

A Newsletter published by Our Lady Queen of Martyrs



Center View

Winter 2011

53 Prospect Road

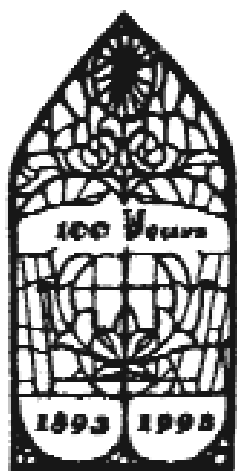
Centerport, NY 11721
www.olqmparish.org

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Installation Mass of our new Pastor, Father John Gilmartin

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CenterView

A newsletter published by
and for Our Lady Queen of
Martyrs Church

Purpose

This newsletter provides up-to-date information about our faith community. It covers all aspects of parish life, including Liturgy, Education, Service and Social Ministry. This newsletter is provided to highlight the mission of our Catholic parish in its ideals and its action.

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On the Cover:

Rev. Msgr. T. Peter Ryan officiates at the Installation of the new Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Father John Gilmartin, on November 19, 2011.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church

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Hugh Carroll, Organist631-269-7352

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Jeanne Morcone, Principal

We Celebrate the Eucharist

Weekend Masses Saturday at 5pm

Sunday at 8am, 10am and 12noon

2nd and 4th Sundays at 7pm

Daily Masses Monday - Friday at 12noon

Saturday at 9am

Holy Days 7:30pm Vigil, 12noon and 7:30pm

Reconciliation

Saturdays 9:30 am - 10:00 am and 4:00 pm - 4:45 pm

Baptisms

1st Sunday of each month during the 12 noon Mass

2nd Saturday of each month at 1:00 pm

4th Sunday of each month at 2:00pm

Please call the rectory to schedule a baptism. The parents are required to participate in a preparation program.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the rectory to schedule an appointment with a deacon at least six months prior to the desired date. Couples are required to complete Foccus and to attend a marriage preparation program.

olqmreled@optonline.net

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Anointing Mass is the first Saturday of each month at 9:00am. Please call the rectory to request the sacrament at home or in the hospital.

Eucharist to the Homebound:

Please call the rectory to request a communion call to the sick or the elderly.

R.C.I.A./R.C.I.C.

Our church welcomes new members through a process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing your entrance into our church through Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist, please contact Sister Eileen.

Mission Statement

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs affirms. . .That we are a people of God, Who seek to create a community, where the gifts of the Spirit, Faith, Hope and Love are shared joyfully in word and deed.

That all good things are generous gifts from God. As a community, we must inspire the use of our gifts of time, talent and treasure to serve all people with justice and love.

That our human hands must serve as God's hands in our world. We share these gifts in humble service, multiplying and returning them with love, praise and thanksgiving to our Creator.

A Message from Father John



Dear Parishioners,

In my first six months as your Pastor I have seen so much wonderful work being done by so many people. I join a staff that has been most welcoming to me. I look forward to working with them to serve you, the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs.

As you see, CenterView is a new publication, intended to tell the story of what is happening here in the parish. There is so much I am learning and I am sure even the long term parishioners welcome hearing about all that is being done here.

I am most grateful to Monsignor Ryan for welcoming me and officially installing me as Pastor. He and Monsignor Colligan, as well as all the former Pastors, have truly provided a tremendous legacy. As the scriptures say, one sows and another reaps. I am reaping the benefits of their fruitful sowing and I hope I can further their legacy.

Thank you for your generosity with the recent Capital Campaign. We have completed the repaving of the parking lot and the conversion of the Church's heating system from oil to gas. The final project will be a new roof on the church when it is needed.

At the heart of parish life is its ministries. We have so many wonderful ministries at Queen of Martyrs! Ninette Euler, Director of Religious Education, and I have been working together on the Faith Formation Program. We have introduced a new initiative with First Reconciliation, with the children and their parents coming in small groups each weekend to celebrate the Sacrament for the first time.

We are fortunate to have Chris Sisinni as our Director of Youth Ministry. He has engaged and motivated a great group of teens in many important service projects. I invite you to read his article about the many activities of this group, including the Teen Mass. I encourage our teen parishioners to check out Youth Ministry and get involved.

Sister Eileen Corcoran, our Pastoral Associate, generously shares her wisdom, knowledge and experience with the people of our faith community. She continues to be a source of inspiration for so many. Along with Deacon John Rieger and the Liturgy Committee, Sister Eileen is helping to guide us through our implementation of the newly revised Roman Missal. Her article gives us insight into the changes, and why what is 'new' is actually old!

Parish Social Ministry at Queen of Martyrs is active and growing, from events onsite or down the road to projects half a world away. It is headed by Angela Sangirardi, who is doing a fine job in keeping the focus on our mission to serve those who are in need. I am working closely with Angela and have begun the process of recruiting new volunteers for this ministry (over 25 have come forward to date.) We plan to initiate training in January.

Our Golf and Tennis outing at the Huntington Crescent Club supports so many of these ministries, while offering a day of fun and fellowship for all. The Nicaragua Project participants are preparing for another visit as of this writing, as well as helping our young people prepare for trips in February and April. The HiHi program, which represents our parish's commitment to the homeless, begins the second week of December.

Finally, please read parishioner Matt Walsh's story of his recent experience in Africa. I invited him to share it because it reflects a fine example of taking the life lessons he has learned and sharing this with others.

My first six months have given me a good sense of the parish, yet I know there is so much more to learn. I have invited the Pastoral Council to provide me with their perspective of the parish. I look forward most of all to coming to know each of you in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. It is the center of who we are and the gift which unites us.

Thank you for welcoming me into the parish family. I hope you find this first issue of CenterView enjoyable and informative. Let me know what you think of it.

Peace,

Father John

To Teach as Jesus did...

Through prayer, education, service and liturgy, children, teenagers, parents and catechists journey together. In sharing the Good News of God's love, we become God's people, reaching out as Jesus did to teach in our community and our world.

This is the statement printed on the cover of our Catechist Handbook and it is a good representation of what we try to accomplish in our parish Religious Education program. Parents are the first and primary teachers of the faith. It is our responsibility as catechists to assist our parents in the faith formation of their children.



At Our Lady Queen of Martyrs parish we have 1273 students enrolled in grades one through nine. Since we do not have a large school building, our Religious Education classes are relatively small, and approximately 70% of our catechists teach in their own homes.

The small class size allows these religious education classes to become small Christian communities, in which students feel comfortable not only learning about God, and the Church, but also sharing with each other their personal faith stories. Throughout the year, individual grades gather together to celebrate liturgy and the sacraments.

Throughout first and second grade, the children are invited to learn more about their parish family and the parts of the church building, as well as learning some prayers. These students are preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in 2nd grade. This is an exciting and important time for them and for their families. Last year we had 156 students receive the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time.

The older level students work with a new program based on the Sunday gospel readings, and in these classes, we build upon what the students learned in their first two

years. Lessons include learning about parish volunteers and ways to help those in need, how to pray the rosary, the seven sacraments, saints and the bible.

Our 5th graders learn about other Christian Churches and visit St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Church in Greenlawn. Our 6th graders visit the Huntington Jewish Center, to hear about the Jewish faith and its customs.

Formal preparation for Confirmation begins in the 7th grade, and continues until the sacrament is conferred in the fall of 9th grade. Students at this level are asked to make a personal commitment to attend Mass regularly, and complete Mass reflection sheets about the Sunday gospels. They also write a letter to the pastor, requesting Confirmation, make a commitment to helping others through Christian service projects, and take part in a spiritual retreat.

Although our Religious Education program goes from first grade to ninth grade, we teach our students that faith formation is a life long journey, which does not end when a student receives Confirmation. At Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, we are fortunate to have a Youth Ministry program, and a twice-monthly Teen Mass, through which we invite older teens to stay connected with the parish and our liturgical celebrations. Through Youth Ministry, these young people continue the work of Christian Service well into their teen years.



In our parish Religious Education program, we are also blessed with several teams of energetic and committed teenagers who have been confirmed, and continue their own faith formation, as they become catechists to share their faith with the younger children in the parish. Religious Education at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs is truly a living, breathing, growing ministry, involving over 200 trained and dedicated catechists and volunteer aides.

~ Ninette Euler

Installation of Our New Pastor

Inherent to the leadership of every parish is the appointment of its pastor by the diocesan bishop. In 2010, Monsignor T. Peter Ryan retired as pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs after a long and fruitful term of service. Monsignor Richard Bauhof was assigned the next pastor, but subsequent to his arrival, Msgr. Bauhof's health became a concern. At the recommendation of the bishop, Msgr. Bauhof moved to St. Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hempstead, where he is now associate pastor. Bishop Murphy named Msgr. John Gilmartin as the new pastor of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs effective June 22, 2011.



thanks to Liz Madigan and a wonderful group of volunteers for hosting the reception which followed in the Community Room, offering an opportunity for all to gather and extend their personal welcome to our new pastor.

Servant Leader

In his letters and homilies, Father John is eloquent in expressing his passion for serving those in need and seeing Christ so clearly in those who are most vulnerable. Whether it be people who are ill or struggling economically, those who are disabled or have special needs, or people who are isolated, Father John's message is that they are not alone – that our faith community is here for them. As our new pastor calls forth the many gifts of the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, may we continue to grow and deepen our experience of faith, in the sacraments we celebrate and in the compassionate response we offer to those who are most in need.



After arriving in June and spending the next five months getting to know the people of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Monsignor John Gilmartin was formally installed as the Pastor of this faith community at the 5:00PM Mass on Saturday, November 19th. Msgr. Ryan, now retired, represented the area dean and concelebrated the Mass.

The liturgy began with the reading of the Oath of Fidelity, which was subsequently signed by Father John. The Scriptures of the day for the Feast of Christ the King included the powerful reading from the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel in which Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger and visit those who are ill or in prison. Father John spoke of how much this Gospel inspires and guides his priestly ministry and how happy he is to be pastor of a faith community that gives such witness to these values.

The congregation then professed their faith in reciting the Creed, which was concluded by Father John declaring the promises of faith attested to by each new pastor. He then signed the Profession of Faith, with Msgr. Ryan serving as witness.

Father John preferred to keep a low profile regarding his installation as pastor, focusing primarily on the many ministries of the parish. At the Mass, he expressed gratitude to all for their prayers and support. Special

Lifting Up Our Hearts

Praying with the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal

The last several years, a lot of ink has been spilled about the changes to the Mass. It's true – there is a new version of the Roman Missal with a new English translation and we are using some new words. But the “new” Mass texts are actually more about continuity than change, more about tradition than translation. So while it may be tempting to focus on what is changing, it is just as important to focus on what is not changing, it is just as important to focus on what is staying the same.

We are celebrating the same Order of Mass that we have used since Vatican II nearly 50 years ago. At that time, the Council restored the Order of Mass that was used in the early centuries of the Church. Like countless generations of Christians before us, we read from the revealed Word of God, we listen to homilies, we petition God for favors and mercy, and thank Him for all he has done. The priest still consecrates the simple bread and wine and transforms it into the Body and Blood of Christ. Young and old, saints and sinners are invited to participate in a sacred meal. We are then dismissed from this holy assembly to preach the Good News, to do good works and build up the Kingdom. The basic structure of the Mass remains unchanged.

While some of the words of our prayers and acclamations will sound new, they are actually very old. They may be found in Sacred Scripture, Patristic literature and ancient prayers. We exchange greetings taken from St. Paul, sing psalms from the Old Testament, pray Eucharistic Prayers written as early as the 3rd century, profess a Creed based upon truths told by the apostles

and participate in retreats that have been followed for centuries. We share the same mission, profess the same faith, receive the same sacraments and continue to celebrate the Eucharist as Christ himself told us to do in his memory.

Most importantly, at every liturgy, we continue to celebrate the Paschal Mystery – that Jesus Christ, the Son of God suffered, died and rose from the dead to

redeem us. By dying he destroyed our death and by rising, he won for us eternal life. The words we choose to explore all the facets of that awesome mystery and to thank God for so great a gift have always been carefully chosen by the Church. For the words of our prayer reflect the words of our belief. And while we celebrate a “living liturgy” that is growing and adapting to the Church of the present age, we bear witness to an “unbroken tradition”

that is steadfast in that belief. (cf. GIRM-6-15)

Pope John Paul II promulgated the new Roman Missal, the third edition since Vatican II, in 2000. It has taken 11 years to thoughtfully and faithfully translate it from Latin to English. The new words may take a few weeks or months to get used to. The faith we proclaim with these words is ageless.

~ S. Eileen Corcoran



Thank You, Bill Lawrence

One word is not enough to describe long time Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parishioner, Bill Lawrence. Instead, two words come to mind - Renaissance Man. The term - a person who has broad intellectual interests and who excels in a variety of subjects - fits Bill to a "t." Luckily for us, Bill has generously shared his time and extensive talents in many ways.

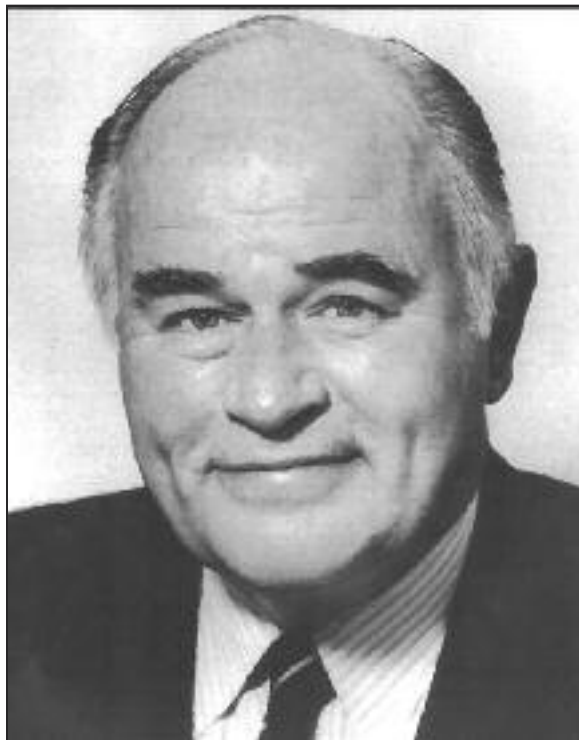
Bill and his beloved late wife, Gloria, have been parishioners for many years. They raised their children here, and have been blessed with grandchildren. While Our Lady Queen of Martyrs has been their spiritual home base, they have travelled far and wide, always returning to "center"port.

Bill has had an extensive and exciting career as a drama teacher, AFTRA, SAG and EQUITY actor, director, writer, poet, mime, and as Our Lady Queen of Martyrs' Clippings editor for the last eighteen issues. He has appeared in almost a dozen major motion pictures, numerous theatre productions and dozens of TV commercials and print ads.

He has shared his passion for theatre with us here at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, performing in character as Mark Twain, D'Israeli and other historical figures. He has also 'performed' many services for the parish, giving of his time and talents as Clippings editor, lector and Parish Social Ministry volunteer.

Bill was bitten by the travel bug in his early days as a Seaman on American merchant ships. His travels took him to Panama, Tahiti, Fiji, Australia, New Guinea and numerous islands in the Pacific. He shared his adventurous spirit with his wife, Gloria, and together they travelled the world.

Many of their trips were with Sr. Eileen Corcoran and other Our Lady Queen of Martyrs parishioners. Fellow traveler and parishioner Linda May shared that ***"Throughout these trips, he (Bill) would keep meticulous notes, in a tiny notebook, precisely written with a black flair pen. When the trip was over, he would turn these into a thoughtful, often poetic journal, sprinkled throughout with his snapshots. He would then professionally bind (at his own expense!) and share with all his fellow travelers. These beautiful booklets are among my most treasured mementos of trips we all took together."***



Bill is meticulous about all tasks he approaches. His astute insight and attention to detail have served us all well as we have enjoyed every issue of Clippings under his editorial helm.

As Sr. Eileen says, ***"Bill loves to keep doors open and the conversation going...he does not back down when discussions grow difficult and challenging. And yes Bill - you are a nudge, too. Thank you, thank you, thank you Bill, for all you've done as editor of Clippings over these years."***

That is Bill Lawrence, "A Man for All Seasons." A Renaissance Man of many talents, many facets, many complexities, who has challenged all of us to broaden our perspectives and look to the world beyond Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, while staying firmly planted within it.

Thank you, Bill!

~ Rose Ann Walsh

Project Nicaragua

For more than 10 years now, Project Nicaragua has developed and grown into an integral part of our parish life. What started with only a handful of people in 2001 now encompasses both an adult committee and a student program. Over the years close to 500 people – primarily students but including adult chaperones and travelers – have experienced a glimpse of life in a third world country.

The BOXTOWN Experience



As part of their preparation for the visit to Amatitan in February and April of next year, student travelers recently experienced BOXTOWN, (Bringing Our eXtra To Our Wonderful Nicaragua). Taking the lead from Students for 60,000 at Northport High School, 35 of OLMQ travelers spent the night getting to know each other, eating simply, and sleeping outside on the Church patio in cardboard boxes. The idea or premise of the activity was to try and gain some small understanding of what it must be like to live in such primitive conditions. That for one short night, we could be one with Amatitan across the 2,000-mile distance that separates us.



For better or worse, our BOXTOWN evening was no real hardship. Yes, we ate only soup for supper, but a delicious one prepared and donated by Ralph Calamussi of Thatched Cottage. Yes, we slept and stayed outdoors all night, but with a roaring fire, campfire stories, roasted marshmallows and dozens of twinkle lights. So perhaps this simulated homelessness didn't quite reach its mark but it did bring 35 wonderful young adults together to build, cooperate and respect one another. Their efforts also helped to raise over \$2,800 for the village – enough to build a house and latrine. Not a house of plastic and cardboard, but one of clay bricks and cement; one that will give shelter to a poor family in a remote part of the world.



Stories and Songs for Nicaragua

In an effort to reunite many who have already traveled to Nicaragua, reach out to those who may some day travel, and to spread the message and mission of Project Nicaragua to so many faithful supporters and parishioners, we are holding a STORIES and SONGS for Nicaragua on December 30th in the OLMQ Community room. Steve Messina, a traveler and professional musician, will be bringing his group and other performers to entertain us for the evening. He and others will share music, stories, and reflections that we hope will bring a greater understanding of what Project Nicaragua is all about. We look forward to as many as possible joining us during this beautiful holiday season. Without the incredible support from our parish, families and friends this project would never be accomplished.

STORIES and SONGS for Nicaragua, Featuring Steve Messina. Friday, December 30th OLMQ Community Room

If you're a supporter of Project Nicaragua, a former traveler to Amititan, or a person considering this in the future, please join us for this special evening.

~ Paula Dodge

Reflections from last year's students and those going for the first time this year.

"It was hard to explain Nicaragua to my friends and family. . . . the bumpy plane rides, dirt in every crevice of my body and the warm drinking water All those things made it the experience it was and I wouldn't change it for anything."

Sarah Tane

"I would like to return to Nicaragua because I left so many important things behind. I left my worries in the hammock, my heart with the children, my eyes gazing at the stars and my mind trying to recreate the week over and over again in my head."

Cameron Coneys



"I want to see what it would be like to go to a country where the standard of living is so much lower than ours and to see first hand what I take for granted."

Robert Simkins

" I understand that when you help someone in need, knowing they cannot repay you, the emotional satisfaction you receive in return is worth so much more than any material good you could ever give."

Brittney Abreu



"In the building of homes in Amatitan, our hands are transformed into the hands of Christ Himself and He continues to live out His message through us. In returning to Nicaragua, I will be fulfilling the mission of my faith and living my life for others while also receiving great personal joy."

Matt Fiore

Scenes from Nicaragua



Around the Parish



*The Adult Choir, lifting their voices
in song at the Annual Christmas Concert*



*Fr. John with his good friend, Tommy Buckley
who joined us at Mass on the first Sunday of Advent*



*The Children's Choir, led by Ms. Deirdre Kupka,
Music Coordinator, at the Annual Christmas Concert*



*The Teen Choir performs at the
Annual Christmas Concert*



*Spend a peaceful and reflective moment
at the statue of the Blessed Mother*

Capital Campaign Update

If you have pulled into the Church parking lot in the past few months, you may have noticed the contrast of the new blacktop against freshly painted white lines. If you come to Mass on a cold, snowy morning this winter, you will be warmed and comforted by the updated heating system in the Church.

Both of these projects were made possible by OLQM parishioners' generous contributions to the Capital Campaign Fund, initiated by Fr. Ryan in 2006. The Campaign's initial goal of \$1.5 million has been surpassed, with nearly \$1,660,000 raised to date.

The August repaving project was done by the J.D. Posillico Company, with a generous contribution from long-time parishioner Whitney Posillico, in memory of her late husband, Joe. Joe worked with Msgr. Joseph Colligan to install the original parking lot over twenty five years ago.



Our newly repaved and repainted parking lot thanks to the generosity of Whitney Posillico

This fall, the church heating system was converted to natural gas by KG Mechanical. Thanks to Ken and his crew, we will all be warm and cozy for many years to come.

To date, the Parish has expended close to \$1,360,000 in capital improvement projects. Going forward, plans include replacing the roof of the Church.

To learn more about the Campaign and the state of OLQM's financial affairs, please refer to the Parish Financial Report for the fiscal year ending 8/31/11, which is included here.



The newly installed gas heating system in the Church

Our thanks go out to Eileen McGaw-Dietrich, Finance Committee Chair, and all the members of the Committee who give so generously of their time and financial talents to keep OLQM in top shape. Please reach out to the Committee with any questions you may have. Their contact information is available at the Rectory.

Eileen McGaw-Dietrich
Joe Sinischalchi
Robert Carillo
George Devine
Art Dignam
Sidonie Flaiz
Tom Pirro



The newly installed gas heating system in the Church

Golf And Tennis Outing

“Fore” to “Serve” at OLMQ’s 39th Annual Msgr. Joseph F. Colligan Golf & Tennis Outing!

Thursday, October 6, dawned as a beautiful, sunny day, perfect for golf and tennis! The heavens were smiling on OLMQ’s 39th Annual Msgr. Joseph F. Colligan Golf & Tennis Outing at the Huntington Crescent Club. Twenty-four tennis players, one hundred eighteen golfers, Honorees Grace and Rich D’Amato, committee members and a cadre of volunteers came together to enjoy a fabulous day of fun and fellowship.

Participants were greeted with warm smiles, given goodie bags and directed to the dining room for a delicious brunch to fuel them up for the day’s activities. Raffle tickets were offered for sale by enthusiastic volunteers, enticing buyers with the possibility of winning fabulous prizes, while supporting OLMQ.

Golfers eyed the Hole-in-One prize – a car generously donated by King O’Rourke – as they awaited the shotgun start. Committee member Jeanmarie D’Azzo, parishioner Gerry Parinello and our early morning volunteers fanned out to oversee the hole-in-one, sell raffle tickets, Chinese auction tickets and explain the various games of the day.

After a fabulous day of fun, athleticism and fellowship, guests entered the Grill Room to the beautiful sound of piano music. They enjoyed cocktails, passed and plated hors d’oeuvres, and then, a delicious dinner. Live and silent auction and raffle winners were announced, awards were presented and a fitting tribute was given to Grace and Rich D’Amato.

This fabulous event would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the Chairpersons, Committee members and volunteers, who spent four months planning the event down to a ‘tee’ (pun intended!) A wonderful day and night was had by all!

~ Frank Fiore & Diane French



Youth Ministry: “Where We At?”

At a meeting of the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers in New Orleans, we were asked this grammatically incorrect question: **“Where we at in Youth Ministry?”** We can find out where we are at in Youth Ministry at OLQM by exploring where we have been this year and where we plan on going in the future.

Let us begin with last summer as we look to West Virginia and recall that this has been our 12th year of traveling to Nazareth Farm. and living by their four cornerstones of simplicity, community, service and prayer. Their motto of “Expect A Miracle” can again be experienced by any of our youth entering their junior year of high school next summer during the week of August 5-11, 2012.

With the beginning of the new school year in September, we kicked off our usual Teen Mass schedule on the second and fourth Sunday of each month with our Super Sundae ice cream social after each Mass. Our Teen Masses offer an opportunity for our young people to participate more fully in celebrating the Eucharist. Our youth lead the singing in our wonderful teen band, are lectors and ushers and help serve ice cream after Mass.



In October our youth fed over two hundred people at St. Hugh of Lincoln in Huntington Station for Project Hope. Our parish cooked, baked, and served delicious food for their monthly Sunday dinner which provides a warm meal for those who are less fortunate in our local area. In addition we held our first Youth Leaders meeting to help determine the direction of our Youth Ministry program.

In November we help serve the needy in the Brentwood area with our annual Cookie Bake for the Thanksgiving baskets handed out by the Pronto outreach center. We averaged around two hundred dozen cookies baked.

In December our teen band performs for the annual parish Advent Concert. We head over to our friends at Madonna Heights in Dix Hills to organize and serve for their Christmas Party for their foster care program.

During the Christmas season we will have our annual parish Cookies, Carols and Cocoa evening.

We celebrate the New Year with our annual Souper Bowl of Caring soup can drive for local soup kitchens. Last year we collected over 300 cans of soup to feed people in need.



During the Lenten season we will host a soup supper followed by a teen-led Stations of the Cross. Our teens will again practice and perform a Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday morning. This is a very good chance for any of our aspiring young actors or actresses to be involved. In the spring we again travel to Madonna Heights in Dix Hills to plant flowers at their group resident homes, showing the residents that there are people in the world who care for them and helping to brighten their environment.

Our mission in Youth Ministry is to lead our young people to Jesus by forming a community strengthened by the Eucharist to help bring God’s Kingdom on earth. In this process we make friends, learn more about our faith and have fun. We encourage any or our young people to join us and see “Where We At?”

“Nazareth Farm was a once in a lifetime experience that made me feel like I was part of something bigger. It made me realize how lucky I am, and how people can live so simply and so happily with very little.” Michael Carillo

“The people there (Nazareth Farm) gave me the most cherished gift I have ever received; a new way to look at service. Service became something I gain personal enjoyment from and learn a countless number of priceless lessons. Through these acts fireworks were lit in my heart, and they all burn bright.” Brian Doherty

~ Chris Sisinni

Finding Grace in a Distant Land



My name is Matthew Walsh, and I am a 26 year old parishioner from Northport. While I have been a member of the Our Lady Queen of Martyrs family for quite some time now, I'll admit I haven't been to Mass recently, mostly because I have not lived in this country for four years. I'd like to share part

of this journey with you today.

In 2010 I left a job in the Republic of Ireland to begin Masters degree studies at the University of Cape Town, South Africa. While Cape Town is a beautiful city, and the incredible scenery and sun were certainly enticing, the real reasons I choose to head for the end of the earth were more academic. Having always been interested in developmental issues, mainly economic, South Africa offered a fascinating learning laboratory. Although considered Africa's strongest economy, inequality and unemployment levels are extreme. Although apartheid ended 17 years ago, many black South Africans still struggle with an income of \$1.25 or less, while living in slums known as 'townships', where rows of corrugated iron and wood shacks predominate; electricity and sanitary toilets are less prevalent.

This is the reality of South Africa, as well as most other sub-Saharan African countries, and the University of Cape Town encourages its students to confront it head on. Providing ample opportunities for students to get out into the field, we engaged in various projects with township residents, from working to obtain formal housing, tutoring, coaching sports, women's empowerment, and a number of other projects. The normal graduate experience it was not.

It was through this encouragement to get out in the field that I come to the point of my piece today; which is to let you know about an incredible project, run by perhaps one of the kindest, most spiritual persons I have ever encountered.

Namibia is a country which lies to the north-west of South Africa; its capital, Windhoek, lies roughly 1,000 miles from Cape Town, a distance I traversed by bus, taking in the awe inspiring desertscapes of one of the most remote places on earth. My reason for traveling there was to meet an old family friend, Mary Beth.

Mary Beth is the director of the Bernard Nordkamp Centre, run under the auspices of Catholic AIDS Action, an educational and community center in Katutura (which in the native Otjiherero language means "The place where we do not want to live,"), Namibia's largest township. The center provides educational, social and athletic opportunities to nearly 200 children from the township, mainly from the Damara community, a marginalized ethnic group making up about 9% of Namibia's population. With the help of a few local volunteers and any foreigners passing through who can spare some time, Mary Beth manages to provide consistent Math and English programs, a nutritious meal, basic medical services, and sports coaching, everyday, rain or shine.

The impact the BNC and Mary Beth have on these children is difficult to convey via words on paper. The state schools in the township, which the children attend in the morning, are beyond description. If the kids can make it to the end of classes without getting beaten or verbally abused by their teacher, who is often drunk, it is a good day. Rather than return home, where most of the children live with their grandparents, since one or both parents was lost to AIDS, drugs or alcoholism, the BNC offers an alternative.

The transformation on their faces as they walk into the center at 2pm is astounding. For the next three hours they are somewhere safe, productive and fun. Mary Beth's students have better test scores, are healthier, more confident, and most importantly, are shaping into positive, contributing members of society.

For Mary Beth, this type of experience is not exactly new. Since leaving college, she has worked for the Catholic Church through Maryknoll on similar projects in El Salvador and Bangladesh, before coming to Namibia. Her attitude, energy and positivity are absolutely infectious.

Her entire being is dedicated to the Center. She provides not only a sanctuary for the children, but also something they sorely lack - a positive adult role model. She is entirely selfless and totally committed to the well being of those less fortunate. As much as I love volunteering at the center, teaching and coaching soccer, I readily admit that I gladly undertake the 40 hour round trip bus ride simply to be in the presence of someone of such immense character and personal sacrifice.

When I asked her why she chose such an existence, forsaking the relative material comfort of our own society to spend her entire adult life living among and working with some of the Earth's most marginalized people, from the slums of Bangladesh to townships of Namibia, she evoked the late Bishop James Walsh, a former head of Maryknoll.

"Matthew," she said, "I simply go where I am needed and not wanted; I stay until I am wanted but not needed."

Check out the BNC's website at www.volunteer-namibia.com. Feeling adventurous? The Centre accepts volunteers all year round. The author can be reached at matt.rwalsh@gmail.com

~Matt Walsh



Matt Walsh and Mary Beth Gallagher in Namibia, 2011

Confirmation 2011



This fall, on October 19th, Bishop John Dunne came to Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish to anoint 162 ninth graders in the Sacrament of Confirmation. It might have been the dreariest of rainy days outside, but within the walls of our church, there was much brightness and joy.

The Holy Spirit came down upon our Confirmation candidates and their families in two beautiful and reverent celebrations. Some students read the readings, and some brought the gifts up during the presentation, but all those in attendance shared in celebrating the liturgy with prayer and song.



In his homily, Bishop Dunne spoke directly to the ninth graders and explained that they have a mission as newly confirmed Catholics, and that mission is to be the hands and heart of Christ in the world. Bishop Dunne also gave them some concrete ways that they could accomplish this, not only in their parish, but also in their schools, and in their communities.



At the anointing, Bishop Dunne took a personal moment with each of the candidates, as he blessed them and wished them peace. After the ceremony, the bishop joined the students and their families downstairs in the Community Room for pictures. It was a wonderful culmination of their years of study and preparation. We congratulate all of our Confirmandi!



BAPTISMS



JULY

Lucas Stephen Sherwood
Katherine Grace Sabino
Elena Brooke Prior
James Patrick Pastorelli
Autumn Rose Carbonaro
Kayleigh Brooke Hammond

AUGUST

Mason Robert Kormoski
Edward Manuel Aguilar
Joseph Henry-Paul Gleis
Karissa James Sleicher
Quinn Merkle Penberth
Devin Sylvia McCue

SEPTEMBER

Brandon Drew Honeycutt
Dylan Michael Kane
Cian John Mulderrig
Christopher Vincent Breingan
James Joseph Rocco Baggio
Alexia Eva Garcia
Kasey Victoria Clegg

OCTOBER

Annabelle Sophia Vest
Reagan Elizabeth Limperatos
Ronald Vincent Ferraro
Dylan Christopher Pena
Emmett Matthew Conroy
Brian Thomas James Foerster
William Edward Benzing
Arianna Zabelle Rasmussen
Leyton Klaus Schomburg
Adam Joseph DeMuria, Jr.
Vivian Marie Sultana
Lyla Lucille Colonna
William Prescott Vitale
Lilly Catherine Critelli

WEDDINGS



APRIL

Joseph Scelzo and Willie Murray - Convalidation

JUNE

Andres Berry and Jessica Coyle
Michael McCarrick and Jenna Zublionis
Michael Martignetti and Anne Kroon
Michael LoRusso and Hazel Argenal
Aaron Steffensmeier and Allison Grobe

JULY

Michael Sornberger and Renee Iannotti - Convalidatio
Michael Mitchell and Diana Engel

Christopher McGuire and Rebekah Hawley

AUGUST

James Della Valle and Elizabeth Wojcicki
Alexander Borg and Christine Puccinelli
Adam Razov and Caren Newman
Joseph Zoda and Daphne Maes

SEPTEMBER

Christopher Colamussi and Amanda Bates
Gary Meyer and Lisa Meyer - Convalidation

OCTOBER

Christopher Paul and Denise D'Andrea
Jordan Woods and Jillian Barth
Joseph Carbonaro and Desiree Pace

FUNERALS



JULY

Eileen McKenna
Vincenzo Tanzi
Margaret O'Boyle
Madeline Ammirati
William Chapman
Glenda McMann
Robert Nowicki
Anna Van Wart
Nicholas Pizzolato
Cathlyn Gates Evans

AUGUST

Adelia Miskisky
Willi Roelli
Teresa Story
Patricia Pietrowski
E. Michael Heller
Arthur Galano
Ida Mirti
James Jordan
Robert Lecat
Mary Ann Schecher
Arlene Reilly
Kathleen Daniels

SEPTEMBER

Carol Shanley
Michele Ciruolo
Mary Sokel
Charles Bruno
Patrick McCourt
John Mahoney
Majdallah Shorize

OCTOBER

Catherine Garrison
Florence Doherty
Nancy FitzMaurice
James Pryal
Gertrude Smith

WELCOMES



Alejandro & Jill Pena
Denise Guido
Robert and Jaelyn Howland
James & Christina Sellars
Edward & Evelyn Dull
Edward and Victoria Meagher
Robert & Elizabeth Alessio
Joseph and Tara Santarpia
Michael & Megan Meehan
John & Jeanne Brancaccio
John & Allison Caffrey
Margaret Carriero
Joseph & Susan Competello
Kathleen Ryan
Michael & Dana Pilla
Mark & Kerrilyn Valentine
Raymond & Nicole Negron
Robert & Juliana Serino
Thomas & Kim Curran
Jill Iglesias
Jim & Anna Costello
Michael & Michelle Roux
Jennifer Lopez
Michael & Debra Viscusi
Michael & Danielle Lagnese
Matthew & Kara Sweeney
Shawn & Jennifer Anderson
David & Nancy Cali
Michael & Carolyn Napolitano
John & Dorothy Prior
David & Jill Bennardo
Michael & Jennifer West
Terence & Kim Gilroy
Gregory & Diane Bohk
Brian & Mary O'Sullivan
Joseph & Marsha Colatosti
Thad Marsh



Blessed John Henry Newman Prayer

“Lord Jesus, I have the joy and the responsibility of believing
that ever since my baptism we are one.
Don’t extinguish the light of Your presence within me.
O Lord, look through my eyes, listen through my ears,
speak through my lips, walk with my feet.
Lord, may my poor human presence be a reminder,
however weak, of Your divine presence.
For, to the degree that others notice me, it is a sign that I am,
unfortunately, still opaque and not transparent.”

- Blessed John Henry Newman



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