

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

**~ A Prayer for Creative Power ~**

Come,  
Spirit of the Holy,  
brood over me,  
huddled henlike,  
as you once did  
over the dark,  
swirling waters of chaos  
on Creation Eve.

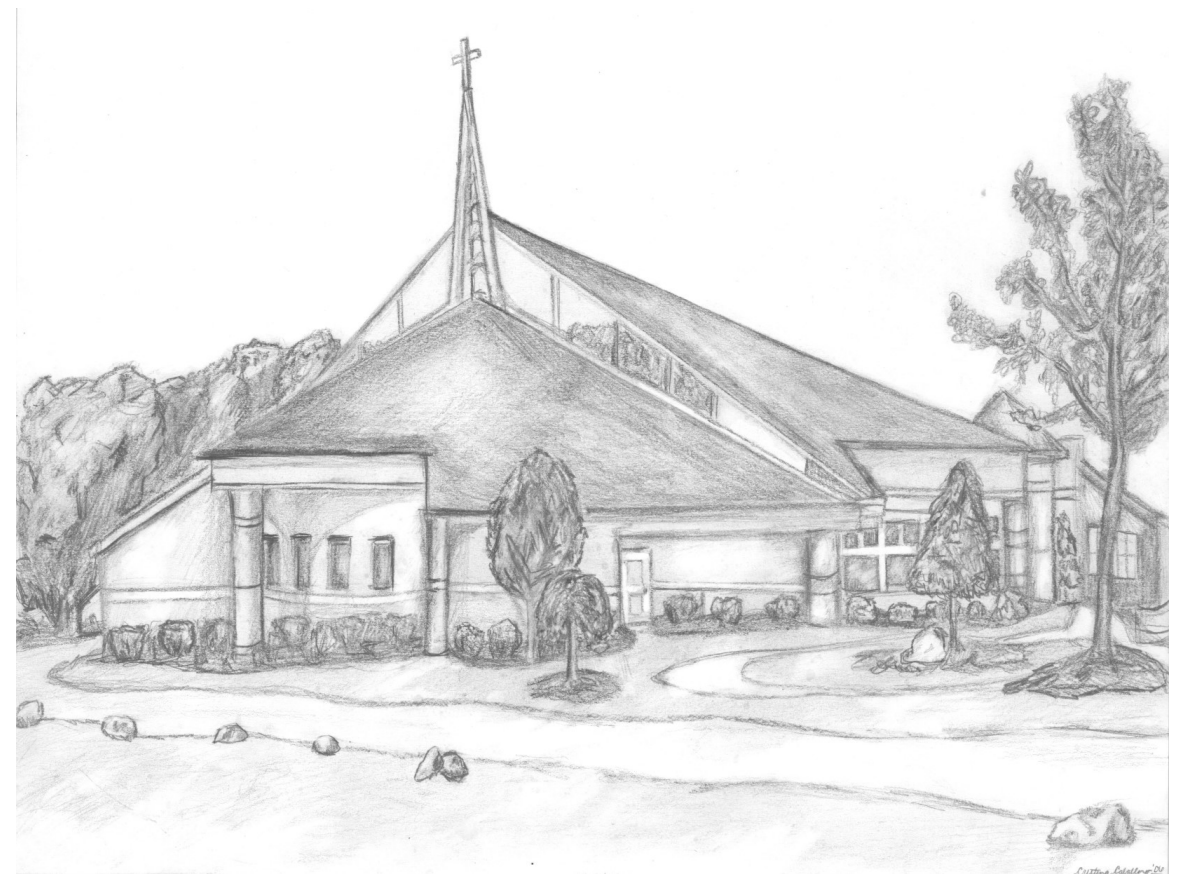
Your scream  
shattered the silence  
as God's love  
cracked open the cosmic egg,  
spilling out spiral galaxies and stars,  
planets and moons,  
oceans and land.

Bond over me,  
Spirit of Creation,  
with your searing,  
scarlet wings aflame.  
Umbrella me  
in the hothouse steam of love,  
so my hard shell  
will shatter open.

Spill forth  
from the very center of me  
God's wildest dreams and fantasies,  
heavens highest hopes  
for my days and times,  
as you recreate this old,  
weary world.  
Amen.

—Psalms for Zero Gravity

# Our Lady Chapel



*Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.*

**CHAPEL PICNIC — THANK YOU:**

A special note of thanks to all who assisted with the Chapel Picnic. It was a wonderful time, enjoyed by over 160 of our chapel members and families. Special thanks to Mary and Kai Schmidt; Chris Bowman; Janet and Mike Heryak; Michael Hughes; Charlene and Dennis Kavran; Sue Leonor; Jim Callam and the staff of Winking Lizard; Patty Szanislo; Matt, Dale, and Adam from our Maintenance Staff; Michelle from AVI; Matt Fafarak; Elina and Joe Gurney; Aretha and Carlton Smith from Housekeeping, and Paul Prmeau. **Sunday, February 26, 2017 is the date for our Chapel Indoor Picnic, and Sunday, July 9, 2017 is the date for our Summer Outdoor Picnic.** Mark Your calendars. Hope to see you there.

**PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE AND GOODNESS CONTINUES:**

Once again this year, we are going to undertake our **Planting Seeds of Hope and Goodness school supply program**. Our Lady Chapel is working to assist the needy children of **St. Adalbert's Parish**. Come join us as we work together to help these children get the next school year off to a good start come this Fall. While Fall seems to be a long ways off, we need to begin this project now — even as the summer months provide challenges of their own to each of us.



The following is a list of school supplies that need adopting to help with this effort — **Facial tissue boxes; hand sanitizer; hand soap; pocket plastic folders; Clorox wipes; white chalk; No.2-pencils; paper towels; large pink pencil erasers; black ink pens; notebook paper; crayons-jumbo 8 pack; pencil pouches; single subject notebooks** [any and all quantities of these supplies are welcome!].

Here is how you can be a part of this outreach. Simply shop for items on the list. Kindly **return the items between now and August 7<sup>th</sup>** to Our Lady Chapel. **If you do not have time to shop, simply place an envelope in the collection basket and mark it “St. Adalbert’s” or drop it off in the chapel office.** “Come Grow with us” — as together, we work and plant our seeds of hope and goodness to this community. Thank you in advance for your generosity and helping the children of St. Adalberts! Contact Patty in the Chapel Office [440-473-3560] if you have any questions.

**COME TO THE FEST:**

The **FEST 2016** is three weeks away! Join us for our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Family FESTival on **Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from noon until 10:00 PM** as we bring together 39,000+ from across our region for a day of faith, family, and fun – and it's FREE. Come and hear the best of the best of the national Christian artists: *Newsboys, Michael W. Smith, Matthew West* and *Lauren Daigle*. The day also includes dynamic activities for all ages, opportunities for prayer and reflection, a large outdoor Mass followed by fireworks and more. We need your help to make this amazing day possible — please consider donating two hours of your time by volunteering for The FEST. Volunteers get a FREE t-shirt and are essential to making this event possible. For more information, or to register to help, go to [www.theFEST.us](http://www.theFEST.us). **TOGETHER we can make this a great day for thousands from across our region!**

**CALLING ALL LIFE TEEN AND EDGE MEMBERS:**

Our annual trip to Cedar Point is this **Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>**. Tickets are \$42. You may pay in cash, or make your check payable to Our Lady Chapel. **We will leave Gilmour at 8:00 AM and return to Gilmour at 10:30 PM.** This is going to be a great day of fun and celebration. Please feel free to bring a friend. Parents of students attending are also welcome to come along. We will form a “parent group”. **Sign up on the easel in the Narthex of the Chapel or call Patty or Father John in the chapel office [440-473-3560] to order your tickets.** See Father John or Patty if you have any questions.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**

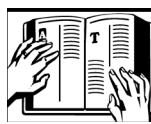
- For Halle Markel ['14], sister of Hannah ['16] who is recovering from surgery.
- For Mary Shea, mother of LS teacher, Theresa Stark, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- For Father Dan Begin, pastor of St. Mary [Bedford] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Janice Treer who is undergoing treatment for a heart condition and kidney failure
- For James Kazel, father of Daniel ['86] and Gilmour counselor, Jamie, who is in rehab following surgery..
- For Cheryl Kazel, sister of Daniel ['86] and Gilmour counselor, Jamie, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Mary Burkey, grandmother of chapel musician, Rachel Burkey, who is recovering from a heart attack.
- For Romano Bruno, great uncle of Richard Jones ['20] who is critically ill.
- For Nathan Breitsch, grand-nephew of Brother Ken Kane, C.S.C., who injured his back in a fall.
- For Justin Tarr who is critically ill with brain cancer.
- For Bill Slattery ['77] who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For John Burkey, uncle of religion instructor, Rachel Burkey, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Annie Trivassos who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Nicholas Zanella, who is undergoing medical treatment
- For Jan Botek, wife of Fred, mother of Fred ['85], grandmother of Matthew ['14], Jonathan ['17] and Daniel ['21] Botek, who is undergoing treatment for dementia.
- For Teddy Prusock, nephew of Lower School associate, Nina Prusock, who is undergoing neurological testing.
- For Jay Cusick who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:**

We are currently discerning a new group of Eucharistic Ministers who would undergo training within the next month. If you feel that the Lord is calling you to this ministry, we would be delighted to include you in that ministry here at Our Lady Chapel. Both adults and teens [must be going into Senior year of High School] are welcome to participate in this very special ministry. We are need of ministers for both our Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. **Contact Father John or the chapel office [440-473-3560] if you feel called to this ministry.** We are always in need of Eucharistic Ministers.

**ALTAR SERVERS and LECTORS:**

We continue to be in need of servers and lectors. **Any student who is in the 3<sup>rd</sup> [and up] grade is invited to become an altar server; any student who is in the 5<sup>th</sup> [and up] grade is invited to become a lector.** These are both wonderful ministries — a great way to serve God and the faith community. If you would like to take advantage of these opportunities, **please give your name to Father John.** You do not have to attend Gilmour to be an altar server, lector, or to be involved in any other ministry at Our Lady Chapel. **Please call the chapel office [440-473-3560].**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Father John will be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you on **every Saturday** between **3:30 – 4:00 PM**. Confessions are also available “by appointment.” The Reconciliation Room is located in the small chapel directly across from Father John’s Office



**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:**

- For Nancy Gren, step-mother of kitchen associate, Val Gren, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Ali Priest, who is undergoing treatment for complications to MS.
- For Brother Robert Brown, C.S.C., who is undergoing treatment for dementia.
- For Beth Call, cousin of Sylvia [‘18] and Stephanie [‘20] Leonor, who has been diagnosed with Lymphoma.
- For Pat Gump, who is recovering from injuries sustained in an accident.
- For Brian Bielak, son of former Gilmour teacher and coach, David Bielak, who is undergoing medical testing.
- For Rose Oehlstrom, who is recovering from surgery.
- For Kaitlyn Wene, teen-age daughter of former Kitchen Associate, Stephanie Toma, who is undergoing treatment for meningitis.
- For Robert Vandall who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Donna Polack, who is under the care of hospice
- For Brother Romard Barthel, C.S.C., who is on hospice care.
- For Joseph Morek [‘14] who is recovering from surgery resulting from a military accident.
- For Elaine Willey, sister of Father John, who is under the care of hospice.
- For Stephen Ungrady, father of Emily [‘19], who is recovering from a stroke
- For Jim Virant, grandfather of Noah Virant [‘20], who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Todd King [‘87], brother of Christie [‘91] King, who is undergoing treatment for mirocondra
- For John DiCillo, husband of long-time Gilmour teacher, Bonnie, father of John [‘83], David [‘84], Dawn [‘86] and Daniel [‘88] DiCillo, who is seriously ill with lymphoma.
- For Jenny Blender, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Dorothy Kazel, mother of Daniel [‘86] and Gilmour counselor, Jamie, who is undergoing treatment for cancer..
- For Mark LaCasse, brother of Upper School Associate, Linda Wheeler, uncle of Molly [‘06] Wheeler, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Drew Franco, son of Brian [‘90], nephew of Jeff [‘88] and Kristin [‘94] Kirkpatrick, who is struggling with a seizure disorder.
- For Michael Palumbo, father of Michael [‘14], Marisa [‘15], and former Gilmour student, Christian, who is undergoing treatment for cancer
- For Colleen Lowman, grandmother of Religion instructor, Rachel Burkey, who is seriously ill.
- For Dennis Kavran, father of Dennis [‘86] and Jennifer [‘95], grandfather of Adam [‘14] and Madeleine [‘16] Miller, who is undergoing further treatment for cancer.
- For Donna Farkas who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Lexi Pappadakes, who is undergoing treatment for complications from surgery..
- For Rosemarie Lemieux who is ill.
- For Matt Barry [‘13], brother of Tim [‘12], who continues treatment for cancer.
- For Maria Ricci, friend of Linda McGraw, who is ill.
- For Jeff Warner, brother of Denise Calabrese, who is undergoing treatment resulting from a stroke and seizure.
- For Janice Feenstra, sister of Lisa Habe, aunt of Jack [‘19] and Will [‘20] Habe who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Karen Wanders, mother of upper school Head of School, Jonathan Wanders, who is seriously ill.
- For Betty Herten, aunt of Hope [‘13] and James [‘15] Herten, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.



**FAITH EDUCATION — FALL OF 2016:**

It’s not too early to begin thinking of enrolling for Faith Education for this coming fall. **Faith Education will begin on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.** Our Sessions go from **8:45—9:45 AM**, with the hope that our children would then **participate in our 10:00 AM Family Mass. Register your family for classes by contacting Patty in the Chapel Office [[440-473-3560].** If you have any questions, please call Patty in the chapel office. Thank you for taking care of this important responsibility.



**SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:**

Sunday, July 17: 16 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 AM
Monday, July 18:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Tuesday, July 19:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Wednesday, July 20:	NO MASS
Thursday, July 21:	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Friday, July 22: St. Mary Magdalene	5:30 PM [Eucharistic Chapel]
Saturday, July 23: 17 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	5:00 PM
Sunday, July 24: 17 <sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 AM

**UPCOMING CHAPEL ACTIVITIES:**

July 17 -----	LifeTeen Gathering	11:30 AM—12:30 PM
July 19 -----	OLC Council Meeting	6:15 PM—8:00 PM
July 20 -----	Summer Bible Study	6:30 PM — 8:15 PM
August 6 -----	Blessing of College Students	5:00 PM
August 7 -----	Blessing of College Students The FEST [Pastoral Life Center]	10:00 AM Noon—10 PM
August 15 -----	Mass for the Feast of the Assumption	5:30 PM
August 16 -----	Faculty Retreat Day OLC Council Meeting	8:30 AM 6:15 PM—8:00 PM
August 18 -----	New Student Orientation Freshman Class Mass	2:00 PM 9:00 PM
August 19 -----	Freshman Morning Prayer Service	7:00 AM

**REFLECTION ON THE THEME FOR THE WEEK:**

Love has an urgency to reveal itself, and in doing so it brings about more life and liveliness. God is Infinite Love, and so God cannot but reveal that love and bring about that life and liveliness which is creation.

The Book of Genesis holds many beautiful stories, but none more life-giving than the story of Abraham and Sarah [Genesis 18:1-10]. Abraham and Sarah have been married a long time and have no children. Abraham's call from God was accompanied by a promise that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the heaven and the grains of sand in the sea, but thus far, that promise remains empty. Abraham is having an ordinary day when he has a visit — he is out in the middle of “nowhere” and has been journeying alone for quite some time. Three men appear nearby his tent and Abraham excitedly welcomes them and urges them to stay for dinner.

Much pondering and wondering has been spent on who these three were — perhaps the Lord accompanied by two angels? Abraham was probably at prayer as the visitors approached, but there is movement from prayer to service. Abraham runs and rushes to Sarah to ask her help, then to his son Ishmael to have him select a prized bull for the meal of hospitality.

God had promised that Abraham's obedience to the covenant will result in great numbers of families flowing from his faith. Until now, that promise lay empty. Now Sarah — who is past the age of giving birth — will be a mother within the year. The prophesy is made by the visiting guests. Sarah is also in the tent; she hears this and laughs. Much has been written by the Jewish scholars about her laughter. Within the year she gives birth and the Rabbis tell us that this time her laughter fills and blesses the world. So there are visitations, conversations, great hospitality — and all within the loving nature of God.

What a wonderful and quite human story we have also in Luke's Gospel [Luke 10:38-42]. When asked by his visitors where his wife was, Abraham told them that she was in the nearby tent after fixing the meal to which he had invited his guests. One of them affirms that within the next year she would have a son. Sarah and Abraham, by being trusting even into their old age, had chosen the better part — like Mary in Luke's Gospel — and it will not be taken from them. They had been bought into a life of believing and living that faith.

Luke's Gospel concludes a long section containing various features of Jesus' way of living and missioning. We have heard about Jesus' determination and singularity of purpose as He made His way to Jerusalem. Those who follow Him must let everything else go — they must be free for their own journeys. The road that we travel is challenging — we who follow must not pass by on the other side of our neighbor who is in trouble. Our neighbor is defined as any brother or sister of Jesus. Especially, our neighbors are those we, by nature, would avoid.

Today we find Jesus as a guest of two women — Martha and her sister Mary. Martha is busy preparing and her sister is not joining her busyness; rather she is seated at His feet, enjoying or receiving Jesus. Martha has taken a bad reputation for being busy and Mary is celebrated for being contemplative. Sarah and Mary have taken the better part which cannot be taken from them.

This too is a love story, but not a validation of the contemplative life and a putting down of the active life. Jesus has just been encouraging His followers to be quite active in presenting the “King of God.” The Good Samaritan has been celebrated in a parable for his having done good things for his former enemy-turned neighbor. So there must be something here deeper than the distinction between doing and being.

This is a love story as well and the Divine Visitor reveals how love works. When I was a young

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers

**FOR THE DECEASED:**

- For Norma Leahey, mother of Patrick ['71], Karen ['72], and Cynthia ['76] Leahey
- For Deacon Joseph Johnson.
- For Sister Jeanette Lester, C.S.C.
- For Dalma Takács
- For Maria Maldonado
- For Bud Shea, brother of Father Tom Shea, C.S.C.
- For Judith Slabe, mother of Brendan ['85], grandmother of Bowden ['20], Colton ['20], and Logan ['20] Slabe
- For Patricia Koch

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:**

- For the victims of the French terrorist attack.
- For a former Gilmour student who is very seriously injured in a fall.
- For all those on vacation.
- For a person who lost their job
- For an end to violence in our society.
- For the families who are grieving the loss of loved ones.
- For an end to human trafficking..
- For those who struggle with family relationships.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For a special intention.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.

**CLEAN OUT THOSE CLOSETS AND SERVE OTHERS:**

Spring is here— and Summer is here — another time to once again clean out the closets. Clothing that no longer fits, or has been replaced by new items, can become great items for others. Always remember the words of Jesus: “The poor you shall always have with you” [Matthew 26:11]. Please continue to bring your *gently used* men's, women's and children's clothing to the Lennon Board Room, or place it in the cedar chest which is located in the Chapel narthex [just press the key button to open the chest]. We partner with Fatima Center to help provide clothing for general use. Also, **business work clothing for this season is especially needed. The Fatima Center helps men and women prepare for job interviews.** If you have some of these items, this would be a good time to send them along. Clothing for all seasons is accepted, but please try to keep in mind that storage facilities are limited at Fatima — so it would help if you could focus on summer items at this time. You may pick up a tax form when you drop off the clothing here at Our Lady Chapel — there are forms in the cedar chest. Clothing may be brought on the weekend, or during the week. Thank you. **If you have any questions, please contact Patty in the chapel office [440-473-3560].**

**PRIME MOVER:**

To move the world we must first move ourselves.

—Socrates

**LIVING HOSPITALITY:**

After I saw the movie *High Noon* at the age of 12, I found myself for a least a day and a half trying to walk like Gary Cooper. I probably wasn't alone. Movie heroes normally engender imitation. That's why the most popular motion picture hero of all time is *To Kill a Mockingbird's* Atticus Finch. Almost everyone would like to imitate this fictitious hero's unprejudiced personality.

The imitation of heroes didn't start with movies. Our sacred authors utilized this concept thousands of years ago. It's behind many of our Genesis readings [Genesis 18:1-10]. The writer depicts Abraham and Sarah as ideal Jews — demonstrating characteristics which good Israelites are or should be noted for. Today the focus is on hospitality.

Though the three strangers come at a most inappropriate time — siesta — Abraham doesn't wait for them to ask for hospitality. He rushes over and begs them to “let” him take care of them. Then, with Sarah's help, he “picks out a tender, choice steer” and prepares it for them with all the side dishes. By the way, while some Scripture scholars believe that these three are the Trinity, they probably are just a manifestation of God in human form — a unique entity that no one human being can represent.

In a world in which there were no hotels or restaurants as we know them today, travelers depended on people's hospitality for survival. Our biblical writer reasons that if Israelites are God's Chosen People, then Israelites must mirror God's concern and care for all people. And Abraham and Sarah certainly mirror that care and concern.

The sacred author even tells us about the reward Abraham and Sarah receive for their generous hospitality — “One of the strangers said: ‘I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah will then have a son.’ ” Sarah's barrenness is over. The Lord will demonstrate the same generosity with this couple as they demonstrated for the three travelers.

This isn't the only time in Scripture that hospitality is given an unexpected reward — Luke's Gospel provides us with another classic example [Luke 10:38-42].

We can never forget that Luke revolves much of his gospel around a journey Jesus and his disciples take from Galilee to Jerusalem. They — like the three Genesis visitors — are also travelers, frequently dependent on people's hospitality. Here, the sisters Martha and Mary offer Jesus a meal as he's passing through their village. He not only accepts — he spends the time while the food's being prepared in teaching his good news.

Then, when Martha complains that her sister is listening to his teaching instead of helping with the cooking, he rewards them for their hospitality by gifting them and all women with something which in their culture only men were expected to possess — the ability to engage in the “better part.” They, like men, could be full disciples, fully listening to and carrying out Jesus' teaching. For Luke, no longer were there “women and men's activities.” This evangelist — more than the other three — could be labeled a radical feminist.

One really doesn't know what to expect when one offers hospitality to others. And, for the author of Colossians, that offering is ongoing. It never stops. “Filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, the church” is always part of every Christian's ministry.

Just as Abraham, Sarah, Martha and Mary discovered a totally new direction in their lives when they gave themselves to others, so we, following their example have no idea what to expect when we imitate their example. No wonder our ancestors in the faith found life so exciting.

Maybe we don't have the right heroes if we're living boring lives today.

—taken from the writings of Father Roger Karban, which appear on the internet



Jesuit, learning to love God, I understood that I would be loving God if I were working as hard as I could. At the end of the day I would go to the chapel and review all the things I had done that day. I would be doing this while picking at the calyces which were like so many rosary beads. I had physical proof that I had loved God. I would pray this way before going to bed and so felt quite good about myself. God loved me because I had done good things for God.

There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to force God to love us less. We can do some things to be more and, of course, less aware or involved with that love. Martha is a doer in Luke's Gospel, but Mary represents all of us who are loved, but who also buy into all that Jesus has been instructing His followers to do. The “part” that is “better” and which Mary has chosen is simply Jesus, in His totality. She will move into action because she has bought into the parable of the Good Samaritan and all the rest of the Jesus-movement. Jesus knows how revolutionary His teachings are and what demands He is making upon His followers. This is still a love story between Jesus and ourselves whom Martha and Mary both represent. Martha is the part of us, which wants to win or earn God's love. Jesus sees Mary as the part of us, which accepts being loved. He looks upon Mary and sees she does accept all that He has been trying to tell humanity about who we are and what we can do to continue the urgency of God's love in this world.

Pick your calyces if you wish and may they all be earned by sharing God's love and the person of Jesus, because you have chosen the better part — being part of this love story.

taken from the writings of Father Larry Gillick, S.J., which appear on the internet

**AMAZON.COM:**

Please remember that when you want to buy something from Amazon.com, you need to first go to [www.ourladychapel.org](http://www.ourladychapel.org) and click on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the home page! Because of this simple step — and at no cost to the purchaser — Our Lady Chapel receives a percentage of all purchases that are made from Amazon.com. Ever since we have begun this program, we have consistently been receiving significant checks from Amazon that are being credited to help pay for chapel expenses. This affinity program remains in effect throughout the year, so we ask everyone to continue to remember to start your purchases at Amazon on the Our Lady Chapel home page! Thank you.

**ENCORE CHAMBER MUSIC:**

This summer, Gilmour's campus is home to the prestigious programs of Encore Chamber Music. A select group of musicians from all over the world will call Gilmour home over the next few weeks. They will utilize Gilmour's campus to learn, explore and experiment as they find their own artistic identities in a wildly creative atmosphere.

Critically acclaimed violinist Jinjoo Cho ['06] is the founder and executive director of Encore Chamber Music. Jinjoo has earned numerous prestigious awards for her music and has performed as a soloist throughout North and South America, Asia and Europe at venues including Carnegie Hall, Severance Hall, the Herkulessaal of Munich, Seoul Arts Center, and more.

This summer, you will have the incredible opportunity to hear Jinjoo — along with many other world-renowned musicians, perform right here on Gilmour's campus.

**Encore Chamber Music invites the Gilmour community to listen to musical performances by acclaimed musicians.** Free and low-cost concerts will take place at Our Lady Chapel throughout the summer. Additionally, Gilmour will host "Unplugged" musical events — Jinjoo will perform at all these "Unplugged" events — where guests are invited to enjoy a special picnic lunch while they listen to performances by guest artists and Encore faculty members. To view the full event schedule or to purchase tickets, go to [encorechambermusic.org](http://encorechambermusic.org), or purchase them at the door.



**THE HERESY OF GOOD WORKS:**

A story is told of the father who after work would take a long walk with his teen-age daughter. He took great pleasure in her company. Suddenly she began to offer almost daily excuses as to why she could not accompany him. He was hurt, but held his tongue. Finally his birthday arrived. His daughter presented him with a sweater that she had knitted. Then he realized that she had done her knitting when he was out of the house for his walk. He said to her: “Martha, Martha, I do appreciate this sweater. But I value your company infinitely more. A sweater I can buy in any store. But you I cannot buy. Please never abandon me again.”

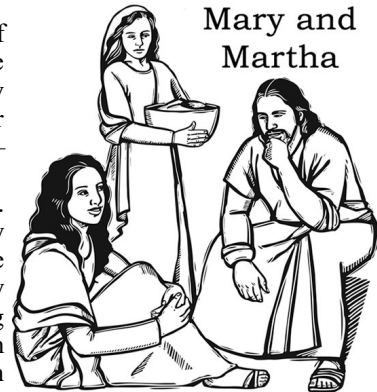
From the Bible, we know that the Teacher stayed at the house of Martha and Mary in Bethany outside Jerusalem many times. He stayed there in the last three months of the year 29 when He was busily working the Jerusalem territory. He stayed in this house the first four days of Holy Week. The sisters were not only generous hostesses — they were also bold ones.

At this point, Jesus was walking about with a price on His head. He was an outlaw. His picture was in every post office. They hardly would find themselves in good favor with the police, the Temple authorities, and probably the Romans. Martha and Mary would surely have been aware that the Master was running a risk Himself in being their guest. Accepting hospitality from women was clearly forbidden by Rabbinic law. In addition, He had from their first encounter taken great pains to offer them instruction. This would not make Him popular with the male world in general — or with the authorities. The Christ was no doubt the only man in their circle who did not patronize them — He treated them as equals. What a welcome change that must have been for these intelligent women! They must have been so tired of being treated like children. No wonder Dorothy Sayers writes: “Perhaps it is no wonder that women were the first at the cradle and the last at the cross. They had never known a man like this Man.” Do check out that Martha addressed the Teacher as “Lord” — so obviously these women realized they had a tiger by the tail.

Walk carefully then. The Gospel is clearly talking about divinity. We all know the story. Martha is exhausting herself putting together a meal worthy of a five star restaurant for the Lord. She is setting out the Irish linen, the Wedgewood china, the Tiffany silver, and the Steuben crystal. She has arranged a spray of anemones from her garden as a centerpiece. She is chilling the Dom Perignon champagne. All this time of course her sister Mary is enjoying the company of their guest in the air-conditioned coolness of the family room. Martha is hardly amused. She storms into the room. There is Jesus with His worn sandals off and His feet up on the chair. Mary is drinking in every word the Teacher speaks. She looks as though she wished she owned a smartphone to capture every moment.

Martha loses her cool and sounds off with a bitter indictment of Mary the shirker. For her pains, all she gets from the Christ is a wrap-around smile and a healthy chuckle. It does not improve her mood when she hears Jesus say: “It is Mary who has chosen the better part.” Many of us have been seduced by what has been called the heresy of good works. We neglect Jesus’ company. Our prayer life grinds to a screeching halt and goes off the boards. We disregard His invitation to come apart and rest awhile. We forget the sage who advises that if Christians do not come apart and rest awhile, they may just come apart. As the saying goes: if we are too busy to pray, we are too busy. After all, God speaks only to those who take time to listen. We should reflect on Thomas Merton’s line that says: “it is becoming increasingly evident that the only people in the world who are happy are the ones who know how to pray.” And Mary knew Jesus needed company that day — He needed not a housekeeper, but a listener.

—taken from the writings of Father James Gilhooly which appear on the internet



Classical spiritual writers are unanimous in warning about the danger of overwork and of becoming over-preoccupied with our work. This is in fact what Jesus warns Martha about in the famous passage in scripture where she, consumed with the very necessary work of preparing a meal, complains to Jesus that her sister, Mary, is not carrying her share of the load [Luke 10:38-42]. In a rather surprising response, Jesus, instead of chastising Mary for her idleness and praising Martha for her dedication, tells Martha that Mary has chosen the better part, that, at this moment and in this circumstance, Mary’s idleness trumps Martha’s busyness. Why? Because sometimes there are more important things in life than work, even the noble and necessary work of tending to hospitality and preparing a meal for others. Idleness may well be the devil’s workshop, but busyness is not always a virtue.

—taken from the writings of Father Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., which appear on the internet.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

<b>Monday:</b>	Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 12:38-42
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Micah 7:14-20, Matthew 12:46-50
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jeremiah 1:1-10, Matthew 13:1-9
<b>Thursday:</b>	Jeremiah 2:1-13, Matthew 13:10-17
<b>Friday:</b>	Jeremiah 3:14-17, John 20:1-18
<b>Saturday:</b>	Jeremiah 7:1-11, Matthew 13:24-30

**17<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time:** Genesis 18:20-32, Colossians 2:12-14, Luke 11:1-13

**ATTENDANCE:**

If you attend Mass regularly here at Our Lady Chapel, it would be helpful if you filled out a form [name, address, phone number, children, etc.] indicating this fact, if you have not already done so. Such information not only helps us to know who is attending Our Lady Chapel; it also is of great assistance to us in record keeping [for our friend, the IRS] of any contributions which you may make.

**ENVELOPES:**

- When you need a **new supply** of envelopes, please feel free to take a supply of them from the table in the vestibule, or call Father John at the Campus Ministry Office [473-3560].
- When you **use** your envelope, please make sure that **your number** is on it. If you need to know your number, please call the Campus Ministry Office. Thanks.

**WEEKLY OFFERING:**

Baskets will be passed during the “Preparation Rite” and will be brought to the altar as part of the Offerings to help offset chapel daily operating expenses. When you choose to use the envelopes, your donations to Our Lady Chapel will be acknowledged so that you have a record for the IRS.

**Total Offerings: Saturday [7/9/16] ----- \$ 2,321.00**  
**Total Offerings: Sunday [7/10/16] ----- \$ 628.00**

**REMEMBER:**

God has committed some work to me which he has not committed to others.

**IT BEGINS AS A VIRTUE AND ENDS AS AN ESCAPE:**

There are dangers in overwork — no matter how good the work and no matter how noble the motivation for doing it. Spiritual guides, beginning with Jesus, have always warned of the dangers of becoming too taken-up in our work. Many are the spouses in a marriage, many are the children in a family, many are the friends, and many are churches, who wish that someone they love and need more attention from was less busy.

But it is hard not to be over-busy and consumed by work, particularly during our generative years when the duties of raising children, paying mortgages, and running our churches and civic organizations falls more squarely on our shoulders. If you are a sensitive person you will wrestle constantly with the pressure to not surrender yourself to too many demands. As Henri Nouwen once described this: our lives often seem like over-packed suitcases with too much in them. There is always one more task to do, one more phone call to make, one more person to see, one more bill to pay, one more thing to check on the internet, one more leaky faucet to tend to, one more demand from some church or social agency, and one more item that needs to be picked up from the store. The demands never end and we are always conscious of some task that we still need to do. Our days are too short for all that needs to be done.

And so we give ourselves over to our work. It begins in good will and innocence but it invariably transmutes into something else. Initially we give ourselves over to all these demands because this is what is asked of us, but as more and more time goes by that commitment becomes less and less altruistic and more self-serving.

First off — though we are generally blind to this — our work soon becomes an escape. We remain busy and preoccupied enough that we have an inbuilt excuse and rationalization so as not to have to deal with relationships be that within our own families, our churches, or with God. Being weighed-down constantly with work and duty is a burden but it is also the ultimate protection. We do not get to smell the flowers, but we do not have to deal either with the deeper things that lurk under the surface of our lives. We can avoid the unresolved issues in our relationships and our psyches. We have the perfect excuse! We are too busy.

Generally, too, our society supports us in this escapism. With virtually every other addiction, we are eventually sent off to a clinic, but if we are addicted to our work, we are generally admired for our disease and praised for our selflessness: If I drink too much, or eat too much, or become dependent on a drug, I am frowned upon and pitied; but if I overwork to the point of neglecting huge and important imperatives in my life, they say this of me: “Isn’t he wonderful! He’s so dedicated!” Workaholism is the one addiction for which we get praised.

Beyond providing us with an unhealthy escape from some important issues with which we need to be dealing, overwork brings with it a second major danger — the more we over-invest in our work the greater the danger of taking too much of our meaning from our work rather than from our relationships. As we become more and more immersed in our work, to the detriment of our relationships, we will naturally begin too to draw more and more of our meaning and value from our work and, as numerous spiritual writers have pointed out, the dangers in this are many, not least among these is the danger that we will eventually find it harder and harder to find meaning in anything outside of our work. Old habits are hard to break. If we spend years drawing our identity from working hard and being loved for being anything from a professional athlete to a dedicated mum, it will not be easy to simply shift gears and draw our meaning from something else.

**ADVISE ON CHRISTIAN LIVING:**

In Luke’s Gospel, Martha welcomes Jesus into her home and is busy providing hospitality for him while her sister, Mary, sits at the Lord’s feet listening to him [Luke 10:38-42]. Upset with this situation, Martha wants Jesus to tell Mary to help with the serving. Jesus replies: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her.”

Christians today hear this story in some questionable ways. A sister who identifies with Mary feels affirmed in her self-righteous conviction that she has chosen the superior vocation by living the vows in a religious community. A busy mother of four kids, who identifies with Martha, interprets the words of Jesus as somehow demeaning her chosen life as a wife and mother.

Accepting the scholarly view that the gospel does not favor the contemplative life over the active life, let us reflect on what Christ is telling those of us who identify with Martha and her frustration over being unfairly burdened with work. As the Gospel suggests, the Martha problem is not solved simply by reducing the workload. Jesus does not tell Mary to pitch in with the domestic chores. He does indicate that we can best deal with work related anxiety by adopting the perspective of the disciple who reflects on his words. This might mean: making persons more important than completing tasks; seeing work as a way of extending the kingdom; maintaining a contemplative spirit in the midst of demanding activities; staying calm and centered despite stressful demands; doing all for the glory of God.

We can imagine individuals responding positively to this Gospel. A wife long frustrated by her husband’s adamant refusal to share in household work comes to accept this reality, and with a calmer heart offers up her daily tasks as a prayer for the good of her family. A bricklayer who is forced to work with a much slower partner learns to manage his understandable frustrations by thinking of his own work as building God’s kingdom on earth. A busy executive having trouble dealing with stress starts doing ten minutes of reflective prayer each morning which keeps him calmer throughout the day.

How can you maintain a more contemplative spirit during your busy workdays?

—taken from the writings of Father Jim Bacik which appear on the internet

**DYING INTO LIFE:**

Most of us probably grew up thinking that the Resurrection was a one-time miracle about Jesus — an anomaly that proved he was God. But Jesus’ resurrection is really a statement about how reality works — always moving toward resurrection. As the Catholic funeral preface says, “Life is not ended but merely changed.” This is the divine mystery of transformation, which is entirely evident in the physical universe.

Resurrection is not a miracle as much as it is an enduring relationship. The best way to speak about the Resurrection is not to say: “Jesus rose from the dead” — as if it was a self-generated miracle — but to say: “Jesus was raised from the dead” — which is what the scriptures actually say. The Eternal Christ is thus revealed as the map, the blueprint, the promise, the pledge, the guarantee of what is happening everywhere, all summed up in one person so we can see it in personified form.

Death is not just physical dying. Rather it is a going to the full depth of things, hitting the bottom, beyond where you are in control. And in that sense, we all go through many deaths in our lifetime. These deaths to the small self are tipping points, opportunities to choose transformation. Unfortunately, the vast majority of people turn bitter and look for someone to blame. So their death is indeed death for them because they close down to growth and new life.

But if you do choose to walk through the depths — even the depths of your own sin and mistakes — you will come out the other side, knowing that you’ve been taken there by a Source larger than yourself. Surely this is what it means to be saved. Being saved doesn’t mean that you are any better than anyone else; it means you’ve allowed and accepted the mystery of transformation, which is always pure gift. 7



**KEEPING THE BALANCE OF LIFE:**

The Scripture Readings for this 16<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time focus on the importance of the virtue of hospitality. Of course, this is not an exclusively Christian virtue since it predates Christianity by thousands of years.

The world in which Abraham and his people lived was very hot and arid and life was not easy — especially for travelers. Everyone understood this and always went out of their way to make travelers welcome. They knew that they had to be hospitable because it was very likely that they would need the same sort of help on another occasion. Abraham himself was a nomadic herder, and he surely had on many occasions stumbled into someone else's camp dying of hunger or thirst, and had been extremely appreciative of the hospitality he received from them.

The three Angels who turn up on that afternoon are therefore made especially welcome by Abraham and his wife Sarah [Genesis 18:1-10]. Their feet are washed and an elaborate meal is set before them. It turns out that these representatives of God have come with an important prophesy; that Sarah will bear a son, Isaac. In the Orthodox Church these three Angels are thought to be the three members of the Blessed Trinity and this incident at the Oaks of Mamre is held in very high regard. The author of the Book of Genesis tells us that it was the Lord who visited Abraham; and then we are told it is three men. You can easily see how it is therefore thought to be a revelation of the Blessed Trinity. This incident certainly ought to be held in high regard because it effectively marks the birth of our religion. It is through his son Isaac that Abraham's faith in the one God is eventually tested and the Covenant is inaugurated.



In Luke's Gospel we have the wonderful story of Martha and Mary [Luke 10:38-42]. Martha and Mary are just like any family you know — friction between the two sisters soon makes itself evident. Martha who has been doing all the work is annoyed at her sister Mary who just sits listening to the Lord. It is important to state here and now that while there is often friction between members of a family, there is also always a lot of love. While we may not always get along with each other, there is a bond between us that is deeper than we can ever know. Often this bond between us is not talked about — we are frequently shy of demonstrating the love between family members. But it is there nevertheless. And it is something that we ought to value greatly.

The lesson of the Gospel is about how to properly show devotion to the Lord. Yes, of course, Martha working to provide the meal was a sign of her devotion and love for Jesus. But as Jesus points out to her, Mary by hanging on his every word has chosen the better part. I remember getting a card at the time of my ordination from a great uncle who I loved very much. The note he had written inside the card touched me very deeply because it said exactly that — you have chosen the better part. I was impressed by the faith that he had demonstrated, and I hoped that in my life as a priest I would be worthy of these words.

There ought to be something of Martha and Mary in each of us. We cannot neglect the practicalities of life; we need to provide for our families and get immersed ourselves in work and doing our best in life. But we also need to cultivate the contemplative dimension of life. We need to attune ourselves to the things of the Kingdom — to spend time in prayer and at Mass, to meditate on the mysteries of Jesus, and to grow in our appreciation of the wonders of the Christian life.

We need both these aspects in our lives, and we need to keep them in proper balance. Certainly there are people with a tendency towards one or the other — either more practical or more contemplative. But on the whole we need to ensure that we have a good measure of both aspects.

If we live our lives in a wholly practical way we end up by losing our faith, we wake up and find that

**BECOMING A MORAL FACTOR:**

There are three obstacles to the development in us of the force of personality that would make us a moral factor in the world.

First, **fear of loss of status** has done more to chill character than history will ever know. We do not curry favor with kings by pointing out that the emperor has no clothes. We do not gain promotions by countering the beloved viewpoints of the chair of the board or the bishop of the diocese. We do not figure in the neighborhood barbecues if we embarrass the Pentagon employees in the gathering by a public commitment to demilitarization. It is a hard time — this choice of destiny between public conscience and social acceptability. Then we tell ourselves that nothing is to be gained by upsetting people. And sure enough, nothing is.

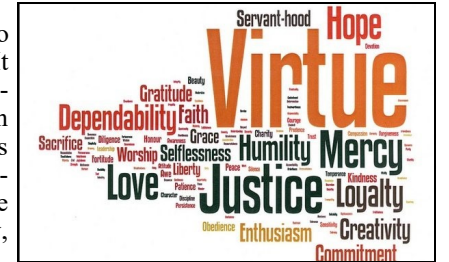
Second, **personal comfort is a factor**, too, in the decision to let other people bear responsibility for the tenor of our times. It takes a great deal of effort to turn our attention beyond the confines of where we work and where we live and what our children do. It requires turning our mind to substance beyond the sitcoms and the sports channel and the local weekly. It means not allowing ourselves to go brain-dead before the age of forty. But these things that cost comfort are exactly the things that will, ultimately, make life better for our work and our children.

Third, **fear of criticism** is no small part of this unwillingness to be born into the world for which we have been born. To differ from the mainstream of humanity — to take a position that is not popular on a topic that is not acceptable tests the tenor of the best of debaters, the strongest of thinkers, the most skilled of speakers.

The process of human discourse is a risky one. Other people speak more clearly or convincingly than we do. Other people have better academic backgrounds than we do. Other people have more authority and robes and buttons and titles than we do, and to confront those things takes nerve of a special gauge. We may lose. We may make a perfect fool out of ourselves. But everybody has to be perfect about something. What else can be more worth it than giving the gift of the perfect question in a world uncomfortable with the answers but too frightened or too complacent or too ambitious to raise these doubts again?

There is no doubt, however, that the courage to ask questions is part of what it takes to give birth to a soul of crystal.

—taken from the writings of Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B., which appear on the internet.

**SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR:**

For the past year, our teens have been volunteering at **Our Savior Lutheran Church Food Pantry** [located right across the street from the chapel]. The Pantry is open on the **third Saturday of every month from 11:00 AM – 1:30 or 2:00 PM**. Our



Savior Lutheran's Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. All those in the area with need will be served equally, as supplies allow. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. During the course of the past year, the food pantry at Our Savior Lutheran Church served an average of 141 households each time. Our teens have loved this ministry and have been very faithful to it. **We would now like to open this ministry up to our entire Chapel Community. If you would like to help on any given third Saturday, please call Patty at the chapel office [440-473-3560] to let us know that you are going to volunteer, or email Elina Gurney at [gurney.oh@gmail.com](mailto:gurney.oh@gmail.com).** Come as a family or by yourself.



**LIFE IN THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST:**

In his letter to the Church at Colossae, St Paul speaks about a mystery — “a mystery that has been hidden for ages is now manifested to God’s Holy Ones. The mystery is this — Christ is in you” [Colossians 1:24-28] Usually when we use the word mystery, we think of a story that has an ending we try to solve before we get to the last page of the book or last five minutes of the movie. When the Church uses the term mystery, it goes much deeper. For the Church a mystery is a truth that is incomprehensible to the reason and knowable only through divine revelation. The Early Church referred to the sacraments as the mysteries. When adults are about to come into the faith they are anointed with the Oil of Catechumens so they may have the strength and the grace to be open to Mystery. The main events of the action of Jesus Christ in our world is called the Mystery of Faith.

At the most solemn time in the Mass — after the Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Christ — we are called upon to “proclaim the Mystery of Faith”, and we respond something similar to: “We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.” Paul, therefore reminds the Colossians and us that we have received Mystery — the Mystery that Christ is in us. Sadly when it comes to this Mystery many people, and many times we ourselves, are clueless. We go about our day — so busily engaged in doing this and that — and we overlook the purpose for our actions, we overlook the reason for our being, we forget about the presence of Christ. Like Martha in Luke’s Gospel [10:38-42], we are concerned with doing instead of being. Martha was busy doing this and that in her valiant efforts to prepare for Jesus. Mary, her sister, was concerned with being, with being with Jesus.



A number of years ago, someone came up with a great idea as a guide for making decisions. The idea was WWJD — What Would Jesus Do? People still wear wrist bands with WWJD to remind them to choose the course of action that Jesus would choose. I think that is wonderful. But I want to propose an even better guide. Instead of focusing on Jesus out there somewhere, focus in on the presence of the Lord right here, right now, in your lives, in that of your family and others, in the Church, in the world. This is the mystery that St. Paul is speaking about — Jesus Christ is here. When we are attuned to the presence of the Lord, we will force ourselves to consider if a particular action or inaction will strengthen or weaken the Divine Presence. For example, sometimes people will say: “Well, the Church says this or that, regarding some situation or other, but I disagree.” Well, it is not a matter of what the Church says — it is a matter of the presence of Christ. It is not merely a matter that the Church says it is wrong to get drunk — it is a matter of considering what this action is doing to the presence of Jesus in our lives.

A wise young priest once said to me: “A good way to judge whether an action is moral or not is to ask yourself whether or not you can pray better after the action.” Interesting — and true. If after a course of action, we find prayer difficult, then we have probably driven the Lord out of our lives — or at least we have diminished His presence. We need to pray. We harbor, we treasure the presence of Christ within each of us, within our homes and in our community. We need to make time every day to recognize this presence within us. We need to pray. We need to stop and hear the Lord in the silence.

We cannot allow the many concerns of our lives to hide the only thing that matters — the presence of Jesus — His presence within us, His presence in those we love, His presence in those who reach out to us. We cannot allow anything to dull this presence, His Presence. When we make the time to be in His presence — when we join Mary of Bethany in just enjoying the Lord in our lives — we will find ourselves walking a road less traveled, a road of serenity in the middle of hectic activity. When we choose to nurture the presence of the Lord within us, we, like Mary, will be choosing the better part.

—taken from the writings for Father Joseph Pellegrino, which appear on the internet.

we have become orientated towards material possessions, and that we have fallen out of love with God. However if we allow ourselves to be overly pious this can be just as dangerous — especially if we have the responsibility of rearing a family. We cannot live lives consuming only holy water — we need to ensure that our children have a roof over their heads and that there is money in our pockets.

But of these two things, it is much more likely that the material will triumph over the spiritual. It is essential that we have both aspects as part of our lives. This is the point that Jesus is making. We might not be able to choose the better part and live our whole lives as a spiritual person, but we certainly need to have the spiritual as an important part of our lives in what is essentially a material world.

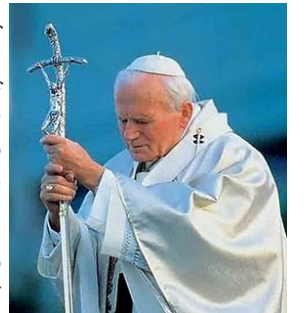
This means that we need to be sure that we cultivate the spiritual life. This means we have to have the realization that our true homeland is in heaven, and that the material world is something that will inevitably pass away. We have two eyes, and yes one of these needs to be focused on the world in which we live; but we must also ensure that the other eye is always fixed on the world to come.

—taken from the writings of Father Alex McAllister, S.D.S., which appear on the internet

**LISTEN AND LEARN:**

In Luke’s Gospel [10:38-42], the sisters, Martha and Mary, represent the two poles of human personality — action and contemplation. Jesus comes down on the side of contemplation — “Mary has chosen the better part.” And so did St. John Paul. We see that preference in the underground theater. The future pope sensed that the greatest power does not come from the military or from economics, but from culture.

Culture includes stories, music, dance, humor and ways of treating others. Culture involves listening to and learning from great minds. The heart of culture is cult or worship. What we worship defines who we are. The Nazis worshiped race; the Communists worshiped the proletariat. The worship of idols leads to slavery. St. John Paul taught that we attain freedom by renouncing idols and worshiping God. He focused on culture — not just to fight totalitarianism, but so we can discover who we really are. Nazis and Communists reduced the human person to biology. Culture shows that we are more than machines. We have a purpose — a call. From the beginning of his papacy St. John Paul said: “Be not afraid. Open wide the doors for Christ.” To youth Pope John Paul spoke these words: “You are our hope; the young are our hope. We are not the sum of our weakness and failures; we are the sum of the Father’ love for us — and our real capacity to become the image of his Son.” St. John Paul bent the course of history. He did it not by some complex program, but by calling people to discipleship.



Disciples of Jesus in Poland and in other Communist countries brought about a peaceful revolution. A Jewish writer named Charles Krauthammer said it well: It was Stalin who gave us the most famous formulation of that cynical — and today quite fashionable — philosophy known as “realism”. Realism works under the idea that all that ultimately matters in the relations among nations is power — “The pope? How many divisions does he have?”

Stalin could have said that only because he never met John Paul II. Within 10 years of his elevation to the papacy, John Paul II had given his answer to Stalin and to the ages — more than you have. More than you can imagine.

At the end of this coming week, millions of people will pilgrimage to Krakow for World Youth Day. They will have an opportunity to reflect on their relationship to the Jewish people who suffered so terribly during the Second World War. In his letter to the Church at Colossae, St. Paul today talks about the sufferings that are “filling up what is lacking in the affliction of Christ” and of the “hidden mystery that is Christ” [Colossians 1:24-28]. Lie Mary, we must listen and learn from Jesus. As St. John Paul reminds us — that is the better part of being a disciple — and no one can take it from us.

—taken from the writings of Father Phil Bloom., which appear on the internet.

**THE GIRL WHO CHOSE FAITH ABOVE ALL ODDS:**

We are inundated with media that tells us to live a life contrary to the values of our faith. We are told that happiness is achieved through popularity, money, success, fame, sex, and material wealth. Sometimes it is easy to be consumed by our culture — to try and fill that void in our hearts with clothes, parties, relationships, or sex. Or perhaps we begin to believe the lie that “I would be happy if....” — if I was skinnier, if I had more friends, if I was more athletic, if I was a better musician, or if I was funnier.

It is easy for our eyes to become fixated on ourselves; we compare ourselves to everyone else, and suddenly, our eyes are no longer focused on the cross — on Jesus. We so quickly forget that He — and only He — can bring us true happiness, fulfillment, and peace.

Yes, it can be very hard to live a life of an authentic Catholic in our society today — especially as a young person. Even if our family supports us in our faith, it can often feel as though we are alone on this journey. But the reward for those who fix their eyes on the Cross — who choose to put Jesus above all else — is great. In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says: “everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name’s sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life” [Matthew 19:29].

One young woman, who would later become a saint, was familiar with the challenge of living an authentic, Catholic life, despite facing opposition from her friends, family, and culture. We celebrated her first just this past week — July 14<sup>th</sup>. She is the first Native American saint. St. Kateri was born in 1656, in the Mohawk village of Ossernenon. In 1660 a smallpox outbreak swept through the Mohawk village, killing Kateri’s mother, father, and brother. Kateri survived the disease, but was left with scars all over her face and impaired vision. Now an orphan, Kateri was sent to live with her aunt and uncle.

Around the age of 11, Kateri befriended Jesuit missionaries. The Jesuits exposed Kateri to Catholicism, and over time Kateri developed a deep devotion to the faith. As Kateri grew older, her aunt and uncle made arrangements for Kateri to be married — as was the custom for their culture. But Kateri refused. Instead, to the shock and disappointment of her tribe and family members, Kateri requested to be baptized Catholic.

On the feast of the Annunciation — at the age of 23 — Kateri vowed to live as a Bride of Christ as a virgin forever. Father Cholonec, a priest who knew Tekakwitha, wrote that she said: “I have deliberated enough. For a long time my decision on what I will do has been made. I have consecrated myself entirely to Jesus, son of Mary. I have chosen Him for husband and He alone will take me for wife.”

Kateri’s life was filled with suffering. She was an anomaly among her Mohawk village, and yet, she loved Jesus with her whole heart. When Kateri was 24-years-old, her health began to decline. On April 17, 1680, Kateri died. Her last words were “Iesos konoronkwa” — “Jesus, I love you.”

Do we live our life in a way that shows people we love Jesus — even when it is difficult, even when we are misunderstood? Let us ask for the intercession of St. Kateri to give us the courage to follow Jesus without reservation.

—taken from the writings of Caitlin Sica, a youth minister.

**COMING TO GRIPS WITH FEAR:**

For many people, the most prominent motivating force in life is fear. Many of us feel it daily. It may manifest in small increments in our everyday lives — we feel afraid of failing at our job or being abandoned in a relationship. Or overwhelming anxiety may immobilize us as we realize our mortality or fear the potential harm that might come to us through violence; we may feel a free-floating terror that emanates from an unknown source. Just as shame engenders our mistrust of ourselves, fear feeds our mistrust of other people, the life process, even God.

—Christina Grof

**LIFE TEEN:**

Thanks to all who held our Teens in prayer throughout last week as we attended the LifeTeen Leadership Conference/Retreat. Our LifeTeen regular meetings will begin again on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Normally we meet right after Sunday Mass — from 11:30 AM—1:00 PM in the Lennon Board Room. Life Teen is open to all high school aged young people. Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming. We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. We have a great deal of fun together and we grow in our faith at the same time. Our LifeTeen Group has a Faith-Service-Social component, and we look forward to your participation. Respond to your texts and/or emails, or call the chapel office [440-473-3560] to be notified. Join us for Our Summer Bible Study [see article below]. Our next session of Summer Bible Study will take place on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a wonderful experience. Please continue to remember all our teens and young people in your prayers.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP — THE EDGE:**

Our EDGE regular meetings will begin again in August. Normally we meet right after Sunday Mass — from 11:30 AM—1:00 PM in the Lennon Board Room. Come and try us out. Our EDGE program is open to all middle school aged young people [Grades 6-7-8]. Come and find out what the EDGE is all about. If you have not joined us before, that’s OK. Just call the office and let us know that you are going to be coming. We ask you to do this because there will be food involved. Our EDGE Youth Group has a Faith-Service-Social component, and we look forward to your participation. All are welcome. Join us for Our Summer Bible Study [see article below]. Our next session of Summer Bible Study will take place on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for a wonderful experience. Please continue to remember all our teens and young people in your prayers.

**LIFETEEN and EDGE BIBLE STUDY — JULY 20:**

Once again this summer, we are gathering at various summertime places to do our Bible Study. High School and Middle School [6-7-8] Students, as well as our College Students and Adults who are in the area for the summer will come together to be enriched by God’s word. It’s a great time, and a good witness of our faith to others. Adults are also welcome. Our next gathering of the summer will take place at Choolaah’s Indian BBQ, 27100 Chagrin Blvd in Beachwood. — next to the Shell Gas station on Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. It is amazing to see people come up to us — or look over at us — and ask what we are doing. When they find out that we are doing a Bible Study, they are moved. For our next session, everyone is asked to pick a psalm that they like and be prepared to discuss what they like about it. We also need on Spiritual topics that you would like to discuss. So give your ideas to Father John or to one of the leaders of LifeTeen or EDGE. Mark your calendars and be part of this wonderful summertime activity.

**DRESSES FOR HONDURAS:**

One of the nurses in our Gilmour Clinic is involved in a dressmaking project for the children of Honduras. They have devised a method of making sundresses out of common pillowcases, and then adorning them with other items for decoration. And that is where you come in. If you have any old buttons, ribbon, ric-rac, lace or other sewing trim, please bring them in. The group would like to collect these items to help decorate the dresses they are working on. This is an on-going project; the dresses will be sent to Honduras every time there is a mission trip. The next trip is scheduled for March of 2016. There is a basket in the narthex of the Chapel to collect any donations you may have. Thank you for your help!

