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Lourdes Life

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Newsletter

January - February, 2010



Harmony



By Alice Wissing

Think of opposites; for example, up—down, dull—bright, hope—despair, war—peace. It seems there is a “pro” for every “con.” Some folks enjoy being devil’s advocate. They have the ability to see the opposite of whatever someone says. I am not musically inclined though I enjoy music. Harmony for me in music is the synchronization of sounds. Likewise, harmony in society would be the agreement of communities. Yet, all communities do not exist with the same mind sets, the same economic structures, the same political agendas.

Conflict is a word I like to ignore. In fact, harmony would be my choice in day-to-day living. But that does not always happen. Some snafu occurs and a pleasant

moment goes awry. So how does harmony prevail? How can harmony exist among people?

Author Julia Cameron in her book *The Artist’s Way*, suggests staying away from naysayers, that is, people who have a habit of

making you feel crummy. Jesus met his fair share of people who were less than favorable to him. And though I consider Jesus the Master of harmony, often he just walked away from the ill-willed. I remember telling my children that it is the bigger person who can walk away from conflict and turmoil. There will always be people who insist on staying to argue a point.

Harmony does not come easily. Being comfortable and confident of our own inner being makes harmony attainable. We must recognize our self as being created in God’s image. That image is not restricted to outer appearance. To be Christ-like, we need to focus on our internal self—our mind, soul and spirit. When we are able to respect ourselves for who we are, we are better able to listen and respect others.

Bringing harmony to the wider scope which encompasses our world is mind boggling. If we cannot be in agreement with our spouses, our families, our co-workers, how will we ever manage to attain a world of harmony? To be at peace on a world-wide scale reminds me of the song where we sing “let there be peace on

--Continued on next page--

Year of the Priest: What does it mean to be a priest in 2010?

By Amy Grimes-Potter

Pope Benedict XVI has declared this year, “The Year of the Priest”, in an effort to encourage “spiritual perfection” in priests. Additionally, the pope has proclaimed St. John Vianney the patron saint of all the world’s priests. He says this saint represents a “true example of a priest at the service of the flock of Christ.” St. John Vianney exemplified what it meant to be a priest by sharing the Word of God and reconciling people in his village in France. But the world has changed a lot since the 19th century when the saint was alive, and so have the responsibilities of a priest.

According to Father Joe Graffis, who attended OLOL from 1951 – 1957, most priests are extremely busy

on a day-to-day basis, “since there are only a third as many active [priests] as there were 35 years ago. I am not sure that the average Catholic has any concept of what a priest does these days,” he said. “It’s at least 200% more complicated than even twenty years ago, since a pastor is now a CEO of a major corporation of 100 plus employees and \$4 million budgets.”



Father Joe Graffis

--See “Year of the Priest” on page 3--

Dear Friends,

Well, we have finished celebrating the “Feast of God’s Impertinence!” How dare God try to interrupt the normal flow of human history—or the busyness of our daily lives—by asking us to continue Christmas each day of the new year? Isn’t it enough to endure the shopping season, cook for thousands of family members, clean up the mess, and put the decorations away! What more does God expect?

Well, hopefully, we got a little glimpse of that during Christmas—when everyday family love is more deeply felt; when we find it in our hearts and means to share more with the needy and troubled; when we feel better about ourselves and our world because God chose to become one of us rather than give up on us!

What does God have planned for 2010? Simply this—to continue moving our world toward the Kingdom of peace, justice, and love, by inviting each of us to continue being witnesses of His love, especially where love seems absent; witnesses of His light where darkness seems to prevail; witnesses to His fidelity when faith is tested.

Are you up for the task another year? Got anything better to do with your life? It’s challenging! It will stretch us! It will also delight and excite us!

Thanks for all you do every day to keep FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE alive in our world!

Happy 2010!

Father Nick

Harmony

--Continued from Page 1--

earth, and let it begin with me.” We need to be examples of peace and that can only happen when we take time to nurture our relationship with our God, the Prince of Peace.

We are a decade into the new millennium. Media enables us to recognize discourse around the world in minutes, even in seconds. But we can see a change occur. We can make the move to harmony when we take time to respect another’s point of view. We can be peace-filled by seeing ourselves as examples of Christ. We can bring peace into our home, our workplace and our neighborhood. That peace creates the harmony we seek.

Yes, it would be a dull world if we all thought alike, but the future will be much brighter with the move to a respect-filled, harmonious lifestyle.

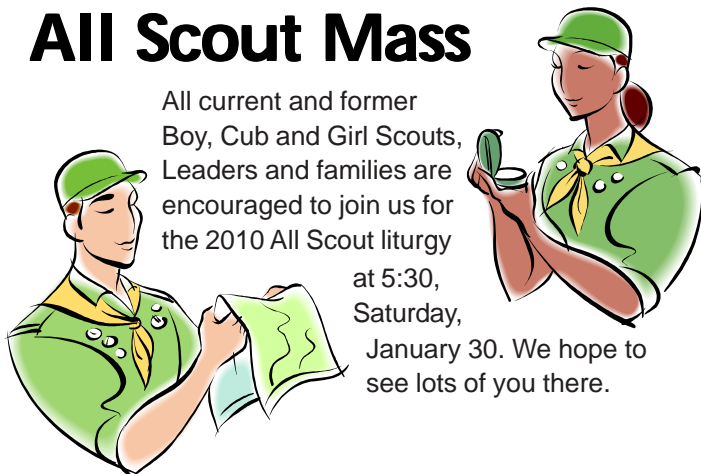


Deaths

Grace Young
Janet Cawthon
Joe Cecil
Cliff Roth
Doug Brown
Flora Domhoff



All Scout Mass



All current and former Boy, Cub and Girl Scouts, Leaders and families are encouraged to join us for the 2010 All Scout liturgy at 5:30, Saturday, January 30. We hope to see lots of you there.

Baptisms

Brody Robert Bates
Baylee Marie Bland
Annabelle Elizabeth Boylan
William Francis Brodfefrer
John Carter Haws
Logan Allen Beck
Samuel Albert Seufert
Trevor O'Bryan Williamson II



The Year of the Priest

--Continued from Page 1--

Fr. Graffis first thought about becoming a priest when he was in the 2nd grade, and was greatly influenced by Frs. Tony Gerst, Doc Gallagher, and Tom Malone. "By 8th grade I felt I needed to get started, and I talked with Fr. Tom Casper who sent me to Fr. Tony Gerst who took me to St. Thomas Seminary. I liked to talk and liked to do things for people. Liturgy was very powerful to me," he said. "Of course, over 39 years my image of priesthood is light years from 1953, or 1959, or 1971. I felt God pushing me in that direction."

Today Fr. Graffis is pastor of St. Edward parish in J-town. He says most generations assume the duties of a priest are the same today as they were when they were growing up – yet parishes, along with their schools and budgets are much larger today. "Most are totally unaware that, for example, St. Edward had three full time priests in 1985 and now they have one," said Fr. Graffis. "When I was a kid in grade school at Lourdes there were three full time priests and one high school teacher weekend priest - four priests for 800 families. Like Fr. Nick, I have 1400 families by myself, plus a Spanish Mass with that community, too. Huge difference!"

Although times have changed drastically for the duties of a priest since he was ordained, Fr. Graffis says he very much enjoys his job. "Still after almost 39 years as a priest I enjoy the good things - good Liturgy and Sacramental celebrations, preaching, teaching, organizing, and having fun with the kids and youth," he said. "I enjoy organizing and empowering people to be the ministers their

Baptism calls them to be. I enjoy social justice ministry and ecumenical opportunities from which to grow."

At one time there were 16 seminarians from Lourdes, one almost ordained every year. 33 years ago, Fr. George Kilcourse was the last priest ordained from OLOL. Other "sons of Lourdes" include Fr. John Burke (pastor at St. Cecelia), Fr. Ron Domhoff (pastor at St. Peter), and Fr. Dave Zettel (currently teaches at Trinity High School).

You don't have to be called to the priesthood to participate in the year of the priest. Here are ways we can all make a difference:

- pray for Fr. Nick and other priests that minister to OLOL
- write a letter of encouragement or appreciation to your favorite pastor
- participate in the Building a Future of Hope campaign

You can reach Amy at her website, *Answered Prayers*, at www.amygrimespotter.com.



Dreaming of a White (House) Christmas

OLOL school art teacher, Jennifer Tipple, was invited to the White House in Washington, DC, to help decorate for Christmas. She was part of group of about 90 designers from across the nation.



Health Committee: Caring for the Caregiver

By Sharon Elsesser, R.N.

More than 25 percent of Americans are caregivers for the elderly and for family members who are disabled. Many are also part of the “sandwich generation” caring for both children and parents while working full-time jobs.

If you are one of these individuals, you may have forgotten in all the busyness that you have a right and need to care for yourself, placing the “oxygen mask” on your face first so that you can care for others. While it is not easy, accept offers of others to help and give them specific tasks. Assign “projects” such as shopping or accompanying mom or dad to doctors’ visits to seldom-involved family members. Call on these individuals to cover for you while you go to a movie and enjoy dinner out.

Instead of doing all tasks yourself, look for opportunities to allow your loved one to care for himself and to be as safely independent as possible. An individual’s self-esteem and overall well-being can be fostered by encouraging independence rather than doing things the individual can do for himself. This includes encouraging him to make simple decisions from limited options. For instance, a caregiver may say, “Would you like to eat cereal or toast for breakfast?”

It is important to stay in touch with friends who can be supportive without placing demands on you. Invite friends over to watch a movie or play cards. Your loved one may be able to sit quietly by your side or nap. If not, ask a neighborhood teen to entertain him while you relax.

Community resources are available to support caregivers of individuals with dementia. One such program is the Volunteer Caregivers Program housed in the U of L School of Nursing. For more information call 852-2273.



Time for a NEW Pictorial Directory

By Ann Russo

We are excited to let you know a new pictorial directory, published by Life Touch, is in the planning stages. Watch for dates to be announced for sign-ups in person after church **AND online**. First session of photographs will be taken during spring break (the week after Easter). Additional weeks will be during May and June.

Here are our **Top 5** reasons to get your family portrait made:

5. Many families have said they wouldn't have any family pictures if it weren't for the directory.
4. Think ahead – family portraits make GREAT gifts.
3. Familiar face, but can't think of name? Turn the pages till you find them.
2. Receive your very own copy of the directory.
1. FREE 8 x 10 photo just for getting photo made.

We truly hope each and every parishioner will plan to schedule a time to be included in the new 2010 book.



School Advisory Council Report: New Year, New Stewardship Opportunities

By Shella Hiestand

Happy New Year from the SAC! We have been very active this year, and are very excited about encouraging our school families to become active stewards. Although there is a separate Stewardship Committee that does a great job, we felt that the children of our school needed to learn at an early age the importance of Stewardship at every level: not just the money in the collection plate each week, but the importance of giving of your time and talent as well as your treasure.

There are so many opportunities for us all to teach our children the importance of stewardship. Whether it be volunteering to clean tables at the upcoming Lenten fish fries, or helping prepare our school property for the new flowers and saplings that will adorn our school in the Spring. These are not merely items that should be left for the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts to do, but all school families should get involved.

There are also opportunities to get involved in our music program, book club, quick recall, and many other

talent based groups that will let our stewardship shine. As my parents always taught me, a well-rounded child is a successful child. They also taught me that social responsibility starts at home. At SAC, we would like it to start at Our Lady of Lourdes as well. Becoming a good Christian doesn't merely mean attending Mass. It means giving out your time, talent and treasure as well.

As a side note, while our children can't always fill the envelopes with big checks, we hope you will encourage them to share their loose change, or the dollar they found to help the church and school. While these amounts are small, they teach our kids at an early age how blessed many of us are and how we should always give back. The reward will come back ten-fold.

Finally, thank you for raising such wonderful, joyous children. Every time we have an open house, the visiting families compliment us on what lovely, well-behaved students we have. Keep up the good work. Remember, stewardship starts at home.

Students Walk for Hand-in-Hand Ministries

By Laura Glaser

The faculty and students practice the spirit of reaching out and giving to those children who struggle to keep alive, to eat, to play, and to just be children. Hand in Hand Ministries, one of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish's outreach missions, calls to the school children to help out.

The school family has reached out in previous years and wanted to do so again. Under the leadership of teachers and 8th graders, the school assembled in their school "family" units and walked a mile to raise \$1,786 for Hand-in-Hand ministries. We had lots of fun and we continue to learn to look out for one another (the older watched the younger, and one of our Dads who is a retired police officer helped with traffic) and we learned that the Body of Christ, whether in St. Matthews or in Belize, work and share life and resources.

Thanks to those parents who gave so generously and to those students who reached into their own piggy banks to give to others. The children being cared for by Hand-in-Hand ministries will benefit from the money, but the students at Our Lady of Lourdes School benefit in their hearts and learn in a very personal way that Jesus intends for all of us to reach out to the poor.



Parish Youths are Getting Involved --and Having Fun!

By Chris Kolibaba

In only four short months, youth ministry has taken off at Our Lady of Lourdes! In November, the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) was an absolute blast. We were a part of over 21,000 young Catholics who are on fire for



our faith. We heard awesome speakers, participated in terrific praise and worship opportunities, and delighted in the company of passionate Catholic youth. In 2011, NCYC will be in Indianapolis, and we will definitely be going—it's never too early to get it on your radar screen.

On Sunday, December 20, we had our first Youth Involvement Mass at the 11:30 a.m. liturgy, and it was a success. It was great to see the youth of our parish step up and take leadership roles in the liturgy—from greeting, to lecturing, playing music, to taking up the collection, bearing the cross and gifts, as well serving as communion ministers—well, you get the idea. We are grateful for those who served, and we look to further involve the youth in the life of the church.

Youth Calendar

Want to know more?

Get involved!

Don't miss out on these exciting upcoming events!



Friday, January 22: Louisville Walk for Life (5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Assumption)

Saturday, January 30: Sr. High Day of Reflection at St. Meinrad Archabbey (8:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.; Cost: \$25)

Sunday, February 7: Regional Youth Mass at Church of the Epiphany (3:00—7:00 p.m.)

Sunday, February 7: Jesse Manibusan Concert at Assumption High School (7:00—8:30 p.m.; Cost: \$4 pre-event, \$5 cash at the door)

Friday, February 26–Sunday, February 28: On The Side of Angels Retreat at Mt. Saint Francis (Contact Chris for more details and a registration form)

Friday, March 5–Sunday, March 7: Christian Awakening Retreat at Mt. Saint Francis (Contact Chris for more details and a registration form; registration due by February 12)

Pictures from Breakfast with Santa

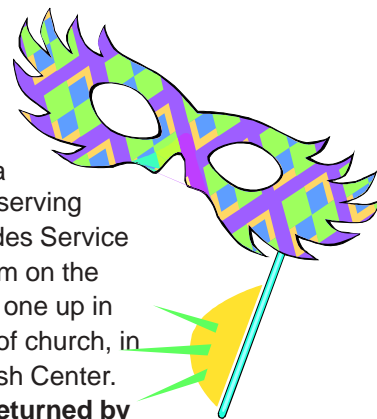


Lourdes Night 2010: Mardis Gras

By Ann Russo

Here's a winter night out to look forward to in the New Year, complete with Mardi Gras themed dinner and dancing. All parishioners 21 and older are invited to come to Lourdes Night 2010 on Saturday, February 6. A lovely evening beginning with 5:30 Mass; a delicious catered dinner; presentation of OLOL's Service Award to honor outstanding stewards in our parish followed by a special musical presentation and a dance is planned for our parish community in honor of our Feast Day for Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes. Keep your eyes peeled for more details in the bulletin and on www.ourlourdes.org

In addition, please consider nomination(s) of a dedicated, devoted and deserving parishioner(s) for the Lourdes Service Award. Please use the form on the bottom of this page or pick one up in from the kiosk in the back of church, in the Atrium or from the Parish Center. Your nomination must be **returned by noon Monday, on January 25**, to Audrey Truax at the Parish Center. (Feel free to use another sheet if more space is needed.)



OLOL Service Award Nomination Form

Nominee's Name _____

Areas of Involvement _____

Why do you feel that this person deserves this award? _____

Submitted by _____

Deadline for submittal: Noon, January 25.



Lourdes Life

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Our Lady of Lourdes Church
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Coming Attractions . . .

January 24

A Cup of Tea, an afternoon for women, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

February 6

Lourdes Night following 5:30 Mass. Dinner, entertainment and awards.

February 14

Small groups will begin to meet for Lent.

February 17

Ash Wednesday: Masses 7:00 a.m., Noon, and 7:00 p.m.

February 22

Regional Parish Mission at **Holy Spirit**, 7:00 p.m.

February 24

Men's Retreat 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

March 2

Regional Parish Mission at **St. Joseph**, 7:00 p.m.

March 9

Regional Parish Mission at **OLOL**, 7:00 p.m.