

## THE FAITH OF SERVICE

Isaiah 53:10-11; Psalm 33:4-5, 18-22; Heb. 4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45

You probably remember that last Sunday's gospel called for a total renunciation! You may have done everything well - going to Mass - receiving sacraments - keeping most of the commandments. But, possibly, there is a life-style you are maintaining or choices you make that are in conflict with Christian values; the Lord Jesus says, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have...and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." Discipleship demands total renunciation if you and I want to have eternal life in God's kingdom. Following Christ demands total commitment - total dependency on God's love - it demands total trust in God. It requires faith! Thus, Jesus reiterated, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."

When the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, proclaimed the "Year of Faith," he observed that it will give renewed energy to the Church in its mission to lead Catholics "out of the desert they are often in" and will propel them toward a renewed appreciation of their own faith, "a deeper relationship with God and a strengthening of their commitment to joyfully share their faith with others." It is the hope of the Holy Father that every Catholic would willingly and joyfully share his or her faith, a free gift from God, with others. You have received freely, and you must give freely!

Sadly, Christianity has become a "religion of convenience" for many Catholics. Some have grown lazy in the practice of their faith. In an attempt to try to address the philosophy of contingency and laxity toward religion, the Pope challenges us to live out our faith in every circumstance. For him, "Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy." He further cautioned Catholics not to "grow lazy in faith." Because when we grow lazy in the practice of our faith, we will depend less on God, trust Him less and become more self-centered. When you and I have grown lazy in faith, we might become ambitious like the Disciples, James and John, who approached Jesus with a selfish request, "Grant that in Your glory we may sit one at Your right and the other at Your left." When the victory was won, the battle was over, and the triumph was complete, they were looking forward to being at the top two posts of Jesus' cabinet. Their request tells us they had completely failed to understand Jesus and His mission of selfless service. For them, the essence of following Christ was not for service and self-sacrifice, but for immediate or future rewards. They needed assurances that they will receive *remuneration* for their services. They wanted places of honor. You and I must learn to be true followers of Christ by being active in our faith - generously donating our time, talent, and treasure without "counting cost." We must give of ourselves until it hurts. We must never cease to be active in faith even when it asks us for "total commitment and renunciation."

Surely, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you." For you and me the essence of our vocation is not for reward, but it is for service. The heart of Christian sacrifices is not for honor, status or recognition. No matter what the politicians or the secular media might say to the contrary, the Christian vocation demands sacrifice and self-giving. It requires a faith that is active and a conscience that is alive. Christ did not come to be served but to serve and so must you!

*Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP*



# PARISH NEWS




"Remember those who have gone before us..."

**NOVENA MASSES FOR ALL SOULS:** Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, is All Souls day. We will have a 9-day novena of Masses for all our departed loved ones. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered at these Masses, kindly fill out the "All Souls" envelope found in your envelope packet or on the tables at the rear of the Church, include your stipend, and drop it in the Collection basket or bring it to the Rectory during the week.

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL:** The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting will take place this Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend.



**ALTAR FLOWERS** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Fiore Brusco by Louis & Angela Brusco.

The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE**, **ALTAR CANDLES** and **SANCTUARY LAMP** for the week have been donated in loving memory of Fiore Brusco by Louis & Angela Brusco.



**HAVE YOU PRAYED YOUR ROSARY TODAY?** This month of October is the "Month of the Holy Rosary!" We are encouraged to say at least a decade of the Rosary in honor of our Blessed Mother, Mary, requesting her intercession for our needs and the needs of the whole world. If you need literature on how to pray the Rosary or you need a Rosary, please feel free to call our Religious Education Office for help at (914) 476-6676.



Registration for **Religious Education Classes** for public school children is open. Classes are available for children in Pre-K through High School, including those with Special Education needs. **All Catholic children attending public schools should enroll in a religious education program.** Please call (476-6676) for more information.



*Next Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, there will be a short Inscription Ceremony for our Confirmation candidates at the 11:30 a.m. Mass.*



Two of our long-time devoted and committed parishioners, **Tom and Dorothy Conroy** are moving to Croton-on-Hudson this Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, after 43 years here at St. Bartholomew's Parish. We send them

off with our prayers and wishes for good health and happiness in their new community. They will be sorely missed especially at the 8:30 a.m. Mass which they faithfully attended or the past four decades! May God bless you both!!

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness ...*

Be strengthened in your marriage/holy orders on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend, November 16 - 18. For more information call toll free 1-877 697-9963, ext.3 or visit [www.wwmearchny.org](http://www.wwmearchny.org)



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 & responsible relationships by providing them with a Catholic experience and ongoing community support for such a lifestyle.

**FAMILY FAITH FESTIVAL – NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**



Our next Family Faith Festival for families with school age children will be held on **Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Reservations are required. If you have not already done so, please call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) immediately.

**KEEPING CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**

The Religious Education office will be sponsoring a Christmas Card Fundraiser in the Parish this year. The cards have really beautiful, religious, full color artwork; and the box of 20 assorted cards will be sold for only \$10. This fundraiser offers you the opportunity to both promote our Faith and support our Parish faith formation programs. Cards will go on sale in November.

**YOUTH GROUP:** The first 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.

**EUCHARISTIC 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**

**October 16, 2011**

Adults' Contribution	\$4707.05
Children's Contribution	\$200.05
<b>Last Year's Total</b>	<b>\$4907.10</b>

**October 14, 2012**

Adults' Contribution	\$5725.00
Children's Contribution	\$205.00
<b>This Year's Total</b>	<b>\$5930.00</b>

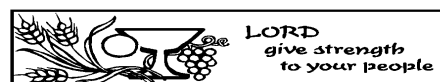
*"The true purpose of tithing is to secure not the tithe, but the tither; not the gift, but the giver; not your money, but you... for God."*

**Thank you** to all those who are participating in our tithing program! **May God bless and reward your sacrifices! For those who are not yet tithing, I encourage you to please give it a prayerful thought. Thanks!**

**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!*

The Parish Finance Committee will meet this Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. in the Rectory. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting.



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, Raymond Fitzpatrick, Sr., Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, John Esposito, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Anna Rita Morgante, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Dan Seratto, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petrulo, Cynthia Swiatkowicz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Steve Oddo, Roseann Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Carol Swetz, Bridget O'Malley, Edith D'Aquila, Anna Bruculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, and Robert Balog.

**REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES, LIVING AND DEAD**

The Mass Books for both 2012 and 2013 are open and have availability. Consider giving a loved one the graces associated with having a Mass offered on their behalf. Also, you may consider offering the Altar flowers, Altar bread and wine, Altar candles, or lighting the Sanctuary lamp for a week for your intention. Come to the Rectory Office, **Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.** to make arrangements or to inquire about the availability of a particular date.

OCTOBER 21, 2012

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**Twenty- Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, October 20 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Rosa & Michile Terrusa +

**Sunday, October 21**

8:30 AM Elizabeth & Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Michael Petnuch +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Angelica Perez +

**Monday, October 22**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Fiore Brusco & Gloria Brusco Flanagan +

**Tuesday, October 23**

Weekday

7:00 AM Adorno Mariani +

9:00 AM Angelo Piacente +

**Wednesday, October 24**

Weekday

7:00 AM Special Intention

9:00 AM Mary Romanchik +

**Thursday, October 25**

Weekday

7:00 AM Blessings Upon Our Country

9:00 AM Edith Fruggiero +

**Friday, October 26**

Weekday

7:00 AM No Intention

9:00 AM Father Fry, Dorothy & Raymond Shannon +

**Saturday, October 27**

Weekday

9:00 AM Carmela Greco +

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**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday, October 27 (Anticipated Mass)**

5:00 PM Maria & John Spagnola +

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**Sunday, October 28**

8:30 AM Carl Laredo +

10:00 AM Julia Wyda +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Julieann Campisi Moroch +

## THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE



In his intervention at the Synod, Cardinal Dolan called the Sacrament of Penance, “the Sacrament of Evangelization.” How true that is! If we seek an inner peace and a closer relationship with Jesus, how can we avoid recognizing that by sin we are self-sabotaging ourselves, making those goals unattainable. Let us ask ourselves a very basic question: “Do we have enough joy in our lives? Or for that matter, do we have any joy as we experience daily life?” Another basic question: “Do you remember First Confession?” What a relief it was to tell God how sorry we were for offending Him! We felt like a hundred bucks. (In my day, that was a lot of money). What has changed that we do not participate in the sacrament as frequently as we once did? Did God put a limit on His mercy? Have any sins become unforgivable? Has the Church put up any restrictions? I fear that if we look for any changes we need only look inwardly. Perhaps, we think we are such great sinners that God could never forgive us. (Wasn't that the difference between Peter and Judas?). Perhaps, we don't think we sin at all. Perhaps, we forget that through Baptism, we are bound to our brothers and sisters in the faith community and we try to speak to God in isolation from them. But we know in our deepest recesses where conscience reigns we cannot receive in such thoughts true consolation or the peace that only Christ can bring. Our final reservation might be that the priest who hears confession is not perfect – who is he to judge? It is important that we recognize that Christ knew the imperfections of His Apostles; He knows the imperfections of His priests. He and the Church call upon these sacred ministers not so much to judge as to say: Welcome! Be forgiven! Go, and sin no more.



## SAINT MARIANNE COPE

From an early age Barbara Cope wanted to enter religious life. As the oldest of the children living at home, however, she had to wait until the age of twenty-four, spending her years after eighth grade working in a factory to support her invalid father and the rest of the family. After his death, Barbara joined the Sisters of St. Francis in Utica, New York, and was given the religious name Marianne. Although she taught for a time, her gifts of administration were recognized by the community and she went on to found two of the first hospitals in central New York. In 1877, she was elected mother general of the order. In 1883, Mother Marianne journeyed to Hawaii with six sisters to respond to the call to take charge of hospitals and schools. Mother Marianne worked with St. Damien de Veuster. Her community cared for the women and girls at Bishop Home, and when Father Damien died Mother Marianne was put in charge of the boys' facility, Baldwin Home, as well. On August 9, 1918, at the age of eighty, Mother Marianne died at Bishop Home on Moloka'i, Hawaii. In 2005, she was beatified by Pope Benedict XVI. On February 18, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI officially announced at Saint Peter's Basilica that Blessed Marianne Cope will be canonized on October 21, 2012.



