The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will live for ever.

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time
June 14, 2015
In 1812, three year old Louis Braille, son of a French leather worker, had an accident in his father's shop. The accident left him totally blind. When Louis grew older his family enrolled him in a school for the blind in Paris. There students read from huge books by feeling big, raised letters with their fingers. It was a slow process that took 15 minutes to read one paragraph.

One day a retired French army officer, Charles Barbier, visited the school and gave the students a demonstration of what he called "night writing." It was a system of writing invented by the French army to send coded messages back and forth on battlefields at night. The system involved punching a series of holes in a paper according to patterns. These patterns could be read by feeling them with fingers. The process took up a lot of space and only the simplest messages could be sent. But it was a way to communicate at night when flashlights were unheard of.

Young Louis Braille was fascinated by the system. He was convinced it could be used to make reading easier for the blind. So he went to work simplifying the system. He also replaced punched holes with raised dots. Louis's system caught on and spread across the world. Today we know it as Braille. Ironically the system didn't become widespread until after Louis Braille's death. When he died the newspapers did not even carry a notice of his death.

This story underscores three things that need underscoring in today's world.

The first thing is the same thing that today's Scripture readings underscore: Just as the greatest trees in a forest often grow out of the tiniest seed, so the greatest movements in the world often grow out of the tiniest beginnings. Louis Braille's tiny idea grew into a great movement that revolutionized the world of the blind.

The second thing that the story of Louis Braille underscores is that the people who begin great movements are often tiny and insignificant compared to the brilliant scholars and educated people of his day. Yet, it was he who came up with the revolutionary idea of Braille.

The third thing that the story of Louis Braille underscores is that people who begin great movements often die without seeing the results of their work. Braille did not develop into a worldwide movement until after Louis's death.

And so the story of Louis Braille illustrates three important points. First it illustrates that the greatest movements in history, like the kingdom of God, often grow out of the tiniest seeds. Jesus himself said of the kingdom of God: "It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth."

Second, it illustrates that the people who begin these great movements in history are often tiny and insignificant themselves. Commenting on this, St. Paul writes: "God purposely chose...what the world considers weak in order to shame the powerful. He chose what the world looks down on and despises and thinks is nothing, in order to destroy what the world thinks is important" (1 Corinthians 1:27-28)

Finally the story of Louis Braille illustrates that the people who begin great movements often die before receiving credit for the movement they started. This is something that often happens. Jesus himself died when the kingdom of God was still a tiny and insignificant seed. Susan B. Anthony died when her movement for women's rights was still a tiny and insignificant seed. Martin Luther King died when his movement for civil rights was still a tiny and insignificant seed.

The practical message contained in today's readings is this: No seed is so tiny that God cannot make a tree out of it. If we think that anything we can do to change people's attitudes toward the destruction of innocent life is too tiny to make a difference, we have not understood the practical message of today's scripture readings. If we think that anything we do to change people's attitudes toward the destruction of our planet is too tiny to make a difference, we have not understood. This is the practical message that Jesus teaches today. This is the Good News that Jesus wants us to communicate to our world: No seed is so small that it cannot grow into a great tree.

I am only a spark, make me a fire. I am only a string, make me a lyre. I am only an ant hill, make me a mountain. I am only a drop, make me a fountain. I am only a feather, make me a wing. I am only a beggar, make me a king. Amado Nervo

Used with permission. M. Link.
Living the Gospel

In this Gospel both the land and the mustard seed actualize their potential—they do what by nature they are created to do. A parable is meant to take us beyond the literal. These two are used by Jesus to help us grasp what is surely a mystery: the “kingdom of God.” This kingdom is not a place or space. It is not something we can discover or conquer. Instead, these parables invite us to be who we are and allow God’s kingdom to conquer us. These parables call us to surrender to God’s word and action within us, to cooperate with God in bringing about a world filled with abundance and promise. These parables challenge us to make the kingdom of God a visible reality shaping our daily Gospel living.

If we are to be God’s abundant harvest, then our first task for living the Gospel is to hear God’s word. In that divine word we receive God’s direction for our lives, hear God’s will, and determine how we are to live God’s mystery of salvation. The word is like the mustard seed that is planted in us. We nurture it with caring acts, help it to grow by watering it with the tears of our self-giving, weed it by rooting out all in us that is opposed to God’s desires for us. Each good or not so good choice we make each day affects the growth of the mustard seed—word that God plants deep within us. It is never enough to merely hear God’s word. We must always let that word inform the actions we undertake. Understanding God’s word is a matter of standing up for Gospel values, standing under those who need support and encouragement, standing for Jesus and his invitation to live as he did. ©Living Liturgy

For Reflection:

• I nurture God’s word in my heart by . . . the fruit this bears for others is . . .
• I make the kingdom of God visible when I . . .

Background on the Gospel

After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days—Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday’s Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable’s meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.

Today’s Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is “how it is with the kingdom of God.” A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God’s kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus’ part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God’s kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord’s Prayer, we pray, “thy kingdom come.” We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith. Loyola Press
Open Hands
Prayer is to be in God’s presence with open hands and an open heart. There are many things in my life to which I cling with a clinched fist – my possessions for sure, but the immaterial things as well—the work I do, the position I hold, the friends I have, my ideas, my principles, my image. If I should open my fist, they still remain. Nothing drops out. But my hands are open. And that is what prayer is. After a while, if I am willing to remain long enough with open hands, the Lord will come. He will have a look and roam through my hands to see what I have. He may be surprised—so many things! Then he will look at me and ask:

‘Would you mind if I take out this little bit?’
‘And I answer:
‘Of course you may take it out. That’s why am here with open hands.’
‘And perhaps the Lord will look another time at me and ask:
‘Would you mind if I put something else in your hands?’
‘And I answer:
‘Of course you may.’
‘That is the heart of prayer. The Lord may take something out, and he may put something in. No one else can do this, but he may. He is the Lord. I have only to open my heart and my hands and just stay there long enough for the Lord to come.’

Peter G. van Breemen, SJ
Jim Manney in Ignatian Prayer

Prayer is a matter of relationship. Intimacy is the basic issue, not answers to problems or resolutions “to be better.” Many of life’s problems and challenges have no answers; we can only live with and through them. Problems and challenges, however, can be faced and lived through with more peace and resilience if people know that they are not alone. A man’s wife will not return from the dead, but the pain is more bearable when he has poured out his sorrow, his anger, and his despair to God and has experienced God’s intimate presence.

—Excerpted from Letting God Come Close by William A. Barry, SJ

May we truly hear Jesus’ words, take them into our hearts, and produce fruit by living them.
May we be living parables of the presence of God’s kingdom.

Running
I just came from watching a Marathon. An awesome sight! It got me thinking about the ten best reasons why a marathon is a metaphor for life.
1. It’s about the goal, not the suffering along the way.
2. One can do great things if you do them out of love. (There are two options: love of self, or love of others. And both can be to God’s greater glory, though love of self can more easily become selfishness. Most of the marathoners I saw were doing it for love of others—raising money for cancer research or a loved one.)
3. We surmount struggle with the support of others. (People cheered everyone on even hours into the race, and you could see how much it meant to them.)
4. Some goals in life are more noble than others, more worthy of the great dignity that human beings can manifest.
5. Winning a race is great, but it is made meaningful to everyone because others are willing to risk losing.
6. Pace, don’t sprint. The race is long.
7. The most glorious finish is only for those who have struggled over and over and over again.
8. There are no shortcuts.
9. The great stories are not only about those who win, but about those who have overcome great difficulties with whatever situations life has brought them.
10. We are all greater when people show us that it is possible to be great. Ignatian Spirituality.
Richard Rohr Meditation

Francis was born in 1181 in Assisi, Italy. Already, Europe and the Muslim world had endured two crusades. The third crusade began when Francis was a boy, and the fourth when he was twenty-one. In short, the world was obsessed with war, fear, and security needs. Assisi itself was fighting an ongoing war with Perugia, a neighboring city. Francis rode off to fight and was taken prisoner by the Perugians in 1202. In 1204, the Christians of the West sacked and looted Constantinople, which the Eastern Orthodox Christians have never forgotten.

Shortly after that, Francis came out of prison dazed, disillusioned, and feeling there must be something more than all this torture, cruelty, and aggression. Francis seemed to realize that there is an intrinsic connection between violence and the need to protect one’s possessions, perks, and privileges. His own father was one of the first generation of propertied businessmen in the new trading class of Europe. One biographer found city records of 12th century Assisi showing that Pietro De Bernadone, Francis’ father, was indeed buying up the lands of the poor. Francis recognized that his father’s obsession with money had in many ways destroyed his father’s soul, and so Francis set out on a radically different path than his father, and in some ways, in overreaction to it.

Francis concluded that the only way out of such a world was to live a life of voluntary poverty, or what he called a life of "non-appropriation," and to simply not be a part of the moneyed class. The rope that Franciscans wear around the waist is a sign that we carried no money, since the leather belt at that time also served as a wallet. Francis knew that once you felt you owned anything, then you would have to protect it and increase it. It is the inherent nature of greed—there is never enough. For some reason this is no longer considered a capital sin in our capitalist society. In fact, I have never heard anyone confess an offense against the 10th commandment. "Coveting our neighbor's goods" is the very nature of our society.

One of Francis' biographies, written in his own lifetime, tells of Francis saying, "Look brothers, if we have any possessions, we will need arms to protect them, and then this will cause many disputes and lawsuits, and possessions impede the love of God and neighbor. Therefore, let us decide we do not want to possess anything in this world." This is a radical idea, one we later Franciscans have not followed very well. We found a way to have possessions, and yet we recognized that our possessions tend to possess us after a while. In fact the more we have, the more true this is. Even so, I have met many poor people who are very materialistic, and I have met many people of means who are extremely generous with their possessions.

Lord make us instruments of your peace.

Accept the gift of our prayers, O Lord, which we offer for every member of our human family.
Like the crest of the cedar tree, may we welcome all who come to us in need;
like the harvested seed, may we grow in love and faith;
like the mustard seed, may we praise you in even the smallest act of kindness and joy.
We ask these things in the name of our Lord and Teacher, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Newspaper Prayer

Too often our news is dominated with stories of poverty, crime, violence and war. Often all we can do is turn to God in prayer for all those concerned.

Look through a print or online newspaper to find a news article about an issue that concerns you or affects our community or the world. Cut out or print out the article and bring it with you to a quiet place where you can pray. Think about how human dignity is affected by the issue or situation. Pray for God’s healing and transformation for all people impacted, lawmakers, and others. Ask God how he is asking you to respond to this issue.

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We need to build up society in the light of the Beatitudes, walking towards the Kingdom with the least among us. Pope Francis @Pontifex Jun 4
42ND ANNUAL
SJC GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH  9AM TO 2PM
Half-Price/Bag Sale, Monday, June 22nd  9AM to 1PM

Donation Hours:
Saturday, June 13th: 9am-2pm
Monday-Thursday, June 15-18: 10am-8pm
Friday, June 19th: 10am-12pm

Large Item Pick Ups:
Available Tuesday thru Thursday, June 16, 17, 18
To schedule a pick up please call Marian Orth at (708) 246-2160
or Connie Madden at (708) 417-2012.

Men and strong boys are urgently needed to help
with large item pick up on the 16th, 17th and 18th
from 5pm-9pm. Call Connie to help!!

Bakers Needed!
Looking for a way to help and like to bake? Please drop off
all baked goods to SJC school kitchen during donation hours.

For more information on donation and volunteer information,
please visit us at www.sjcgaragesale.com and like us on
Facebook at St. John of the Cross Garage Sale

Thank You for your support!
The Women’s Club
We are truly blessed to have such wonderful women of our parish! Thank you to all who attended and helped plan our events this past year and for all your support! Our events would not be possible without our board members. We thank those who are retiring for their years of service and welcome our newest board members.

SJC Women’s Club Board
2015-2016

Co-President Lee Rosenberg
Co-President Katie Pruitt
Treasurer Margaret Hynes
Recording Secretary Jen Van Wyck
Corresponding Secretary Rosaria Becker
Fundraising Julie Misarti
Hospitality Heather McCarthy
Membership/PR Melissa Timotic
Programs Kelly Eikum
Publicity Jen Van Wyck
Social Welfare Lisa Dunneback
Spiritual Advisor Jenny Mazur
PAC Liaison Jennifer Miller
Parish Staff Liaison Sylvie Salazar

Save the Dates...Fall Events!
Mother and Daughter Campout: September 25th
Fashion Show......... October 29th
For more information or to learn more about the Women’s Club please email us at SJCWomensClub@gmail.com
We wish you a wonderful and blessed summer!
In his book *Open Mind, Faithful Heart*, then-Cardinal Jorge M. Bergoglio (now Pope Francis) describes the temptation to work only for results:

> Vainglorious is the person who prefers to be the general of defeated armies rather than a simple soldier in a squadron that continues to fight on even when it has been devastated.

Seldom in recent memory has a line captured me the way that this line did. How right he is, I thought, that too often I measure my work by the obvious signs of success, especially the praise of others.

“Vainglory” is the transliteration of a Latin phrase, *vana gloria*, “empty praise.” Mother Teresa saw through this tactic of the enemy, reminding us that we ought not seek success, but rather faithfulness. More recently, the inimitable Greg Boyle, SJ, reflecting on his work with former gang members, pointed out that “if our primary concern is results, we will choose to work only with those who give us good ones.”

Ignatius did not live in the age of metrics, cost/benefit assessments, SWOT (strengths/weaknesses/opportunities/threats) analyses, and so on. But he intuited something radical at the heart of the missionary life: that authentic discernment rests not primarily on foreknowledge of success, but rather on the willingness to go exactly where Christ leads us. For him, it was the cross. Am I willing to go there too?

Tim Muldoon. Ignatian Spirituality

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**Help Sort & Pack School Supplies this Week!**

It’s once again time to think about this year’s school supply recycling project. With the help of many of you last year in collecting, sorting and packing supplies, more than three hundred fifty boxes were distributed to the following organizations all of whom were most grateful for what they received:

- Catholic Charities in Chicago
- Catholic Charities in Cicero
- Global Youth Leadership
- Harvest Hope
- Kolbe House Prison Ministry’s Children of the Incarcerated Program
- Off the Street Club
- Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
- Refugee One
- St. Leonard Prison Ministry
- St. Thadeus School
- SCARCE
- School on Wheels
- St. Vincent DePaul Settlement House, St. Louis MO

Helpers of all ages are needed to sort and pack this year’s supplies on:

**Monday and Tuesday, June 15 & 16 from 9 until Noon**

at Mary Lee and Jim Larsen’s home, 4521 Harvey in Western Springs. Please come for as little or as long as you would like. There will be a pizza lunch and a chance to swim afterwards for those who can stay. If you know of any additional schools or organizations that might be in need of supplies this year or you have any gently used school/art/office supplies that you would like to donate, please call Mary Lee and Jim at 708-246-3987.

**YOU Can Make a Difference!!**

During the month of June the food donated in the narthex of church will be given to neighboring parish, St. Francis Xavier. Please remember to bring healthy nonperishable food to Mass to feed people who struggle to secure food. Every can and box makes a difference!
The Positive Roles of Fathers

“Every family needs a father,” Pope Francis affirmed, and every father is called to take pride in “transmitting” to his son what truly counts in life, namely, a wise heart.” A wise, mature father says to his child: “I will be happy every time that I see you act with wisdom, and I will be moved every time I hear you speak what is right… I taught you things you did not know, I corrected errors that you did not see. I made you feel a profound and, at the same time, discreet affection… I gave you a witness of rigor and firmness, which perhaps you did not understand… I had to put myself first to the test of wisdom of heart, and to watch over excesses of sentiment and resentment, to bear the weight of the inevitable misunderstandings and find the right words to make myself understood. Now, when I see that you seek to be like this with your children, and with everyone, I am moved. I am happy to be your father.”

It is difficult to be a good father; it “costs,” said the Pope. But it is well worth it, and gives “a joy that compensates for every effort, that surpasses every misunderstanding and heals every wound.”

Pope Francis pointed to the “first necessity” of fatherhood: presence. A husband and father must be close to his wife and share everything with her. He must be close to his children at all times, in the good and the bad. The Holy Father notes that being present is not the same thing as being controlling, which means not allowing the child to grow.

The Gospel highlights the fatherhood of God in the parable commonly called the “Prodigal Son.” Pope Francis said, “How much dignity and how much tenderness in the father’s waiting, who is at the door of his home waiting for his son to return! Fathers should be patient, many times there is nothing else that can be done other than to wait. Pray and wait with patience, gentleness, magnanimity and mercy.”

Fathers must be both strong and gentle, the pope said. They must “correct without discouraging,” and “protect tirelessly.”

Pope Francis pointed out that children need their fathers but may not show it. “They will do everything not to admit it, not to make it seen, but they need him and in not finding him opens in them wounds that are difficult to heal,” he said. He pledged the Church’s support for fathers, “because they are, for the new generations, irreplaceable custodians and mediators of faith in goodness, in justice and in the protection of God, as Saint Joseph.” Excerpt from reflection by Pope Francis 2.5.15

The SJC Men’s Club finished its year with our annual golf outing at Flagg Creek on Friday, June 5. The Men’s Club Board would like to thank all parish men and women who have participated in and supported our programs throughout the year:

- Barbeque and Bags Tourney
- Bears Game Pizza Night
- Smoker at a local smoking lounge
- Speaker series with local guest speakers
- Trivia Night
- SAM (Sharing Among Men) Gatherings re-started this year
- Support for Crossroads during the Lenten Fish Fry
- Support for Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast
- NCAA Game Night
- Luncheons for the SJC Teachers and YC
- Golf Outing

We look forward to another great year with the kick-off BBQ and Bags Tournament in early September, 2015.

Finally, we would like to thank Barrett Long for four years of inspired service as President of the SJC Men’s Club. His involvement and service has been valued and appreciated by many men -- so his departure from the Board leaves a void that will be difficult to fill. If you believe in the Men’s Club Mission Statement (see below) and feel a calling to lead efforts to deliver on this Mission, please contact Bill Bright or Barrett Long. In the short term the Men’s Club will push on, but in the long term we need new faces, new ideas and the involvement of more men on the Board. Please consider this invitation to get involved and discern if you hear the call.

Get our email updates by emailing info@stjohnofthecross.org or go to http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/parishlife/st-john-of-the-cross-mens-club/mens-club-sign-up-form/.

SJC Men’s Club Mission Statement

The St. John of the Cross Men’s Club is the men’s organization of the parish, created with the purpose of promoting social fellowship, serving the parish and community through financial assistance and charitable works, and providing and encouraging spiritual enrichment, so members can be true representatives of the Roman Catholic community. All men of the parish are welcome to participate in this organization.

Get Involved ~ Make a Difference! ~ Connect with Others!

The Parish Men’s Club is seeking a candidate to fill the office of President. If you are interested please contact Bill Bright at bbright@stjohnofthecross.org or Barrett Long at longbarrett@hotmail.com. You will be joining a terrific, talented, energetic team of men committed to living our faith every day.
Music Basics & Bonin Begins This Week
Join Fr. Harry Bonin in the Parish Center on three Wednesday mornings, June 17 and 24 and July 8, from 9am-11:30am. Fr. Harry will review basic music elements and introduce you to our parish hymnal. Always interesting and entertaining, you won’t want to miss this series! No need to register. Just drop in!

Independence Day at SJC
On Saturday, July 4th our morning Mass will be at 9am. There will be no confessions that day. There will be a 5pm anticipatory Mass as usual. The Parish Office will be closed on July 3 and 4 and there will be no babysitting on July 5th.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
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 discover 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 contact Fr. Bill at 708-246-4404.

Children's Choir for Father's Day!
All children of the parish, 1st - 8th grade, are invited to sing for Father's Day, June 21, at the 9:00 Mass. There will be one rehearsal for this liturgy this Thursday, June 18 6:30—7:15pm.
Questions? Contact Ann Maney at (708)246-4171 or bourjman@sbcglobal.net.

Smile Before It’s Too Late
Your final opportunity to have your picture taken for our 2015 Parish Directory will be this week on Thursday, June 18, Friday, June 19 or Saturday, June 20. Please visit the website www.stjohnofthecross.org or call the Parish Center to schedule your appointment. If you already had your photo taken and you received a complimentary 8 x 10, the pictures are now available in the Parish Center for pick-up. Questions? Call Elizabeth Russell-Jones at x155.

Parish Center Summer Hours
The regular office hours for summer are 9am—8pm Mondays—Thursdays, 9am—6pm Fridays and Saturdays, and 8am—1pm on Sundays. (We will post special Fest and holiday hours as needed.) As always, after hours you can reach a priest in an emergency by calling the Parish Center at 708-246-4404 and following the voice prompts.

All High School & College Students Invited to Wednesday Evening Faith Sharing Groups
Are you allowing Jesus’ Word to lead you to joy? “If you abide in my word you will know my love and that love will fill you with an immense joy – a joy which is unsurpassing, exalted, and unfading.” (From a meditation by Don Schwager on 2 Peter 1:3,8.)

God’s Word has potential to bring us immense joy, but sometimes it is tough to see how it is relevant and really unlock that potential. Ignite is a weekly small group program for high school and college students where we will share our own experiences to achieve a better understanding of what God is telling us through His Word. Discussions will be Scripture-based where each week we will look at a gospel passage and talk about how it applies to finding joy and direction in our daily lives.

Please contact Ashley Klesken at aklesken33@aol.com or 708-299-1737 if you are interested in being part of a small group. We will meet every Wednesday evening at 7:30pm over the summer so feel free to come every week or just stop by any week that works with your schedule. I hope you’re ready to make new friends and set your faith on fire!
Join the Carmelites as They Honor St. Teresa on the 500th Anniversary of her Birth

The Interior Castle, a musical theatrical presentation on Monday, June 29 at 8pm at the Chapel at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein. Tickets will be sold at the door. $20 per person.

2015 Carmelite Symposium June 28-July 2 at St. Mary of the Lake. Join gifted scholars as they affirm St. Teresa’s relevance in today’s society. Gather in prayer with the Carmelite Community. Celebrate the contributions of Fr. Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD to the Carmelite Intellectual Tradition. For more information about the musical and symposium visit www.carmelstream.org/symposium-registration or call 202-526-1221.

Father-Son Retreat—August 7-9, 2015 with Fr. Patrick McGrath, SJ

The Father-Son Retreat begins on Friday night with dinner and fellowship. After dinner, silence commences, and the retreat master gives the first of eight talks which are adapted from the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola.

Your retreat is a time for personal silence and prayer. You can listen to the talks, walk the Way of the Cross, pray the Rosary, receive the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Healing, converse with a Spiritual Director or simply enjoy the beauty of 80 acres set outside the grind of daily life.

The Bellarmine Retreat House is located in nearby Barrington. An $85 deposit is requested at time of retreat registration for each Father and Son pair ($42.50 per individual). Questions? Email info@jesuitretreat.org or call 847.381.1261.

Interfaith Career Network Programs

Success for the Seasoned Search – the Benefit of Being Overqualified: Many seasoned job seekers find themselves being called overqualified because they have more years of experience than a job description calls for. Come Thursday, June 18 from 7-9 pm to learn powerful strategies to help you overcome your interviewer’s misconceptions about you. Learn how to change your cover letter and resume if you believe you are overqualified, 7 ways to explain on an interview why being overqualified is an advantage and how to handle the “age factor”. All this and more at SJC’s Parish Center.

Career Resource Center – Wednesday, June 17

The CRC is a volunteer staffed resource where job seekers receive assistance with internet usage, resume/cover letter preparation and electronic job search skills. These free services are available on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month in the First Baptist Church of La Grange. No appointment is needed.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on Sunday, August 30, 2015 at Holy Name Cathedral. Couples married in 1965 who are interested in attending should contact the Parish Center office.

St. Cletus Celebration

Our neighbor parish, St. Cletus, invites all SJC parishioners to attend their July 3rd and 4th celebrations. On July 3 at 7pm there will be a concert, picnic and family fun and then on July 4 at 8am there will be a special Mass honoring all military personnel with music by the St. Cletus Independence Day Band.

Archdiocese Fortnight for Freedom


Also, for information on Fortnight for Freedom events in the Archdiocese of Chicago visit the Respect Life Office’s website:www.respectlifechicago.org.

Kick-Off Mass and Eucharistic Procession St. Peter’s in the Loop on Monday, June 22 at 12:15pm. Fortnight for Freedom 4pm Mass and Picnic on Saturday, June 27 at Jackson Park, Chicago.

Retreats for Widowed Men & Women

Joyful Again is a two-day program for widows and widowers who want to resolve the grief they feel inside and begin to live again after the death of their spouse, even if it has been years since the death. Those widowed less than four months are not encouraged to attend yet. The next two retreats are scheduled for June 27-28 at St. Julie in Tinley Park and July 25-26 at Holy Family in Inverness. $85 is the usual donation to attend. Participants do not stay overnight. For more info go to joyfulagain.org or call 708-354-7211.
Jesus does not call us as nameless people in a faceless crowd. He calls us individually, by name. Each one of us has a personal vocation or calling. God intends each one of us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan.

What are your personal gifts? Why were you given them? What is the Lord uniquely calling you to do with these gifts? What kind of spiritual joy and happiness can come into your life when you use your gifts to live out your vocation?

You are invited to become involved in ministry at our parish. Presently we are inviting parishioners to serve in Liturgical Ministries and in Ministry of Care. Training will be held this summer. If you would like more information about the ministry contact Fr. Bill, or if you are ready to sign up call the Parish Center front office. Liturgical ministry training dates will be forwarded to you.

Usher: Ushers welcome, help people find seats, assist those with special needs, answer questions, take up the collection, and take charge when there is an emergency. There are openings at all Mass times. Ushers should be of high school age or older. Usually they serve at the same Mass each week.

Communion Minister: This ministry is for those high school aged and older who have received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, Confirmation) and wish to share their faith with members of the assembly. Scheduling is based on your availability.

Lector: Lectors proclaim the Word of God at Mass. Like Communion Ministers, Lectors should be of high school age and older, have received the Sacraments of Initiation and wish to share their faith. Good reading skills and a clear speaking voice are important. Scheduling is based on your availability.

Minister of Care: Ministers of Care are trained volunteers who visit, pray with and bring Communion to the elderly or patients at RML Specialty Hospital, LaGrange Hospital, Hines VA Hospital or at their home. Ministers complete four training sessions and receive additional instruction from Fr. Bill. Scheduling is based on your availability. Summer Training Dates are: 9am to Noon on four consecutive Saturdays July 11 to August 1 at St. Louise de Marillac School in LaGrange Park. The parish will cover the cost of your training. Call the Parish Center office to sign up.
Empty Nesters please come share your gifts with SJC children! You are welcomed and embraced when you choose to share your love of Christ with our Kindergarten through 8th grade students. Aide and Catechist spots are waiting for your YES!!!

Do you have an incoming Kindergarten or 1st Grade child?
We would love to teach them about God’s love and mercy this year! Please stop by the YC office to register for the Religious Education Program at SJC - Youth Catechesis (YC).

All are welcome!

Kairos 20 - August 6-9
Kairos is a 4 day retreat open to High School Juniors and Seniors. The experience offers time to reflect, build relationships with peers, and learn more about yourself and your connection with God. Experience a fantastic weekend before entering your Junior or Senior year of high school, or Freshman year of college. The registration deadline is June 30. Visit our website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats to register.

Work Tour News
A group of parish teens and adults are returning from Guatemala tomorrow. We look forward to hearing about their rewarding service experience at NPH!

There is still time to join a Summer Work Tour. We need two adults to join us at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Kentucky, August 1-8, and we have openings for five teens and two adults at Habitat for Humanity in WV, July 12-18. Register on our website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/work-tours/.

A Prayer for our Summer Work
May the light of our souls
bless our work with love and warmth of heart.
May we see in what we do the beauty of our own soul.
May the sacredness of our work bring
healing, light and renewal to those who work with us
and to those who see and receive our work.
May our work never exhaust us.
May it release within us wellsprings of refreshment,
inspiration and excitement.
May we be truly present in what we do.
May we never become lost in bland absences.
May the day never burden.
May dawn find hope in our hearts,
approaching our new day with dreams,
possibilities and promises.
May evening find us gracious and fulfilled.
May we go into the night blessed,
sheltered and protected.
May our souls calm, console and renew us.
Amen
Christian de Cherge, the Trappist Abbott who was martyred in Algeria in 1996, tells this story of his first communion. He grew up in a Roman Catholic family in France and on the day of his first communion he said to his mother: "I don't understand what I'm doing." She answered simply: "It's okay, you don't have to understand it now, later you will understand."

Jesus, no doubt, must have given his disciples the exact same advice at the Last Supper, at their first communion. When he offered them bread and said, "This is my body," and then offered them wine and said, "This is my blood," they would not have understood. There would have been considerable confusion and bewilderment: How are we supposed to understand this? What does it mean to eat someone's body and drink someone's blood? I suspect that in the face of their non-understanding, like Christian de Cherge's mother, Jesus would have also said: You don't have to understand it now, later you will understand.

Indeed in instituting the Eucharist at the Last Supper, Jesus didn't ask his disciples to understand what they were doing, he only asked them to faithfully celebrate it until he returned. Their understanding of what they were doing in celebrating the Eucharist only developed as they grew in their faith. But initially, Jesus didn't ask for much of an understanding, nor did he give them much of an explanation for what he was celebrating with them. He simply asked them to eat his body and drink his blood.

Jesus didn't give a theological discourse on the Eucharist at the Last Supper. He simply gave us a ritual and asked us to celebrate it regularly, irrespective of our intellectual understanding of it. One of his more-explicit explanations of the meaning of the Eucharist was his symbolic action of washing his disciples' feet.

Little has changed. We too aren't asked to fully or even adequately understand the Eucharist. Our faith only asks that we are faithful in participating in it. In fact, as is the case for all deep mysteries, there is no satisfactory, rational explanation of the Eucharist. Nobody, not a single theologian in the world, can to anyone's intellectual satisfaction, adequately lay out the phenomenology, psychology, or even spirituality of eating someone else's body and drinking his blood. How is this to be understood? The mind comes up short. We need instead to rely upon metaphors and icons and an inchoate, intuitive understanding. We can truly know this mystery, even as we can't fully understand it.

During my seminary and academic training, I took three major courses on the Eucharist. After all those lectures and books on the Eucharist, I concluded that I didn't understand the Eucharist and that I was happy enough with that because what those courses did teach me was how important it is that I celebrate and participate in the Eucharist. For all the intellectuality in those courses, their true value was that they ultimately said to me what Christian de Cherge's mother said to him on the day of his first communion: You don't have to understand now, later you will understand. Contained in that, of course, is the fact that there is something profound here that is worth understanding, but that it's too deep to be fully grasped right now.

Perhaps this can be helpful in our search for what to say to some of our own children and young people who no longer go to church and who tell us that the reason they don't go is that they don't find the Eucharist meaningful. We hear that lament all the time today: Why should I go to church, it doesn't mean anything to me?" That objection is simply another way of saying what young Christian de Cherge said to his mother at his first communion: I don't understand this. Perhaps our answer then could be along the lines of the response of his mother: You don't have to understand now, later you will understand.

The British theologian, Ronald Knox, speaking about the Eucharist, submits this: We have never, he claims, as Christians, been truly faithful to Jesus, no matter our denomination. In the end, none of us have truly followed those teachings which most characterize Jesus: We haven't turned the other cheek. We haven't forgiven our enemies. We haven't purified our thoughts. We haven't seen God in the poor. We haven't kept our hearts pure and free from the things of this world. But we have, he submits, been faithful in one very important way; we have kept the Eucharist going. The last thing Jesus asked us to do before he died was to keep celebrating the Eucharist. And that we've done, despite the fact that we have never really grasped rationally what in fact we are doing. But we've been faithful in doing it because we grasped the wisdom in what Christian de Cherge's mother to her son: You don't have to understand this; you just have to do it.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX.
Mass Intentions
Monday, June 15 Weekday
7:45am Muriel Albertson; Our Beloved Dead

Tuesday, June 16 Weekday
7:45am Michael Reidy; Herb Nilles

Wednesday, June 17 Weekday
7:45am John Rydzewski; Brian Donovan

Thursday, June 18 Weekday
7:45am Matthew Flood & Jorge Paez; Jerry Jung

Friday, June 19 Memorial of St. Romuald, Abbot
7:45am John Spalo; Grant LaRocque

Saturday, June 20 Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am Mary Maska; Frank Kranz
5:00pm Sophie Klein; Larry Dougherty

Sunday, June 21 Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am Larry Dougherty; Chester Cebula
9:00am Michael Powers; Walter Cebula
10:45am John Callahan; George Jakicic
No 12:15 Mass—Summer Schedule
5:00pm Dr. Robert Sullivan; William McMahon

Pray for Our Sick
Tracy Bucciarelli  Sr. Clare Holak, SSMI
Eileen Crol        Don King
Marie Daly        Margaret Parker
Bill Fanning      Marion Pascale
Marie Glowa      Robbie Rafanelli
Fr. Bob Heinz    Johnna Reggi
Sarah Hergenrother

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Rita O’Connell, sister-in-law of Jane Delaney
Norbert Koziol, husband of Rita, father of Thomas, David and Karen Frey

Advice
If everyone in the world took five or ten minutes daily to stop and think, it would help us all to go about God’s work because we need reflection. We need to ask God for his blessing daily, and we need to bring him into our lives so we can give him to others. When we have God in our lives it brings meaning into them; it makes everything worthwhile and fruitful too. The absence of God usually accompanies the less-than-perfect things in our world.

Sr. Dolores: A Simple Path
St. John of the Cross Parish presents......

SJC FEST 2015
June 25 - 28
51st & Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL • www.SJCFEST.com

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Under the Big Top

THURSDAY, June 25
• Safety 2nd • 6 pm
• Chicago Tribute Anthology • 8 pm

FRIDAY, June 26
• Sweet Ignition • 6 pm
• Ditchweed Diesel • 7 pm
• Maggie Speaks • 9 pm

SATURDAY, June 27
• Double Identity • 6 pm
• August Son • 7 pm
• American English • 9 pm

SUNDAY, June 28
• School of Rock • 2 pm
• Dirty & the Dishes • 3 pm
• Josie Dunne • 4 pm
• Tony Ocean • 5 pm

CARNIVAL HOURS
THURSDAY, June 25
5 pm - 10:30 pm
FRIDAY, June 26
5 pm - Midnight
SATURDAY, June 27
1 pm - Midnight
SUNDAY, June 28
Noon - 7 pm

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St. John of the Cross Fest
Cash Raffle
1st Prize $5,000
2nd Prize $2,500
3rd Prize $1,000

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FREE CARNIVAL RIDES AND GAMES
Saturday, June 25
10:00 a.m.—12 noon
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For more Information

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Pulled Pork & Chicken
Gelato and much more

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