November 17, 2019 ~ Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Pastoral Team

Rev. Jason U. Grisafi, Pastor
Rev. Ethel Anarado, Associate Pastor
Rev. David Atanasio, In Residence
Rev. Francis A. Samuel, O.I.C. Resident/Associate
Deacon Michael J. Leyden
Deacon John F. Sullivan
Deacon Julio Murillo
Dr. Marie Drohan, Music Director
Mrs. Barbara McNulty, Pastoral Associate
Ms. Claire Moulé, Faith Formation
Ms. Anna Rose Regan, Business Manager
Mrs. Patricia Taggart, Nursery School
Mrs. Sigrid Villalobos A., Parish Social Ministry

Our Parish Mission Statement
The Parish of St. Joseph is a Roman Catholic Community of Christ’s Disciples:
We Welcome. We Worship. We Witness.

We Celebrate the Sacraments

Baptism
Parents are requested to call the Parish Office at least two months before child’s birth to make arrangements. New Parents’ Instruction Class will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 7:30pm to 8:30pm in Room 257. Baptism is celebrated every Sunday of the month at 1:45pm.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
Anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church should call the Parish Office.

Reconciliation (Confession)
Saturday 4:00 to 4:45pm in the Church or call the Parish Office for an appointment.

Matrimony
Couples are requested to call at least six months before the wedding for an appointment with a Priest or Deacon to set the date and make arrangements. No arrangements can be made by phone.

Anointing of the Sick
Fourth Saturday of the month at the 9:00am Mass or call the Parish Office.

We Celebrate the Eucharist

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday Vigil - 5:00pm Church
Sunday Church - 7:00am, 8:45am, 10:15am, 12:00pm, 5:00pm
Nolan Hall - 9:30am- Family Mass 11:30am (en Español)

Weekday Mass Schedule
Mon. to Fri. - 7:45am, 9:00am Church  Saturday - 9:00am Church

We Assemble for Prayer

Rosary
Every Monday at 8:20am we pray the Patriotic Rosary. Before the 9:00am Eucharist Tuesdays through Saturdays we pray the Rosary.

Miraculous Medal Novena
We pray this at the 7:45am & 9am Mass every Tuesday.

Men’s Spirituality Group:
Witness and grow in Faith. Meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the Church.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Hours of Adoration: Mon (7am-9pm); Tues. (8am-9pm); Thurs. (8am) - Fri.(Midnight). We have Holy Hour every Wednesday at 5pm & Friday at 3pm in the Divine Mercy Chapel. Call Parish Office for more information.

Nocturnal Adoration
A Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the First Friday of each month, from 9:00pm to 10:00pm in the Chapel.
The Sacraments of Life

Newly Baptized
Brayden Michael Mc Bride, Nicholas Dean Morton, Jolene Eve Oelkers & Quinn Lily Warren.

Preparing for Marriage

Banns Posted
First Time ~
Domenick Ricciardi & Cassie Harris

Second Time ~
Paul Stabile & Samantha Krapukaitis

Third Time ~
Gerald V. Koenig & Jessica Marino
Ryan Snyder & Lisa Arquer

For Our Sick

Altar Rose
In Memory of Christopher Borzuku

Bread & Wine for the Eucharist
In Memory of Jane Napolitano

For Our Deceased
Please pray for the families and souls of our deceased members including Richard J. Saggio & Maureen Fizzuoglio.

Mass Schedule & Readings For The Coming Week:

At this Mass, we remember
Monday, November 18
1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 158; Lk 18:35-43
7:45 Juana Caban Mendez
9:00 Matthew Conaughton

Tuesday, November 19
2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10
7:45 Richard Cruz
9:00 Thomas W. DeRosa

Wednesday, November 20
2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:ibcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28
7:45 Inez Ficalora
9:00 Ann Nucciarone

Thursday, November 21
1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44
7:45 Fortunat, Ann Mary, and Guy Canell
9:00 Gerald & Michael Scudlo

Friday, November 22
1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; (Ps) 1Chr 29:10b-12; Lk 19:45-48
7:45 Nunzio & Giuseppa Di Lorenzo
9:00 Jean Stanley

Saturday, November 23
1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16b, 19; Lk 20:27-40
9:00 Connie Trentalange

At this Eucharist we will have the Communal Anointing and the Blessing of the Sick® Families and Caregivers. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is for those who have not already been anointed during a particular illness or burdensome condition. Those already anointed®, family members®, friends and caregivers are welcome to join us at the Eucharist that morning and receive the Blessing of the Sick or the Blessing of Family®, Friends and Caregivers.

Weekend Celebrations (barring last minute changes)
4:00 Confessions Today Fr. Francis
5:00 Gerard C. Kelley, Jr. Fr. Dave
Yolanda Ciaramella Selvaggi
Sarah Coppelli

Sunday, November 24~ Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43
7:00 All Souls in Purgatory Fr. Francis
8:45 Joseph J. Rosenberger & Matthew Rosenberger Fr. Ethel
9:30 (NH) Mary & Sal Paolantonio & Thomas DeRosa Fr. Francis
10:15 Mildred Potenzo & Barbara Ross Fr. Ethel
11:30 (Español- NH) Anthony J. Pecorale, Jr. Fr. Jason
12:00 People of St. Joseph’s Fr. Jason
5:00 People of St. Joseph’s Fr. Jason
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Back in June, Bishop Barres appointed me to a second position (in addition to being pastor here): Director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious dialogue for the Diocese of Rockville Centre ("ecumenical" signifies dialogue between Christians, "interreligious" signifies dialogue between Christians and non-Christians). This office is meant to be a central place of contact between all of the different religious groups on Long Island and our diocese. However, the truth is that a tremendous amount of work in ecumenical and interreligious dialogue happens on the local level. In fact, the main place of dialogue is in our businesses, supermarkets, schools, and homes: it is in the interactions that you have with your neighbors, friends, and families. It is true; every time a Catholic interacts with a non-Catholic there is something communicated about our religion, for better or worse. Let's be committed to making it something good. During the Second Vatican Council the council fathers discussed ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. In the document on ecumenism, Unitatis Redintegratio, they said this, "all the faithful should remember that the more effort they make to live holier lives according to the Gospel, the better will they further Christian unity and put it into practice. For the closer their union with the Father, the Word, and the Spirit, the more deeply and easily will they be able to grow in mutual brotherly love" (paragraph 7).

Here in Babylon we have a very active dialogue taking place among the various religious leaders. It has been running for a number of decades. Next Sunday, November 24th at 7pm, our parish will be hosting one of the most anticipated activities that this group runs each year: a thanksgiving prayer service. We will worship God together in a spirit of gratitude, recognizing the blessings He has bestowed upon us all. I invite you to be a part of this event, especially if you have never come to it before. I have had a number of parishioners ask me about how to properly dialogue with other Christians and other religions: that evening will serve as a valuable example of how we can pray together. Refreshments will be served after the service.

Have you been aware of the ways that you dialogue with other Christians and other religions? When we are rooted in our tradition, and honest about our faith, then true and sincere dialogue can take place. In a future bulletin I hope to address some more of the practical questions that I have been asked (for example, how to best explain to a visitor at Mass that Holy Communion is only to be received by those who are Catholic). For now, let us pray that the virtue of religion grow in the souls of every person here on Long Island. I look forward to seeing you at our prayer service on the 24th!

In Christ,
fr. Jason

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**Save the Date**

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service**

**Sunday, November 24, 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

The Babylon Interfaith Clergy Cluster invites all parishioners and choirs to come together for an evening of communal prayer and song. This yearly tradition has been taking place for the last 40 years with fifteen churches represented from the Babylon Village, North and West Babylon and West Islip areas. A free will offering is taken to replenish the community food pantries. Refreshments and camaraderie will follow the prayer service.

_All are welcome to bring a sweet to share._
Sacrificial Giving

Thank you for your generosity in returning to God and God’s work some of what God has given to you.

11/10/2019

Collection $19,535.00
Last year $20,304.00

God Bless You!

We continue to pray for the following military personnel and their families:

U.S. Navy:
- Lt.Cdr. Michael Catalano
- Lt. John T. Izzo
- Lt. Caroline Mayer
- Lt. Dylan Kelly
- Lt. Christian Amelia
- MA2 William S. Murtha
- PO1 Rasheen Tice
- PO2 Kristen Tice
- PO3 Matthew Waldron
- E3 Nicholas Ruf

U.S.M.C.:
- Capt. Matthew Witcowsky
- 1Lt MarcAnthony Parrino
- 1Lt R.J. Parrino
- Sgt. Lauren Colantropo
- Cpl Alyssa E. Grimaldi
- PFC Joshua J. Coughlin
- Malik Rodriguez
- Nelson Sanchez, Jr.

U.S. Coast Guard:
- Capt. Matthew W. Sibley
- CPO Benjamin Flad
- F.A. Madison Mulders

U.S. Army:
- LTC John Kallo
- LTC Jon J. Uebel
- Capt. Stephen Scuderi
- 1LT Mark Barbera
- 2LT Anthony C. DiBiase
- LT Joseph A. Vanderveldt, III
- SSG Josuah Insull
- SSG David C. Ray
- Sgt Edwin Zambrano
- SPC Elliot Chodkowski
- SPC Alexandra Diaz
- PFC Dominick Pittito
- PV2 Danny Bornschein
- Eric Stein

U.S.A.F.:
- MSGT John Hatzidakis
- SSGT Brandon Ward
- AB Christopher Signoretti
- AB Eric Benzing
- AB Vincent E. Berger

HOTLINE NUMBERS

Crisis Pregnancy Center (631) 243-2373
Post-Abortion Counseling 1-888-456 HOPE
(Project Rachel)
National Human Trafficking 1-(888) 373-7888
Domestic Violence (Nassau County) Safe Housing (516) 542-0404 (24/7)
Domestic Violence (Suffolk County) Hotline & Shelter (631) 666-8833 (24/7)
Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk County (631) 360-3730
Office for Protecting Children/Young Adults-Diocese of Rockville Centre (516) 594-9063
Suicide Prevention (Nassau County) (516) 679-1111
Suicide Prevention (Suffolk County) (631) 751-7500
Talbot House: Chemical Dependence Help (631) 589-4144
Porn Addiction www.reclaimsexualhealth.com

Happy Thanksgiving

The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, November 28 & Friday, November 29 in observation of Thanksgiving.

The office will reopen on Saturday, November 30 at 9:30 AM.

Office Hours/Parish Office
(631) 669-0068
E-mail: secretary@stjosephsbabylon.org
Mon. to Friday 9:30am - 7:30pm
Sat. 9:30am to 4:00pm Sun. 9:30am -1:30pm

Cemetery Office
(631)669-0068 Ext. 107
Monday to Thursday 9:00am to 12:30pm
Please call in advance for an appt. during these hours.

Faith Formation Office
(631)587-4717
Mon. to Fri. 9:00am to 4:00pm

Hispanic Office
(631)669-0068 x131
Friday 7:00 to 9:00pm and Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon

Outreach Office
(631)669-4544
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:30am to 1:30pm
Other times by appt. (631-669-4544)

Food Pantry
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 9:30am to 1:30pm
Other times by appt. (631-669-0068 x 201)

Thrift Shop
(631)669-5574
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10:00am to 3:00pm
Nursery School - (631)661-4559
Youth Ministry - (631)669-0068 x 108
Parish Office Fax - (631)669-9175

Office Fax - (631)669-9175

WebSite: www.stjosephsbabylon.org

Hearing impaired parishioners may enjoy Signed Mass at 12:30 PM each Sunday at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 455 Hunter Avenue, West Islip

MINISTRY TO
The Hearing Impaired

Mass for Hearing Impaired

HOTLINE NUMBERS

Crisis Pregnancy Center (631) 243-2373
Post-Abortion Counseling 1-888-456 HOPE
(Project Rachel)
National Human Trafficking 1-(888) 373-7888
Domestic Violence (Nassau County) Safe Housing (516) 542-0404 (24/7)
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Suicide Prevention (Suffolk County) (631) 751-7500
Talbot House: Chemical Dependence Help (631) 589-4144
Porn Addiction www.reclaimsexualhealth.com

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Level 1 Advent Calendars will be given out at Mass this weekend. Please come to any Mass between Saturday @ 5pm and Sunday @ 5pm (see the website above for a complete list of Mass times). Please remember to bring your Mass attendance envelopes and place them in the collection basket.

Level 2 First Reconciliation – Saturday’s November 23rd @ 11:15am and December 7th @ 11:15am & 12:45pm. Emails went out with your child’s day and time. Please contact the Faith Formation Office if you have any questions and/or concerns.

Level’s 3 & 4 Instructional Mass will be on Thursday, December 5th @ 6:45pm in the Church. Please remember to bring your Mass attendance envelopes and place them in the baskets as you arrive.

Level 5 Mass Booklets are to be returned at any Mass the weekend of December 7th & 8th.

Level 8 Petition to the Bishop is due at any Mass the weekend of November 23rd – 24th. Please remember to bring your Mass attendance envelope and place it in the collection basket.

Level 8 Confirmation Interviews will take place on Thursdays, December 5th & 12th from 3:30pm – 7:30pm. Parents will be notified of their child’s date and time of their interview. Please contact the Faith Formation Office if you need to change your child’s date and/or time.

Congratulations to the following St. Joseph parishioners who received Honor Roll Status for the School Year 2018-2019 from Kellenberg Memorial High School. We are very proud of your accomplishments.

Zachary Baldassare
Julianna DiBiase
Michael Felicetti
Peter Gillen
Helen Hansen

Justin Karcher
Kali Maroney
Laken Maroney
Alden Sahi

Congratulations to the following St. Joseph parishioners who became members of the National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society for the School Year 2019-2020 from Kellenberg Memorial High School. We are very proud of your accomplishments.

National Honor Society
Zachary Baldassare
Helen Hansen
Alden Sahi

Junior Honor Society
Michael Felicetti
Justin Karcher
Laken Maroney

Congratulations !!
St. Joseph’s C.Y.O. 6th Grade Girls are undefeated and took 1st place at the Sacred Heart Basketball Tournament.
Way to go Girls!!
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Youth and Family Ministry

PBJ Gang continues to do a wonderful job every month providing Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwiches for the hungry. We do not meet in December.

Thank you to everyone who offers support! Please continue to keep those in need in your prayers and pray for our young students that they understand just how fortunate most of us are.

Special thanks to the person or group who sent me some Amazon Packages—filled with travel-sized toiletries!!! It was such a nice surprise and helped us make over 100 wash up kits for the Hospitality Too Soup Kitchen and also for St Joseph’s Parish Social Ministry!!

JOIN US ! ! ! NEW EVENT ! SECOND NIGHT 11/22 ! !
Friday 11/22 7:00pm—8:30pm
All in Grades 6 and above welcome to join us for the 1st Faith & Fun Night.
Board Games! Volleyball! Ping Pong! Relay Races!
Come check out the Gym & Madonna Room and enjoy some Fun & Faith on Friday!

Reserve your seat by logging on to the website at:
https://stjosephsbabylon.org/youth-ministry

DONATIONS of water bottles and small bags of chips or cookies would be greatly appreciated for these nights!
(Please leave in Parish Office Attention: Barbara McNulty.) Thanks!

Save the Dates

~Saturday, November 30th~
Blessing of the Christmas Nativity: immediately following the 5pm Mass

~Sunday, December 8th~
Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa- 10am-12pm
Children’s Christmas Pageant- 3pm in the Church
Thanksgiving Day Mass

On Thanksgiving Day all are invited to the Mass being held at 10:00 AM in the Church. It is the only liturgy of the day and will be Bilingual. You may bring a food or drink item from your Thanksgiving table to be blessed.

‘Moving On’ Group

CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH CENTER
39 North Carll Avenue
Babylon, NY 11702

The ‘Moving On’ Group
Is Sponsoring
A Suffolk County Police Department Presentation on “Staying Safe”
Topics Include Current Scams, Online Safety, Burglary Prevention, Etc.
Friday, November 22nd @ 7:30 pm
If you are not a member of the ‘Moving On’ Group and would like to attend, please contact Geri Olson 631-661-8994 or Linda Sparaco 631-225-9530

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Next meeting is Saturday, December 7th after the 9:00 AM Mass in the O’Connell Room. Sign up sheets for Masses on Christmas Eve will be available.

JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICA
THE JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ARE HOSTING A LIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE HOLIDAY CLASSIC, "A CHRISTMAS STORY" ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30 AT CM PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IN OAKDALE.
TICKETS ARE $30 FOR ADULTS AND $20 FOR CHILDREN 14 AND UNDER. CURTAIN UP AT 7:30 PM, BUT ARRIVE EARLIER FOR RAFFLE TICKETS. YOU COULD WIN A MAJOR AWARD! FOR RESERVATIONS CALL AMANDA OR KRISTAL AT 917-751-1514.

Catholic Ministries Appeal 2019

A parishioner said that whatever we raise from now until December 31st for the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA) he will match it! What a most generous gift! Our CMA for 2019 draws to a close on December 31st. If you have not had a chance to support the appeal please consider doing so before December 31st. When you send your check in please make sure you indicate that it is for St. Joseph’s Church in Babylon. Then it will be applied to our parish goal. The appeal helps hundreds of thousands of people here on Long Island through the wonderful work of Catholic Charities.

As of November 12, we have $118,017.00 in pledges and need $20,083.00 to meet our goal to receive our rebate from the Diocese.*

Catholic Ministries Appeal forms are available in the Parish Office.

Benefit Concert for The Mercy INN Soup Kitchen

Benefit Concert for the poor in our surrounding communities via The Mercy INN Soup Kitchen, Wyandanch
A Prelude to Christmas
Sunday, December 15, 2019
7:00 PM
Church of St. Joseph
39 N. Carll Avenue
Babylon, NY 11702

*As of November 12, we have $118,017.00 in pledges and need $20,083.00 to meet our goal to receive our rebate from the Diocese.*
**Parish Social Ministry**

Our hours of operation are:

Mon, Wed, & Thurs from 9:30am to 1:30pm
Thrift Shop- Mon, Wed, & Thurs 10:00am to 3:00pm

“New Phone Extensions”

Contact Parish Social Ministry (PSM) Outreach by phone (631) 669-4544 ext. 203 or 202
E-mail: svillalob@stjosephsbabylon.org Fax Number: (631) 620-3267

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**Saint Vincent de Paul Society**

SVdP members held a very successful **food drive** on November 10th. We received an abundance of food as well as monetary donations for our Food Pantry. This will keep it stocked throughout the Thanksgiving season.

Please stop by and visit our table at the **Ministry Fair** this weekend after all the Masses. We will have more information about our society.

**On Tuesday, November 19**, we will be distributing food to our neighbors in need for the Thanksgiving season.

On November 23rd & 24th, we will be holding our **Annual Door Collection** at all the Masses. We hope our parishioners will be generous in this important cause. Checks can be made out to the **St. Vincent de Paul Society**.

The next meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be held on **Monday, November 25, 2019** at 9:45am in Room 256 of the **Parish Center**.

All are invited to attend.

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**Angel Brigade Program**

At Outreach, we meet many local families who are struggling financially during these challenging times. As Christmas approaches, we are looking for a few Angels willing to “Adopt a Family” both financially and through prayer.

We will match you with a family and offer gift suggestions, including sizes. If you are interested in joining our Angel Brigade this Christmas, please email us at margotdenza@yahoo.com with your name, phone number, and any special requests pertaining to the size of the family, etc. If you prefer, you can call Outreach at 669-0068 x 202 or x 201 and leave your name along with your phone number and email address. Please consider joining our Angel Brigade this season. As one of our “adopted” families from the past wrote, “We had an amazing Christmas. … My heart is filled with the love of God and the kindness of strangers.”

**All requests to join our Angel Brigade must be received by November 22nd.**

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**The following items are needed this week in our Food Pantry:**

- Ketchup, Mayonnaise, Jelly, Mustard, Paper Products (toilet paper, paper towels and napkins), Coffee, Peanut Butter, Cooking Oil.

**Homeless:**

- Gloves, Hats, Men’s Underwear

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**Our Food Pantry is most in need of these items:**

- Canned Vegetables, Apple Juice, Coffee, Cereal, Mayonnaise, Jelly, Ketchup, Mustard, Pasta Sauce, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Large Toothpaste, Large Shampoo, Large Soap/ Body Wash

Gift Cards from supermarkets are in demand and would be greatly appreciated.

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**Join Fr. Ethel Anarado on a Pilgrimage to Mexico:**

**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

*January 30-February 4, 2020*

Visiting: Shrine of Guadalupe; Mexico City; San Juan Teotihuacan; Puebla

Forms are in the Parish Office or visit: www.pilgrimages.com/frethel
Who is my neighbor?

One of the things I am most proud of in the almost thirty-six years as a deacon is association with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. I received my five year pin a year ago.

You might wonder, just who are they? What’s the deal? This particular group or conference, as it is formally known, goes back to 1933 in this parish. It was embraced by Msgr. Nolan, who himself was known to dip into his own pocket to help folks in need with mortgage payments or help with bills. He offered the conference the donations from the poor boxes, a tradition handed down though all succeeding pastor.

St. Vincent de Paul is an independent organization with headquarters in Bethpage, solely dedicated to those in need in St. Joseph’s parish and works hand in glove with our Parish Outreach. So close is that relationship that it has become the model for the Diocese.

How does it work? A need is made known either directly or through Parish Outreach of a neighbor in need. Who is neighbor? See Lk10:37 “The one who took pity on him…Jesus said go and do the same yourself.”

Volunteers, a team of two, a man and a woman (Mk 6:7- “Then he gathered the twelve and began to send them out in pairs.”) go to the home and assess the needs. Often due to illness or death or a spousal abandonment, a financial need arises. Someone needs a car repair to get to work, another transportation to medical treatment or a utility bill that for some reason went ‘off the charts’ and the person could not navigate the system at the utility, someone sleeping on a mattress on the floor, a mother abandoned with children in need of legal assistance to secure child support, people aging an disoriented, to name a few needs. (Mt 25:35 “For I was hungry and you gave me food.”)

The pair makes an assessment and reports a recommendation at the conference meeting of a plan of how best to restore dignity and make a plan to move forward for our neighbor.

Believe me, these people know all of the social, municipal and governmental agencies who may be able to assist in the long and short term. After exhausting all of these, Yes it may be necessary to partner with Parish Outreach to pick up some bills that are in arrears. Our volunteers can be seen partnered with Babylon Rotary collecting food at Stop & Shop or picking up bags of groceries at Best Market. We purchase grocery shopping cards for Outreach and assist at the food distribution at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

One of the crowning jewels of this ministry was the Relief Center set up in the gym after Hurricane Sandy. Tons of clothing, food, cleaning supplies and tools were given out as well as, checks to replace damaged appliances.

You look around this beautiful area and wonder how could there be a need here? Believe me there is and I invite you to be part of the solution.

How? Today is our annual door collection, be as generous as your means allow!

Never pass the poor box without a thought of dropping in a buck or two!

Think of joining us. We have room at the table. Watch the bulletin for dates and times.

Deacon John

WHAT'S ON YOUR LABEL?

A ritual of my youth in Sea Cliff was a family ride on a Sunday. We stayed mostly on the North Shore of Nassau County with Manhasset being the furthest west we would venture and Syosset going east. Of course, we would stop at any (and every) Catholic church, light a candle, and say a prayer. On the rare times we stayed relatively close to home, my mother would point to a house and say, for example, “That’s where the Browns live.” I would immediately ask, “Are they Catholic or public?” I knew I went to a Catholic school; I knew some of my friends went to public school; so I thought the only distinction between people was being “Catholic” or “public”.

Life was fairly simple for me in those days because of so few labels to identify people. Sure, I understood color was a distinction, but that was the only other classification. Now, however, the labels people use have grown exponentially to the point where a new category arrives almost daily. No wonder there is some much trouble in the world.

Recently canonized John Henry Newman reminded us: “I have a part in a great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace.”

We often seem to forget God made us for a specific purpose and has given us Grace to be successful. If we concentrate on what we all have in common instead on the 5% of our being which makes us different, I suggest there would be greater harmony in our world. Too often we stress a small part of our lives as being our label.

We need but one label:

Hello…My Name is
Child of God

Deacon John
Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

En Junio, nuestro Obispo Barres me nombró a mi como director de la oficina del diálogo ecuménico e inter-religioso ("ecuménico" significa diálogo entre los Cristianos, "inter-religioso" significa diálogo entre Cristianos y no-Cristianos). La oficina es un lugar central de comunicación entre nuestra diócesis y todos los varios grupos religiosos en Long Island. En realidad, la mayoría del trabajo ecuménico e inter-religioso sucede en las comunidades locales. El lugar de diálogo es los negocios, los mercados, las escuelas, y las casas: es la interacción entre ustedes y sus prójimos, sus amigos, y sus familiares. De verdad, cada vez un Católico encuentra a un no-Católico, él comunica algo de nuestra religión. ¡Comuniquemos algo bueno! En el segundo concilio vaticano, los padres del concilio hablaron del diálogo ecuménico e inter-religioso. En su documento sobre ecumenismo, Unitatis Redintegratio, ellos dijeron, "recuerden todos los fieles, que tanto mejor promoverán y realizarán la unión de los Cristianos, cuanto más se esfuercen en llevar una vida más pura, según el Evangelio. Porque cuanto más se unan en estrecha comunión con el Padre, con el Verbo, y con el Espíritu, tanto más íntima y fácilmente podrán acrecentar la mutua hermandad" (párrafo 7).

Aquí en Babylon tenemos un diálogo muy activo entre los líderes religiosos. El próximo domingo, el 24 de Noviembre a las 7pm, nuestra parroquia va a invitar a todas las religiones a participar en una noche de oración en acción de gracias por todas las bendiciones. Alabaremos a Dios todos juntos en un espíritu de gratitud. Yo les invito asistir a este evento, especialmente si nunca han venido en el pasado. Unos parroquianos me preguntaban como debemos orar con los otros Cristianos: esta noche de oración será un ejemplo bueno. Se servirá un refrigerio después.

¿Ha pensado en su participación en el diálogo ecuménico e inter-religioso? Si estamos formados bien en nuestra tradición, y hablamos sinceramente sobre nuestra fe, vamos a tener un diálogo verdadero. En un boletín futuro, yo quiero hacer unos comentarios de las preguntas más prácticas que me han preguntado (por ejemplo, como explicar a un visitante a la Misa que la Santa Comunión es para los Católicos solamente). Por ahora, oremos que la virtud de religión crece en la alma de todas las personas aquí en Long Island. ¡Espero verles en el servicio de oración en el 24°!

En Cristo,

p. Jason