

Our Lady Queen of Peace

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

www.olqpparish.org

July 10, 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

Ms. Renée Chauvin

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****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**Sat 20 **Knights Horseracing at Fairmount**Sat 20 **Athletic Assoc. Golf Tournament****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**February**Sat 25 **Daughters Antique Appraisal** Cafe**April**Sat 28 **Daughters Tailgate Sale** OLQP**August**Sat 18 **Daughters Tailgate Sale** OLQP**October**Sun 21 **Daughters Fashion Show** KC Hall**Pastor's Desk****Pre-School Update**

Last week, **Nancy Lorenz** informed me that she would not be accepting the Pre-School Coordinator position for the 2011-2012 school year and that she would be accepting a new job position that is more stable for her. As I wrote in the bulletin several weeks ago, an Archdiocesan audit recommended that we terminate our Pre-School Program or at least re-organize it. We chose to re-organize it in the hopes of integrating it more fully into the overall structure of our school. Our Pre-School program will be placed under the administrative guidance of Miss Renée Chauvin, principal of Our Lady Queen of Peace School. A search for a new Pre-School Coordinator will be conducted soon to replace Nancy. Registrations for Pre-School will be handled through the parish office for now. Miss Chauvin will direct the search for the new Pre-School Coordinator.

I would like to thank Nancy Lorenz for her service to our parish. She has done an outstanding job working with children and is well loved by so many people. We will truly miss her and I pray that God blesses her with happiness and success.

EPA (...get the lead out)

Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency showed up at our parish to test our property for lead contamination. The entire parish grounds were determined to be clear of lead except for the lower ball field. Tests on the lower ball field showed that elevated amounts of lead were present. (The upper ball field was determined to be clean) The EPA suspects that contaminated soil, used as landfill, came from the Flat River area. Representatives from the EPA said that as a precaution the situation needs to be dealt with, but it was not urgent. They were willing to wait until next Spring to rectify the problem. However, I have discussed this situation with the OLQP Athletic Association and we want to take care of the problem as soon as possible. The soil on the lower ball field will be removed and replaced with clean soil as soon as the current baseball season ends in July. This operation is completely paid for by the government and will not cost our parish anything. More information will be forthcoming as plans unfold.

Fr. Mike

**Young
at
Heart**

On Monday, July 11, we will meet at the Knights Hall at noon for BBQ. Hope everyone can make it!

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 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

Parish Office email

parishoffice@olqpparish.org

OLQP Web Site

www.olqpparish.org

submit articles for bulletin

olqpbulletin@yahoo.com

**Deadline Friday at 4:30 pm
(9 days before publication)**



YOUTH MINISTRY

Rules - Relationship = Rebellion

Rules + Relationship = Responsibility

This equation provides the framework for an effective discipline approach. "All children need boundaries and limitations in order to become more responsible human beings. At the same time, if the relationship with them is sacrificed at the expense of the rules, then there is the likelihood of rebellious behavior - especially as they enter the teen years." (Parenting 101, *School Tools*, Catholic Family Services, January 2009)

All teens show some level of responsible behaviors and some level of rebellious behaviors. As parents, we want to see a greater degree of responsible behaviors from our teens. Building and strengthening our relationship with our teen children takes time and commitment on our part. We must make it a priority to spend quality time with each of our teen children weekly. It is imperative that we listen to them without interrupting or belittling their concerns. Good listening and communication skills are a must in building healthy relationships with our teens. It is important to listen so you can hear the message between the words. Resist the temptation to "fix" your teens problems. Being a good listener helps them sort things out so they can problem solve or just vent some frustrations in an appropriate manner. Enjoy setting clear boundaries for your teens, while building a healthy relationship with them and watch your teen's level of responsibility grow to new heights.

Wednesday Summer Youth Nights

All high school youth are invited to bring a friend and join us on Wednesday evenings from 6 - 9 pm in the Bear's Den to share fun, faith and fabulous popcorn. We hope you can join us this Wednesday. We will not have Youth Night on Wednesday, July 20th, due to our Hope Builders service week.

Terry Ostlund, Youth Minister
314-566-8363

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

Verna Wing, mother of Bonnie Brockmeyer

Thomas Merlenbach,

grandfather of Burkemper children

Steve Grimes, friend of Katie Tutass

*May God welcome them home, fill them with peace,
and bless those who will miss them.*

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!*

Annual Silver and Gold Jubilee Mass

Celebrated by Archbishop Carlson
Sunday, October 9, 2011, 2:30 pm
At the Cathedral Basilica
(4431 Lindell Blvd.)

Couples celebrating their 25th, 50th or 50 plus anniversary during 2011, who register before Thursday, September 15, will have their names and wedding date printed in the program and receive a certificate of congratulations. Please call 314-792-7170 to make your reservation.

Bridges – a life-changing experience of God’s love

“The Bridges Program is designed for those who are seeking a bridge between their spirituality and their daily lives within the context of a community.”

The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola in everyday life will be offered at Webster Groves Christian Church, 1320 W. Lockwood. The session runs from September 2011 – May 2012. The Bridges Foundation, Inc. will conduct an information session at Webster Groves Christian Church on Wednesday, July 20, at 10 am.

Any questions please call Cheryl Rauschenbach, 636-225-8433 or e-mail Cheryl_rauschenbach@yahoo.com.

Brochures, giving additional information about the retreat, will be available in the pamphlet rack in the Church lobby. The brochure will also answer questions such as “Is this right for me?”



Parish Corner

Every week a different organization is featured in the bulletin.

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary is a helping and support group for the Knights of Columbus. We help with events such as the Tootsie Roll Drive, Mouse Races and others. We manage the kitchen and bake for the Friday night Bingo. A monthly monetary donation is given to the Peace Pantry, St. Vincent de Paul Society, School Sisters of Notre Dame. Vestments and server robes have been purchased. A \$500 Scholarship is given at the 8th grade graduation. Our help is given for parish functions when needed. Our Ladies are a loving and generous group. We enjoy working together for God.



St. Vincent De Paul

Mangia...what a nice invitation - Eat. Mangia, it has a hospitable and generous sound. You are saying mangia to a person you do not know every time you share your coins in the Poor Box. The response is spoken though you do not hear it.

Grazie,
St. Vincent de Paul Society

Stephen Ministry

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. All calls and sessions are confidential.



God bless you!

Needs a New Home

We are looking for a home for my Mom's cat, Emily. She is about five years old, long hair, spectacular tail. She is spayed and declawed (front). She is an absolute love... to people...she does NOT get along well with other cats. She would be a great companion for anyone living alone. Call Joe or Barb, 285-0672, if you are interested.

Joe and Barb Nenninger



Thanks to all of you who inquired about my Mom over the past several months and prayed for her as well. The front pew at 5 o'clock will be a little lonely for now. We take great comfort knowing she is with the Lord and finally at peace.

Joe and Barb Nenninger

Thanks to all who helped with our blood drive: Linda, who always does such a great job with our bulletin announcements, Terry's terrific teens who served refreshments and all our wonderful donors and "would be" donors. We had a total of 39 donated pints.

I would like to say a personal "thank you" from my family. My sister's husband has just been diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and had a two pint transfusion. Although they live in Florida and could not take advantage of our donations, we can fully appreciate how grateful are those who can.

Joan Oermann

To Our Vegetable Gardeners

If you would be harvesting an abundance of tomatoes and cucumbers from your garden, would you please consider sharing them for the Hope Builders meals during their community service week, July 18 - 24. Please contact Fran, 636-375-3774.

63rd Annual Novena Carmelite Monastery

(9150 Clayton Road)

The Novena to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel begins Saturday, July 9th, and concludes Sunday, July 17th. Marian music, Rosary and Benediction begins at 6:45 pm each evening in the Carmelite Monastery Chapel, followed by Mass at 8 pm in the Garden of Carmel. Speakers include Bishop Edward M. Rice and several Archdiocesan priests.

Looking for a Host Family

STS Foundation is seeking families to host high school exchange students for the upcoming 2011-2012 school year. We are currently seeking a family for **Tamara** from **Switzerland**. She is 17 years old, cheerful, outgoing, adaptable, responsible and sporty. Tammy is an active Catholic and attends Church regularly and her father is a deacon in their church. Host family responsibility to the student is a place to sleep, study and meals. Students have their own medical insurance and spending money. If interested in hosting, contact **Barbara** at **314-808-0751** or email bburgess_sts@yahoo.com.

**Il Ritiro Retreat Center
Mass of Anointing of the Sick**

The Franciscan Community of Il Ritiro, Dittmer, announces a 10 am Mass of Anointing of the Sick the fourth Sunday of every month at its Chapel of Our Lady of the Cedars. All those who are sick and in need of reception of this healing Sacrament are invited to come.

“By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayers of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord, that He may raise them up and save them”. (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

The Il Ritiro Retreat is located in Dittmer on Eime Road and St. Francis Lane. For additional information, please call, 636-274-1736.

**OLQP Athletic Association Golf
Tournament**



The OLQP Athletic Association will be sponsoring our 16th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 20th, at Deer Creek Golf Course in House Springs. Registration begins at 11 am with a shotgun start at 12 noon. It will be a four person scramble which cost \$260 per team which includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner and attendance prizes. For more information and applications go to our website: www.olqpraiders.com. All proceeds will be used to purchase new uniforms and the upkeep on our athletic fields.

Seven Days of Inspiration

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

Be a best friend
to yourself!



Is fear standing in
your way? Walk straight
toward it, and it'll step aside.



You need more
fun in your life!



Leave your worries
at the doorstep tonight.



Smile with your
eyes, too!



Ask yourself,
“What will make me happy?”
- the answer is within you!



You're not burned out.
You just need to refuel!

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, July 27,
from 1 - 8 pm.

New Translation - Week 4**History of the Roman Missal**

"Paul Turner - The Roman Missal is the official book of texts for the Mass in the Roman Catholic Church. The first book to bear the title came out in 1474. After the Second Vatican Council, the Scripture readings were removed from the missal and bound in separate lectionaries. The rest was called the "sacramentary" in English, but its Latin title has always been "Missale Romanum."

The heart of the Roman Missal is the Order of Mass, the words and rubrics (instructions) that pertain to every Mass, from the song at the beginning to the dismissal at the end. Most of the book contains the priest's prayers that change from one Mass to the next: the collect (opening prayer), the prayer over the offerings, and the post communion prayer. The Roman Missal opens with a general instruction explaining how and why the Mass should go the way it does. It includes a number of appendices, including prayer the priest may say privately before and after Mass."

In 1570 the Missal of Pius V or the Tridentine Missal was published. In 1970 the first edition of the Roman Missal was published. Whenever a new liturgical book is published, there is a trial period of a few years during which words are tested out and refined. Therefore, in 1971 there was an amended version, and then a second edition published in 1975, and now a third edition from 2001. The 2001 edition is the base of her new Roman Missal. The 2001 instruction, "Liturgiam Authenticam," mandated the new translation: "the original text, insofar as possible, must be translated integrally and in the most exact manner, without omission or addition in terms content, and without paraphrases or glosses. Any adaptation to the Characteristics or the nature of the various vernacular language is to be sober and discreet." We now move from a "sense" or "dynamic equivalences" translation to a direct "formal equivalence" translation.

For additional information:

Please refer to the Office of Sacred Worship website at archstl.org/worship and click on the tab "Roman Missal, Third Edition," on the left-hand side of the page. And be sure to read the St. Louis Review or check it out online at www.stlouisreview, for more on the new Roman Missal.

Our Gifts to God and Parish Last Week**Special Collections**

Cardinal Glennon	\$	5.00
Peter's Pence	\$	52.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	3.00
Mission Co op	\$	3,824.15

New Building Fund

Lavender Envelopes	\$	719.00
Total Received to date	\$	699,100.96

Offertory

Sunday Envelopes	\$	11,844.00
Sunday Loose	\$	441.00
Above and Beyond	\$	30.00
Ascension	\$	7.00
Present and Future	\$	100.00
Total Offertory	\$	12,422.00
Offertory Goal	\$	13,699.00

Thank you for your generosity.

As of July 5, 2011

Contributions Year To Date	\$	12,422.00
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Scrip Gift Cards

Sales	\$	2,290.00
Profits/tuition reduction	\$	92.76

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
Start With Prayer**

"The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit."
Matthew 13:22

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in worldly activities and anxieties that you have no time for God? These are questions that we all must ask of ourselves if we are going to live as God's stewards.

Parish Activities

Mon	July 11	Vocation Rosary after 8 am Mass Vacation Bible School begins Ladies Bible Study, 7 pm, Cafe. mtg. room Rosary for Peace, 7:30 pm, Church
Tues	July 12	Devotions after 8 am Mass Quilters, 9 am - 3 pm, 6 - 8:30 pm No Parish Council meeting this month
Wed	July 13	Youth Night, 6 - 9 pm, Bear's Den
Thur	July 14	Vacation Bible School last evening
Sat	July 16	Blood Pressure screening after Mass, Cafeteria meeting room
Sun	July 17	Hospitality Sunday Blood Pressure Screening after Mass, Cafeteria meeting room

Mass Intentions

Mon	July 11	8:00 am	Alan and Victor Blecha
Tues	July 12	8:00 am	Oscar Buchheit
Wed	July 13	8:00 am	Jeanette Ellison
Thurs	July 14	8:00 am	Warren and Bernice Dierks
Fri	July 15	8:00 am	Lou Duchinsky
Sat	July 16	5:00 pm	Doxie Smentkowski
Sun	July 17	7:30 am	People of the Parish
		9:30 am	Gary David
		11:30 am	Florence Duquesne

July 16th and 17th

Special Ministers of the Eucharist

5:00 pm	Larry & Margaret Bottchen, Christine Camden, Barb Nennering, Deb Pigue, *Michael & Joyce Ruopp
7:30 am	Mary Bjornstad, *Ken Bohnert, Carl Boyer, Vicki De Long, Jo Jahnsen, *Ann Riley, Marie Strayhorn
9:30 am	Tom Broadbent, *Fran Corley, *Lee Hoffman, Barb Perez, Sharon Reineri, Richard Rousseau, Jo Ann Vess
11:30 am	Tom Ecker, Dan & Kim Horn, *Paul McDonnell, Barb Oppelz, *Connie Stubits, Denise Webb

* You are responsible to clean the vessels after Mass

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

Rich Leiber	Wayne Thome
Mary Slodkowski	Christine Dower
Vicki Duckworth	Dorothy Rudloff
Liz Scanga	Calvin E. Corio
Stacy Camden	

- Sr. Teresa Haug SSND, aunt of Steve Haug
- Chris DeClue, daughter of Bill and Linda Weber
- Edna Hayes, mother of Karen Sheets
- Anna Ade, mother of Angie Ecker
- Larry Scheiter, friend of Katie Tutass
- Joan Maupin, sister of Clifford Wendt
- Ruth Goff, aunt of Joan Thompkins
- Allen Chott, nephew of Judy Mottert
- Jim Rawlins, husband of Lynette Rawlins
- 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
- 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.

Proclaimers

5:00 pm	Judy Janos, Sandy Munzlinger
7:30 am	Bev Gregory, Roseann Robinson
9:30 am	Andrea Lawson, Maryann Turek
11:30 am	Debbie Cleek, Maria Webb

Servers

5:00 pm	Nicole Diener, John Myers, Anna Reno
7:30 am	McKenzie Beck, Zachary Morlock, S. Otzenberger
9:30 am	Olivia Berry, Annie Lakin, Bridget Turney
11:30 am	Donnie Constantz, Johnny Gibson, Tom Nekić

Ushers

5:00 pm	Don Brooks, Bill & Donna Clifton, Ken Ganey, Ralph Munzlinger, Katie Tutass
7:30 am	G. Bachmann, Doug Bjornstad, Robert De Long, Jeff Eschbach, Wally Freihaut, John J. Nahlik
9:30 am	Cal & George Flynn, Steve Freihaut, Tom Mattingly, R. Schultheiss, Larry Whitworth
11:30 am	Gary Freihaut, John Holmes, Don Reno, Jim Robertson, Al Schuld, David Witt



Diane Yocom,
Susan Whitworth,
Joanne David,
Helen Stewart
and Joan Thompkins

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**Cycle A****THEME: “The righteous must be kind.”**

Throughout biblical tradition, there is a focus, both in Israelite and Christian scriptures, on considering the nature of God. This focus does not stop with glorifying or praising the attributes of God; it doesn't stop with standing in awe at the “otherness” of God. It leads forward to considering who we are as sons and daughters of a loving Father; it leads forward to a plan for how we are to live because of the God who formed us. If God is forgiving, we must be forgiving. If God is patient, we must be patient. If God is generous, we must be generous. Today, the readings focus on God as kind and forbearing, as a God who gives people a chance. We, the sons and daughters of God, we who claim to be the righteous, we too must be kind.

THE READINGS:

FIRST READING: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

The first reading, from the Book of Wisdom, is one of the latest examples of Wisdom writing in the Old Testament. The perspective of the book of positive and optimistic. Israel, formed by the Word of God, makes its way in a larger world, a world that offers possibilities. Yet, in this world the ungodly exists. This is God's plan. Wisdom affirms that God is the sovereign of all creation and that Israel has a special place in God's plan. That place is to mimic God in His dealings with all people. God is forbearing; God is kind. In a diverse world, then, it is not our place to decide who is of God and who isn't; it is not our place to judge others, determine whom to include and whom to exclude. Like God, the role of the righteous in the world is to be kind.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-27

It is the idea of oneness with all others that stands behind Paul's message to the Romans in the second reading. Paul's writings have a universal outlook. He is the Apostle to the Gentiles, the Father of Worldwide Christianity. For Paul, there is a great commonality among all people. Together we need God. It is the spirit of God that acts in all people, that makes up what is lacking in what we can do and be on our own. God offers this spirit to all and works through all – even if we can't see and understand that presence, even if we want to judge others as somehow less or evil. All people are caught up in God's kindness; all people have a chance. Our need for this loving God is no different than anyone else's.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 13:24-43

The Gospel Reading from Matthew is an interesting mix of images dealing with the nature of the Kingdom of God that Jesus came to announce. The parable of the wheat and the weeds is followed by two images, the mustard seed and the yeast, that demonstrate that the Kingdom of Heaven starts small and grows in hidden and unexpected ways. The double emphasis on the small and hidden ways that the kingdom grows answers the apparent problem presented in the first image – weeds being sown among the wheat, the existence of evil in the midst of good.

Anyone who gardens knows that it is just common sense to weed the garden to allow room for the good plants to grow and produce. What Jesus says, then, seems to make no sense. But He poses a question. What violence is done to the good plants when we root out the bad ones? Can they be destroyed too? And, if the bad plants grow along with the good, in the end can we find something good in them, find some use for them? In considering these questions, Jesus reminds us that the good of the kingdom starts small and grows in hidden and unexpected ways. In rooting out the “evil” we may be rooting out the possibility for something good. In rooting out the “evil” we risk damaging and destroying the good.

The simple message of the parable is, “Be good to all and see what happens.” Is this anything other than Wisdom’s call to the righteous to be kind? Is this not the nature of God that we are to share?

FOR REFLECTION:

- In my dealings with others, is it more important for me to be right or to be kind? Can I be accepting and understanding of those with whom I disagree? Of those whom I believe are wrong and sinful?
- What kind of a chance am I willing to give to people with whom I disagree? How many chances will I give those whom I do not respect to share the world with me?
- We live in a larger world of conflicting values, attitudes and beliefs. What can these different values, attitudes and beliefs contribute to my believing community?
- What is it that the Spirit needs to make up for in me? What is lacking in me as I attempt to live as a worthy son or daughter of my heavenly Father?
- When I set out to take a stand against evil (terrorism, violence, abortion, corruption, injustice) what is the danger that I can do damage to the believing community? So, should I do nothing? How do I reconcile standing against evil and kindness?



PRAYER is OIL for the
DAILY GRIND

The Sandpiper

by Robert Peterson

She was six years old when I first met her on the beach near where I live. I drive to this beach, a distance of three or four miles, whenever the world begins to close in on me. She was building a sand castle or something and looked up, her eyes as blue as the sea. "Hello," she said. I answered with a nod, not really in the mood to bother with a small child. "I'm building," she said. "I see that. What is it?" I asked, not really caring. "Oh, I don't know, I just like the feel of sand." That sounds good, I thought, and slipped off my shoes. A sandpiper glided by. "That's a joy," the child said. "It's a what?" "It's a joy. My mama says sandpipers come to bring us joy." The bird went gliding down the beach. Good-bye joy, I muttered to myself, hello pain, and turned to walk on. I was depressed. My life seemed completely out of balance. "What's your name?" She wouldn't give up. "Robert," I answered. "I'm Robert Peterson." "Mine's Wendy... I'm six." she giggled. "You're funny," she said. In spite of my gloom, I laughed too and walked on. Her musical giggle followed me. "Come again, Mr. P," she called. "We'll have another happy day."

The next few days consisted of a group of unruly Boy Scouts, PTA meetings, and an ailing mother. The sun was shining one morning as I took my hands out of the dishwasher. I need a sandpiper, I said to myself, gathering up my coat. The ever-changing balm of the seashore awaited me. The breeze was chilly but I strode along, trying to recapture the serenity I needed. "Hello, Mr. P," she said. "Do you want to play?" "What did you have in mind?" I asked, with a twinge of annoyance. "I don't know. You say." "How about charades" I asked sarcastically. The tinkling laughter burst forth again. "I don't know what that is." "Then let's just walk." Looking at her, I noticed the delicate fairness of her face. "Where do you live?" I asked. "Over there." She pointed toward a row of summer cottages. Strange, I thought, in winter. "Where do you go to school?" "I don't go to school. Mommy says we're on vacation." She chattered little girl talk as we strolled up the beach, but my mind was on other things. When I left for home, Wendy said it had been a happy day. Feeling surprisingly better, I smiled at her and agreed. Three weeks later, I rushed to my beach in a state of near panic. I was in no mood to even greet Wendy. I thought I saw her mother on the porch and felt like demanding she keep her child at home. "Look, if you don't mind," I said crossly when Wendy caught up with me, "I'd rather be alone today." She seemed unusually pale and out of breath. "Why?" she asked. I turned to her and shouted, "Because my mother died!" and thought, My God, why was I saying this to a little child? "Oh," she said quietly, "then this is a bad day." "Yes," I said, "and yesterday and the day before and -- oh, go away!" Did it hurt?" she inquired. "Did what hurt?" I was exasperated with her, with myself. "When she died?" "Of course it hurt!" I snapped, misunderstanding, wrapped up in myself. I strode off. A month or so after that, when I next went to the beach, she wasn't there. Feeling guilty, ashamed, and admitting to myself I missed her, I went up to the cottage after my walk and knocked at the door. A drawn looking young woman with honey-colored hair opened the door. "Hello," I said, "I'm Robert Peterson. I missed your little girl today and wondered where she was." "Oh yes, Mr. Peterson, please come in. Wendy spoke of you so much. I'm afraid I allowed her to bother you. If she was a nuisance, please, accept my apologies." "Not at all -- she's a delightful child." I said, suddenly realizing that I meant what I had just said. "Wendy died last week, Mr. Peterson. She had leukemia. Maybe she didn't tell you." Struck dumb, I groped for a chair. I had to catch my breath. "She loved this beach, so when she asked to come, we couldn't say no. She seemed so much better here and had a lot of what she called happy days. But the last few weeks, she declined rapidly..." Her voice faltered, "She left something for you, if only I can find it. Could you wait a moment while I look?" I nodded stupidly, my mind racing for something to say to this lovely young woman. She handed me a smeared envelope with "Mr. P" printed in bold childish letters. Inside was a drawing in bright crayon hues -- a yellow beach, a blue sea, and a brown bird. Underneath was carefully printed:

A SANDPIPER TO BRING YOU JOY.

Tears welled up in my eyes, and a heart that had almost forgotten to love opened wide. I took Wendy's mother in my arms. "I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry, I'm so sorry," I uttered over and over, and we wept together. The precious little picture is framed now and hangs in my study. Six words -- one for each year of her life -- that speak to me of harmony, courage, and undemanding love. A gift from a child with sea blue eyes and hair the color of sand -- who taught me the gift of love.

NOTE: This is a true story sent out by Robert Peterson. It happened over 20 years ago and the incident changed his life forever. It serves as a reminder to all of us that we need to take time to enjoy living and life and each other. The price of hating other human beings is loving oneself less. Life is so complicated, the hustle and bustle of everyday traumas can make us lose focus about what is truly important or what is only a momentary setback or crisis. This week, be sure to give your loved ones an extra hug, and by all means, take a moment... even if it is only ten seconds, to stop and smell the roses.

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