

OLC MAGAZINE

The Parish Publication of Our Lady of Consolation Catholic Church

A STEWARDSHIP PARISH JOYFULLY OFFERING GOD OUR TIME, TALENT & TREASURE • FALL 2009 • WWW.OLCPARISH.ORG

FROM THE PASTOR

AUTUMN IS UPON US and it is my favorite season. I am fond of telling people that it could be autumn forever and I would be happy.

I have enjoyed this seasonal preference for as long as I can remember. My dad would be raking up huge piles of leaves and then my sister and I would run into them at break neck speed, as only little kids' do or perhaps it is the smell of burning leaves from a time when you could actually do that in the backyard. Whatever the impetus for my love of autumn, it is deeply buried in my sub-conscience. I recall with great humor a fellow priest I lived with who hated cold weather and over dinner would say to me, "You know what fall means...cold weather...which means sweaters, gloves and heavy clothing." He currently resides in Florida.

“All that we accomplish in our parish is done because stewardship is so deeply rooted in so many hearts in this parish.”

As we look forward to the busy season of holidays that are ahead of us, the first thought that comes to mind is family gatherings where we celebrate and share our love with one another in peace and generosity. For us as a parish family; we gather in church for Hospitality and fellowship around the Lord's Table. We will celebrate these holidays with more attention to detail and if, as they say,...God is in the details...then we are on the right track.

First and foremost, added attention to the celebration of liturgy — a sharper focus on my part, and that of

all Liturgical Ministers, on the grace and dignity which we bring to our responsibilities at each liturgy. Second, improved facilities — a new Baptismal Font, Paschal Candle, a childcare room for moms, dads and babies and a renewal of our church in general, more attention to holiday decorations as well as a new nativity set to help us celebrate the joy of Christmas and the gift of the Holy Family in bringing Jesus into the world. Finally, I hope for an increase in our own sense of pride and affection for our home which shelters and nurtures us as we worship together at the Lord's Table.

All that we accomplish in our parish is done because stewardship is so deeply rooted in so many hearts in this parish. Gifts of time, talent and treasure are not confined to one season or holy day. They are everyday gestures which remind us of the true treasure every human heart possesses... love of God and of family, a desire for peace in our lives and in our world, and the knowledge that Jesus Christ gave His life so that we might be saved. It is my hope that as our knowledge and appreciation of these truths deepens; we will desire all the more to grow stewardship for our parish and our community in thanksgiving to God for the many gifts He has given to us.

I pray you celebrate the coming holidays with this in mind and that all our families may draw near to one another in peace and love through Christ our Lord.

In Christ. •

Rev. Michael D. Lombardo
OLC Pastor



INSIDE THIS ISSUE *Communion Breakfast • Social Justice • & More!*

Our Lady of Consolation*Roman Catholic Church***STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Our Lady of Consolation Roman Catholic Church, consecrated in 1966, is a nonprofit church organization comprising a diverse community with prayer and hospitality at the core of its existence.

Those who are new to the community and wish to worship with us can obtain a New Parishioner's Brochure from an usher or the Parish Center. Upon receipt of your applications, Director of Stewardship Joseph Donnelly will contact you to schedule a welcome appointment.

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OLC ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST

By Jacquelyn Seraphine • Stewardship Director

ON THE MORNING OF October 18th, 75 parishioners attended Our Lady of Consolation's annual communion breakfast. Our Lady of Consolation's Amity Club has been hosting this event for the parish for over 25 years. It is open to all members of the parish and community. This year's event was held at the North Jersey Country Club.

Communion breakfast is an opportunity to pause from our daily lives and come together as a community for fellowship, celebration and spiritual renewal. Many participants began the celebration by attending an early morning Mass before proceeding to the annual gathering. This year's brunch opened with Grace given by Sister Arlene Kollar. The centerpieces on each table depicted Jacob's well and the meeting of the Samaria woman and Jesus. The full story starts in John Chapter 4.

The guest speaker was Father John T. Catoir, well known Catholic TV, Radio host and author. Father Catoir is also a long time friend and associate of Our Lady of Consolation and Monsignor Wolsin. In an interactive session with the audience, Father Catoir shared stories of his friendship with Mgrs. Wolsin and the experiences and humor they shared that were the hallmark of their friendship. He reminded each of us that Christian life is filled with the riches of joy, love and service. To this end, he spoke about his ministry of attaining spiritual joy through faith and will-training. For more information, please look for the many books Father Catoir has authored on this topic.

All in attendance enjoyed a great brunch and a very good session. As the morning came to a close, attendees' comments reenforced the time was well spent. A sample of the comments were "excellent," "a beautiful experience," and "I am putting this into practice today, I am choosing joy."

The feedback from attendees was overwhelming positive. Put this on your calendar for next year! See you there. •

A grateful Response to God's Love

STEWARDSHIP

Sharing Time, Talent & Treasure

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the stewardship way of life that involves every aspect of our life.

Stewardship is a conversion journey of receiving God's love and returning love back to Him.

The conversion to stewardship as a way of life begins as a journey of the individual, then grows into the family, the parish and the diocese. It is not a program.

The Stewardship Journey requires prayer, reflection, and time to allow God to show us who we are, and the person that we can become.

Living stewardship is a disciple's response to God who gives us everything good.

While we each have a unique place in God's divine plan, the disciple's role is clearly defined for us by the framework of stewardship. We are called to return a portion of what God has so graciously given to us—our Time, Talent and Treasure.

Stewardship is about living the life that God calls all of us to live. •



Our Story

By Bill & Theresa Benedict

MANY PEOPLE IN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY UNTIRELESSLY GIVE OF THEIR TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE BLESSINGS THEY RECEIVE AND FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS. IN THIS ISSUE THE SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON BILL AND THERESA BENEDICT FOR THEIR INITIATIVE IN PRISON MINISTRY. They have dedicated themselves to the task of enhancing the level of spirituality within the confines of the inmate community. This year Catholic Charities in the Paterson Diocese has chosen Bill and Theresa Benedict as recipients of the award for Convening, which means that the recipient(s), "in word and deed encourage, motivate, and/or persuade others to provide needed services and to work with other people or groups of people to both directly provide service and to advocate for Justice".



▲ Theresa & Bill Benedict

WE ARE DEEPLY HONORED AND GRATEFUL to accept the 2009 Caritas Award for Convening from Catholic Charities, Diocese of Paterson. Our relationship with Catholic Charities began 42 years ago when we started proceedings to adopt our two sons, Gerard and William. We are both pleased and proud that our relationship with Catholic Charities has continued to this day. What was once a dream has become a reality. We are reminded of the words of William Arthur Ward, the great inspirational writer, "If you can imagine it, you can achieve it, if you can dream it, you can become it."

Our dream began in 2003, when, following our investiture as a Knight and a Dame of the Order of Malta, we started a prison ministry in New Jersey to distribute bibles and prayer books to inmates at the federal and state prisons and county jails. Prison ministry was spearheaded by organizing the New Jersey Order of Malta Prison Ministry, Inc (NJOMPMI), a 501 (c) 3 exempt organization. With grants from the Order of Malta, thousands of bibles and prayer books have been distributed to date in New Jersey which is only a small part of our work. Subsequently, the Order of Malta, American Association, designated prison ministry a national project and our structure has served as a template for rolling out prison ministry in 17 other states up to this point and growing. Our Malta mission is to serve the sick and the poor, and to defend the faith. It would be hard to imagine a place in New Jersey where we could find a greater concentration of sick and poor people in need of spiritual support than exists in the prison system.

Spiritual help is essential so that inmates and parolees have some religious feeling that spurs a sense of compassion and caring for others. Filling the spiritual void can help inmates / parolees deal with the five known predictors of recidivism: anti-social values, anti-social peers, poor self control, family dysfunction, and absence of accepting responsibility for past crimes. Spiritual influences can take the edge off attitudes hardened by years of crime and prison life.

Presently, we are collaborating with Eva's Village, Catholic Charities, the House of Mary and others with a reentry program which includes housing, mentoring, job skills, job placement and various social services. When we were asked why we have undertaken such a monumental task, we say, "In our early years, we were learning, then we were earning and now we are returning."

With our heartfelt prayers and gratitude for God's blessings, we thank Joseph F. Duffy, Rev. Edward G. Lambro, Bishop Emeritus Frank J. Rodimer, Rev. Msgr. Vincent E. Puma, Sr. Gloria Perez, Rev. Msgr. Mark J. Giordani, Rev. Michael D. Lombardo, the Order of Malta, the NJOMPMI Board of Trustees and Advisory Board and all those wonderful people that are supportive of prison ministry. If you would like to help or learn more about this ministry, please email: njompmi@optonline.net. Together we can make a difference! •

SOCIAL

OLC

WOULD YOU BELIEVE? Two years have elapsed since "Thelma & Lousie", "Frick & Frack" or whatever you may choose to call us have taken over the helm of the Social Justice Ministry! We truly have enjoyed the privilege, however, feel it is the time to applaud a terrific grup of core members with whom we work.

Please, take a moment to reflect on the statistics of what has been accomplished in the past few years. •

▼ *Eva's Kitchen*
1000 meals donated, cooked & served



▲ *Teddy Bears for Tots*
400 bears donated



▲ *Home Friends Program*
Home friends for 125 residents of NDC



▲ *Paterson Habitat Workdays*
1600 manpower hours



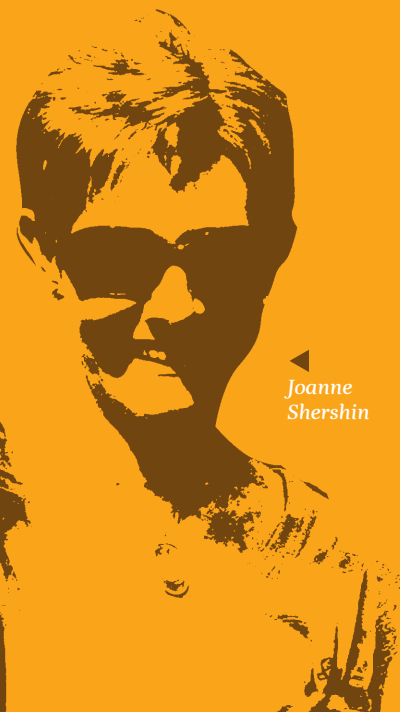
▼ *Father English Center*
476 Casseroles prepared, frozen and delivered to the center



▲ *Hammering for Habitat*
\$3284 donated to Paterson Habitat for Humanity



Cheryl Friedman



Joanne Shershin

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Our Lady of Consolation Church

► **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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HOURS OF OPERATION • Monday to Thursday / 9 AM to 5 PM • Friday / 9 AM to 2 PM
HOLIDAYS & HOLY DAYS • Call Parish Center

School

PHONE 973.839.2323 • **FAX** 973.616.5379 • **EMAIL** cdebow@olcacademy.org

Religious Education

PHONE 973.839.2428 • **FAX** 973.839.9695

Business Office

PHONE 973.839.6020

► **MASS SCHEDULE**

WEEKEND MASSES Saturday / 5 PM Vigil Mass

Sunday / 8 AM, 10 AM, Noon

WEEKDAY MASSES Wednesday, Thursday, Friday / 8 AM

Recitation of Rosary / 7:40 AM

HOLY DAY MASSES / 8 AM, Noon, 7 PM

Please check Bulletin for Holidays & Special Occasions

NOVENA Friday / 7:30 AM, before 8 AM Memorial Mass

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION First Friday / 8:30 AM to 6 PM

All other Fridays / 8:30 AM to Noon

RECONCILIATION Saturday / 4 to 4:30 PM

DAILY CHURCH VISITATION 8:30 AM to 3 PM

Parish Mission Statement

WE, the people of OLC Parish, guided by the Holy Spirit and nourished by the Eucharist, pledge to continue the mission of Jesus Christ who announced the Reign of God. We accept His challenge to proclaim the Good News of salvation that Jesus, the Christ, died for and in Him we have life to the fullest measure. We seek to live as He lived, in service to others, building a community of faith and hope, with God's grace as our strength and the peace of Christ our heart's desire. •

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