

COMFORT VERSUS AFFLICTION

I have heard the beautiful saying “Comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable” many times; and I love it. I didn’t think it came from Jesus or that it was scriptural, but for some reason I kept looking for it in the bible. Finally, I decided to Goggle it. I found out that it had been attributed to many people over the years, but was originally expressed by the author and

humorist Finley Peter Dunne.

Anyhow, it sounds so scriptural and although Jesus never put it that way, His teachings and ministry are simply about comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable in His days. Today, He calls us, His followers, to continue this ministry of comfort and affliction.

In the first reading from Jeremiah 38:4-10, we encounter the great prophet who had to deliver an uncomfortable message from God to King Zedekiah, King of Judah. The message was that to save Jerusalem and the Israelites, the King must surrender to Babylon or risk being destroyed by the Babylonian and Chaldean armies. It was an uncomfortable message and would bring a lot of discomfort to the comfortable King, his family, and nobles. So rather than listen to the warning and directive from God, the King, his sons, and nobles had Jeremiah locked up in jail. Jerusalem was finally destroyed.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us that He came to set the earth on fire and that He did not come to establish peace on earth, but rather division (Luke 12:49-53). We will be wrong to take this literally, especially when we consider passages like Luke 9:54, where James and John wanted Him to call down fire and brimstone on a Samaritan village. He rebuked them. In the Garden of Gethsemane when Peter struck out at a Temple Guard, Jesus ordered him to put his sword back in its place (Matthew 26:52). Yet He constantly challenged the comfortable religious and political leaders. His challenge afflicted them in no small measures. He was a thorn in their flesh; that ultimately led to their seeking the death sentence on Him - to get rid of Him and have their ‘peace of mind’.

Not much has really changed in terms of the comfortable and the afflicted in Jesus’ times and our modern society. Many in our world today who should be ashamed and uncomfortable in what they do and who they have become are very comfortable and set in their ways. Anyone who speaks the truth to them becomes the enemy, a thorn in the flesh. On the other hand, there are millions around the world who are afflicted in various ways, spiritually, economically, socially, morally, emotionally, culturally, physically, who need comfort.

When we talk of ‘million around the world,’ our mind travel to distant places or countries. But in a very practical way, if we look or observe closely, we will see people in both categories around us and among us. They may even be in our family or circle of friends. We may even be one of them.

Jesus calls us to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable in season and out of season, no matter who is involved, no matter the cost. May we be given the grace to do as He asks us. Amen.

~ Father Raphael Ezeh, MSP



PARISH NEWS




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.

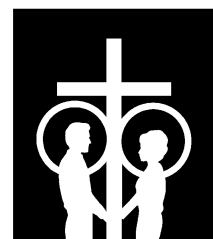
OUR PARISH R.C.I.A. PROGRAM

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



The **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** will meet this Wednesday, August 21st, at 7 p.m. in Room 111 of St. John’s Riverside Hospital, 967 North Broadway, Yonkers, for education & support to help cope with cancer. Call (914) 964-4441 for information.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER



“I have come to set the earth on fire” Rekindle the fire in your Marriage on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. There are upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends in September and November. **For more information call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wmearchny.org.**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter’s mission of renewal in the Church and change in the world is to assist couples to live fully intimate and responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic “experience” and ongoing community support for such a life style.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially Alfred Falcone and Edith Dugan.



Rest in Peace

If we have loved well while we were alive, there is life after death here - our love will go on for generations.

~ Most Reverend Desmond Tutu,
Former Anglican Archbishop of Cape Town

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CANONIZATION OF POPES JOHN PAUL II & JOHN XXIII

The news media have published a lot of speculation recently about the canonization of Blessed John Paul II. Here is the latest information:

- Pope Francis has signed decrees for the canonization of both popes.
- Fr. Lombardi of the Vatican Press Office announced that the two popes will likely be canonized during the same ceremony.
- A special Consistory of Cardinals will determine the logistics and is expected to convene in September.
- Fr Lombardi expressed the opinion that the canonizations will occur before the end of the year. The most likely dates appear to be Sunday, November 24th (Christ the King), or Sunday, December 8th (Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary).

The Catholic Tour is a 33 year old Catholic Travel Apostolate and has been able to secure only 100 air seats and hotel beds for the upcoming Canonization of Popes John XXIII and John Paul II departing; Newark JFK, Boston, and Miami. The pilgrimage pricing will be under \$3,000.00, which includes your transatlantic airfare, hotel, most meals, tour escort, deluxe motor coach, and all airline fees and taxes. Come and be part of this once in a lifetime event and see our new Holy Father Pope Francis on your historic visit to the Seat of Our Church in Rome, Italy.

Please contact Martha Crowley of Catholic Tours if you would like to be notified prior to the general public. You can be called or e-mailed.

Please call or visit The Catholic Tour toll free at 1 877-627-4268 or simply e-mail mcrowley@thecatholictour.com for further information and to be notified before all others.

Frank Conroy Basketball Camp

Teaches the Fundamentals of Basketball

August 19-23 8:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Boys & Girls Ages 6-14

Holy Trinity Church, New Rochelle

Call Coach Conroy at (914) 980-0820

Register online at www.conroybasketballcamp.com



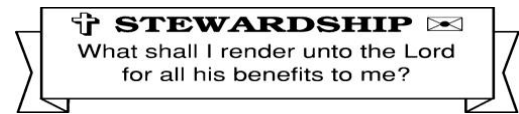
The Youth Group is taking a summer break; therefore, the next meeting will be **Sunday, September 15th**, following the 5 p.m. Mass, in the McManus Parish Center. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

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

August 12, 2012

Adults' Contribution	\$5459.75
Children's Contribution	\$100.60
Last Year's Total	\$5560.35

August 11, 2013

Adults' Contribution	\$5236.00
Children's Contribution	\$30.50
This Year's Total	\$5266.50

The second collection in support of the Home Missions and the Church in Latin America totaled \$833.90.

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 Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Donna Vasconez, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, 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, Josephine Lehotyak, and Father Raphael Ezech, MSP.

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.

AUGUST 18, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 17 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Frances Swetz +

Sunday, August 18

8:30 AM Elizabeth Laredo +

10:00 AM For All the People of Our Parish

11:30 AM Benjamin & Corazon Sotto +

5:00 PM Radames & Luis Angel Blanco

Monday, August 19

Weekday

7:00 AM Martin Clarke +

9:00 AM James Anthony Kosar +

Tuesday, August 20

Saint Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church

7:00 AM John Peter Joyce +

9:00 AM John Sheehan +

Wednesday, August 21

Saint Pius X, Pope

7:00 AM Seamus Finnerty +

9:00 AM Gene DelBene +

Thursday, August 22

Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 AM Sister Mary Albert Lilly, S.C. +

9:00 AM Mary Ann Berenguer +

Friday, August 23

Weekday

7:00 AM Gloria Frost +

9:00 AM Dennis Politi +

Saturday, August 24

Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

9:00 AM Costanza Stangarone +

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 24 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM For All the People of Our Parish

Sunday, August 25

8:30 AM Carl Dietze, Robert & Chester Rodesky +

10:00 AM Frank & Carmela Legio +

11:30 AM Carmela & Frank Legio +

5:00 PM Anthony Laino +

AUGUST 18, 2013

**FEAST OF THE PATRON SAINT OF OUR
PARISH, BARTHOLOMEW THE APOSTLE**

AUGUST 24



In the New Testament, Bartholomew is mentioned only in the lists of the apostles. Some scholars identify him with Nathanael, a man of Cana in Galilee who was summoned to Jesus by Philip. Jesus paid him a great compliment: "Here is a true Israelite. There is no duplicity in him"

(John 1:47b). When Nathanael asked how Jesus knew him, Jesus said: "I saw you under the fig tree" (John 1:48b). Whatever amazing revelation this involved, it brought Nathanael to exclaim, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel" (John 1:49b). But Jesus countered with, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this" (John 1:50b).

Nathanael did see greater things. He was one of those to whom Jesus appeared on the shore of the Sea of Tiberias after His resurrection (see John 21:1-14). They had been fishing all night without success. In the morning, they saw someone standing on the shore though no one knew it was Jesus. He told them to cast their net again, and they made so great a catch that they could not haul the net in. Then John cried out to Peter, "It is the Lord."

When they brought the boat to shore, they found a fire burning, with some fish laid on it and some bread. Jesus asked them to bring some of the fish they had caught, and invited them to come and eat their meal. John relates that although they knew it was Jesus, none of the apostles presumed to inquire who He was. This, John notes, was the third time Jesus appeared to the apostles.

COMMENT: Bartholomew or Nathanael? We are confronted again with the fact that we know almost nothing about most of the apostles. Yet the unknown ones were also foundation stones, the twelve pillars of the new Israel whose twelve tribes now encompass the whole earth. Their personalities were secondary (without thereby being demeaned) to their great office of bearing tradition from their firsthand experience, speaking in the name of Jesus, putting the Word made flesh into human words for the enlightenment of the world. Their holiness was not an introverted contemplation of their status before God.

The simple fact is that humanity is totally meaningless unless God is its total concern. Then humanity, made holy with God's own holiness, becomes the most precious creation of God.

From *Saint of the Day*, edited by Leonard Foley, O.F.M., & Pat McCloskey, O.F.M.

We will celebrate the feast day of the patron saint of our parish at the 9 a.m. Mass on Saturday. Please, endeavor to join us as we commend our parish to the kind patronage of Saint Bartholomew.

