Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Matthew 10: 29-31

Sunday, June 25, 2017
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dear Parishioners,

It was one of those beautiful July afternoons in Seattle that make up for the dreariness of the winter and the steady drizzle of the spring in that beautiful city. I was reading at mass at the Cathedral of St. James where I was living in the summer of 2010, working as a chaplain at one of the local hospitals. I remember finding myself at a turning point. I had just completed my third year of seminary and in a matter of three months I would be ordained to the diaconate. I would take that irrevocable step on the path to ordination that would cement my future. Once ordained a deacon, there was no going back. Faced with such a life altering decision, I found myself thinking about the things that I would be leaving behind; the various doors that would shut behind me. I felt a pang for those days past. With indecision swirling around in my head and trepidation creeping into my heart, I stood up to read the first reading. “Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and I will follow you.” Elijah answered, “Go back! Have I done anything to you?” Elijah, inspired by God, sees in Elisha a man with the vocation to be a prophet. He claims him for God by throwing his cloak over him. Elisha’s initial reaction was like my own before entering seminary: “I will follow you but there are things I want to do first.” Elijah’s response, as was God’s to me, is subtle: “I am not forcing you to do anything, go back to your old life if you will.” Standing in that Cathedral, reading that scripture was like a bolt of lightning to my heart: if God chooses us for something, who are we to look back? It was at that point that I knew, there was no looking back, only looking forward into the eyes of God.

Ever since, I think of that moment when I face transition. There are some many reasons to resist change in our lives and one very good reason to embrace it: in change there is growth and from that change God can work wonders in our life. These past few months here at St. John’s have been wonderful and I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. Though I move on to St. Pascal’s and my first months as pastor, this parish will always hold a special place in my heart for it fostered my vocation and it has been a privilege to come back and serve as one of your priests. Please know that you are all most welcome to visit me at St. Pascal’s any time you wish and that in a special way you are most welcome at my installation which will take place in the fall; I will be sure to remind you all when it approaches. May God bless you and keep you until we gather around the altar of the Lord once more.

Fr. Elliott

Parish School Teaching Position Open

St. John of the Cross Parish School is hiring a 7th and 8th grade Science teacher. Send your resume and cover letter to Marybeth Wingert, Administrative Assistant to the Principal, at wingert@sjc.pvt.k12.il.us.

Summer Taizé Prayer Service: Tuesday, July 18 at 7pm in church

Taizé prayer, based on the prayer of the ecumenical monastic community in France, is a contemplative candlelit prayer service that utilizes simple, repetitive music interspersed with scripture readings, prayer, and significant moments of silent reflection. The simplicity of the musical phrases is like a sung mantra, usually based on text from the psalms or other sacred scripture. The repetition of the phrase is designed to facilitate meditation and prayer. Instruments – including flute, oboe and cello – help to elevate the music and create a truly prayerful environment. All are welcome.
Living the Gospel

Jesus begins with the bold statement, “Fear no one.” Yet, in the next breath he tells us to “be afraid of the one who can destroy / both soul and body.” Does Jesus contradict himself? No, not really. He is helping us sort out fear. We need not fear when we choose to live and “speak in the light” and acknowledge Jesus as Lord. Proclaiming the gospel can bring frightening results, for sure. People may misunderstand us, scorn us, turn on us. Certainly this happened to Jesus. We can overcome this fear, however. We know that when we align ourselves with Jesus and “proclaim on the housetops” what he has revealed to us, we are not alone. God counts us worthy to be disciples of the divine Son, and even if others try to “kill the body,” God will protect and bring to everlasting Life those who are faithful. We do need to fear, however, when we choose infidelity and denial of Jesus in any form. This kills. This death we ought to fear. This death is our own doing; it is choosing our own selfish interests above acknowledging our identity in Christ and being consistent with his call to be faithful disciples.

Fearless or fearful? Which does our daily choosing reveal? We are fearless when we acknowledge God’s Presence and proclaim the Gospel by choosing integrity over dishonesty, by putting others’ good ahead of selfish whims, by uplifting others in our speech rather than tearing them down. We need to be fearful when we don’t think before we act, when we neglect thinking about God every day, when we estrange ourselves from what is right and good, when we turn our backs on Jesus.

Background on the Gospel

We read today’s Gospel in the context of last week’s Gospel in which Jesus sent the twelve disciples to proclaim the kingdom of heaven. In between last week’s reading and today’s reading, Jesus has predicted that the disciples will face difficulties in their mission. Many people will not receive them well, even within the land of Israel. Even family members will turn away from the disciples because of the disciples’ commitment to Jesus and the kingdom. Today’s Gospel offers the disciples consolation against this difficult truth.

This section of Matthew’s Gospel should be read in the context of Matthew’s intended audience, a Jewish-Christian community. The Gospel alludes to the dangers and persecutions that this community has most likely already faced and will continue to face. To reassure this community, Matthew recalls for them the encouraging words of Jesus that we read today.

In this Gospel passage, Jesus might be understood as putting suffering in perspective. The disciples of Jesus are called upon to keep their focus on God. Those who can harm the body do not have ultimate power; God does. Still persecution and suffering can not be avoided or prevented. But Jesus reassures his disciples that God knows and cares about what happens to his children.

We might not face the same type of persecution, but we do experience difficulties as we endeavor to live a Christian life. Sometimes we let the opinions of others prevent us from doing what we know to be right. We need the reminder that what God thinks about us is more important. We are reassured by the promise that God cares for us and protects us.
Praying Through the Summer

There’s a reason the Christian world, whether in a small Midwestern town in the U.S. or on the streets of Rome, is dotted with spaces meant for prayer. From earliest times, people on spiritual quests understood that space mattered. It mattered if the space for prayer was crowded with worshippers or if it was a solitary monk’s cell. It mattered if the halls echoed music or silence or noise from the street. It mattered what the space smelled like, what colors covered its walls or floors, and what textures met the hand or the skin—a soft breeze from the window or a cold stone bench.

We have spent centuries creating spaces that help us pray. Many of these spaces have survived as grand cathedrals or quiet abbeys. Some of them are more like museums now. But still, it matters where we dwell for a time of communion with God. It matters in my own town, on my own street. It even matters right in my own home.

During the summer months, pay attention to the various spaces in your life. In fact, this week, wander your ordinary, daily routes and make some notes about the rooms, backyards, gardens, workspaces, and commuting paths (whether you commute by foot, on bike, in car, bus, or train). You can begin by answering these questions:

- How does this space make me feel physically? Am I relaxed or anxious, stimulated or bored, comfortable or fidgety?
- What do I feel like doing when I’m here? Closing my eyes and resting, or reading or thinking or working on my schedule or to-do lists? Having conversations?
- Does this space remind me of any significant events, people, or places from my past—and if so, how?

Do a little space inventory this week. Ignatian Spirituality

It is one thing to read or “say” a prayer. It is another to pray. What is prayer? How do we pray? Most simply, prayer is a conversation with God. But we don’t talk with someone unless we have a reason or a relationship. Often, the best prayer begins with the desire for a friendship. We all know that friendships aren’t created in a day. It takes time to “grow” a friendship. And, at least at first, that time is usually filled with conversation. Conversation is central to all relationships. And conversation takes time. It takes time to tell a story, to share your feelings, to ask for forgiveness or a favor, to thank someone, to tell someone how good they are and how much a person means to you. In the telling and sharing and asking and thanking, friendships – relationships – grow. So, if you want a friendship with God – for whatever reason – make time. Take time to make it happen. Mary Flick, SLU
I am always with you,
even when you are not able to feel me in your heart.
I love you always,
I surround you with my protecting love,
even when you occasionally forget me.
I listen to your problems,
if you are sincere and receptive, I give you solutions.
I hear your prayers and
answer those which are in the best interest
of everyone in your life including,
but not limited to, you.
I am the light and the thoughts in your mind,
I am the sight in your eyes,
I am the life in your body,
I am the feelings you feel in your heart.
I am always at work in your life
for your greater good,
although you may not always believe this;
hopefully, your faith in me will grow constant.
you must realize:
m"my will is whatever is happening
in the present moment".
within this moment you must think and act
with integrity, humility and courage,
you must trust in me,
and surrender your will to mine through acceptance.
if you continue to demonstrate acceptance,
integrity, humility, courage and trust,
you will discover the secret of
opening your heart to my love.
the greater your faith in me
the more I am able fill your heart with my love.

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

Prayer of Love
Lord, let Your love be a strong embrace around me,
Let me show love to all those I meet.
Rid me of pride which stands in the way of love,
May I find joy in loving and being loved.
Guide my heart in the path of love,
Give me the strength to love.
May love follow me all the days of my life. Amen.
-Jonathan O'Connor

Prayer
Let my heart be
the vessel of God's Love.

Let my thoughts be the blossom of God's Love.

Let my words be the expression of God's Love.

Let my actions be the fulfillment of God's Love.

willingness - david ridge
worldprayer.org

Prayer of Love
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that asks nothing more than
the simple trusting heart of a child.
- Author Unknown
A colleague spoke recently of showing up for class to discuss a favorite author.

The class was to start with students discussing the book in small groups. As my friend made his way from one group to another, he noticed that the material had not been read. He then invited the students to return to their original places to discuss their critical analysis of the literary work. He asked his first question. Dead silence. He waited. No response. He rephrased the question. Once again, no one spoke. The awkward silence was now too much. He waited until someone answered. Finally, one student hesitantly ventured an answer. No one challenged the student's vague answer. So, the professor asked how many students read the required material. Only two hands went up. The lack of participation in the course led to a lack of learning.

This story is very apropos to our participation within the liturgical event. Pope Benedict has noted occasionally that the liturgy is a “school.” In other words, liturgy trains us to grow in discipleship. We can understand the liturgy as a “school” in two ways. First, liturgy catechizes or educates us. Various parts of the liturgy relay information to us. Our intellects grow as we take in the meaning of the homily, the proclamation of the readings, the hearing of the prayers, and so forth. In this sense, our minds are nourished.

Secondly, the liturgy concerns our bodies. Liturgy not only uses words, but also “the works of our hands” or elements from nature, that is, material objects.

Liturgy makes use of water, fire, oil, bread, and wine. These material objects touch bodies (though in the case of fire, it touches us through its heat and light). From a theological perspective, God’s work of sanctifying these elements imparts more than intellectual knowledge; they mediate, or we might say, make tangible, God’s loving touch to and within us.

The healing anointing by the priest with the oil of the sick touches us physically. Likewise, in the use of holy water, whether at Baptisms or when we bless ourselves upon entering the worship space, our body is touched by God’s purifying, cleansing, and life-giving Spirit. Therefore, the liturgy “schools” us to shape our minds, bodies, souls, and hearts into a deeper living out of God’s desires for each person. But to achieve the holiness that God offers us, and indeed calls us to, we must be open to the power of God’s transforming “touch.”

How does liturgy as a “school” help us to understand our call to participation? In the story of the professor, the students’ education suffered because they were neither prepared nor engaged with the topic. In liturgy, we are called to participate. Participation requires our investment in the liturgy. It requires our openness to God’s acting through words, gestures, music, prayers, and material objects.

Participation is not, however, utilitarian, that is, it is not only about showing up or doing things; rather, participation may lead to transformation. Though participation requires showing up and doing things, another level allows what happens (the actions of liturgy or the actions of the Triune God) to shape us. Our participation in liturgy may allow us to grow in our knowledge of and union with God, who seeks and desires our growth in holiness.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy says we are called to “full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations” (14). As students of the liturgy, our schooling is shaped by our level of participation. The effect of that participation is the active living out—through our minds and bodies—of God’s healing and loving touch in, to, and through us.

KRISSopher W. Seaman, DMin, is a PhD student at King’s College, University of London. He is the former director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Gary. He earned an MA in liturgical studies from Saint John’s University (Collegeville), an MA in systematic theology from Catholic Theological Union (CTU), Chicago, and a DMin from CTU.
Congratulations SJC 2017 Graduates
Gospel Summary
There are people who do not yet know the Good News. Jesus assured his disciples and us that we will bring the light of the Kingdom into their darkness by sharing Jesus with them. Even if some people, even our families, ridicule us for our proclamation, God will care for us until the end.

Reflection for Families
As an old saying goes, "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything." This is not only the message we need to convey to our children, but through our own actions, they will see that we believe this to be true. Sometimes we have to take an unpopular stand with our children when we know that they are being tempted by their peers and culture. You will find among parents of older children, that your children will one day express their gratitude for your courage.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family
This Gospel is about giving up something for someone else. What do you have that someone else might need? Good health, material comfort, time, energy? Think of someone or a group of people in your community who are marginalized. What can your family do to help ease their burden? Perhaps you can make a meal, give away some of your possession, visit them or write them a letter or note.

Discussion Starters
1. Sometimes I have known what is right in a situation, but I have stopped short of expressing it because . . .
2. One time I remember feeling lost when someone turned against me. I now know that God was with me then because . . .
3. One person I really admire for standing up for what is right is . . .

A Family Prayer Starter
Give us new eyes, Lord, to see our lives in the light of your love. Too often our fear, neediness, anger, or hurt fog our vision. Help us to see your providence in the glory of trees, lakes, and cloudless skies. Help us to see your generosity in the many gifts we enjoy each day. Help us to see your wisdom in the rhythm of the days, the weeks, the seasons, and the years. Help us to see your image in the faces of everyone we meet and to know your goodness in the joy and love we feel for one another. We ask you this because we know you love us. Amen.
From the Desk of Katie Hayes
Director of Crossroads

Have you been to the carnival yet? It’s not too late… Sunday afternoon is always a fun time to enjoy the music and rides and food. I love seeing how much joy the rides bring the kids and how much laughter adults share while visiting. It is also an amazing opportunity for me to see folks who I have not seen in awhile…young adults who are home from college, adults who used to volunteer with our ministry, parishioners who have continually supported our teenagers.

We are blessed to be a part of this SJC parish because it KNOWS the importance of connecting to our high school teens and knows that planting seeds and helping them build their OWN faith during these critical developmental years, within the safety of a parish family community, will help ensure our amazing church has disciples for years to come.

Our high school youth ministry serves ALL teenagers! We are in the process of making some adjustments to our ministry layout and are excited to share the changes next month. Please know that youth ministry MAKES A DIFFERENCE because we connect our youth with adults and peers who care about them and who share God’s love.

I know this and see if everyday, however many parishioners, new to the area or so busy with raising kids, do not know the value and importance of our Crossroads Youth Ministry. **We need to share who we are and the goodness that our ministry gives to our youth.**

If you or someone you know has benefitted from the blessings of our ministry please shoot me an email at khayes@stjohnofthecross.org telling us how and why so we can share this with teens and families.

*Katie Hayes, Director of Crossroads*

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

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**Reflections on being a YC Volunteer**

“I think it is important for my children to see that this is important to me.” Colleen Narbone

“To be more involved in the church community, and to be involved in my childrens’ spiritual growth more actively.” Darci Forrest

“I wanted to help children grow in their faith.” Shannon Cone

Register your children to experience the love of Jesus with amazing catechists!
Serving Others

Brian Hickey is 23 years old. He is the middle child of Ann Marie and Al Hickey, SJC parishioners for over 25 years. Last May Brian graduated from Valparaiso University, and for the last year he has served at the Jerusalem School of Bethlehem (JSB) as a junior high teacher of English and assistant basketball coach. On the next page read an excerpt from his last update from Bethlehem before he returned to the U.S. in early June.

JSB is a K-12 Christian school in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, three miles from Jerusalem, an area that is economically depressed and where violence fills the headlines. As Christians account for only 2% of the West Bank, the Jerusalem School focuses on discipleship, leadership and creating peace in the world. The school emphasizes the relationship between teachers and their students and families, focusing on building faith and hope in community.

Due to a lack of economic prosperity and opportunity in the West Bank, all administrators and teachers of JSB raise support for their own salary and living expenses.

As a parish faith community let us continue to pray for Brian and all young adults as they find their way in the world trying to make a difference for others.

"Go forth and set the world on fire."

People of integrity are people of service and justice. It’s one thing to say you care about people; it’s another thing to show it. There are countless opportunities.

You don’t have to save the world. You only have to find one area in which you can serve.

Once you start serving, you will learn more about that issue. Then it will become part of you; you will start thinking about it—thinking about how you can contribute, thinking about your own skills and talents. You’ll make a plan, and you’ll follow through and see if it works. If it works, you’ll do more of it, and you’ll do it better, and you’ll get some of your friends to join you. If not, you’ll find ways to fix what doesn’t work. And you will still get some of your friends to join you. And you’ll make new friends who are already involved in the same justice work. And together, you’ll support one another as all of you learn more, and you’ll reflect more and plan more and serve more. Before you know it, you’ll be a leader.

Service . . . learning . . . reflection . . . leadership . . . support . . .

Excerpt from Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart, in I Wasn’t Dead When I Wrote This: Advice Given in the Nick of Time. Ignatian Spirituality
Update from Brian Hickey

I do not recall having concrete expectations upon embarking on this journey 10 months ago, however, I remember wanting to finish this year having left an impact as a representative of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ in building leaders for God’s Kingdom. 10 months later, I am confident that this desire was met from my interactions in May. I just hope that this impact was close to the difference this place and people have left upon me.

I wrote each of my students a personal letter telling them the most critical things I have learned in my 23 years of life as well as the greatest decision I made, and will have ever made, to search out the truth of my faith for myself and finding abundant life beyond imagination in Jesus Christ. In writing these letters, I noticed how much I learned from each of my students in their perseverance and determination to overcome the circumstances they were born into.

I could write numerous pages about the totality of this journey. I have experienced the challenges of being a teacher with no experience, a glimpse of what it means to live under occupation, and the challenges of living in this area as a foreigner and Christian. I have also experienced living in close proximity to where the everlasting King walked the earth, the great responsibility of being a role model for 12-18 year olds, and the immense joy of witnessing students succeeding and experiencing "victories" that seem rare in their lives. Here are some of the things I have learned while away:

- I learned the intricacies and sometimes awkwardness of Arab culture. It took me a while to not awkwardly complete the Arab "kiss" greeting. Similarly, it took awkward experiences to learn about the various aspects of how Arab culture works.
- I learned what a smile and hello can do. When you are an outsider and eyes are always on you, a smile and hello breaks down barriers and makes all those around feel at ease. It is impossible not to have a newfound empathy for immigrants or non-natives in a foreign country after living here for a year.
- I learned not to run down a dark street you are not familiar with. This may seem obvious, but I learned this is the hard way. This definitely made me more conscious of my surroundings and how my future could have been altered in a moment from that instance.
- I learned to a greater extent that by doing things you are uncomfortable with you will surprise and stretch yourself. For example, I never liked running long distances or imagined myself running a marathon. However, just making a quick decision in September to try this led me to running 32 miles from Bethlehem to Jericho and 2 marathons in 2 weeks. It is hard now to have the mindset that I cannot do something no matter the "feelings" I have.
- I learned people just want to tell their stories. The people here are desperate to tell their stories and have people listen. In order to truly understand each other, we must understand others' perspective and how their stories have shaped this perspective.
- I learned people just want to improve themselves and situations, have freedoms, and rights. At the core of our being, we do not truly need much but to have basic dignities in all aspects of our lives.
- I learned it takes courage and uncomfortable conversations to solve the problems that shape this area and much of the problems in a divided world. When we are able to lay down misconceptions and see each other as children of God, walls and barriers start to fall down.

Beginning at the end of the summer/early fall, I will be going to Djibouti in North Africa after accepting a job with Caritas Internationalis, an international humanitarian aid organization. In my position, I will be mainly working with Somali, Ethiopian, and now large influx of Yemeni refugees as part of Caritas’ street children program. These refugees are especially vulnerable to many of the extremist groups of the area as they often do not have anything besides what is in their pockets. Although the environment will obviously be extremely challenging with ongoing famine and conflict surrounding Djibouti, I am very excited about what God has in store. I know I constantly have to be still and recognize that only through God could He could take a high schooler, who had no desire to leave the USA, to just a few years later bring me to these severely broken parts of the world to offer hope through Christ.

I want to close with thanking you for making this opportunity happen and your encouragement along the way. It takes a team to allow a single person to go on this journey, and I am deeply appreciative to each of you for allowing me to represent you in the Middle East. Pray for peace and perhaps a new initiative to bring peace to the area.

It is easy for me to say, but conflict, walls, oppression, and riches are all temporary. Investing in a relationship with the creator of the world is the greatest and most important decision one can ever make. When it starts to change you from the inside out then it has eternal repercussions. I am grateful to have had relationships that this has meant something and for some to hopefully understand that Jesus lived/died for all no matter who you are.
Food Pantry Collection
Each month our parish donates nonperishable food and household paper goods to a food pantry in our area. During the month of June donations will be delivered to Mary Queen of Heaven in Chicago. Please check code dates!
Pictured to the right are just some of the many parishioners who have taken an active role in helping to deliver our donations. Parishioners, Shawn Sweeney and Ellin Wheelihan, work together sorting and organizing the food and arranging for delivery to a different pantry each month.

Volunteer at The Community Shop in LaGrange
Volunteers make the Community Shop run and provide the resources to raise revenue to support Community Nurse’s mission of providing affordable healthcare to those in need in our community. There are several ways to volunteer. Whether you’re a teen interested in community service or someone who can offer up an ongoing commitment, give a call. More than 150 volunteers are needed each week. For more info contact SJC parishioner, Joan Metz: 708.579.2403 or jmetz@communitynurse.org. www.communitynurse.org/volunteer/. Also ask Joan about becoming a 2017 Sponsor. Gently used furniture and other items can be donated. Call to schedule a free pick up 708-579-2425.

Love requires a creative, concrete response. Good intentions are not enough. The other is not a statistic, but a person to take care of. Pope Francis @ Pontifex June 16

Need A Ride? Be A Driver?
Interfaith Community Partners is a non-profit organization that works together with volunteers to provide rides to older adults and individuals with disabilities in the Lyons, Proviso, and Riverside Townships. Over 85 volunteers provide escorted transportation to medical appointments, therapies, and life-enhancing errands such as the grocery store, bank, and church. We also take our clients with disabilities to their places of employment. There is no cost to our clients, and we rely solely on private donations, grants, fundraisers, and church support for funding. And we need you! Please consider becoming a Volunteer driver. Contact us at 708-354-9328 for an information packet, visit us on the web at www.interfaithcommunitypartners.org, and like us on Facebook. Can you spare an hour a week? We will work around your busy life.

2017 World Refugee Day Celebration Continues in Chicago
Join us as we honor Chicago’s growing refugee community.
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.
St. John of the Cross Parish congratulates the following families who had their children baptized last Sunday by Deacon John Schopp assisted by Baptism Team Leaders, Frank and Meg Munaretto. Pictured from the left are: Jason and Kristen Trigg with Dominic Ryan and Brian and Grainne Napleton with Brian David.

**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).

Everyone’s existence is tied to that of others: life is not time merely passing by, life is about interactions. Pope Francis @ Pontifex June 15
Charity is about being good-hearted, but justice is about something more. Individual sympathy is good and virtuous, but it doesn’t necessarily change the social, economic, and political structures that unfairly victimize some people and unduly privilege others. We need to be fair and good of heart, but we also need to have fair and good policies.

Jim Wallis, speaking more specifically about racism, puts it this way: When we protest that we are not implicated in unjust systems by saying things like: “I have black friends”, we need to challenge ourselves: It’s not just what’s in our hearts that’s at issue; it’s also what’s at the heart of public policy. We can have black friends but if our policies are racist there’s still no justice in land. Individual good will alone doesn’t always make for a system that’s fair to everyone.

And it’s precisely on this point where we see the crucial distinction between charity and justice, between being good-hearted as individuals and trying as a community to ensure that our social, economic, and political systems are not themselves the cause of the very things we are trying to respond to in charity. What causes poverty, racism, economic disparity, lack of fair access to education and health care, and the irresponsibility with which we often treat nature? Individual attitudes, true. But injustice is also the result of social, economic, and political policies that, whatever their other merits, help produce the conditions that spawn poverty, inequality, racism, privilege, and the lack of conscientious concern for the air we breathe.

Most of us, I suspect, are familiar with a story that’s often used to distinguish between charity and justice. It runs this way: There was a town built alongside a river, but situated around a bend so that the townsfolk could see only that part of the river that bordered their town. One day a few of the children were playing by the river when they saw five bodies floating in the water. They quickly ran for help and the townspeople they alerted did what any responsible persons would do in that situation. They took care of the bodies. Pulling them from the river they found that two were dead and they buried them. Three were still alive. One was a child for whom they quickly found a foster home; another was a severely ill woman, her they put in a hospital; the last was a young man and, for him, they found a job and a place to live.

But the story didn’t end there. The next day more bodies appeared and, again, the townsfolk responded as before. They took care of the bodies. They buried the dead, placed the sick in hospitals, found foster homes for the children, and jobs and places to live for the adults. And so it went on for years so that taking care of the bodies that they found each day became a normal feature of their lives and became part of the life of their churches and their community. A few altruistically motivated people even made it their life’s work to take care of those bodies.

But … and this is the point, nobody ever went up the river to see from where and for what reasons those bodies kept appearing each day in the river. They just remained good-hearted and generous in their response to the bodies that found their way to their town.

The lesson is clear enough: It’s one thing (needed, good, and Christian) to take care of the needy bodies we find on our doorsteps, but it’s another thing (also needed, good, and Christian) to go upstream to try to change the things that are causing those bodies to be in the river. That’s the difference between good-hearted charity and acting for social justice.

Sadly though, as good church-going Christians we have been too slow to grasp this and consequently have not brought the demands of Jesus and faith to bear as strongly upon the question of social justice as we have been to bring them to bear upon charity. Too many, good, good-hearted, church-going, charitable women and men simply do not see the demands of justice as being anything beyond the demands of private charity and good-heartedness. And so we are often good-hearted enough that we will, literally, give a needy person the shirt off our back even as we refuse to look at why our closets are overfull while some others don’t have a shirt.

But this should not be misunderstood. The gospel-demand that we act for justice does not in any way denigrate the virtue of charity. Charity is still the ultimate virtue and, sometimes, the only positive difference we can make in our world is precisely the, one-to-one, love and respect that we give to each other. Our own individual goodness is sometimes the only candle that is ours to light.

But that goodness and light must shine publicly too, namely, in how we vote and in what public policies we support or oppose.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX.
**Mass & Reconciliation Schedule & Intentions**

**Monday, June 26**  
Weekday  
7:45am Harry Bud Richards; Mark Bestler  
7:45am Carmela Infelise; Melissa Davis

**Tuesday, June 27**  
St. Cyril of Alexandria  
7:45am George Polli; Our Beloved Dead

**Wednesday, June 28**  
St. Irenaeus  
7:45am Ed Carlson; Mable Stednitz

**Thursday, June 29**  
Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul  
7:45am John Martin; Arthur McClellan

**Friday, June 30**  
First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church  
7:45am John Martin; Arthur McClellan

**Saturday, July 1**  
St. Junipero Serra; Blessed Virgin Mary  
8:00am Richard Kirtley; Joan & John Kravcik  
~ Reconciliation Follows Mass ~  
5:00pm Frances Albertson; Deceased members of Galvin & Grogan Families

**Sunday, July 2**  
13th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
7:30am Robert Fiore; James Johnson  
9:00am Susanna McLaughlin; Bertrand Prost  
10:45am Frank Dambra; Deceased members of O'Meara & Galvin Families  
12:15pm Summer Mass Schedule—No 12:15 Mass  
5:00pm Steve Pechous; Arthur McClellan

**Pray for Our Beloved Dead**  
Mary Custardo, mother of Dina Sabatino and Marisa Derus, grandmother of 7, great grandmother of 1  
Karyn Haney

Let us not be distracted by the false wisdom of this world, but to follow Jesus as the one sure guide who gives meaning to our life.  
Pope Francis @ Pontifex June 22

Jesus was broken; he is broken for us. This is the Eucharist. And he asks us to give ourselves, to break ourselves, as it were, for others.  
Pope Francis @ Pontifex June 18

**Tuesday, July 4**  
*Independence Day*  
Our morning Mass will be at 9am on Tuesday, July 4. There will not be any childcare on Sunday morning July 2.

**Marriage Banns**  
Kathleen Grecco and Nicholas Schreiner  
Ann Rogers and Ryan Griere  
Erie Conlon and Andrew Tierney

**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 US Air Force Pararescue, grandson of Betty & Frank Madler & Mary Tischler  
Lance Corporal Daniel Pett, nephew of Kathryn Stinetz  
Capt. James Malick, grandson of Phil & Mike Malick  
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

St. John of the Cross Parish  
12th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
June 25, 2017  
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Win $5,000.00 Cash!
$2,500.00 or $1,000.00
You can't win unless you return your raffle ticket stubs! Please make your check payable to St. John of the Cross. Winning ticket stubs will be drawn on Sunday, June 25 during the Fest. Winners need not be present.

Saturday 1-11pm  Breakfast Club (‘80s Tribute Band)
Sunday 12-7pm  Tony Ocean (Rat Pack Singer)

Enjoy
Grilled Hamburgers
Hot Dogs
Q BBQ
Zazzo’s Pizza
Ice Cream Treats

Carnival Rides * Live Music * Great Food * Beer Garden