

P A R I S H S T A F F

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE FOR ADMINISTRATION

Deacon Donald A. Stamm

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 226-2384

Director of Religious Education: Thomas J. Acemoglu

RCIA / Adult Formation: Deacon Douglas G. Smith

Baptismal Prep: Deacon William Crosby

YOUTH MINISTRY 226-6239

Youth Ministry Coordinators

Brittany Marie Evans & Thomas Schaefer

MUSIC DIRECTOR

James R. Kendall

SACRISTAN

Mark Costantino

PLANT MAINTENANCE

Vito Cudia

SPECIAL MINISTRIES

St. Vincent de Paul 225-5531

President: Joseph Illuminato

Catholic Youth Organization : olphcyophil@optonline.net

Program Coordinator: Phil Amico

516-732-8520

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MAY 6- 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- 6:30 Living & Deceased Members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society
- 8:00 Respect Life
- 9:30 James & Marjorie Santoli (Living Mass)
- 11:00 Book of the Faithful Departed
- 12:30 Millie Tricamo
- 5:00 Tree of Life
- 6:30 Polish Mass

MONDAY: MAY 7—Easter Weekday

- 8:00 Ed Mikoleski
- 12:00 Mario Canobbio
- 7:00 Patrick Berry
- 7:30 Devotions (Novena)

TUESDAY: May 8— Easter Weekday

- 8:00 Guiseppe Lentini
- 12:00 Eddie Aliano
- 7:00 Kristy Schwartz

WEDNESDAY: May 9—Easter Weekday

- 8:00 Fiore Casale
- 12:00 John Russo Sr.
- 7:00 Stella Grace

THURSDAY: MAY 10—Weekday

- 8:00 Erich Burkhardt
- 12:00 Domenik & Maria Pesa
- 7:00 Lee & Abbott Families

FRIDAY: May 11—Easter Weekday

- 8:00 James McCowan Jr. (50th Anniversary)
- 12:00 Boze & Berta Pesa (Living)
- 7:00 David Ortiz

SATURDAY: May 12

- 8:00 Loretta Damone
- 9:00 Peter Giordano

VIGIL MASS -

- 5:00 All Souls in Purgatory

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam



Mission Statement

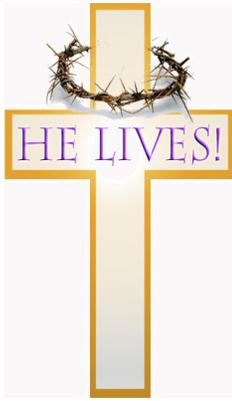
“Trusting in God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and, motivated by Christ’s Life, Death and Resurrection, we, the people of God, under the protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, accept as our mission, the evangelization of our parishioners both active and inactive. We accept the call to bring all to a personal, Covenant relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior, to live the Paschal Mystery and to promote the spiritual health and growth of everyone in our parish community.”

- The OLPH Pastoral Council



**Father Damien
Saint Damien of Molokai**

The patron saint of the Diocese of Honolulu and of Hawai'i, Father Damien Day is celebrated statewide on April 15. Upon his beatification by Pope John Paul II in Rome on June 4, 1995, Blessed Damien was granted a memorial feast day, which is celebrated on *May 10*. Father Damien was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday October 11, 2009



From the Pastor's Desk

When Christ walked this earth, His presence was, as we know, part of God the Father's plan to bring unity and peace into the world and, more specifically, into the lives of His people. He came to save us from ourselves. He taught us to do good deeds and avoid evil, to love our neighbor as ourselves, to do unto others as we would have them do unto us, and, He was (and still is) determined to strive to bring, as the voices of the Angels proclaimed at His birth, "Peace on Earth to men of Good Will."

Christ established the Church on the foundation of His twelve apostles, setting Peter at the helm of the Church to lead (with the others) the people of God and to guide them through the waters of life using the Church as a beacon of light that shines to guide and to warn of possible and impending dangers along our path. But ultimately the teaching authority of the Church, the Magisterium, was established and exists to unfold the Mysteries of Faith and to guide all people in the Moral Code of life which brings personal happiness by demanding personal respect for self and all others.

The Holy Father and the Bishops of the Church reach out to us in their role as teacher and shepherd to alert us to the negative and show us ways to conquer the strife of life, replacing it with immense joy and lasting peace of mind, body and spirit. Just as it is important for us to listen to the authoritative voice of our Bishops today in the areas of moral responsibilities and the need for us to preserve Religious Freedom and Respect for Life, it is important to look back and observe the writings of previous Popes who have written encyclicals that paint the backdrop upon which life is to be lived in the present and in the future.

Pacem in Terris (*Peace on Earth*) is a papal encyclical issued by Pope John XXIII (23rd) on 11 April 1963. It was the last encyclical drafted by John XXIII, who died from cancer two months after its completion. While he never lived to conclude the Second Vatican Council, which he initiated, he did manage to write this great encyclical as a legacy to the People of God that reflects the universal call from God our heavenly Father to bring peace on earth and good will amongst all mankind. *Pacem in Terris* was the first encyclical that the Pope did not address to the Catholic faithful only, but also to "all men of good will". The full title of the encyclical is *On Establishing Universal Peace in Truth, Justice, Charity and Liberty*. The short title *Pacem in Terris* is derived from the opening words of the encyclical, as is customary with papal documents.

In this work, John XXIII reacted to the then political situation in the middle of the Cold War. The "peace encyclical" was issued only two years after the erection of the Berlin Wall and only a few months after the Cuban Missile Crisis. The Pope explains in this encyclical that conflicts "should not be resolved by recourse to arms, but rather by negotiation". He further emphasizes the importance of respect of human rights as an essential consequence of the Christian understanding of men. He clearly establishes, "...That every man has the right to life, to bodily integrity, and to the means which are suitable for the proper development of life..."

The document is divided into four sections:

The first section of the encyclical establishes the relationship between individuals and humankind, encompassing the issues of human rights and moral duties.

The second section addresses the relationship between man and state, dwelling on the collective authority of the latter.

The third section establishes the need for equality amongst nations and the need for the state to be subject to rights and duties that the individual must abide by.

The final section presents the need for greater relations between nations, thus resulting in collective states assisting other states. The encyclical ends with the urging of Catholics to assist non-Christians and non-Catholics in political and social aspects.

Make the time to read this document which can be found online or purchased through your favorite book dealer. For online users, just Google the words *Pacem in Terris* and you can read or download your own copy. This encyclical will paint the backdrop upon which we can place the moral and ethical struggles threatening our nation today. We cannot have peace on earth, in our country, our village or our families if we do not understand the spiritual, moral and human balance necessary to achieve peace. Freedom and Human Rights must be guaranteed not only on paper or in the passing or words or handshakes, but in the depth of the soul of every human being. Seek the truth and the truth will set you free and the truth will bring peace on earth.

"While the global political landscape has changed significantly in the intervening half-century," Pope Benedict noted, "the vision offered by Pope John still has much to teach us as we struggle to face the new challenges for peace and justice in the post-Cold-War era." (Vatican City - April 30, 2012)

May God +bless you, and yours, today and forever.

Father Anthony



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

First Time:

Patrick Matyja & Jennifer Scatorchio



PRAY FOR THE SICK

*Bozica Pesa
Martha Mullan
Catherine Troiano*

Dear God,
We place our worries in Your hands and ask that You restore Your servant to health again.



PRAY FOR THE DEAD

*Margaret T. Hample
Julia Manfra
Francesco G. DiBenadetto
Jeannie Novello
Margaret Sheehan*

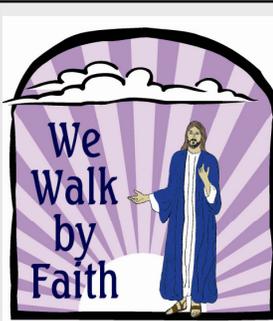
We ask you,
O God,
to be our quiet strength and consolation



Baptisms

*Victor Adam Gosek
Caitlyn Hannah Geller*

We Welcome you, with love,
to our parish family!
We have had 44 Baptisms so far in 2012.



As Christian Stewards in Today's World, We "Walk by Faith."

May 6, 2012 — 5th Sunday of Easter

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that God is glorified when a disciple, grafted in Christ, produces abundantly and bears much fruit. The disciple must then be a good steward of that abundance.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who share their gift of hospitality with others, especially through ministries such as greeters, ushers and/or a welcome committee.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY

Your Parish Finance Council has suggested that this simple bar graph be added to our weekly bulletin to illustrate the gap between the Sunday collection and the amount needed to achieve a balanced parish budget. Since the beginning of our fiscal year, September 1, 2011, we have experienced a weekly shortfall in collections. It is urgent that we begin to reverse this trend.

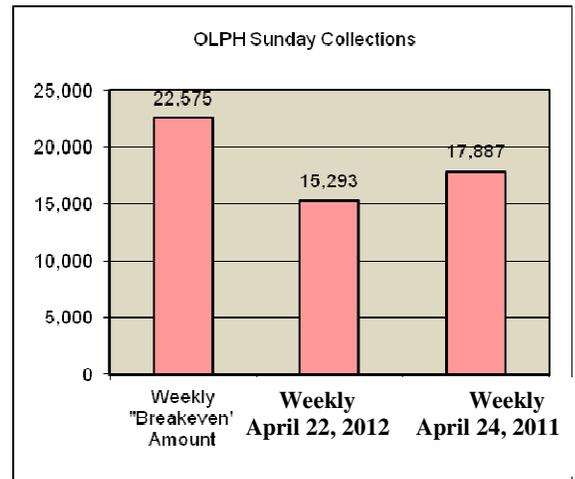
**OUR PARISH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH
DEPENDS ON YOUR GENEROSITY**

All envelopes must have your account number and offering amount indicated in order for your account to be credited for weekly and special donations. Separate checks in each envelope, please.

The account number, after the #267, is located under the date. Remember you must be registered (filled out an information card) in the parish in order to receive envelopes. Thank you.

HELP CLOSE THE GAP!

To date Easter and Easter Flowers total: \$70,519
2011 Easter total: \$67,267



PARISH NEWS

- The second collection this weekend, May 5-6 is for all **Catholic Elementary Schools and to support Catholic Education throughout the Diocese.**
- **Sunday, May 13** the 8am Mass is for the members of the **Holy Name Society** and they will be outside the doors of the Church to help with the Pro Life Mother's Day Carnation Sale. Please stop by and help their cause



Do You Have a Green Thumb? We are looking for volunteers to *help plant flowers around the church, school and convent grounds.*

If interested, please call Debbie @ 957-0765 or email your name and contact phone number to **OLPHFAMILYLIFE@aol.com**



- ➤ **Applications for Catholic Sports Camp** to be held at OLPH **July 23-27**, from 9am—1pm, can be picked up at the rectory. *Basketball, Arts & Crafts, Volleyball, Soccer Camp and Dance Camp* will be offered. The Sports Camp is open to all Elementary School children in Kindergarten & up. *There is a \$5 discount on application fees if received by May 30th!* Contact: Terry Hirten 631-957-6069 for more information.



- The OLPH Community of Praise Prayer Group meets Tuesday evenings at 7:45pm in the Convent Meeting Room. Please enter through the front Convent door. *All are welcome.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **St. Anthony's High School Franciscan Brothers—*Spring Concert of Instrumental & Choral Music*—Friday, May 11 and Sat., May 12 at 8pm. \$10. St. Anthony's High School Auditorium, 275 Wolf Hill Rd., South Huntington. 631-271-2020.**
- **Telecare's 32nd Annual Golf Classic, Monday, May 14** at the Piping Rock Club & Pine Hollow Country Club contact www.telecare.org for information and registration.
- **Healing Mass at St. Ignatius Retreat House, Manhasset**, across from Christopher Morley Park (621-8300) 6:30 p.m. Rosary, 7 p.m. Healing Mass Schedule: Tuesdays, **May 15 & June 5.**
- **15th Annual St. Ignatius Loyola Golf Classic—** 9:30 am through 7pm dinner buffet **May 29** at The Woodlands, Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course. Payments are due by May 13. Please contact St. Ignatius Loyola, in Hicksville, for details (516) 931-0056.
- **Retrouvaille—** Friday, **June 8**, at the Montfort retreat house in Bay Shore couples who have had problems in their marriages and recovered from them share their experiences with couples in troubled marriages with hope that they too will see their marriage saved. A Retrouvaille weekend is deeply personal and private experience where husbands and wives reconnect and go on to lead a happy and fulfilling life together. Call 1-800-470-2230 for confidential information.
- Seminary of the Immaculate Conception *Master of Arts in Theology Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies* **Summer Semester: June 18 – July 26, 2012** Offering 3- credit courses and **4 or 5-day, 1-credit (option) Workshop** **Contact – Academic Office** 440 West Neck Road, Huntington, NY 11743 631-423-0483 x 112 or x 147 – www.icseminary.edu
- **Family, Marriage and Individual Therapy**—provided by NYS licensed therapists available to our parish and 102 other parishes. Services provided by Catholic Counseling Center. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. Confidential information and appointments: call Dr. Giuliani 631-243-2503 or go to our website thecatholiccounselingcenter.com.

Ministry of Praise
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

May 2012

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Frank and I were fortunate to be at our granddaughter Julianne's Confirmation the Sunday after Easter at St Mary's college in California. I wondered why they had not had it at the Easter Vigil as we do. Then I remembered they had Spring Break that week. They had three students receiving Baptism and nine Confirmation. What a blessing to see young people filled with the Spirit. The Baptism was done with a large tub shaped like a kidney about 3 feet deep. One at a time the three candidates stepped into the tub and the priest poured water three times over their heads and then poured the Sacred Chrism oil on their heads. I don't think they will ever forget their Baptism. The priest was just great. He really connected with the college students and was well loved by them.

His homily was probably the shortest I've heard, but I'll certainly remember it. The priest started with a story. A priest asked the 1st grade class "What is the resurrection?" A little boy said proudly: "*Jesus woke up, looked around and said I got to get out of here.*" That little boy's answer wasn't far off the mark. Really how perfect, isn't that what Jesus wants from us? Jesus wants us to wake up look around and take stock of our life and make the changes needed to grow closer to him.

That story makes me think of the scripture about the prodigal son, when the younger son was in a foreign land hungry and suddenly comes to his senses, looks around and decides to go back home. He woke up saw he was in a bad place and made a decision to leave. He went home deciding to beg his father for forgiveness. His father saw him coming and was filled with joy and forgave him right away and celebrated his return. That is how God is with us. Always ready to forgive and rejoice with us. God's love is so great and powerful. I came across the following statement and it gave me pause to think and meditate on it.

I desire to understand your truth a little, that truth that my heart believes and loves, for I do not seek to understand so that I may believe; but I believe so that I may understand.

Your sister in Christ,
Barbara
 Barbara Odin

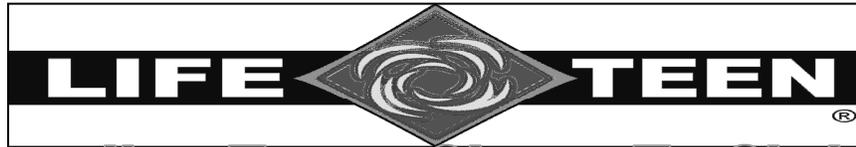
Recommended Scripture for prayer and meditation.

Luke 15:10b-24 Parable of the Lost Son

I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Then Jesus said, "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.'" So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

Recommended Prayer for this month: For the return to Mass and the Sacraments of those, who, forever what reason, have drifted away from the church and that they find in us a joyous welcome home.

Deacon Frank



Leading Teens Closer To Christ

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer." **St. Padre Pio**

TONIGHT: Sunday May 6th- Life Night- GimmeABreak



Next Week: Sunday May 13th- NO LIFE NIGHT enjoy a blessed day with your Mom. Say a rosary together!

Life Teen Car Wash Sunday May 20th from 8am till 2pm in the school parking lot. Cars \$10 vans/trucks \$15. Please come and support the Life Teen Program!



Stay tuned for more events www.lifeteenolph.weebly.com

Are you in 8th - 12th grade? Bored on Sunday nights? Come to the Life Teen mass and our Life Night that starts at 6:15 in the convent basement. You won't be sorry, we have a group of 25-30 teens each week growing closer to Christ and making tons of friends along the way. Each week we have a different activity and theme, Summer BBQ's, Christmas party and a retreat every year. Come once and I guarantee you will be hooked!

Contact Brittany or Tom at OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com

Are you an adult 20-35 interested in leading our teens closer to Christ and being an active part in our community here at OLPH? We are always looking for volunteers. If you would like to apply please contact Brittany or Tom at OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com



EDGE[®]
Catholic Middle School Ministry

The Edge is for all middle school age kids – no matter where you go to school—this is the place for you! We meet in the basement of the Convent. Look for the blue door on the south side of the Convent. We meet from 7:30 til 8:45 pm. It's a great place to come, hang out, play great games and learn about our faith.

Just come on down, no need to sign up!

Tuesday, May 29th.

May 29th is a *Glow-in-the-dark night!*

Any 5th graders who would like to join us are also invited to come to Edge!

Open to anyone in 6th, 7th and 8th grade! No cost!

Just let us know you'll be here so we can plan food!

Email olphedge@gmail.com or call 226-6239 and leave message to let us know you'll be here!

Any questions call and leave a message for Peggy.

SUPERMARKET BINGO

FRIDAY, May 25th

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

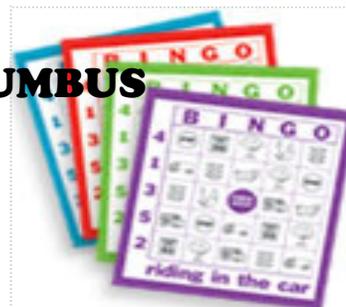
DOORS OPEN AT 6 PM

BINGO WILL START AT 7 PM

cost: \$7 per person & includes:
Bingo paper package, door prizes
coffee & cake.....plus

LARGE & SUPER SWEEPSTAKES -PLUS A 50/50

All are welcome!



HOLY NAME SOCIETY March 20, 2012
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
210 South Wellwood Avenue
Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757

2012 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Holy Name Society is open to the men of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish. Our goal is to honor the Holy Name of Jesus and promote the public profession of our faith.

JOIN US! GET INVOLVED!

If you are interested in belonging to the Holy Name Society or renewing your current membership, please fill in the membership form printed below. You may mail this application and dues payment to the address listed below or drops it off at our monthly meeting.

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

VILLAGE: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE NO. _____ Email _____

REQUEST DIRECT MAIL _____

Check To: O.L.P.H. Holy Name Society

Note: As your receipt, you will receive a paid Holy Name Membership Card.

For additional information, call Jerry Cunningham at 631-226-1581 or

Email: www.jerrybettycunningham@yahoo.com

Mail to: Jerry Cunningham
2 East Lido Promenade
Lindenhurst NY, 11757

50's Sock Hop

To Celebrate

Armed Forces Day



Date: Saturday May 19, 2012 Time: 8:00PM till Midnight
K of C Council 794 : 400 S. Broadway, Lindenhurst, NY

Includes

- Heros and Trimmings at each Table
- Tap Beer, Wine and Soda
- Coffee and Dessert

Cost: \$25 per Person

For Tickets and Info, contact: Mike 631-560-0451,
Bill 631-988-3068 or the
Reservation Office 631-226-3240

Sponsored By



OLPH 794
Home Association

PARISH SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

MONTH 2 – Developing Baby – “I can jump!”

Your baby is making progress developing all of his external features and internal organs. His brain is functioning at 40 days. His mother can hear his heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Baby-teeth buds are present at 6 ½ weeks. And it has been reported that a two-month old baby can suck his thumb. From this moment, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines his body. But everything he needs to survive after birth is already present by the end of the eighth week.



A word from Pope John Paul II to those suffering because of abortion:

“Do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope... The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”
(The Gospel of Life, no. 99)

Readings for the Week—May 6—May 13, 2012:

Sunday, May 6: Acts 9:26-31; 1 Jn 3:18-24/Jn 15:1-8

Monday, May 7: Acts 14:5-18; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday, May 8: Acts 14:19-28; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday, May 9: Acts 15:1-6; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday, May 10: Acts 15:7-21; Jn 15:9-11

Friday, May 11: Acts 15:22-31; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday, May 12: Acts 16:1-10; Jn 15:18-21

All are invited to participate in the **Our Lady of Perpetual Help May Crowning**

Sunday, May 20th following the 9:30 a.m. Family Liturgy.

We will process from the church to the Blessed Mother statue located on the front lawn of the rectory and crown Mary. Following the prayer ceremony, please join us for a **free hospitality breakfast** in the Parish/School cafeteria.

We especially invite all the First Holy Communion children to be part of this special ceremony.

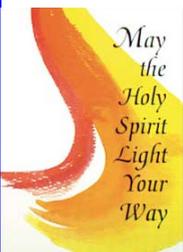
(Please wear your First Holy Communion attire).

For information, please contact OLPHFAMILYLIFE@aol.com or Debbie McDonough Family Life Coordinator @ 957-0765



SCHOOL NEWS

Grade 7 - Religion - Students created "*saint mobiles*" in preparation for receiving **Confirmation**. They cut out different shapes to attach to the mobile. On each shape they answered the following questions regarding their patron saints: **1) Why is your saint like Jesus? 2) How could your saint help your family? 3) What is one way your saint showed a heart for others? 4) What is one virtue your saint lived and how did he/she do so?**



Honor Roll for the Third Quarter at St. Anthony's High School

Kevin Cunningham	Frederick Dunau	Gino Fornaro
Stefanie Gaudio	James Jacobsen	Edward Joseph
Jacob Manzoor	Patrick Reid	Shaun Reid



Society of St. Vincent de Paul: "WE HELP PEOPLE"

CANNED FRUIT, CEREAL, SHELF-STABLE MILK, POWDERED MILK, CANNED MEATS, INST. COFFEE JELLY, 1LB. BOXES SUGAR, JAR TOMATO SAUCE, CANNED MEALS WITH MEAT, RICE, ALL TYPES OF JUICES, PERSONAL CARE ITEMS, TOOTHPASTE, SHAMPOOS, SOAPS, TOILET TISSUE, PAPER TOWELS.

In the Gospel today, Jesus says "*Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.*" Indeed by helping the poor we can "bear much fruit."

Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will show that you are indeed the disciple of Jesus as it will bring your love to those who live in fear and doubt, loneliness and dread.

St. Vincent de Paul Pantry is located at 272 South Wellwood Ave.

The office is open: **Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9 am—12 noon.** Call 631-225-5531.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

understanding the basics ▪ defending a right

God's Gift, America's Heritage (1 of 7)

To the west of Nassau and Suffolk counties, a tower in lower Manhattan, rising ever-higher into the sky, bears the name of that which makes this nation great: freedom. America is synonymous with freedom. It is the hallmark of our republic.

Living in the land of the free, we inherit a legacy of liberty passed down from our founders. They put forth clearly and succinctly what freedom entails, enshrining the basic rights of every American in our nation's founding documents, most especially in the Bill of Rights. It was the genius of the American project to take what belongs to each person by virtue of their human dignity, their God-given liberties, and place these freedoms at the heart of a democratic society. In the United States, rights and freedoms were no longer the domain of rulers to parcel out. Here, those God-given rights were documented for all to see and none to snatch.

As believers, we hold especially dear our nation's guarantee to religious freedom and freedom of conscience. When the Bill of Rights was ratified in 1789, this freedom had the distinction of being the First Amendment. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," our founders wisely declared. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty's recent statement *Our First, Most Cherished Liberty* stresses the esteem with which those first citizens regarded this right.

"By the end of the 18th century, our nation's founders embraced freedom of religion as an essential condition of a free and democratic society. James Madison, often called the Father of the Constitution, described conscience as 'the most sacred of all property.' He wrote that 'the Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate.' George Washington wrote that 'the establishment of Civil and Religious Liberty was the Motive that induced me to the field of battle.'"

With this appreciation of religious liberty firmly in place alongside other freedoms, the founders and a new nation set out on a bold experiment. Over the centuries, injustices in the application of our fundamental rights were overcome despite resistance and because of courage: freedom would no longer be conditioned by color; suffrage would belong to all. Setbacks came with growth, most egregiously when the fundamental right to life was denied to our most vulnerable, the unborn. However, as our union strove to become more perfect, respect for our fundamental rights, including our right to religious liberty and freedom of conscience, seemed assured. That is, until recently.

"As a community of faith, we must commit ourselves to prayer and fasting that wisdom and justice may prevail and religious liberty may be restored."

BISHOP WILLIAM MURPHY

PRAYER

Almighty God, Father of all nations, for freedom you have set us free in Christ Jesus (Gal 5:1).

We praise and bless you for the gift of religious liberty, the foundation of human rights, justice, and the common good. Grant to our leaders the wisdom to protect and promote our liberties; By your grace may we have the courage to defend them, for ourselves and for all those who live in this blessed land.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary Immaculate, our patroness, and in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.