

“And Who Is My Neighbor?”

I lost my only brother in June 2012. I went home (Nigeria) for the burial and it was really a very difficult time. It was extra difficult because of the requirements that had to be met for the village and the parish to participate in his funeral and burial rites. I desperately needed help from my priest and religious friends - their presence and participation. Ironically, it was one priest that I never expected to show up that, not only showed up, but also became my backbone; while the one I expected, and actually asked to be there for me never showed up. It was sadly revealing.

In this week's gospel (Lk 10:25-37), we hear once more the familiar story of the Good Samaritan. He was the unexpected sinner who turned out to be the true believer - through his great act of kindness and practical love. The ones that professed their love for God and their neighbor, the ones supposed to actually spring into action became no-shows and empty gongs.

Looking back, I know I have failed others in the past, even after promising my love and support. Most probably, you've been there before too. And others have failed you too.

The first reading (Deuteronomy 10:10-14) is one of my favorites because it makes absolute sense and is so comforting, and challenging. We (human beings) mostly know what God requires of us. It is written in our hearts, right in the depth of our being. No one can claim that he/she does not know what to do. The problem, our biggest problem, is actually doing that which we know we ought to do.

One comment, a wonderful one, I've heard so much, is how St. Bart's is a parish where we care for one another. Every parish strives to be that to everyone who steps into their parish. I am proud of what you, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Daniel, and the previous pastors and their associates have accomplished over the years. I'm happy and excited that I'll be (or better, have become) part of such a caring community. More than that, because no one is perfect, and no parish is perfect, I look forward to ways we can continue to work with God to perfect the good work He is doing in and among us, as individuals, as families, and as a faith family.

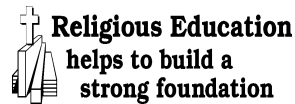
Every priest comes into a parish with his unique gifts, talents and experiences, and of course weaknesses. I pray God will use mine (minus the weaknesses) to further His purpose for each of you, your families and the parish as a whole.

We're all on a spiritual journey to God. I desire to walk with each of you and with you as a parish, as best as I can. I hope you will walk with me too. Our goal: to grow closer to one another, to God and to home, that is heaven.

Let's take each other's hands and continue our journey of faith, and together we shall arrive at our home, and our joy will be complete.

Rev. Raphael Ezech, MSP

PARISH NEWS



Religious Education helps to build a strong foundation

Registration for Religious Education classes for public school children, running September through June, is open. Classes are available for children in 1st grade through High School senior year, including those with Special Education needs. Classes are available to prepare children of all ages for the sacraments of Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation, regardless of any lack of previous instruction. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.

If you or someone you know needs information on the Catholic Faith or have not been confirmed, please call the Religious Education Office for information on the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (R.C.I.A.) in our parish.



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help advertise our Religious Education Program in the community by distributing flyers on your street or contacting a business that might display a flyer in their window. Please contact Cheryl Duda (476-6676).

THE HOMEBOUND: St. Bartholomew's Parish wishes to show our love and care for our members who for reasons of health or infirmity cannot be with us as we gather for Mass each week. Our aim is for all parishioners who are homebound, permanently or temporarily, to be visited by a Priest and/or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion on a regular basis.

Often we will hear of someone who is homebound and has not been receiving the Eucharist for a long time, although this individual may have been, during healthier times, a very devout Catholic. Often we will hear that the person didn't want to "bother anyone" or "put anyone out." Often these individuals become our "hidden Catholics" and we sometimes don't learn of them until years later when we celebrate their funeral liturgy.

We want our sick and homebound to know they are valued members of our parish and we want to bring Jesus to them. **However, we need your help.** These individuals are often hidden in our community and only a neighbor knows of their presence. Please help by personally contacting those homebound Catholics whom you know of and telling them of our availability and deep desire to bring the Eucharist to them. We are flexible and very willing to work around their personal needs and schedules. If you know of a homebound Catholic who would like to receive the Eucharist please contact Cheryl Duda of the Liturgy Committee on 476-6676 or the Rectory on 965-0566.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE - MONDAY, JULY 29TH

A showing of the movie, *Courageous*
Watch for details next weekend

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." For those married, our closest neighbor is our spouse. For the religious, it is those served in their vocation. Let Worldwide Marriage Encounter help you more fully live your calling. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is August 9 – 11. For more information go to: www.wwme.org or call toll free: (877) 697-9963, ext. 3.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter's mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples and priests to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic "experience" and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

ADOPTION OPPORTUNITY: Baby girls in China need homes. Infants and toddlers are available. Older parents and single women are welcomed. For more information call Barbara Salvesen on (845) 623-5277.

CATHOLIC WIDOWS & WIDOWERS OF YONKERS will hold their monthly meeting at **7:15 p.m.** on **Monday, July 15th**, in Father Anthony Hall, next to St. Ann's Big Church, 31 College Place, Yonkers. **New Members are welcome.** For more information, please call (914) 476-4436.

ALTAR SERVER NEWS



We welcome and thank our new altar servers, Brittney Arzola, Kavia Garayua, Nyia Garayua, Luis Pastor III, and Jarilyn Rodriguez for their willingness to serve our parish in this ministry.

The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, July 17th, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 on the 1st floor of St. John's Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

The first and third Sunday evening of each month immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass, our Youth Group meets in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

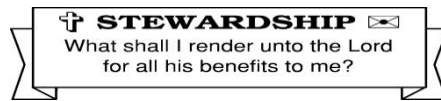


MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us when you are able.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays.



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

July 8, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5332.85
Children's Contribution	\$61.10
Last Year's Total	\$5393.95

July 7, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$5660.15
Children's Contribution	\$29.05
This Year's Total	\$5689.20

The 2nd Collection for the maintenance of our buildings and grounds totaled \$1241.25.

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH


Remember, *"We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share."* Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkovicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Brucculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, Neil Cawley, Barbara McCormack, and Alice Jacob

2014 MASS BOOK IS OPEN

The Mass Book for 2014 opened on Ash Wednesday and there are still many dates open in this year's Mass Book, as well. Consider giving a loved one or someone (living or deceased) who has a special place in your life the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. You may have a thanksgiving Mass offered for your loved ones or for yourself on such occasions as birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc. Also, you may consider offering the altar flowers, altar bread and wine, altar candles, or sanctuary lamp for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Stan Buoninfante.  *Rest in Peace*

JULY 14, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 13 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Teresina & Giovanni Brusco +

Sunday, July 14

8:30 AM Lorenzo Marchionno +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Deceased Members of Gennaro DelBene family +

5:00 PM Sister Maria Cira+

Monday, July 15

Saint Bonaventure, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM Maura Power +

9:00 AM Guiseppe Pisacreta +

Tuesday, July 16

Weekday

7:00 AM Nicolantonio & Carmela Romagnoli +

9:00 AM Carmine Nicholas Maccia +

Wednesday, July 17

Weekday

7:00 AM Kathleen & Andrew Gmitter +

9:00 AM Stephan & Regina Halay +

Thursday, July 18

Weekday

7:00 AM Alexander Trancynger +

9:00 AM Margaret & Michael Hickey +

Friday, July 19

Weekday

7:00 AM Richard Gmitter +

9:00 AM Stephen Hickey +

Saturday, July 20

Weekday

9:00 AM Mary McClave +

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, July 20 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Mary Brewus +

Sunday, July 21

8:30 AM Margaret Manning +

10:00 AM Charles & Stefana Barba +

11:30 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

JULY 14, 2013

A NOTE FROM OUR FORMER PASTOR

My Dearest Friends,

I know that by the time you read this message it will be exactly two weeks to the date since I celebrated my last Mass as your pastor on June 29, 2013. At the reception that followed the Mass, one of our longtime parishioners asked me, "Father Anthony, did you know that these many people love you?" I never wanted to take your love for granted. I know very well that very many of you love me; and I love you all.

As most of you can testify, the turnout for the farewell Mass and reception was impressive to say the least. It was a bitter-sweet experience for me and for very many of you. There were tears in our eyes, but the most important thing is that we had fun together. It was a night I will always be thankful for. First and foremost, I thank the Almighty God for bringing me into the wonderful family of St. Bartholomew's. I thank you for your outpouring of love. I am grateful to you for the beautiful cards, the generous gifts and the delicious foods prepared with love by many of you. Thank you all for the warmth you showed, the tight hugs and the loving kisses. I miss you all!

On a very special note, I thank the planning committee who put so much effort into planning and executing, with such perfection, the events of the night. Thank you to Richard Califano and the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and its committees. Thank you to Jack Bilancia and the members of the Finance Committee, and the various choirs. I am grateful to Joan Liddell and the ladies of the Rosary Altar Society. Dan Panik, I am grateful to you and all the men of the Holy Name Society. You guys must know that even though I have lost my position as your Moderator, I am a member for life! My sincere thanks go to Father Daniel, Ellen Chimenti, Kelly Foley, Maggie Cruz, Laurie Reardon and all the people who worked with our parish Youth Group as they prepared for the ceremony. Their performance was indeed touching. My thanks go to the AMSP members for their creativity and their generous gifts.

I reserve my special thanks to Louise Bolduc and the Social Ministry Committee for paying attention to details and for making sure that we all had a fun night to remember. Thank you to Cheryl Russo and her daughter, Gina Tummolo, who beautifully decorated and adorned the hall for the event. I am grateful to all the groups and individuals who donated time, talent and treasure toward a successful farewell party. I am so very proud of all of you. Since I do not yet have the video recording of the night's event, I have been proudly showing my family and friends the pictures that were taken that night, thanks to Louise who did such a great job.

Finally, I pray God to bless and reward you abundantly for your love and compassion. Welcome to your new pastor, Father Raphael Ezech, MSP. Please, keep us in your prayers, and rest assured that you will always be in my thoughts and prayers. My biological family sends their love and greetings to you all.

Sincerely yours in the love of Christ and Mary,
Father Anthony Ita Basse, MSP

