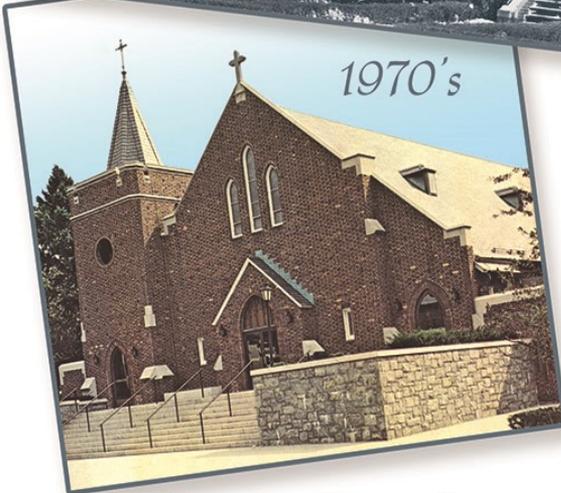
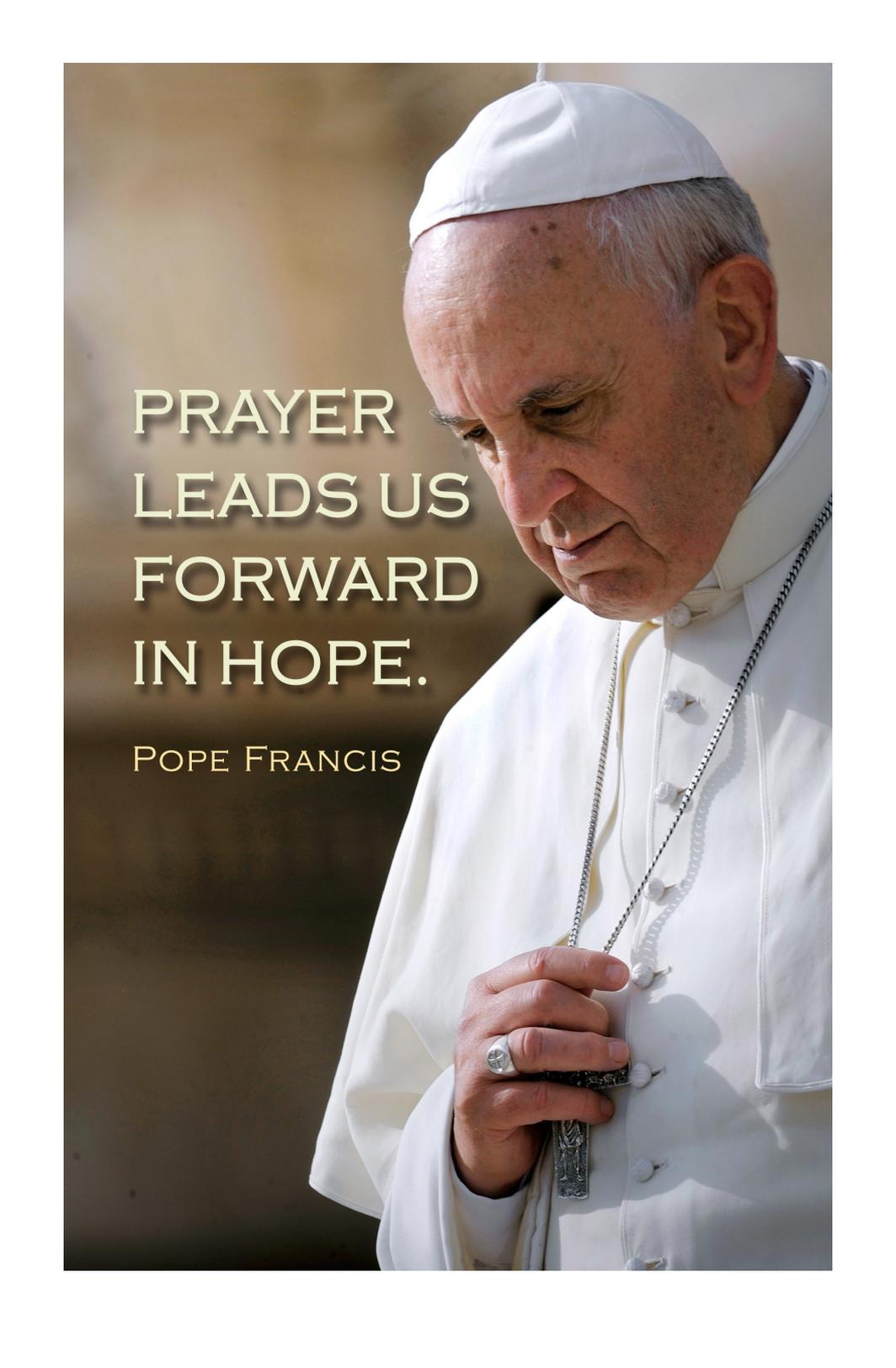


Reflections

Summer 2020



*Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish
Bayside, New York*



PRAYER
LEADS US
FORWARD
IN HOPE.

POPE FRANCIS

Reflections

Volume LIV No. 2

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email nealbarbok@aol.com Monthly meetings are held on the

first Thursday of the month at 7:30pm in the Rectory, but check the weekly Bulletin for confirmation. New members and ideas are always welcome.

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OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH

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LAUGHTER IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL

“God, who sits in Heaven, laughs!” - Psalm 2:4

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.” - Ecclesiastes 3:1

Laughter is defined as the sound of mirth or joy. Have you noticed how you feel after a good hearty laugh? You feel so light or happy and ready to spread it to others. Movies in days gone by made you laugh. Remember the movies of Charlie Chaplin? Or Laurel & Hardy? I Love Lucy? Or shows like The Jeffersons? I particularly liked the British comedy series Mind your Language. It was hilarious. As was Fawlty Towers and Keeping up Appearances.

It's a good idea sometimes, instead of watching something depressing and negative on TV, to try to watch these comedies where you can cry laughing and your depression and sadness seem to evaporate.

“Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.” - Psalm 47:1

Laughter is a part of human behavior regulated by the brain, helping humans clarify their intentions in social interaction and providing an emotional context to conversations. Laughter is used as a signal for being part of a group - it signals acceptance and positive interactions with others. Laughter is sometimes seen as contagious, and the laughter of one person can itself provoke laughter from others as a positive feedback

“A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.” - Proverbs 17:22

And laughter has Health Benefits: lowers blood pressure; reduces stress hormone levels; works your abs; improves cardiac health; boosts T-cells; triggers the release of endorphins; and produces a general sense of well-being.

In the words of American theologian Reinhold Niebuhr
“Humor is a prelude to faith and laughter is the beginning of prayer.”

St. Thomas Aquinas himself said ***“It is requisite for the relaxation of the mind that we make use, from time to time, of playful deeds and jokes.”***

And as Don Thran of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church put it, ***“Laughter is a good ice-breaker for people to get to know one another. It’s such a fantastic outreach that it’s hardly a laughing matter.”***

Studies have shown babies and children laugh hundreds of times a day. Adults, on the other hand, often barely make it to double digits. Even joyful people can feel weighed down by the pressures and heartaches of life. Maybe it’s time to turn your troubles over to God and become more like a child - full of joy and laughter.

And don’t keep joy to yourself. Share the “good medicine” of a joyful heart with others. Have you brought joy or laughter to someone today? If not, think of a way you can make one person laugh. It’ll bring joy to both of your hearts.

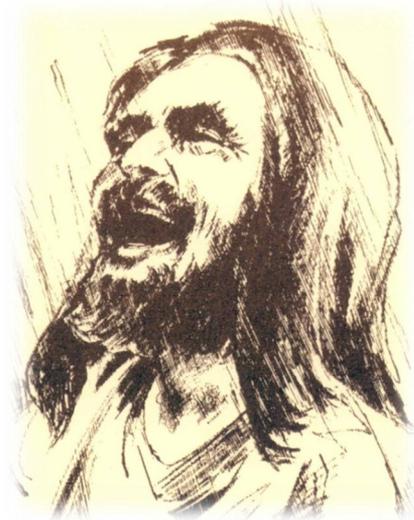
“Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ ”—Psalm 126:2, ESV

Laughter is good for the soul.

-Marushka Sequiera Palha

Editor’s note:

Willis Wheatley, artist and employee of the United Church of Canada, created the original painting of the “Laughing Jesus” 40 years ago. Originally, it was entitled “Jesus, the Liberator”. This is one of four painting commissioned by the United Church. It has been reported that the rights to the image had been sold to the Paulist Priests of San Francisco. Yet, artists have been reproducing imitations of this image. Vancouver Sun 1/14/2014



A BRIEF HISTORY OF OLBS

In the Beginning, in 1925, there was the building of 1000 single family attached homes in Bayside - "Treasureland." Catholic families arrived. Reluctant to make the mile-long trip to Sacred Heart or St. Andrew Avellino, they petitioned Bishop Thomas Molloy for a parish and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament came to be. First pastor Father James Dolan arrived on October 15, 1930, took up residence in one of the houses, met with a small group of parishioners and celebrated the parish's first Mass on Sunday, October 19 in the Matowac Democratic Club on 32nd Ave. Sunday Mass then moved to the nearby Victory Theater until October 19, 1931 when the first Mass in the newly dedicated church of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament was celebrated.

And then, in 1941 came the rectory, the departure of Father Dolan and the arrival of a new pastor, Father Charles Reilly. And with him, although it had to wait until the end of World War II, came the school project: the entire block of land purchased; curate Fr. Thomas Masterson's fund raising genius tapped and \$140,000 raised; ground for the school broken in October, 1949; and the new parish school opened in February, 1951 with 428 children enrolled in the first five grades. With the school came Sisters of Mercy from Dallas, PA and then a brand-new convent adjacent to the school. By the mid-sixties, school enrollment reached 1000; classes were being held in the auditorium stage and balcony, and even in the convent basement. More space was needed and a new wing with eight more classes and a gymnasium was opened in 1966.

The next major parish change came in the winter of 1968-69. Vatican II, with its invitation to more open and personal participation in liturgical celebrations, led to both upper and lower church being significantly renovated. Air conditioning was added in the summer of 1969 and the exterior of the church refurbished during the winter of 1969.

Changes in the seventies, initially under Father Martin Tully and then Monsignor Francis Donnelly, were more in the nature of parish renewal but also related to Vatican II. The Parish Council and other parishioner representative committees were formed, and Lay Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion became regular participants in liturgical celebrations. (The first issue

of Reflections, with Father Frank Lynch as editor, also came to be during these years.)

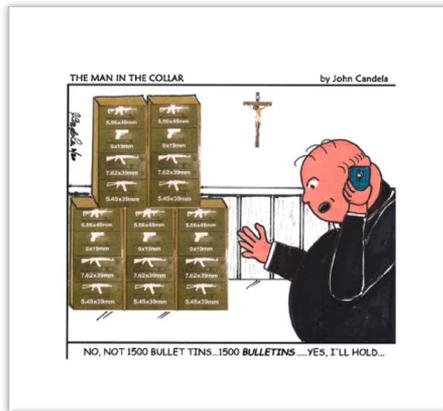
1979 brought Monsignor George Deas and further innovations, including a Pastoral Care Office to assist the sick and elderly, a Baptismal Program to instruct parents, a Senior Citizens Club, In-home Pre-Cana, the Toddler Mass, Teen Club and programs for Single Parents and Young Singles. Then our Diamond Jubilee year in 1990 saw an updating of church and school, including a new school roof, Computer Room and Science Lab and reconstruction of the church organ.

In the late 1990s, Monsignor Vincent Keane's focus was on our spiritual development as he initiated daily Rosary and weekly Eucharistic devotions and Lenten small group gatherings with the Disciples in Mission program. Music ministry was another emphasis as Monsignor brought in Maria Graeber, leading to the expansion of the Adult Choir and the development of Cherub, Children's, Youth, Family Mass and eventually Funeral choirs.

Then came the millennium, Monsignor John Mahoney, our 75th anniversary, an ambitious Capital Campaign and some major repairs and changes - most notably the addition of an elevator in the church and the transformation of the lower church into a much-needed Parish Center.

Further twenty first century improvements, under our current Pastor Father Robert Whelan, include parking lots, a new church roof, a handicapped accessible bathroom in the school auditorium and the recently dedicated Rosary Memorial Garden.

We have much reason for gratitude in this our 90th year!



...AND THEN, IN OUR 90TH YEAR

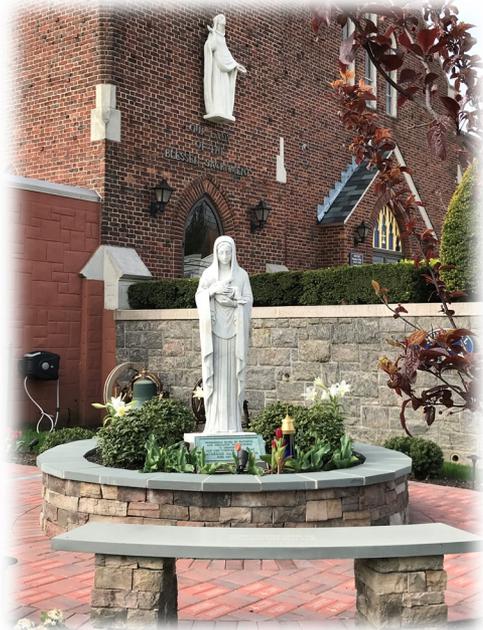
And then, in our 90th year, the church was closed. On a Sunday morning in early March the word came, “No more Masses after this one.” The Covid-19 virus ruled, and the churches were to be closed.

And then, perhaps our finest hour. Without missing a Sunday, Mass was back. Father Bob had marshaled the forces and the Saturday Vigil Mass streamed into hundreds of OLBS homes. It was strange but so comforting to be able to see Fr. Bob and Deacon Bill, Sister Nora and Sister Margaret, and hear our own cantor Evan, and Michael at the organ. Thus, thanks to the technical wizardry of Andrew Mussalli, began a series of video liturgies, including not only weekly Masses with our own priests and cantors, but Rosarians kneeling at the statue of Our Blessed Mother, leading us in the Rosary.

Nor did our efforts to stay connected end with live-streamed liturgies. The parish website and Constant Contact email messages kept many of us informed, as did our parish website, and weekly Bulletins and copies of Reflections were placed on church and rectory steps. There were email and telephone connections between various groups and individuals. And thanks to video conferencing technology, the regular monthly Book Club didn't miss a beat, and weekly discussions of the Dynamic Catholic book, *Rediscover the Saints*, were able to resume.

It was different, but it was still our church.

What a memorable 90th year it has been!



JANE BRUNHUBER, PARISH SECRETARY

“Thank you for calling Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament in Bayside. If you know your party’s extension, please press it now.” Recognize that message and voice? That’s Jane Brunhuber, our parish secretary, who recently announced that she will be retiring in June, after almost thirty years of service to OLBS. Jane was working in the Religious Education office in 1991 when Father Deas approached her, asking her to work in the rectory, replacing Mickey Rodeschini who was planning her retirement. Thankfully, Jane said YES to the job and the rest is history.

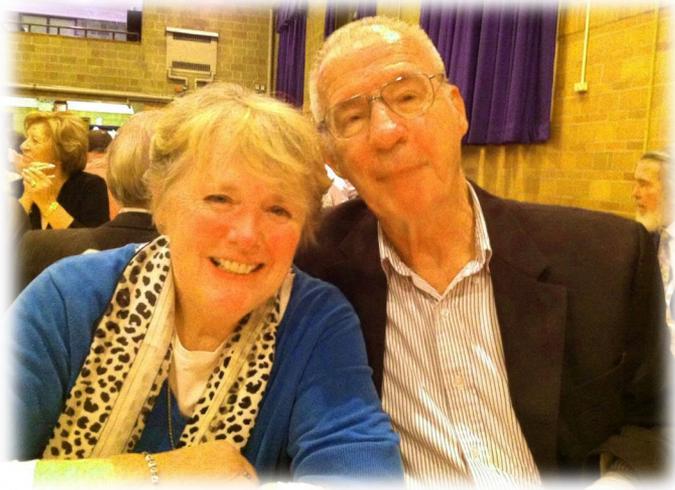
A few interesting things about Jane: born in the Bronx, she was Jane Donohue, the youngest of five children; her parish was The Nativity of Our Blessed Lady on Dyre Avenue, where her grandmother was the organist and whose brother was the priest who bought the church from Sears Roebuck! Jane laughed as she recalled working, selling chance books with her brother, earning him half a year’s tuition at Mount St. Michael’s High School. Jane went to Mother Butler Memorial High School, and then to Berkeley Secretarial School in White Plains. One day her mother announced to Jane that she had booked them a cruise on the Oceanic, something Jane was not too thrilled about. She went, however, and it was on that cruise that she met her husband, Karl Brunhuber. Three years later they were married, and were blessed with three children, all now married, and Jane and Karl are now the proud grandparents of six.

Jane is so much a part of the history of OLBS – working with Father Deas, Monsignor Keane, Monsignor Mahoney and Father Bob. If you ever have the occasion to be in her office, you can’t help but wonder how she gets any work done. Constant phone calls and interruptions make it almost impossible to maintain a train of thought, but Jane handles it with a smile, to say nothing of her infectious giggle, which always makes you feel so welcome. As Jane told me, she loves the people in the parish and their giving ways, and while it will be difficult leaving, she looks forward to spending more time with Karl and their family at their home away from home in the Berkshires, the town of Becket, MA,

as well as continuing to serve here as a Eucharistic Minister and volunteering at Ozanam and the rectory.

Thank you, Jane, for your many years of service to the parish. You will be missed. May the years ahead be filled with many blessings for you, Karl and your family.

-Peggy Devine



More About Jane...

One of the most valuable assets of my life as pastor of OLBS was to have a household of cheerful, industrious, competent and personable staff. No one filled that description more completely than Jane Brunhuber, secretary, receptionist and general do-whatever-was-needed.

Jane's good humor and her radiant smile never faded over the long years of her faithful service. With her wonderful husband Karl, Jane deserves a retirement filled with many joys and blessings. In great gratitude for her dedication and devotion to the parish of OLBS, I will pray for that intention.

-Msgr. George Deas

I had no knowledge of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Parish when Bishop DiMarzio asked me in May of 2008 to accept the position of pastor, but I was heartened and assured when a friend told me that I would have the best secretary in the diocese. That proved to be an understatement. Not only has Jane Brunhuber been a great secretary, but more than that, an inspiration, a confidant, a sounding board, an ever smiling, prayerful, generous friend. Jane has given of herself tirelessly to the parish with a unique dedication for over twenty years. Nothing is beyond her job description, ready to serve whatever the need may be. Every caller and visitor has always been greeted warmly and professionally, the welcoming voice and face of our church. She can often be found at her desk hours after her shift is over. "Good night, Gracie" I have to say to remind her that it's late and Karl is hungry. While she contemplates retirement, what is most on her mind is how she can continue to volunteer her services to the parish. We have all been blessed by Jane of Blessed Chu, the name I tell her she will receive upon canonization. (Much of our unsolicited mail comes with truncated versions of our very long name of OLBS). No single person has made my pastorate more effective and enjoyable than Jane Brunhuber—the Irish girl with the German name—for which I will always be grateful.

-Fr. Bob Whelan

When I first became a rectory volunteer Mary Ranieri taught me the "how tos" of the phone, the Mass requests, the funerals, etc. But it was Jane, who is there every day, who patiently answered my myriad questions. Not only did I learn the workings of the OLBS church and rectory, but Christian life lessons were interjected in conversations that we would have. Jane also shared stories of herself and her siblings growing up in the Bronx that were so much fun to hear. Not only is Jane patient and knowledgeable but she is great to work with. Her vacation days were dreaded by me. Who would I "ask" the many questions that are not covered in the "how to" book? I know I will miss being in the rectory with Jane but will continue to cherish our friendship.

-Nancy Gentile

Ever-smiling,
Ever-welcoming,
Ever willing.
Ever ready with a story, a "how could you not believe?" story, a
testimony to her own profound faith.
And "after hours" Jane, frequently with husband Karl, ever willing
to drive a parishioner home from church, to a parish event, even to
a doctor's appointment.
Truly a parish secretary and parishioner extraordinaire!
How will we ever manage without you Jane?!

-Barbara O'Keefe



THE BUDDY BENCH

Kudos to the latest addition to the Academy schoolyard (also known as parking lot.) We're talking about the "Buddy Bench"- a bright blue iron bench designated for anyone who needs a buddy. It's meant for anyone who needs someone to play with, who feels lonely or left out or (hopefully not at OLBS) is being bullied. He or she need only sit there, and a "spotter"/friend will arrive!

Buddy Bench Rules:

- If you choose to sit on the Buddy Bench, you must say yes to the first person who asks to play with you.
- Don't hang out on the bench.
- If you see someone on the bench go talk to them.
- No teacher should be sitting on the Buddy Bench – only if they need a buddy!
- If someone is being bullied go sit on the bench.
- * Don't put your stuff on the Buddy Bench!



To see the Buddy Bench in action, see Girl Scout Troop 4030's Youtube video at https://youtu.be/fSf0_9PJdZg - or find a link at OLBSA's Option C homepage.

YOUTH GROUP VOLUNTEERS

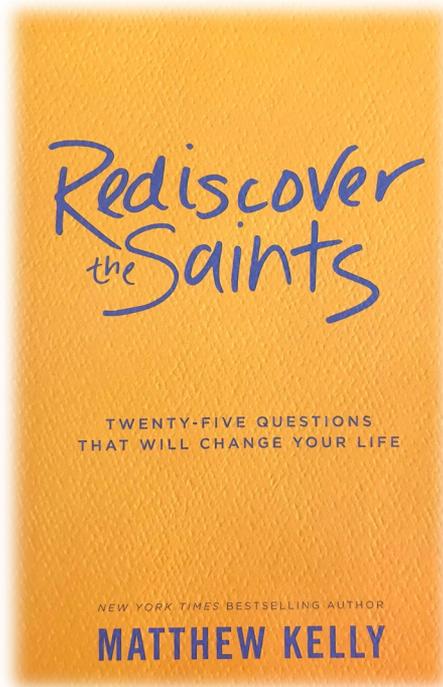


Members of the youth group, along with other members of the Queens Coalition, volunteered at Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in Woodside. One of the tasks was to put together donated bed frames for resale, the profits of which go towards building Habitat homes.



IGNATIAN PRAYER

This is the year of prayer for the Dynamic Parish program. So, we were given a book at Christmas, *Rediscover the Saints*, to revitalize our prayer life, and an email to hear daily messages during Lent. St Ignatius of Loyola is the subject of one of the chapters in the book and the focus of one of the Lenten meditations. Both center on the Ignatian idea of emotional intelligence, or entering into a situation by **feeling** the situation rather than approaching it intellectually.



For example, a truly Ignatian way of reading the gospels is to enter into the scene by picturing ourselves right there experiencing it. We have heard the gospel stories so many

times that it is so easy to "tune out" as we say in our mind, "Yes, I've heard this one before", as we begin to think about other things and hardly pay attention at all. This method is a powerful way to meditate and allow the drama of the gospel to unfold as a narrative of real people rather than a description of something that occurred long ago and has no real meaning that can be applied today.

So, if we read about Zaccheus, the short tax collector, up in the tree attempting to see Jesus, we might picture ourselves as the wife of Zaccheus seeing her husband in this undignified position. It was bad enough that the townspeople shunned Zaccheus and his whole family because he was collaborating with the despised Romans; now he was making a spectacle of himself, opening them up to further ridicule and laughter! The townspeople would tell and retell this tale for years with raucous laughter. Her eyes filled with tears, she was mortified. Jesus makes it even worse by looking up, and calling him to come down. How could He be so mean as to single him out even further? Her heart must have sunk and her cheeks become scarlet and burning. Couldn't this rabbi leave him some dignity?

But, Jesus, always in command, turns the whole scene around, and now her husband is being praised. In fact, the Master invites Himself to her house to dine. Mortified one moment, filled with pride the next and now....."What did He say?" she must have thought with horror. "He's coming to our house to dine? Tonight? With all His friends? "Every wife can remember at least once when her husband has invited someone without telling her. And, here, she couldn't even blame Zaccheus! It wasn't his idea! She must have run with all her strength back to her house to prepare a banquet for this Most Esteemed of visitors and His guests. The next few hours must have been just a blur as she and the servants purchased, and cooked and prepared. No time now to think about what the Master had said to her husband. Too much to do! And, at the end, did Jesus not smile at her knowingly and send her His

thanks with His eyes? All the guests left, even this man with the magnetic voice and a message of hope. It must have been then that she pondered this new Zaccheus, touched by this itinerant preacher who had given him real stature and changed his outlook on life.

So this Ignatian approach can be applied to our daily life, and I have begun to use it. Instead of being impatient in the checkout line at the grocery line, I try to put myself in the shoes of the people standing with me. The person in front has cat food and litter in the cart. Does she have a new kitten or a beloved older cat who has become her companion? Is it almost more important for her to feed the pet than herself? There's a woman with lots of snacks and canned soda, plus a box of cake mix and frosting. Is she preparing a birthday celebration at home for a youngster rather than face a costly, organized party at McDonald's? What about the single elderly gentleman who stands behind me with a small steak, a package of frozen vegetable and a head of lettuce? Is he going home to an empty house which was once filled with the voices of children and a beloved wife who is no longer there? So, the time passes on the checkout line, and I have been absorbed not so much in annoyance, but in little prayers that the pet stays healthy and gives the woman the companionship she needs, that the laughter of the children proves that the woman didn't need to spend a lot to make her child's birthday special, and that someone, maybe a grown child, calls the man tonight to break the silence.

Indeed, this Ignatian approach to the gospels can be turned into a method of prayer for daily encounters in the world.

-Maria Franzetti

BILL DOUGLAS

Almost from the beginning, from way back when Fr. Frank Lynch was getting Reflections up and running, Bill Douglas was an integral part of this publication. For almost forty years, until late 2018 when his health started to decline, no issue went to press without one of Bill's features on the life of a saint, for many years under the column heading of "Saints for Sinners."

Bill was a lifelong parishioner of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament. He graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point and then spent some time at sea, exploring the world. Over the years, these travel experiences, as well as his expertise in discussing the fine points of just about any movie or restaurant, enlivened many Reflections meetings!

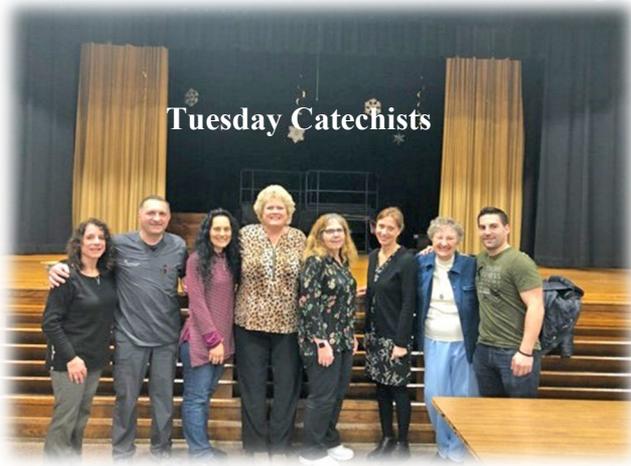


Sadly, on Easter Sunday we lost Bill. We will miss him.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT OLBS

Our parish offers a vibrant religious education program for students from first to eighth grade. Sister Carla Lorenz was director for 15 years and she did a fantastic job. Now that she has retired, she enjoys volunteering as a catechist. She handed over the reins to a dynamic and capable Mrs. Jeannine Iocco who is the Coordinator of Religious Education with Mrs. Jean Marie Kessel as the Secretary.



(Rto L) Vincent Avallone, Sr. Carla, Karen Traver, Diane Carbone, Jean Marie Kessel, Marisa Avallone, Deacon Avallone, Jeannine Iocco

Our religious Education Program begins mid-September and ends mid-May.

We have students from grades 1 to 5 who meet on Wednesday afternoons from 2:15 -3:45 pm. and grades 6 to 8 who meet on Tuesday nights from 6:30 -7:45 pm. We also offer Separate Liturgy for children in grades Pre-K to grade 4 on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 am Mass.

We participate in early release time from public schools on Wednesday afternoons, which allows the Catholic students, with

permission, to leave school early in order to attend religious education classes here at OLBS. We have 76 students on Wednesdays with 9 Catechists and 58 students on Tuesdays nights with 6 Catechists. Six students are homeschooled, and one private lesson is given by Sr. Carla. There are 141 students in total.



(R to L) Terry Pereira, Marsha Quilang, Rose Macchio, Alberta Cooper, Sr. Carla, Joyce Chupa-Reisman, Paul Franzetti, Seane Gorry, Jean Marie Kessel, Marushka Palha, Jeannine Iocco

There are three Catechists and two junior helpers on Sunday for the Separate Liturgy for Children.

We have formation for Communion and First Penance on Wednesdays. It is a two-year program, starting in first grade and leading up to the reception of the Sacraments in second grade. Confirmation also involves two years of preparation. The students need 24 hours of Christian service that they complete in the seventh grade. The sacrament of Confirmation then takes place in the eighth grade.

The primary purpose of our Religious Education Program is faith formation. Faith formation is an ongoing develop-

ment of the whole person into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. To use the image of St. Paul “we put on Christ” so that Christ is the center of our lives. All Catholics are on the journey of faith formation. We begin this life-long journey in the waters of Baptism. The end of this journey is eternal life with Jesus in heaven.



Sunday Catechists

(R to L) Rose Macchio, Mary Krokondelas, Jeannine Iocco, Ana Monteverdi, Veronica Monteverdi, (Missing Lauren Krokondelas)

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) is an association established in Rome in 1562 for the purpose of providing religious education. The term CCD is no longer used. Instead we speak of the Religious Education program of the Roman Catholic Church, normally designed for children.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church (427) in catechesis, "Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God,. . . is taught - everything else is taught with reference to him - and it is Christ alone who teaches - anyone else teaches to the extent that

he is Christ's spokesman, enabling Christ to teach with his lips. Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: 'My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.'"

Religious education can provide advantages well beyond a strong sense of faith. It plays a key role in students' lives by teaching them how to socialize, and how to be respectful and responsible. It helps with their own personal development and supports an understanding of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural questions that surface in their lives.

Why is religion an important value? It is important, because an understanding of the world affects their experience of life. Religion acts as a light and guide to people as they go through life and reflect upon it. Part of any religious system is its moral values which regulate and harmonize human life. We want to help the students have a relationship with Jesus.

What is a Virtus Certification? VIRTUS is a program created by the National Catholic Risk Retention Group in the United States with a "Protecting God's Children" component that combats sexual abuse of children in the Church. It is currently in use in over 80 dioceses in the United States. All Catechists are required to undergo VIRTUS training and certification.

I love being a Catechist! It enriches my life and hopefully I can enrich the lives of the students I have each week. They are so innocent, full of questions and like all children, absorb everything you say. They are very smart and ask a lot of meaningful questions.

-Marushka Sequiera Palha



KINDNESS RULES ...AND KINDNESS ROCKS



SAVE THE DATE!

Our Lady of the
Blessed Sacrament
90th Parish Anniversary



Our Lady of
the Blessed Sacrament
70th School-Academy
Anniversary

Dinner Dance

Friday, October 16, 2020

Anniversary Mass

Sunday, October 18, 2020

11:00am

(Reception to follow)

SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARTY



Honorees: Ciara Greene & husband Michael Erdman, George and Teresa Goger, and Jim and Barbara Saur



Jim and Barbara Saur



MARCH 7, 2020



Ciara Greene & husband
Michael Erdman



George and Teresa Goger



FUN TIMES WITH DANCING & ENTERTAINMENT



BASKETBALL FREE THROW CONTESTS

On January 11, 2020 the Knights of Columbus Council #430 had their Basketball Free Throw Contest. There were 40 children entered, from ages nine to fourteen. The eight winners, four boys and four girls, then competed in the Queens County Conference on February 29 at St. Robert Bellarmine. There, three girls from OLBSA – Giuliana Dollard age 9, Megan Chelius age 11 and Jamie Davneiro age 14 - were winners and were to compete in the Long Island Region Free Throw Tournament on March 28 at Chaminade High School. The winner of that tournament was to go to West Point for the New York State Conference. Stay tuned!

**Preliminary
Free Throw
Contest at
OLBS**



**Queens County
Finalists**

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS

Despite being born in humble beginnings, St John of the Cross went on to become one of the two greatest mystics in the history of the Church. Along with his contemporary, St Teresa of Avila, he reformed the Carmelite Order in the sixteenth century.

His father was from a wealthy family, but was disowned when he married a woman considered far below his station. The young couple struggled to raise their three sons. His father died when John was three; his older brother died two years later. His mother was left alone to support her two remaining sons by weaving.

John received basic education at a school for the poor, and he worked in a hospital until his teens. He studied at a Jesuit school from 1559 to 1563, when he entered the Carmelites. The following year he made his First Profession and travelled to Salamanca University, where he studied theology and philosophy. John was ordained as a Carmelite priest in 1567, but he subsequently thought about joining the strict Carthusian Order, because of its practice of solitary and silent contemplation. During this time, he journeyed from Salamanca to Medina del Campo, where he met Teresa of Ávila. She was staying in Medina to found the second of her new convents. She persuaded him to join with her in her reform of the Carmelite Order.

Under the Rule, much of the day and night were to be divided between the recitation of the Liturgy of the Hours, study and devotional reading, the celebration of Mass and periods of solitude. The friars were to evangelize the population around the monastery. There was to be total abstinence from meat and a lengthy period of fasting from the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14) until Easter. There were to be long periods of silence, especially between Compline and Prime. Simpler and coarser habits were worn. The new branch would be called "Discalced" which means "shoeless" since those under the reform did not wear closed shoes. In October 1568, John founded a new monastery, following Teresa's reform. The monastery was really a derelict house at Duruelo (midway between

Ávila and Salamanca), which the friars worked happily to make livable. On 28 November 1568, the monastery was established, and on that same day, John changed his name to "John of the Cross." John established new monasteries in the years that followed.

The Carmelites had been undergoing reform under the direction of two Canonical Visitors from the Dominican Order sent by the Vatican. The intervention of the Holy See and the political machinations of King Phillip II and his court led to a dramatic, even violent, disagreement between the Carmelites, those of the old order and the reformed friars.

In late 1577, John was ordered to leave the monastery in Avila, where he was the spiritual director to the nuns, and to return to his original house. However, John's work to reform the order had already been approved by the Papal Nuncio, who was a higher authority. Based on that, John chose to ignore the order and stay.

On December 2, 1577, a group of Carmelites broke into John's residence and kidnapped him. He was taken to the order's main house in Toledo. Tried by a court of friars for disobedience, he was punished by imprisonment in a cell in the monastery made from a closet so small that he could barely lie on the floor. He was fed only bread and water, and occasional scraps of salt fish. Each week he was lashed, then returned to his cell. His clothes were in tatters and he was not permitted to say Mass. His only luxuries were a prayer book and an oil lamp to read by. To pass the time he wrote poems on paper that was smuggled to him by the friar charged with guarding his cell.

It was during this time in that small, almost airless cell that he wrote *The Spiritual Canticle*, considered one of the most beautiful poems in the Spanish language. It tells of the bride, representing the soul, searching for the bridegroom, representing Jesus Christ, and her anxiety at having lost him. Both are filled with joy upon reuniting. This and the other poems that he wrote, plus his prose works are deeply spiritual, urging detachment from all things to find God. His mind and

heart became inflamed with the love of God. He was transformed.

After nine tortuous months in confinement, he pried the door off the hinges and escaped. He joined Teresa's nuns in Toledo, and spent six weeks in the hospital to recover. In 1579, John was sent to the town of Baeza to be rector of a new college and to support the Discalced Carmelites in Andalusia. In 1580, Pope Gregory formally authorized the split between the Discalced Carmelites and the rest of the order. This ended the rift within the order. At that time, there were about 500 members in the order living in 22 houses.

During the last few years of his life, John traveled and established new houses across Spain. In 1591, John became ill with a skin condition that resulted in an infection. On December 14, 1591, John of the Cross died, leaving a sublime legacy of prayers, poetry and writings which have been the backbone of Carmelite spirituality for centuries. He was declared a Doctor of the Church.

-Maria Franzetti



Drawing of Crucifixion by Saint John of the Cross based on his vision of the crucified Christ.

DRAWING OF THE CRUCIFIXION BY JOHN OF THE CROSS

At some time between 1574 and 1577, while praying in a loft overlooking the sanctuary in the Monastery of the Incarnation in Ávila, John had a vision of the crucified Christ, which led him to create his drawing of Christ "from above". This same drawing inspired the artist Salvador Dalí's 1951 work *Christ of Saint John of the Cross*.

Here are some of the stanzas of Spiritual Canticle. The bride is the soul and the bridegroom Jesus.

Source: <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-spiritual-canticle/#content>

THE BRIDE

Where have You hidden Yourself,
And abandoned me in my groaning, O my Beloved?
You have fled like the hart,
Having wounded me.
I ran after You, crying; but You were gone.

III

In search of my Love
I will go over mountains and strands;
I will gather no flowers,
I will fear no wild beasts;
And pass by the mighty and the frontiers.

IV

O groves and thickets
Planted by the hand of the Beloved;
O verdant meads
Enameled with flowers,
Tell me, has He passed by you?

NEWS AROUND OUR PARISH...

Wedding Congratulations to

- Richard Dolan and Crystal Cabrera, who were married here at OLBS on February 1st. (see photo)

Congratulations to

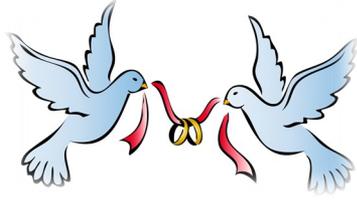
- Frank Talty, on his appointment by Governor Andrew Cuomo to be the Chairman of the Advisory Council for Licensed Private Career Schools in New York. (see photo)
- OLBSCA Sixth Grade Girls Basketball Team, on winning the CYO Diocesan Championship. (See article)
- OLBS CYO Swim Team Boys are CYO Diocesan Champions! Congratulations!

That's it for now, but don't forget to share your news with the parish – leave a note for me at the Rectory so I can include it in the next issue of Reflections.

-Peggy Buckley



**OLBS CYO Swim
Team are the
Diocesan
Champions!**



**Crystal Cabrera &
Richard Dolan**

**Frank Talty, Chairman,
Advisory Council for
Licensed Career Schools
of New York**



THE FRENCH REVOLUTION AND SUBSEQUENT AFTERMATH

I always thought, from articles and books I have read, that the French revolution was the uprising of the poor against the bourgeoisie. Everyone who is interested in history has heard the supposed quote from Marie Antionette, “Let them eat cake,” in reply to someone who told her that the people did not have bread. This was the start of the uprising that led to the dark, demonic days that followed. The storming of the Bastille (July 14th, 1789) set off the worst period in France’s history, ranging from the war against religion, specifically Catholicism, to the genocide of the people of the Vendée, a region in the west of France. To put this in perspective, the revolution occurred about ten years after the American Revolution in 1776. The comparison is as unlike as chalk from cheese; while the American Revolution led to the Declaration of Independence and our “unalienable rights”, the French wanted the State to be the ultimate authority. For this reason, the churches were bought by the State and turned over to puppet priests who were from the laity and were never ordained. Notre Dame was desecrated by having a prostitute lying on the altar dressed as “Reason.” Religious orders were deemed “enemies of the State.” This particularly outraged one region of France where people, who were mostly farmers, decided to fight “For God and King.” At this time King Louis XVI was guillotined in 1793 and general mayhem followed. The people of the Vendée were religious farmers and when priests were killed wherever found, they decided to fight back with their pitifully inadequate weapons. They were vastly outmatched by the thousands of soldiers who were sent to exterminate them. This led to a brutal, bitter conflict that would inevitably lead to one end – the total extermination of everyone in the region, down to women, children, and infants. One hundred and ten children who were found in the church of Petit-Luc were mercilessly slaughtered with one soldier boasting, “... we killed a brood of church rats holding on to their religion.” Thousands were drowned in the

Loire river - the last of these included 160 priests, 12 women, 12 girls, and 5 infants - before this was stopped.

Some statistics: of the total killed in this region 80% were women and children. Altogether in France, of the 2 million killed, 72% were peasants and city workers. Obviously, this was not part of the French motto of “Liberté, Egalité,, Fraternité.” Other despotic governments have taken a leaf out of the French Revolution’s book - including Stalin who visited the Vendée region and used some of the fighting methods to kill and starve 63.1 million of his people.

The villain of this era was Robespierre whose diabolic reign lasted from September 1793 to July 1794. He was totally ruthless, and his hand was the one that ordered his soldiers to kill everyone in the Vendée, including all children, and justified this by calling them an inferior race. He himself was led to the guillotine in 1794 by the same people who killed for him.

Robespierre’s death and the culmination of the Revolution was said by some to be the result of the death of 14 Carmelite nuns (and 2 servants) from Compiègne who were taken prisoners some days before. As they were led to the guillotine, they started to sing and continued to do so as they were led, one by one to be executed. Unlike other executions, the crowd did not jeer or hurl insults at them but were totally silent, so the only sound heard was the singing of the nuns. So it went on until the last nun was executed and the silence became total. Ten days later Robespierre’s execution took place and that was purportedly the end of the Revolution. Napoleon signed the Concordat of 1801 with Pope Pius VII which stated that: Christians are free to worship in public; Catholicism is the religion of the majority of the French, but not the State’s religion; and the State keeps the properties taken from the Church. (That is how Notre Dame became the property of the French Government).

The United Nations General Assembly in 1948, declared that genocide is – “Acts committed with intent to destroy: in whole or part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group.” For this reason, there have been calls to the French Government to investigate the charges of genocide of the Vendée, with the latest appeal being presented to them in the spring of 2016. So far, the appeal has been refused.

In 1847, It was proposed to the Vatican that the 110 children killed in Petit-Luc church be declared saints but to date the case is still pending. The Carmelite nuns were declared venerable in 1902 by Pope Leo XIII and were beatified in 1906 by Pope St. Pius X.

This is just the tip of the iceberg regarding this topic, but the lesson here is that there has been anti-Catholicism throughout history, including supposedly “Catholic” countries such as Portugal, Mexico, and England to name a few. France was known as the Eldest Daughter of the Church and is now totally secular. This is why it is important to know and pass on the Faith - attend talks and retreats, investigate, and learn all you can so when your children ask questions, which they inevitably do, you will have lucid and reasonable answers for them.

There is an excellent documentary (from which this article was written) about the French revolution produced and directed by Daniel Rabourdin: *The Hidden Rebellion* – the untold story of the French Revolution.

For the complete story of the Carmelite nuns you can read Dr. Matthew Bunson’s article (2007) at www.catholic.com/magazine/print-edition/they-sang-all-the-way-to-the-guillotine

-Vilma Greene

OLBSCA WELCOMES LIDIA BASTIANICH



Lidia Bastianich, celebrity restaurateur, author, and cook show host is welcomed by the OLBS community. Pictured here with Father Bob, Principal Joan Kane, some Academy Board members including JoAnn Wagner, Nick Ranieri, Michael Reilly, Eileen Baginski, Maura McCarthy, John Scolaro and the Development Director, Julia Xelas. Lidia's visit on February 27 was an overwhelming success— a tasty, entertaining fundraising and social event.

The evening began with refreshments followed by an interview of Lida by Father Bob. Lidia entertained the audience with reminiscences of her childhood, her immigration to America, with all the adjustments necessary to assimilate into her new home. Throughout the evening, Lida stressed that home and family was essential to her happiness, her personal success, and her business success. She successfully intertwine her businesses and family life resulting in the restaurant/ cooking /authoring phenomenon that she has created. After the interview, there was an opportunity for questions from the audience and a culminating in a book signing by the author.

Thank you, Lidia for your support of OLBSCA!

POPPY'S PLACE ITALIAN RESTAURANT

12 Verbena Avenue
Floral Park, NY 11001
(516) 358-2705
WWW.PoppysPlaceRestaurant.com



Dining with ANN

Private Parties Catering
Closed Mondays.

Lunch: Tuesday – Friday 11:30-3:00

Dinner: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 5:00-9:00;
Friday & Saturday 5:00-10:00

Happy Hour at the Bar Tuesday - Friday 4:30 - 6:00

Street Parking

Poppy's Place opened in 1989 and was known for their great staff and friendly atmosphere.

When the time came to move on and possibly close, Donna, chef and original staff member and her sister Joanne, a bartender, made the decision to buy Poppy's place and continue the traditions.

There is a welcoming and warm atmosphere from the minute you walk in to the minute you leave. The wait staff is attentive and knowledgeable. It was a great coincidence when Donna's friend Lisa was looking for a job at the same time as a waitressing position was opened at Poppy's place - great choice - Lisa is a natural.

Poppy's Place offers a large selection of delicious Appetizers, Homemade Soups, Salads, Pastas, Entrees and Desserts, as well as nightly specials

Prices are reasonable and portion sizes are generous.

Bon Appetite

-Ann Reisig

JOURNALING IN LENT

It began way before Lent. I was determined that this would be the best Lent ever. I solicited ideas for weeks from those around me to put together a list of tasks for Lent (my Excel checklist!) So, when Lent came, I was all set to make this a wonderful Lent by checking off every box, every day. A marvelous Lent! In fact, on the first page of the Matthew Kelly journal, there was a place to put down the goals for Lent. I dutifully put down every one of the goals so that I could measure progress!

I had pledged in my mind to begin Lent a few days early just to "get into the groove." But things began to get in the way, obstacles that prevented me from getting my checks in the boxes. On Ash Wednesday I wrote in the Matt Kelly journal, "I couldn't go to Eucharistic Adoration today because I took Rora to NYU for her CT scan, and it was late by the time I got home."

And it got worse. Almost like a game where I didn't know the rules, I couldn't do one thing to check off the boxes. There was always something else in front of me to do rather than some spiritual exercise so that I could check the box! Even in so far as giving up things. I would have it in my mind to give up one thing, and then I couldn't because of circumstances.

This happened repeatedly until during the first week of Lent, on one of the rare visits to the Blessed Sacrament, I sat in church and gave Him Lent. "OK," I said, "I get it. This is your Lent and I surrender my plans for the next few weeks to You. Clearly You have something else in mind rather than checkboxes. Show me what to do."

I kept writing in the journal each night in the section "What is God saying to you today," and I honestly didn't know. All I kept hearing in my heart was that I needed to give up control. Didn't God want me to accomplish anything of what I had wanted to offer Him for Lent?

Then the unthinkable happened. Churches were closed-no Mass, no group rosary, no Eucharistic adoration, not even confession! It was evident that I had to give up control. "OK. It's your Lent," I said repeatedly and wrote as much in the journal.

I was sharing my disappointment about Lent with Paul. He was reading He Leadeth Me by Father Walter Ciszek. He gave me the book one morning and pointed out about five paragraphs. "This may resolve some of your frustration about Lent." Father Ciszek summed up the spiritual life in a way I needed to hear, and which dovetailed exactly with the question in the journal. Father Ciszek writes that God's will for each person is not writ large over decades. It unfolds day after day in the experiences of the day. We overlook this giant fact and pursue the "grand plan" overlooking the fact that God leads us through our unique existence day by day just to provide opportunities to come nearer to Him.

It was the week before Holy Week that things began to gel. Father John Riccardo published a notice on the website that because of the pandemic, there would be a three-day online retreat. More graces flowed from that retreat than I can even begin to describe. It was as if wave upon wave of grace began to wash over me. Issues I had grappled with for years and years were resolved. And now the journal became my vehicle of expression. On and on I wrote well into the night filling not only the page allotted for the day, but overflowing into the "Notes" section as well.

By the time Easter came, there had been an internal change, definitely not from my own doing but caused by all the external aides I had been given, and the opportunity to spend so much time at home without the daily burden of outside duties. Almost a miracle for me.

So, now I plan to use this same journal format going forward. The open-ended question about God speaking to me is an excellent one to review the day and see where the voice of God was present in the events around me to help me in my journey. It was the BEST LENT EVER!!

Note: Father John Riccardo' three-day retreat (three one-hour segments) can be found at

[www. actstxix.org](http://www.actstxix.org) Scroll to "That's Not the God I Knew Growing Up" and click "Watch all the Talks"

-Maria Franzetti

“SIT DOWN, SHUT UP....”

In an Education class I took in the early 70's, a kindly old professor named Dr Glickman told us, “You will learn more from your students than they will ever learn from you.” I remember that at the time I disagreed with him. How could students “teach” the teacher?

Forty-seven years of teaching English in high school later I can tell you, he was right. I was wrong. He was both wise and correct. I had learned more from my students than they had learned from me. What I learned was that being a teacher was only a role I played. In the larger classroom of Life, I too was a student.

Teaching in high school was often like being in a battle zone. The complaints can rattle you as much as the noise. Students complain about everything: each other; other teachers; the amount of homework; the exams; school policies. They complain that the novels are too long or too boring or that the vocabulary is impossible to understand. They complain, “Why can't we read books that interest us?”

When the bell rings for class, some students enter the room like convicts breaking out of jail. Some come late. Some come without books or a pen. Some ask, “What are we doing today?” and then ask to go back to their lockers to get the books.

Granted, many come prepared, ready to work. They sit down, open their notebooks and wait for the lesson to start. Others come in and immediately ask to go to the bathroom. Some students get up and walk around the room; they come to the desk to get tissues from the box I keep there, or they wander over to the windows to close them, or open the windows, according to their individual body temperature. It's either too cold or too hot for them. Then the students who sit by the window argue with them and complain to the teacher.

Hot weather is another venue for complaints. “We pay a lot of tuition, Mr. Franzetti,” they say, “why don't we have air conditioning in this school? Other schools have it.” Finding fault with the school is common, but they have no problem

breaking school rules when it suits them. Bringing food is against the rules, but students sneak in their breakfast or lunch anyway. Water bottles are not supposed to be brought to class but they bring them and drink continually as if they were in the Sahara Desert.

The greatest threat to education is also the most recent one—cell phones. They are the bane of a teacher’s existence. The students are not supposed to bring them to class or walk with them in the halls, but they cannot help themselves; they’re addicted to them.

When a teacher begins to say, “Turn to page __” they say, “What page?” not once, but two or three times.

One morning in my last year, the bell rang and I was beginning a class on Shakespeare’s use of similes and metaphors in *Romeo and Juliet*. It was clear that few were interested. I stopped short and waited until I had everyone’s perfect attention. I had something important to say, something that had nothing to do with *Romeo and Juliet*.

“Listen, if you want to succeed in school--if you want to succeed in life--there are rules you have to follow. Here are the six rules of success in school.

Sit down

Shut Up

Pay attention

Take notes

Do your homework

Study for the test.”

A girl raised her hand and asked me to repeat them. Of course, I did.

.....
The next day I walked into the chapel and the words came back to me ***Sit down. Shut Up. Pay Attention. Take Notes. Do your homework. Study for the test.***

Dr Glickman came to mind again, “You will learn more from your students than they will ever learn from you.” So, here’s what I learned from my students.

The classroom is a microcosm of the World, the busy, noisy, chaotic, badly behaved world. The Teacher of the World is Jesus, and He has been for centuries routinely ignored, disobeyed, ridiculed or lied to. His sanctuary, the Church, is empty; His Holy of Holies, bypassed. Crowds line up to see ball games or a Broadway play or a political event, but few if any people queue up to visit the Lord in the Tabernacle. The cell phone has replaced the Tabernacle as the focus of interest. What about me?

Sit down: I knelt down; I am in the Real Presence.

Shut Up: I shut the door of my mind against the distraction of the world. Quiet your mind

Pay Attention: Jesus has something important to say to me.

Take Notes: The Teacher who is speaking is the Lord.

Do your homework: I must make the daily every effort to pray, fast, give alms, read scripture,
and do Corporal Works of Mercy.

Study for the Test. Yes, there *will* be a test on this.

-Paul Franzetti



Peggy Buckley and Jo Stoltz, Rosarians, take a moment from dusting our Church to pose for this photo op. Don't they look like they're having fun? You, too, can share some comradery while helping to keep the Church clean. Interested? Contact Peggy Buckley at 718-428-3323.

CATHY JONES'S VIRTUAL



**Cathy Jones'
Brownies**



**Christie and
Tolan Lee 's
Chocolate
Buttermilk
Cookies with
Marshmallow and
Heath**

PALM SUNDAY CAKE SALE



**Gloria Mallia's
Scones**

**Maura McCarthy's
Sandwich Bread (right)
and
Artisan Bread (below)**



6TH GRADE GIRLS OLBS BASKETBALL TEAM ARE CYO DIOCESAN CHAMPIONS!

The 6th grade girls from OLBS defeated American Martyrs at Holy Cross High School on Saturday, February 22 to win the Diocesan Championship by a final score of 22-18. The team is coached by Chris Chelius and Dominic Jacino, and the team consists of 10 players: Ariana Costello, Aubry Edwards, Audra Jacino, Emma Iocco, Gianna Ciofoletti, Isabella Bacarella, Isabelle Wong, Megan Chelius, and Nancy Marcello.



The team had a difficult road in the playoffs, facing tough competition every step of the way. They were losing by 9 points in the 4th quarter of their first playoff game but came back to win 26-21 against Our lady of Hope, sparked by 7 second half points by Emma Iocco. In the next round, they were down 7 points in the 3rd quarter to St. Helen's. The team again rallied to win by just one excruciating

point this time. Ariana Costello saved the day with a clutch steal and scored a layup in the final minute of the game to secure the win. In the semifinal round, they played one of their main rivals and toughest opponents in St. Luke's. The girls came ready to play that day though, and played the best game of their basketball lives, winning the game by the final score of 26-12. Nancy Marcello lead the team in scoring that game with 10 points.

The championship game was a close and intense game between two opponents who played each other multiple times every year since the girls were in 3rd grade. OLBS lead by 7 in the 3rd quarter, but saw the lead shrink to 2 points with 20 seconds remaining. The team decided to run an out of bounds play that they had practiced over and over in advance of the championship game. The hope was that the play could be setup just once to catch American Martyrs off-guard, and the girls ran the play perfectly. The ball was out of bounds under American Martyrs' basket, meaning OLBS had to go the full length of the court to score. Emma Iocco took the ball out of bounds and threw a deep pass out to halfcourt. Ariana Costello caught the ball in stride and went in for the layup, which sealed the victory and the championship for OLBS.

The win capped an excellent season by the team, and they finished with a record of 20 wins and 1 loss in the CYO season. The only loss was to the same American Martyrs team in November 2019. Congratulations to the girls for winning the championship. It was a great accomplishment that they will never forget.

-Chris Chellius



SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan.

This novel reads like a film noir movie. Set in the 1940's during World War II our heroine works at the Brooklyn Navy Yard which employed women to do work towards the war effort. When this woman was in her early teens, her father just upped and left the family. She doesn't believe he's dead, so she searches for ways to gather information on him. In her search, she encounters a man she is certain her father knew when she was only 5 or 6 years old. Her own father's occupation was suspect, so it comes as no surprise that this stranger is involved with people from the under-world. Through her searching, we learn that, indeed, both men did cross paths and even worked with each other for a time. Stay alert when reading, because the line between the past and present blur. The intrigue will make you wonder if she will ever get an answer to her question: "Where is my father?"

-Joanna Scalstro

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

This is the story of a young girl, set in the marshland of the rural North Carolina coast, who is eventually left to grow up alone as her family drifts away one by one. The marsh and its creatures become her family and school, and Kia Clark becomes known as "the Marsh Girl" in her infrequent contacts with townspeople. Eventually the need for more human interaction surfaces, leading to both love and heartbreak. This is a beautifully written book – and did I mention that it is also a mystery story?!

-Barbara O'Keefe

Catholic Novels, by Jon Hassler, Graham Greene, Flannery O'Connor, Alice McDermott, Evelyn Waugh etc. etc. After recently watching Fr. Robert Lauder's series on the *Catholic Novel*, I am inspired to revisit, and recommend, these authors.

Father Lauder calls these novels great spiritual reading that is in no way “preachy.” Instead, through skillfully told stories, we are able to enter into lives that exemplify the love, grace and redemption we are all called to.

-Barbara O’Keefe

Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

Before We Were Yours is an incredible novel written about the real life story of the Tennessee Children’s Home Society. From the 1920’s-1950’s, an illegal black market baby business occurred here, in the United States. The business was run by Georgia Tann who sold “orphans” to couples looking to adopt, but could not meet the requirements for adoption through ordinary channels. Georgia, and her operators, tricked poor families who did not know their rights, into signing away their children. In some cases, she kidnapped children right from their living areas.

The story is uncovered by the granddaughter of one of these “adopted” children. Imagine the surprise that was in store for the entire extended family of this “adopted” person! This is a riveting story of young people who are torn from their homes, the guilt felt by the older daughter who could not keep the family together, and the undying love that the siblings had for each other.

-Anne O’Connell

Before and After by Judy Christie and Lisa Wingate

After *Before We Were Yours* was published, some adoptees contacted Lisa Wingate to share their stories with her. With the collaboration of a journalist, Lisa Wingate and Judy Christie undertook the task of finding others who were victims of the Tennessee Children’s Home Society. This book is a compilation of the stories and experiences of those adoptees, the reuniting of separated families, and the joy and sorrow experienced by those who were affected. After reading *Before We Were Yours*, I wanted to hear about the adoptees experiences. *Before and After* more than met my expectation.

-Anne O’Connell

MONTHLY DEVOTIONS

**June
Sacred Heart**



**July
Most Precious
Blood**



**August
Immaculate
Heart of Mary**



OLBS MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM - This program is a 6-week course for those seeking this sacrament.

Director: Den William Molloy wjmolloy@gmail.com

ADULT FAITH FORMATION TEAM – Meets once a month to support and facilitate the ongoing faith formation of the adult members of the parish. Contact Valerie DeMato, vdemato@gmail.com

ALTAR SERVERS:

ADULT ALTAR SERVERS - Serves morning masses and funerals when children are not available. Coordinator: Pete Mallia, 718-631-5129.

YOUTH ALTAR SERVERS - Help the priests at masses, funerals and weddings. Coordinators: Ana Monteverdi, Rose Macchio olbs.altarservr@gmail.com

BINGO COMMITTEE – Organize and run BINGO games for the benefit of the school. New volunteers desperately needed and always welcome. Volunteers scheduled 3 1/2 hours monthly. Coordinator: Cathy Jones, 718-224-4700

CATHOLIC TEEN COMMUNITY (CTC) - Made up of parish and non-parish high school teens who meet every Tuesday evening in the convent to plan projects to help the poor. Contact: OLBS Youth Minister, Kathleen Ranieri-Guiliano, 718-229-5929, e-mail: kgiuliano@olbs-queens.org

CATHOLIC YOUTH ORGANIZATION – Boys and girls may participate in the following sports: basketball, swimming, soccer, baseball, softball and track. Coordinator: Michael Monteverdi, 917-699-6039. : michael.monteverdi@gmail.com Website: olbsCYO.com

CHOIRS:

ADULT CHOIR – Rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm in the choir loft. New members always welcome. Contact Michael Martinka at 718-229-5929, e-mail: mmartinka@olbs-queens.org

CHERUB CHOIR – Children from Kindergarten to 2nd grade. Rehearsals on Monday at 3:15– 4:00 PM in the Parish Center. Contact Margaret Abel at 718-840-8351, e-mail: abelbunch@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – Children from 3rd to 6th grade. Rehearsals on Monday at 4:30– 5:30 PM in the Parish Center. Contact Margaret Abel at 718-840-8351, e-mail: abelbunch@gmail.com

OLBS MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

FUNERAL CHOIR – Members of this group are present at every funeral and represent our parish to the relatives of the deceased. If you are interested in this Work of Mercy contact Peggy Buckley 718-428-3323

YOUTH CHOIR – Young adults from 7th grade and up. Rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm in the Parish Center. Contact Valerie DeMato at 718-423-7017, e-mail: vdemato@gmail.com.

CHURCH ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - Enhances the worship space for Christmas, Easter, and other seasonal rituals. Coordinator: Christie Lee criniere@lions.molloy.edu

DOOR TO DOOR MINISTRY– Join us once a month as we knock on every door in the parish to extend a welcome from Fr. Bob, inform people about OLBS and its programs, and invite them to visit or worship at OLBS. Contact Joe Traver at joeka@nyc.rr.com or 718-637-7231

EVANGELIZATION TEAM - Outreach to inactive Catholics, non-Catholics, and the unchurched, and to enable the parish and parishioners to be more evangelizing. Coordinator: Joe Traver, joeka@nyc.rr.com

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION - Serve at the Liturgy of the Eucharist and can also be trained to bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound. Contact: Eileen Baginski, 718-358-1381, e-mail: embaginski@yahoo.com

GIRL SCOUTS - Girl Scout Juniors, meets 1st Thursday of each month in school cafeteria from 3:00 – 4:30. Coordinator: Enza Vella 347-728-8589; e-mail:jvella65@icloud.com

GREEN TEAM: Aims to promote practices in the church and community that are in alignment with Laudato Si, as well as with the conservation of our earth's resources. We also have activities in the church that celebrate God's creation. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Judy Tolan, 718-279-2414 or heyjude891@aol.com

GROUNDKEEPERS - Dedicated parishioners assist the maintenance staffing caring for the parish lawn and gardens. Contact: Ramon Urena, 718-229-5929

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: Team OLBS is a Habitat for Humanity NYC Queens Coalition of faith and community group partner involved in transforming 20 dilapidated houses in Queens into beautiful new Habitat homes for hard-working, low income families! Coordinator: Barbara Gillespie barbaragillespie65@gmail.com 917-696-4032.

OLBS MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, #430 Dr.Dooley/Fr. McGivney –

Meetings at Joyce Kilmer Hall (35-79 160th St., Flushing) every Tuesday.

Contact: Kevin Cadigan 917-599-7535; Website: kofc.org

LECTORS - Proclaim the Word of God in liturgical celebrations. Coordinator: Al Pistone alpistone4@gmail.com 917-543-9278

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY – USHERS - New volunteers are always welcome. Coordinator: John Cronan, 718-352-7529, e-mail: jjcronan@aol.com

MINISTRY OF WELCOME GREETERS – Contact Barbara Saur @ nycnurse@email.phoenix.edu

MOMMY AND ME - Mothers (fathers, grandparents and nannies) with babies and toddlers are invited to meet in the school auditorium.

Contact: Ana Monteverdi, 917-922-4375; Website: MommyNme-olbs.com.

NICARAGUA MISSION TEAM - Raises material and financial support for children with disabilities through Mustard Seed Communities; includes an annual trip. Coordinator: Nancy Gentile, kc647@aol.com

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS –Volunteer receptionists normally work a set day of the week and a time period of at least three hours. Other tasks, such as bulk mailings may be scheduled to fit the volunteer’s schedule. Coordinator: Mary Ranieri, 917-880-1412 , e-mail: montauk5ma@aol.com

OLBS ACADEMY PARENT ASSOCIATION– Supports Academy programs, advocates for continuing excellence and keeps parents informed about Academy affairs and upcoming events. President: Elizabeth Giangrecco, 917-939-3783 olbsapa@gmail.com, website: olbsacademy.org

PARISH ADVOCATES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - bring to the parish level the work of the Diocesan Office for Persons with Disabilities, to enable all to have as full access to the Liturgy and Sacraments as possible. Contacts: Barbara O’Keefe, 718-352-0210, e-mail: nealbarbok@aol.com

PASTORAL CARE PROGRAM - COMMUNION TO THE HOME-BOUND – Anyone who cannot attend Mass because of illness may receive the Eucharist at home on a regular basis. Coordinators: Mrs. Agnes Pappas, 718-631-4793, e-mail: gmapap15@aol.com

OLBS MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

PRE-CANA PROGRAMS - Marriage preparation required by the church. Contacts: Steve and Laura DiMichael, 718-352-9247, e-mail: ldimichael@aol.com

RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process for those who are inquiring about the Christian Faith. Director: Deacon William Molloy, email: WJMOLLOY@gmail.com

REFLECTIONS - A quarterly magazine. Focused on events and issues of interest to our parish community. Contact: Barbara O'Keefe, 718-352-0210, e-mail: nealbarbok@aol.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM - Classes on Wednesday afternoons for grades 1 – 5. Grades 6 and 8 are taught on Tuesday evenings. Director: Jeannine Iocco 718-225-6179, e-mail: religioused@olbs-queens.org

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE - Meets on the first Saturday of the month after the 9am Mass. Purpose is to foster a “culture of life.” Contact: Karen and Joe Traver at joeka@nyc.rr.com

ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY - Honors Our Blessed Mother, promotes the spiritual growth of the women of our parish and aids the parish through fund raising activities. New members of all age groups are welcome and needed. President: Madeline Wrzesc 917-685-1644, email: madelinew0428@gmail.com

SENIOR CITIZENS LEISURE CLUB – Meetings are held every Wednesday afternoon from 12pm to 4pm in the Parish Center. Coordinator: Dominick DeVito, 718-631-3905

TEEN CLUB - Church related atmosphere for teens at the junior high level with meetings in the gym on Wednesday evenings and a supervised dance every six to eight weeks. Coordinator: Kathleen Ranieri-Guiliano, 718-229-5929, e-mail: kgiuliano@olbs-queens.org

WEDDING COMMITTEE - Prepares couples for their wedding ceremony. Contact: Judy Reilly, 718-229-8895, e-mail: jereilly520@gmail.com

NEIGHBORHOOD PARISH MASS SCHEDULES
OLBS PARISH

34-24 203rd St., Bayside, NY 11360
Tel: 718-229-5929

Weekends: Sat: 5PM; Sun: 8:00 AM, 10:00AM, 12:00PM
Weekday: M- F: 7AM, 9AM: Sat: 9AM

SACRED HEART PARISH

215-35 38th Ave.
Bayside, NY 11361
718-428-2200
Weekends: Sat: 5pm;
Sun: 9:30, 11:30 & 5pm
Weekdays: M- S: 9am

ST. ANASTASIA CHURCH

45-14 245 St., Douglaston, NY
11362 (718) 631-4454
Weekends: Sat: 5:00pm
Sun: 8:00, 10:00, 12:00 & 5:00pm
Weekday: 8:30 am

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

35-60 158TH St., Flushing, NY
718-359-0417
Weekends: Sat: 5pm
Sun: 7:30, 9 (family mass), 11:00
(adult choir,) 12:30 (Spanish)
Weekdays: M-F: 8:30
In summer, M-F, Sat: 8:30 only

ST. JOSAPHAT CHURCH

34-32 210th St.
Bayside, NY 11361
718-229-1663
Weekends: Sat: 7pm Sun: 8:30
am (Polish), 9:30 Traditional Lat-
in, 12 English
Weekday: M -F: 8am
Sat: 8am

ST. KEVIN'S PARISH

45-21 194th St.
Flushing, NY 11358
718-357-8888
Weekends: Sat: 5pm
Sun: 8, 10, 12
Weekdays: M – Sa: 9a

ST. MEL'S PARISH

26-15 154th St.
Flushing, NY 11358
718-886-0201
Weekend: Sat: 5pm
Sun: 7:30, 9 (Italian), 10:30, 12
Weekdays: M – F: 7 & 9am
**(In Summer, 8AM only. No 7AM
or 9AM on M – F)**
Sat: 9am

ST. ROBERT'S PARISH

213– 09 58th Ave.
Bayside Hills, NY 11364
718-229-6465
Weekends: Sat: 5pm
Sun: 8, 9:15 (Korean), 11:00,
12:30
Weekdays: M – F: 7 & 9am
Sat: 9am

Martin A. Gleason Funeral Home L.L.C.



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John A. Golden~KGCHS/Thomas A. Golden III~KC*HS
Active members of many community organizations including:
Knights of Columbus, Bishop's Coat of Arms Club,
Ancient Order of Hibernians, Flushing Rotary,
Kiwanis Club, First Friday Club

Bayside 36-46 Bell Boulevard, Bayside N.Y. 11361
718-428-2210

Flushing 149-20 Northern Boulevard, Flushing N.Y. 11354
718-359-6300

Whitestone 10-25 150th Street, Whitestone, N.Y. 11357
718-359-1122

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