

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

JULY 4, 2021



MINISTRY OF COMFORT

A new ministry is being formed to support and console those who have lost a loved one.

Spearheaded by Julie Laurenzi, a retired social worker who was recently widowed, the Consolation Ministry will be comprised of a small core team of volunteers who have completed an orientation regarding grief and bereavement with her.

Ministry members will reach out to grieving families immediately following a death, delivering a packet of appropriate information and resources. Whenever possible, they will attend wakes and funerals. Cards and notes will be sent and at a family's request, they will visit – especially during holidays and anniversaries.

If you are interested, please contact Julie directly at 518-225-1170 or Julie.laurenzi@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Carmine "CC" Dolce, Carole Hayes, Kevin Stanton and the Reynolds Family

10 a.m.: Janet Stinson, Joe Britto, Nika Dushaj and Eileen Piccirilli

TREASURER'S REPORT

June 20-June 27: Totaled \$ 5,283.73
Envelopes: \$2,564.00 – Online: \$ 2,719.73
THANK YOU!

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Reading I: Ezekiel 2: 2-5

God charges Ezekiel with a mission to speak the Word to a people so hardened in disobedience that they will not listen. Worse, they will oppose him. Still Ezekiel must proclaim the sacred Word.

Reading II: 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10

St. Paul speaks of a "thorn" in his flesh, given him to keep him grounded despite the many revelations given him. He humbly boasts of his weaknesses because they show Christ's power at work in him.

The Gospel: Mark 6: 1-6a

Here we have Jesus rejected even by His own people. That had to sting. Scholars tell us that when the people called Him "the Son of Mary" that could have been an insult, because in those days Jews were usually known by their father's name, in "Son of Joseph."



SWANERBURYS' SWANSONG

What a fitting farewell last weekend to longtime parishioners Don and Deb Swanerbury, who are retiring in South Carolina. The Sunday morning choir led by Debbe Garry and 13 strong (pictured above) sang a song during Communion that was written by Don. The lyrics are below.

Enjoy this next chapter, Deb and Don, and thank you for all you've done for St. Paul's!

I've Come Home to God

Where have I been, what strange places I've seen.
Who are my friends, who are my enemies?
I've been away so long that I've been living in fear.
But now I know that God is near.

I've come home to God, I'm here at last to stay.
For the happiness I hope and pray.
I've come home to God, for this I have to say
He's with me every day.

God is love, God is life.
He saved us from fear and strife.
He sent his only Son to save us from sin.
He knew that evil would not win.
(Refrain)

THE DISCIPLINE OF GRATITUDE

Gratitude goes beyond the “mine” and “thine” and claims the truth that all of life is a pure gift. In the past I always thought of gratitude as a spontaneous response to the awareness of gifts received, but now I realize that gratitude can also be lived as a discipline. The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.



Gratitude as a discipline involves a conscious choice. I can choose to be grateful even when my emotions and feelings are still steeped in hurt and

resentment. It is amazing how many occasions present themselves in which I can choose gratitude instead of a complaint. ... The choice for gratitude rarely comes without some real effort. But each time I make it, the next choice is a little easier, a little freer, a little less self-conscious. ...

There is an Estonian proverb that says: “Who does not thank for little will not thank for much.” Acts of gratitude make one grateful because, step by step, they reveal that all is grace.

- Henri Nouwen Society

A CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are continuing to share resources for insight into current social-justice issues from a church perspective. The U.S. bishops respond to last week’s announcement of an Interior Department investigation into Native American boarding schools.

“It is important to understand what might have occurred here in the United States,” said USCCB spokesperson Chieko Noguchi. “Therefore, we are following closely the announcement last week by the Department of the Interior of a formal inquiry into residential boarding schools. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will look for ways to be of assistance.”

To read the full article, visit:

<https://www.americamagazine.org/politics-society/2021/06/28/us-bishops-conference-interior-department-investigation-native-american>



IN THE LOOP...



Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley, a Catholic Ministry recognized by the Archdiocese of New York’s Office of Family Life, is offering a one-day program titled, “Coping with Life Alone.” This is an in-person program (with a remote option) that runs from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on **Saturday, July 10**. Men and women of all faiths who are grieving the loss of a spouse because of death, divorce or separation are invited. Registration is required. Contact either Jim at 569-9452 or Denise at 325-3147. For more info: www.beginningexperiencehv.com



Do you know someone who is homebound and would welcome a visit from one of our specially-trained Eucharistic Ministers? Now that the Archdiocese has given the green light to resume this ministry, call the office (361-3107) with any requests.



Don’t forget to drop off your unwanted religious items by **July 12**. St. Mary Mission will be here that week to pick up the boxes in the hall that we fill.



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Last week’s meeting occurred after eighth-grade graduation, which offered one of those unique opportunities for honest dialog about how the year went, concerns about entering high school, plans for the summer - and how much they enjoy YM meetings!

The Scriptures shared included:

Revelation 14:7 - He said in a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come. Worship Him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

Psalms 13:6 - I will sing the Lord’s praise, for He has been good to me.

Deuteronomy 31:6 - Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

