

Easter Time continues!

Even though it's the Fifth Sunday of Easter, don't forget we are still in the throes of the Great Fifty Days of Easter Time! Our "Alleluias" should continue to ring out with no less intensity than they did on Easter Sunday. Our Scripture readings continue to reveal to us the growth of the early Church and the spread of the faith, and the Gospels in particular invite us to continually explore the depths of what it means to have new life through Christ's Resurrection. The words of the Entrance Antiphon for the Fifth Sunday of Easter sum it up well: *O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.*

Parish Social Ministry

On Thursday, April 24, leaders of the various ministries that make up the umbrella of ministries we call "Parish Social Ministry" met together for the first time. This was an important step for us as a parish. As you know, and as I have written and spoken about on many occasions, we need to continue to make the building up of unity and working together a priority at OLPH. Our constant mantra must be "It is not "MY" ministry" as we all take to heart the truth that all service and all ministry is offered in the name of the CHURCH, as we live our common life together at OLPH. In particular, since the ministries that make up Parish Social Ministry are entrusted with bringing the message of the Gospel to those in need in our parish, it is absolutely crucial for all those ministries to interact with each other and work together for the common good of the parish.

The April 24 meeting provided the leaders of the many different social ministries the opportunity to talk about the work of each group and how that group could support and encourage the other groups. In addition, some ideas for the future were surfaced. Already, the members of these groups have committed to preparing a Mass and reception for our parishioners who are homebound. We are planning for that Mass and reception to take place this June; look for more information in future issues of this bulletin.

I am extremely grateful for all those who work in the many ministries that make up our Parish Social Ministry. In their pastoral statement *Communities of Salt and Light*, our United States Bishops wrote, "One of the most encouraging signs of the gospel at work in our midst is the vitality and quality of social justice ministries in our parish." **THANK YOU** to the leaders of our parish's social ministries for carrying out this vital work of the Gospel TOGETHER. To see all the ministries that make up our Parish Social Ministry, take a look at the banner in this bulletin that is titled "Parish Social Ministry." Pray for the continued success and growth of these vital ministries at OLPH!

Senior Moments

One of the ministries under the umbrella of Parish Social Ministry is our Senior Moments group. Don't let the name fool you — the group is for those starting at age 55. (*Hmmm...I'm only a couple of years away....*)

The group was formed as one way for us to minister to the spiritual needs of parishioners starting at age 55. They have been meeting since March and have had some wonderful mornings (*including a special guest presenter whom we all know and love...!*).

Our Senior Moments leaders Fran Grasso and Dee Webel have been working hard to make sure that this is not your typical "Seniors Group." Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for mature adults starting at age 55 to journey together on a spiritual path. These men and women come together in one of the rooms of the school building for prayer and faith sharing (and of course, some coffee and cake, too!).

This group is off to a great start, and I would like to encourage anyone who is 55 or older to join this group. It offers something great to those who participate. Their next meeting is **this Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in Room 14 of the school**. Why not consider attending? Also, **be alert to a possible name change!** Because the name "Senior Moments" might give the wrong connotation, it's possible that the name of this group might change.

This group, in addition to our Golden Age Society, as well as all of the opportunities for social ministry in our parish, offers a clear

statement that at OLPH we want to make the most of the wisdom and presence of somewhat-older and more mature adults.

Catholic Ministries Appeal—THANK YOU!

I take this opportunity to offer a gigantic **THANK YOU** to all of you wonderful and generous parishioners who have participated in this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal. Thanks to you we have gone **over goal** for the **second year in a row!** CONGRATULATIONS to all of YOU for making this such a success. Our goal this year was \$108,800, and, as of this writing, \$135,552 has been pledged; that's 124.6% of our goal! Fantastic!!!

You know what a tremendous assist this is in our ongoing journey of returning to financial health. The fact that we have exceeded our goal means that we will receive 20% of all monies collected of the goal of \$108,000, and 80% of all the monies collected over the goal. That's why it is extremely important that you be sure to fulfill your pledge and make all your payments. You are supporting OLPH at the same time you are supporting the work of the Church throughout Long Island.

If you have not yet made a donation, it's not too late. Please consider doing so; it will really help us out. Once again, allow me to say **THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!**

Supporting Birthright—THANK YOU!

While we're on the subject of acknowledging your generosity, I would like to join the OLPH Respect Life Committee in thanking you for your support of life and of Birthright during our Mother's Day Carnation sale last weekend. We had 1,650 flowers to sell at \$1 each, but, due to your generosity, we netted \$2,053.20. OLPH parishioners really are the best!

Vacation Bible Camp

You've noticed our advertising for Vacation Bible Camp, and I want to encourage you to sign up early if you are going to participate this year. It helps us in the planning and preparation to know as soon as possible what the registration will be. This is such a fun week that brings the Good News of the Bible to

our younger parishioners — and the older ones who offer their time and their witness in this program get a lot out of it too! I love having the Summer Bible Camp in the parish and I hope you will consider signing up your little one, and/or offering your time and service in one way or another. It's a great way to celebrate the summer!

Super 72 Raffle

We are gearing up for the next six-month phase of our **SUPER 72 RAFFLE**. The **SUPER 72 RAFFLE** is a major fundraiser here at OLPH. We depend on the monies raised in this raffle to meet our budget projections and to continue down the road toward financial stability. We have made great progress over the past year or so, but we need your continued help so that we may keep moving forward.

With the **SUPER 72 RAFFLE** you have many chances to win, and it's easy and fun! Tickets are purchased for a six (6) month period, and each month during those six months there are six (6) drawings: a first prize of \$1,000, a second prize of \$250, and four (*yes, that's right, FOUR!*) additional prizes of \$100 each. That's six chances to win each month!

Tickets are \$40 each, but the amazing part is that if you buy two tickets for \$80, you get one ticket free! That's three tickets for the price of two, with 18 chances to win each month! Each ticket is good for six months, and this next segment will run from July to December, 2014. Look for the **SUPER 72 RAFFLE** tickets and support the parish by playing.

At this time I would like to acknowledge and offer a tremendous word of **THANKS** to **JOHNSTONS' WELLWOOD FUNERAL HOME** for their extremely generous donation of printing the raffle tickets. Johnstons' Wellwood continues to be a great supporter of the parish and all our endeavors, and I am extremely grateful to them. Thanks to all at Johnston's Wellwood!

Meeting for Readers

All readers are reminded that a mandatory meeting for all Readers is being held this Tuesday, May 20 in the Church at 7:30 p.m. This meeting will afford the opportunity for

spiritual formation for all Readers, and business items will also be discussed. We look forward to seeing you there. Please be sure to contact Robert Becker if you cannot attend to let him know the reason you cannot be there. Thank you.

Bishop Robert Brennan Visiting Next Weekend at 5:00 p.m. Mass Saturday

We will be happy to welcome Bishop Robert Brennan, Auxiliary Bishop and Vicar General of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, to celebrate the 5:00 p.m. Mass here this coming Saturday, May 24. As you know, Bishop Brennan grew up in Lindenhurst and attended OLPH school, and he will be coming here as a simple visit to celebrate Mass in his home parish. It will be great to have you here, Bishop Bob!

Apologies for the Omission!

I confess a “sin of omission” that I committed in last week’s bulletin. In thanking all those who work in the Religious Education Office, I inadvertently omitted Jessica Becker, who works there and makes an invaluable contribution to the smooth running of that office and all its activities. Sorry for omission, Jess!

In conclusion...

Together, let’s aim high in Christ.
Together, let’s bring out the best in each other.
Together, let’s be the best we can be in Christ.

And let’s always remember: LOVE IS A GIFT.

Sincerely,