



Clarion

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ST. ANNE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

The CALL

*The parable Jesus speaks in this weekend's gospel is not really about a fair payment for work done. Jesus wants us to understand that **ALL** are invited and called to go out into the vineyard (the reign of God).*

*At whatever life stage we may find ourselves, our unbelievably loving God is calling **US!***

*When we answer the call,
the Lord always "pays" us
what is right for our labors.*

*So often we are "standing around"
when the call comes.*

*This is the only call—the only labor—
that can transform our lives.*

*Faith is not something we "do"
but a gift we live and share!*

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Volume 4, No. 43 ~ This People is the House of God ~ September 21, 2008



St Anne Catholic Community

OUR MISSION

We, a Catholic Christian people rooted by Baptism, take as our challenge the mission of Jesus: to build the Kingdom of God, standing in solidarity with the poor. We are committed to:

- Welcoming* • Welcoming all people and providing a sense of belonging to people at every stage of life.
- Creating* • Creating a place of enjoyment, excitement and fun for people of all ages.
- Healing* • Healing, reconciling and reaching out in caring service to each other.
- Reaching Out* • Serving those in need, especially the broken, through generous gifts of time, talent and treasure.
- Serving* • Gathering at Eucharist and celebrating the Sacraments of the Church and the sacramental moments of our lives.
- Gathering* • Telling and sharing the Living Story of Jesus.
- Sharing* •

So challenged, we pray that the Holy Spirit fills us and empowers us so that we may become the Living Presence of Jesus in our contemporary world.

Resting in Peace

John Joseph Chrystal, husband of Eleanor and father of Maureen, Patricia, Margaret, John, James, Kathleen, Jean, Ellen, Brian, Anne and the late Eileen;
 Kay Hanley, aunt and great aunt of the John Madden family;
 Peter Klett, husband of Barbara and father of Peter, Robert and Joseph

NOTE: The 2009 Mass Book is open for intentions

CELEBRATING SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

Gavin Walker **Boutross** (Theresa and Joseph)
 Sydney Catherine **Kurzawski** (Nicole and Scott)
 Joseph Guy **Lampignano** (Sarah and Michael)

Weddings

I Maria Gomez and Anthony Sisto
 I Mary Cotey and Jason Johansen
 I Emily Meyer and Jesse Walsh
 II Dina Bertacchi and David Sulkin
 Sunday, September 27th, 1:00 p.m.
 Stephanie Rabito and Casey Loughrin

Remembering...

Monday, September 22nd

8:15 St. Anne Purgatorial Society
 Deborah Doyle—*The Mayer Family*

Tuesday, September 23rd

8:15 St. Anne Perpetual Mass Society
 Bob Zagroba—*Tina Zagroba*

Wednesday, September 24th

8:15 Robert Marguerite—*Doug and Juli Walker*

Thursday, September 25th

8:15 Arthur Cramer—*Bob Iori*

Friday, September 26th

8:15 St. Anne Perpetual Mass Society
 T.J. Chapman—*Doug and Juli Walker*

Saturday, September 27th

Mass of Anticipation
 5:15 Cas Zgonina—*Joe and Sandra Zgonina*
 Arthur Cramer—*Larry and Mary Helen McCarthy*

Sunday, September 28th

7:15 People of St. Anne
 Jim Flannery—*Larry and Mary Helen McCarthy*
 9:00 Curtis Loster—*The Thomas Family*
 Generations of Faith Volunteers
 Marie King—*The Tomaselli Family*
 Evelyn Horan—*The Hamilton Family*
 Carol Faber—*Sally and Gene O'Brien*
 11:00 Thanksgiving for Annie's Attic—*Project Hope*
 Bernard J. Stock—*Doug and Juli Walker*
 Margaret Fehrenbach—*Celeste Scheffler*
 Patricia Wojcik—*Cindy Caba*
 The Icon and Panzeralla Families—*The Guntin Family*
 5:15 Emalene Ritchey—*Jim and Ellen Nelson*

Stewardship of Treasure

Weekly Offering for September 14, 2008

Adult Offering (487 envelopes).....	\$32,726.00
Loose Cash	\$1,258.00
Pro-rated "Parish Pay" offering.....	\$7,976.08
(Weekly share of Monthly "Parish Pay")	
Youth and Children Offering (1 envelope).....	\$5.00
Grand Total	\$41,965.08
Amount needed to meet Operating	\$47,000.00
Expense <u>and</u> Loan Interest Payments	
Collection Shortfall	(\$5,089.75)
Sharing Contributions (12 envelopes).....	\$435.00

Building Debt as of September 15, 2008

Outstanding Loan Balance.....	\$2,000,000.00
with Archdiocese	
Less Pledged Funds	\$1,100,511.00
payable through 2009*	
*includes "Complete the Journey" and other pledges	
Total long-term Parish Debt.....	\$899,489.00
Monthly Interest Payment (5.92%).....	\$9,866.66
Monthly Debt-Reduction Collection (green envelope)	
Fiscal YTD (11 weeks).....	\$10,122.00

Past 4 weeks:

Average Weekly Offering	\$41,910.25
Average Weekly Shortfall.....	(\$5,089.75)
Total Shortfall.....	(\$20,359.00)
Fiscal YTD Shortfall (11 weeks).....	(\$78,283.36)

PROJECT HOPE IS BEST BET FOR CAR DONATION

As reported in the *Wall Street Journal* last week, the most advantageous way to donate a used car is to an organization like St. Anne Project Hope. The reason is that Project Hope provides those donated vehicles to very needy families in surrounding communities as opposed to other non-profits who sell donated cars and bank the proceeds. This difference has significant implications for the donor's tax deduction.

In 2005, the IRS implemented a new rule stipulating that the tax deduction for a donated vehicle cannot exceed the actual selling price realized by the charity. The year the law took effect, the value of all vehicle donations in the U.S. plunged 81% from \$2.4 billion to \$470 million. Previously, donors claimed tax deductions based on their reviews of used car manuals, conversations with dealers, or other subjective criteria. However, the proceeds realized by charities in actual sales transactions were frequently substantially lower. Clearly, the donor stood to benefit by taking a much larger tax deduction than the likely proceeds to be realized in a

market sale or trade-in allowance.

Today's weak economic climate, combined with an abundance of less-desirable SUVs, increases the spread between what a used car might be worth on paper and what a market-based transaction might yield. Here's where Project Hope can help. One of the key exemptions to the rule is when the charity does not sell the car but rather gives it away or sells it at a price significantly below market to a needy individual. In this circumstance, the donor may continue to claim as a tax deduction his or her estimate of fair market value.

Project Hope is one of the area's leading outreach programs to needy families. You can make a tremendous difference in the life of a struggling family by donating your used vehicle to this important ministry of St. Anne's. The tax benefit you will receive makes your gift a smart financial decision as well. Please call **Joe Kelsch** at **847.382.5300** if you have any questions about the tax deduction that you may claim for a vehicle donation to Project Hope.

St. Anne Catholic Community

CONFIRMATION ENROLLMENT '08-'09

Parents of candidates interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation must attend a Parent Enrollment session before any student can begin his/her preparation. Candidates must be in at least 9th grade to begin Confirmation preparation

Parent sessions will be held periodically between now and November, so please plan to attend one of these 45-60 minute meetings to get all the information you need in order to be fully informed about what the parish expects from those who wish to be confirmed.

**FORMS FOR ENROLLMENT CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED BY
ATTENDING A MEETING—FORMS WILL NOT BE AT OUR OFFICE.**

PARENT MEETING DATES:

Sunday, September 21st

Sunday, October 5th

Sunday, November 16th

10:30-11:30 a.m. ~ Hospitality Room

FAMILY ROSARY

Would you like to know the basics of the life, teaching, death, resurrection, and glorification of Jesus? Would you like your children to know, by heart, the basic prayers of our faith; the Creed, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Glory Be? The Rosary is not only an effective, beautiful prayer, but a remarkably effective catechetical tool! We are continuing to meet to pray the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, every **Tuesday** evening at 7:30 p.m., in the Chapel, and we would love for you to join us!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Renee and Sam **Biafora**
(Daniel)

Veronika **Colsmann**

Mary and Frank **Francone**
(Alessandra, Domenico)

Jennifer and Brian **Frett**
Kevin **O'Malley**

Kim and Mike **Shomaker**
(Rebecca, Ryan, Robert)

Robert **Wright**
Nicole **Zordan**

SPECIAL PROJECT HOPE REQUESTS

- **Food pantry items.** Especially cereal, spaghetti sauce, juices and Tuna/Hamburger Helper, Pasta Roni, etc.
- **Computer.** Good working and complete laptop or desktop. Pentium 3 or 4. Preferably less than 5 years old and complete.
- **Cars, vans and trucks** in safe running condition for families who require transportation to obtain/maintain employment. We are very grateful for the donations already received.
- Clean **mattresses, box springs** and **frames** for twin, double and queen size beds.

For more information on the above requests, call **Project Hope** at **847.381.5721**.

St. Anne Catholic Community

First Communion



Sacramental preparation for First Communion includes:

- ◆ **Your family's registration for Generations of Faith**
(currently being processed)

see the website, www.stannebarrington.org,
for information and enrollment forms

- ◆ **Attendance at a parent meeting each year**



Parent Meetings

PARENT MEETINGS FOR 1ST GRADE PARENTS

We have several for your convenience.

Attend **ONE**

Sunday, September 28th, 1:00 p.m., Hospitality Room
(lower level of the Church)

Tuesday, September 30th, 9:30 a.m., Thane Hall
(lower level of the Parish Center)

Tuesday, October 14th, 6:30 p.m., Thane Hall
(lower level of the Parish Center)

(We are unable to provide babysitting for these meetings.)

PARENT MEETINGS FOR 2ND GRADE PARENTS

We have several for your convenience.

Attend **ONE**

Sunday, September 28th, 2:30 p.m., Hospitality Room
(lower level of the Church)

Tuesday, September 30th, 1:30 p.m., Thane Hall
(lower level of the Parish Center)

Tuesday, October 14th, 7:30 p.m., Thane Hall
(lower level of the Parish Center)

(We are unable to provide babysitting for these meetings.)

St. Anne Catholic Community

THANK YOU BLOOD DONORS

Thirty-eight generous people contributed to our recent blood drive. Each donation strengthens the lives of three people, not to mention the joy in the heart of the one who gave. These blood drives have become a necessity because the blood supply in our area is falling behind our usage rate. Thanks again to our donors who ensure that there will be a safe and adequate supply of blood when it is needed. For those who donate at a Life Source blood center, use code A212 to designate St. Anne.

SERVICE HOUR OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities for middle school and high school students to earn service hours are available at St. Anne School. Volunteers are needed to assist with various school athletic events. For more information, call the Athletic Director, **Ed Fay**, at **847.381.0311 ext 270**.

EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY

The St. Anne Employment Ministry is currently developing a larger network for its employment ministry. For more information, email maria@marialarsen.com.

FAMILIES PREPARING FOR A BABY'S BAPTISM

PLEASE NOTE: Families who have attended Session 1 in preparation for their baby's Baptism are reminded that there is a Session 2 on **Sunday evening, September 21st**, in the Church at 7:00 p.m.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTIONS

The late Pope John Paul II's teachings on the Rosary point out the tremendous benefits of this valued Marian devotion, noting its main message is Christ-centered and gospel-based. The Rosary emphasizes Christ's love for us and Mary's role in our salvation. October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Come join in praying from your heart and experience the message of the Rosary following the 8:15 a.m. Mass on **Saturday, October 4th**.

MINISTRY OF CARE

If you or a family member are homebound, unable to attend Mass, and would like to receive Communion, a trained Minister of Care will bring you the Eucharist. For more information, call **Mary Hoffing** at **847.382.2148**.

AN INVITATION

If you are looking for a place to belong, a community with whom you can share your questions and beliefs, perhaps you would like to find out a bit more about the Catholic Church. You will be most welcome. Our community of St. Anne has something very special to offer, and we would like to share it with you.

To obtain further information, call **Sister Anna Maria Dressler** at **847.381.5793**.

St. Anne Catholic Community

WEDDING FAIR

Planning a wedding at St. Anne's or for a family member, or just want to get out for an evening of beautiful music? Brides-and-grooms-to-be and their significant others are especially invited to **St. Anne's Wedding Liturgy and Music Fair**, on **Monday, September 22nd**, in the chapel, from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Prospective wedding couples will receive the book "*Celebrating Marriage*" and a music planning sheet; Rory Cooney will give a brief 'user's guide' to the book. Over an hour will be spent sampling parts of forty or so pieces of music as options for weddings. Providing music will be a string quartet, trumpet, flute, along with Rory and a couple of our cantors. This is an enjoyable and indispensable opportunity to prepare for the wedding ceremony. Prospective brides and/or grooms should have received an invitation in the mail, and should R.S.V.P. to the liturgy office at **847.620.3064** or email to rcooney@stannebarrington.org so that we can prepare enough handouts. There is no charge for this evening, and all are welcome, even if you are *not* getting married!



CHAPEL CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Teams of volunteers are responsible for cleaning the chapel each week. Usually two volunteers are scheduled weekly for the task, but at the present time, the number has been reduced to a total of five over a month's time. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity or would like more information, call **Sister Bernadette** at **847.277.9359**.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND



ST. ANNE WOMEN'S CLUB
PROUDLY PRESENTS

SUNDAY GOSPEL BRUNCH

Sunday, November 16th

Makray Golf Club

10:00 a.m. and Noon seatings

◆ *Harmony, Hope & Healing* Choir ◆

Chef Walter's Brunch ◆ Boutique Shopping

◆ Fabulous Raffle Prizes ◆

And YOU make it special!

Please mark your calendars - make this a unique and truly uplifting family/friends date!

SAVE THE DATE



Breakfast with St. Nicholas

Saturday, December 6th

St. Anne School Cafeteria

8:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. seatings

Appearing LIVE - St. Nicholas!

Entertainment - Pancake Breakfast

Donations are welcome
Pancake mix · Sausages · Milk ·
· Juice · Donuts · Fruit ·

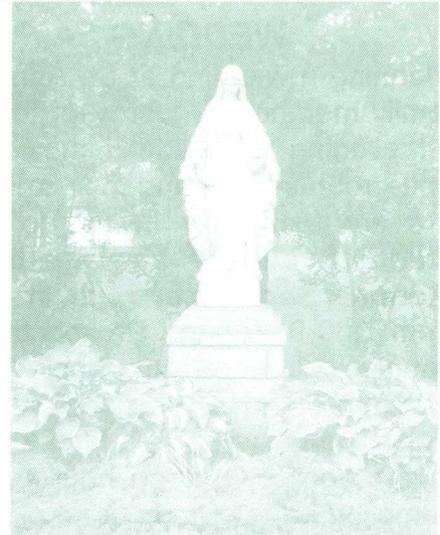
For more information,
call **847.382.7607**
or email fillymom@aol.com.

St. Anne Catholic Community

Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House

Women's Retreat October 7th-9th

**“Come to the quiet” of Bellarmine
and experience the love of God
in the Light of Christ.**



Fr. Robert S. Flack, S.J.

Fr. Bob Flack was born in 1948 in Chicago. He attended the seminary system in the Chicago Archdiocese and was ordained at Mundelein Seminary in 1974. He served at several parishes of the Archdiocese before entering the Society of Jesus in 1983. As a Jesuit, he has served as a pastor on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, taught sociology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, directed retreats at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth in Wernersville, Pennsylvania and earned a Ph.D. from the University of Washington (Seattle). He taught demography and urban studies for seven years in St. Louis University's Department of Public Policy Studies. During the last two years, he completed tertianship and served the Chicago Province in a number of capacities. We are fortunate that the Provincial has enriched our ministry with another “young” Jesuit. Fr. Flack joined the staff at Bellarmine Jesuit Retreat House in September of 2006.

For more information, contact **Nancy Herr**, Captain for St Anne's group, at **847.381.2963**.

Dear Father Hurd:

Please reserve a private room for me on **October 7th-9th, 2008** with the St. Anne group.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

**Bellarmino Jesuit Retreat House
420 West County Line Road
Barrington, 60010
847.381.1261
Bellarmino@bellarminohall.org**

St. Anne Catholic Community



Welcome
Fall!



Listen! The wind is rising,
and the air is wild with leaves,
We have had our summer evenings,
now for October eves!

—Humbert Wolfe

Visit House of Hope Resale to see all the new arrivals for fall and winter! A wonderful collection of antiques, furniture, fall accents, cool weather clothing, housewares, books and toys awaits your discovery.

We also have a 'spooktacular' assortment of Halloween décor, treats and costumes – hurry in before it *disappears*!

Volunteers Needed!

If you have a little time to share now that the kids are back in school, we invite you to join our team at House of Hope Resale! We need daytime merchandise sorters and stockers Mondays through Saturdays and customer service support on Wednesdays through Saturdays. We also have volunteer opportunities on selected evenings and weekends preparing for special events. Whether you can help once per week, once per month or just once in a while, every effort makes a difference!

For more volunteer information, call **Peggy Sobolewski** at **847.382.5150**.

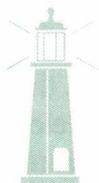
A Very Big Thank YOU...

...to our amazing 'Flip Team,' who worked their magic to transform House of Hope into a fresh experience for Fall. Your effort, dedication and long weekend and evening hours are greatly appreciated!

Auction Items Needed!

Auction items such as event tickets, gift certificates, jewelry items, art, vacation getaways and more are needed for an upcoming fundraiser hosted by Friends of Paulina Messina. Paulina suffers from a rare form of cancer. Please visit www.paulinamessina.com for more information.

If you have an item you can donate, please contact **Marianne Federighi** at **847.951.9008** or **Cari Zwick** at **815.970.2328** (carilz@comcast.net).



House of Hope Resale Shop
Heirlooms & Treasures

200 N. Hough Street • Downtown Barrington
Wed.–Sat. 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. • 847.756.4673

Reflections

BY SISTER LAURETTA LEIPZIG, PASTORAL ASSOCIATE AND DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

Love of Self and Neighbor

Why do we come to Eucharist every week? Why do we gather in the name of Jesus? What has Jesus done that continues to draw us together after these many centuries?

We do not gather just to remember an historical figure. We come to celebrate redemption, to participate in salvation. We are remembering Jesus who is alive now and working within each of us. We are part of this Church of which Jesus is the head.

While we celebrate the magnificence of Jesus working in all of creation, we are reminded that our celebration is often localized. Therefore, we celebrate as a parish community. We meet Jesus in the small group of people around us. We obviously do not encounter the church around the world, but yet we are united with them in our celebration of Christ.

Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourselves. There are two aspects to this command. First, we need to see everyone as part of the universal church. We cannot discriminate whom we are to care for. Aside from all the other rules we may know, we must obey the rule of caring for and reaching out to all. Thus, ALL people are our neighbors.

The second aspect says that we are to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. That command reminds us that we must give some attention to ourselves. What needs healing in our lives? What needs encouragement? What needs changing? What needs improvement? What needs to be developed further? If we know how to treat ourselves with goodness and mercy, then we will be better able to extend that to our neighbors.

In a sense, the commandment of the Lord asks for completeness for us. For if do not know how to take care of ourselves, we may not have the abilities to care for others. If we do not know what needs to be changed in our own lives, or if we cannot make those changes, then it will be very difficult for us to help others. It follows that when we give total attention to what we need, we can give totally to others and totally to the Lord.

So, let us first come to the Lord completely, giving all we are. He knows our needs, our failures and our achievements. He fully understands where we are. Then, let us pray and ask the Lord to be part of us so that we, in turn, can be neighborly to others, completely and totally.

Sharing Board



Have you heard of us? We are a few people who make a big difference in other people's lives, and we are looking for new members.

Job description: Attend monthly meetings between September-June. Have optimism, fresh ideas, hope and a desire to help those in need.

Sharing activities and accomplishments:

- Biannual Food and Coat Drive - to feed and clothe the hungry and cold in fall and spring
- Sharing Tree - to benefit the needy at Christmas
- St. Martin de Porres House of Hope Women's Shelter - to aid women recovering from addiction and their children
- The Harmony, Hope, and Healing Choir - maybe you have heard them sing at the Gospel brunch or as guests at our church?
- St. Frances of Rome School - to help children share and grow in their Catholic faith

Please consider joining us once each month and, in a simple way, changing the lives of many. We believe that our St. Anne Sharing Program makes the Gospel vision of love real through effective action. For more information, contact **Claire Hamilton** at **847.304.1123** or **CHamilton150@aol.com**.

St. Anne Catholic Community

ANNOUNCING THE ANNUAL LECTOR/EUCHARISTIC MINISTER MEETING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18TH

Join us for hospitality, a great talk,
and a chance to gather as ministers.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr. Tom McGrath

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Gather at 8:45 A.M.

We will begin serving a full HOT breakfast at 9:00 A.M.

The event will conclude before 11:30 A.M.

We need to accurately order food,
so please R.S.V.P. by calling or emailing Clem
at **847.620.3065** or caseron@stannebarrington.org.

Guest speaker Tom McGrath is the Vice President of New Product Development for Loyola Press in Chicago. He wrote a number of books, including *"Raising Faith-Filled Kids: Ordinary Opportunities to Nurture Spirituality at Home"* (2000, Loyola Press), and *"Daily Meditations (with Scripture) for Busy Parents"* (ACTA, 2002). Tom also contributed to the best-selling books *"I Love Being Catholic"* and *"I Love Being Married"* (both from Doubleday). He is a frequent writer and presenter on spirituality, with a special focus on how family life can be a spiritual path, the sacramental nature of our lives, and men's spirituality.

For more than 15 years, Tom served as Executive Editor of *U.S. Catholic* and wrote the monthly newsletter for parents, *At Home with our Faith*. Tom and his wife Kathleen, a schoolteacher, have been married for 32 years. They have two grown daughters and live in Chicago.

There will be copies of Mr. McGrath's books from Loyola Press available for sale so please come prepared ("\$\$\$").

The books make for great reading and gifts!!

St. Anne Catholic Community

High School Retreats

One of the strongest components of Youth Ministry here at St. Anne is our retreat program for young people. It is often at these times away from the pace of our everyday world that we feel ourselves personally connected to God in a very special way. Because of the powerful potential of retreat, we work hard to offer opportunities for young people to take that necessary time away to reflect and tune in to the person that they truly are.

Spiritus (for Freshman and Sophomores)

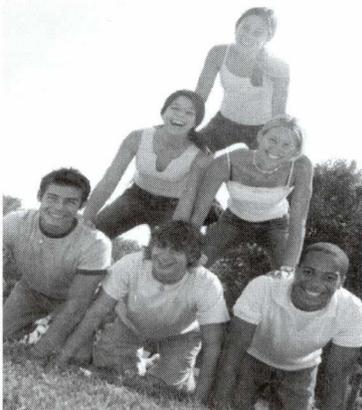
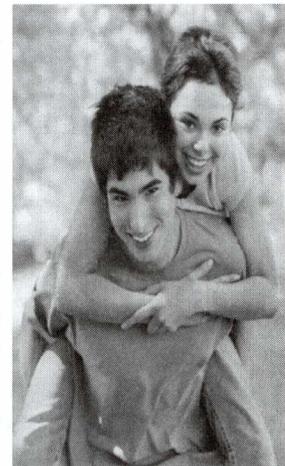
The Spiritus Retreat is an overnight retreat program for St. Anne Freshmen and Sophomores. This time away from our busy schedules is an excellent opportunity to reflect on how we welcome God into our lives. It focuses on helping participants to ask and live the questions of our Roman Catholic faith. This retreat has its foundation in the "QUEST" retreat program for high school freshmen and sophomores, which connotes a "searching for," "a coming to long for," or "a journey." We are all on a life long quest to find and honor the "real us." Spiritus reflects that same search and focuses greatly on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives. While the retreat is an integral part of the St. Anne Confirmation preparation process, any Freshman or Sophomore is welcome to attend.

'08-'09 Retreat Dates: November 1st-2nd, January 10th-11th, April 4th-5th

Kairos (for Juniors and Seniors)

IS THIS AS GOOD AS IT GETS? Has this question crossed your mind in the past? Do you find yourself wondering about what life really means and if there is more to it than what you have experienced so far? If so, this retreat may be just what you are looking for. Kairos is our most powerful retreat experience. It is an experience of Christian community, with a series of talks given by both peers and adults. Prayer and the sacraments are an essential part of the program, as well as the participants involvement in discussions and other exercises. The program itself lasts for 3 days, with the challenge to continue living the "Kairos Spirit" for the rest of one's life.

'08-'09 Retreat Dates: K21-December 5th-7th; K22-February 27th-March 1st



Body & Soul (for Seniors only)

Human beings were made for greatness. We were made to know God, know truth, and live life in a way that brings us peace and happiness. These pursuits are often difficult to reflect upon and come by in today's distracting culture. The influences that we see around us can often get in the way of our ability to live authentically in God's image as was truly intended. As a result, it is perhaps harder to live as a teenager today than at any other time before. Pope John Paul II, in his *"Theology of the Body,"* challenges us to think about ourselves differently. By helping us understand the profound interconnection between sex and the Christian mystery, John Paul II's *"Theology of the Body"* paves the way for lasting renewal and enables us all to rediscover "the meaning of the whole existence, the meaning of life!" As you begin to consider your life beyond high school, it may be a good time to think about these issues and consider this as a possible way of life. Our time together will seek to provide a road map to real love and authentic happiness. We will challenge the misguided teachings of the modern culture and consider a new understanding of the human person that takes one beyond the "thou shall nots" often associated with Christianity to a fresh new approach to the gift of love and human sexuality.

'08 Retreat Dates: October 17th-19th

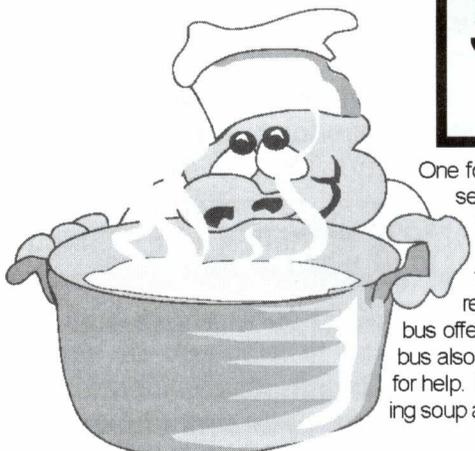
**RETREATS ARE EXPECTED TO FILL QUICKLY,
SO DON'T MISS OUT—SIGN UP NOW!**

**RETREAT REGISTRATION FORMS CAN BE DOWNLOADED
FROM THE PARISH WEBSITE: www.stannebarrington.org**

Click on Youth Ministry...High School...Retreat Opportunities

Questions? Contact the Youth Ministry office at 847.620.3072.

St. Anne Catholic Community



Starlight Soup Suppers Sponsored by St. Anne Youth Ministry

One form of outreach to the less fortunate offered by Youth Ministry is our trips to Chicago to serve soup to those who make Chicago's night time streets their home. We will be working with "The Night Ministry," a group organized to build relationships with these people and empower them to meet their own needs, twice monthly throughout the colder months in the North Town and Humboldt Park areas of Chicago. The Night Ministry's "Health Outreach Bus" travels the area every night offering assistance to the homeless of all ages. The bus offers everything from medical assistance and clothing to a warm place to sit and talk. The bus also offers a "Curbside Soup Kitchen" which serves a hot soup meal to the people who come for help. Each night they ask organizations from all over the Chicagoland area to help out by providing soup and volunteers to help serve. This is where St. Anne Youth Ministry comes in.

Here's how it works:

- Meet at St. Anne at 4:00 p.m. (limited to 6 teens and 2 chaperones each time)
- Travel to meet the Health Outreach Bus (on Ravenswood)
- After a brief orientation, caravan with the bus and serve soup to visitors until the food runs out.
- Depart for home between 8:00 and 8:30 p.m.
- Arrive back in Barrington, clean up and finish between 9:30 and 10:00 p.m.

Adults who wish to chaperone will be assigned first. When the chaperone positions are filled, we will then begin to sign up teen volunteers. Teens who accompany a chaperone will be assigned when the chaperone signs up.

SOUP SUPPER DATES FOR 2008-2009:

TUESDAYS IN HUMBOLDT PARK:

October 21st, November 18th, December 16th, January 27th, February 24th, March 31st, April 21st

WEDNESDAYS IN UPTOWN:

October 8th, November 5th, December 3rd, January 7th, February 11th, March 11th, April 8th

We also need 10 gallons of soup to take with us each month, and we need small groups or individuals who can give a little bit of their time and resources to make it! You may volunteer to make anywhere from 2½ gallons to all 10-let us know what works for you. The soup needs to be hot and at the Youth Ministry office by 3:45 p.m. on the day of the soup supper. We will provide insulated 5-gallon containers to put it in. Please talk to people and groups you know to see if you can help.

Other Ways You Can Help:

1. **Add sandwiches to our soup suppers.** Small groups or individuals are asked to make sandwiches (ham, turkey, chicken or peanut butter and jelly, etc.) to serve with our soup. We need 200 sandwiches individually wrapped (in sandwich baggies) at the Youth Ministry office by 3:45 p.m. on the day of the soup supper.
2. **Add fruit or dessert to the dinner.** Oranges, bananas, grapes or other soft-fleshed fruit is very welcome—please, no crunchy fruits as they are too hard for people with sensitive dental issues. Easily distributed desserts such as Rice Krispie treats or cookies are also a pleasant addition to our menu. Please package these in single serving bags (oranges, bananas and other such items do not need to be pre-packaged.) We serve about 200 dinners on each trip.

TO BRING SANDWICHES OR DESSERTS, CONTACT TRISH BUELOW at TrishBuelow@comcast.net.

TO VOLUNTEER TO SERVE, CONTACT TRISH BUELOW at TrishBuelow@comcast.net

(include the date you want to serve, telephone number, student e-mail address, and mailing address for permission forms.)

TO VOLUNTEER TO MAKE SOUP, CONTACT LYNN CUSHWA at lynn@cushwafamily.com

25th Sunday of the Year, 2008 (133A)

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9 (CCCB)

- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. *The LORD is near to all who call upon him.*

Second Reading: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a (NCCB)

Brothers and sisters:

- ²⁰ Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.
²¹ For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.
²² If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose.
²³ I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better.
²⁴ Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit.
²⁵ And this I know with confidence, that I shall remain and continue in the service of all of you
for your progress and joy in the faith,
²⁶ so that your boasting in Christ Jesus may abound on account of me when I come to you again.
²⁷ Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16 (CCCB)

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples.

- ¹ "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner
who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard.
² After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.
³ When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace;
⁴ and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard,
and I will pay you whatever is right.'
So they went.
⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same.
⁶ And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them,
'Why are you standing here idle all day?'
⁷ They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vine-
yard.'
⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager,
'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'
⁹ When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage.
¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more;
but each of them also received the usual daily wage.
¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying,
'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us
who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.'
¹³ But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong;
did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?
¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you.
¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?
Or are you envious because I am generous?'
¹⁶ "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Living Story

These next four Sundays use the parable form to continue to explore the challenges to being a disciple in God's kingdom. Succinctly, a parable is "a **metaphor** or **simile** drawn from nature or common life, arresting the hearer by its vividness or strangeness, and leaving the mind in sufficient doubt of its precise application to tease it into active thought."¹ It is a story of a situation which because it is very familiar to the hearer is used to illustrate *another* reality which is not as easy to describe in common, down-to-earth terms. A **metaphor** is a statement that identifies one thing with another: *You are the salt of the earth...* (Mt 5:13); note that the disciple is identified with the common item salt. A **simile** compares one item with another by using like or as: *The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner...* (20:1ff). Sometimes these parables, these comparisons, become quite long and have characters, dialogue, a plot and setting, e.g., the good Samaritan story (Lk 10:30). They still make their point by using everyday objects and commonplace scenarios from real-life situations such as cleaning house, growing grapes, the rivalry between two brothers, the preparations for a wedding, or a story of a mugging in a bad part of town, to be an ongoing source of spiritual meaning.

It is a favorite teaching mode for Jesus and it is common, even expected; certainly the Matthew community understood it to refer to something other than what was being described. Jesus is often shown using parable to reveal some dimension of God's kingdom. Parables do **not** simply present a moral teaching. They are designed to make us **see** differently, in order to answer, for example, is God present in our lives, does God rule over us? [see again definition above] Thus they require our response, which, by its nature, stimulates a radical reorientation. The story of the Good Samaritan, for example, is not a pious story about being compassionate, but a radical challenge to consider as "neighbor" those whom we had previously viewed as "other", or even "enemy".

Dodd's "active thought" is our dialogue with the parable that engages us intimately in a real struggle. The truths parables contain, combined with this struggle we have in "understanding," can spring to life in our hearts as a revelation of the **mystery of God's kingdom**.² This asks of us to change the lens through which we view life - to shift our paradigm.

LITERARY:

Also at work here is a literary form whose classical pattern is found in the story of Nathan the prophet and King David (see 2 Sam 12:1-):

Story told functions as a **window** into another reality.

Judgment (on the story characters) is solicited.

Mirror: Listeners are made aware that *they* are the characters they have judged.³

We will see this pattern more clearly on the Sundays following.

CULTURAL:

A greater paradigm shift is required to enter the mindset of Middle Eastern values. The psalm refrain again gives us a clue: *The LORD is near to all who call on him*. This gospel pericope is about what *God* is like (in the mindset of Matthew's community).

Limited Good⁴ For almost all North Americans, this land is the land of opportunity, of abundance, of plenitude. We have only to work hard to obtain whatever we want; there is always more to be had. To our Mediterranean ancestors in the faith "there is not more where this came from." There was limited good to go around.

Everything - jobs, wealth, honor, position, status, - was limited and already parceled out. The jobs at the vineyard were "already filled" - there was no expectation that there were more. Also, to *ask* for a job is to deprive the owner of something he owns. This brings **shame**. Instead, therefore, workers have to be invited by the owner to work. (*continued on page 16*)

Sharing the Living Story

Here, he goes out five times looking for men to invite; each time, he finds them standing around. He hires everyone in sight. To say the least, this is strange to us but it is very honorable behavior for them because it respects the cultural idea that all good is limited.

Patronage⁵ In this Middle Eastern story the owner promises to pay the usual wage only to the first he hires and they agree to it; to the others he hires at various other times, he only says *I will pay you whatever is right*. Note two devices here - at the end of the day, he pays them beginning with the last hired. This keeps the first hired available so the story can hang together. More importantly, this plays into that mindset (and to that of Matthew's people) that the owner can be both employer and **patron**. A patron is a person of relatively greater means who *freely* chooses to treat others (always of lower status) as if they were family. (Recall that family means a large extended family.) They did not do anything to earn such a treatment. The owner gave them *whatever is right* for relatives. But, at the same time, he treats the first hired in accord with their agreement. If he chose to he could treat them as a patron would - that is, generously, as though they were relatives. He does not choose that. To the first hired he chooses to be an employer; to the last hired he chooses to be a patron. The culturally conditioned awareness of the first hired is: they are being treated as nothing more than hired hands. The owner is not being a patron to

them!

Matthew is clearly not giving a lesson in economics, economic justice, labor relations or the like. We are used to thinking about meritocracy. For us, the more you do, the more the reward you should get. We cannot understand this owner! He is not even-handed. In fact, he is being unfair!

The clue is at verses 13ff. *...I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ...I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?* What a paradigm shift! All this owner wants is that all should toil in the vineyard; the **payoff** is the same! All are equal. Joy is in the work and toil in the kingdom and not in what they anticipate should come at the end of the day. This is not the world of envy; this is the kingdom. All are equal: recall the parable of the Prodigal - the father says to the older son: *everything I have is yours*.

Verse 16, *So the last will be first and the first will be last* is therefore not about hierarchy or turning the tables. It is about how God regards those beloved who have come to work in his vineyard.

The Lord is near to all who call on him.

It is important when trying to apply this pericope to our lives to remember that this is a **parable** that Matthew is describing and that it concerns the kingdom.

So What? Describe the time when you risked much – even parts of you – to alleviate conditions for someone.

FOOTNOTES:

¹ C.H. Dodd quoted in Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., *The Gospel of Matthew*, p. 198

² Except as noted, this discussion adapted from Jean Hiesberger, Gen. Ed., *The Catholic Student Bible*, p. 311 ff

³ John Shea, *Gospel Food for Hungry People: Gospel Readings for Ordinary Time A*, audio tape, 9/16/96

⁴ John J. Pilch, *The Cultural World of Jesus, Cycle A*, p. 139

⁵ As in endnote #4

Minister Schedule

Monday, September 22, 8:15 AM

N. Tyndorf Serv (1)
K. Holsworth Serv (2)

Tuesday, September 23, 8:15 AM

J. Cardelli Serv (1)
L. Delisle Serv (2)

Wednesday, September 24, 8:15 AM

C. Reeves Serv (1)
N. Schuberth Serv (2)

Thursday, September 25, 8:15 AM

K. Holsworth Serv (1)
D. Zakrzewski Serv (2)

Friday, September 26, 8:15 AM

B. Hamilton Serv (1)
M. Clifford Serv (2)

Saturday, September 27, 5:15 PM

S. Doody MC
F. Wroblewski MC
J. Stack ServCap
A. Vendetti Serv (1)
N. Schuberth Serv (2)
B. Hamilton Serv (3)
D. Tyrpin Lec (1)
M. Wedinger Lec (2)
P. Carollo EM
W. Fischer EM
D. Grzelak EM
L. Lowery EM
E. Quinn EM
J. Schiller EM
M. Schiller EM
D. Stanchuk EM
A. Tuszynski EM
J. Tuszynski EM

Sunday, September 28, 7:15 AM

Sr. Bernadette MC
Q. Abel ServCap
S. Miseyka Serv (1)
M. Sheehy Serv (2)
C. Seibt Serv (3)
T. Ciganek Lec (1)
M. Dehn Lec (2)
J. Almdale EM
L. Brennan EM
M. Brennan EM
J. Nelson EM
M. Polnow EM
J. Rich EM
J. Shearin Intcs

Sunday, September 28, 9:00 AM

J. Walker MC
D. Walker MC
L. Karson ServCap
C. Karson Serv (1)
N. Divito Serv (2)
R. Scardino Serv (3)
A. Sanfilippo Lec (1)
T. Serpento Lec (2)
Clare Burke EM
Chris Burke EM
L. DeGrazia EM
J. Doherty EM
C. Jakubec EM
M. Kantarski EM
M. Kurowski EM
Scott Pederson EM
Susan Pederson EM
K. Phillips EM
P. Sobolewski EM
B. Sobolewski EM
M. Stanton EM
B. Stanton EM
H. Wisniewski EM
J. Wisniewski EM

Sunday, September 28, 11:00 AM

W. Kolasinski MC
J. Trimberger ServCap
S. Nordgren Serv (1)
S. Bessonny Serv (2)
E. Moran Serv (3)
M. LeMonier Lec (1)
M. Roeckell Lec (2)
C. Condill EM
C. Donlea EM
NEED SUB EM
M. Froehlike EM
D. Froehlike EM
E. Kendal-Ward EM
M. Kendal-Ward EM
K. Lynam EM
A. Meyers EM
J. Morkes EM
A. Nordgren EM
N. O'Shea EM
M. Reinhart EM
H. Reinhart EM
D. Rogers EM
J. Van der Voort EM

Sunday, September 28, 5:15 PM

Bess Donoghue MC
Georgene Farman MC
W. Graft ServCap
R. Wolf Serv (1)
E. Donoghue Serv (2)
M. Horcher Serv (3)
M. Holtz Lec (1)
M. Bollenbacher EM
B. Byrne EM
L. Clement EM
L. Galazka EM
A. Guarnieri EM
D. Guarnieri EM
H. Horcher EM
P. Levin EM
M. Pestrak EM
J. Schutter EM
L. Wolf EM
K. Horcher Intcs

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

Monday: Proverbs 3:27-34/Luke 8:16-18
Tuesday: Proverbs 21:1-6, 10-13/Luke 8:19-21
Wednesday: Proverbs 30:5-9/Luke 9:1-6
Thursday: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11/Luke 9:7-9
Friday: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11/Luke 9:18-22
Saturday: Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:8/Luke 9:43b-45
Sunday: Ezekiel 18:25-28/Philippians 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Matthew 21:28-32

Other Happenings

Chessie's Restaurant Church Give Back

Chessie's Restaurant, Barrington, will give back \$2.00 to St. Anne's for each adult Sunday brunch purchased through **Sunday, September 21st**. For more information, call **847.382.5020**.

Senior Health and Fitness Fair

Alexian Brothers Older Adult Institute will sponsor this event on **Thursday, September 25th**, at the Hyatt Regency Woodfield. For more information, call **866.253.9426**.

St. Alphonsus Oktoberfest

St. Alphonsus Liguori, Prospect Heights, will host its annual Oktoberfest on **Friday, September 26th**, at 7:00 p.m. For more information, call **847.255.7452**.

Elder Care Expo

A free event featuring community resources and presentations will take place on **Saturday, September 27th**, at Harper College, Palatine. For more information, call **847.925.6065**.

Varieties of Prayer

Holy Family, Inverness, will present Fr. William A. Meninger on **Saturday, September 27th**, at 9:00 a.m. For more information, call **847.907.3441**.

Marriage Encounter Retreat Weekend

Holy Family, Inverness, will host a marriage encounter weekend on **September 27th-28th**. For more information, call **847.359.0042**.

Christ Renews His Parish

St. Thomas of Villanova, Palatine, will host a women's weekend event on **Saturday, September 27th** and **Sunday, September 28th**. For more information, call **847.358.6999**.

Marrow Donor Drive

Neighbors in Need is sponsoring a marrow donor drive on **Sunday, September 28th**, at the Holy Family Multi-torium, Inverness. For more information, call **Mary Ann** at **847.340.5677**.

Open House

The Samaritan Counseling Center, a not-for-profit organization that provides pastoral counseling for people of all economic groups and religious beliefs, will be hosting an Open House on **Sunday, September 28th**, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 800 Hart Road, Suite 250, Barrington. The Reverend Mary Tudela, Executive Director, will be on hand to introduce the Board of Directors. The ribbon-

cutting ceremony will take place at 4:30 p.m., and will be followed by refreshments and a special drawing.

Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk

Lake County Memory Walk will take place on **Saturday, October 4th**, at Independence Grove, Libertyville. For more information, call **847.933.2413**.

St. Alphonsus Craft Fair

A fall fest and craft fair will be held on **Saturday, October 4th**, at St. Alphonsus, Prospect Heights. For more information, call **Denise** at **847.828.2111**.

Divorce Recovery Group Workshop

St. Peter and Paul, Cary, will host a 10-week workshop, *Divorced and Beyond*, starting **Monday October 6th**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. To register, call **Sister Margaret Mary** at **847.516.2636 x234**.

St. Viator Housewalk

St. Viator High School will sponsor its annual housewalk on **Friday, October 10th**. Tickets are \$40.00, and can be purchased before October 1st by mail. For more information, call **847.392.4050**.

Michael Joseph Foundation Event

The Michael Joseph Foundation Dinner and Auction will be held on **Saturday, October 11th**, at the Sanfilippo Estate in Barrington Hills. For more information on this benefit, call **Ida Cardelli** at **847.639.2334** or visit the foundation's website, www.michaeljosephfoundation.8M.com.

5K Fun Run and Walk

The annual Mundelein Seminary Fun Run and Walk will take place on **Saturday, October 11th**. For more information, call **Ted** at **847.566.5292**.

Volunteer Opportunities

Help is needed in many areas at St. Joseph Home for the Elderly, Palatine. For more information, call **Myra** at **847.358.5700 ext. 137**.

september08
NATIONAL
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Community and Project Hope Offerings/Needs

Please note: St. Anne prints these offerings/needs as a service to its parishioners, and does not endorse them or accept responsibility for the information presented.

In-law apt. 3 rooms, parking, utilities. \$100/week. Private entrance, walk to train. Call **847.381.8157**.

Childcare needed immediately. Single working mother is looking for care of 5 year old daughter, T-F, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Call **Shelley** at **847.342.8939**, **618.364.2618** or email to sdasburg@yahoo.com.

Condo for rent. Or sale. One yr. lease \$1,200.00/mo. Two yr. \$1,150.00/mo. 2br, 1-1/2ba, garage, w/d. NW Hwy./Barrington Road. Call **Joe** at **847.381.6234**.

Job needed. Unemployed Barrington mom needs work. Babysitting, animal care, errands, household help and bookkeeping. Also has hand-knotted and Kelim oriental rugs for sale. Call **Lisa** at **847.713.2441**.

Sorters needed. People are needed to help sort donations on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Call **Project Hope** at **847.381.5721** to help.

Caregiver available. Skilled care/hospice companion available 3:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m., M-F. Call **224.305.1604**.

Experienced caregiver available. Call **847.593.1524**.

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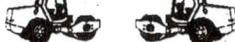
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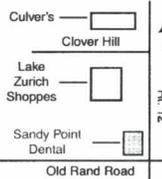
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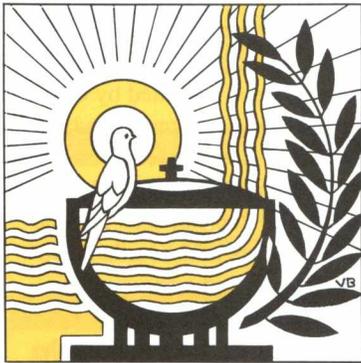
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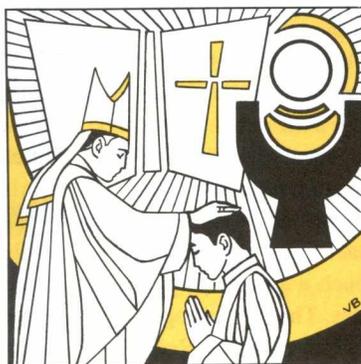
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What Are Sacraments?

by Joseph Martos



“What do the sacraments mean?” It’s a simple question that can’t be answered simply. That’s partly because of the number of sacraments. There are seven religious rituals or church ceremonies that Catholics call sacraments. Then there are other lesser rituals and practices (like blessing ourselves with holy water or praying the rosary) called sacramentals. Is there a single meaning that can embrace all the sacraments?

Sacraments are rituals that are highly symbolic. That’s another reason why it’s not easy to specify exactly what each or all of the sacraments mean.

Unlike traffic signs or signs in a store, symbols can mean more than one thing at the same time: They can mean different things to different people (think of a cross, a six-pointed star or a crescent), and they can have different levels of meaning. For example, think of the many levels of meaning—personal, family, civil, religious—connected with a wedding. Ceremonies that are rich in symbolism can mean many things at once.

Ordinary ceremonies

To understand one way in which religious ceremonies such as the sacraments get their meaning, let us look first at nonreligious ceremonies.

Take a simple greeting ceremony such as shaking hands. How did shaking hands come to mean something like, “Hello, I’m glad to see you”? What would it mean to someone from a culture where people greet by bowing to one another? Would it mean anything to a visitor from outer space? These questions suggest that the meaning of the ceremony is not only in the ritual itself but also in the minds of the people who participate in the ritual.

A child’s birthday party is a more complex ceremony. The party is meaningful partly because it is celebrating something real in the *present*—the completion of another year of life and the family’s happiness about that. At the same time, the party points to something in the *past*—the child’s actual birth and the family caring for the child since then. The party also points to a hoped-for *future*—the child’s continued growth and the family’s continued love. All three dimensions of meaning can probably be found in the minds of the people at the birthday party.

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Take an even more complex ceremony such as a graduation or an inauguration. Ceremonies such as these are much more meaningful for the participants for whom this represents a *present* transition in their life, who bring significant memories of the *past* to it, and for whom it points to new possibilities in the *future*. All public ceremonies and social rituals are meaningful when they have present, past and future dimensions to be honestly and joyfully celebrated.



Christian rituals

Christian rituals and ceremonies range from the very simple (for example, making the sign of the cross) to the very complex (for example, the Holy Week Triduum). They all have aspects of past, present and future.

For example, a Christmas pageant looks back to the birth of Jesus, it resonates with the present Christian beliefs of the audience and it looks forward to peace on earth and salvation for all. A person who did not know the story of Jesus, who was an atheist and who was pessimistic about the future would probably find the pageant rather meaningless. A person who lacked one or more of these three dimensions would find the pageant somewhat less meaningful than a knowledgeable and hopeful Christian.

In general, we can say that Christian rituals are meaningful to the extent that people know what they point to in the past, that people celebrate what is real for them in the present and that people affirm what they point to in the future. The more important, significant and cher-

ished these past, present and future dimensions are for people, the more the ritual symbolizes and celebrates what is *sacred* for them. That makes it more meaningful for them.

Catholic sacraments

The Latin word *sacramentum* means “a sign of the sacred.” The Catholic sacraments are ceremonies that point to what is sacred, significant and important for Christians. Members of the Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican/Episcopal traditions call seven of their religious ceremonies sacraments. Most Protestants count only two rituals—Baptism and Communion—as sacraments. Nevertheless, Protestants have ceremonies that are similar to Catholic sacraments, for example, weddings and ordinations.

Sacraments are celebrations of *Christian tradition*, of *Christian life* and of *Christian hope*. They share the dimensions of past, present and future that give ordinary celebrations meaning. St. Thomas Aquinas wrote a prayer about the Eucharist that illustrates the point: “O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of his Passion is renewed [past], the mind is filled with grace [present], and the pledge of future glory is given to us [future].” Today we commemorate this understanding of sacrament when we pray the following version of the Memorial Acclamation at Mass: “Christ *has* died, Christ *is* risen, Christ *will* come again.”

Sacraments, though, are no ordinary celebrations. They are special occasions for experiencing God’s saving presence. It is important for people to be in touch with what the sacraments celebrate if the rituals are to be as meaningful as possible for them.

Sometimes people who participate in a sacramental celebration do not fully appreciate one or another of the dimensions of a sacrament’s meaning. In this case, the sacrament speaks its meanings, as it were, to those attending the ceremony and invites them to find out more about them. The sacrament also calls people to get in touch with the sacred realities it celebrates. The more people respond to this call (for example, Reconciliation’s call to forgive and accept for-

giveness), the more they will find meaning in the sacrament.

Sacraments celebrate Christ’s life

Of all the events that sacraments can point to in the past (biblical events, Church traditions, events in one’s own faith journey), the most important are events in the life of Christ. Tradition tells us that all of the sacraments were instituted by Christ. Indeed, they each have a real foundation in the life and ministry of Jesus. Each relates to stories and teachings of Jesus.

For example, Baptism calls to mind the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan, and the way Jesus gathered a community around himself. It also reminds us of the command of the risen Lord to carry the gospel to others and to baptize them. Eucharist reminds us of the Last Supper. Those familiar with the Gospels are also reminded of other meals to which Jesus invited even those who were rejected by others. Reconciliation reminds us of Jesus’ invitation to forgive one another, and of the way he forgave those who put him to death.



The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* ties together the many meanings of sacraments thus: “The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us. The visible rites by which the sacraments are celebrated signify and make present the graces proper to each sacrament. They bear fruit in those who receive them with the required dispositions” (#1131).

THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS

The *Catechism* groups the sacraments under three headings: initiation, healing and service (see #1210-1666). These “sacred signs” share the dimensions of past, present and future.

	Past	Present	Future
<h2>Initiation</h2> <p>These celebrate and introduce us to the experience of the Christian life.</p>			
<p>BAPTISM</p> <p>Baptism signifies our immersion in the Christian life and marks our spiritual rebirth in the Church.</p>	<p><i>Jesus called people to follow him and invited them into community and the life of God.</i></p>	<p><i>We call people to follow Jesus and invite them into our community.</i></p>	<p><i>We look forward to and work for the day when all people will be in unity.</i></p>
<p>CONFIRMATION</p> <p>Confirmation seals our Baptism and confirms our commitment both to the Church and to the work of Christ in the world.</p>	<p><i>Jesus communicated his spirit to people and strengthened them.</i></p>	<p><i>We communicate the spirit of Jesus to people and strengthen them.</i></p>	<p><i>We announce that all can be filled and strengthened by the spirit of God.</i></p>
<p>EUCCHARIST</p> <p>Eucharist celebrates our life together as a community, the presence of Christ in our midst, the Word that is proclaimed and explained, many dimensions of the paschal mystery of death and rebirth. We celebrate our unity with Christ in communion and service.</p>	<p><i>Jesus ate with sinners and was present to them.</i></p>	<p><i>We share Christ's real presence today under the signs of bread and wine.</i></p>	<p><i>We anticipate the day when all people will be fed and will find God close to them.</i></p>
<h2>Healing</h2> <p>These celebrate and reveal to us God's power to heal us in soul and body.</p>			
<p>RECONCILIATION</p> <p>Reconciliation celebrates and reminds us of God's mercy and helps us to experience divine forgiveness, to forgive ourselves and to become reconciled with others.</p>	<p><i>Jesus called for conversion and forgave those who were repentant.</i></p>	<p><i>We are called to conversion, we ask for forgiveness, and we forgive others.</i></p>	<p><i>We know that forgiveness and reconciliation are always possible with God's help.</i></p>
<p>ANOINTING</p> <p>Anointing of the Sick celebrates and reminds us of God's compassion and helps us to experience spiritual—and sometimes physical—strengthening when we are ill.</p>	<p><i>Jesus healed the suffering in body and soul.</i></p>	<p><i>We ask for God's healing when we are sick and suffering.</i></p>	<p><i>We hope and work for the relief of all suffering in the world.</i></p>
<h2>Service</h2> <p>These celebrate the Christian vocation of service and consecrate us to minister within our own family and within the wider Church community.</p>			
<p>MARRIAGE</p> <p>Matrimony joins two people in marriage for a lifetime of dedication to each other's well-being and the well-being of their children and the community.</p>	<p><i>Jesus called spouses to unconditional love and lasting fidelity.</i></p>	<p><i>We honor and expect unconditional love and lasting fidelity between spouses.</i></p>	<p><i>We believe in and help others to find happiness in marital love and fidelity.</i></p>
<p>ORDINATION</p> <p>Ordination integrates men into the holy orders of bishops, priests and deacons, empowering them for a lifetime of leadership and service in the Church.</p>	<p><i>Jesus appointed 12 to minister in a special way.</i></p>	<p><i>We ordain certain members to minister and lead us in the sacraments.</i></p>	<p><i>We raise up future ministers by proclaiming that ordained ministry is a special vocation of Christians.</i></p>

Question Box

- 1. Why do we think of sacraments in three time dimensions?**
- 2. How are sacraments alike and different from ordinary ceremonies?**
- 3. What sacramental experience has most meaning for you?**

Sacraments celebrate the community's life

Each sacrament dramatizes and points to something that is happening in the lives of people who belong to the celebrating community. For example, Eucharist strengthens the unity of Christians as they receive it. It celebrates God's nourishing presence with us now. Sacraments celebrate the community's life now.

Taking friends out to dinner or giving them presents is meaningful in part because it signifies how we feel toward them right now. A graduation ceremony is meaningful because it occurs at a moment when people have completed an important stage in their education. One reason for the current question about what age is right for Confirmation is that people cannot all agree about what exactly the sacrament should point to in the lives of those being confirmed.

It is easier to see what other sacraments are celebrating, however. For example, through the Baptism ceremony, some people are entering the Christian community while others are supporting and welcoming them into community. In Matrimony and Ordination ceremonies, people are likewise undergoing important changes in their relationships with others through the very process of the ceremony.

Sacraments celebrate the Kingdom of God

The sacraments also point to a future which Jesus referred to as God's kingdom, realm or reign. God already reigns in hearts that are converted to doing God's will and to loving others as Jesus instructed. God's realm is already found wherever justice and compassion are the basis of human relationships between individuals, in a group, in an institution or even in a whole society. But the kingdom is always incomplete, so the sacraments look forward to the coming of God's kingdom in its fullness.

Of all the time dimensions of sacramental meaning, the future dimension is the most elusive. We remember the past and we can see the present, but how do we get in touch with the future? Yet somehow we do this every time we par-

ticipate in a ritual that we find meaningful. When we shake hands and say hello, we are looking forward to the development of a relationship. When we celebrate our friends' wedding anniversary and when we attend Fourth of July fireworks, we are expressing hope for that couple and for our country in the future.

Children who make their first Communion or first Confession are expressing a desire to get closer to God. People who get married in church or who are ordained to the priesthood are saying something about their future in relation to God and the Christian community.

But sacraments imply more than just a personal future. They also point to the possibility and hope that the realities they celebrate will someday reign over all the earth. Eucharist looks forward to the time when all will be one. Reconciliation speaks the possibility of peace among all families and nations. Anointing of the Sick points to the hope that illness and disease will someday be no more.

What the Catechism Says

"Jesus's words and actions during his hidden life and public ministry were already salvific, for they anticipated the power of his Paschal mystery. They announced and prepared what he was going to give the Church when all was accomplished. The mysteries of Christ's life are the foundations of what he would henceforth dispense in the sacraments, through the ministers of his Church, for 'what was visible in our Savior has passed over into his mysteries'" (#1115).

Making the connections

We often hear people talking about the meaning of the sacraments as though it were a simple thing, as though each sacrament had a single simple meaning. We see now, however, that the actual meaning of any sacramental celebration is rich and complex, for it has multiple dimensions.

A sacrament's meaning is multi-dimensional because it points to three different time dimensions: past, present and future. A sacrament also has multiple levels of depth because it can be personally meaningful for an individual at one level, it can have a shared meaning for a particular group at another level, it can have a general meaning for the whole Church at yet a third level.

When people talk about *the* meaning of a sacrament, they may be referring to its general meaning or to its meaning in the life of the institutional Church. Yet sacraments are celebrations of God's gift and gracious action in our lives.

The fruitfulness of a sacramental celebration is strongly dependent on the connections among the people and to what the dimensions of past, present and future bring to the celebration. In order for sacraments to be meaningful celebrations for us, we need to be grounded in Scripture, involved with our faith community and working toward God's reign.

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Next: The Pope's Pro-life Message in *Evangelium Vitae*

