

The Pastor's Column

August 12-13, 2006

Leaning on the Heart of God

In our "Parish Conversations" meetings we have used the theme of "Leaning on the Heart of God." Below is the poem of Joyce Rupp taken from *See May I Have This Dance* (Ave Maria Press). These words have brought encouragement to parishioners during these difficult days.

Leaning on the Heart of God

Accept the strength that
From the grace of Jesus Christ.

-2 Timothy 2:1

*I am Leaning on the heart of God.
I am resting there in silence.
All the turmoil that exhausts me
Is brought to bear on this great love.*

*No resistance or complaint is heard
As I lean upon God's welcome.
There is gladness for my coming.
There is comfort for my pain.*

*I lean, and lean, and lean
Upon this heart that hurts with me.
Strength lifts the weight of my distress.
Courage wraps around my troubles.*

*No miracle of instant recovery.
No taking away of life's burdens.
Yet, there is solace for my soul,
And refuge for my exiled tears.*

*It is enough for me to know
The heart of God is with me,
Full of mercy and compassion,
Tending to the wounds I bear.*

-Joyce Rupp

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors: We have meetings planned in early September

The dates: Eucharistic Ministers on September 6 and Lectors on September 13. Both meetings will be at 7:30 PM in the Church.

It is time to reorganize! New guidelines for our eucharistic ministers will be presented. *If anyone would like to become an extraordinary minister of the eucharist, please come to this meeting. The only requirements are love for this Holy Sacrament and "in good standing" as a Catholic.*

WEDDING BANNS

III Jill Kovacs & Dan Hickey

Holy Day of Obligation

Tuesday, August 15, 2006

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass Schedule: Vigil 4:40 Monday August 14th

Tuesday, August 15th 7a.m., 8a.m., and 12:15 p.m.

Dear parishioners of St. John,
Please accept my deepest gratitude to all of you for your overwhelming support for me during this difficult period in my life and in the life of this parish. Your kindness strengthened and sustained me and my family during some very dark days. As I hope my actions have shown, I care deeply for this parish and all of you, and I wish St John's much healing and peace.

With love and prayers,
Beth

August 1, 2006

Rev. Frank McGrath, Pastor
St. John Church
1986 Post Road
Darien, CT 06851

Dear Father McGrath:

As required by my contract of employment, which renewed automatically, I hereby give you two weeks' notice of my intention to leave my position as Bookkeeper/Business Manager.

I have decided it is time to move on. This was not an easy decision and took a lot of consideration. Please be assured that I will do all I can to assist in the smooth transfer of my responsibilities before leaving.

I wish you and the parishioners of St. John Church every good fortune.

Yours Sincerely,
Bethany D'Erario

THIS IS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEENS!

In the Gospel of John, Chapter 3, Verse 30, John the Baptist says, "I must decrease that He might increase." He wanted "more Jesus" in this world. We still need that, and that is the theme of the **Fan The Fire Youth Rally on Saturday, August 26th, 10:00am - 9:30pm at St. Rose of Lima in Newtown.** Why would 500-600 teens be expected to attend? He (Jesus) offers more love and purpose than any other person! Wow, this is a great way to end the summer and start the school year!

Call Steve Pond at 662-1217 to be part of our group that's going. **The deadline to register is this Thursday, the 17th.**

"Intro to High School" after the Back to School Mass

The Youth Group is holding an "Intro to High School" "class" on Sunday, August 27th at 6:30 in the youth room. **All incoming high school freshmen are invited to come**, and this is going to be a *fun* way to get all the *cool tips* on what to expect in your first year at DHS! **All other high schoolers are invited, too, of course!** (We need your input!) This is also the day of the Back to School Mass and BBQ, so come to Mass and come eat with us first. **Parents are welcome for dinner!**

Rent a space for the Whale of a Sale!

We are taking reservations NOW for parking spaces for the Whale of a Sale, to be held Saturday, September 30th, from 8:00 to 3:00. You may email whaleofasale@optonline.net or call 662-1217 and give us your name, address and phone and if you need one or two spaces. They are \$30 each. Thank you for supporting Catholic youth at St. John's!