

November 8, 2009
32nd Sunday Ordinary Time
“ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

Mass Intentions

Weekend of November 15, 2009

November 8, 2009

5:00 PM (ENGLISH)

LECTOR – S. Napoleon

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Y. Bellevue B. Fong Lee L. Magloire
 P. Droessler D. Lee Sr. E. Powell, BVM

ALTAR SERVERS– N. Smith, D. Beachamp

7:30 AM (ENGLISH)

LECTOR– A. Purchase

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

C. Bargeron M. Brown F. Delle
 M. Bediako O. Davis P. Delle

ALTAR SERVERS– B. Dumas, A. Dumas

8:45 AM (SPANISH)

LECTORS– D. Vasquez, L. Lopez, C. Mariduenia

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER-

C. Campos M. Matos V. Maldonado
 A. Campos V. Ticas J. Lazo

ALTAR SERVERS– J. Canas, J. Canas, A. Mejia,
 K. Mejia

11:00 AM (ENGLISH)

LECTOR– T. Davis

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

M. Austrie M. Duroseau C. Nicholson
 M. Denis M. Fray T. Sanders-Davis

ALTAR SERVERS– R. Nieves, C. Antoine

12:30 PM (HAITIAN)

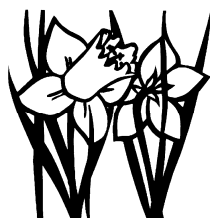
LECTORS– C. Cange, M. Felix, A. Exantus

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS–

M. Lebon, Y. Bellevue

ALTAR SERVERS—

If there is any difference between the above and your individual schedule, the individual one is to be considered correct.



Monday

8:30 AM

Tuesday

8:30 AM

Wednesday

8:30 AM

Thursday

8:30AM

Friday

8:30 AM

Saturday

5:00 PM

Sunday

7:30 AM

8:45 AM

11:00AM

12:30 PM

November 9– Dedication to the Lateran Basilica in Rome

All Souls Novena

November 10– St. Leo the Great

All Souls Novena

November 11– St. Martin of Tours

All Souls Novena

November 12– St. Josaphat

Charles Claus

November 13– St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

Hilderic and Aline Carrie

November 14

William C. Flanagan

November 15

33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

In Thanksgiving for Lunie Appolon

Carlos E. Llanes

In Thanksgiving for Keisha Hicks

Parishioners of St. Martha's



The Bread and Wine for the Week of November 8 to November 14, 2009

are offered

In Thanksgiving for Rubena Waldron

Requested by

The Waldron Fong Lee Family

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR

33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

November 15, 2009

Daniel 12:1-3.

Psalms 16:5, 8-11.

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18.

Mark 13:24-32.





St. Martha's Catholic Parish

546 GREENGROVE AVENUE, UNIONDALE, NEW YORK 11553

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www.saintmartha@dellmail.com • www.saintmartha.org

THE PASTOR'S WEEKLY LETTER – November 8th 2009

Dear Parishioners, Chers Paroissiens, Queridos feligreses:

WELCOME: This weekend the Parish Family of St. Martha's welcomes Father Jim Price, C.P. to our community of faith. (I am away in Jerusalem on a Holy Land Pilgrimage and will be returning tomorrow). Father Jim is a member of the Congregation of The Passion Order and is currently the Vicar Provincial of the Passionist's. We have been friends for along time and I am very grateful to him for serving St. Martha's this weekend! Welcome and thank you, Father Jim!

BISHOP CABEZAS: Our own Bishop Cabezas will offer a presentation in Spanish on the priesthood at 7 P.M. in the church next Saturday, November 14th on the "Year of The Priest."

HEALTHY SUNDAY'S: St. Martha's will host another "Healthy Sunday's" Program next Sunday from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. Free diabetes and blood pressure screening along with flu vaccines will be offered. Refreshments will be served too. All are welcome.

BIENVENUE: Ce week-end, la Famille Paroissiale de Ste. Martha accueille le Père Jim Price, C.P. à notre communauté de foi. (Je suis parti à Jérusalem en pèlerinage à la Terre Sainte et retournerai demain). Le père Jim est un membre de l'Ordre de la Passion et est actuellement le Vicaire Provincial des Passionistes. Nous sommes des amis de longue date et je lui suis très reconnaissant de venir nous aider à Ste. Martha ce week-end! Bienvenue et merci, Père Jim!

MONSEIGNEUR CABEZAS: Notre propre Évêque, Monseigneur Cabezas, offrira une présentation sur le sacerdoce en espagnol à 7h p.m. dans l'église samedi prochain le 14 novembre, dans le cadre de la célébration de «l'Année du Prêtre».

DIMANCHES DE SANTÉ: Ste. Martha aura une autre session du Programme des "Dimanche de Santé" dimanche prochain de 10h a.m. à 1h p.m. Des tests de diabète et de tension artérielle seront offerts gratuitement, ainsi que le vaccin contre la grippe. Des rafraîchissements seront aussi servis. Tout le monde est invité.

BIENVENIDA: Este fin de semana la Familia Parroquial de Santa Marta ofrece una calurosa bienvenida a nuestra comunidad de fe al Padre Jim Price, C.P.. (Yo me encuentro en Jerusalén en un Peregrinaje a Tierra Santa y regresaré mañana). El Padre Jim es miembro de la Congregación de la Pasión y es el actual Vicario Provincial de los Pasionistas. ¡Somos amigos por mucho tiempo y le estoy muy agradecido por servir en Santa Marta este fin de semana! ¡Bienvenido y gracias Padre Jim!

OBISPO CABEZAS: Nuestro propio Obispo Cabezas, dará una charla en español acerca del "Año del Sacerdocio" el día 14 de noviembre a las 7 p.m. en la iglesia.

DOMINGOS SALUDABLES: Santa Marta auspiciará una vez más el Programa de "Domingos Saludables" el próximo domingo desde la 10 a.m. hasta la 1 p.m. Se ofrecerán exámenes gratis de diabetes e hipertensión y también vacunas contra la influenza. También se servirán refrescos. Todos son bienvenidos.

How to care for your whole self. From: Christopher News Note 506

“Be gentle with yourself, learn to love yourself, to forgive yourself, for only as we have the right attitude toward ourselves can we have the right attitude toward others.” Wilfred Peterson

“‘The Friendship Gift’ A friend is a gift you give yourself.” Robert Louis Stephenson

“‘Think happy!’ It is a power that can blast out all defeat and lift a person above all difficult situations.” Norman Vincent Peal

“‘Pardon me—and you’ The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world.”Marianne Williamson

NOVEMBER

The month of November has traditionally been a time in the church year that we reflect on death, the dead, and the questions about whether the circle will be unbroken. The entire month focuses on the way we grapple with death. Our attitudes may vary from calling death our Sister (as St. Francis did) to concentrating on the ways we struggle against the modern forms of death in our own world. It might be a time for us to think about a will, about cremation or burial, or donation to medical science. It might mean trying to balance what we believe about the next life with the way medical technology prolongs life, or the ways we avoid dealing with death by our funeral practices. It might be a time to consider how we support others when they face the death of a loved one. It might mean confronting some of the hard ethical questions that government and business and science face every day about the value and the quality of human life.

One way in which we can assist our parishioners is to invite them for an evening to learn about preparing for funerals and to encourage them to plan their own in advance. This can be given by a parish priest or the parish liturgist. Ideally, both will work together and discuss all aspects of funeral planning. Someone from a funeral home and from the diocesan cemeteries can give information about their services for a fuller perspective on all that needs to be done. When we did it, we called it "Exiting Gracefully," and those who came seemed to really appreciate the information and planning tools we gave them.

The civic holiday of Thanksgiving is more and more being recognized as a religious feast. It is a day not only to give thanks to God for the blessings we receive, but a reminder of our responsibility to care for what we have been given and to share it with the dispossessed in our world. It seems that this feast can fit very nicely into the theme of helping us put our priorities in order. A collection of food and financial gifts to be used for the poor is a tradition in many parishes at Mass on this day.

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RETROUVAILLE –A LIFE LINE FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry. Couples who have had problems in their own marriages and have recovered from those problems, share their experiences with couples in troubled marriages in the hope that they too will see that their marriage can be saved. Thousands of couples all over the globe have found hope, help and healing by participating in the Retrouvaille program. A Retrouvaille weekend is a deeply personal and private experience shared between a husband and wife that can help a couple reconnect and go on to lead a happy and fulfilling life together.

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE NOW! For more information about the upcoming Retrouvaille weekend that begins on Friday, Dec. 11th, 2009 at the Montfort retreat house in Bay Shore, Long Island. Please Call 1-800-470-2230 and you will be connected (Confidentially) to an experienced couple from Long Island/ Metro Retrouvaille who can help.



**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR THOSE
IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, IS VETERANS DAY

A PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY

YOU ARE MY REFUGE AND MY SHIELD. I PUT MY HOPE IN YOUR WORD.”

(Psalm 119:114)

Lord, bless the men and women of our military as they answer the call to serve our nation and defend our freedom.

Protect them, particularly those in harm’s way. Most of all let them know your love: that you are with them, and that you will never forsake or abandon them. I ask this in the precious name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Partners in Evangelism Ministry to Service Men and Women

IN MEMORIAM —October 17 – October 24, 2009

Iraq

In Iraq -Pvt Daniel Rivera 22 Rochester NY, Sgt Bradley Espinoza 26 Mission TX and 75 Iraqis

AFGHANISTAN

Cpl David Baker 22 Painesville OH, Spc Kyle Coumas 22 Lockeford CA, Cpl James Oakland 26 England
Spc Eric Lembke 25 Tampa FL, Pvt Kimble Han 30 Lehi UT, Sgt Michael Ebert 23 Denmark
and 91+ Afghanis and Pakistanis
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

U.S. Air Force:

Airman Francisco J. Velasquez,

U.S. Army:

Master Sergeant Jill Agront, Sgt. Hisnard
Cadet, Jr., Staff Sgt. Misael Exantus,
Spc. Danny Mendez, Sgt Aaron Fullerton,
PFC Zaymery Villalobos, Special Force
Kareem Inniss, Colonel Verb Washington,
Major Elizabeth Werns-Romano, Flight Sur-
geon, LTC Christopher Jenkins, Spc. Richard
Aquilar, 1st Lt. Gavin Campbell.

U.S. Marines:

Sergeant W. Jason Ferris, L Cpl. Jason
Fullerton, L. Cpl Alfonso Rodriquez, Cpl.
Adam Griffin, L Cpl. Eaton Farrell,
LCPL Alexis Vazquez

U.S. Navy:

Airman Herbert J. Alvarado, JE-4/CS3 Jesus
Ron, P.O.1st Class John V. Sparkowski,
Lt. Joseph A. Baugh, Cpl. Eric Omar Matos,
U.S. Navy & Marines, Commander Kevin
Seaton Canty.

“War is always a defeat for humanity.”

Pope John Paul II

If someone you know or someone in your family is currently serving in the U.S. Military, kindly submit their name, rank and Branch of Service to the Parish Center office in writing. If the service person leaves the service, please inform the Parish Office. Thank you.

THE SACRAMENTS AT ST. MARTHA'S

BAPTISMS of NOVEMBER 2009

Anthony Enox Diaz, Jr.



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please call in the names of those who are ill. Names of the ill will be published for one month, which then is renewable. Names of people can be placed on the Sick list only by the individual or family member.

TREE OF LIFE:



Memorialize a loved one with a leaf on our parish's *Tree of Life*, located in the Church Lobby. If you would like more information about this lovely memorial, Please contact **the Parish Office at 481-2550 Ext 301**

OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Paul Duplessy + October 18, 2009

Mrs. Gladys Beatrice Winter + October 19, 2009
(Mother of Othille Mathurin, wife of Deacon Treavor Mathurin)

Oh my great Creator:

Help me this day to love myself.
I can't give away anything
that I don't have myself.
If I am to love others,
then I must love myself.
If I am to forgive others,
then I am to forgive myself.
If I am to accept others as they are
then I need to accept myself as I am.
If I am to not judge others,
then I need to lighten up on myself.
Let me experience this power of love...

My Creator, today I will love myself
so I can love my neighbor.
I will look at each person today
and see your light within them.
If I do this, I will hold my brothers
and sisters without guilt.

Chief Dan George, Shokomish, Tribal Nation,
Washington.
From: Christopher News Note 506

Martha Alce, Elizabeth Augustyn, Jean Beekman, Ann Boden, Thomas Brislin, Sharon Burke, Veronica Byrnes, Fr. Zachary Callahan, Marie Caruso, Ann Celentano, Thomas Celentano, Anne Cote, Edward Cserny, Ann DeNicola, Kevin Derham, Karl Droessler, Brian Duffy, Malorie Dzienius, Roderich Evans, Josephine Elgonitis, Mary Famularo, Jean Ferraia, Jack Flynn, Kathleen Flynn, Humbert Garel, Harriet Ganas, Sr. Patricia Gimblett, RSM, Ann Gould, Bertha Griffin, Joan Gurge, Lorraine Hardy, Frank Hayde, Jeanette Healy, Marlene Hicks, Eleanora Hinton, Marianne Imperato, Jack Kightlinger, Barbara Kirsten, Kevin Lawlor, Monserrate Lebron, Rita Liotta, Edith Lucchi, Faith Lyons, Nancy Martinez, Joan Mariconda, Arthur McNeill, Thomas Mc Govern, John Mueller, Steven Nieves, Mary O'Leary, Florence O' Sullivan, Teodocia Perez, Samuel Peters, Frances Powell, Mary Prutzman, Mary Rodefled, George Schmidt, James Spagnoli, Frank Torie, Rubena Waldron, Sr. Margaret Williams, CIJ, Sharon Wicke, Betty Griffin, Leonisa Rivera, John Villavicencio, Marge Weiss, Jennie Vilhauslas, Kay Brown, Laura Mauro, Fernando Rodriguez Lamberty, Robert & Pam Henry (husband & wife hurt in motorcycle accident), Alexander J. Wilamowski, Charles Droessler, Antoine Amie, and John Flanagan, Jr. .



Social Ministry / Outreach News

Job Bank of Outreach: Gilaine, is overseeing the Job Bank.

Do you need a babysitter, home health aid, housekeeper or landscaper? Or can you provide these services? Register with St. Martha's Social Ministry Job Bank. Call 292-1603 on Wednesday or Thursday between 10 AM and 2PM.

FIDELIS CARE HEALTH INSURANCE

Is in Social Ministry every Wednesday from 10 –12 PM. Ask to see Claudia.

CAN YOU HELP?

ITEMS NEEDED: Frozen hamburgers, one pound frozen chopped meat packages, small chickens, chicken parts, hot dogs/franks, tuna fish, beans, rice, oil, individual boxed milk (ie. Parmalat), jelly, peanut butter, yams/sweet potatoes, all kinds of juice (esp., small sizes), tea bags, any cold cereal, individual packs of oatmeal, bar soaps, toilet tissue, paper towels, napkins, diapers, diaper wipes, toothbrushes and other person care items or store gift certificates. Clean grocery store plastic or paper bags.

Although the Social Ministry department is starting to concentrate on the Holidays the above everyday items are needed.

Thank you for your generosity!

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

It is time again for us to provide for the needy of our community.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are drawing close.

We depend on your generosity In helping us to provide food baskets to our clients to make their holidays enjoyable.

We welcome your donations of

sweet potatoes,

rice,

pasta,

gravy,

cranberry juice,

cranberry sauce,

beans,

soup,

Vegetables

and any other foods.

Professional Therapy and Counseling:

Family, marriage, and individual therapies, provided by New York State licensed therapists, are available to our parish . This program, provided by the Catholic Counseling Center is under the direction of Dr. George Giuliani. Most insurance policies, including Medicare, are honored. For confidential information and appointment, call Dr. Giuliani at 631-243-2503 or go to our website at <http://www.thecatholiccounselingcenter.net>

*Thank you for your generosity
to St. Martha's Parish !*

November 1, 2009

Sunday Collection \$8,739.90 -13%
Poor Box \$96.00

If you do not get your envelopes or misplace them please use a plain one and write your full names, address, number & amount. If you are changing your address or are going to be temporarily away please inform the bookkeeper about 6 weeks before.
Thank you.

CRAFT/BAKE SALE
A SUCCESS

Thank you to Rose Feeney, Lorraine San Filippo and their core committee: Georgina Brennan, Louretta Dragonetti, Joan Baldwin, Elinor Capriotti, Mary Michalek and Martha Ann Brady for their efforts.

To all those wonderful, creative bakers and crafters who gave of their time and talent to donate items to be sold, to those who volunteered to help sell, to those who prepared the coffee and to those who "shopped until they dropped" the words

THANK YOU will never convey my appreciation!

**\$1,275 has been added
to the Capital Campaign**

(does not include the bicycle raffle)

Gloria R. Maffettone,
Capital Campaign Chairperson

PARISH CENTER DIRECTORY

Msgr. Francis Caldwell, Pastor Ext. 302

Mrs. Barbara Fong Lee Ext. 301
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Martha-Ann Brady Ext. 304
Bookkeeper & Bulletin Editor

Mrs. Marlene Jean- Baptiste
Director of Social Ministry
292-1603 Ext 320 or 481-2550 Ext

Voice Mail only: Must leave a message

Mr. Richard Lee Ext. 345
Counseling & Marriage Preparation

Deacon Hernst Bellevue Ext.346
Baptismal Program

Mr. Alvin Ingram Ext.347
Liturgy Chairperson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sr. Elizabeth Myles, CSJ
Pastoral Director— Religious Education
516-481-2550 Ext. 311 OR

Ext. 343 (Voice Mail only)

Sr. Eileen Curley, RSM,
Pastoral Associate, and
Adult faith formation and RCIA director-
516-481-2550 EXT 314 OR

Ext.342(Voice Mail only)



AVIS A LA COMMUNAUTE HAITIENNE

MESSE DOMINICALE: Chaque dimanche à partir de 12h30, la communauté haïtienne se réunit à l'église pour célébrer la messe. Le mercredi soir à partir de 7 h30 PM nous avons une prière charismatique à la chapelle. Vous êtes tous invité(e)s.

ADORATION: Chaque lundi après la messe de 8h30 AM à la chapelle il y a exposition du St Sacrement jusqu'à 4h PM. Il nous faut une présence à tout moment durant l'exposition. S'il vous plaît ne laisser pas le St Sacrement seul.

COURS D'ANGLAIS : Les cours d'anglais comme 2eme langue ont commencé depuis le mois dernier et beaucoup de personnes veulent en profiter pour améliorer leur connaissance de l'anglais. Cependant, nous n'avons pas assez de professeur et nous avons besoin de votre aide. Si vous voulez participer à cette œuvre de bienfaisance appeler au 481-2550 ext 301. Les classes ont lieu les mardis et les jeudis de 7 :45 – 9 :15 PM à la salle 213 de l'école St Martin de Porres Marianist.

SERVICE SOCIAL: Les bureaux du service social de Ste Martha sont à votre disposition si vous avez besoin de nourriture, habits, service d'immigration etc. Contactez les au 292-1603 du lundi au vendredi excepté les mardis de 10h AM – 2h PM. Si vous cherchez du travail ou si vous avez du travail à offrir adressez vous à Gilaine les mercredis et jeudis. Notez que La thanksgiving et les fêtes de fin d'année arrivent à grand pas, et beaucoup de parents comptent sur nous pour les aider à nourrir leurs enfants. A notre tour nous comptons sur votre générosité. Donner ce que vous avez : céréals, riz, mambas, boites de conserve, poulet, viande, de l'argent, couchette pour bébé. Dieu vous le rendra au centuple

DINER DANSANT : Cette année notre dîner dansant annuel se tiendra à Verdi's de Wetsbury le dimanche 6 Décembre 2009 de 6-10h PM. Les billets sont en vente au prix de \$65.00 par personne, la rafle 50/50 est aussi prêt pour la vente alors appelez au 481-2550 pour information.

CAMPAGNE CAPITALE : Pour continuer les travaux de restaurations de l'église nous vous demandons de ne pas oublier les enveloppes jaunes et de mettre des pièces de monnaie dans la grande bouteille placée à l'intérieur de l'église.

Une autre façon de contribuer à la Campagne Capitale c'est de vous inscrire aux classes de yoga les samedis matin de 9 :15 – 10 :30h au James Collins Hall. Frais de participation \$15 par classe, 4 classes pour \$50 (rabais de \$10) et 6 classes pour \$75 (rabais de \$15).

.BULLETIN DU DIMANCHE: Prenez avec vous le bulletin du dimanche et lisez le. Vous y trouverez des informations importantes sur votre communauté et votre paroisse.

RINCON HISPANO

INTENCIÓN DE LA MISA: Por el eterno descanso de Judith Sandoval.

GRUPO DE ORACIÓN: Cada miércoles, a las 7:00 de la noche en el Gimnasio.

ULTREYA: Cada domingo, a las 11:00 de la mañana en la Capilla.

GRUPO JUVENIL: Cada jueves, a las 7:30 de la noche en el Salón Parroquial.

YA SE ACERCAN : La fiesta de Acción de Gracias y las Navidades. El Centro Social depende de su generosidad y ayuda para proveer comida mediante las canastas que se entregan a los necesitados durante estas temporadas. Se necesitan: papas dulces, arroz, pasta, jugo de cranberry, salsa de cranberry, habichuelas, sopa, vegetales, etc.

APARTEN LA FECHA: Para nuestro gran baile anual, el 6 de diciembre en el Salón Verdi de Westbury. Nuestra parroquia estará celebrando sus 60 años de aniversario. Ya los boletos de la rifa están a la venta.

DOMINGO SALUDABLE: El domingo 15 de noviembre, la parroquia patrocinará otro programa de domingo saludable, de 10AM a 1PM. Vean los volantes en la entrada de la iglesia.

POR FAVOR: Piensen en ser “Embajador de Protección” para nuestro recién renovado salón parroquial. Algunas paredes ya están manchadas por personas que apoyan los pies contra la pared y por otras acciones descuidadas. Si quieren que el salón permanezca en buen estado, diga algo cuando noten comportamientos que pudieran destruir o causar daños. Si no cuidamos juntos el lugar, seguramente volverá al estado que estuvo antes de que se renovara. Por favor, piensen en ser “Embajador de Protección” de la parroquia. “Si ve algo – diga algo.”

LA MEGA CAMPAÑA: Aún sigue progresando. Recuerden, la meta es acumular un total de \$800.000. Se espera recaudar un total de \$425,845 de parte de personas que se han comprometido. Un total de 279 personas han donado y ha habido 25 actividades, mas las colectas mensuales. Se ha recibido un total de \$350,823 en donaciones. Aún nos falta \$374,154 para alcanzar la meta.

LA IGLESIA: St. Malacky en Nueva Cork y Descubriendo el Siglo 21 invitan a la comunidad hispana en general a escuchar su programa de Radio “La Tertulia” todos los miércoles de 8:00 a 9:00 de la noche en la emisora WPAT 930 AM o por internet [www.WPAT 930 AM.COM](http://www.WPAT930AM.COM) con el Padre Tomás Del Valle. Para mayor información pueden llamar al 212-244-4778 o visítenos en el Internet [www. Descubriendo el siglo 21.COM](http://www.DescubriendoelSiglo21.COM)

Ron Rolheiser column— Week of November 1, 2009
On Litmus Tests for Christian Discipleship

We live today with a lot of polarization, both inside of our churches and in society at large. There is something healthy in this, despite its bitter underside. Moral outrage and anger is in the end an indication of moral fervor. We still believe in things, in right and wrong. There's virtue in that.

But that being said, there is also something very unhealthy in our present situation, one within which sincere people can no longer have a civil and respectful conversation with each other over certain moral and religious issues because each side ultimately disrespects the other, convinced that the other has sold out on some issue that constitutes a litmus test for moral goodness. Inside the church and inside of our civic political processes, invariably, each side, liberal and conservative alike, has one issue that is its ultimate non-negotiable and which constitutes the litmus test by which to judge the moral and religious goodness of everyone else.

For some the single issue is a moral one (abortion, gay marriage, justice for a particular group), for others the single issue is an ecclesial practice (church attendance, membership in a particular denomination), and for others the single issue is dogmatic (women's ordination, the uncritical acceptance of scripture or of church authority, syncretism). But invariably one issue is singled out so as to become the basis for an ultimate discriminating judgment, a litmus test, as to whether someone else is worthy of religious and moral respect.

But is this legitimate? Can a single issue become a litmus test? What does Jesus say on this? What do the scriptures say on this? Can one single moral or religious issue be seen as constituting the very essence, the center, the non-negotiable heart of Christian discipleship?

In a sense, yes, though this must be carefully nuanced. As well, each New Testament writer formats this in a different way:

In the Gospel of Matthew the moral heart of discipleship is articulated by Jesus in what we call The Sermon on the Mount. At its center lies this challenge: Can you love an enemy? Can you truly forgive someone who has hurt you? Can you bless someone who has cursed you? Can you be good to those who have done you harm? Can you forgive a murderer?

This challenge is what sets Jesus' moral teaching apart from others and gives it its unique character - and its real teeth. This is meant to be the distinguishing mark of a follower of Jesus: He or she can love and forgive an enemy. If the Gospel of Matthew, or perhaps the New Testament as a whole, gives us a litmus test for discipleship, this might be its one-line formulation: Can you love and forgive an enemy?

Luke's Gospel makes essentially the same point in a different language. There Jesus challenges us to be compassionate as our heavenly Father is compassionate and then goes on to define that compassion as a love, like that of the Father of the Prodigal Son and Older Brother, that lets its light shine on the bad as well as the good, that reaches out and loves irrespective of what is deserving and what isn't. The litmus test here might be worded: Love each other beyond differences and beyond what you think is deserving of love. Do not love just your own kind or someone who reciprocates. Embrace in love as widely as God embraces in love.

Ron Rolheiser column— Week of November 1, 2009

On Litmus Tests for Christian Discipleship—Page 2

The Epistles of Paul capture this in the distinction Paul makes between what he calls life in the flesh as opposed to what he calls life in the Spirit. The former, life in the flesh, is characterized by "lewd conduct, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hostilities, bickering, jealousy, outbursts of rage, selfish rivalries, dissensions, factionalism, envy, drunkenness, and orgies." When these exist in our lives, Paul cautions, we may not delude ourselves into thinking we are living inside of God's spirit.

Conversely, life in the Spirit, for Paul, is characterized by "charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness, long-suffering, endurance, mildness, kindness, generosity, faith, and chastity." It is only when **we** these qualities are manifest in our lives that we may understand ourselves as walking in true discipleship.

For Paul, the litmus test is not one, single moral issue but rather a whole way of living that radiates more charity than selfishness, more joy than bitterness, more peace than factionalism, more patience and respect than negative judgment and gossip, more empathy than anger, and more willingness to sweat the blood of sacrifice than to give into the temptations of the moment.

This is not to suggest that particular moral, dogmatic, and ecclesial issues are not important; some of them are a matter of life and death. But Christian discipleship is not just about our actions, it's also about our hearts. The essence of Christian discipleship lies in putting on the heart of Christ. Proper morality, defense of truth, and life-giving church practices follow from that - and, when rooted in that, they become respectful, forgiving, and loving.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

Bulletin Reflection

November 8, 2009

32nd Sunday Ordinary Time

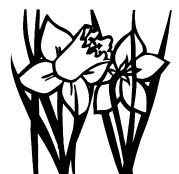
Both widows in
today's readings
gave all they had
to the work of the Lord,
one using all her remaining food
to feed Elijah
and the other offering
her two copper coins
to the temple treasury.
Faithful stewards give all that is asked
and trust the Lord
to be faithful to His promises.

LIVING STEWARDSHIP

November 8, 2009

32nd Sunday Ordinary Time

We are grateful
this week for all stewards
in our parish
who give without hesitation,
not from
their surplus,
but
from their substance.





GIRLS & BOYS' BICYCLE RAFFLE

1 girl's new 20 inch bicycle

1 boy's new 20 inch bicycle

\$1.00 per raffle

Beginning on November 1st

Raffles will be sold after masses weekends of Nov. 7-8, 13-14, 21-22, Dec. 5-6

Raffle Drawing after the 5PM Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass

on Sat. Dec. 12, 2009

(Winner need not be present) **What a great Christmas present!**

RAFLE DE BICYCLETTES POUR GARCONS ET FILLES

1 bicyclette pour fille, neuve, 1 bicyclette pour garçon, neuve

\$1.00 par raffle Les rafles seront en vente après les messes weekends de

Nov 7-8, 13-14, 21-22, Déc. 5-6

Le tirage aura lieu le Samedi 12 Décembre, 2009, Notre Dame de la Guadeloupe,
après la messe de 5 :00 PM (Le gagnant n'a pas besoin d'être présent)

QUEL GRAND CADEAU DE NOEL!

RIFA DE BICICLETAS DE NIÑA Y NIÑO

1 bicicleta para niña de 20 pulgadas, 1 bicicleta para niño de 20 pulgadas

\$1.00 el número de la rifa

Las bicicletas estarán en exhibición a partir del 1° de noviembre en
la venta de artesanías y pasteles

Boletos para la rifa se venderán después de las misas del 7-8, 14-15, 21-22
de noviembre y 5-6 diciembre

La rifa será después de la misa de la Virgen de Guadalupe el sábado 12 de diciem-
bre a las 5 p.m. (no necesariamente debe estar presente el ganador)

¡UN GRAN RELAGO DE NAVIDAD!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROGRESS AS OF NOVEMBER 5, 2009

GOAL: \$800,000

PLEGGED: \$425,846 53.2% of Goal

279 Donors & 25 Fund Raisers

and Monthly Campaign Collections

DONATIONS RECEIVED: \$350,823

BALANCE TO GOAL: \$374,154

Events at St. Martha's– Nov. 8th,2009**Key:****A**—Gym**B**—Lower Church**C**—Main Church**Events at St. Martha's– Nov. 15th, 2009****H**—Social Ministry/Outreach**L**— John Darcy Chapel**PC**— Parish Center**S**— School**Sun. 11/08/09**9:30-10:30am RCIA Adult class in English
S (Rm 209)

9:45-10:45am Senior Choir Rehearsal L

9:45-11am Religious Education Classes
S (A and all rooms)

10 – 11:30am Spanish Breakfast Gathering B

10:30am-12pm Spanish RICA Adult class H

11am–12:30pm Ultreya Movimiento
Cursillos Cristiandad L

2:00-4:00pm Haitian Fellowship B

Mon. 11/09/097:00 – 9pm **First Communion Parent's Mtg. S**
(A and St. Martin's Room)

7:30-9:30pm English Charismatic Prayer L

Tues.. 11/10/097:30-9:30pm English as a Second Language
(ESL) S (Rms. 210/213/214)

7:30-8:30pm U Strong for Youth B

Wed. 11/11/09 Veteran's Day-PC Office Closed

6:30-9:45pm Pace Group AA S (Art Rm)

7:30-9:30pm RCIA English Adult P.C.

7:30-9:30pm Haitian Charismatic Prayer L

Thurs. 11/12/09

7:00-9:00pm A BUSY PERSON'S RETREAT L

7:00-9:00pm Juventud sin fronteras B

7:15-8:30pm Religious Education Classes
S (A and classrooms)

7:30-9:30pm ESL S (Rms.210/ 213/214)

Fri. 11/13/09

10:00am – 1:30pm BINGO B

6:30—9:45pm Pace Group AA S (Art Rm.)

8:00-10:00pm Spanish Choir C

8:00-10:00pm Haitian Choir L

Sat. 11/14/09

11am – 12:30pm Legion of Mary Prayer Mtg. L

6:00-10:00pm BINGO B

7:00pm Talk in Spanish by Bishop Cabezas C

Sun. 11/15/099:30 – 10:30am RCIA Adult Sacraments
Session S (209) in English9:45 – 11:00am Religious Education Program
S (A and all rooms)

9:45 – 10:45am Senior Choir Practice L

10:00am-1:00pm HEALTHY SUNDAY B

10:30am-12pm RICA - Adult Sacraments
Session H in Spanish11am-12:30pm Ultreya Movimiento
Cursillos Cristiandad L

2:00-4:00pm Haitian Fellowship B

Mon. 11/16/097:00-9:00pm Confirmation Parent Mtg.
S (A and St. Martin's Room)

7:30-9:30pm English Charismatic Prayer L

Tues. 11/17/09

7:30-9:30pm (ESL) S (Rms 210/213/214)

7:30 -8:30pm U Strong for Youth B

Wed. 11/18/09

6:30 – 9:45pm Pace Group AA S (Art Rm)

6:30 – 9:45pm Carismatic Hispanic Prayer A

7:30-9:30pm RCIA Adult Sacraments
Session P.C. in English

7:30- 9:30pm Haitian Charismatic Prayer L

7:30 – 9:30pm Parent Baptism Prep Class in
Spanish S (Rm.208)**Thurs. 11/19/09**

7:00-9:00pm A BUSY PERSON'S RETREAT L

7:00-9:00pm Juventud sin fronteras B

7:15 – 8:30pm Religious Education Classes
S (A and classrooms)

7:30 – 9:30pm (ESL) S (Rms 210/213/214)

7:30 9:30pm Parent Baptism Prep Class in
English S (Rm. 201)**Fri. 11/20/09**

6:30 – 9:45pm Pace Group AA S (Art Rm)

8:00 – 10:00pm Spanish Choir C

8:00 - 10:00pm Haitian Choir L

Sat. 11/21/09

9:30 – 10:45am YOGA S (St. Martin's Rm.)

11am – 12:30pm Legion of Mary Prayer Mtg. L

1:00-9:00pm Carismatic Hispanic Gr.
Intercession Retreat A

St. Martha's Parish cordially invites you to their 2009

Sunday
December 6th
At Verdi's
of Westbury
680 Old Country Road



Honorees:
Telma, Veronica and
Alex Ticas

Tickets
\$65 per person
Tables of 10

Cocktails and
Hors d'oeuvres at
6:00 PM.
Dinner and Dance
Until



50/50 Raffle
\$5 per chance
Or
5 chances for \$20
3 prizes to be
awarded



For reservations and other information

Call the Parish Center

