The Most Holy Trinity

June 11, 2017

John 3:16
Honoring an Unsung Hero

Honor a Catholic American War Objector on June 20 at Mount Carmel Cemetery

To put special emphasis on Jesus’ teachings of nonviolence, on June 20 Pope Francis will visit and pray at the gravesites of two Italian priests, Fr. Lorenzo Milani and Fr. Primo Mazzolari, who were against violence and the Just War Theory. Following the Pope’s lead, the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP) also publicly advocate for Gospel nonviolence as a way of life throughout the world. On June 20 all are invited to pray at the grave of Ben Salmon in Hillside, a Catholic who refused to participate in World War I and accepted years of imprisonment, solitary confinement and the possibility of the death penalty. Stop by Mount Carmel Cemetery in Hillside between 9am and 4pm to pray and show support for nonviolence. Signs posted in the cemetery will direct you to the gravesite. Enter from Roosevelt Road.

Who Was Ben Salmon?

Benjamin Joseph Salmon was born in 1888 in Denver, Colorado. Raised Catholic, he believed in Jesus’ admonition to love your enemy and refused to serve in World War I. Arrested, tried in a military court and convicted of treason, he was at first sentenced to death, but then to a reduced sentence of 25 years of hard labor. Ben’s crime was his belief that the nonviolent teaching of Jesus Christ was based on love, not killing. Ben Salmon rejected the Just War Theory, believing no war could be just. Despite the Catholic Church’s wide spread support of the President and the war, Ben was confined and tortured and began a Liberty or Death Hunger Strike. He was then committed to the criminally insane wing of St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Washington, D.C. where he wrote a 200 page manuscript explaining his objections to the Just War Theory, urging Christians to listen to the voice of Christ. Only after the fledgling ACLU took up his case, he and other conscientious objectors were released and pardoned in 1920. Upon his release he lived a quiet life, but because of his prison ordeal he died an early death at 43. He was buried at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Hillside. An unsung hero of World War I, many support the call for beatification of Ben Salmon. (Sources: National Catholic Reporter, Wikipedia, and bensalmon.org)

"My father knew the truth of the New Testament and the Sermon on the Mount," she said. "My father believed and was willing to die for his belief that no war is just. He knew the lie of war had devoured our culture, including Christianity, during World War I. What would my father say about our endless wars? Would he say all this killing is just? What would he say about the billionaires who continue to reap blood money from weapons-making? My father was a brave and good person. I only wish he lived longer for me to really get to know him. I believe he’s a saint." (Maryknoll Sr. Elizabeth Salmon, Ben Salmon’s daughter)
Peacebuilding:
Making Nonviolence our Way of Life

I would like to reflect on nonviolence as a style of politics for peace. I ask God to help all of us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values. May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life. When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peacemaking. In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms.

Violence is not the cure for our broken world. Countering violence with violence leads at best to forced migrations and enormous suffering, because vast amounts of resources are diverted to military ends and away from the everyday needs of young people, families experiencing hardship, the elderly, the infirm and the great majority of people in our world. At worst, it can lead to the death, physical and spiritual, of many people, if not of all.

Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart: for “it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come” (Mk 7:21). But Christ’s message in this regard offers a radically positive approach. He unfailingly preached God’s unconditional love, which welcomes and forgives. He taught his disciples to love their enemies (cf. Mt 5:44) and to turn the other cheek (cf. Mt 5:39). When he stopped her accusers from stoning the woman caught in adultery (cf. Jn 8:1-11), and when, on the night before he died, he told Peter to put away his sword (cf. Mt 26:52), Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. He walked that path to the very end, to the cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility (cf. Eph 2:14-16). Whoever accepts the Good News of Jesus is able to acknowledge the violence within and be healed by God’s mercy, becoming in turn an instrument of reconciliation. In the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: “As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts.”

To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence. For Christians, nonviolence is not merely tactical behavior but a person’s way of being, the attitude of one who is so convinced of God’s love and power that he or she is not afraid to tackle evil with the weapons of love and truth alone. Love of one’s enemy constitutes the nucleus of the Christian revolution. The Gospel command to love your enemies (cf. Lk 6:27) is rightly considered the magna carta of Christian nonviolence. It does not consist in succumbing to evil…, but in responding to evil with good (cf. Rom 12:17-21), and thereby breaking the chain of injustice (Benedict XVI).

Jesus himself offers a “manual” for this strategy of peacemaking in the Sermon on the Mount. The eight Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:3-10) provide a portrait of the person we could describe as blessed, good and authentic. Blessed are the meek, Jesus tells us, the merciful and the peacemakers, those who are pure in heart, and those who hunger and thirst for justice. To act in this way (as peacebuilders by living the beatitudes) means to choose solidarity as a way of making history and building friendship in society. Active nonviolence is a way of showing that unity is truly more powerful and more fruitful than conflict. Everything in the world is inter-connected. Certainly differences can cause frictions. But let us face them constructively and nonviolently, so that “tensions and oppositions can achieve a diversified and life-giving unity,” preserving “what is valid and useful on both sides.”

All of us want peace. Many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts; many of them are suffering, yet patiently persevere in their efforts to be peacemakers. In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming nonviolent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home. “Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. Everyone can be an artisan of peace.”

Excerpts from Pope Francis World Day of Peace Message 2017

Let us never tire of repeating: “The name of God cannot be used to justify violence. Peace alone is holy. Peace alone is holy, not war!” Pope Francis
Discounted Mega Passes Now On Sale!

Advance Purchase Price: $50

Good for unlimited rides all four days of SJC Fest!

Mega Passes will be sold during the Fest for $65. Purchase Your Mega Passes Now Online at www.sjcfest.com. Or at the Parish Center Office Monday-Friday 9am-3pm.
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SJC Fest Volunteers Needed

Can you spare a few hours to insure the success of this year’s SJC Fest? Please share your time and talent by volunteering for a shift or two. Also, please consider asking some of your friends and neighbors to join in on the fun with you. To see what shifts are available – simply go to www.sjcfest.com and click on the “VOLUNTEER” tab.

Thursday   Chicago Tribute Anthology
Friday     Maggie Speaks (Top 40 Hits)
Saturday  Breakfast Club (‘80s Tribute Band)
Sunday    Tony Ocean (Rat Pack Singer)

Special Needs Event:
Friday, June 23 from 10am – 12pm
Open to all special needs children, adults and their families. Closed to the public. If you have questions or wish to register a large group please call (708) 292-1100.

Early Bird Cash Raffle:
You can win an extra $500 just by sending back your ticket stubs and check payable to St. John of the Cross by June 10. The Early Bird drawing will take place on Sunday, June 11.
Living the Gospel

God chose to create and redeem humanity in an unequalled act of love. Divine Life and love extend beyond the inner intimacy of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity to us in an eternal, shared love drawing us toward a fuller share in God. The mystery of the Trinity calls us to go both beyond ourselves and deeper into ourselves—to an intimacy with God that delights us and brings us to share that delight with others. Thus is the Trinitarian grace, love, and fellowship manifested in our midst. God is triune mystery, yes! But even more mystery-laden is that God shares divine Self with us in such a gracious manner and "receives us" as God’s own very own.

It seems as though God's graciousness never ends—not only with sending the Son, but further with inviting us into a share in divine Life and love. In this context of shared Life and love we might think of the simple, ordinary ways we reach out to others—a smile, a helping hand, a kind word—as ways we actually manifest the mystery and majesty of our triune God. Such love as this can only be matched by those who share in divine Life! We are to be in relationship with each other as the three divine Persons of the Holy Trinity are in relationship with each other. This sounds impossible to us humans who experience hurts, broken relationships, lack of graciousness so much of the time. Perhaps this is why the mystery of the Holy Trinity has been revealed to us: as God’s beloved who have been saved by the Son and given Life in the Spirit, as those created in God’s image, as those who share their delighted hearts. ©Living Liturgy

Background on the Gospel

This week we return to the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. This Sunday and next, however, are designated as solemnities—special days that call our attention to central mysteries of our faith. Today on Trinity Sunday we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Trinity, one God in three persons.

Today’s Gospel is from the beginning of John’s Gospel. The passage we read follows Jesus’ conversation with a Pharisee, Nicodemus, about what it means to be born of both water and the spirit. Nicodemus approaches Jesus at night and acknowledges Jesus as a teacher from God. Jesus tells him that only those who are born from above will see the Kingdom of God. Nicodemus misunderstands and questions how a person can be born more than once. Jesus tells Nicodemus that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. Jesus is essentially explaining Baptism, which we celebrate as a sacrament today. Yet Nicodemus, we are told, still does not understand what Jesus is saying. Jesus continues by testifying to the need to be born from above so that one might have eternal life.

After the dialogue with Nicodemus, the author of the Gospel offers his own explanation of Jesus’ words. This is what we read in today’s Gospel, John 3:16-18.

In the context of today’s focus on the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the reading calls our attention to the action of God, who reveals himself in three persons: God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God the Father, out of love for the world, sent his Son into the world in order to save it. Through the death and resurrection of the Son, we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit. As three persons, God acts always as a God of love; he does not condemn the world but acts to save it.

The Gospel also calls attention to the response that is required of us. God’s love for us calls us to respond in faith by professing our belief in God’s son, Jesus, and the salvation that he has won for us. This profession of faith is a sign of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.  

Gracious God, we call out to you, not as a mysterious, cosmic riddle, but as you have made yourself known to us: the God of compassion and love, the God who redeems us and restores us to life, the God who lives in us and through us. Help us to love others as you love us, without condition, without limit. We make these prayers to you, the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

May we strive to knit all believers together into a self-giving community of love. May we more fully express our belief in Jesus by living as he did.
Prayer to an Evolutionary God
You accept us—at times of self-doubt
Thank you, God of all,
Co-creator of our world,
For allowing us to be imperfectly made:
Because it makes us, if we are wise, forgiving.
Do you accept us as we are?
We condemn people too quickly:
We judge them for flawed thinking, disguised egotism,
Unworthy acquisitiveness, or skewed opinions.
But we can forgive them once we accept our own shadow,
And realize how well we ourselves fit
Into the ranks of a less than perfect human race.
You, Holy God, accept each of us,
Prophets tell us, just as we are:
Provided our moral judgments of others
Are reciprocally generous and compassionate.
Imperfection fits this evolving reality,
For the universe thrives on diversity,
Including random failure,
One of the very preconditions for the unfolding advances.
May it be so.
- William Cleary

Your Love
Bless us with Love, O Merciful God;
That we may Love as you Love!
That we may show patience, tolerance,
Kindness, caring and love to all!
Give me knowledge; O giver of Knowledge,
That I may be one with my Universe and Mother Earth!
O Compassionate One, grant compassion unto us;
That we may help all fellow souls in need!
Bless us with your Love O God.
Bless us with your Love.

God is always in conscious relationship with each one of us as our creator, our sustainer, dear father or dear mother, our brother, our savior, the Spirit who dwells in our hearts. At every moment of our existence God is communicating to us who God is, is trying to draw us into an awareness, a consciousness of the reality of who we are in God’s sight. Whether we are aware of it or not, at every moment of our existence we are encountering God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is trying to catch our attention, trying to draw us into a reciprocal conscious relationship.
Excerpt from William A. Barry, SJ Finding God in All Things

A Prayer for Resting in God's Love
God of Goodness,
I come into your presence
so aware of my human frailty
and yet overwhelmed by your love for me.
I thank you that there is no human experience
that I might walk through
where your love cannot reach me.
If I climb the highest mountain you are there
and yet if I find myself in the darkest valley of my life,
you are there.
Teach me today to love you more.
Help me to rest in that love
that asks nothing more
than the simple trusting heart of a child.
- Author Unknown

"Great acts are made up of small deeds." - Lao Tzu
What small deeds will I act upon today?

"Our faith needs to be the North Star of our lives. Our behavior needs to match our words."
- Archbishop Charles Chaput

"Everything changes. Nothing remains without change." - Buddha
What is changing in my life? How have I responded to the changes?

"The best remedy for those who are afraid, lonely or unhappy is to go outside, somewhere where they can be quiet, alone with the heavens, nature and God. Because only then does one feel that all is as it should be and that God wishes to see people happy, amidst the simple beauty of nature." - Anne Frank
When was the last time I have been amidst the simple beauty of nature?

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."
- Corinthians 13:13
The Trinity is the manner in which Catholics believe God is revealed to the world. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, "The mystery of the Holy Trinity is the central mystery of the Christian faith and of the Christian life." (CCC, #261)

The Church shows that because God is "mystery," meaning that we just can’t pin God down — we’re unable to know everything there is to know about God — God has tried to communicate to us just who He is. Traditionally, the Church expressed this as, God being revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three expressions or “persons” of one divine essence. The Trinity is one. Catholics do not believe in three Gods but rather one God in a unity of three persons with one divine nature. Sound confusing?

One analogy that could be helpful is to think of the different states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. Ice can become water and water can become steam. All of these are the same essence and contain equal amounts of hydrogen and oxygen but they appear in different forms.

God the Father

The church uses the image of the Father — the Creator from which everything flows and has its being — to express the first person of the Trinity. While the Son and the Holy Spirit are not “lesser gods” they do proceed from the Father as God’s own self-gift to humanity.

God the Son

The second person of the Trinity is the Son — Jesus himself, the God become man. Catholics believe that God freely chooses to come into human history in the person of Jesus. God becomes like us and dies our human death for us. But because Jesus is God, He cannot be held by death and rises to a new life, supremely better than human experience.

God the Holy Spirit

The third person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from both the Father and the Son. Jesus announces that His Father will send the Holy Spirit to be with and in the disciples, to teach and guide them. The Spirit is God’s real presence living within all of us, which brings us inspiration (which literally means “to draw in the Spirit”).

God is three “persons” but one “essence.” The Father is just as much “God” as the Son and neither are “more God” than the Spirit.

Still confused? Let’s try thinking of these things in a yet another way. Instead of “persons” let’s substitute the word “expressions” of God.

Expressions of God

The Trinity can be thought of in these three expressions:

1. God is “beyond us.” We can never really fathom what God is, but we know that He is far beyond our limited human nature or anything we can come to know in that human experience. God is the ultimate mystery, the question that we never fully answer. This is God the Father — the creator, the one who is beyond all understanding.

2. God is also “among us.” We come to know God in the person of Jesus. God takes on our human nature and becomes “one of us.” Catholics also believe that this human experience of God continues in the sacrament of the Eucharist. God the Son is among us.

3. God is also “within us.” God is the “divine spark” that awakens us to the fact that we are alive. God imbues us with our creativity, our gifts and talents, and our limitations as well. As we come to know ourselves as people, we also come to know God — who knows us better than we know ourselves. This is the experience of God the Holy Spirit.

God is all these things and more. We don’t know all that God is but this is how God has been revealed to us throughout the course of our history — how we have come to best express God. Mike Hayes. bustedhalo.com
Outreach News

Volunteers Needed
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:

- Bellwood Public Schools
- Catholic Charities in Chicago
- Catholic Charities in Cicero
- Chicago Public Schools
- Gift of Hope/Guatemala
- Girl Forward
- Global Youth Leadership
- Harvest Hope
- Kolbe House Prison Ministry’s Children of the Incarcerated
- Off the Street Club
- People’s Resource Center
- Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation
- Refugee One
- St. Leonard Prison Ministry
- St. Malachy School
- SCARCE
- School on Wheels
- St. Vincent DePaul Settlement House, St. Louis MO
- Teach America

 Helpers of all ages are needed to sort and pack this year’s supplies tomorrow, Monday, June 12 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 that 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.

"And in the end
Is the love you take equal to the love you make?"
- John Lennon & Paul McCartney

How has your service to others come back to you in love?

Food Pantry Collection
Help us feed those in need at Mary Queen of Heaven in Chicago during the month of June. Bring nonperishable food and household paper products to the church narthex. Check code dates! Thank you!!!

Ignatian Volunteer Corps
Retired? Semi-retired? Ignatian Volunteer Corps offers men and women, age 50 and older, the opportunity to engage in direct, hands-on service with the materially poor while growing in their Christian faith through personal and shared reflection. IVC members commit to 600 hours of service per year (2 days/week, Sept.-June) and participate in a comprehensive spiritual formation program including monthly community meetings, individual spiritual reflection, and retreat experiences. Currently, 60 IVC Chicago members are serving throughout Cook, Lake and DuPage counties in a wide variety of volunteer settings. Consider using your talents to experience making a difference with the Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Please visit www.ivcusa.org/chicago Learn more and meet current IVC volunteers. Attend an information session at St. Francis Xavier Rectory (Courtyard Room) on Thursday, June 15 at 2pm, 124 North Spring Avenue in LaGrange. Register by contacting Jacqueline Fitzgerald 312-961-6206 or jfitzgerald@ivcusa.org.

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire."
- St. Catherine of Sienna

May all that I am today,
all that I try to do today,
may all my encounters, reflections,
even the frustrations and failings
all place my life in your hands.

Lord, my life is in your hands.
please, let this day give you praise.
Creighton

2017 World Refugee Day Celebrations in Chicago
Join us for two days of celebrations honoring Chicago’s growing refugee community.
June 22-Daley Plaza in Chicago Noon-1pm Lunchtime Concert Performance
World Refugee Day was established by the United Nations to honor the courage, strength and determination of women, men, and children who are forced to flee their homes under the threat of persecution, conflict, and other forms of violence.

July 8-Foster Beach in Chicago Noon-3pm
Noon-1pm One Human Family Rally & March
11am-3pm Youth Activities, Potluck Lunch, World Music, Soccer Tournament and more.

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire."
- St. Catherine of Sienna
Please help us welcome our new members to the St. John of the Cross faith community. If you recognize the name of a friend or neighbor be sure to extend a welcome and encourage them to become involved at SJC.

Kathy and Andy Carpenter and Family  
Carlotta Hoffman  
Stephanie and Whitney Carlisle and Family  
Simona and Timothy Kalnes and Family  

If you would like to register to become a member, please contact Elizabeth Russell-Jones in the Welcome Center or visit our website at: www.stjohnofthecross.org/welcome. For more information call 708.246.4404x155 or erussell-jones@stjohnofthecross.org or stop in the Parish Center.

Join Us at the Fest!  
Calling all new members in the last 12 months...Come and join us for “Fellowship Under the Tent” at the Family Fest on Friday, June 23 from 5:30pm–6:30pm. Enjoy your dinner at our specially-reserved tables under the Tent and get to know other new parishioner families. We look forward to seeing you! And to ALL of our members, take a moment to stop by our tables and introduce yourselves to our new members!

Interfaith Career Networking  
Job Search Assistance  
Please join us on Thursday, June 15 from 7-9 pm in the Parish Center. Speaker, Abby Kohut, also known as Amazing Abby, will give you insight into what HR recruiters look for when they are evaluating your qualifications. In 2017, you must do more than applying on job boards. There are far more candidates applying for the same positions, so you have to differentiate yourself. You will learn what to write in your cover letter, why keywords really matter and how to choose them, secrets about thank you letters, and what to say during a phone screen to get a “yes.” Plus-get to know your fellow participants by networking after the presentation. Did you know...most jobs are generated through networking, meeting others and exchanging useful tips and information. interfaithcareernetwork.org

Be a Mentor for Teens  
Adults are needed to mentor our Crossroads Freshmen. Contact Katie Hayes at 708-246-4404, or khayes@stjohnofthecross.org.

Work Tour Opportunities
- Jr. High and High School Teens Local Work Tour June 19-23
- High School Teens Our Lady of Charity, Cicero July 24-28
- Two female adult chaperones needed for Habitat for Humanity, Franklin WV July16-22

This 5-week program for high school teens begins this Thursday, June 15. Registration and a FAQ page can be found on our website, www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads.

Kairos 26, for Juniors and Seniors is July 27-30. Space is limited, register at www.stjohnofthecross.org/crossroads/retreats.

Congrats to all our graduating Seniors...We awarded our teen leaders certificates with all our gratitude!

Peter’s Pence Collection: June 25
SJC Fest Silent Auction

We are looking for parishioners to donate event tickets for the silent auction at this year's Family Fest. Tickets to sporting events (Cubs, Sox, Hawks, Bulls) as well as other theater or social events this year would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Larry Krema at 312.925.5027 with any questions or ideas that you have. Thank you!!

Fest Family Banners

Decorate an 8.5 x 11 sheet of white paper and we will create a 2 foot banner of your family’s artwork. Use your computer or markers. It’s a great way to support SJC. After the Fest families get to keep their banner. Email finished copies to adreamzimmer@yahoo.com or drop off at the Parish Center by June 14th. Cost: $150.

 Incoming 8th graders and graduating 8th graders: Summer Fun

**13 REASONS WHY YOU ARE AWESOME**

Come and find out why God’s love for you is amazing!

Choose either:

- **Tuesdays from 10-11:30am**
- **or Tuesday from 7-8:30pm**

5 Weeks for $25.00—beginning June 12.
Discover the Power in You!

**SERVING OUR COMMUNITY**

Our youth & families LOVE to serve!

So for the first time, SJC is excited to offer a Local Work Tour for all incoming 7th, 8th & graduating 8th graders.

Serve with our Crossroad teens to help local charities—sign up for 3, 4 or 5 days and make an impact in the lives of others.

**June 19-23**

We also love parent volunteers for a few days too! $150.00 for 5 days, transportation, lunch & supplies. Details can be found on the Crossroads website under Work Tours or contact the Youth Ministry office at 708-246-4404.

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**XTREME TASTE OF FAITH**

**FIND HIM, FIND YOU**

Saturday, June 24, 2017

10:00am – 2:00pm

X-treme Taste of Faith is an incredible opportunity for your junior high youth to experience national youth ministry speakers/musicians at the local level! Presenters use music, games and more to ignite the fire of faith in your middle school youth. Sign up by May 31st for this Rock'n time at Lewis University—only 20 minutes away.

$50.00 – registration due May 31st

Incoming Freshman & HS teens are invited to the larger conference with 700 HS teens at Lewis University June 23-25 — THREE FUN–PACKED DAYS of YLC!! Youth Leadership Conference is 25+ years strong!

Best time you will have all summer – GUARANTEED!
In Falling Upwards: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM describes the need we have to construct an identity in the first half of life and then charts the adventures of the second half of life where spiritual maturity is the goal. To put it another way, the first stage is to create a strong container for identity, whereas the second stage is learning to let go of the ego and embrace our truest self, hidden with Christ in God.

Copies of the book ($15.00) are available in the parish office.

Summer Adult Book Study
July 6—August 14
Thursdays 2-3pm in the Parish Center
In Falling Upwards: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life, Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM describes the need we have to construct an identity in the first half of life and then charts the adventures of the second half of life where spiritual maturity is the goal. To put it another way, the first stage is to create a strong container for identity, whereas the second stage is learning to let go of the ego and embrace our truest self, hidden with Christ in God.

Seasons of Hope Grief Support
Seasons of Hope is for anyone grieving the loss of a family member or loved one. Seasons of Hope is a six-session series designed to help participants work through the grieving process. Each meeting presents a faith-based topic and includes small and large group discussion, use of Scripture, prayer, journaling and other resources to create an atmosphere of healing, consolation, support and hope. It is recommended that participants allow 3-6 months from time of loss before attending, however no one is excluded. The summer session runs from Monday, July 10-August 14 (7:00-8:30pm) and is facilitated by experienced and caring adults who are familiar with all stages of the grief process. Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/grief-ministry/ or call Steve Weigand.

‘We know the path on which you are walking because we have walked it too. Our prayers are with you.’

Divorce and Beyond Support
Thursday Evenings~(7:00 – 8:30pm) July 13, 20, 27 and Aug 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 The Divorce and Beyond Ministry provides support, healing and guidance to the recently divorced or those in the process of divorce. It is a faith-based, Catholic Christian support ministry that also welcomes other faith traditions. Each session highlights a different aspect of the divorce-healing process. Session topics include: Managing anger, blame, loneliness, and achieving growth and personal happiness. Sessions are led by Divorce and Beyond graduates who are committed to fostering the personal and spiritual growth of all participants. Register online: www.stjohnofthecross.org/divorceandbeyond or Call Steve Weigand. Cost: $10.00 Participant Manual (may be picked up prior to or at the first session).

If you have ever thought about being a priest, these signs may be clues to a future priestly vocation.
1. God has placed in your heart a desire to be a priest. If Jesus has placed a desire in your heart for priesthood, no matter what your age, don’t ignore it. Talk to a priest you admire about how you feel.
2. You have a deep love for Christ and His Church. A priest functions in persona Christi capitas—in the person of Christ, head of the Church. Thus a man who wants to be a priest must love Jesus Christ above all else. And like Jesus, he should have a deep love for the Church, the Bride of Christ. In general, a man who wants to be a priest will find himself drawn to Church teachings and “all things Catholic.”
3. Other people have mentioned that you would be a good priest. Often other people will notice a “priest’s heart” in a young man and say to him, “Have you ever thought about being a priest? I think you’d make a good one.” In fact, many men report that they grew tired of people making such comments—but that the encouragement eventually led them to seminary!
4. You desire to live a life of virtue and prayer.
5. You want to help others grow closer to Christ. A priest brings Jesus to people and people to Jesus. For this reason, a man who wants to be a priest must have a deep concern for the people of God. He wants to help them grow in holiness; he wants to teach them the truths of the faith; he wants to minister to them during the trials of life. The vocation of priesthood is about leading others to heaven.

If you’ve thought about the possibility of priesthood, but don’t yet have all these signs and qualities, don’t despair! All people must strive for holiness. And future priests go through a long and intensive formation period, precisely to help them grow in virtue and be effective in their ministry.

If you would like to explore this conversation further please give Fr. Bill Vollmer a call.
St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their children baptized last Sunday by Deacon Voytas assisted by Baptism Team leaders, Elizabeth and Andy Turcich. Pictured from the left are: Todd and Alison Chebuhar with Eleanor Marie, Neil and Monica Firlit with Annmarie Grace, Collin and Deanna Gardiner with Charlotte Grace, and Andrew and Rebecca O’Connell with Zoe Ann.

The Week Ahead
Monday, June 12
Women’s Club Garage Sale
Donation Drop Off 10am-8pm at School
9:30am Spiritual Journeying
10:30am Step 11 Christian Meditation
2:30pm Adoration
Tuesday, June 13
Women’s Club Garage Sale
Donation Drop Off 10am-8pm at School
7:00pm Fest Planning Meeting
Wednesday, June 14
Women’s Club Garage Sale
Donation Drop Off 10am-8pm at School
9:30am Bridges Faith Sharing
1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
2:30pm Christian Meditation
7:00pm Grecco Faith Sharing
Thursday, June 15
Women’s Club Garage Sale
Donation Drop Off 10am-8pm at School
7:00pm Career Networking Program
7:30pm Men’s Club Board Meeting
Friday, June 16
Women’s Club Garage Sale
Donation Drop Off 10am-Noon at School
Saturday, June 17, 2017
Women’s Club Garage Sale
7:00am Christian Meditation
Sunday, June 18
12:00pm Baptisms
Second Collection for Retired Priests Today
Retired priests continue to be an important source of help at parishes like ours by saying weekday and Sunday Masses, funeral Masses and hearing confessions. Over 200 retired priests in the Chicago archdiocese rely on the Priests’ Retirement and Mutual Aid Association (PRMAA) to cover their health care, prescriptions and nursing home care. There will be second collection this weekend to support the PRMAA. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Men’s Club Golf Outing Thank You
On a beautiful afternoon on the first Friday in June, 34 men came out for the SJC Men’s Club Golf Outing, a best ball scramble held at the 9 hole Flagg Creek Golf Course. Under high blue and sunny skies, the foursome of Chris Fox, Bill Spartz, Fran Connelly and Gary Cunningham edged out a few other teams by shooting a 4 under par 29! Looks like we are going to have to break that team up… Chris Fox also took home the Closest to Pin prize, while the Longest Drive went to Teddy Wulf. Thanks to all the guys who ‘gave up’ their Friday afternoon for a little golf and fraternizing afterward. Hope to see even more guys at the event next year.
FAMILY LIFE AS SACRAMENT

The catechism from which I drew my religious instruction as a child stated that a Christian sacrament was an “outward sign instituted by Jesus Christ to give us grace.” Later on, in the seminary, the theology text we used on sacraments was written by Edward Schillebeeckx and he defined a sacrament in words to this effect: “A sacrament is anything that visibly, tangibly makes present or prolongs a saving action of God.” While both of those definitions are theologically very good, they are too abstract to, at times, give us a real sense of what precisely a sacrament is and where a sacrament is sometimes found. I prefer a more colloquial definition, one that simply defines a sacrament as “anything that gives skin to God.” What is meant by this?

There is a marvelous story told of a four year-old girl who woke up one night frightened, convinced that there were monsters and spooks in her room. So she ran to her parents’ bedroom. Her mother, however, brought her back to her own room, put on a number of lights, showed the child that there was nothing to be afraid of, put her back to bed, calmed her, and finally left her with the words: “There is nothing to be afraid of. When I leave, you won’t be alone in the room. God will be here with you.” But the young girl replied: “I know that God will be here with me, but I need someone in the room who has some skin!”

There is wisdom, and theology, to her response. As human beings we are creatures of the senses. We need something we can grasp tangibly, physically. Thus, a God who is everywhere is, at a certain point, nowhere. God, of course, already knows this and that is why we have been given God’s presence physically in sacrament. Understood in this sense then, there are more than seven sacraments. Family life is, or at least it can be, a sacrament. Like the Eucharist, or any other sacrament, it too can give concrete flesh to God. How so?

Partly this can be understood by contrast. Jean-Paul Sartre once said “the other is hell”. That, for a Christian and for every other major world religion, is the exact opposite of the truth. Hell is alienation, arrogant self-willed aloneness, the opposite of community, non-family. As John Shea so aptly puts it, hell is never a surprise waiting for a happy person, but the full-flowering of a life of arrogant alienation. Heaven is union with others and thus as long as we are somehow linked to a community and family we cannot go to hell.

Buckminster Fuller once said that God is not just a noun, but also a verb. That is true. God is not just a person, but also a certain flow of life, a flow of receptivity and gratitude between three persons. Inside of God there is a kind of family life going on and Jesus has assured us that when we give and receive from each other within a family, when we break open our lives and hearts and joys and frustrations and egos and agendas and finances and share these with each other, we are letting the life of God flow through us and we are giving skin to the inner life of the Trinity. In that sense, family life is a sacrament and, for many of us, the most important sacrament of all because it is the one that in fact touches our lives and transforms us the most deeply.

But all of this should not to be unduly romanticized. To say that family life is a sacrament is not to say that it will not be fraught with pettiness, frustration, anger, jealousies, selfish concern, pathology, and even at times real sin. Our families are never the holy family! I remember my mother, a truly pious and good woman, occasionally lamenting how in her idealism she dreamed of being the mother of the holy family – and she ended up getting stuck with us! Our families are never the romanticized stuff of our adolescent or pious dreams. Nor are they ever the idealized families of literature and movies, where people are still attractive, interesting, and worthy of our understanding and sympathy even when they are petty, selfish, jealous, unfaithful, and sinful. As we know, understanding and sympathy in the midst of the muck and grime of real family life is considerably harder to crank up. All of that notwithstanding, however, unless there is present the kind of abuse that violates the soul, family life remains a sacrament – sometimes indeed because of its imperfections rather than simply in spite of them.

It is in forming hearts that are big enough to love and forgive within imperfection that we ready ourselves for heaven.

For many of us, coming home from the hospital to join a family will be our first baptism, our family dwelling will be our primary church, our family table our primary place of Eucharist, our living room our first sanctuary, our marriage bed our deepest experience of Eucharist, and our reconciliation with each other after the pettiness and hurts of family life our ongoing sacrament of reconciliation. It is there that the flow of the life that originates within God, and finds its perfection there, will flow through us.

Ron Rolheiser
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Reconciliation Schedule &amp; Intentions</th>
<th>Mass</th>
<th>Weekday</th>
<th>St. Anthony of Padua</th>
<th>Aquila Bartucci; Edward Jarosz Sr</th>
<th>Carl Merda; Our Beloved Dead</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, June 12</td>
<td>7:45am Philip Corboy; John Piszczor</td>
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<td>7:45am Philip Corboy; John Piszczor</td>
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<td>7:45am Carl Merda; Our Beloved Dead</td>
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<td>7:45am Aquila Bartucci; Edward Jarosz Sr</td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 14</td>
<td>7:45am Carl Merda; Our Beloved Dead</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 15</td>
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<td>Thursday, June 15</td>
<td>7:45am Carl Merda; Our Beloved Dead</td>
<td>7:45am Carl Merda; Our Beloved Dead</td>
<td>Friday, June 16</td>
<td>7:45am Peg Dohe; Eleanor Klein</td>
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<td>Friday, June 16</td>
<td>7:45am Peg Dohe; Eleanor Klein</td>
<td>7:45am Peg Dohe; Eleanor Klein</td>
<td>Saturday, June 17</td>
<td>8:00am John Rydzewski; Gilda DiMeo</td>
<td>8:00am John Rydzewski; Gilda DiMeo</td>
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<td>Saturday, June 17</td>
<td>8:00am John Rydzewski; Gilda DiMeo</td>
<td>8:00am John Rydzewski; Gilda DiMeo</td>
<td>~ Reconciliation Follows Mass ~</td>
<td>5:00pm Brian Donovan; Mitch Allen</td>
<td>5:00pm Brian Donovan; Mitch Allen</td>
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<td>Sunday, June 18</td>
<td>7:30am Chester and Walter Cebula; Ray &amp; Connie Fijal</td>
<td>7:30am Chester and Walter Cebula; Ray &amp; Connie Fijal</td>
<td>9:00am Michael Powers; Raymond Cochrane</td>
<td>10:45am Hal McReynolds; Brian Donovan</td>
<td>10:45am Hal McReynolds; Brian Donovan</td>
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<td>Sunday, June 18</td>
<td>9:00am Michael Powers; Raymond Cochrane</td>
<td>9:00am Michael Powers; Raymond Cochrane</td>
<td>12:15pm Summer Mass Schedule—No 12:15 Mass</td>
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<td>Sunday, June 18</td>
<td>10:45am Hal McReynolds; Brian Donovan</td>
<td>10:45am Hal McReynolds; Brian Donovan</td>
<td>5:00pm Edward Hoffman; Joe Scelsi</td>
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Pray for Our Sick
- Thomas Barber
- Ginny Beutell
- Crystal Deters
- Fr. David Dowdle
- Lynn Freking
- John Gannon
- Alice Hogan
- Kay Holden
- Deacon Tom McGorey
- Sr. Jane McKirchy
- Bobbie Misiora
- Deacon Pablo Perez
- Don Vollmer
- Marty Wehner
- Monica Westell
- Sharon Wildman

Pray for Our Beloved Dead
- Soledad Cruz, sister of Claro Cruz
- Eileen Murphy, sister of Cheryl Bartz

Eternal God, source of all life, you have created us in your own divine image. By the power of the Holy Spirit, your Son became flesh and revealed to us the sanctity of all human life. Grant, we implore you: Protect all unborn children; Guide and support all expectant parents; Comfort the aged, the sick, and the dying; Strengthen prisoners, especially those awaiting execution, and their victims; And bring peace to our world, torn apart by war, terrorism, and countless other acts of violence against life. May we bear witness to a seamless culture of life and so value the dignity and worth of every human being, from conception until natural death. Amen. prayercards.nd.edu

Marriage Banns
- Gabriella Dumasius and Alan Fredian
- Sarah Swiontek & Benjamin Kielbas
- Ann Rogers & Ryan Griere

Pray for Our Loved Ones Serving Our Country
- Staff Sgt. Steven Foody, son of Sandra Foody
- Sergeant Sebastian Grabacki, son of David & Jan Grabacki
- Sr A Joshua Tischler USAF Pararescue, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler & Mary Tischler
- Lance Corporal Daniel Pett, nephew of Kathryn Stinetz
- Capt. James Maicke, grandson of Phil & Mike Maicke
- Sgt. Robert Marburger, son of David and Kathleen Marburger
- Staff Sgt. Larry Waszak, grandson of Bruno and Barbara Gacek
- Petty Officer 3rd Class Mathew Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci
- Lance Corporal David Strafaci, grandson of Sandra & Jim Strafaci
- Sgt. Michael Grabarek, relative of the LeFevour and Schillaci families
- PFC Michael Frazee, grandson of Kay and John Johnson
- Spc. Douglas Junius, grandson of Ann Junius and son of Sue Junius

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Rev. Elliott R. Dees, Assoc Pastor
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Deacon John Schopp, Deacon
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Janet Caschetta, Director of YC
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Kathleen Gorman, Principal
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Katie Hayes, Dir of Crossroads
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Jessica Koch, Director of Music
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MJ Martin, Director of Operations
mjmartin@stjohnofthecross.org
Katie Nicholson, Crossroads Coord
knicholson@stjohnofthecross.org
Steven Weigand, Pastoral Assoc
sweigand@stjohnofthecross.org
44th Annual Garage Sale
Sale Date: Saturday, June 17 9am-2pm
1/2 Price Sale: Monday, June 19 9am-1pm
SJC Parish School

Volunteer
Volunteer any time you have an hour or two or more on any or all days: Monday-Thursday, June 12-15 9:30am-8:30pm, Friday, June 16 10am-3pm, Saturday, June 17 8:30am-2pm* Monday June 19 8:30am-3pm* *Let a Room Chair know which hours you can work on June 17 & 19

Free babysitting available for volunteers by contacting Rita Forster at 708-246-4519. Volunteers who work 6 or more hours are invited to a Pre-Sale Shopping Night on June 16 from 3-5:30pm. Students in 7th grade and older who would like to volunteer or babysit contact Denise Schullo at 312-415-6456. General sale and volunteer questions can be directed to Mary Beth White at 708-246-6339.

Donate
It is your generous donation of items that keep the sale going year after year. Our success relies on you. Please separate and label your bags by item type. Donate items this week on June 12-15 10am-8pm and Friday, June 16 10am-12pm. No large item pick up but furniture is accepted.

*Help us feed our wonderful volunteers. Donate baked goods during item drop off and on sale days.*

See our website for more information.
www.sjcgaragesale.com
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