

# Our Lady Queen of Peace

4696 Notre Dame Lane, House Springs, Mo 63051 636-671-3062

[www.olqpparish.org](http://www.olqpparish.org)

May 22, 2011



## PASTOR

Reverend Michael Murphy

## ASSOCIATES

Reverend James Beighlie, C.M.  
Reverend Donald F. Molitor, Retired

## DEACONS

Reverend Dr. Thomas Gerling  
Reverend Mr. Paul Turek, Sr.

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Bob Ellison

## GRADE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Ms. Renée Chauvin

## PSR COORDINATOR

Mrs. Debra O'Donnell

## PRESCHOOL COORDINATOR

Mrs. Nancy Lorenz

## YOUTH MINISTER

Mrs. Terry Ostlund

## PARISH COUNCIL

Sandee Burkemper  
Joanne David  
Vicki De Long  
René Heibeck  
Arnie Lohbeck

Dave Mills  
Denise Ortmann  
Rich Ortmann  
Linda Weber

## PHONES

Parish Office	671-3062
School	671-0247
Cafeteria	375-5335

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday Evening	5:00pm
(Rosary before Mass - Fatima Prayers included on 1st Sat.)	
Sunday	7:30, 9:30, 11:30am
Holy Days	as announced
Weekdays	8:00am

## PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday after 8:00am Mass

## ROSARY FOR VOCATIONS

2nd Monday of each month after 8:00am Mass

## ROSARY FOR PEACE

Every Monday evening at 7:30pm

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

First and third Sunday of the month after 11:30am Mass  
Make arrangements by calling Parish Office

## SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 4:00 - 4:45pm or by appointment

## SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

As soon as marriage is contemplated, contact one of the parish priests.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

314-223-8751

## YOUTH MINISTRY

314-566-8363

**Upcoming OLQP Parish Events****2011****May**Sat/Sun 21/22 **Social Justice Carnival****June**Sat 11 **OLQP Parish Picnic**Thu 30 **Blood Drive, 2-7 pm Cafeteria****July**Tue-Sun 19-24 **Hope Builders**-Youth MinistryMon-Thu 25-29 **Soccer Camp**, Athletic FieldSat 23 **50th Anniversary Mass with Archbishop Carlson****August**Sat 20 **Daughters Tailgate Sale****September**Sat 24 **Moonlight Golf Tournament**Sun 25 **OLQP Quilt Social** KC Hall**October**Sat 1 **Hoedown**Sat 8 **Harvest Moon Auction** KC HallSun 16 **Daughters Fashion Show** KC HallSat 29 **Adult Halloween Costume Dance**  
KC Hall**November**Sat 5 **K C Meat Shoot****December**Sun 4 **Advent Tea** KC Hall**2012****January**Sat 14 **Knights Mouse Races** KC Hall**Pastor's Desk****Welcome New School Board Members**

We would like to welcome the three school parents who were selected last week to become the newest members of our school board. **Ann Love, Jenny Larson** and **Jenifer Grosvenor** have agreed to accept the positions that were made available by the three outgoing members of the school board. We would also like to thank Cory Beck, Angie Tartar and Jason Bridges for their three years of service to the parish. The school board meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting is Tuesday, June 7th, at 6:30 pm in the Rectory meeting room.

**State of the School**

Speaking of the school...Last year at this time our parish school was facing some very difficult challenges. But I'm happy to say that quite a lot has been accomplished over the last several months thanks to our new principal, our school board, some very dedicated teachers, school parents and parishioners. Our school has rebounded back and is doing great. I hope to send out a "State of the School" report through our parish email service before the end of the month, listing the achievements for this year. We are still struggling to recover from the loss of sixty students last year, but great progress has been made in restoring confidence in our school. Of course, we're not perfect and we still have work to do. But I think that we are on track and headed in the right direction.

Fr. Mike

*God speaks to us all in a variety of ways. He speaks to us where we are and in a way we can understand.*

**Young  
at  
Heart**

On Monday we will meet at the Knights Hall for our brown bag lunch and fellowship. Hope to see everyone there.



## OLQP School News

- The 2nd grade students took a class trip to see "The Wizard of Oz" and also visited the Wild Bird Sanctuary.
- The 3rd grade students visited the St. Louis Arch and took a riverboat ride on the mighty Mississippi.
- The 7th graders hosted a "going away" party for their teacher, Mrs. Evans, as she leaves OLQP to start her nurse's training.
- Grandparents' Day was celebrated on Tuesday, May 10, with Mass, songs, trivia, and a visit to the Book Fair.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### Celebrate Responsibly

Parents, our teens are watching us at all times, looking for integrity and loop holes. Most families have several celebrations in the next few months like graduations, weddings and family get-togethers. When our teens know we celebrate responsibly it also affects how they celebrate. It shows them that we can have fun, celebrate and be responsible all at the same time. When our children become teens they will listen less and less to us but watch our behaviors more and more. Don't give them loop holes in your expectations because of how you live your life but instead give them inspiration to live their life filled with integrity. Enjoy the many upcoming celebrations in your family!

### Wednesday Youth Nights

All high school youth and 8th grade youth are invited to bring a friend and join us on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm in the Bear's Den. You can come for a short time or the entire time but you cannot come and go. On Wednesday evening, June 1st, we will not meet so you can stay home and study for finals. On Wednesday, June 8th, we will begin our summer schedule and meet from 6 - 9 pm.

### "Come Follow Me" Summer Retreat

July 8 to 10 at Camp Trinity (New Haven)

All current 8th grade youth and high school youth are invited to join us for our summer retreat in beautiful New Haven, MO. There are beautiful hiking trails, a small lake with canoes, a swimming pool, tennis courts and an awesome facility. Our amazing Worship band will join us. Accept Jesus' invitation to "Come, follow me" and grow in your relationship with Him. We all need a "time out" with God to refresh our faith and to enjoy building healthy friendships with others. Call to get your registration papers by June 1st. Get a T-shirt, enjoy delicious food and take a vacation with God for only \$75.

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister  
314-566-8363

## OLQP Parish Email List

Subscribe to our **Parish Email List** and receive:

- Parish News
- Event Calendar & Reminders
- Death Notices
- Holy Day & Holiday Mass Schedules
- Event Cancellation Notices
- Urgent Messages
- And so much more!

It's easy and safe to subscribe and unsubscribe.

*This email list is for parochial use only and will not be sold or shared with anyone!*

Go to [www.olqpparish.org](http://www.olqpparish.org) and submit your name and email address in the form on the bottom of the home page

OR

Email your name and email address to:

[frbeighlie@olqpparish.org](mailto:frbeighlie@olqpparish.org)

## OLQP Athletic Association News Soccer and Volleyball Registration

Soccer and volleyball registration is being held in the cafeteria this weekend after all Masses. Visit our website at [www.olqpraiders.com](http://www.olqpraiders.com) for a registration form. Registration will be accepted until the end of May.

## Women's Summer Bible Study

Hi girls! Joan Ross and Maureen Turney will be hosting our Annual Bible Study again this summer. This is an invitation to join in! We will study the Gospel of John. Our start date is June 20th and we will end with a potluck supper on August 15. We will meet on Monday evenings from 7 to 8:30 pm in the Cafeteria meeting room. Our book will cost around \$12 with an optional additional book if you choose for another \$10. There will be some daily reading and questions. You will not be graded or chastised if you come without doing your homework! Please call Joan, 636-677-3278, or Maureen, 636-938-9589 or email [turney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:turney@sbcglobal.net) to let us know that you want to join or with any questions you may have.

## Stephen Ministry

A Stephen Minister helps people walk through a difficult time in their life and shows them Christian care. Consider letting a Stephen Minister help. A Stephen Minister is a parishioner who is trained to listen, care, encourage, pray and walk alongside you during difficult times. It's confidential, free and very helpful. To learn how you can receive care please call Margaret, 314-223-8751.



God bless you!



## Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

### Knights of Columbus

#### Charity-Unity-Fraternity-Patriotism

The Knights is a Catholic men's organization. Originally founded by Fr. Michael J. McGivney in 1882 to help widows and orphans of his Irish immigrant parish. The Knights have grown to a world-wide fraternal organization of over 1.8 million men. There are over 15,000 councils and 200 councils on college campuses.

Our Fr. Jeremiah Murphy Council #6435 has helped support Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish with monetary and volunteer needs over the years. We run the Tootsie Roll Drive every October to support the developmentally handicapped, half the money we collect goes to Sunny Hill in Dittmer.

The Fourth Degree Knights are the patriotic arm of the Knights. We are the guys with capes and swords. We lead parades, attend Memorial Day events, 9/11 events, present colors at baseball games and other events. We also attend many Church events.

The Knights also have a Ladies Auxiliary which has been invaluable toward our success. The Ladies also have donated monies and countless volunteer hours in our parish.

We are a great organization. If you are a Catholic man, we would sure welcome you into the Knights. We can always use another good man.



## St. Vincent De Paul

When we give to the poor, God indeed pours His love, peace and joy into our hearts and into the hearts of those who are poor.

## Knights of Columbus Savers of Life Thank You

The Knights of Columbus had their first Savers of Life Week-End. We want to thank each of you that so generously gave. The total amount collected was \$900. We want to let you know that \$450 will go to Vitae Caring Foundation and \$450 to Knights Ultra Sound Initiative. To date the Knights in the state of Missouri have placed six Ultra Sound Machines and will have four more in place by the end of the year.

God Bless  
Knights of Columbus  
Council 6435

### BINGO

Every Friday Night  
Knights of Columbus Hall  
Doors open at 4:30 pm  
Bingo starts at 6:45 pm  
Hope to see you there!

## 50th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

- We are getting ready to kick off our 50th Anniversary Celebration with our Alumni Booth at the Parish Picnic. Make sure to stop by, you may see some old friends and you are sure to make new ones.
- We are excited about our new 50th Anniversary logo and all of the items we have for sale. You may have seen our T-shirts & polos around. All of these items will be on sale at the Alumni Booth.
- Looking forward to our celebration Mass on July 23rd with Archbishop Carlson. We will be celebrating our 50 years with Mass and a dinner to follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall.
- Plans for a 50th Scavenger Hunt are in the works. Because we are celebrating 50 years, everything on your list to find will have something to do with the number 50.
- As we look back and remember some of our parish activities from the last 50 years, there are many we would like to try again; one we are planning is an Apple Butter tasting for October. We may not be able to make it like they use to, but we are looking for your best.
- We are also bringing back our Adult Halloween Costume Dance, October 29th at the Knights of Columbus Hall, mark your calendars.



## Preschool Pen's

Congratulations to Our Lady Queen of Peace Graduation class of 2011. Our students have worked hard preparing for kindergarten. They have "traveled" to the moon and discovered different countries such as: Australia, Egypt and Japan, just to name a few. They have worked hard in the Science, Math, Writing, Writing and Art centers throughout the year, making observations, predictions and practicing their skills including simple math addition (using manipulatives). Their love of learning is quite noticeable and their ability to learn a foreign language (Spanish) is amazing! But above all this is their love for Jesus! Without being told during free time I have witnessed some of them pick up our bible "read" it and do our procession in the religion area. Their prayers reflect their love for their family, pets, friends, Jesus and others. Our parents have done a wonderful job teaching their child how to share and care about others. This has been obvious through our "Share and Care" project throughout the school year. I am proud and honored to announce the four year Preschool graduating class of 2011!

### Our Lady Queen of Peace Preschool Graduation Class of 2011

Alexis Chase  
Ashley Harris  
Mary Mikko  
Sophia Schweiss

Lexis Columbo  
Savannah Hennis  
Patrick Miley  
Aydin Silhavy

Dominic DeBella  
Robbie Kalbach  
Reese Osborne

Alyssa Grosvenor  
Luke Marting  
Bella Pieper



**Cedar Hill Firefighters  
8th Annual Garden Tour  
Saturday, June 4th  
8 am to 2 pm**

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased at the Cedar Hill Fire Department, 636-285-3345, or Linda Van Deven, 636-274-3891.

**White House Retreat**

Ready for more in life? Searching for a greater depth in life? Gather with other searchers and seekers on a White House Retreat, at the Jesuit Retreat House overlooking the Mississippi River.

The retreat will begin at 6 pm on Thursday, June 23rd and end at 2 pm on Sunday, June 26th.

The Lord invites each person He loves to "come aside and rest a while". To join our group please call Joe Moses, 636-274-2927.

**Seven Days of Inspiration**

Take one a day...  
and feel great all week!

Goodness is the  
only investment  
that never fails.

~~~~~  
Tomorrow is  
always fresh, with  
no mistakes in it.

~~~~~  
There are hundreds of  
languages in the world, but  
a smile speaks them all.

~~~~~  
Hope is the cord  
in which all  
dreams are bound.

~~~~~  
An effort made for  
the happiness of others  
lifts us above ourselves.

~~~~~  
Friendship is like a  
rainbow between  
two hearts.

~~~~~  
Joy is not in  
things; it is in us.

**Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish**

We rejoice to have you with us, whether a long-time resident or newly arrived in our parish! Please fill out this form and return it to the Parish Office or place it in the Sunday collection basket if you would like to be a registered member of our parish. If you have recently changed your status, married, moved out of your parents' home or graduated from college, you need to re-register. Please help us keep our records in order.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ # of people registering \_\_\_\_\_

email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:    New Registration    Address or phone number change    Moving out of parish

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**

Our next Eucharistic Adoration is  
Wednesday, May 25  
from 1 to 8 pm.

**Please pray for those who are ill**  
(parishioners are in bold)

Denver Mathes	<b>Christine Dower</b>
<b>Mary Coughlin</b>	<b>Rich Leiber</b>
Carol O'Shea	<b>Jackie Nappier</b>
<b>Andy Nappier</b>	<b>Ray Wieschhaus</b>
<b>Wayne and Betty Thome</b>	<b>Glenda Clayton</b>
<b>Cliff Brandt</b>	<b>Gerry Reimer</b>
<b>Marie Wolz</b>	<b>Marcelina Goodman</b>
<b>Dan Smentkowski</b>	<b>Rich Leiber</b>
<b>Mary Slodkowski</b>	

Ray Smith  
Michael Patchin  
Terrell Family  
Katie Terrell, friend of Christine Janos  
Raymond Fleig, son of Cilla Fleig  
Gary Denney, brother-in-law of Glenda Clayton  
Hubert Taylor, father of Nancy Wilfong  
Lucy Ann Jahnsen, daughter of Kurt Jahnsen  
David Nahlik, son of John J. Nahlik  
Dennis Smith, father of Debbie Callier  
Dorothy Langan, mother of Jane Saggio  
Jessica Bell-Murr, niece of Ray and Debbie Budo  
Christine De Clue, daughter of Bill and Linda Weber  
Trudy Girard, sister of Lynette Rawlins  
Rachel Preston, granddaughter of Lynette Rawlins  
Tracy Musselwhite, niece of Lynette Rawlins  
Jimmy Rawlins, son of Lynette Rawlins  
Louise Gunter, mother of Lynette Rawlins  
Buck Thomas, husband of Donna Thomas  
Kay Oestman, sister of Maureen Turney  
Dave Haig, friend of Ken and Jan DeClue

~the homebound, shut-ins of the parish and all in nursing homes. To add a name please call the Parish Office, 671-3062. Names will be removed after 3 weeks.

*Absent from the body present with our Lord.  
In your kindness pray for the repose of the soul*

**Florence Heller**, mother of Mike Heller  
*May God welcome her home, fill her with peace,  
and bless those who will miss her.*

**Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week**  
**233 Envelopes Used**

**New Building Fund**

Lavender Envelopes	\$	1,031.81
Total Received to date	\$	695,928.78

**Offertory**

Sunday Envelopes	\$	11,570.00
Sunday Loose	\$	685.00
Above and Beyond	\$	55.00
Present and Future	\$	110.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>12,420.00</b>
<b>Offertory Goal</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>13,699.00</b>

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**As of May 16, 2011**

Contributions Year To Date	\$	555,791.97
Projected Year to Date Budget	\$	630,154.00

**Scrip Gift Cards**

Sales	\$	2,280.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	105.26

Scrip Gift Cards are available in the Parish Office from 8 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday and every weekend after Mass.

**Stewardship**

*"Where I am going you know the way."* John 14:4

It is often said that stewardship is a way of life. Stewardship is certainly the way that Jesus taught us to live. However, like us, the Apostles seemed to want Jesus to tell them an easier way to heaven. But Jesus told them that they knew what they must do. We all know what we must do. We must do the work of the Lord with our time, our talent and our treasure.

**Parish Activities**

Mon	May 23	Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
Tues	May 24	Devotions after 8a m Mass Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm Church History Class, 7 pm, Cafeteria meeting room
Wed	May 25	<b>Eucharistic Adoration, 7 pm, Church</b> Kindergarten Graduation
Thurs	May 26	Choir Practice, 7pm, Church
Fri	May 27	OLQP last day of school

**Mass Intentions**

Mon	May 23	8:00 am	Rick Strothkamp
Tues	May 24	8:00 am	Lou Duchinsky
Wed	May 25	8:00 am	Mary Schaefer
Thurs	May 26	8:00 am	Jerry Smith
Fri	May 27	8:00 am	Barb Rocchio
Sat	May 28	5:00 pm	Robert Pratt
Sun	May 29	7:30 am	Deceased Members of Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary # 6435
		9:30 am	Debbie O'Brien
		11:30 am	People of the Parish

**May 28th and 29th**

**Special Ministers of the Eucharist**

5:00 pm	Clay Gregorc, Peggy Mikko, Maryann Turek, *Ralph & Sandy Munzlinger, *Joyce & Michael Ruopp
7:30 am	*Mary Bjornstad, Ken Bohnert, Vicki De Long, Jo Jahnsen, *Richard Ortmann, Ann Riley, Marie Strayhorn
9:30 am	Tom Broadbent, Joanne David, *Carol Delue, *Barb Perez, Sharon Reineri, Richard Rousseau, Helen Salamone, Jan Schultheiss
11:30 am	*Debbie Cleek, *Carol Freihaut, Paul McDonnell, Barb Oppelz, Deb Pigue, Connie Stubits, D. Witt

\* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

**Volunteers - God Bless Them**

Many will be shocked to find, when the day of judgment draws near, that there's a special place in heaven set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners, satin couches and footstools; where there's no committee chairperson, no group leaders or car pool.

Telephone lists will be outlawed but a finger snap will bring cool drinks, gourmet dinners and rare treats fit for a king and queen.

You ask who'll serve these privileged few and work for all their worth?

Why all those who reaped the benefits and not once volunteered on earth.

**Proclaimers**

5:00 pm	Joe and Barb Nenninger
7:30 am	Shirley Tenny, Linda Weber
9:30 am	Bruce Gallion, Nora Suhovecky
11:30 am	Debbie Cleek, Andrea Lawson

**Servers**

5:00 pm	Rachel Cundy, C. Dutton, Cameron Haug
7:30 am	McKenzie Beck, Kaitlyn Bridges, Zach Ingram
9:30 am	Andrea Brown, Nathan Bufka, Andrew Theiss
11:30 am	Hannah Mraz, Benjamin Pigue, Claire Webb

**Ushers**

5:00 pm	Larry Bottchen, Bill & Donna Clifton, Ken Ganey, Arnie Lohbeck, Katie Tutass
7:30 am	Gerald Bachmann, Carl Boyer, Ted Hemen, Steve Morlock, 2 needed
9:30 am	Terry Filicky, Ray Graf, Lee Hoffman, Butch Mattingly, R. Schultheiss, 1 needed
11:30 am	Don Brooks, Michael Harris, Don Reno, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt

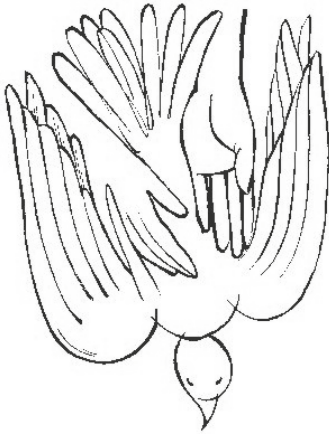
**Parish Office email**  
[parishoffice@olqpparish.org](mailto:parishoffice@olqpparish.org)  
**OLQP Web Site**  
[www.olqpparish.org](http://www.olqpparish.org)  
**submit articles for bulletin**  
[olqbulletin@yahoo.com](mailto:olqbulletin@yahoo.com)  
**Deadline Friday at 4:30 pm**  
**(9 days before publication)**



Donna O'Malley,  
Theresa Haug,  
Mary Copeland  
and Judy Mottert



**Sixth Sunday of Easter  
Cycle A**



When the Ascension of the Lord is celebrated on the following Sunday, the second reading and Gospel from the Seventh Sunday of Easter may be read on the Sixth Sunday of Easter.

**THEME: Share faith; share life.**

As the Season of Easter draws to a close, our attention is drawn more and more to the expanding roles of diverse people in the early Church and Jesus' promise to His disciples of their destiny to share with Him resurrection life.

**THE READINGS:**

FIRST READING: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

The first reading, from Acts of the Apostles is the account of Philip's success in spreading the Good News in Samaritan territory. At face value, the story continues the basic trend of the whole narrative of Acts – the spread of the Gospel beginning in Jerusalem and proceeding outward to incorporate ever more diverse people. But the story also suggests growth in the post-resurrection Church. Philip was one of those chosen to work with and meet the specific needs of members of the community living in special circumstances, those who were neglected because of barriers of language, culture, legal status. The reason for selecting these ministers of good works was to free the Apostles for their primary work of proclaiming the Good News. Yet here, a minister

of good works is taking the message outside of the limited Jewish circles of Jerusalem – and having success. Luke is subtly suggesting two realities of life within the Christian community: 1) the good works on behalf of others that we are all called to perform as disciples of Jesus are, in fact, a very real means of proclaiming the Good News, of announcing the presence of Jesus Christ in the world around us; and 2) as we move in time away from the Resurrection, the work of the believing community in proclaiming the Gospel begins to involve more than just the original apostles. This is the work of the Church, of the believing community and "offices" within this community are developing to assure a continued mission and ministry for the growing Church.

A secondary aspect of this story involves the roles of those who specifically are apostles. Peter and John are sent to confirm the work of Philip. What we do as members of the believing community, the good works we perform to spread the Good News is subject to approval from Church leadership and the good accomplished by the believing community is, and should be, a cause for rejoicing on the part of the community's leadership. The trend is clear. Jesus Christ was sent to announce that the Kingdom of God is at hand. His mission and ministry of revealing His Father involved caring for people, meeting their needs. The apostles were commissioned to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus, to continue the work they had shared with Him during His life. But the kingdom is not exhausted with the first generation of Christians. The believing community has a mission to continue the work of Jesus Christ, to continue to announce and build God's kingdom, to continue to embody the presence of Christ in the midst of the world. We are and ever will be a resurrection people, a people filled with life and charged to share that life with all others in the world.

## SECOND READING (A): I Peter 3:15-18

Both options for the second reading are taken from the First Letter of Peter. The First Letter of Peter is intended to give encouragement to the newly baptized to live, their new life in Christ, even in the face of hostility and rejection. In the reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, the role of the newly baptized in the mission of the Church is the focus. All members of the believing community, even the newly baptized, are encouraged to willingly explain to others our reason for having hope, hope for salvation, hope for eternal life, hope for the establishment of God's Kingdom in the good lives we lead, in the good we do for others. Again, the perspective is becoming broader as we move through the Easter season, from a focus on Jesus Christ and what He accomplished, to the role of the first disciples to continue His mission, to the realization that all members of the Church share in this mission of being resurrection people, people of life and hope, but more, people who make Christ offer of life and hope present and real for others – even when they are less than interested or even hostile to what we have to say.

## SECOND READING (B): I Peter 4:13-16

The reading from I Peter for the Seventh Sunday of Easter is an even more forceful statement for the need of members of the Christian community to follow Jesus Christ, to do what He did, even if it means suffering for the individual. This idea mirrors the theme of Mark's Gospel, that disciples are to do as Jesus did, even if it means suffering. This reading calls for the newly baptized and all the community to rejoice when they experience, as Jesus did, insults and injury for the sake of proclaiming the message of salvation. The passage calls us to right behavior towards each other within the community, and to boldness in offering Christian witness, a boldness that allows us to speak the truth without fear or shame, even if we face the same rejection and hostility Jesus did.

## GOSPEL READING (A): John 14:15-21

The Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter is the heart of the Farewell Discourse from John's Gospel. The entire Farewell Discourse has an elaborate concentric or chiasmic structure with today's reading located in the central, stressed position. The very heart of Jesus' final instructions to His followers is the command to love each other as Jesus loves us. Jesus' followers are identified as His chosen friends and, consistent with long standing biblical tradition stretching all the way back to the Yahwist source in Genesis, the idea of being chosen carries with it the notion of being chosen for a purpose, to bear fruit, a lasting effect of Jesus' love in the world.

Once again the focus of the Gospel reading is on what we should do and how we should live in the post-resurrection age. We are to be a means of embodying Jesus' love in the world, a love that begins with loving each other within the Christian community, and love that has lasting effects in the world.

The Farewell Discourse in John's Gospel has the overall effect within John's story of Jesus of placing a question and challenge before the disciples. In effect, Jesus is asking them if the time they have spent together during His earthly ministry has made any difference to them. If so, they are to live that difference. That same question and challenge echoes through the ages to address us today as the Easter Season is drawing to a close. Does what Jesus accomplished and revealed during His life, does His saving sacrifice on the cross, does His Resurrection and offer of new life to us make any practical difference to us? If it does, we are to live that difference by living in love, by choosing – actively and willingly – the good of our brothers and sisters and in so doing to impact the world with the presence of Jesus' love within us. Our life as a resurrection people is not about warm, fuzzy feelings, or a private and personal relationship with Jesus in any exclusive sense, but about practical love in forming a community and as a community imaging forth the love of God to all others.

## GOSPEL READING (B): John 17:1-11

The alternate Gospel reading from the Seventh Sunday of Easter is also taken from John's Farewell Discourse. It is Jesus' final prayer and blessing for His disciples before His glorification – and for John, the glorification of Jesus comes precisely in His passion and death. But that glorification ushers in Jesus' return to His Father. Jesus' prayer is that the Father will be present with those entrusted to Him who remain in this world just as the Father had been with and in Jesus during His time in the world. Jesus' prayer for His disciples is ushering in the era of our time, the time to live the difference Jesus and His saving mission has made in our lives, the time to live the command of love that is the heart of the Farewell Discourse.

Throughout the Easter Season, the Church's celebrations have moved from recalling Jesus' saving acts and His resurrection, to the immediate impact of the resurrection in the lives of Jesus' chosen followers and the beginnings of the spread of God's Good News in the formation of the earliest Christian communities, to the promise of God's life with us in the believing communities of the Church now – if we continue to do what Jesus did and live His commandment of love. The question we face as the Easter Season winds down is whether or not Jesus and His saving mission makes any difference to us, not an intellectual or emotional difference, but a practical difference, a difference that shows in the love we have for one another, in our willingness to be witnesses to God's love and offer of life for all to see, in our willingness to live the difference Jesus makes in our lives even when doing so means we are misunderstood, ridiculed, even denounced and faced with hostility.

**FOR REFLECTION:**

- For me, how do I see a relationship between faith and life, between believing and liveliness?
- The Church is for all people. What are the elements of diversity in my parish? Do the liturgies, programs, and activities of my parish express diversity? Do they meet the needs of diverse people in the parish? What is my role in making this happen?
- For me, how do I understand the relationship between the faithful in the community of believers and church leaders? Do I have the freedom, and responsibility, to explore ways of spreading the Christian message? How can the leadership of the church empower me? What are the limits of my freedom and responsibility?
- In difficult times, we are called to be alive and faithful, we are called to be active and have hope. In the face of the problems besetting today's world, what gives me hope? How are hope and faith related?
- The Farewell Discourse in John flows from the idea of Jesus asking His disciples whether or not their time together has made any difference, and if so, calling on them to live that difference. What experiences have I had with my family, at school, on retreats, with my parish community in which I have been aware of the presence of Jesus? Have these experiences made any difference to me? How can I live that difference?

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