

Letter of His Holiness Pope Francis**To the People of God**

“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it” (1 Cor 12:26). These words of Saint Paul forcefully echo in my heart as I acknowledge once more the suffering endured by many minors due to sexual abuse, the abuse of power and the abuse of conscience perpetrated by a significant number of clerics and consecrated persons. Crimes that inflict deep wounds of pain and powerlessness, primarily among the victims, but also in their family members and in the larger community of believers and nonbelievers alike. Looking back to the past, no effort to beg pardon and to seek to repair the harm done will ever be sufficient. Looking ahead to the future, no effort must be spared to create a culture able to prevent such situations from happening, but also to prevent the possibility of their being covered up and perpetuated. The pain of the victims and their families is also our pain, and so it is urgent that we once more reaffirm our commitment to ensure the protection of minors and of vulnerable adults.

1. If one member suffers...

In recent days, a report was made public which detailed the experiences of at least a thousand survivors, victims of sexual abuse, the abuse of power and of conscience at the hands of priests over a period of approximately seventy years. Even though it can be said that most of these cases belong to the past, nonetheless as time goes on we have come to know the pain of many of the victims. We have realized that these wounds never disappear and that they require us forcefully to condemn these atrocities and join forces in uprooting this culture of death; these wounds never go away. The heart-wrenching pain of these victims, which cries out to heaven, was long ignored, kept quiet or silenced. But their outcry was more powerful than all the measures meant to silence it, or sought even to resolve it by decisions that increased its gravity by falling into complicity. The Lord heard that cry and once again showed us on which side he stands. Mary’s song is not mistaken and continues quietly to echo throughout history. For the Lord remembers the promise he made to our fathers: “he has scattered the proud in their conceit; he has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty” (Lk 1:51-53). We feel shame when we realize that our style of life has denied, and continues to deny, the words we recite.

With shame and repentance, we acknowledge as an ecclesial community that we were not where we should have been, that we did not act in a timely manner, realizing the magnitude and the gravity of the damage done to so many lives. We showed no care for the little ones; we abandoned them. I make my own the words of the then Cardinal Ratzinger when, during the Way of the Cross composed for Good Friday 2005, he identified with the cry of pain of so many victims and exclaimed: “How much filth there is in the Church, and even among those who, in the priesthood, ought to belong entirely to [Christ]! How much pride, how much self-complacency! Christ’s betrayal by his disciples, their unworthy reception of his body and blood, is certainly the greatest suffering endured by the Redeemer; it pierces his heart. We can only call to him from the depths of our hearts: Kyrie eleison – Lord, save us! (cf. Mt 8:25)” (Ninth Station).

2. ... all suffer together with it

The extent and the gravity of all that has happened requires coming to grips with this reality in a comprehensive and communal way. While it is important and necessary on every journey of conversion to acknowledge the truth of what has happened, in itself this is not enough. Today we are challenged as the People of God to take on the pain of our brothers and sisters wounded in their flesh and in their spirit. If, in the past, the response was one of omission, today we want solidarity, in the deepest and most challenging sense, to become our way of forging present and future history.

And this in an environment where conflicts, tensions and above all the victims of every type of abuse can encounter an outstretched hand to protect them and rescue them from their pain (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 228). Such solidarity demands that we in turn condemn whatever endangers the integrity of any person. A solidarity that summons us to fight all forms of corruption, especially spiritual corruption. The latter is “a comfortable and self-satisfied form of blindness. Everything then appears acceptable: deception, slander, egotism and other subtle forms of self-centeredness, for ‘even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light’ (2 Cor 11:14)” (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 165). Saint Paul’s exhortation to suffer with those who suffer is the best antidote against all our attempts to repeat the words of Cain: “Am I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen 4:9).

I am conscious of the effort and work being carried out in various parts of the world to come up with the necessary means to ensure the safety and protection of the integrity of children and of vulnerable adults, as well as implementing zero tolerance and ways of making all those who perpetrate or cover up these crimes accountable. We have delayed in applying these actions and sanctions that are so necessary, yet I am confident that they will help to guarantee a greater culture of care in the present and future.

Together with those efforts, every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does. For as Saint John Paul II liked to say: “If we have truly started out anew from the contemplation of Christ, we must learn to see him especially in the faces of those with whom he wished to be identified” (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, 49). To see things as the Lord does, to be where the Lord wants us to be, to experience a conversion of heart in his presence. To do so, prayer and penance will help. I invite the entire holy faithful People of God to a penitential exercise of prayer and fasting, following the Lord’s command.[1] This can awaken our conscience and arouse our solidarity and commitment to a culture of care that says “never again” to every form of abuse.

It is impossible to think of a conversion of our activity as a Church that does not include the active participation of all the members of God’s People. Indeed, whenever we have tried to replace, or silence, or ignore, or reduce the People of God to small elites, we end up creating communities, projects, theological approaches, spiritualities and structures without roots, without memory, without faces, without bodies and ultimately, without lives.[2] This is clearly seen in a peculiar way of understanding the Church’s authority, one common in many communities where sexual abuse and the abuse of power and conscience have occurred. Such is the case with clericalism, an approach that “not only nullifies the character of Christians, but also tends to diminish and undervalue the baptismal grace that the Holy Spirit has placed in the heart of our people”. [3] Clericalism, whether fostered by priests themselves or by lay persons, leads to an excision in the ecclesial body that supports and helps to perpetuate many of the evils that we are condemning today. To say “no” to abuse is to say an emphatic “no” to all forms of clericalism.

It is always helpful to remember that “in salvation history, the Lord saved one people. We are never completely ourselves unless we belong to a people. That is why no one is saved alone, as an isolated individual. Rather, God draws us to himself, taking into account the complex fabric of interpersonal relationships present in the human community. God wanted to enter into the life and history of a people” (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 6). Consequently, the only way that we have to respond to this evil that has darkened so many lives is to experience it as a task regarding all of us as the People of God. This awareness of being part of a people and a shared history will enable us to acknowledge our past sins and mistakes with a penitential openness that can allow us to be renewed from within.

Without the active participation of all the Church's members, everything being done to uproot the culture of abuse in our communities will not be successful in generating the necessary dynamics for sound and realistic change. The penitential dimension of fasting and prayer will help us as God's People to come before the Lord and our wounded brothers and sisters as sinners imploring forgiveness and the grace of shame and conversion. In this way, we will come up with actions that can generate resources attuned to the Gospel. For "whenever we make the effort to return to the source and to recover the original freshness of the Gospel, new avenues arise, new paths of creativity open up, with different forms of expression, more eloquent signs and words with new meaning for today's world" (Evangelii Gaudium, 11).

It is essential that we, as a Church, be able to acknowledge and condemn, with sorrow and shame, the atrocities perpetrated by consecrated persons, clerics, and all those entrusted with the mission of watching over and caring for those most vulnerable. Let us beg forgiveness for our own sins and the sins of others. An awareness of sin helps us to acknowledge the errors, the crimes and the wounds caused in the past and allows us, in the present, to be more open and committed along a journey of renewed conversion.

Likewise, penance and prayer will help us to open our eyes and our hearts to other people's sufferings and to overcome the thirst for power and possessions that are so often the root of those evils. May fasting and prayer open our ears to the hushed pain felt by children, young people and the disabled. A fasting that can make us hunger and thirst for justice and impel us to walk in the truth, supporting all the judicial measures that may be necessary. A fasting that shakes us up and leads us to be committed in truth and charity with all men and women of good will, and with society in general, to combatting all forms of the abuse of power, sexual abuse and the abuse of conscience. In this way, we can show clearly our calling to be "a sign and instrument of communion with God and of the unity of the entire human race" (Lumen Gentium, 1).

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it", said Saint Paul. By an attitude of prayer and penance, we will become attuned as individuals and as a community to this exhortation, so that we may grow in the gift of compassion, in justice, prevention and reparation. Mary chose to stand at the foot of her Son's cross. She did so unhesitatingly, standing firmly by Jesus' side. In this way, she reveals the way she lived her entire life. When we experience the desolation caused by these ecclesial wounds, we will do well, with Mary, "to insist more upon prayer", seeking to grow all the more in love and fidelity to the Church (SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, Spiritual Exercises, 319). She, the first of the disciples, teaches all of us as disciples how we are to halt before the sufferings of the innocent, without excuses or cowardice. To look to Mary is to discover the model of a true follower of Christ.

May the Holy Spirit grant us the grace of conversion and the interior anointing needed to express before these crimes of abuse our compunction and our resolve courageously to combat them.

FRANCIS



I know the news accounts concerning the Pennsylvania State Attorney General's reports are causing great anger, sadness, and confusion among Catholics and others. For those who would like to have the opportunity to speak about their feelings on these painful issues, we will have a gathering on Wednesday, August 29th at 7:30PM in St. Alphonsus Hall. If any parishioner wishes to speak to me before then, please do not hesitate to make an appointment: 931-0818 or email woodscsr@aol.

PASTOR'S LETTER

Wounded Hearts and Scarred Souls

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"² He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³ And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵ And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷ Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come Matthew 18 New International Version

I am sure that you, like me, have been deeply disturbed by the recent reports concerning the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults by Catholic priests. For the past weeks, we have been hearing about Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, one of the most popular and powerful figures in the American Catholic Church who has been credibly accused of sexual abuse of minors and the abuse of seminarians under his authority. Perhaps, even more overwhelming has been the investigative report given by the Pennsylvania State Attorney General concerning sexual abuse in Pennsylvania by priests over the course of the past 70 years. The numbers cited over that time frame were at least 300 priests accused and more than 1,000 known victims.

First and foremost, we think of the victims and survivors of these terrible acts. Their wounds are deep in their minds and souls. In a previous assignment of mine, I met with a few victims of clergy abuse, and it was clear to me just how horrific the effects were on them. We can only hope that our Church does all that it can to bring about healing to those who are suffering by the actions of some priests. We also think of the pain of their families and how their cries for justice went unheard over many years.

Even as angry as people may be with the individuals who perpetrated such evil actions, it is more disturbing to think of the religious leaders and bishops who **knew** about such dark deeds and failed to properly address them, sometimes even to the point of re-victimizing the victims. There is no defense for what occurred not only in Pennsylvania, but in so many places in the United States and throughout the world. My belief is that many of the bishops were motivated by seeking to protect the good name of the Catholic Church and not to cause scandal among the laity. Ironically, in seeking to protect the name of the institutional church, there was a blindness to the pain in the soul of the body of Christ, the victims, who were and **are** the Church.

Certainly, no one has suffered more than those who were abused by clerics and ignored by the institutional church. Yet, there is also other collateral damage. I believe many of you are suffering pain and confusion as you hear about these crimes and sins. Those who are called to most nurture the faith have broken both the law of God and civil law and created serious doubts and questions for you. You may have family members, friends, and coworkers who ask - why do you stay a Catholic? You may even wonder that yourself.

The vast majority of Catholic priests, in spite of their faults and failings, have never done any harm to minors or vulnerable adults. They have sought to give their lives to helping people with the good news of Jesus Christ. We do not look for or deserve your sympathy, but I can tell you we are deeply shamed and embarrassed about this, and wonder what people are thinking when they see us in our clerical clothing.

Let me state some things that I am convinced are true. I do this not to make any excuses for what has been done, but to offer a glimmer of hope. Since the Dallas Charter of 2002, when the American Bishops, pressed by the honest revelations by the media and the cry of the people of God, instituted policies that have very much sought to put an end to the abuse of minors by clergy. Although there have been some failures in following these policies that have caused pain and deep hurt to people, these practices are working and there is great progress toward zero tolerance of any kind of sexual abuse. I think the Catholic Church is now addressing this issue in a most serious way and has sought to learn from her terrible and devastating failures. Although it no way diminishes the horror of what has been done in the past, almost all of the accounts of sexual abuse by clergy reported are in the time frame before 2002. Those who were hurt deserve the utmost attention and pastoral care of the Church.

The percentage of Catholic priests who have abused minors is no higher than other groups of men, including married men with children. Tragically, there is a great deal of sexual abuse of minors in families. This is not an excuse. The Church must do all it can to screen its clergy and all who work in any form of ministry in the Church to protect minors. Debates about clerical celibacy are fair. However, almost all experts agree that celibacy is not the cause of sexual abuse by clergy. As you know, our own Bishop John Barres has been mentioned in the Pennsylvania report since he was the Bishop of Allentown. He has been accused of not addressing two cases of abuse by clergy as strongly he should have. He has vigorously denied these allegations, noting that he was never interviewed by the investigators. The Diocese of Rockville Centre has very strong policies in place, as do the Redemptorists, for the protection of minors. Both the Diocese and the Redemptorists have zero toleration policies for persons, clergy or priests, who have put a minor in danger or abused them in any way.

This is a painful time for all who are impacted by the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults by the clergy. There are no simple words that take away the wounds. I do have hope that we are seeking to overcome the sins of the past. I have always found our Church to be beautiful and full of grace, while at the same time, sinful and hurtful by the actions of some of her members. Jesus chose very human people to carry his message to the world. Peter, our first Pope, denied Christ; St. Paul sought to destroy Christianity before he met Christ; the Beloved Apostle John sought to be number one in the kingdom of God; Thomas doubted the resurrection, and Judas betrayed Him. Yet, Jesus lives and is proclaimed. Lord, have mercy.

What should I do if I suspect a child or vulnerable adult is being abused?

**If you or someone you know has experienced an incident of sexual abuse by clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, please contact law enforcement and the Office for the Protection of Children and Young People at this special number (516) 594-9063. Mary F. McMahon, Director for the Office of Protection of Children & Young People
phone: (516) 678-5800, ext. 573/fax: (516) 887-1584 email: mmcmahon@drvc.org**

If you or someone you know has experienced an incident of sexual abuse by a Redemptorist priest, brother or student, please contact law enforcement and the Redemptorist Provincial at (718) 833-1900.

Masses For The Week

Monday - August 27 - St. Monica, Mother of St. Augustine
 6:30 Maria Kirkorian
 9:00 Clinton Pigott

Tuesday - August 28 - St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor
 6:30 Del Vance
 9:00 Margaret & George Stietz

Wed. - August 29 - The Passion of St. John the Baptist
 6:30 Gloria Dachille
 9:00 Father Frank, Living

Thursday - August 30
 6:30 John R. Moore, 2nd Anniversary
 9:00 Frank M. Astralla

Friday - August 31
 6:30 Nicholas D'Accolti
 9:00 Stephen Goyon, Jr.

Saturday - September 1
 9:00 MULTIPLE INTENTIONS ANNOUNCED AT MASS
 5:00 Jerry, Margaret & Stephen Soloy
 7:00 Mary Lusardi

Sunday - September 2 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:00 The People of the Parish
 8:30 Cathy Lichtenberger & Mary Schoppmeyer
 10:00 Angelina & Thomas Cilmi
 11:30 Shirley Peterson
 1:00 Arlene Neff
 5:30 Michael Scaretta

Readings For The Week

Mon. 2 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 11-12; Matthew 23:13-22
 Tues. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a, 14-17; Matthew 23:23-26
 Wed. 2 Thessalonians 3:6-10, 16-18; Mark 6:17-29
 Thurs. 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Matthew 24:42-51
 Fri. 1 Corinthians 1:17-25; Matthew 25:1-13
 Sat. 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 25:14-30

Sun. Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 *Moses urged the Israelites to be faithful to the commands of the Lord. They were not to change them in any way but to follow them wisely.*

James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 *In order for God's word to take root, believers must do more than merely listen to it. They must act upon it.*

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 *Jesus said that nothing coming from outside can make a person impure. Rather, it is the evil coming from within that constitutes impurity.*

Our Weekly Sacrificial Gift

Weekly Budgeted: \$17,500.00
8/19/18 Collection: \$15,191.00
Assumption: \$4,483.00
Father Lam: \$6,063.00

Thank you SMT for your generosity!

Reflection & Living Stewardship

In today's reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve. Recalling God's faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, "We also will serve the Lord, for He is our God." We, too, must be mindful of God's gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.

We are grateful this week for all stewards in our parish who choose God and service to our neighbor over every other responsibility, want or ambition as an act of good stewardship.



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Charismatic Prayer Group

I really love that the old house on Central Boulevard is being restored and not torn down. Someone saw the value under the weathered and broken exterior. It's the same with us and God. No matter what our outside looks like, He sees the value inside. He continuously restores us. We live in a disposable world. Lucky for us, God doesn't! Have you thanked Him lately for your restoration? Our prayer group is a good place to start.

Come to our next meeting on Monday, August 27 at 7:30PM in the church. Call 516-993-9672 for more information or prayer requests. All are welcome!

HOP Club Winners

8/20/18 #638 M/M Joseph Romuno \$25
 8/21/18 #340 Rev. Denis Sweeney, CSsR \$25
 8/22/18 #344 James & Anne Hoenig \$25
 8/23/18 #315 Sarah L. Raab \$25
 8/24/18 #460 Suzanne Robertson \$50



Divine Mercy Novena
Every Friday at 2:00 p.m.
in the Eucharistic Chapel
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Wedding Banns

3rd Koji Kakimoto & Lauren Sullivan
 3rd Ryan Reilly & Kate Ryan
 3rd William Descovich & Alexa Baron
 2nd Christopher Szczepaniak & Taylor Coghlan
 2nd Mathias Coni & Jenna Faggione



“Whatever you do for one of these, the least of my sisters and brothers, you did it for me.”

This week, the Pantry is low on: oatmeal packets, white rice, corn, carrots, tomato paste, pasta sauce, canned red beans, bags of lentils, tomato soup, mayonnaise, juice, hot chocolate, Jell-O, pudding, sugar, napkins, tissues, toilet paper, diapers (sizes 5 & 6) **NOTE - Dollar Tree Diapers do not fit**, baby wipes, dish soap and paper towels. Thank you for all you do for those in need.

Parish Outreach Food Pantry:

208 Broadway, Bethpage
 Phone: 516-931-7332
 Monday: 9:30AM - 2:30PM
 Thursday: 2:00PM – 7:00PM

HELP WANTED: On Saturdays to go to Whole Foods and pick up donations for the Pantry. We could use a substitute for when our regular team members are ill or on vacation. If interested, please, call the Pantry at 516 931-7332.



Altar Bread & Wine
Week of Aug 26 - Sept 1, 2018
In Loving Memory of
Francis Donohue

Sanctuary Candle
Week of Aug 26 - Sept 1, 2018
In Loving Memory of
Josephine & Rocco D'Ambrise



REMINDER: Please call the rectory at 931-0818 to remove a name from the list.
Please pray for the sick of our parish:

Leevalli Annearosa, Leigh Murphy, Richard Piernini, Joseph Simon Douglas Torres, James Robertson, Amy Hayes, Mom & Dad, Bill Kelly Matthew Messina, Pat Cannata, Christopher Grattton, Barbara Thompson Donald Castor, Dorothy Quinn, Zachery Duff, Sam Zubov, Patricia Morrone Mary Henson, Mary Lynn Brassil, Brendan Rodriguez, Rebecca Passaro Dot Widyn, Annette Giuliano, Madeline Ciaravino, Nicole Cagna Tom Schuerlein, Katie Walsh, Louise Sandberg, Anthony Luisi Tommy Johnson, Chris & Raymond Mirendia, Florencio Carmenate Mary McCarthy, Karen Kilgard, Ann Marie Frayler, Nicholas Balducci Robert Kennan, Corey Voboril, Baby Scarlett, May Duffey Anna M. Bosco, Janet Medina, Kevin Henson, Marie Newman The Mascia Family, Daniel Costa, Hector Valentine, Theresa DuRoss Bob Baciуска Carol Ann Scudder, John Scudder Justine & Nicole Scudder, Vincent Esposito, Terry Hall Catherine A. McCarthy, Paul Granberg, Elsa Ryan, Sarah Messina William Boyce, Jo Ann Anastos, Michael Arato, Connie Burgess Dolores Miller, Elizabeth Ryan, Layla Barr, Susan Carroll-Goyan Patty & Tom Turano, Nicholas Amato, Jesusa Aquin, Joseph McCroary Richard Graziano, Jean Mulligan, Taylor, Edward Boyce Geraldine Zeterberg, Fran Gandolfo, Fr. Edmund Faliskie CSSR, Tom Doty Joseph & Joyce Kostyak, Johnny D., William Castle, Anthony Della Croce Nicole Carbone, Barbara Rusch, Connie Kane, Beverly Viselli, Casey Betty Mara, Teri Pigott, George Reif, Ed Ingels, Liam Escaniel, Gus Kunze Eddie Morales, Tom Miles, Debra Dowdell, Elizabeth Hill, Louie Gandolfo John Anderson, Daniel McCullough, Mary Lafauci, Gerry Russo Allegra LaFalce, Jessica Czarnecki, Bill Monahan, Maureen Roberts Francis Meehan, Brendan Donahoe, Janet Scarpelli, Andrew McCarthy Alicia Manetta, Baby Lucia Bianchi, Pat James Joseph David Iovieno Robert Daniel, Dorothy Eisenstadt, David Drohan, Martin Lee Ralph Caputo, Kristen Smith, Michael Vigotty, Vinny Vanturini Tom Mitchell, Pat Murphy, Tarabokija Family, Philip Marino Henry Hamilton, Libia & Maria Teresa Valdez, Nancy Gerace Robert Collelouri, Arthur Baudo, Kathy Smith, Samantha McNeill Unborn Identical Twins, Veronica McCarthy-Pigott, Anthony Hanlon Janine, Mary Jedlicka, Pete Moran, Brian John Roe III, Fr. Paul Woods The Kloos Family, Patricia Olive, John Bunker, Jacklyn Baddalucco Yolanda Zitelli, Rose Marie Gaccione, Filomena Rosa, Andrew Bartolozzi Pat Bergersen, Robert, Amy & Richard Ferranti, Bill Veltri Joseph V. Pace, Jr., Justin Turner, Christopher Hehn, Baby Remy Jimmy Rizzo, Thomas Kelly, Peggy Epstein, John Murphy Colette Sin, Al DeBatto, Adeline Norton, Ann Marie Wezel, Jeanie Wilkins Ann Soehngen, Jerry Vega, Ed Segretto, Fred Cameron Ryan Westbrook, Donna Strickland, Anthony Clese, Valerie Haberly The Family of Brendan Langhauser, Helen Kurlowicz, Christine Marsiello Michael M. Durante, Sonny D'Ambrosio, Pasquale Patalano Noelle Eichenlaub, Thomas Triola, Keith Ferrara, Marie Mascia Noelle Buchner, Margaret DeMarco, Robert Amato, Yvonne McDonnell Denise Dolan, The Gallagher Family, Henry Hamilton Terry & John Bunker, Margaret Young, Joan Ferraro, John Lazzara Virginia Gala, Karen Murphy, Catherine Comiskey

Rest in Peace

Acts 7:49: “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”
Kathleen Preziosi, Anna R. Tomasello
Catherine Margaret Schumacher



Ancient Order of Hibernians in America

The "AOH Division 15 Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner Dance"
 Saturday, September 22, 2018, 7PM - 12AM
 Hartigan Manor, 519 Central Avenue, Bethpage NY 11714
 \$75 per person



Cocktail hour, followed by a sit-down dinner. Open bar included. Entertainment provided by Harpers Ferry and performances by the Inishfree Irish Step Dancers and the Tara Pipes and Drums. 50/50 raffle sold at the dance and any Friday night at the Hall. NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR. Send your payment in early to any one of the dance co-chairs:

Jim Wall, 300 First Ave.
 Massapequa Park 11762
 516 220-0976

John Nolan, 3398 Lufberry Ave.
 Wantagh 11793
 516 650-1437

Mike Greene, 143 N Linden St.
 Massapequa 11758
 516 798-0460

On a special edition of *Encounter*, Bishop John Barres will discuss Pope Francis' recent letter to the People of God and our diocese's response to the challenges put forth affecting the life and mission of our Church. This special program will air on Telecare beginning on Sunday, August 26th at 8PM. Other air times include: Monday at 10:30AM and 5PM; Tuesday at 8PM; Wednesday at 10:30AM and 10:30PM; Thursday at 11:30AM and 5:30PM; Friday at 9AM and 7:30PM and Saturday at 7:30AM and 6:30PM.

Telecare can be seen on Cablevision channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, Spectrum channel 162/471. A link to this episode of *Encounter* will also be available at DRVC.org, LICatholic.org and diocesan social media platforms. All are encouraged to view this important program.

Liturgical Ministry Training

Please consider becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. St. Martin's is in need of more parishioners to volunteer for this extremely vital ministry. Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance and discernment. Thank you!

SESSION A: Required for all Extraordinary Ministers and must be taken before Session B.

SESSION B: In addition to Session A for those who minister in hospitals, nursing homes or to the homebound.

The pastor must send a letter to Bishop Barres requesting the training for each person attending. Please be sure to write to Father Pat stating your desire to become an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. In your letter please stipulate if you wish to serve in church only (Session A) or if you would like to serve in hospitals, nursing homes or the homebound (Sessions A & B). Also state the date(s) you plan to attend training. See choices below.

SESSION A: FOR ALL EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS

NASSAU - OCTOBER 27, 2018 - ST. AGNES PARISH CENTER, ROCKVILLE CENTRE 9AM - 1PM

SUFFOLK - OCTOBER 6, 2018 - ST. ROSALIE, HAMPTON BAYS 9AM - 1PM

EVENING - OCTOBER 15, 2018 - ST. ELIZABETH, MELVILLE 7PM - 10PM

SESSION B: FOR HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, HOMEBOUND MINISTERS

NASSAU - NOVEMBER 3, 2018 - ST. AGNES PARISH CENTER, ROCKVILLE CENTRE 9AM - 1PM

SUFFOLK - OCTOBER 13, 2018 - ST. ROSALIE, HAMPTON BAYS 9AM - 1PM

EVENING - OCTOBER 22, 2018 - ST. ELIZABETH, MELVILLE 7PM - 10PM

REGULAR BOOK CLUB

Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger
Discussion Meeting Friday, September 21st
7:30 p.m. St. Alphonsus Hall

SPIRITUAL BOOK CLUB

The Lamb's Supper by Scott Hahn
Discussion Meeting Friday, September 28th
7:30 p.m. St. Alphonsus Hall

**Eucharistic Adoration**

EVERY TUESDAY 3PM - 7:30PM
in the Eucharistic Chapel

Please check the
Upcoming Events
for any change to the hours.

Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity (CMRC)*Welcome Back Night*

On Tuesday, September 4th at 7PM (note new time), we will have a general meeting to celebrate our Blessed Mother's Birthday followed by our Welcome Back Gift Swap. Please bring a "new" wrapped gift worth \$10. Refreshments will be served.

We will be collecting \$12 dues and enrolling new members for the October investiture.

Any woman wishing to see what CMRC is all about are most welcome to come and join in the festivities. Please speak to Mary Colavolpe at 495-4408 or Janet Dion at 433-9340. They will be happy to help! Our dues are \$12 per year.

COMING SOON!

LIFE TEEN will soon be starting up with their Life Nights after the 5:30PM Mass. Our schedule so far:

- **SUNDAY, SEPT. 16TH: 8th GRADERS**, after the 5:30 Mass, please sign up for community service projects in preparation for confirmation in 2019.
- **SUNDAY, SEPT. 23RD: KICK OFF!** We will begin another year of Life Nights for all high school teens. We are planning a great year ahead. More information to follow.

Please join us at the 5:30PM Mass every Sunday to worship and praise our Lord Jesus. For any questions, please contact Diana.

Diana Hughes, Youth Minister & the Life Teen Core Team
SMT_lifeteen@yahoo.com



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS RELIGIOUS ED AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27, 2018
10AM - 5PM SCHOOL CAFETERIA

**Vendors Wanted - \$25 per table
(table & chairs provided)**

**Vendors, please email
smtcraftfair@gmail.com to reserve a table**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS NEEDED

St. Martin of Tours Religious Education is in need of volunteers to teach children in our program from grades 1 to 8. Please contact Patricia Ryan at pryan@smtbethpage.org or Laura Leigh Agnese at llagnese@smtbethpage.org. Their phone number is 822-9768. Classes will begin in early October. They will give you all the information you need to get you started.

THE PILGRIM VIRGIN



There is a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima in our midst. For many years Helen Kurlowicz has taken care of the statue and brought her to many homes to spend a week with the families.

We are now in need of a custodian to transport the statue to the homes of those wanting a week or a month with Our Lady as well as bring the statue to church on special Marian feast days. Anyone interested in helping, please call Betty Croan at 516-681-5678.



Join Bishop John Barres as he celebrates a Special Mass to welcome the First-Class Relics of **ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA**, the Apostle of Divine Mercy and **BLESSED FR. MICHAEL SOPOCKO**, her confessor.



Sunday, September 16th at 3PM at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 24 Westminister Road, West Hempstead.

FOR HELP IN A CRISIS PREGNANCY

Call Diana Hart Mirando
(C) 830-5077 (H) 605-1979

ROSELINE LIFE CENTER 24 HOURS 631-243-2373

PROJECT RACHEL

WWW.HOPEAFTERABORTION.COM

Baby Safe Haven, Safe Babies, Safe Place
at 1 (877) 796-HOPE
Adoption, Foster Care

Maternity Services Catholic Home Bureau
1 (800) 592-4357

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE
1-800-4-Child or 1 800-422-4453



August 24 - 30, 2018
A candle has been lit for
The D. Avanzo & Reardon Family
In honor of St. Anne

August 24 - 30, 2018

A candle has been lit for
The Gambino Family
In honor of St. Therese of Lisieux



August 24 - 30, 2018

A candle has been lit for
Marie & Tom
In honor of St. Peregrine



St. Vincent de Paul Store Locations:

2160 Jericho Turnpike, Garden City Park NY
(516) 746-8250
(enter New Hyde Park if you use GPS)
OPEN MON-SAT 10-6

1705 Jericho Turnpike, Huntington NY
(631) 858-0380
OPEN MON-SAT 10-6

To arrange furniture, clothing, cars and other donated materials for pick-up, please call (516) 746-8250 (Nassau) or 1 800 884-7837 (Suffolk). You can also visit on line at <http://www.svdprvc.org/thrift-stores.html>. Follow the links. St. Vincent de Paul will review your donation request.

MOMMAS HOUSE

MOMMAS HOUSE is a home for young women who are pregnant, homeless and alone. The young women are between 18 and 24 years old

While at MOMMAS, the young women will complete their education or vocational training. The babies are cared for by the staff and volunteers at MOMMAS House.

For more information, call 516 781-8637 or go to the website: www.mommashouse.org

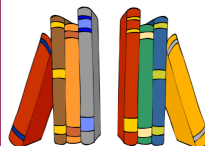
LIVING WATERS CATHOLIC COUNSELING

www.livingwaterscounseling.biz

Campus of St. Elizabeth's Church
175 Wolf Hill Road, Melville NY 11747
Tel: 631-754-3990/Fax: 631-271-0914

PARISH LIBRARY

Hours: Mondays after 12PM - 3PM; Tuesday - Saturday from 9:30AM until 3:00PM.



Instead of using the Seaman Avenue entrance, please come to the rectory and ask for the key to the side door of St. Alphonsus Hall.



SMT Parish Block Party
Friday, September 14th starting 6PM
Food - Family - Fun

We are looking for raffle prizes and welcome:

gift cards, baskets of cheer, tickets to sporting events (even Yankee tickets are accepted), or theatre tickets. (Pictures of Hamilton, Grant and Franklin are also welcome - even George Washington!) Please drop off donations at the rectory. If you would like to help with the block party, please contact Father Pat at woodscsr@aol.com or call the rectory at 931-0818.

September is PAD and Atrial Fibrillation Awareness Month

Atrial fibrillation is the most common type of irregular heartbeat and is a leading risk factor for stroke. Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) is a vascular condition related to heart disease and stroke. What do they both have in common? They are both detectable with simple, painless screening.

This is why St Martin of Tours Parish St Alphonsus Hall is hosting Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings on Friday, September 14, 2018. The screenings provided focus on vascular disease, including atrial fibrillation and peripheral arterial disease.

Other tests check for abdominal aortic aneurysms and PAD, also called "hardening of the arteries" in the legs. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women. Many events also offer blood tests, including cholesterol, glucose and c-reactive protein screenings, as well as take-home colon cancer early detection tests.

Screening packages start at \$139. Single tests cost around \$70. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call **1-888-653-6441** or go to www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or **text** the word **circle** to **797979**. Pre-registration is required.

There will be a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament on **Tuesday August 28th from 3:00 - 4:00PM** followed by Eucharistic Adoration in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.



PLEASE PRAY CONSTANTLY FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Lord of Hosts, we commend to Your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with Your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils that beset them; and grant them Your abiding presence wherever they may be. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



MAJ Gregory Holownia, US Army
 MAJ Erika Holownia, US Army
 SGT Zachary John Sheehy, USMC
 PVT Travis Ruggiero, US Army
 SGT Dennis Diesel, USMC
 SGT Matthew P. Sirianni, US Army
 CPT Conor B. Murphy, USMC
 CPT Victoria Meyer, US Army Nurse Corp
 PO1 John Paul Pedalino II, US Navy
 CPT Thomas P. Shea, USAF
 SGT Michael John Kelly, USMC
 1LT Brian McGrath, US Army
 SPC Matthew Castellano, US Army
 SGT Michael Patrick Murphy, US Army
 CPL William Corrigan, USMC
 PFC Salvatore Battiata, USAF
 LT Daniel Cloonan, USCG
 PVT Daniel Kuhlmann, US Army
 LCPL Jonathan M. Gordon, USMC
 2LT Sean O'Donnell, USAF
 A1C Jake DeRossi, USAF
 CPT Mike Polan, US Army
 L/CPL Daniel O'Shea, USMC

SGT Matthew C. Windisch, USMC
 E3 CORPSMAN Robert Fidnarick, US Navy
 1LT Brian Thorpe, US Navy
 PO3 Joshua Zimmerman, US Navy
 MAJ Brendan McEvoy, US Army
 SPC Matthew F. Mayerhofer, US Army
 PO3 James Fischer, US Navy
 LTC John Evans, US Army
 ABHAA Michael Creagh, US Navy
 PVT Steven DiPaolo, USMC
 SSGT Sean V. Oliva, US Army
 2LT Samantha Lopez, US Navy
 SSG George Howard, US Army
 LT Mario Lopes, USMC
 PVT Brian Barcavage, US Army
 CS1 Andrew L. DeMarsico, USN
 MAJ Thomas E. Mangiamele, US Army
 PVT Edward Morales, US Army
 MAJ Michael F. Wendelken, USAF
 PVT John Marcel, Jr USMC
 LCPL Brendan M. White, USMC
 PFC Clint Applegate, US Army
 CPT Patrick C. Looney USAF
 CPL Ryan O'Keeffe, USMC



St. Gerard Majella, CSsR is a very popular saint of the Catholic Church as the special patron of those who are seeking to get pregnant or adopt and those who are pregnant and praying for a safe delivery. He is a Redemptorist, the same religious community that has served here at St. Martin's for the past thirty years.

As you know, we have a beautiful icon of St. Gerard in our prayer area of our church. You are welcome to ask any of the priests or deacon for a blessing with the St. Gerard relic if you are seeking to become pregnant, adopt or are pregnant.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Retrouvaille Weekend: September 7-9, 2018. To register, please call 1-800-470-2230. Location: Immaculate Conception, 440 W Neck Rd, Huntington. 11743.

The next weekends are Nov 16-18, 2018 in Huntington, NY and Feb 8-10, 2019 in Huntington, NY.

For more information, call John & Toni Torio at 877-697-9963 or visit them at <http://www.wwmeli.org>.

ATTENTION: 2018-2019 CYO Boys and Girls Basketball Registration for Grades 3 - 8: Wed, Sept 5th & Thurs, Sept 6th in the school cafeteria from 7:00 - 9:00PM. FEES: \$170 for one child, \$295 for two children; \$345 for three children. Checks are made payable to ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CYO. Please bring your child to the registration for fitting. Uniforms are a separate fee to be determined. GIRLS SEASON: mid-Sept to early Jan. BOYS SEASON: mid-Oct through March. For more info, contact Dave Fantry at dfantry@drvc.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 27: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Aug 28: Holy Hour 3-4PM followed by Adoration in the Chapel
- Aug 29: Parish discussion on scandal 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Sept 1: First Saturday Devotions 8:30AM Church
- Sept 3: Labor Day 9AM Mass only. Office is closed.
- Sept 4: Christian Mothers Rosary Confraternity Gift Swap Meeting 7PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Sept 5: Charismatic Prayer Group 7:30PM Church
- Sept 5 & 6: CYO Basketball Registration 7-9PM School Cafeteria
- Sept 7: First Friday Devotions 7PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Sept 14: Life Line Screening St. Alphonsus Hall
- Sept 14: Parish Block Party 6PM School Parking Lot
- Sept 18: St. Padre Pio Holy Hour 7:30PM Eucharistic Chapel
- Sept 24: Regular Book Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall
- Sept 28: Spiritual Book Club 7:30PM St. Alphonsus Hall

