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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 6, 2008

“Come to me, all you who labor and are
burdened, and I will give you rest.”

--Matthew 11:28

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sat 5th 5:30 Charles & Catherine Hepfner
 Sun 6th 7:30 All Parishioners Living & Deceased
 Sun 6th 9:00 Gino Partenza
 Sun 6th 10:30 Giovanni & Luigia Socci
 Sun 6th Noon Rose Vella
 Mon 7th 9:00 Pio Beltrami
 Tue 8th 7:45 Mark Mooren
 Wed 9th 9:00 Kathleen & Anthony Molfese

Thu 10th 7:45 Ruth Boes
 Fri 11th 9:00 Anthony Bozzuti
 Sat 12th 8:00 Melissa Nickel
 Sat 12th 5:30 George Colbert
 Sun 13th 7:30 All Parishioners Living & Deceased
 Sun 13th 9:00 Alice Barrese
 Sun 13th 10:30 Ero Bruciati
 Sun 13th Noon Leslie Marie Parkel

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

PLEASE PRAY for the soul of Joseph Jacobsmeyer, father of Sue Sullivan of our parish, and for the soul of Thomas Wallace, grandfather of Kathleen Rybinski and Lora Sherman of our parish and for the soul of Matthew Sunshine, nephew of Bob Sweeney of our parish. May Christ, Our Savior, bring them to eternal rest and joy.

WE ARE HAPPY TO WELCOME Ray Slough baptized into the new community of the Church and to a new loving relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION last weekend was \$10,754.50 Last year's comparable weekend was \$10,673.
PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION was \$2,372.00. Last year's was \$2,160.50. Thank you for your generosity.

THE SECOND COLLECTION today is the Monthly Collection for the needs of the parish. Thank you for your generosity.

TIMELY NEWS

OUR LADY OF FATIMA SCHOOL is currently looking to employ a full time kindergarten aide and a part time aide in first grade. Please send resume to Our Lady of Fatima School, 225 Danbury Road, Wilton, CT 06897. For more information, call the school office at 762-8100 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m.

BASKETBALL SCHOOL is returning to OLF for the summer of 2008! Coach Joe, of Trinity Catholic High School, will be returning to OLF to run our summer basketball program. Coach Joe's bio is available upon request. There will be a one week program from July 14th – July 18th and a one week program from August 4th – August 8th. Build you basketball skills, run drills, improve your game! Please contact Mary Rooney at (203) 216-1646 or you may email her at Roons2@optonline.net for details.

ATTENTION OLF MEN: Holy Family Retreat House of West Hartford and the OLF Men's

Retreat Group are proud to bring Holy Family's retreat experience of **"Only for Today"** to the men of OLF through a series of three mini-retreats over the next year! **FIRST DATE WILL BE MONDAY, July 14th** starting at 7 p.m. in the OLF Parish Center.

The Mini-Retreat Series will explore the joys and challenges we face being open to God in the present moment, today, right now! The retreat will use the life of Christ in the scriptures as well as a unique set of statements inspired by the late Pope John XXIII. Please **RSVP** to:

Deacon McManus	762-7142
Tim Dineen	762-7674
Paul Niche	762-8309
Peter Slavin	834-2582
Peter Rubsam	761-1461
Franey Donovan	834-2444

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

REGISTRATIONS FOR FALL CLASSES will be taken in the Religious Education Office from 9:00 to 5:00, Monday through Friday. Please come in to sign up your children if you have not already done so. Note that grades one through four on Mondays are closed.

ADULTS SEEKING TO DEEPEN their knowledge of the Catholic faith are invited to attend two workshops on Scripture given by Father Peter Lynch on August 2nd and August 9th in the Parish Center. This course is part of the St. Cyril of Jerusalem formation program and provides an introduction to Sacred Scripture and its interpretation. Key doctrines covered are inspiration, canonicity, inerrancy, and the relation of Scripture, the Magisterium and Sacred Tradition. Please call Kathleen Rooney at 762-9080 for more information and/or to request a registration form. Cost is \$25. Checks should be made payable to The Office for Pastoral Services.

DO YOU HAVE A RELATIVE OR FRIEND who is interested in the Catholic religion? Please tell him or her about our RCIA process for non-Catholic adults. This process provides an opportunity for reflection on the Sunday readings, discussion of Church

teachings, and prayer with a few parishioners each week. At the culmination of the process, the candidate is initiated or received into the full communion of the Catholic Church through baptism and/or Eucharist and Confirmation. Please call Kathleen Rooney (762-9080) or one of our priests (762-3928) if you know a person who would like to "come and see" what it is all about.

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN AWAY FROM MASS and the sacraments and may want to return to active practice of the faith are invited to call one of our priests (762-3928) or Kathleen Rooney (762-9080) to talk about the issues that have kept them away. If you know such people, please assure them that we want to help in any way we can to ease the transition and to welcome them back to our family of faith.

YOUTH MINISTRY

LOOKING FOR SERVICE PROJECTS this summer? Volunteer your time in the Religious Education office. Lend a hand with mailings, sorting through supplies, and other various projects. Hours worked in the office can be put towards the 30-hour service hour requirements needed for Confirmation. Contact Sharon Lynn at 762-9080 or OLFYouthGroup@aol.com for details.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses." (Acts 1:8), received from Pope Benedict, is the theme for World Youth Day 2008. The theme comes from a passage that occurs after the death and resurrection of Jesus, just before his ascension to the Father. It represents the birth of the Church. Please remember to pray for our Holy Father and all teens and young adults who will be going to Sydney, Australia in mid-July to celebrate World Youth Day.



REASONS FOR LIFE

I don't know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me that maybe we are stationed where God wants us to be. That the little place I'm filling is the reason for my birth, down to earth.

If God had wanted otherwise, I reckon He'd have made me just a little different, of a worse or better grade; and, since God knows and understands all things of land and sea, I fancy that He places me here, just where He wanted me.

Sometimes I get to thinking, as my labors I review, that I should like a high place with greater things to do. But I come to the conclusion, when the envying is stilled, that the post to which God sent me is the post He wanted filled.

So, I plod along and struggle in the hope, when day is through, that I'm really necessary to the things God wants to do and there isn't any service I can give, which I should scorn, for it may be just the reason God allowed that I be born.

Author Unknown

DEACON MCMANUS AND LAURA CODY suggest some summer book reading for your enjoyment and spiritual growth:

Pope Benedict XVI's book titled *Jesus of Nazareth* is an excellent book to read, showing how Pope Benedict interprets the Bible.

A book they have suggested for our Knights of Columbus to read is *A Civilization of Love* by Carl Anderson, the Supreme Knight of Knights of Columbus. This is an excellent book and not difficult to read. They would recommend that married couples buy two copies, and each of you read a chapter and then discuss it. This book could make good beach reading!

In this year dedicated to St. Paul, they would suggest you read at least one book on St. Paul. They now suggest *Paul of Tarsus* written by Edward Stourton or *The Apostle Paul* written by Marion L. Soards. They will offer a discussion time later in the summer for each book.

Coming in September, they will continue our Parish Bible study with the *Time Line Bible* study of the entire Bible. They will also have movie nights with the Saints,

starting in September, and would hope to have a movie on St. Paul to start the year.

SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Wednesday:	St. Augustine Zhao Rong and his companions
Friday	St. Benedict
Saturday:	Blessed Virgin Mary

ST. BENEDICT

St. Benedict was born in the year 480. He went to a town called Subiaco on a mountain 40 miles from Rome. There he dwelled in a cave, living a life of prayer and self-denial.

Attracted by his sanctity and by his miraculous powers, men eventually gathered around him. Soon more than 140 monks were living with him in a monastery at Subiaco.

Benedict and his followers built a large monastery on Monte Cassino. It became the home of thousands of monks who were to form the Benedictine Order. For centuries, their monastery was a great learning center in Europe. Benedict became known as the father of Western monasticism. We celebrate his feast on July 11th.

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE PRAY for all our service men and women who are protecting our freedom, and especially Christopher Colgan, Jeff Francis, Jake Hutchings, Tim Connelly, and Brandon Owens.

ARE YOU REGISTERED IN OUR PARISH?

If not, we wish to emphasize the importance of each family filing a registration card with our Parish Office. It is even more important to you than it is to us! Registration is important for many reasons - matters pertaining to baptism, marriages, confirmation and religious education of your children. The cards are available at the doors of the church or in the Parish Office. You may, also, download a form from our website, listed on the front of this Bulletin, and send it to the Parish Office.

SISTER MARY JANE CARD, Director of the Ministry to the Elderly and Handicapped, will

continue to do her valuable ministry here at OLF. While she has chosen to live in smaller living quarters at Ogden House, which is a Wilton senior citizen housing complex, her role as director and coordinator of the many volunteers who service the elderly will continue as before. Her new address is 100 River Road, #307, Wilton, CT and her phone number will stay 761-9879. By the way, during a recent electrical storm, her computer was destroyed. She would appreciate and love to have a laptop if you have an extra one.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: There is a "Book of Prayer Intentions for the Sick" on the lower part of the Offertory table where you can enter the name of a person in need of prayers due to illness. That person, along with others written in the book, will be included in Our General intercession at each Mass where we pray for our sick. The names will not be read individually at Mass – but their intentions will be remembered as the sick among us who are always a special focus of the congregation, here at OLF.

DIOCESAN NEWS

GOSPEL OF LIFE SOCIETY meets at St. Mary in Norwalk on Saturday, July 12th from 10 – 12 Noon following the Pro-Life Mass at 9 a.m. All are welcome! Hear our dynamic speaker, Antonina (Nina) Bell, Field Development Coordinator, Concerned Women for America, Washington, D.C. CWA is the nation's largest public policy women's organization, with a rich history of helping our members apply Biblical principles to all levels of Public policy. CWA has been working to protect and promote Biblical values among all citizens for 30 years.

WEEKEND RETREAT FOR SEPARATED OR DIVORCED will be given on September 12th, 13th, 14th in Newton, NJ, by a Franciscan Retreat Team. For Information, call, Fr. Tom Kelly, OFM (973) 985-0736 or Deacon Milt (973)271-5097.

BLESSING AND BURDEN

As we wend our way through life, we frequently find ourselves accountable to someone or something, perhaps not always of our own choosing. Sometimes it is a blessing and at other times it becomes a burden.

INSIDE THE READINGS

Today's Gospel contains wonderful teaching about Jesus and also encouragement for his followers. First and most important, Jesus is identified as the Son of God, equal to the Father. The Father and Son share the same knowledge, the same revelation: "No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him" (Matthew 11:27).

Christ, the final and definitive revelation of God, praises the Father in typical Jewish prayer form for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to the "childlike" while concealing them from "the wise and the learned" (11:25). The childlike here can include the poor, the *anawim* of the Old Testament, the disciples of Jesus, the tax collectors, the sinners. The wise and the learned in this context are the arrogant scribes and Pharisees.

In addition to being the revelation of the Father, the Son of God is also presented as Wisdom personified. "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened" (11:28) reflects many wisdom texts in the Hebrew scriptures. As an example, "Come aside to me, you untutored. . . Submit your neck to [wisdom's] yoke" (Sirach 51:23, 26). "Yoke" at that time referred to the Mosaic Law, which was very burdensome. There were six hundred thirteen precepts plus complicated interpretations by the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus says about the scribes and Pharisees, "They tie up heavy burdens [hard to carry] and lay them on people's shoulders, but they will not lift a finger to move them" (Matthew 23:4).

Christ, true Wisdom, meek and humble of heart, invites everyone to learn from him, "for my yoke is easy and my burden light" (11:30). "Meek" suggests today's first reading from Zechariah. There the Messiah is portrayed as meek, just, and peaceful in contrast to many of the kings of Israel who were aggressive warriors. Jesus' law is demanding; for example, "Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). His law is easy and his burden light because he remains with and supports Christians with his continuing presence "until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).

THOUGHTS FOR ACTION

The Way of Jesus is our yoke, a burden when we strive to go our own way, but always intended as a blessing for those who seek a God who is love or a God who is freedom and life

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