.** Take the time for open conversation with your children and answer their questions honestly, this provides endless opportunities to talk about caring and respecting for others. Simply lead by example and you’ll accomplish a lot.
Chicago Catholic Scripture School

Year I Basic Bible Study

is coming to

St. John of the Cross Parish

this fall on Wednesday evenings
beginning September 3rd.

Learn more about
CCSS Certification
and the
Senior Lecture Series Option

The Chicago Catholic Scripture School is a four-year program covering the entire Bible. It consists of two phases: basic (Years 1 & 2) and advanced (Years 3 & 4).

The first two years focus on methods of study and praying with the Bible, and a comprehensive study of some major books of the Old and New Testaments. Year 1: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings Year 2: Mark, Luke, Acts, Pauline Letters, John, Revelation


Food for Thought: Think of it as a faith Olympics. Olympians all have a body and muscles to begin with: arms, legs and a bunch of weights lying around or a track outside. But to become truly Olympian, an athlete has to use what he’s been given. It’s called training. That’s why Pope Benedict quoted St. Augustine as saying that believers “strengthen themselves by believing.”
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.

Infant Baptism at SJC

A life of happiness, holiness and faith

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.

Our parish community prayerfully supports and congratulates the following families who had their child baptized last Sunday! Pictured during the final blessing from left to right are: Deacon Rich Voytas, Henry James with parents, James and Elizabeth Chenelle, Caroline Grace with parents, Michael and Nicole McCaskey, and Mia Camille with parents Anthony and Kirsten Ciabattari.

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Faith isn't something you ever simply achieve. It's not something that you ever nail down as a fait accompli. Faith works this way: Some days you walk on water and other days you sink like a stone. Faith invariably gives way to doubt before it again recovers its confidence, then it loses it again.

We see this graphically illustrated in the famous story in the gospels of Peter walking on water. The story goes this way: The disciples had just witnessed a major miracle, Jesus feeding more than 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fishes. Having just witnessed a miracle, their faith was strong. Soon afterwards they get into a boat to cross a lake. Jesus is not with them. A few miles out they run into a fierce storm and begin to panic. Jesus comes walking towards them on the water. Initially they're frightened and take him for a ghost. But he calms their fear by telling them, right from the center of the storm, that he is not just Jesus but that he is God's very presence.

Peter is immediately buoyed up in his faith and asks Jesus to let him too walk on the water. Jesus invites him to do so and Peter gets out of the boat confidently and begins to walk on the water. But then, realizing what he was doing and the incredulous nature of it, he immediately starts to sink, cries out for help, and Jesus has to reach out and rescue him from drowning.

What we see illustrated here are two things that lie at the heart of our experience of faith, namely, that faith (literally) has its ups and downs and that it works best when we don't confuse it with our own powers.

Faith has its ups and downs: We see this, almost pictorially illustrated, in the incident of Peter walking on the water. Initially his faith feels strong and he confidently steps onto the sea and begins to walk. But, almost immediately upon realizing what he was doing, he starts to sink. Our own faith works exactly like that, at times it lets us walk on water and at other times we sink like a stone. The gospel-image of Peter walking on the sea speaks for itself.

However if we feel discouraged because our faith vacillates in this way, we can take consolation from these words from Julian of Norwich. Describing one of her visions, she writes: "After this He [Jesus] showed a most excellent spiritual pleasure in my soul: I was completely filled with everlasting certainty, powerfully sustained without any painful fear. This feeling was so joyful and so spiritual that I was wholly in peace and in repose and there was nothing on earth that would have grieved me. This lasted only a while, and I was changed and left to myself in such sadness and weariness of my life, and annoyance with myself that scarcely was I able to have patience to live. ... And immediately after this, our Blessed Lord gave me again the comfort and the rest in my soul, in delight and in security so blissful and so powerful that no fear, no sorrow, no bodily pain that could be suffered would have distressed me. And then pain showed again to my feeling, and then the joy and delight, and now the one, and now the other, various times." (Showings 15)

Julian of Norwich was a renowned mystic with an exceptional faith and, yet, like Peter, she too vacillated between walking on water and sinking like a stone. Her confident feelings came - but they also left.

As well, faith works best when we don't confuse it with our own efforts. For example, Donald Nichol, in his book, Holiness, shares a story of a British missionary working in Africa. At one point, early on in his stay there, the missionary was called upon to mediate a dispute between two tribes. He had no preparation for this, was naïve, and totally out of his depth. But he gave himself over to the task in faith and, surprisingly, reconciled the two tribes. Afterwards, buoyed by this success, he began to fancy himself as mediator and began to present himself as an arbiter of disputes. But now, however, his efforts were invariably unhelpful. Here's the irony: when he didn't know what he was doing, but trusted solely in God, he was able to walk on water; as soon as he began to wrap himself in the process, he sank like a stone. Faith works like that: We can walk on water only as long as we don't think that we are doing it with our own strength.

The Sufi mystic, Rumi, once wrote that we live with a deep secret that sometimes we know, and then not, and then we know it again. Faith works like that, some days we walk on water, other days we sink like a stone, and then later we walk on water again.

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.
RCIA or the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the way that those interested in the Catholic Church learn about the faith and join our community. The process traces its roots back to the earliest days of Christian communities.

The process is for . . .

- Those never baptized who would like to become a Catholic,
- Those baptized in another Christian Church who would like to become Catholic, or
- Those already baptized as a Catholic but who have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation.

The RCIA gives people on a faith journey an opportunity to “Come and See” not only what the Catholic Church and a life of faith in it is all about, but also an opportunity to explore how Jesus Christ may be calling them into his life in a deeper way. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about becoming Catholic invite them to attend the Evening of Inquiry on September 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Church Community Room.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION CONTACT FR. BILL VOLLMER AT 708 246 4404
Calendar of Events:
August 17: DOS Team meets at Teen Space
September 7: Kick-off Party, Parish Center

REGISTER NOW for the 2014-15 Crossroads session!! Forms at http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/new-registration/-St. John’s is looking for upperclassmen or adults to join the Freshman Experience Team and the Day of the Spirit Retreat Team. A great way to help incoming teens and a great form of service, contact Katie Hayes if you wish to be apart of either of these great experiences!

St. John of the Cross is also looking for couples to become freshmen home group leaders. If you wish to do so, contact Mary Stadler at stadler2@hotmail.com

Spotlight: Sean Thomas
Sean recently went on Work Tour, and he loved every bit of it. When asked about his experience, he said, “The reflections at night really demonstrated to me that we all come from different backgrounds but we can find a common ground with God.”

Youth Catechesis News

Top 10 Reasons to Volunteer at YC
10. GROW – in your own faith and deepen your relationship with Christ
9. Your BAPTISM calls you to share in Jesus’ ministry
8. Children and teens, more than even, need to HEAR the Good News
7. Children and teens, more than even, need to ENCOUNTER good role models of faith
6. You have much to SHARE with our youth and other volunteers
5. OUTSTANDING resources at your fingertips to use in class
4. You will have FUN and make new FRIENDS
3. You will help others DEEPEN their relationship with Jesus
2. You will be PASSING ON a 2000 year old tradition
1. JESUS is CALLING YOU!!

All Adults and High School teens are welcome to join our ministry!

Youth Catechesis (YC) has 21 classes:
- Sunday, 10:15-11:30 am
- Monday 6:15-7:30 pm

And there are small groups that meet in homes 15 Sundays each year during 7th and 8th grade.

Volunteer as a Catechist Catechist’s Aide Small Group Leader Please call the YC office or email jcaschetta@stjohnofthecross.org

The benefits are Out Of This World!!

Youth Catechesis Office yc@sjcross.org * 708-246-6760 * www.stjohnofthecross.org/yc

FAITH: Exercise what we’ve been given.
Marriages can suffer from bad habits or “ruts.” Can you identify a rut that you’ve slipped into in your marriage? (Habits of criticism or defensiveness, old grudges held too long.) Ask forgiveness and strive for change.

Every Marriage is a Mixed Religion Marriage
Pam is an active Catholic attending Mass every Sunday, while Joe comes from a “Christmas, Easter, and funerals” family. They are both Catholics, but theirs is also a mixed religion marriage. Although they were both baptized in the same faith tradition, they are coming to realize that the similarity of their religious practice ends there.

“Mixed religion” usually refers to a marriage in which the couple is of two different faith traditions, but actually each person approaches God in a personal as well as an “institutional” way. While some people have no religious tradition, they may be curious about religion and open to learning more. Some, often with reason, are hostile to organized religion themselves, or may be mystified that church means so much to their spouse. Still, the religion and conscience of each partner is to be treated with respect.

Successful couples, whether same or interfaith, have found common spiritual values – common ground – to celebrate and pass on to their children. Each partner should try to be a better member of his or her own religion in the process of building spirituality as a couple. The way a person, and a couple, decides to grow closer to God – to be holy – will vary from family to family. However, with humility, we can find common ground. Investigate your own, or your spouse’s, faith tradition and learn about one custom or prayer practice that is new to you.

Try praying with your spouse in his or her tradition. Invite your spouse to pray with you. Build bridges of understanding. Learn about a religion that you know little about now. Ask a neighbor or friend whose religion is different to tell some stories of their own religious upbringing. Lauri Przybysz

Say “thank you,” especially for the little things. It lets your spouse know you noticed and appreciated what they did, no matter how little the task.

Job Opportunity
There is a full-time maintenance position open at our parish. A full job description is available on our parish website. Send your resume and letter of interest to Frank DiPompeo at fdipompeo@stjohnofthecross.org

Donations that Make a Difference
Furniture
Sharing Connections Furniture Bank is in need of kitchen / dining room tables and chairs and dressers. You may call for a pick-up at 630-971-0565.

Freezer Chest & Refrigerator
Our Sharing Parish, St. Mark, which operates a food pantry, is in need of an upright freezer chest and a refrigerator, either new or used. Call Rosie at 773-772-2271 to donate.

Volunteer Opportunity
Our parish Senior Club is looking for a volunteer or two who could help in the kitchen with serving and clean up at the 3 luncheons scheduled on Friday, Oct. 10, Thursday, Feb. 12th and Friday, March 13. Contact: Gerry Mazzone at 708-246-0721 for more information.

Benefit Dinner Bishop Abramowicz Seminary
On Sunday, September 7, 2014, the annual benefit dinner for Bishop Abramowicz Seminary will take place at the Westin O’Hare Hotel in Rosemont. The evening will start with cocktails and silent auction at 5:00 pm followed by dinner. Tickets are $175 per person. For tickets and reservations please call Joan Trandel 708-484-6513.

Parish Babysitting
Each Sunday during the 9am and 10:45am Masses the parish provides free sitting for small children in the Garden Room of the Rectory. Simply ring the front bell to be buzzed in. There will be no sitting on the Labor Day holiday weekend, Sunday August 31.

Going Electronic
Change the way your donation arrives to our parish. Use the form on the next page to make your Sunday Offertory donation via your checking account or credit card. Just drop your completed form in an envelope to the parish center, attention MJ. Or visit our parish website and fill out the form electronically. You can donate weekly, monthly, quarterly or once a year. It’s safe, convenient and provides the parish with a consistent revenue flow and increased efficiency in record keeping. (It is recommended that you donate from your checking account as it is less costly for the parish which absorbs the fees associated with e-giving.) Donations can be stopped with the click of a mouse or a phone call to MJ at the parish center (708-246-4404 x123). Parishioners enrolled in the “old” ACH donation program through the Community Bank of Western Springs are asked to call MJ to switch to our newer version.
Authorization for Electronic Donation to St. John of the Cross Parish, Western Springs, Illinois

Name: ___________________________ __________New Authorization
Address: ___________________________ __________Change Contribution Amount
City, State, Zip: ___________________________ __________Change Contribution Frequency
Phone: ___________________________ __________Envelope # __________Change Financial Institution or Account
Email: ___________________________ __________Discontinue Electronic Contribution

Account Type (check one) Name of bank
☐ Checking Account (please attached a voided check)
☐ Savings Account Acct. # __________Routing # __________

or

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number ___________________________ Expiration Date __________

I would like to schedule my donation to occur:
☐ Weekly starting __________/ __________/ __________ mm/dd/yyyy
☐ Monthly on the __________10th or __________25th of each month
☐ Annually on the __________10th or __________25th of __________ (month) each year
☐ One-time/Single on the __________10th or __________25th of __________ (month)

$________ Sunday Offertory
$________ Parish Maintenance/Landscaping
$________ Sharing Parish

Annual Holy Day & Special Collections

| Transfer on the __________10th or __________25th of the month of the collection each year |
|----------|------------------------------------------|----------|
| $________ Solemnity of Mary, January 1 | $________ Seminaries, September |
| $________ Latin America, January | $________ World Mission Sunday, October |
| $________ SJC Support a Student, January | $________ All Saints, November 1 |
| $________ Easter Flowers, March | $________ All Souls, November 2 |
| $________ Central/Eastern Europe, March | $________ Thanksgiving Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund |
| $________ Holy Thursday Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund | $________ Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Nov. |
| $________ Good Friday Holy Land | $________ Christmas Flowers, December |
| $________ Easter Sunday | $________ Immaculate Conception, December 8 |
| $________ Catholic Charities, May | $________ Religious Retirement, December |
| $________ Retirement Fund for Priests, June | $________ Share Christmas, December |
| $________ Peter's Pence, June | $________ Christmas Day |
| $________ Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary |

Please transfer my gift from my checking acct., savings acct. or credit card. I understand my future gifts will be transferred directly from my account. I understand that I may increase, decrease, or suspend my gift at any time through the online donation form at www.stjohnofthecross.org, or by contacting the church by phone or mail. All gifts provided to St. John of the Cross Parish as electronic transactions comply with U.S. Law.

Signature (required) ___________________________ Date __________
Pray for our Sick

Bette Barron
Michael Janowiak
Lucine Kassis
Steven LaVoie

Marriage Banns

Benjamin Andrews and Joan Apolinario

Pray for our Beloved Dead

Donald Kaiser, father of Debbie (Anselmo Marquez) Kaiser
Michael Goedert, nephew of Bill Goedert and cousin of Patricia O’Brien

Calm me, quiet me, settle me... Steady me, balance me, ground me... Plant me, root me, embed me... Support me, sustain me, protect me... Forgive me, pardon me, free me... Refresh me, restore me, heal me... Enfold me, embrace me, hold me... Lord, hear my prayer today!

Two-Word Prayers

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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 is out of the office. Contact MJ Martin 708-246-4404 x123 or Frank 708-769-2353

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS —
Saturday, August 23rd
Morning of Meditation
8:30am Hospitality, 9am-11:30am Program in the Parish Center

Reflections of a 20 Year Meditator
featuring
Sr. Josephine O’Brien, IBVM

Sr. Josephine will reflect on her years with the daily spiritual discipline of Christian Meditation and its effect in her life. There will be 2 periods of meditation and a time of Lectio Divina, as well as time for sharing. The morning begins with hospitality at 8:30 am and our program will run from 9—11:30am. For further information contact Mary at 708-246-5108 or mary105105@gmail.com. Registration is requested but not required. Free will offering. The morning is sponsored by the Christian Meditation groups at St. John of the Cross Parish. www.wccm.org, www.wccm-usa.org

Christian Meditation, also known as contemplative prayer, is the prayer of silence. In meditation we go beyond words, thoughts and images into the presence of God within. Meditation, when prayed seriously (twice daily with a mantra), is not only a tool for self-improvement or relaxation, but is a discipline that will change the way you live.

There are physical and psychological benefits or spiritual fruits of meditation that include stress reduction, internal peace, clarity in problem solving, improved relationships, care for oneself, patience, and reduced dependence on alcohol. These fruits can lead to improved attention to people, a greater capacity for giving and receiving love, joy, and self-knowledge, the knowledge of God.

Parishioners can experience group meditation four times a week in the parish center: Mondays at 10:30am (11th step meditation), Wednesdays at 2pm and 7:30pm and Saturdays at 7am.