

**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](mailto:olphcyophil@optonline.net)**

**Program Coordinator:** Phil Amico

516-732-8520

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**JULY 8- FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

- 6:30 Mass for the People of the Parish
- 8:00 Living & Deceased Members of the Holy Name Society
- 9:30 Margaret & Clifford Eiring
- 11:00 Book of the Faithful Departed
- 12:30 Hugo Mascari
- 5:00 Bozica Pesa (Living)
- 6:30 Polish Mass

**MONDAY: JULY 9- St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, Companion and Martyr**

- 8:00 Yolanda Zuzzolo
- 12:00 Michael Miglioizzi
- 7:00 Jude DeVaraj
- 7:30 Devotions (Novena)

**TUESDAY: JULY 10-**

**Tuesday of the 14th week in Ordinary Time**

- 8:00 Jennie Byrnes
- 12:00 Alba Aresca
- 7:00 Annette Farrell

**WEDNESDAY: JULY 11- Saint Benedict, Abbot**

- 8:00 Anthony Trezza
- 12:00 Anna Soto
- 7:00 Grace Horrigan

**THURSDAY: JULY 12-**

**Thursday of the 14th week in Ordinary Time**

- 8:00 Antoinette Langlois
- 12:00 William McGee
- 7:00 Bro. Hugh McGrath, O.S.F.

**FRIDAY: JULY 13-St. Henry**

- 8:00 James Campion
- 12:00 Harold J. Burke, Jr.
- 7:00 Eileen Maher

**SATURDAY: JULY 14-Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin**

- 8:00 Al D'Elia (Living)
- 9:00 Sophie Esnes

**VIGIL MASS -**

- 5:00 Blanche Balsamo

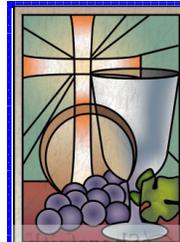
*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*



*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*



*Altar Bread & Wine*

*In Memory of*

*Irene Brennan*

*Requested by*

*The Schneider & Renna Families*

**WOW!!! What a weekend!**

Fr. John and I survived our first weekend in the parish! We both enjoyed speaking at all the Masses last weekend and getting to meet so many of you. There were so many warm welcomes and kind greetings, and so much genuine joy in everyone. Before actually arriving here I kept hearing how friendly and wonderful the parishioners of OLPH are, and it really is true. Thank you for making it such a great experience!

I have asked Fr. John, our new associate pastor, and Fr. Michael, our new priest-in-residence, to write something about themselves, to continue their introduction to you, so you are/will be reading those in the bulletin. Even though I offered some words of introduction about myself before each of the Masses last weekend, allow me to offer some further remarks to help you to get to know me better.

***Some personal background***

I grew up in Carle Place and attended Carle Place public schools. After graduating from Carle Place High School in 1979 I went to Hofstra University, beginning there with every intention of becoming an elementary school teacher. Teaching was and is my first love. (Actually, my first career aspiration was to be a game-show host — no kidding, I’m serious about that — and isn’t it strange that that dream came true through my hosting of *Divine Intervention* on Telecare!) However, during my college years, as I became more and more active in my home parish, St. Brigid’s in Westbury (at that time, Carle Place, now Our Lady of Hope Parish, was part of the Westbury parish), teaching religious education and becoming a lector and an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, my faith and personal relationship with Jesus deepened in a very powerful way. Soon I began to have some unusual stirrings that I realized might be a call to priesthood. One of the parish priests at St. Brigid’s at the time, Fr. Joe Schlafer (currently pastor at St. John Nepomucene Parish in Bohemia) was, to me, a “cool” priest and a regular guy, and I felt very comfortable talking to him about it. He was among my first guides leading me to priesthood. Another priest instrumental in forming my vocation was the pastor of the parish, Msgr. Fred Schaefer. The community of faith and the vibrant, dynamic parish life that was created by Fr. Fred gave me a vision of what a parish could be that really had a great effect on me. I was hooked and eventually realized that I needed to pursue a vocation to the priesthood.

After graduating from Hofstra in 1983 (with my elementary education teaching credentials — an important goal for me), I went to our diocesan seminary in Huntington for five wonderful years of formation. I met Fr. Michael there as we arrived at Huntington on the same day — we are classmates, and were ordained together. I look

back on those seminary years with great fondness and as a time of deep spiritual growth. I am grateful to the seminary faculty of the time for being such great formators! During my seminary years I did my Pastoral Year assignment at Maria Regina Parish in Seaford, an experience which confirmed for me beyond a shadow of a doubt that I was being called to priesthood. I was ordained a priest by Bishop John McGann at St. Agnes Cathedral on June 4, 1988. (Yes, next year is the big 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary — *get ready for a party!*)

As I mentioned in my talk, I have served in St. Kilian Parish in Farmingdale, St. Elizabeth Parish in Melville and St. Frances de Chantal Parish in Wantagh; I have served as Secretary to Bishop Murphy and most recently have been Professor of Liturgy and Director of Liturgical Formation at our diocesan seminary in Huntington.

I feel so grateful that my years of priesthood have brought me many blessings and opportunities. I have had the opportunity to do graduate work in the area of liturgical theology and have obtained a Master of Arts in Theology, Liturgical Studies, from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from our seminary; my doctoral thesis was on the topic of the theology of the liturgical role of the priest as preacher at Mass.

That’s enough background for now; I can mention some other things in future columns. In addition, my full *Curriculum Vitae* will be available on our parish website soon, so you can always access that if you want a complete listing of my background.

***I’m a liturgist!***

I love liturgy and have loved the work and further study I have been able to do in that field. Because of that, as I mentioned, the careful, correct, prayerful and vibrant celebration of the liturgy will be a high priority in our parish, for the liturgy is the primary source of our spirituality and it is the most profound way we encounter Christ. It is also the best tool for evangelization: when people have a good experience of liturgy through good preaching, good music, competent ministers and an overall reverent and adept celebration of the rituals, their faith is nourished and they enjoy coming to Church — and the life of the parish flourishes. Therefore, we will always be very careful about following the proper norms for celebrating liturgy, and doing so in a way that allows for a full expression of all the symbols and actions of the rites.

Along those lines, you may have noticed that we have discontinued saying the prayer to St. Michael at the end of Mass. The reason for this is very simple: it has not been part of Mass since the reform of the liturgy, and the norms are clear that no one is free to add, delete or change anything in the liturgy

(Continued on Page 3)

(continued from Page 2)

(except where the norms themselves allow for variation). Proper liturgical celebration demands that we move away from personal preference and individual piety and instead celebrate the rites according to the norms the Church gives us, so that we are celebrating as a united body. Liturgy is always a corporate act of the body, not a collection of actions of individuals according to personal preference or individual piety.

One of my first goals here is to begin to look at all of our liturgical celebrations in a more unified and coherent way, to make sure we are celebrating them as fully as possible. Toward that end, I will be forming a Liturgy Committee within the next few months, and we will begin to look at various components of our sacramental celebrations and worship. It will be an exciting adventure that will allow us to enter ever more deeply into our celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Lord’s death and resurrection.

In fact, a portion of my bulletin letter each week will deal with some aspect of liturgy — perhaps it will be a little teaching on some point about the liturgy, or perhaps it will address something about the liturgical life of our parish. It might even be a response to a question you ask about liturgy, so if you have any questions that you would like to send along to me, or topics about liturgy that you would like addressed, let me know, and I will be happy to consider addressing them here (I cannot promise that every question will be addressed, but I will try to answer

them if they seem appropriate for inclusion here).

Also, you might wish to make sure you read my column “The Church at Prayer” that appears twice a month in *The Long Island Catholic* (once a month for July and August). That column deals with liturgy and can be helpful for learning about it and also for deepening your participation in the Mass.

***Yes, we’re related***

There is one last item to mention, since several people asked about it over the weekend. If you have ever been to a Long Island Ducks baseball game, you might have noticed the on-field host who does promotions and other events before the game and in between innings. The answer is yes, that on-field host (who looks just like me) is related to me: he is my nephew, Paul DeGrocco. Of course, he gets his talent, stage presence, sense of humor and good looks from me.

***In conclusion...***

Together, let’s aim high in Christ.

Together, let’s bring out the best in each other.

Together, let’s be the best we can be in Christ.

And let’s always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,

*Msgr. Joe*

***Readings for the Week—July 8- July 14, 2012:***

***Sunday, July 8: Ez 2:2-5, 2 Cor 12:7-10, Mk 6:1-6a***

***Monday, July 9: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22; Mt 9:18-26***

***Tuesday, July 10: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13; Mt 9:32-38***

***Wednesday, July 11: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Mt 10:1-7***

***Thursday, July 12: Hos 11-4, 8c-9; Mt 10:7-15***

***Friday, July 13: Hos 14:2-10; Mt 10:16-23***

***Saturday, July 14: Is 6:1-8/Mt 10:24-33***



**Spiritual Adoption Program**

**MONTH 4 - - Developing Baby -- “I had a dream today!”**

Well, your little baby now weighs six ounces. He has fingernails and eyelashes. He has his own unique fingerprints, which will remain the same until he dies. His taste buds are working. His sense of hearing is developing and present at 14 weeks. There are no major developments anymore. At this month rapid eye movements (REMs) can be detected – a sign of dreaming. Your spiritually

adopted baby is already well formed, internally and externally. All he needs now is time to gain weight and grow strong.

What a miracle he is!



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)

**PARISH NEWS**

- **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.*
- PRAYER SHAWLS - The Legion of Mary and our parishioners have been making prayer shawls for the homebound, the ill and, now, the Life Center is asking for 24 of them (by October) to be used in their Rachel's Vineyard (counseling women who have had abortions). Please make the shawl (2 to 2 1/2 ft x 4 feet) and say prayers while doing so. Call Louise (412-3831) Thank you and God bless you.
- *Congratulations* to the July 2012 winners of the "1000 Club":

<p><b>\$1000—</b> Deborah McDonough  <b>\$250—</b> William Nagle  <b>\$150—</b> M &amp; J Doyle  <b>\$100—</b> Mr. Martin White</p>
---

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Tune into "**RELIGION AND ROCK**" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7-8 am on **WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM** on Long Island's East End. Listen on Saturdays at **11PM on Sirius Radio, Channel 159, the Catholic Channel and 11 PM on XM Satellite, Channel 117.** To listen online or receive more information regarding "**Religion and Rock**" go to [www.ReligionandRock.com](http://www.ReligionandRock.com) or at "**Religion & Rock**" on ITUNES.
- *Life Center of Long Island* Desperate Need of Boys Summer Clothing! All sizes but especially 0-3mos, 3-6mos, 6-9mos. Please help us with whatever you can. Drop off at: 1767 Deer Park Ave, Deer Park, NY 11729 631-243-2373
- **HEALING MASS** at the *Immaculate Conception Center*, Douglaston Pkwy, Douglaston. Tuesday, **July 10** at 7pm. Rosary, Mass & Healing service celebrated by Fr. Augustine Fernando. For more info call: 718-229-8001.
- **St. Sylvester's Church**, "*Community Dance*" Sat. **July 14**, 7-10 PM "**the Good Old Dance Band**" a live 15 piece swing band. Singles and Couples Welcome. **\$15 pp** (snacks, soda, tea & coffee served) 68 Ohio Ave., Medford. For more info Call Mike Virostko 631-730-3333 or St. Sylvester's 631-475-4506; [www.goodolddanceband.com](http://www.goodolddanceband.com).
- *The Beginning Experience*—weekend **August 17-19** at the Monfort Spiritual Center in Bay Shore, helps grieving single-again persons emerge from the darkness of grief into the light of a new beginning to move forward. Info and reservations call John: 516-822-0635; Jim: 718-474-3779; Karen: 201-736-8200 or email: [BeginningExperienceLI@hotmail.com](mailto:BeginningExperienceLI@hotmail.com).
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** *Catholic Charities* in *Amityville* is seeking a volunteer to assist in clerical responsibilities. Assistance is needed for approximately 6 hours per week. Days and hours flexible. If you are interested please contact Mary Ellen Kwiecinski, Volunteer Coordinator 516-733-7044.
- *Family, Marriage and Individual Therapy*—provided by NYS licensed therapists available to our parish and 147 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: <http://thecatholiccounselingcenter.com>.

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: ALL MATERIALS FOR BULLETIN PUBLICATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE THURSDAY A FULL WEEK BEFORE THE DESIRED BULLETIN DATE. (Eg, THURSDAY, JULY 12 WILL BE THE DEADLINE FOR THE JULY 21-22 BULLETIN.) This extra time is needed for approvals, editing and proof-reading. All approved submissions by approved organizations should be emailed to: [cbecker@oloph.org](mailto:cbecker@oloph.org). All materials should be sent as a camera-ready Word document and will be included as space permits. Thank you. Editor.**

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**



**Third Time:**

*Nicholas Marciano & Frances Higgins (Both of OLPH)  
 Conrad Saint-Joy & Agnieszka Godleuska (Both of OLPH)*

**Second Time:**

*Andres Pierre-Louis & Anne S. Seide (Both of St. Gerard Majella, Hollis, Queens)*

**First Time:**

*Michael Incandela & Desiree Annicaro (Both of OLPH)*

**PRAY FOR THE SICK**

*Frank Lent Frances Eng  
 Richard Brosan*

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



**Baptisms**

*Angelina Antoinette Picarazzi*

*We welcome you, with love, to our parish family!*



**PRAY FOR THE DEAD**

*Jose Perez  
 Walter Borowicz  
 Matthias Stoss*

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

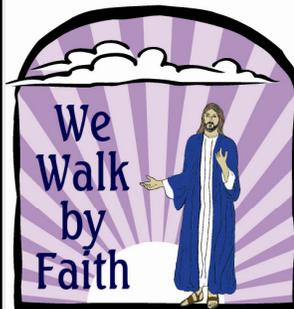


**As Christian Stewards in Today's World, We "Walk by Faith."**

**July 8, 2012 — 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**This week, as we celebrate the independence of our country, may we always recognize and use wisely the gifts of freedom and abundance God has showered upon us.**

*We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who embrace the call of good citizenship by sharing their gifts at home, at work, at school, at our parish, in our community and in the world!*



**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 those weekly and special donations to be credited on your account. Separate checks in each envelopes, please.**

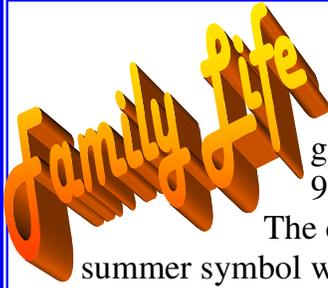
**The account number, after the #267, is located under the date. Remember you must be registered (filled out an information card) in the parish in order to receive envelopes. Thank you.**

**JOIN FAITH DIRECT**

**YOUR DESIGNATED OFFERING IS MADE AUTOMATICALLY!**

**Total Mass attendance for weekend of June 30/July1: 2,047 parishioners**





We have begun our "Hunger Does Not Take a Vacation" program (7/1—7/29) at the 9:30 a.m. Family Mass.

The children pick a flower or summer symbol with the name of a needed food item for our St. Vincent de Paul Pantry. The item should needs to be returned the following week with the flower or summer symbol attached and placed in the baskets located on the sanctuary steps.



"Back-to-School" Supplies Drive for needy children of our community will begin on Sunday, August 5th through August 26th.

Please watch for sales on the following needed items:

marble composition notebooks, 2" & 3" three ring binders, Crayola crayons 24 ct., colored magic markers (fat), Crayola fine line markers, hi-liters, dry erase markers, zipper pencil case, small plastic supply box, Fiskar scissors, Elmers bottle glue, glue sticks, colored pencils, subject dividers, laminated colored folders, plastic folders, calculators, small package of colored construction paper, protractors, rulers 12 inch/inch/centimeters, blue or black erasable pens, post it notes, small pencil enclosed sharpener, tissues, baby wipes, antibacterial liquid soap, Spanish/English dictionaries, multiplication/division flash cards, back packs, lunch boxes.

All parishioners are welcome to participate.

(Due to the past generosity to this collection we do not need spiral notebooks, pens & pencils).



To leave a message for our priests:  
631-226-7725 then Ext.:

Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco ...	256
Fr. John Sureau .....	224
Fr. Michael Holzmann.....	222
Fr. Ignace Lolecke.....	223
Fr. Moise Amie.....	226
Msgr. Daniel Hamilton....	248

OLPH's 11th Annual  
Atlantic City Columbus Day Excursion  
Monday, Oct. 8, 2012

**SHOWBOAT**  
ATLANTIC CITY

\$39 p. p.

(includes tip to driver)

8:30 am departure  
from the  
OLPH High Street  
School yard.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

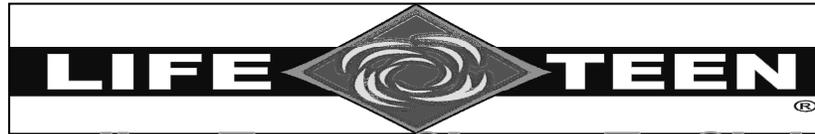
PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF SEATS \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **OLPH**  
and return to rectory, **Attn: Ann Messina**  
no later than *Sept 14th*

**COME JOIN US!**

Casino package details to be  
published at a later date.



## Leading Teens Closer To Christ

"Moral principles do not depend on a majority vote. Wrong is wrong even if everybody is wrong. Right is right even if nobody is right."

- Venerable Fulton J. Sheen

**TONIGHT- Live the Light!!!!**

**7/15 - CAR WASH—Sunday, July 15th from 8am-3pm. Cars \$5, Vans/ Trucks \$10. Please bring a non perishable food item to donate!**



**Save the date: August 3rd- 5th - Life Teen Lock In - INSANCTITY - more details next week**

**Stay tuned for more events [www.lifeteenolph.weebly.com](http://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, and a retreat every year. Come once and I guarantee you will be hooked! Contact Brittany [OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com](mailto: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 at [OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com](mailto:OLPHLifeteen1@gmail.com)**

**\*\*Remember Life Teen is still running a food drive for the poor until July 15th. Please contact the Life Teen office or drop off food between 4-6:30 on Sunday nights at the Life Teen office. We are looking for the following: peanut butter, rice, beans (pinto, black, kidney), canned fruit, canned vegetables, cake mixes, canned meats, cereal, baby food, diapers, coffee, tea \*\***



**We just finished planning an epic summer for Edge!**

**If you are going into 6th grade through 8th grade EDGE is for you!**

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 9:00 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!

Email [olphedge@gmail.com](mailto:olphedge@gmail.com) (best way to reach us) or call 226-6239 if you have any questions call and leave a message for Peggy.

**July Dates—July 12th—summer kickoff party**

**July 19th—Water games**

**July 26th—Movie night**

**Summer means games, food and fun at Edge!!!**



**Society of St. Vincent de Paul :**  
**“WE HELP PEOPLE”**

APPLESAUCE, CANNED TUNA, CANNED MEATS (CHICKEN), PEANUT BUTTER, JELLY, COFFEE, TEA, CANNED MEALS/SOUPS WITH MEAT, PORK & BEANS, CANNED PEAS/CARROTS, CANNED FRUIT, PANCAKE MIX, SYRUP, CAKE MIXES, DESSERTS;

**PERSONAL CARE ITEMS: SHAVERS, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, SHAMPOO, SOAP, TOILET TISSUE, PAPER TOWELS, DIAPERS.**

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!**

In today's Gospel the people ask: “How is it such miraculous deeds are accomplished by his hands?” Your call to help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul serve the poor can bring about many “miraculous deeds”!

*This week put a special gift in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box, knowing that through your kindness someone who is suffering will be touched by God in a miraculous way.*

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

**Religious Education**

**DESPERATELY**

**NEEDS VOLUNTEERS**

**TO TEACH ALL GRADES— SPECIAL ED, TOO**

**ALL SESSIONS, Student Assistant Teachers (ages 13-18)**



**Hall Monitors are needed also!**

**PLEASE CALL THE *Rel. Ed. Office***

**631 226-2384**



## THE JOURNEY CONTINUES....

Dear Parish Family:

Thank you for the warm welcome you have extended to me as I begin my assignment as the Associate Pastor at the Parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help – my new home! I am excited to be here and to work with and learn from all of you in these years ahead.

Ordained by Bishop Murphy on December 3, 2011, I began my ministry as a priest at the **Parish of the Holy Cross in Nesconset**. Holy Cross is one of the newest parishes in the Diocese and their spirit of welcome and hospitality drew me in and “broke me in” as a parish priest. They strengthened my spirit and touched my heart in a way that made leaving them a real challenge. Your welcome and kindness to me here has made that difficult transition much easier.



The Parish of the Holy Cross, Nesconset.



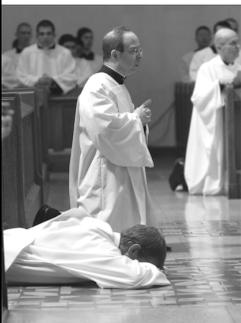
My family and I on Ordination Day.

Before Ordination, I attended the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington (where I met a certain Professor of Liturgy) and entered into the work of “official” formation for priesthood. However, that formation started many years earlier. As for all of us, it started with my family – my mom and dad, my grandfather, Ray Farrell (OLPH was his parish), my brother and sister and so many others. It started with great friends and mentors. It started in my home parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in West Islip who nurtured and loved me and, in many ways, sent me to the Seminary for priestly formation.

This formation continued. It continued in my education at St. Joseph's College, the Seminary, Stony Brook University and Fordham University. It continued in my work and ministry at St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School as a campus minister, teacher and social worker. It continued in opportunities to work as a hospital social worker and as a counselor at Hope House Ministries (where I am still able to volunteer). It continued and returned to my home parish where I worked for eight years as the Coordinator of Worship and member of the Pastoral Team. It continued in my pastoral work in the seminary where I studied Spanish and worked and lived at St. Anne's R.C. Church in Brentwood. It continued as a deacon where I served and learned so much from the people of St. Anne's R.C. in Garden City (where Msgr. Hamilton once served).



Fr. Jim McNamara (far right) , my first pastor, and I with some parishioners at my last Mass at Holy Cross.



Msgr. Joe and I at my Ordination. (Even then he was watching over me!)

And now these powerful experiences and relationships have brought me here to all of you here at Our Lady of Perpetual Help – a community with an incredible legacy and a hope-filled future. I am excited to be here with Msgr. Joe, a man who has taught me much about priesthood in our years together at the Seminary and prior and a priest who has been a real pastor to me in many ways, always making time to listen, support, encourage and challenge. I have learned much from Msgr. Hamilton in our time together in the Rectory and I forward to sharing life with all the priests here. Over these days, so many of you have taken the time to welcome, offer support and invite me into your lives. If the first week is any indication, I think the next five years will be amazing.

I hope in some way to contribute to the tremendous parish life that already exists here. If I can be of any help or assistance, in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me at 631.226.7725, x. 224 or e-mail to [jsureau@drvc.org](mailto:jsureau@drvc.org). My first and primary mission as a priest is to be of service to each of you.

I know these are times of transition for all of us. Let's commit to praying for and with one another that in the midst of change we can grow closer to our Lord and one another.

Fr. Joe

## Stewardship Reflection on Lectionary Readings:

July 8, 2012 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 2:2-5; Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Mk 6:1-6



As Christian disciples, we are all called to proclaim the Gospel to the world. Jesus Himself gives us this responsibility with His great commission, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (Mt. 28:19-20).

Such has been the case through the centuries. Christ established the Church so that all men might come to know Him, and those who have encountered Him are charged with the responsibility — which, if we think about it, is truly an honor and a privilege — to help others do the same.

As St. Francis of Assisi once said, we are to, "preach the Gospel at all times. If necessary, use words."

Everything we say and do should bear witness to the truth of Christ, to the love Christ has for us, and to the immense amount of grace we receive as we live this wonderful life of discipleship. Our mission is to live for Christ and to call others to do the same, and we are truly blessed to live such a life.

However, it isn't always easy. In fact, it hardly ever is. We live in a fallen world wrought with sin and selfishness, so there is bound to be much opposition to a life of selfless living. There are bound to be many temptations, calling us to put our wants, our needs, and ourselves before all else. But as today's readings remind us, we are not alone. The call to live selflessly, for the sake of the Gospel, is not an easy one. Even the prophets of old and Jesus Himself dealt with great opposition.

First we hear the Lord assure the prophet Ezekiel:

"...Rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you" (first reading).

And then Jesus Himself explains:

"A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house" (Gospel).

Yet, we know, the reward is worth the hardships. We live for Christ, because we were created to do so – to know, love, and serve Him – every single one of us. And so we know that when we do, we not only please Him, but we become more fully who we were created to be. We are more fulfilled as human beings, and therefore, much more genuinely happy people. And that's not to mention the eternal reward we await in joyful hope.

The life of Christian discipleship is a life worth living, even in this world today.

We must remember who we live for and what truth we proclaim, and make no excuses for it nor, in any way, alter the Gospel to fit the world.

Many of us may experience persecution for our way of life. We may be mocked and jeered. And at times, because of the ways of the world, it may be hard to stand up for what is right. But remember, the Lord promises, our reward will be great in heaven.

What's more, I am reminded of many converts whose stories began with great opposition to the Gospel message. Some even spit on the crucifix or desecrated the Eucharist, and yet, through the grace of God, they encountered Christ and turned to Him. And now, such men and women are some of the most passionate Catholics in the world today.

Preach the Gospel at all times – in all you say and do. For the Gospel we proclaim is one of power and grace. Living in such a way, each and every one of us is bound to make a difference in the world, bound to bring others to Christ and to make disciples of all nations, just as we are called to do!

What an exciting call. What an exciting life we lead.