

*TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME
October 20, 2013*

Homily Next Week:
Father John D. Whitney, S.J.

Readings for October 27, 2013

FIRST READING: SIRACH 35:12-14, 16-18
SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18
GOSPEL: LUKE 18:9-14

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday - 5 pm
Sunday - 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm

Weekday Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday - 7 am
Arrupe Room, Parish Center

Reconciliation

Saturday - 3:30-4:15 pm in the Church
or by appointment

Parish Center Hours

Monday-Thursday - 8 am - 4:30 pm
Friday - 8 am - 3:00 pm
Saturday - 9 am - 1 pm

www.stjosephparish.org

732 18th Avenue East, Seattle, WA 98112

Fax: (206) 329-5698

Parish Receptionist (206) 324-2522

Parish Staff (206) 329-5981

Pastor

Rev. John D. Whitney, S.J. x107

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Glen Butterworth, S. J. x103

Deacon/Pastoral Associate

Steve Wodzanowski x106

Pastoral Staff:

Dottie Farewell, Dir. Religious Ed. x112

Rebecca Frisino, Business Mgr x108

Tina O'Brien, Development Mgr x114

Renée Leet, Admin Assistant x100

Bob McCaffery-Lent, Liturgy & Music x109

Caprice Sauter, Administration x102

Yuri Kondratyuk, Facilitites x110

John Stuntebeck, Organist/Pianist x105

St. Joseph School

700 18th Avenue East • (206) 329-3260

Main Office x210

Patrick Fennessy, Principal x218

Rick Boyle, Academic VP x215

Kris Brown, Vice Principal x216



Sister Parish in El Salvador

One of the greatest achievements of our 26 year relationship with our sister-parish of San Bartolome in El Salvador has been the DHP Scholarship Program, which St. Joseph has helped maintain. In a region where many young people emigrate because of poverty and lack of work, the scholarships WE PROVIDE help students attain an education in El Salvador. The investment of less than \$1,000.00 per student per year pays great dividends in the community of our sister parish because students are incentivized to return to their community and give back. At this point, the program serves nearly 40 students each year - a great blessing - but the demand for scholarships is 3 times what our sister parish is currently able to fund.

On Mission Sunday Weekend, October 19-20, St. Joseph Parish will support our brothers and sisters through a special collection for the San Bartolome Sister Parish scholarship program. An exceptionally generous group of anonymous St. Joseph parishioners has offered to match, dollar-for-dollar, all gifts of \$100 and over from October 19th through October 31st (up to a maximum of \$25,000). Please prayerfully consider making a gift this year, knowing that your \$100 gift will provide \$200 in scholarships. Special Envelopes are available in the pews. You may also wish to give online at the parish website. Thank you.

For additional information on the scholarship fund, you can go to the St. Joseph website under Sister Parish.

Saying “Yes!”

It is not a good Catholic attitude to go looking solely for the negative, what separates us. That is not what Jesus wants. Doing so not only makes our message distorted and frightening, but it also implies a lack of acceptance, and Christ accepted everything. We are redeemed only by what we accept.

-Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio (later Pope Francis), 2010-

As God is faithful, our word to you is not “yes” and “no.” For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was proclaimed to you by us, was not “yes” and “no,” but “yes” has been in him.

-2 Corinthians 1: 18-19-

In the gospel of Luke, a somewhat cryptic passage recently caught my eye. Speaking to his disciples, Jesus tells the story of an evil spirit, driven out of a person, who roams the arid places of the world and finally decides to return to old haunts. Finding the place it had abandoned now cleaned and in order, the spirit goes off to get seven more demons, leaving the person worse off than before. Thus, the moral of the story seems to be: *don’t clean up when you have gotten rid of an evil spirit.* But maybe that reading misses something.

I was puzzled by this passage, coincidentally, at the same time I was preparing for *Pope & a Pint* night with the young adults—never expecting the two moments to intersect. Yet, as I read more and more about Pope Francis (so as not to seem a complete fraud to the young adults), I came upon a book, written from interviews with Jorge Bergoglio, when the future Pope was still Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires. In this text, Bergoglio takes great pains to distinguish between the *kerygma* of Christianity—i.e. the life teachings of Jesus Christ—and the catechetical application of that *kerygma*. For him, the foundational teaching of the Church, the great revelation, is known in the *kerygma*, i.e., the revelation that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; that he loves each person and calls each person to new life through his death and resurrection. However, many people don’t pay attention to this *kerygma*, but move, instead, right to the catechism “preferably” as he says “the section on morality.” In such cases, preaching becomes moralizing or catechetical, not opening one to the

mystery of God in Christ, but proscribing and prescribing all that is forbidden and all that is allowed. The future-Pope goes on, to say, “*In doing this, we relegate the treasure of the living Christ, the treasure of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, the treasure of living a Christian life, which has so many other implications.*”

Stepping back from the reflections of the future-Pope, I thought again of Luke’s gospel, and much became clear to me. The catechetical vision of the world, by which everything is divided into good or bad, right or wrong, consistent with the rules or a violation of the rules, is wonderful tool for cleaning out the house of one’s conscience. Like an emetic, such a rule-centered approach can rid one of the poisons that prey upon us: gluttony, concupiscence, greed, envy, etc. Yet, while it may be wonderful at cleaning the house, such an attitude does nothing to fill it; rather, it leaves one open and vulnerable to greater failings—to a whole host of devils. For moralizing (which is distinct from true morals) is always about division and separation, about separating oneself from the mass of humanity who are not quite as enlightened or virtuous. It is about *not-being* something, rather than being what we are meant to be.

But Jesus Christ is not about *not being*; on the contrary, he is the very fullness of being: the rich table, laden with the abundance of God. Thus, to be a follower of Christ is not about *not* breaking the rules. Instead, it is about filling our house with love and hope, with grace and goodness, with women and men who are made in the image of Christ. It is about creating a home so full of God’s blessings that there is not an inch of space for the demons in our hearts to return. To live in a world of “no” is to leave our house vacant—clean, perhaps, but vacant. To live in a world of “yes” is to crowd our lives with the mission and ministry of Christ, to crowd it with generosity and hospitality, with an embrace of the poor and a welcome to the stranger. To live in a world of “yes” is to become fullness, to become the good we have aspired to.

This is not to say that catechetical thought has no place—and certainly the Pope is not saying we should rid ourselves of the catechism. Rather, it is to set things in their proper relationship. As human beings, rules and teachings can help us become better, can help us live more fully and more happily the example that Christ has offered. Since none of us is perfect in our understanding of the revelation of Christ, catechesis is an essential dimension of our faith today. However, faith cannot stand on law alone, nor can we live merely by saying “no”—as those who followed the Pharisees came to see. Salvation comes not with an empty house, nor in the safe harbor of negation. It comes only in the dangerous movement of “yes.” “*We are redeemed only by what we accept.*” Let us accept each other. Let us accept Christ. Let us say “yes” to the gospel in a way that will drive out our demons and fill our homes with love.

John

Feast of All Saints Mass

The Mass of All Saints will be celebrated Friday, November 1st, at 5:30 pm, during which the community will also celebrate all our beloved dead, as we begin this month of remembrance.

As we did last year, we will offer a special litany and a chance for members of the community to come forward and name those they recall, lighting a candle in their honor.

Join us for a reception following mass!



Prayer

Men's Ministry Fall Retreat

October 25-27, 2013

Beautiful Camp Casey on Whidbey Island

ONLY 5 SPOTS LEFT!

RETREAT ANIMATORS: Leo Lyons, Glen Butterworth SJ, Hunter Chua, Bengt Johnson, Brian Hahn

Retreat begins Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. and ends 11 am on Sunday. Cost: \$125.00 per person (includes two nights lodging & four meals - double occupancy, Cost does not include transportation. We will help organize carpooling. Accommodations are simple and rustic! Linens are available for a \$12.00 charge. All rooms sleep two.

Sign-up on first come, first pay basis. Questions? Call Steve at 965-1646 or steve@stjosephparish.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry

"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."

We invite you to join knitters and crocheters of all abilities to participate in the St. Joes' prayer shawl ministry. The purpose of the ministry is to give someone in need a tangible example of God's love and care. We will meet on the 1st Thursday of each month in the parish center... from 7-9 in the evening. Following refreshments and prayer, we will knit or crochet the shawls. People will be welcome to work on their shawls at home in between meetings. When a shawl is finished, a blessing will be given and it will be distributed to someone in need of this special blessing. Patterns will be provided and we will be asking the parish community for yarn and needle donations.



If you are interested in participating, or if you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Rothmeyer at (206)310-0198 or jenniferrothmeyer@hotmail.com.

Pray The Rosary

Join with other St. Joseph's Parishioners to pray the Rosary on Monday evenings from 7-8 pm at the home of Jackie Quinn 918 18th Ave E. 324-1780. Newcomers Always Welcome!

No prior experience required. We will teach you...

Prayer Tree



St. Joseph Community extends its prayers and hopes for the following intentions: For the health and well being of John Ghiglione and Theresa Jeannot . . . For those who are suffering, may they find comfort and relief . . . To show love and appreciation for family and friends by acts of thoughtfulness . . . With thanksgiving for all who have provided food on Sundays for the needy – a can of soup, a jar of peanut butter, a bag of spaghetti -- makes a difference . . . For Matthew, a university freshman, may his medical procedures to monitor his heart go well . . . Last Sunday, October 13th was Worldwide Jubilee Sunday and the message was "To all nations to forgive the debts encumbered by the poorer nations of this world. May we keep the most vulnerable at the center of the public debate, not at the margins." . . . We are filled with pride and joy -- Retired Captain Will Swenson, son of Julia Buchholz and Carl Swenson, who attended St. Joseph school was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Barack Obama.

"I charge you in the presence of God and Christ Jesus . . . proclaim the word."

~ 2 Timothy 4

If you have petitions you would like included in the prayer tree, including birth announcements, illnesses and deaths, please call the parish office at 206-324-2522 ext 100 or email rleet@stjosephparish.org



Community

Are You Getting the E-Blast?

Every Thursday, St. Joseph Parish sends out Fr. John's column & other upcoming events electronically. If you haven't subscribed, you can do so, no muss, no fuss. Go to the subscribe button at www.stjosephparish.org and you can be one of the cool kids, too.

Tattoos on the Heart An Ignatian Book Group

3 Tuesday gatherings (November 5, 12 and 19, 2013) |
7:00-8:30 pm | St. Joseph Parish Center, Seattle

David Coffey & Emily Davis, facilitators

For twenty years, Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. has run Homeboy Industries, a gang-intervention program located in Los Angeles, the gang capital of the world. In his New York Times bestseller, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*, Fr. Boyle distills his experience working in the ghetto into a breathtaking series of parables inspired by faith. Join us to read and explore this uplifting "quick read," as a reminder that no life is less valuable than another.

COST: \$40 (Reduced fee if you already own the book.)
To register, visit www.ignatiancenter.org or contact Andrea Fontana at (206) 329-4824 or andrea@ignatiancenter.org. Please register by Tuesday, October 29.

Applying to Gonzaga?

Application Fee Waiver for Gonzaga University.

As a graduate of Gonzaga I can provide 2 \$50 application fee waivers for students applying for admission. If you are applying and would like to take advantage of this, please contact me at vherberholt3@comcast.net

Vince Hereberholt

An Evening with Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ

"Barking to the Choir:
Now Entering the Kinship of God"

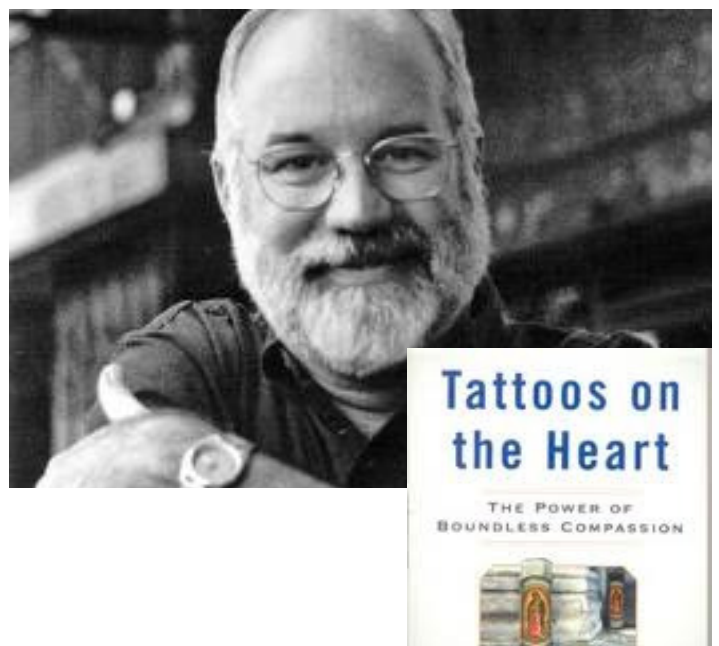
Friday, October 25, 2013 7:30 PM
St. Joseph Church 732 18th Ave. E. Seattle,
Tickets are \$25

In recognition of 30 years of providing the Spiritual Exercises in the Puget Sound region, SEEL is hosting this event to raise funds that will support the continuing ministry of SEEL now and into the future.

Father Greg is an internationally acclaimed speaker and founder of Homeboy Industries www.homeboyindustries.com - which helps former gang members redirect their lives and become contributing members of their families and the community by offering hope, training and job skills. They provide free services and programs that provide alternatives to re-incarceration or a return to former gang lives, and is the largest gang rehabilitation program in the country. Fr. Greg is the author of the New York Times Bestselling book, *"Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion"*.

To purchase tickets go to Brown Paper Tickets <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/427708>

For more information, please visit our website at www.seelpugetsound.org or call 206 721 3518.





Social Ministry

St. Vincent de Paul

The colder but lovely weather this past week is a sure harbinger of the months to come when warm clothing will be needed to stave off the elements. We probably have not mentioned much how often your St. Vincent de Paul donations go for clothing.

We are able to respond to requests for clothing in several ways. Our parish's St. Francis House ministry is one good source of clothing. We often refer our folks who need clothing there because if Francis House can meet the need then it is free. Not everyone will find what they need at Francis House however so we also can write a voucher for Value Village over on 11th Avenue just off E. Pike Street.

In one recent situation, a man was headed for a job interview but needed a decent shirt and tie to wear. Our volunteers wrote a voucher for Value Village so he could get what he needed there. Many a single mom has needed jackets and sweaters for growing kids and clothing vouchers can allow her to afford decent clothes as her children head out for school in the rain and wind.

The things that most of us can take for granted, like some rain boots or water-proof shoes, can be luxuries to those in need, in need now for the inclement days ahead. We thank you for your donations, in money to us and in the still-usable clothing you take to Francis House, that make a big difference as the foul-weather season arrives in our city.



Donation Boxes for gently used clothing are in the Church vestibule and the parish center!

Choose Life Ministry

NEXT STEP PREGNANCY SERVICES

Next Step Pregnancy Services in Lynnwood is a non-profit agency serving those who face unplanned pregnancies ~ regardless of race, color, creed, religion or marital status. All services are provided free of charge. We are dedicated to serving with compassion and dignity the immediate and long term needs of those facing unplanned pregnancies. Our aim is to preserve the dignity of women in this difficult time by providing confidential support, peer counseling, and friendship. If you would like to learn more, volunteer or donate items such as maternity clothes, please call 425-329-4569 or visit their website <http://www.nextstepnw.com/>

A Note From Baby Corner

Because of continuing demand, we are low on many of the essential items that we regularly distribute to young families in need. If you can pick up one or more of these items on your next shopping trip, we would be grateful! Donations may be dropped off at the Baby Corner (528 18th Avenue) during our regular business hours, from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday, or at one of our crib communities.

We have an immediate need for the following items:

- diapers, all sizes
- baby hygiene items—wash, shampoo, lotion, diaper rash ointment
- receiving blankets
- infant clothing (0–3 months, 3–6 months), specifically undershirts, pj sleepers, blanket sleepers

On behalf of the babies and toddlers who benefit from your generosity, thank you!

Please visit us online for more information about how we put your donations to work: www.seattlebabycorner.org



Community

Confirmation

We are pleased to announce Bishop Eusebio Elizondo will be here for our Confirmation Mass on Saturday, February 22nd at 5pm. Please join us for an informational meeting for youth, sponsors, and parents, next Sunday, October 20th at 12:30 pm in the parish center. Classes begin Sunday, October 27th following the 11am mass in the Mother Theresa Room of the Parish Center (basement level). Each class begins with lunch at 12:15 pm and ends at 2 pm. All class materials will be provided. The fee for classes is \$125. Classes will be every Sunday through February. The class syllabus will provide dates and details and will be available Oct 20th.

To register please visit our website stjosephparish.org
Call Dottie Farewell 206-965-1652 with any questions.

Communion for the Homebound

Eucharistic Ministers are available to bring Communion to the homebound. Please contact Fr. Glen Butterworth 206-965-1643, gbutterworth@stjosephparish.org, or Deacon Steve Wodzanowski at 206-965-1646 or steveuw@stjosephparish.org if you or someone you know would like to receive the Eucharist.

Community Connections

Mark Shea, popular Catholic writer and speaker, will be presenting two free talks at St. Alphonsus Parish located in Ballard at 5816 15th Ave. NW (Seattle, WA 98107). Both talks will take place in the church, the first is on Thursday November 7th at 7pm on "Family as Icon of the Holy Trinity" and the second is on Thursday November 21st on "Marriage for Good." Mark is a contributor to the National Catholic Register and maintains his blog "Catholic and Enjoying it." His books will be available for purchase. If you have any questions please contact Christine at faithformation@stalseattle.org or 206-784-6464.

Go Zags!

This year all of the Gonzaga Bulldog men's basketball games will be broadcast in Seattle on radio station KIXI-AM 880. Former Bulldog Cory Violette has been added to the on-air crew, replacing Matt Santangelo.



My Senior Parent Needs Assistance

- Where Do I Find Help?

Tuesday, October 22nd, 7:00 – 8:30 pm at St. James Cathedral: 804 9th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104 (Entrance at corner of Terry and Columbia)

Speakers: Aegis on Madison, Family Resource HomeCare, Providence Home Health & Hospice, Northwest Elderlaw Group, Choice Advisory Services, Providence Mount Saint Vincent

Learn about:

- Differences between independent living, assisted living, adult family homes, skilled nursing
 - Home health vs home care
 - Essential legal documents
 - Hospice
 - Medicare vs Medicaid

RSVP to 206-325-1600 or email joan.rettmann@aegis-living.com for more information.

Trick or Treat for Jesuits

Last year, at Halloween, the Jesuit Community was swamped by ghouls and ghosts, princesses and angels, and we ran out of candy. Can you help us get a supply for this year's onslaught? Just bring a bag of candy to mass next week and place it in the box in the vestibule or drop it by the Parish Center. The (Holy) Spirit will thank you!





Stewardship

Glass Pockets

At St. Joseph Parish, our desire is to have “glass pockets” since we know the money with which we tend to the mission of St. Joseph Parish belongs to the people of St. Joseph. In the spirit of fiscal transparency, we attempt to answer some frequently asked questions about our finances.

What is the annual budget of St. Joseph Church?

Excluding the School, which operates a separate financial structure, St. Joseph Parish had annual expenses in fiscal year 2013 of \$1,829,225, resulting in a \$101,694 surplus. This number may offer the impression that we don't need your gifts this coming year. Far from it. All funds raised over direct expenses last year are held to replenish reserves depleted in prior years and meet loan expenses from the Centennial Campaign. In essence, in the past, the parish borrowed money and will plan to repay it over a number of years.

The vast majority of last year's revenue (\$1,552,757) was generously given by parishioners during our annual stewardship campaign and weekly collections. The small remaining amount was generated from things like facility rental, program fees, etc., most of which are set and cannot grow significantly.

How is the money raised during the annual Stewardship Campaign spent?

Gifts raised during our annual Stewardship Campaign fund the ministries, programs, and day-to-day operations of the Parish. The largest expenses for the Parish are related to the ministers and facilities that directly serve St. Joseph parishioners:

Administration: Stewardship supports the salaries and benefits for our staff and employees, including the Pastor and Pastoral Assistants, the Director of Religious Education and her assistants (e.g. in young adult ministry and CFF), Music Ministers, Maintenance, Facilities, Book-keeping, etc. Though we have 11 full-time employees and a number of part-time, the budgetary percentage that goes to this area remains below the national average. For all we do, we run a relatively lean machine. Also within this area are communication expenses for printing of weekly Mass guides and bulletins, as well as maintaining webpages and other communication costs.

Building & Grounds: Keeping the lights on and the heat pumping in the Church, Parish Center, Social Hall, Old Gym, etc.; maintenance.

Programs: Sustaining (beyond fees) Children's Faith Formation, Adult Faith Formation, weekly and daily liturgies, funerals, weddings, speakers, retreat opportunities, marriage enrichment, spiritual direction and counseling, coordination with companions in ministry, the parish picnic, etc. (Hopefully, you know at least some of the great things our staff does!)

Insurance & Safety: Prudence requires that we create a safe environment for our parishioners and guests, as well as insure our considerable facilities in case of fire or other disaster.

School Support: Following the guidelines set out by the Archdiocese on appropriate support for schools, St. Joseph Parish gives over \$200,000 each year to St. Joseph School, which provides scholarship help for members of the Parish.

Archdiocesan Assessments: In addition to our Annual Catholic Appeal assessments, St. Joseph pays an Archdiocesan operations tax (approximately 5.75% of Stewardship income). This is the only money that goes to the Archdiocese from Stewardship gifts.

Should you have any questions about the finances of our parish, please don't hesitate to contact Tina O'Brien, pastoral Assistant for Stewardship and Development at 206.965.1654 or tinao@stjosephparish.org.





Kaz Maras

Building strong communities has always been a passion of mine. One of the blessings of being part of a community is that everyone can offer their different gifts, making the whole community stronger. Some can offer money, others their time & talents.

I give with the hope that I am helping to make St. Joseph strong & vibrant; enabling the church to go out & use its gifts to strengthen the larger community.

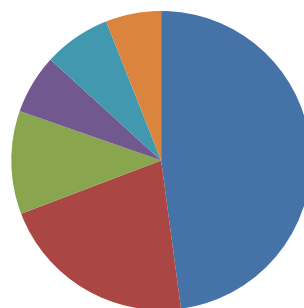
In turn, being part of this community helps make me a stronger person—more connected with my faith & able to live it out with love & compassion.



For the past two years, Kaz has volunteered with the Women's Ministry hoping to create a friendly & inviting environment for the women of St. Joseph to live out their faith together. Being a shy person, Kaz knows how much it means to have someone reach out & invite you in – her work with the Women's Ministry, and more recently the Parish Life Commission, is her way of inviting others into our community.

EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION - communications, compensation, supplies	875,994
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS - Church Building, Parish Center	389,904
SCHOOL SUPPORT	204,000
PROGRAMS - Faith Formation, Education, Community	117,390
INSURANCE & SAFETY	132,500
ARCHDIOCESAN ASSESSMENT - (does not include ACA)	109,487
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,829,225



- Management & Administrative - Communications, Compensation, Supplies
- Buildings & Grounds - Church, Social Hall & Parish Center
- School Support
- Programs - Faith Formation, Education & Community
- Insurance & Safety
- Archdiocesan Assessment - Tax due, does not include ACA Assessment



Pope - ourri

On the occasion of the World Food Day, which this year has as theme: ***“Sustainable Food Systems for Food Security and Nutrition,”*** the Holy Father Francis sent to the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

THE HOLY FATHER’S MESSAGE

To Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva
Director General of FAO

The World Food Day places us before one of the most serious challenges for humanity: that of the tragic condition in which millions of hungry and malnourished people still live, among them many children. This acquires even greater gravity at a time like ours, characterized by unprecedented progress in many fields of science and ever greater possibilities of communication.

It is a scandal that there is still hunger and malnutrition in the world. It is not just a question of responding to immediate emergencies, but of addressing together, in all areas, a problem that challenges our personal and social conscience, to achieve a just and lasting solution. No one should be obliged to abandon his country and his own cultural environment because of the lack of essential means of subsistence. Paradoxically, at a time in which globalization enables us to know the situations of need in the world and to multiply exchanges and human relations, the tendency seems to be growing to individualism and to shutting ourselves in on ourselves, which leads to a certain attitude of indifference – at the personal, institutional and State level – vis-a-vis those who are dying of hunger or suffer malnutrition, almost as if it were an unavoidable fact. However, hunger and malnutrition can never be considered a normal event to which one must become accustomed, as if it were part of the system. Something has to change in ourselves, in our mentality, in our societies. What can we do? I think that an important step is to bring down, with determination, the barriers of individualism, of being shut-in on ourselves, of the slavery of profit at all cost; and this, not only in the dynamic of human relations, but also in the global economic and financial dynamic. I think it is necessary, today more than ever, to educate ourselves in solidarity, to rediscover the value and meaning of this very uncomfortable word, often left to one side, and to make it become a background attitude in decisions on the political, economic and financial plane, in relations between persons, overcoming egoistic and partisan visions, in the end, we will also be able to achieve the objective of eliminating forms of indigence determined by the lack of food. A solidarity that is not reduced to different forms of welfare, but which makes an effort to ensure that an ever greater number of persons are economically independent. Many steps have been taken in different countries, but we are still far from a world where all can live with dignity.

The topic chosen by FAO for this year’s celebration speaks of *“sustainable food systems for food security and nutrition.”* I think I read in it an invitation to rethink and renew our food systems from a perspective of solidarity, overcoming the logic of unbridled exploitation of creation and orienting better our

commitment to cultivate and look after the environment and its resources, to guarantee food security and progress towards sufficient and healthy food for all. This implies a serious question on the need to really change our lifestyle, including that of food, which in so many areas of the planet is marked by consumerism, the waste and squandering of food. The data furnished, in this connection, by FAO indicates that approximately one third of the global production of food is not available because of ever greater losses and wastefulness. It would be enough to eliminate them to reduce drastically the number of hungry people. Our parents educated us in appreciating what we receive and have, considered as a precious gift of God.

However, the waste of food is but one of the fruits of the *“throw away culture”* which often leads to sacrificing men and women to the idols of profit and consumption; a sad sign of the *“globalization of indifference,”* which makes us *“accustomed”* slowly to the suffering of others, as if it were something normal. The challenge of hunger and malnutrition does not just have an economic or scientific dimension, which refers to the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the food chain, but also and above all an ethical and anthropological dimension. To educate in solidarity means, therefore, to educate ourselves in humanity: to build a society that is truly human means to always put the person and his/her dignity at the center, and never sell him/her off cheaply to the logic of profit. The human being and his/her dignity are *“pillars on which to build shared rules and structures that, overcoming pragmatism or the mere technical data are capable of eliminating divisions and of more than satisfying the existing differences”* (cf. Address to the Participants in the 38th Session of FAO, June 20, 2013).

We are already at the doors of the International Year that, by FAO’s initiative, will be dedicated to the rural family. This offers me the opportunity to propose a third element for reflection: education in solidarity and in a way of life that overcomes the *“throw away culture”* and really puts every person and his/her dignity at the center, as is characteristic of the family. From it, which is the first educational community, we learn to take care of the other, the good of the other, to love the harmony of sustainable creation. To support and protect the family so that it educates to solidarity and to respect, is a decisive step in moving towards a more equitable and human society.

The Catholic Church follows this path with you, aware that charity, love, is the soul of her mission. May today’s celebration not be a simple annual event but a real opportunity to urge us and institutions to act according to a culture of encounter and solidarity, to give adequate answers to the problem of hunger and malnutrition, as well as to other problems that affect the dignity of every human being.

In formulating cordially my best wishes, Mr. Director General, that FAO’s work is ever more effective, I invoke upon you, and upon all those who collaborate in this fundamental mission, the Blessing of Almighty God.

Vatican, October 16, 2013
FRANCIS

Youth at St. Joseph

Pathfinders Out & About



Last Wednesday, we participated in service work for our senior parishioners. We raked leaves, weeded, and planted bulbs.

Thank you to the Lillian Peabody Society for their donation of two dozen daffodils and 2 dozen tulips.

Please remember all 6th, 7th and 8th graders are invited to join us every Wednesday from 6-7:30 pm.



CFF1 Class on a beautiful Sunday morning!