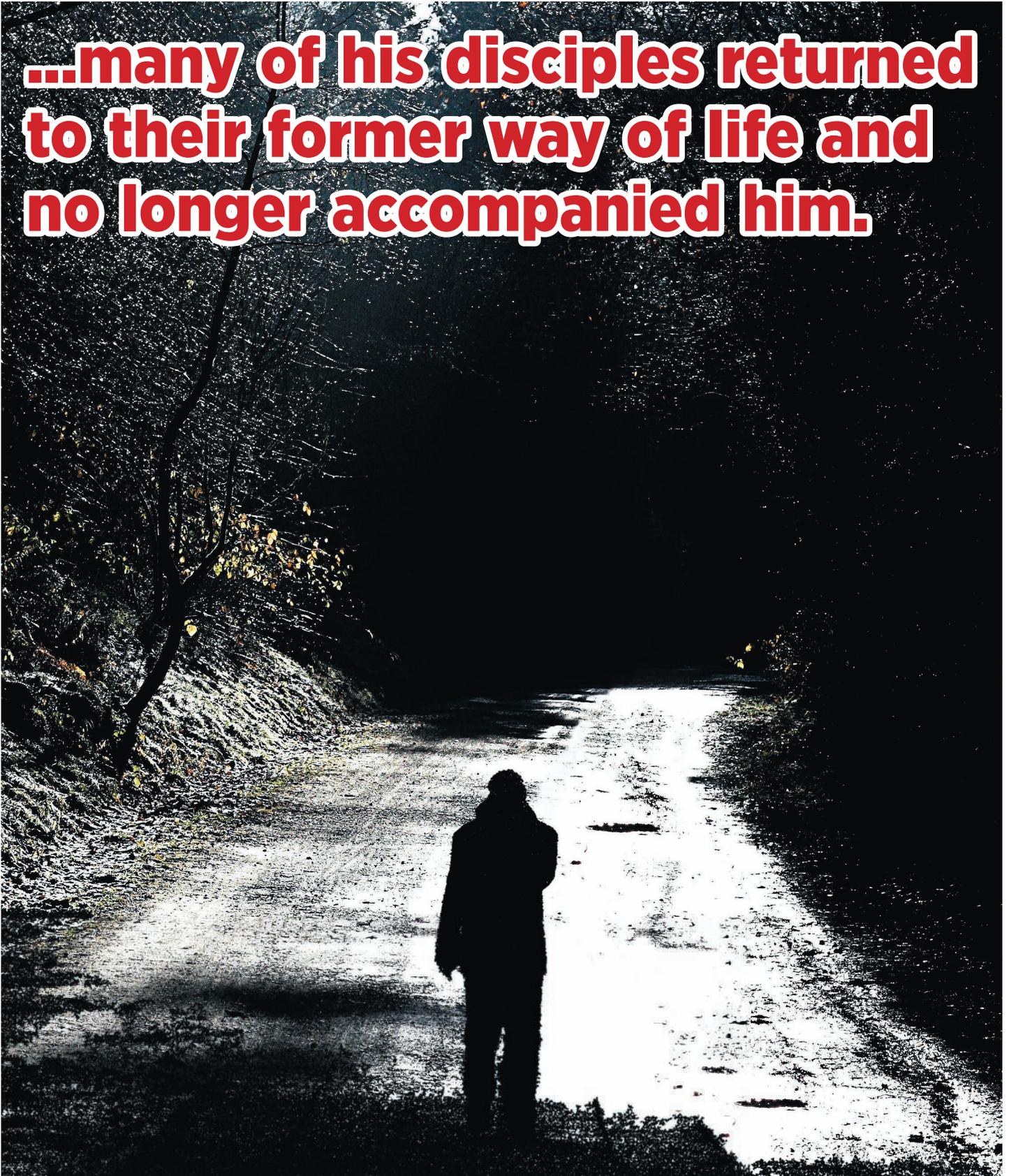


**...many of his disciples returned
to their former way of life and
no longer accompanied him.**



Bus Trip to Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes



St. Padre Pio bus trip Saturday, September 26, 2015

Come with us to a place in the wooded hills of Connecticut, under a canopy of trees by a stream of flowing water! A place of peace and prayer dedicated to Mary the Mother of Jesus. Pray in a church without walls, stand on holy ground as you follow Jesus and allow Mary's presence to touch your heart.

Bus will leave 8:30 am from in front of St. Anne's Church. For more information, please call Fran Spazian. 201-653-1318.

Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto is located at 83 Montfort Rd, Litchfield, CT 06759

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Become a Community Educator

Are you interested in preventing human trafficking in your community? Become a community educator today!

The Amistad Movement is a national education campaign that works to empower immigrants and local leaders to prevent human trafficking in their communities.

You are all invited to an Amistad Movement training session at St Nicholas, 122 Ferry St, Jersey City, on Saturday, September 12, 2015, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Through the training you will learn how to:

- Identify human trafficking and exploitation in various industries
- Establish partnerships with coalitions and other organizations to combat human trafficking
- Support survivors of human trafficking
- Become an ethical employer and consumer

Please RSVP for the training by texting your name, and "St Nicholas" after it, to 973-866-5393.



Taking a Leap of Faith

By **JANEL ESKER**



It's true confession time: I'm a returner. I prefer to make decisions about clothes, shoes, and decor at home. Even though I thoroughly research quality, user reviews, and price, I usually still need to bring the item home. If it's not right, I readily return it—unused, of course. I'm ruthlessly teased about my compulsion by my husband, friends, and even my mother (from whom I inherited this trait, though she flatly denies it).

Today's first reading and Gospel are all about decision-making, but the choices they describe aren't easily undone with a return to the store. These choices are life-changing: Which god are you going to serve? Are you going to stay with Jesus, or leave?

Major decisions—changing jobs, marrying, beginning a family, pursuing medical treatment—involve a leap of faith in addition to studious research.

Sure, you can explore a particular company, do thorough marriage preparation, or research a particular treatment. But we can never know with certainty how the job will suit us, how the marriage will evolve, or how this treatment will affect our body. The biggest decisions involve big trust and big faith.

It's no different in our choice about God. We shouldn't base our faith on what others have to say about God on the internet, nor can we return our trust in the Lord at the customer-service counter. We have to decide here and now whether we're going to put our faith in the Lord. Peter claimed, "You have the words of eternal life." Not "the words of complete happiness" or "utter prosperity," but "eternal life."

PART I: ARE MIRACLES POSSIBLE?

Did Jesus Really Perform Miracles?

“The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen.”

—G.K. Chesterton, *The Innocence of Father Brown*

BY CHARLIE BATES, BA

Have you heard of the Jefferson Bible? Our third President, a champion of reason and morality, prepared an edition of the New Testament entitled *The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth*. Although he used a razor and remove all the miracle stories (Jesus’ walking on water, turning water into wine, and rising from the dead) and used glue to put the page fragments back together, he highlighted the “innocent and genuine character of this benevolent moralist.” What’s wrong with this idea of Jesus as just another moral teacher?

Just as the New Testament becomes a few scraps of paper glued together without miracle stories, so our faith loses its integrity if we don’t believe Jesus’ miracles *actually happened*. G K Chesterton simply defines miracles as “the objective occurrence of the supernatural.” The reason Jesus said he performed them is so we might know he has the authority of God Himself (**Mk 2:10**). You may have never heard of the Jefferson Bible, but you’ve probably heard people say Jesus was a only a moral teacher, and his claims to work miracles are simply made-up.

It’s a valid concern. How can a rational, thinking person in the 21st Century believe that Jesus actually, *literally* walked on water, turned water into wine and rose from the dead?

Many say that miracles are *scientifically* impossible because they violate the laws of nature. But the question of whether miracles are possible is not scientific but philosophical. Science by definition is a way of knowing that uses systematic observation and experimentation of the *natural world*. We have other disciples for learning about other aspects of life (history for learning about past events,

economics for learning about how to allocate resources, etc). Miracles are by definition not part of the natural world—they’re supernatural. Anything that science can make a claim about is by definition not a miracle. Philosophy, the study of how and what we know, is the right discipline for determining if miracles are possible.

Of course, there are philosophical objections to miracles. Perhaps the most common, developed by influential philosopher David Hume, is that since a miracle is defined as a deviation from the laws of nature, and since our constant experience teaches us that these laws are never violated (a piece of lead always falls when dropped), miracles are impossible. We never experience miracles; therefore they’re impossible. But what about the people who say they’ve experienced miracles? Hume’s objection is circular logic: he says experience is our guide, unless we experience miracles. And to do this, he has to simply assume miracles are impossible and those who experience them are crazy or dishonest. You don’t have to be a philosopher to see he can’t assume what he’s trying to prove!

So why do we believe in miracles? The answer is not a scientific experiment or a philosophical proof. We believe in miracles based on human testimony, our largest source of knowledge about not only miracles but about almost everything. I’ve never been to China. But I’m certain it exists, because people have told me they’ve been there. Outside of a few experiments I did in middle school, almost every piece of scientific knowledge I believe is true (the theory of evolution, the structure of an atom) comes from the testimony of scientists, not my own observations. We can’t rule out claims, miraculous or not, simply

because they come from someone else’s experience rather than our own.

The real question is if any of miraculous testimonies made throughout all times and places are correct. Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman explains we should look at testimony of miracles in the same way as testimony of natural events. Is the source trustworthy? Is there an ulterior motive? Is there circumstantial evidence?

Some say, *People who see miracles are crazy. Why should anyone believe them? But the obvious reply is, why are they crazy?*, and the only answer is, *because they talk about miracles*. That amounts to saying their miraculous claims aren’t true simply because they say them! Others cynically point to false miracles —events that turn out to be scientifically explicable or even fraudulent. G K Chesterton says of this objection: *That is not an argument at all, good or bad. A false ghost disproves the reality of ghosts exactly as much as a forged banknote disprove the existence of the Bank of England - if anything, it proves its existence*. It’s also worth pointing out these arguments against miracles are invariably elitist. Testimony to extraordinary events that no one (including the most intelligent and educated) truly understands does not require any special expertise.

Science can’t explain away miracles, and a brief look at the philosophy behind them shows you don’t have to be crazy to believe miracles *are* possible. But did the miracles in the New Testament actually happen? For the answer, check out next week’s Bulletin for Part II of this series: “Were Jesus Miracles Historic Events?”

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Abortion Healing

If the news coverage of Planned Parenthood has caused a revived trauma from your own involvement in abortion or if you are suffering from an abortion experience, if you have feelings of guilt and anxiety or suffer from depression, there is Hope! Heals the pain from abortion — one week-end at a time on September 11-13, 2015 at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center 499 Belgrove Drive, Kearny. Cost: \$150 (includes all retreat materials and meals). **For more information contact the Respect Life Office: Cheryl A Riley 973-497-4350 or via e-mail rileyche@rcan.org All calls and e-mails are confidential. Rachel's Vineyard Retreats rachelsvineyard.org are sponsored by the Newark Archdiocese Respect Life Office.**

Celebration of Marriage Retreat

This weekend is intended for couples married at least 10 years. It honors and celebrates the commitment of marriage. Presentations and small group discussions address (1) how we got to this point in our marriages, (2) where we are now and (3) what the future might hold. We strike a deliberate balance among participation/reflection, liturgy, free time and fun and plenty of “couple time.” **The retreat will take place on September 18–20 and the cost is \$260 a couple which includes all meals, room, programs, etc. For more information, or to register, call 609.884.3829 or visit: www.capemaymarianists.org.**

Immaculate Conception Parish Feast Honoring the birth of Mary

September 10-13, 2015. Join the Immaculate Conception Parish in Secaucus for a feast celebration honoring The Mother of God. Take family and friends for an evening or afternoon of fun, with attractions such as games of chance, rides for the kids, food vendors and a grand 50/50 Raffle. The feast will take place at Buchmuller Park in Secaucus. **The church is located at 1219 Paterson Plank Road in Secaucus. For more information, visit www.iccsecaucus.com.**

Stand Down NJ—Help for our Vets

Stand Down of North Jersey is organizing a one-day event to assist homeless veterans. Federal, State, Public & Private support agencies will be on hand to offer a broad array of FREE services and assistance. Provisions include: VA Benefit Counseling, PTSD Info, Mental Health Info, Welfare, Social Security, Food Stamps, Addiction Info, Housing Info, Medical, Employment, Unemployment, Haircuts, Clothing and refreshments. The event itself will take place on Saturday October 10, 2015 from 8:30 am to 4 pm at the John F. Kennedy Pool & Recreation Center, 211 W Kinney St, Newark, NJ. **Pick-up is available for the event on Saturday October 10 at 8 am, 115 Christopher Columbus Ave. Jersey City, NJ. Pre-registration is encouraged. Please call 210.223.7787.**

11 Steps to Quit Viewing Pornography

By **SILVANA RAMOS**

CATHOLIC LINK

Published June 16, 2015

I wish I could say that this post is only for that *small group* of people addicted to pornography. Would that it were a *small group*, but no, it is not small, it is a group that over the years has become so great that today there are very few men (and women) who have not seen pornography at least once in their lives. The porn industry moves more money than any other industry in the world. Consumption has reached unimaginable rates.

Pornography is like a cancer that progresses silently and pollutes our lives subtly. It has even begun to be accepted as normal, a regular form of entertainment in the lives of men, women and children that produces no adverse effects. People even share it on *Whatsapp!* Overwhelming scientific evidence shows the great damage that pornography causes; damage both to the person who consumes it to all the various environments involved. It affects more than just the individual. Pornography affects those in management and production roles, the actors who become objectified without dignity, and certainly those who consume it, their families and society in general. Pornography is one of the worst evils that exist. So if you are someone who thinks: *Who has to know? It is my life and I'm not hurting anyone... Everyone does it, no big deal... Just one more time... I can stop whenever I want.* **DON'T BE NAIVE!**

The consumption of pornography generates addiction with the consequent harmful effects across the human condition – biological, psychological, and spiritual – generated by any addiction. It produces neurobiological changes in the nervous system on par with those produced by the consumption of addictive drugs. Overcoming any addiction is not easy; it requires much effort and personal work. But it can be done; you can break the cycle. As opposed to substance addiction, pornography addiction actually can have a faster recovery period. So if you find yourself stuck in this world, leave it as fast as you can. Begin this process by reviewing and sharing these 11 steps:

1 Accept that you have a problem and decide to leave it behind: it is your free choice, no one will decide for you. To consciously accept that you have a problem that seriously affects your life and environment is an act of courage. Be brave and acknowledge that you have a problem that affects you and your loved ones. Make the decision to put an end to this vice.

2 Seek Help: if you know you have a problem, look for help. A Minister, a priest, and even a psychologist are the ideal people to give you support and assistance. They will understand and accompany

you as you undertake this difficult path. Remember you are not alone, and you owe it to yourself to set up a support network for the best chance of success.

3 Frequent the Sacraments and PRAY: the greatest support will always come from the one who loves you most. Look for God. Fighting without God does not make sense. Frequent the Sacrament of Reconciliation again and again; seek forgiveness and grace. Pray fervently. For this, a spiritual adviser and a priest friend will be your best allies.

4 Recognize that love is free, full, strong and fruitful: perhaps you started watching pornography out of curiosity, or because everyone around you was doing it. And you got stuck because you had other gaps that porn started to fill. Maybe you wanted to find love and just found a deformed pleasure. If you are looking for love, remember that love is free, full, strong and fruitful. Pornography could not be further away from this authentic love you seek. You have become its slave. Porn makes you selfish and unable to truly give of yourself. Pause and consider what is it that pornography is giving you? Answer this question frequently.

5 Make yourself useful: don't stay still. As the Pope Francis told the young pilgrims from Loreto: "... that life is to walk, it is a path". "If a person does not walk and stays still, it's no good, he does nothing." Leave your everyday comfort zone for a time and devote yourself to different activities. Keep your day held in activities such as school, sports, or spending time with other people. These activities will help you to create new habits and new routines so you don't stay stuck in your addiction.

6 Strengthen your will in all areas, not only in regards to sex: This has to do with the previous point. In all your daily activities, as well as in little, passive ways like waiting in line or your daily commute, exercising the will more intentionally is

a critical opportunity to become more disciplined. Practice fasting, mortification, discipline. In this way it will also be healthy training in the realm of sexuality.

7 Help others: the consumption of pornography has to do with isolation, selfishness, and slavery. Find activities that put you in contact with others, enabling you to open yourself to the community by giving support to others. It will open up to you a new world.

8 Help yourself: destroy all the acquired material, in addition to placing secure internet connections and accountability software on all your devices. As you do this, identify thoughts and behaviors that have led you to seek out pornography. Root out these thoughts and habits and eliminate them from your repertoire. Avoid these near occasions of sin and remove them from your easy access.

9 Establish a commitment: make a firm commitment to your decision and the steps here. This requires a trusted friend, therapist, or priest to serve as an accountability partner in this process. Keep your promise.

10 Formation: study, cultivate yourself, and learn about yourself, about your spirituality, about virtues like chastity and the right sense of sexuality. Understanding this will help you so much. There are many books you can consult; Theology of the Body of Saint John Paul II might be one.

11 Never lower your guard: always remain alert and keep a healthy mistrust of yourself in terms of your vices and weaknesses. Don't be naive and think that you are immune to pornography once you overcome it temporarily. If you relapse, get up. Be ready to get up over and over again. Again, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Eucharist are fundamental in this process.



Porn|



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Fr. Nigel	Parish Priest
Fr. J. Ranieri	Weekend Assistant
Msgr. L.J. Miller	Weekend Assistant
Fr. D.X. Stump, S.J.	Weekday Assistant
Mrs. J. Waddleton & Lt. J. Carroll	Trustee

Weekly Planner

SUNDAY 8/23 • 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

MONDAY 8/24

3:30-4:30 PM Legion of Mary *Convent*

TUESDAY 8/25

12:15 PM BINGO *Cent Hall*

WEDNESDAY 8/26

THURSDAY 8/27

FRIDAY 8/28

12:15 PM BINGO *Cent Hall*

7-9 PM Festival "Thank You" *Cent Hall*

SATURDAY 8/29

SUNDAY 8/30 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Liturgies

Saturday Evening Church English 5:30 PM

(anticipating Sunday) Misa Español 7 PM

Sunday Church 8 AM, 10 AM, 12 Noon

Monday ▶ Saturday: Mass *Church* 9 AM

Wednesday: Mass *Church* 7 PM

Holy Hour

Holy Hour will be suspended during July & August

Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays *Church (Or by Appointment)* 5 PM

Schedule of Masses August 24th - 30th, 2015

Monday, August 24

9 AM † Roy Maglori *Clare & Family*

Tuesday, August 25

9 AM † Angela Aversana *Mary Shin Family*

Wednesday, August 26

9 AM † Doris & Lyda Cullen *Ruth Cullen*

7 PM Special Intention *OL Perpetual Help Group*

Thursday, August 27

9 AM † George Buska *Vilma & Joshua Buska*

Friday, August 28

9 AM Lawrence Shin *Family*

Saturday, August 29

9 AM † George Buska *Amanda & Family*

5:30 PM † Alexander Coulter Sr *Seborowski Family*

7 PM † Maria Esther Dinarte *Alexander Fuentes*

Sunday, August 30

8 AM † Michael Clifford *Marie Carlson*

10 AM † Michael Clifford *Marie & Jackie Carlson*

12 PM † Aniello Russo *Caterina Russo*

Giving

Financial figures will be posted at a later date.

Sunday Readings

First Reading: **Joshua 24:1-2, 15-18**

Psalm: **Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21**

Second Reading: **Ephesians 5:21-32**

Gospel: **John 6:60-69**

Weekday Readings

Monday *St Bartholomew*

Re 21:9-14 / Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 / Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday

1 Th 2:1-8 / Ps 139:1-3, 4-6 / Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday

1 Th 2:9-13 / Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12AB / Mt 23:27-32

Thursday *St Monica*

1 Th 3:7-13 / Ps 90:3-5A, 12-13, 14 & 17 / Mt 24:42-51

Friday *St Augustine*

1 Th 4:1-8 / Ps 97:1 & 2B, 5-6, 10, 11-12 / Mt 25:1-13

Saturday *The Passion of St John the Baptist*

1 Th 4:9-11 / Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 / Mk 6:17-29

Sanctuary Gifts for August 23rd - 29th

Gift In Memory/honor of Requested By

Altar Wine † **Robert Smyth** Yvonne, AnnMarie & Family

Altar Bread † **Agnes Acerra** Yvonne, AnnMarie & Family

Sanct. Lamp † **Alma DeBenedetto** Pat Roda

Altar Candles † **Lupe Pena** Family

Sick List

Let us pray for the sick (People will remain on sick list for 2 weeks unless otherwise notified): Frances Kearns

● Nicholas Zegular ● Frances Wise ● Vicky Aguilon ● Marie Foley ● Josephine Cermak Rowan ● Steve & Rachel Mastin ● Diane Shea ● Joseph Callandrillo ● Humberto Quintana ● Julia Annicchiarico ● Javier Vega ● Jennifer Moloughney ● Antoinette Maddi ● Carol Jordan ● Anthony Biggio ● Sammy DeLeon ● Shane Quinn ● Alice Daly ● Sadie Krieger ● Dolores DelMonte ● Dianne O'Sullivan ● Carl Carlson ● Larry Bello ● Miyuki Campbell ● Diane Albert ● Meghan Connaughton ● Lupe Pena

Ministry to the Sick

We hope to give to all the sick and aged in our parish the opportunity to receive the Eucharist. If you or someone you know can no longer get to church, and would like a Eucharistic Minister to bring you Communion, [please call St. Anne's Rectory at 201-360-0838 or email: Webmaster@stannesjc.com](mailto:Webmaster@stannesjc.com)

August Prayer Intentions of the Holy Father, Pope Francis

General intention: That volunteers may give themselves generously to the service of the needy.

Missionary intention: That setting aside our very selves we may learn to be neighbours to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.

Safeguarding Children and Addressing Abuse

The Archdiocese Addresses Victims' Concerns



The Archdiocese takes very seriously the needs of victims who approach the Church seeking healing from abuse. In addition to offering counseling and other support services, in appropriate cases, the Archdiocese provides reasonable compensation to those victims seeking a financial settlement of their civil claim, even after the statute of limitations has lapsed. Settlements are not confidential unless requested by the victim, and may include funding for continued psychological counseling.

The Archdiocese's general liability insurance coverage is the sole source of funds used to pay abuse settlements. Although the Archdiocese, parishes and schools pay premiums to purchase insurance, no parish or school assets, Archdiocesan assets or Annual Appeal or other fundraising collections are used to pay civil claims related to abuse cases.

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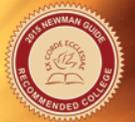


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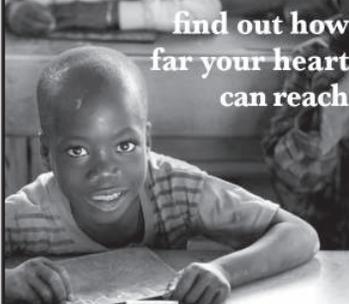
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