

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 February 14

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners:

The following written by William McGurn was published in the *New York Post* on January 31, 2014. As we sacrifice as a parish to sustain our school and work together to increase the enrollment, it's good for us to reflect on why: LOVE! Please consider sponsoring a child in our school for two weeks, a month, two months, or even a year...

These days much of my life is decided by two nuns. My children spend their days with them. My nights and weekends are largely determined by the sports, and dances, and activities they organize. Then there's the share of my paycheck they command, second only to our monthly mortgage payment.

One is Irish: Sister Noreen Holly, the Kerry-born principal of St. Vincent Martyr School in Madison, NJ. The other is Italian: Sister Patricia Pompa, principal of Villa Walsh Academy in nearby Morristown. Each fills her school with the only love that is true — the kind that takes us out of our own needs and wants to put others first.

We don't speak much about love in education, not even during Catholic Schools Week. Instead, we focus on more tangible measures of success: how 99 percent of Catholic school students get their high-school diplomas; how a black or Latino child is 2.5 times more likely to graduate from college if he or she has attended a Catholic high school; how Catholic schools manage to do all this at a fraction of the cost of public schools.

Sonia Sotomayor, an alumna of Blessed Sacrament in The Bronx, calls Catholic schools a "pipeline to opportunity" for people like her. That's true. And it's true largely because Catholic school students are not just taught, but loved.

Back when he was playing for the New York Jets, Damien Woody sent his children to St. Vincent's even though his family wasn't Catholic. At a Christmas concert, a fellow parent asked him why. He answered, "My wife and I believe that a school where they love God will love my children." Don't misunderstand: Sister Noreen presides over a little Lake Wobegone where scores show a large majority of the school's students testing above the national average in all subjects. Each year SVMS sends large numbers of boys and girls to the best high schools, and she's thrilled when she hears from a student who has made good.

This week that happened to be an old student who was in the area for the Super Bowl. Sister Noreen taught him when he was at Sacred Heart in Jersey City, whose choir welcomed him back Tuesday with a rendition of "You Have to Have Hope." If you want to know the difference a good nun and a good Catholic school can make in a life, ask the defensive end for the Denver Broncos, Robert Ayers. In my home, my older girls have graduated from Sister Noreen to Sister Patricia. Those who say women are not taken seriously in the Catholic Church ought to spend a day with Sister Patricia. Fathers of her students include Wall Street bankers, high-powered lawyers, doctors, newspaper editors, even a governor. And when Sister Patricia says jump, we do — whether it has to help sweep up after a dance or to raise funds for a new gym.

What makes Sister Patricia so formidable? Partly its achievement: Villa grads get into America's top universities. Partly it is that we all know there is no sacrifice she will not make if she thought it would help her students. Mostly, it is love. At a meeting between the school board and parents, Sister asked people to introduce themselves to one other. When it came to her turn, she said, "I'm Sister Patricia, and I have 252 girls." What does she mean by that? She means she knows every single one of these young women. She means that to be a Villa girl is to be a Villa daughter.

And she means that if you're one of those daughters and you're hurting — maybe from a divorce, a father who's lost his job, or a mom or sibling in the hospital — you will never be alone. The sisters of Villa Walsh will take on your suffering, and give you a glimmer of the beauty St. Paul alluded to when he wrote that love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things and endures all things. In the popular view, Catholic schools succeed because they have greater discipline. There's something to that, though it helps to remember that the Latin root for the verb "to discipline" is not "to punish" but "to teach." It is a lesson that begins with recognizing the equal and God-given dignity of every human being.

In short, the Gospel that commands us to love one another obliges us to treat each person we encounter as we would Christ. That is not an easy thing to ask of a school, even a Catholic school. But the Sister Noreens and Sister Patricias have not devoted their lives to Catholic education to do the easy thing. They have dedicated them to making a difference.

Fr. Michael Tang

Mass Intentions

Saturday February 8

5:15 PM Soul of Lillian White

Sunday February 9

8:00 AM Soul of Mei Ling Lee-Harden

10:00 AM Intention of all Parishioners

12:15 PM Souls of Effie, Beverly & Donald Raphael

Monday February 10

8:00 AM Intention of Pope Francis

Tuesday February 11

8:00 AM Soul of Felecia Slavin

Wednesday February 12

8:00 AM Soul of Bishop Raymond Ceasar

Thursday February 13

8:30 AM Intention of Deacon Greg Patterson

Friday February 14

8:00 AM Intention of Madeline Fruge-Moseley

Sunday February 16

10:00 AM Soul of Slade Campbell

12:15 PM Intention of all Parishioners

Ladies Retreat

Ladies, it's about that time again. What time? Retreat time. March 28 to 30, 2014 please take out some special time for you and the Lord at the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra. For more information please contact Evelyn Payne at 323.291.8325 or Sonya Robertson at 323.291.4846.

Readings for the week

Sunday	Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; Mt 5:13-16
Monday	1 Kgs 8:1-13; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday	1 Kgs 8:22-30; Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday	1 Kgs 10:1-10; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday	1 Kgs 11:4-13; Mk 7:24-30
Friday	1 Kgs 11:29-32; Mk 7:31-36
Saturday	1 Kgs 12:26-32; Mk 8:1-10
Sunday	Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-5; Mt 5:17-37

RCIA

An Invitation to all Parishioners! Come, Learn, or Renew Your Catholic Faith on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 from 7 PM to 8:45 PM. We will meet at Holy Name of Jesus Church Acacia Center. (Child Care is provided.)

Sacrificial Gifts

Sunday, February 3, 2013	Sunday, February 2, 2014
\$5,343.04 Sacrificial Gift	\$3,550.64 Sacrificial Gift
447.37 Building Fund	310.72 Building Fund
255.64 "We Care"	177.55 "We Care"

Spread the word...

TRANSFIGURATION LENTEN REVIVAL FEATURING OUR YOUNG ADULTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 2014 FROM 3:00 - 6:00 PM & SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2014 AT 12:15 PM MASS

FLOY HAWKINS WILL BE MINISTERING THE WORD

and CHRIS NUÑO, MINISTER OF MUSIC.

NO 5:15 PM VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY.

Bereavement Team Meeting

On Friday, February 21, 2014 from 10:00 to 10:30 AM a Bereavement Team Meeting will be held here in the parish hall.

All members who are on the team are urged to attend.

Those who wish to become a member of this ministry are invited to attend the meeting. Call the rectory if you can not attend.

Attention: Effective Immediately

For security reasons, please be aware that the parish grounds will be closed by

2:30 PM ON SUNDAYS.

This includes the church, parish hall, pastoral center meeting rooms and school lunch area.

Organizations that meet must be off the premises by 2:30 PM, unless other arrangements have been made.

Altar Servers Schedule February 15-16

5:15PM	8AM	10AM	12:15PM
Ruben Martinez	Cori Chapman	Martin Hill	Kofi Karikari
Sierra Black	Delisa Madere	Chris Robinson	Logan Bush
Marc Anthony	Derek Madere	Lanigi Chimilio	Nathan Burrell

The African American Catholic Center for Evangelization invites you to their 12th Annual Black History Mass at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral, Saturday, February 15th at 5:00 PM. The Most Reverend Alexander Salazar will be the Presider and the Pastor of St. Brigid Catholic Church Father Michael Okechukwu, SSJ, will be the Homilist.

SAVE THE DATE

VIRTUS RE-CERTIFICATION CLASS

at Transfiguration in the hall.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM.

Recertification is required every four years. This session is for people who have already taken the beginning 3-hour training.

School News!

Sunday, February 9th ~ School Family 10 AM Mass. Coffee, Donuts, Ham/Cheese Croissants Fundraiser, hosted by the 2nd Grade Class and Black History Display in hall.

Paper Donation Needed!

Please continue to assist us throughout our school year by donating copy paper. Contact the office at 323.292.3011.