Whoever believes in me, even though he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will not die for ever.

Jn11:25-26

November 6, 2016
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dear Parishioners,

Nearly 50 years ago, under the leadership of Fr. Bill Bennett, SJC began a Sharing Parish relationship with St. Thaddeus parish near 95th and Harvard (east of Halsted). I do not know who their pastor was at that time, but it is my understanding that he and Fr. Bennett were classmates and friends. St. Thaddeus was a lower middle class African American community of moderate size in the 1960's.

In 1966 the idea of parishes ‘sharing’ (or ‘twinning” as it was sometimes referred to) was a relatively new idea. It was often based on the relationship between the pastors of different parishes as much as on anything else. Once the relationship was begun with St. Thaddeus, the issue of busing African American students to white Catholic schools very quickly became an important issue of social justice across the archdiocese. If you know the geography of the city at all it becomes pretty obvious that our two parishes are not conveniently located to each other.

Several of the students who graduated from our school have come back over the years to express their appreciation for the education they were able to receive here. Some of their parents still sing in the choir and come when we have the choir visit us.

Over the years the neighborhood declined and fewer people live there, certainly fewer Catholic people. The time has come for them to be merged with neighboring St. Margaret of Scotland. This Sunday will be the first time they celebrate as part of the St. Margaret parish family.

We will maintain somewhat of a relationship with some of the people. Several have been recipients of Share Christmas for many years and we hope to maintain that. Fr. Frank Sasso has only a year to retirement but he will continue to live at the St. Thaddeus rectory. It is a sadness for him and for many of the parishioners to have to let go of what has been their spiritual home for many years, yet it is impossible to keep going as they have been. We give God praise for the mutual blessings we have shared with St. Thaddeus over the years. And I pray that their new home be a source of endless blessings for each and every new member of St. Margaret of Scotland parish family.

Last Monday was Halloween but it also marked the beginning of the ‘celebration’ of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church doors of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. It’s not that we celebrate the separation of the Lutheran and Catholic Church as much as we take time to focus on how much closer we have come together in recent years. It’s sometimes easy to gloss over the fact that blood was spilled on both sides and people lost their lives defending their beliefs. It took over ten years of dialogue between theologians of both churches to come to the conclusion that we both believe exactly the same thing about Christ's real presence in the Eucharist. We don't receive Eucharist in each other’s church out of respect for each other’s traditions and to admit there are still divisions that prevent us from being in union with each other. During the coming year I hope there are other opportunities to join with our Protestant brothers and sisters and to emphasize our common faith. Start planning now to attend the prayer service the night before Thanksgiving which will be at the First Congregational church this year.

I write this before Game 6. By the time you read this, the World Series will be over, one way or another. Wasn’t it fun?

Until the Breaking of the Bread,
Fr. David
Together we pray for our loved ones and friends who have died during the past year. Comfort us in our loss and sorrow, O Lord. Be our refuge and our strength. Lift us from the depths of grief into the peace and light of your presence. Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, by dying has destroyed our death, and by rising restored our life. Enable us to press on toward him so that after our earthly course is run, he may reunite us with those we love, when every tear will be wiped away. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
Prayer for those who Mourn

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes: in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord God, you are attentive to the voice of our pleading. Let us find in your Son comfort in our sadness, certainty in our doubt, and courage to live through this hour. Make our faith strong through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For all who have suffered the loss of a child, we pray that Christ may be their support.

Compassionate God, soothe the hearts of N. and N., and grant that through the prayers of Mary, who grieved by the Cross of her Son, you may enlighten their faith, give hope to their hearts, and peace to their lives.

Lord, grant mercy to all the members of this family and comfort them with the hope that one day we will all live with you, with your Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

May God give us peace in our sorrow, consolation in our grief, and strength to accept his will in all things. Amen.

"The Christian meaning of death is revealed in the light of the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ in whom resides our only hope. The Christian who dies in Christ Jesus is 'away from the body and at home with the Lord' (2 Cor 5:8)."
- Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1681

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
Living the Gospel

Luke presents us with an altercation between Jesus and the Sadducees about life after death. By having seven brothers all marry the same woman and die in succession, the Sadducees are trying to show that the very concept of life after death is absurd. How wrong they are! Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem, facing his own imminent death and resurrection. Already in Luke’s gospel Jesus has predicted his death and resurrection (Luke 9:22; 9:44; 18:32-33). Resurrection is not simply coming back to this life; it is the eternal fullness of Life. For the Sadducees, one’s immortality was contingent on having progeny (see, for example, Deut 25:5-6; Gen 38:8), the tradition and context of their argument about marrying and remarrying taken to extremes. Jesus answers them by asserting that there is no marriage and remarriage in heaven because there is no dying in heaven. In heaven, “all are alive,” in perfect union with God. The proof of Jesus’ truth is his own resurrection, his own perfect union with his Father. The promise of Jesus’ truth is our resurrection, our perfect union with God, our eternal fullness of Life. When we faithfully live the Gospel, we will meet with controversy. In fact, controversy may be a sign of integrity since truly living the Gospel always precipitates conflict, because Gospel values are so contrary to human selfishness and pride. This doesn’t mean that we go out looking for controversy; it does mean that when controversy happens because of the authenticity of our Christian living, we see through the controversy with hope for eternal Life. This hope is what gives us the courage of our convictions and helps us remain steadfast even to death. And through death to resurrection.

May we show by our Gospel living
that we are seeking perfect union with God;
May we faithfully follow Jesus’ lead through death to eternal Life.

Background on the Gospel

In today’s Gospel, we hear about an encounter between Jesus and some Sadducees. The Sadducees were a party of Judaism active in Jesus’ time, descended from the priestly family of Zadok. They were literal interpreters of the written Law of Moses, which means that they were in disagreement with the position of the Pharisees, who offered an oral interpretation of the Law of Moses. The Sadducees are described in this Gospel as opponents to the belief in resurrection. In the dialogue presented here, we see an example of the means of disputation that was common in first century Judaism. The Sadducees use the example of Levirate marriage, found in the Law of Moses, to disprove belief in the resurrection. According to Deuteronomy 25:5-10, if a man died without producing an heir, the man’s brother should marry his wife and the offspring of this union would inherit the property and carry on the name of the man who had died. The Sadducees use this as an example to challenge belief in the resurrection. Jesus argues from the same written Law of Moses to show that there is resurrection. Using the texts from the Book of Exodus (Chapter 3) that describe Moses’ encounter with God in the burning bush, Jesus shows that God is the God of the living, not the dead. Here Jesus uses the same method and texts of the Sadducees to counter them. As the Gospel text suggests, he beat them at their own game!

More importantly, in this discourse Jesus shows the limits of our imaginations when it comes to eternal life. The Sadducees argued against resurrection because of the limits of earthly existence. They did not imagine another possibility for existence and relationship with God. Jesus proposes that the possibilities of resurrected life are beyond our imaginations. Jesus’ conclusion suggests something else as well: To spend time worrying about resurrected life is to miss the point. The point is eternal relationship with God is possible, for God is the God of the living, “... for to him all are alive.”

©Living Liturgy

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Big Life Includes Small Deaths

All the world can give us is small thinking, a small mind. But small mind, without the unitive experience of big mind, makes us feel unbearably alone. We feel lost, existentially guilty, and often fragile and powerless. A lot of guilt is not about this or that particular sin; it’s often a guilt about not having yet lived. We call that essential or primal guilt. It’s deeper than guilt for an offense we can name. It feels like shame, not about anything in particular, but about who we are and who we aren’t. Many of us suffer from this primal shame. It hides in the unconscious and is not easily available for healing. Grace has to search it out and turn it into patient goodness instead.

There is a certain fear of death that comes from not having lived yet. I had to face death myself through three different experiences with cancer. I don’t think I was terribly afraid of death each time, even though I knew it might be near, because I knew that I had already lived. Once you know that you have touched upon the Great Mystery itself, you are not so afraid of death. But there’s an existential terror about losing what you’ve never found. Something in us says, “I haven’t done ‘it’ yet.” I haven’t experienced the stream of life yet. I haven’t touched the real, the good, the true, and the beautiful—which is, of course, what we were created for.

When we know we have experienced the stream of life, we will be able to lie on our deathbed like Francis and say, “Welcome, sister death.” I’m not afraid to let go of life because I have life. I am life. I know life is somehow eternal—so broad and deep it can even contain death!—and another form of life is waiting for me. It is the last threshold, but I’ve been over this threshold before. I think this is what Paul means when he speaks of “reproducing the pattern of his death and knowing the power of his resurrection” (Philippians 3:10). It is an actual pattern that we must live through at least once—and then we understand something forever.

But if we’ve never lived, we will be terrified of death. We will have no assurance that this isn’t the end. As Catherine of Siena said, “It’s heaven all the way to heaven.” And I would add, it’s hell all the way to hell. So choose heaven now. The only people who are not in heaven are those who do not want to be there.

Gateway to Silence:
Surrender to love.

CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players

Discover the figures who shaped the Church and changed the world

CATHOLICISM: The Pivotal Players, a multi-part film series that illuminates a handful of saints, artists, mystics, and scholars who not only shaped the life of the Church but changed the course of civilization, continues!

Thursdays at 1pm or 7pm in the Parish Center.

All are welcome. Call the Parish Center for more information. There is no fee to attend. See schedule below:

November 10 1pm or 7pm  St. Catherine of Siena
December 15 1pm or 7pm  Blessed John Henry Newman
January 12 1pm or 7pm  G.K. Chesterton
February 16 1pm or 7pm  Michelangelo

ST. CATHERINE of SIENA
The Mystic

Is the physical world all there is? Is science the only path to ascertaining truth? St. Catherine of Siena witnesses to a higher world beyond the material. Though the fourteenth century mystic never studied theology, and never learned how to read or write, her life constitutes a powerful challenge to the flattened-out secularism of our time.

The saints have found the secret of authentic happiness, which lies deep within the soul and has its source in the love of God.

Pope Francis @Pontifex  Nov 1

Pope Francis @Pontifex  Nov 1
The Book of Remembrance

During the month of November, the Month of All Souls, parishioners and visitors to St. John of the Cross Parish are invited to write the names of their beloved dead in The Book of Remembrance found by the baptismal font. The Book of Remembrance will remain there throughout the month of November. Unlike the Books of Life, which list only deceased parishioners of St. John of the Cross, our Book of Remembrance may include the names of all our deceased loved ones.

If you would like your loved ones remembered throughout the coming year, complete an All Souls envelope which can be found on the lectern. These envelopes will be placed in a basket under our altar, and we will remember them at Mass each week as Our Beloved Dead. Remembering all of those who have gone before us, “marked with the sign of faith,” helps us better understand and appreciate our faith in the Christ, our risen Lord, who conquers sin and death and brings new life to all.

Last Chance to Order from the Scouts

St John of the Cross Parish Boy Scout Troop 117 is conducting its annual Christmas Wreath Sale. The sale generates funds used by the Troop to provide lifelong training and experiences to the Scouts. Many of the Scouts use the net proceeds from their sales of wreaths to assist in completing their Eagle Scout projects.

Order forms with pictures can be found on our parish website or in the Parish Center office. Your completed form with payment can be dropped off in the Parish Center today. Look for the Scouts after Mass in front of the Parish Center.

Help Interfaith Career Network Help Others

Interfaith Career Network has many tools to assist job seekers, but we need your assistance to provide the most important element of a job search—open positions. If you are a hiring manager or aware of open positions in your company, please send this information to jobs@interfaithcareernetwork.org. Any and all postings are welcome. ICN job seekers are at all stages of their career, in every industry, with a broad spectrum of education and experience. All job postings will be communicated to our 400+ ICN Yahoo group. If you have any questions or for additional information you can also contact Judy Kennedy at jkennedy1333@ameritech.net or Tom Rohan at tom_rohan@yahoo.com. Lastly, to learn more about ICN, visit our website at www.interfaithcareernetwork.org.

Vocation Awareness Week

“Don’t be afraid to say ‘yes’ to him with all your heart, to respond generously and to follow him!” said Pope Francis. “Don’t let your soul grow numb, but aim for the goal of a beautiful love which also demands sacrifice.”

Lord, my God and my loving Father,
you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you,
and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings.
I know that you are in all things,
and that every path can lead me to you.
But of them all, there is one especially
by which you want me to come to you.
Since I will do what you want of me,
I pray you, send your Holy Spirit to me:
to my mind, to show me what you want of me;
to my heart, to give me the determination to do it,
and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and
with all of my strength right to the end.
Jesus, I trust in you. Amen

We Gather Together

The Christian Churches of Western Springs invite all to a Thanksgiving Prayer Service on Wednesday, November 23 at 7pm at the First Congregational Church in Western Springs. A reception will follow.
A huge new sacred story is unfolding in the midst of dark, strident, competing voices, and the tensions and radical transitions of our times. A new light is dawning as the spirit of renewal arises from the depths of the earth and our own intuitive natures. This dawning light brings faith, hope and healing to our individual lives and to our fragmented world. Inspiration, imagination, and community will deepen our participation with the spirit of renewal by weaving the wisdom of spiritual leaders with our own understandings. Art, nature experiences, singing, prayer and celebration will create new chapters in the unfolding sacred story of a new dawning of consciousness.

Participants are asked to bring a favorite inspiring quotation, poem, or prayer to share.

Carolyn Toben, M.Ed., brings 40 years of experience as a retreat and seminar leader. She is the Director of Timberlake Earth Sanctuary in Whitsett, N.C. and the author of *Recovering a Sense of the Sacred: Conversations with Thomas Berry*. In 2014 Carolyn was the recipient of the “Sacred Universe” award given by The Well.

Mary Southard, CSJ is a Sister of St. Joseph and an artist who explores in her art the mysteries and beauty of creation, the energies and interconnectedness of existence. She delights in being with others as they awaken to new dimensions of their own creativity, or explore together the dynamics of our Sacred Universe.

As part of our adult formation efforts SJC sponsors programs at The Well throughout the year. Our sponsorship helps The Well bring many inspiring speakers to our area and allows our parishioners to attend free of charge.

All are welcome to attend on November 12. The $75 fee is waived for our parishioners. Just call the Parish Center to let us know you will be attending. Lunch is included. The Well is located nearby at 1515 Ogden Avenue in LaGrange Park. Go to csjthewell.org to see all the wonderful programs and classes offered at The Well.
The Men’s Club is well into another successful year as we
• promote Christian fellowship through social interaction,
• serve the parish and community through fundraising and use of members’ unique talents and time, and
• provide opportunities for spiritual enrichment and growth.

We live out our Mission by:

1) **Providing opportunities for fellowship through a variety of social events including:**
   - BBQ/Bags Tournament
   - Bears Game Night
   - Cigar Night Smoker
   - NCAA Basketball/Poker Night
   - Golf Outing

2) **Serving our parish by volunteering our time/providing financial support to help groups in our parish have successful fundraisers; serving our parish by hosting events that show appreciation to volunteers and teachers:**
   - Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast
   - Crossroads Fish Fry
   - Harvest Saturday
   - SJC Fest
   - Youth Catechesis Catechist Appreciation Luncheon
   - SJC Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

3) **Provide men in our parish with opportunities for spiritual growth via:**
   - Monthly Spirituality Among Men (SAM) gatherings
   - Spiritual Lecture Series

**Trivia Night: January 28, 2017**
Finally, our Annual Trivia Night held each January, a major Men’s Club event, encourages parish-wide social fellowship. Our proceeds from Trivia Night as well as any other funds left at year-end are donated to parish groups:
- SJC Fest via a banner
- Boy Scouts
- Crossroads Youth Ministry
- Caritas SJC Needy Family Fund
- Gardening Angels
- SPRED

**Your Help Is Needed**
The Board is looking for additional men to join in and keep this important parish group, the Men’s Club, alive and well. If you have any interest in sharing your time and talent to help provide stewardship to the Men’s Club, please reach out to Bill Bright at bbright@stjohnofthecross.org.

**Mark your calendar to join us at our upcoming events:**
- SAM Gatherings on Saturday, November 19 and December 10
- Scout Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 20
- Smoker on Thursday, December 15
- Trivia Night in the School Gym on Saturday, January 28, 2017

**More on our next SAM Gathering: Does Modern Science challenge our faith beliefs?**
If you have an opinion on this, please come to the next Men’s Club SAM Gathering on Saturday, November 19. We will gather over coffee and bagels in fellowship and to discuss aspects of this issue. Among us, we will deepen our shared understandings and further build friendships! We hope to see you there at 8:45am in the Parish Center!
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
WOMEN’S CLUB ANNUAL

COAT DRIVE
to benefit local charities

Donation Drop Boxes are located in the Church Narthex, Parish Center Lobby and School Lobby.
After all Masses this weekend your donations will also be accepted in the Parish Center.
Thank you for helping others keep warm this winter.

advent by candlelight

Tuesday, November 29
7-10pm in the Parish Center
More details next week.

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS
WOMEN’S CLUB ANNUAL

Youth Catechesis
Adapting for all God’s children’s needs.
We have many children learning in the YC program with different physical and cognitive needs. One part of YC that is filled with amazing children is our Adapted Catechesis program. AC continues to thrive and grow with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Children in AC learn about God’s love as we connect the Sunday Gospel to their lives. They participate in bible story time, then use a white board to add “Prayers to God.” They beautifully share what is in their hearts for their prayers. The children created cards to welcome families to SJC. There are four children preparing to receive their First Reconciliation and First Eucharist this year.

First Reconciliation teaches about how we make bad or good choices. The children have an examination of conscience which has been adapted to meet their needs. Parents work closely with the AC volunteers to reinforce the lessons at home. Many Sunday readings also speak to God’s mercy and forgiveness, which seamlessly connect with Reconciliation. Everyone is reminded that Jesus loves us and forgives us when we express sorrow for our wrong doings.

The children love acting out Good Choice/Bad Choice Scenarios, where they discuss what they would do. They even dress as Jesus, so Jesus could offer his forgiveness. In the photo, one acted out a scenario where he made a bad choice, then held up his “I'm Sorry” card. “Jesus” came over and said “You're Forgiven!” This was a wonderfully concrete way for the class to really feel the joy of forgiveness.

The “I'm Sorry” and “You're Forgiven” cards were sent home so that everyone in the family can use them, not just the children preparing for Reconciliation.

What a blessing all our children are at St. John of the Cross Parish!

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School News

St. John of the Cross Parish School is now accepting applications for the 2017-18 school year. St. John of the Cross Parish School provides a dynamic Catholic environment where faith is nourished and knowledge grows. We offer unique educational experiences that foster success, promote unity, and respect the individuality of each student. If you are interested in visiting the school, please call Jennifer Jermano Miller, Director of Advancement at 708-246-4454, to set up an appointment or visit our website at http://www.stjohnofthecross.org/school/apply-today/

This Week at SJC
Monday, November 7
Cycle Bar Fundraiser 7pm Cycle Bar Burr Ridge

Tuesday, November 8
Parent Association Meeting 9am Parish Center

Wednesday, November 9
Speech Competition 7pm School

Friday, November 11 Out of Uniform

St. John of The Cross Athletic Association

Presents

A Night of Comedy
Saturday November 19, 2016
7 P.M. Until 11 P.M.
In the School Gym
Cost: $60

Please bring your favorite food and beverages to share.

Please join us for a night of laughter hosted by Chicago comedian Pat McGann with special guests Andy Woodhull and Dwayne Kennedy. All proceeds will benefit SJC athletic programs. Tickets are $60.00 per person. Please bring your favorite food and beverages to share. Please send your ticket requests and checks to St. John of The Cross Parish School, 708 51st Street, Western Springs, IL 60558, Attn: Kathy Stillo. Thank you for your continued support of SJC Athletics!!

Name ______________________________
Email ______________________________

I will be attending the SJC Comedy Night for $60 ______
Additional Guests: ______________________________________________

I would like to make an additional contribution to the SJC Athletic Association
___$100 ___$250 ___$500 AND ABOVE

I can’t attend, but wish to make a tax-deductible contribution in the amount of $________

Enclosed is my check for $__________made payable to SJC.
Outreach

CCHD Second Collection: Nov. 19-20

In this special Year of Mercy, today, November 6, has been designated by Pope Francis as a Jubilee for Prisoners. Together let us remember prisoners everywhere in prayer.

Most gracious Father,
bless with your special care
call jails, penitentiaries and homes of refuge.
Look with pity on those who are housed there.
Guide and protect those who have returned to the world.
Grant all of them true contrition for past sins,
and strengthen them in their good resolutions.
Lead them along from grace to grace
so that by the help of the Holy Spirit
they may persevere in the ways of obedience and humility,
and in the struggle against evil thoughts and desires.
Grant the Holy Spirit to those
engaged in teaching and training them,
that they might have right judgment
with respect to those entrusted to them.
May they labor for love of you with
deep humility and singleness of purpose,
purity of heart and life, and
true zeal for your glory and the salvation of souls. Amen

Parishioners who have been praying for a specific detainee at the jail should return their prayer card to the Parish Center office this week by Thursday, November 10. We ask you to write a few encouraging sentences about your prayer to the inmate on the back of the card. Kolbe House will then deliver the cards back to the inmates. Call Rose Horvath, Outreach Ministry Group Chairperson and Kolbe House Rep at 708-246-8633 with any questions. Thank you for your prayers.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) works to be a voice of hope for those on the margins of society who experience the realities of living in poverty. CCHD supports programs to heal the wounds of crime and violence, advocate for more just policies, protect God’s creation, and develop strong communities. Your donation to CCHD will help build a society where all have a voice and all know their inherent dignity.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development funds programs in communities across the United States. By giving a hand up, rather than a handout, CCHD helps people living in poverty join together to identify problems, make decisions, and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. Your support helps to end poverty through building solidarity in our communities.

Working together, we can reach out to our brothers and sisters living on the periphery of society. Please visit www.povertyusa.org for more details of CCHD’s efforts to spread Christ’s love by helping to break the cycle of poverty in our community and across the country.

The Community Shop Needs Your Help
Community Nurse Health Center is grateful for the ongoing support of so many SJC members. As you are preparing for the holidays, the staff and volunteers at The Community Shop will gladly find a new home for your gently used furniture and home décor items. Your donations are greatly appreciated and help ensure that local families in need can access medical, dental, and behavioral health care at Community Nurse Health Center. Please call for more information and to arrange free pick-up. 708/579-2425. www.communitynurse.org

One Word at a Time provides a key Word related to the Year of Mercy, along with reflections on how to put that Word into practice in our everyday lives. The Words can serve as the spark for a discussion of faith at home or as a personal reflection. Stop in our church narthex to read all the Words we have reflected on so far.

St. John of the Cross Parish November 6, 2016 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Page 12
Western Springs residents - please put your non-perishable food donations on your front porch next Saturday morning, November 12. Our parish Crossroads teens will come by to collect your food between 10:00am and 1:00pm.

If you live in Burr Ridge, Indian Head Park or another nearby town, please bring your Harvest Saturday donations to the Parish Center on Saturday before 1:00pm or any time during the coming week.

Your food donations will be delivered to grateful recipients at St. Thomas of Canterbury, St. Gall, St. Barbara, Precious Blood Prison Ministries, St. Francis Xavier, St. Cletus, Port Ministries and LaGrange Area Transitional Housing.

Thank you for helping us feed those who are hungry.
There’s nothing simple about being a human being. We’re a mystery to ourselves and often our own worst enemies. Our inner complexity befuddles us and, not infrequently, stymies us. Nowhere is this truer than in our struggle with love and intimacy.

More than anything else, we hunger for intimacy, to be touched where we are most tender, where we are most ourselves, where all that’s most precious in us lies, vulnerable and yearning. Yet, in the actual face of intimacy, sensitive people often become disquieted and resistant.

We see two powerful instances of this in the Gospels: The first in a story, recorded in all four Gospels, where a woman enters a room where Jesus is dining and, in a series of lavish gestures, breaks an expensive bottle of perfume, pours the perfume onto his feet, washes his feet with her tears, dries them with her hair, and then begins to kiss his feet. What’s the response of those in the room, save for Jesus? Discomfort and resistance. This shouldn’t be happening! Everyone shifts uncomfortably in their chairs in the face of this raw expression of love and Jesus, himself, has to challenge them to look at the source of their discomfort.

Among other things, he points out that, ironically, what they are uncomfortable with is what lies at the very center of life and at the very center of their deepest desires, namely, the pure giving and receiving of love and affection. It’s this, Jesus affirms, for which we are alive and it’s this experience which prepares us for death. It’s what we are alive for. It’s also what we most yearn for? So why our discomfort and resistance when we actually face it in life?

The second instance occurs in John’s Gospel where, at the Last Supper, Jesus tries to wash his disciples’ feet. As John records it, Jesus got up from the table, stripped off his outer robe, took a basin and towel, and began to wash his disciples’ feet. But he meets discomfort and resistance, clearly voiced by Peter who simply tells Jesus: “Never! You will never wash my feet!”

Why? Why the resistance? Why resistance in the face of the fact that, no doubt, more than anything else, what Peter most deeply desired was exactly that Jesus should wash his feet, that he would enjoy this kind of intimacy with Jesus?

Answering the question of our struggle with intimacy in this context provides one clue for why we sometimes become uncomfortable and resistant when we are in the actual face of what we desire so deeply. Our feet are too-intimate; they’re a part of our bodies where we worry about dirt and smell, not a part of ourselves that we feel comfortable having others touch. There’s an innate vulnerability, a discomfort, an inchoate shame, attached to having someone else touch and wash so intimate a part of us. Intimacy demands an ease which our vulnerability sometimes renders impossible. And so this text speaks to one kind of resistance to intimacy, to a particular unease within certain circumstances.

But Peter’s resistance here speaks too of something else, something more salient: If we are healthily and sensitive, we all will naturally experience a certain discomfort and resistance in the face of raw gift, before raw intimacy, before raw gratuity. And, while this is something to be overcome, it’s not a fault, a moral or psychological flaw on our part. On the contrary, in its normal expression, it’s a sign of moral and psychological sensitivity. Why do I say this?

Why is something that seems to block us from moving towards the very essence of life not a sign that there’s something fundamentally wrong inside of us? I suggest that it’s not a flaw but rather a healthy mechanism inside us because narcissistic, boorish, and insensitive persons are often immune to this discomfort and resistance. Their narcissism shields them from shame and their callousness allows them an easy and brute ease with intimacy, like someone who is sexually jaded enough to be comfortable with pornography or like someone who takes intimacy as something to be had by right, casually or even aggressively. In this case, there’s no shame or discomfort because there’s no real intimacy.

Sensitive people, on the other hand, struggle with the rawness of intimacy because genuine intimacy, like heaven, is not something that can be glibly or easily achieved. It’s a lifelong struggle, a give and take with many setbacks, a revealing and a hiding, a giving over and a resistance, an ecstasy and a feeling of unworthiness, an acceptance that struggles with real surrender, an altruism that still contains selfishness, a warmth that sometimes turns cold, a commitment that still has some conditions, and a hope that struggles to sustain itself.

Intimacy isn’t like heaven. It is salvation. It is the Kingdom. Thus, like the Kingdom, both the road and the gate towards it are narrow, not easily found. So be gentle, patient, and forgiving towards others and self in that struggle.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser
Mass Schedule & Intentions

Monday, November 7  Weekday
7:45am  Jerry Albertson; Loretta Babka

Tuesday, November 8  Weekday
7:45am Betty Cook; Raymond & Margaret Cochran

Wednesday, November 9  Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
7:45am John Jurkacek; Mary Piszczor

Thursday, November 10 St. Leo the Great
7:45am Mildred Bylund; Our Beloved Dead

Friday, November 11 St. Martin of Tours
7:45am Deceased members of the Madigan & O’Malley Families; Joseph Gowgiel

Saturday, November 12 St. Josaphat
8:00am Mary Piszczor; Paul Limber
9:00am Harvest Saturday Mass
~ Reconciliation following the 8am Mass ~
5:00pm Shirley Kazragis; Bob Rooney

Sunday, November 13 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am Bruno Shukis; Vyto Shukis
9:00am Charles Macke; Deceased members of the Messina Family
10:45am Fred Lichtenauer; Deceased members of the Dziubla Family
12:15pm Steve Slawinski; Thomas Sheehan
5:00pm Lois Flavin; Gene Gallagher  Italics: Living Intention

Pray for Our Sick
Gary Berger  Lynne Freking  Warren McGee  Deloris Simonek
Katie Berger  Kathy Gros  Bobbie Misiora  Ray Simonek
Glori Ann Bird  Karen Hult  Jennifer Ochino  Don Vollmer
Christina Carinato  Curtis Kerzich  Patrick O’Donnell  Eric Wilson
Paul Cervony  George Kojima  Mary Ann Piwowar
Nancy Cottone  Athie Lanahan  Gail Schmidt

Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country
Sgt. Steven Foody, son of Sandra Foody  Sgt. Michael Grabarek, relative of the LeFevour and Schillaci families
Sergeant Sebastian Grabacki, son of David & Jan Grabacki  Sgt. Larry Waszak, grandson of Bruno and Barbara Gacek
Sr A Joshua Tischler USAF Pararescue, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler  Petty Officer 3rd Class Mathew Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci
A Navy Seal, a relative of our parishioner & Mary Tischler  Lance Corporal David Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci
Lance Corporal Daniel Pett, nephew of Kathryn Stimetz  Sgt. Robert Marburger, son of David and Kathleen Marburger
Capt. James Maicke, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke  Steven Weigand, Pastoral Associate
for a complete staff listing see our website.

Marriage Banns
Nicole Will & Nicholas Montemagni  Steven Weigand, Pastoral Associate
Caitlin Dentamaro & Timothy Andersen

The Week Ahead:
Monday, November 7
9:30am Spiritual Journeying
10:30am Christian Meditation 11th Step
1:00pm Little Rock
2:30pm Adoration
YC Classes
7:00pm Boy Scouts
7:00pm Seasons of Hope

Tuesday, November 8
9:00am School Parent Association
9:05am Tuesdays with Mary Rosary
6:00pm RCIA
7:30pm Christian Meditation

Wednesday, November 9
9:15am Wednesday Morning Bible Study
9:30am Bridges Study Group
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:30pm Christian Meditation
3:30pm St. John of the Cross Study
3:45pm Cherub Choir Practice
7:00pm Chicago Catholic Scripture
7:00pm SJC Fest Brainstorming Meeting
7:00pm Grecco Faith Sharing
7:00pm School Speech Contest
7:30pm Traditional Choir Practice

Thursday, November 10
1:00pm Pivotal Players in Catholicism
3:45pm Youth Choir Practice
6:30pm Protecting Gods Children
7:00pm Outreach Ministry Meeting
7:00pm Pivotal Players in Catholicism
7:30pm Contemporary Ensemble

Friday, November 11
5:30pm Crossroads Box Night

Saturday, November 12
7:00am Christian Meditation
9:00am Crossroads Harvest Saturday

Sunday, November 13
YC Classes
1:30pm Baptisms
3:00pm Father Daughter Dance

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
Robert Jim Hartnett, father of Susan, Mary Ann, Patrick, David, and Jimmy,
grandfather of 10, great grandfather of 2
Jack Hughes, father of John, grandfather of 3
Gregory Nelson, father of Nancy Sieh, Susan Olson and Thomas, grandfather of 11,
brother in law of Marian McNulty

Pray for Our Sick
Gary Berger  Lynne Freking  Warren McGee  Deloris Simonek
Katie Berger  Kathy Gros  Bobbie Misiora  Ray Simonek
Glori Ann Bird  Karen Hult  Jennifer Ochino  Don Vollmer
Christina Carinato  Curtis Kerzich  Patrick O’Donnell  Eric Wilson
Paul Cervony  George Kojima  Mary Ann Piwowar
Nancy Cottone  Athie Lanahan  Gail Schmidt

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Nicole Will & Nicholas Montemagni  Caitlin Dentamaro & Timothy Andersen

St. John of the Cross Parish  November 6, 2016  32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  Page 15
Sometimes a Girl’s just gotta DANCE!

Join us for our Father Daughter Dance
Sunday, November 13th
3:00 - 5:00 pm

St. John of the Cross Parish Center
Grab your favorite girl & join us for light refreshments, dancing, raffles, picture booth, and memory-making!!
To register: mail your check or drop off to the VC office at 708 E 56th St, Western Springs OR
Reply to our eVite and purchase at the door.

All ages welcome
$35 per family