Mass Intentions

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 Luke 8:16-18

Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions

8:30am Michelle & Christanna Fiorello

Anthony, Frank & Jacqueline Fiorello

12:10pm Anna & George Herman

St. Cajetan & Divine Mercy

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 Matthew 9:9-13

St. Matthew, Apostle

8:30am Private Intention

12:10pm Anne Florio

Our Lady of Guadalupe & St. Cajetan

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 Luke 9:1-6

12:10pm Mabel Barbiere

7:30pm Humberto & Silva Olivera

& Anita Parodi

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 Luke 9:7-9

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

8:30am John J. Cassidy, III

12:10pm Private Intention

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021 Luke 9:18-22

8:30am Edward J. Borst (2nd Anniversary)

Shawn Cox (Birthday in Heaven)

12:10pm Tony Gusmano

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021 Luke 9:43b-45

8:30am Joe, Olivia, Nicolos, Elizabeth Mascioli (Living)

Annette, Jim, Keira, Julia, Aidan Quinn (Living)

5:00pm Benjamin & Lina Mata

Stefania Alongi

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021 Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

7:45am Anna & Michael Apollo

Susan Kohut

9:00am Kunju & Agnes Paul (44th Wedding Anniversary)

Adelina Diongon

Carlos Reyes

11:00am Parishioners of Holy Name of Mary

Nora & Michael Brennan

Marianne Vetter

1:00pm Juan Rodriguez

Ana Maria Hernandez Rodriguez

Victor Manuel Abreu Pina

Jose Fernandez

Next Sunday's Liturgy-Sept. 26

Readings for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Numbers 11:25-29** Two prophets operating outside of the purview of Moses, offend Joshua.

Psalm 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 The psalmist acknowledges the unknown faults of the human heart.

2nd Reading: James 5:1-6 Our many injustices will testify against us in the last days.

Gospel: Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48 An unauthorized miracle worker upsets John and the other disciples.

FOCUS: Be open to God, who sends us his Spirit wherever we are.

Eldad and Medad missed Moses' retreat with the elders, yet God's Spirit came upon them. God meets us right where we are. Let us be open to the promptings of the Spirit in our own lives and allow God to come upon us.

Music for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Song: #422 How Great Thou Art Presentation of the Gifts:

#473 Christians Let Us Love One Another

Communion Song: #654 Loving and Forgiving

<u>Concluding Song</u>: #548 Glory and Praise To Our God <u>Responsorial Psalm</u>: The precepts of the Lord give joy

to the heart.

<u>Gospel Acclamation:</u> Your word, O Lord, is truth; consecrate us in the truth.

<u>Communion Antiphon</u>: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament



"Can you not spare one hour for me?"
You are invited to pray in front of the
Blessed Sacrament every Thursday
following the 12:10pm Mass, until 3pm.

Presider Schedule for Masses

Saturday, September 25

5:00 pm Fr. Edmund Ani

Sunday, September 26

7:45 am Fr. David Regan

9:00 am Fr. Edmund Ani 11:00 am Fr. David Regan

1:00 pm Fr. Jose Tenas

Presider Subject To change

Dear Parishioners,

Jesus is our prime model of good preaching. He used analogy continually. Many of his parables are analogies. Yet, his analogies are not limited to his parables. Jesus is the door, the bread, the light, the Good Shepherd, the resurrection, the life, the way, the vine, and the root. Many good sermons can be created using Bible analogies, by explaining how something that was relevant to an ancient culture is still relevant today. There is also nothing wrong with taking this example and using similar, suitable modern analogies to preach the same timeless truths.

Consider the analogy of the dinner experience of a family. Regardless of the time of year, holiday or reason for gathering the family functions well because each person is involved. When a member is not at the dinner table his or her lack of presence is felt. Please take that analogy and apply it not only to our Sunday worship but, also to our lived faith experience in the world.

"We are facing the greatest confrontation between good and evil that history has ever seen. However, God is raising the greatest men and women of all time." Those convicting words of St. Pope John Paul II call you and I to take notice of the world around us and respond accordingly with the courage of Isaiah "Here I am Lord."

There was a wonderful, holy, hard-working and ancient priest in our diocese who seemed to always know exactly what to say at the right moment. Regardless of why a person came to him he would always inquire as to their involvement in the Church family and always encourage people to "GET INOVLVED, the Church is waiting for you!" That advice is applicable in our own lives.

Our Holy Name of Mary family invites us to be involved in so many ways. In addition to our worship and reception of Sacramental Grace on Sunday, we have a plethora of opportunities for God to work a miracle through us and for us;

- 1. Religious Education needs help. Catechists are always appreciated and needed.
- 2. Stand up for Life on October 3, on Sunday, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. (rain or shine) This is a moment to witness to the sanctity of human life in each stage while standing shoulder to shoulder with others in a bold courageous witness.

Join the Long Island Coalition for Life in a silent, peaceful vigil,

- in Huntington, at the intersection of Rt. 25 and Rt. 110.
- in Manorville just south of Long Island Expressway, (Exit 70S) on County Road 111.
- in Manhattan on Second Avenue and 22nd St.
- 3. Outreach. Speak to Sr. Margie about those in need to our local community.
- The choir and many other ministries and opportunities await you.

There is always a consistent need for involvement and I promise you that you will find the words of St. Francis applicable namely that it is "... in giving, we receive." Also, there are some prayerful opportunities;

- September 26, at the 11 AM Mass- the Homily will be addressed to the Children. They will be invited to sit up front for the homily. We will do this at least once a month.
- Starting on Saturday, October 16 there will be a
 Holy Hour. This will happen every Saturday night
 starting at 7 P.M. Each Holy Hour will be directed
 towards a certain population in our parish family.
 Though everyone is invited the Holy Hours will target
 a) those who need healing, b) families, c) youth
 and d) Spanish.
- 3. Blessing of Animals in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. Saturday, October 2 at 3 PM.

I promise you two things. The more you are involved (1) the better our whole family becomes and (2) the better you become.

Thanks

Fr. Regan

September 26, at the 11 AM Mass
the Homily will be geared towards the children.
All children are invited to sit up front
for the homily.
We will do this at least once a month.

Msgr. Mulligan Memorial

There are available dates to remember a loved one with the Msgr. Mulligan Memorial of Bread & Wine, Candles, or Flowers.

These intentions begin on a Sunday and end on the following Saturday. Your loved one will be remembered at every Mass throughout the week. Please stop in at the Parish Office to schedule your intention.



Holy Name of Mary Adult Choir will begin their new season with their first rehearsal in the Church on Thursday, September 16th beginning at 7:30 PM.

The Choir has several openings for adult men and women. In addition to singing beautiful religious music, breathing techniques and proper vocal production are taught. New members are welcome. Please see Mr. Faughey at the organ or call the Parish Music Office at 516-825-1450 ext. 221. Our Music Ministry welcomes you!

Diocesan Collection

COLLECTION FOR ST. PIUS X ENRICHED LIVING FACILITY

Today is the special collection for the retired priests of our Diocese who are residing at St. Pius X Residence. St. Pius continues to provide extraordinary care for our senior priests currently residing there full time and numerous other priests who come to this facility on a temporary basis as they recover from their illness or injury.

Please take a brochure that can be found around the Church and prayerfully consider making a donation. Through your generosity, we can help care for our elderly priests in the manner best suited to their needs.

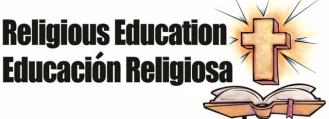
On behalf of all the priests serving our Diocese, thank you for your concern and generosity.

Banns of Marriage

Third Time:

Samantha Fare (Non-Catholic) & Matthew Fernando (St. Rose of Lima, Massapequa)

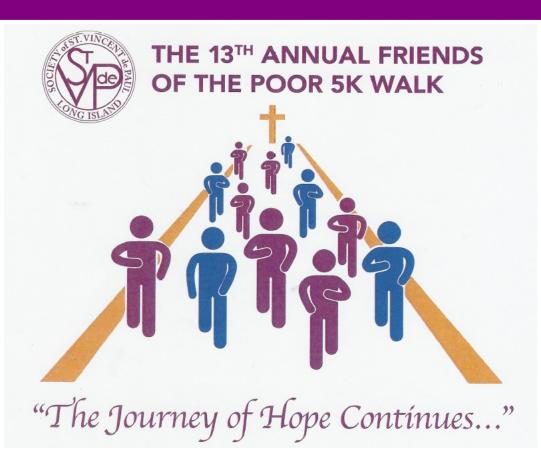




The **Religious Ed Program** is sending an invitation to all retired teachers, mothers, fathers and high school students that feel the call to transmit faith to our children. Please consider volunteering as a catechist, hall monitor, special ed teacher, etc. A maximum of 28 hours is required to volunteer from Sept 20, 2021 to May 5, 2022.

For more information, please call the Religious Education office at 516-825-1810.

Los niños y niñas de la parroquia Te Necesitan!! El programa de Educación Religiosa está enviando una invitación a todos los maestros, madres, padres y estudiantes de secundaria que sienten el llamado a transmitir la Fe a nuestros niños. Por favor ayudenos a transmitir Fé como catequista, ayudante de catequista, maestro de educación especial, etc. Solamente require 26 horas al año. Si está interesado, llame a la oficina de Educación Religiosa al 516-825-1810.



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul invites you to join us to walk 3.1 miles or make a donation to help. To register or donate: runsignup.com (search SVDPLI)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2021
BETHPAGE COMMUNITY PARK
Check-In: 9 AM Walk Start: 10 AM

For more information: info@svdpli.org

GIFTS FROM BETHLEHEM

Olivewood Handcrafted from the Holy Land A Traditional Art and Livelihood for Holy Land Christians

This indigenous form of art has since become an industry of great importance to the local people of the Holy Land who rely on it for livelihood. The olive wood carving market is the major source of income in the Bethlehem area. In recent years, however, the holy crafts trade has suffered many hardships due to social and economical pressures because of a sharp fall in tourism and also as a result of diminishing numbers of craftsmen. Craftsmen will be selling their art at Holy Name of Mary, after all Masses on the weekend of September 19th. All their work will be available for purchase.

HNM School Registration

Join in the Spirit at Holy Name of Mary School, an AdvancEd Accredited School. To register your child for Nursery (full day, age 3), Pre-K (full day, age 4), Kindergarten (full day, age 5) or Grade 1 through 8, contact our School Office to make an appointment at 516-825-4009, or visit www.hnomschool.org for registration materials and details. Before and after school care is available for all registered students. Follow Holy Name of Mary School on Instagram and Facebook @ hnomschoolvalleystream.

Faith Direct

What is the best way to ensure our parish receives the support needed for our operating expenses and ministries? eGiving through *Faith Direct!* Please enroll today by visiting www.faithdirect.net and use our Church code NY78.

Remember in Prayer

All Those Who Are Sick

Father of Goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need...

Kathleen Burke, Alyssa Chirico, Joseph Courtade Stefan D'Angelo, Anthony Ippolito, Rebecca Kissmer Kevin Lynch, Theo Mahoney

Philip Sassa, Betty Stewart

(Names will remain on the sick list for <u>four weeks only</u>. If you would like to have the name listed again, please notify the Parish Office.)

All Those Who Have Died

Frank Agueros, Jr., John J. Cassidy III Jimmy C. Cox, Adelina M. Diongon Carlos Reyes, Betsy Triana

EM Schedule

Saturday, September 25, 2021 5:00pm

HOST} C. Maziarski, R. Maziarski Sunday, September 26, 2021

7:45am

HOST J. Peralta, P. Jung

9:00am

HOST J. Gavin, J. Marracello

11:00am

HOST | C. Aguaviva, L. Gangemi



Baptism Schedule

Baptisms in English are scheduled on the second and fourth Sunday of every month at 3pm. Baptisms in Spanish are scheduled on the second Saturday of every month at 12 noon. Please call the Parish Office for available dates. Baby's birth certificate and signed sponsor forms will be required.

St. Vincent de Paul Message

In today's Gospel, Jesus called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me." Your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will help hungry children feel the arms of Jesus around them.

Pantry Needs: Paper towel, toilet tissue, pasta sauce, juice, evaporated milk, canned meats, tuna, soup, canned pasta, laundry detergent, soap, toothpaste

Please remember the poor boxes as you leave Church today. These generous offerings help the Society of St. Vincent de Paul assist families in need in our own parish. Thank you!



If you and your family recently moved to Valley Stream and wish to become registered parishioners of Holy Name of Mary Church, (or maybe you attend Mass regularly and have never registered), please visit the Parish Office to fill out a short registration form. Using our envelope system is the only way to have all your donations recorded.

Loose checks are not recorded, they must be placed in your registered parishioner envelope.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Perhaps you or someone you know would like to complete the Sacraments of Initiation (Communion and/or Confirmation). Or perhaps you know someone who is interested in receiving Baptism, Communion and Confirmation. Perhaps you are that person even though you may be attending our Church.

The process for preparing to receive these Sacraments is called the RCIA. It is a faith-sharing and faith-learning process. A team of parishioners and staff members meet with our candidates each week and accompany them on this journey. We plan to begin this process, remotely, this coming October leading up to receiving these Sacraments at the Easter Vigil and on Pentecost.

It is always a blessing for our parish to experience the faith and commitment of our candidates and we welcome you eagerly. If you are interested, please leave a message for Mrs. Pat Zolzer at the Parish Office, 516-825-1450, and she will return your call promptly. Because of the Pandemic and in the interest of your health and safety, we will be conducting the RCIA process remotely using Zoom.

Thank you to all who participated and attended *The Living Rosary* in celebration of our Mother Mary's Birthday on *September 8!*



Financial Information

Weekly budget amount to meet parish expenses \$13,882
Weekly offering of September 12, 2021 \$ 9,687
Faith Direct (average of weekly donation) \$ 1,922
TOTAL of weekly offering & Faith Direct \$11,609
Deficit \$ 2,273

Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

You are invited to explore the benefits of a Catholic High School Education.

Enjoy a visit and tour...save the dates!

Saturday, September 25, 2021, 10am-1pm St. Anthony's High School

Sunday, September 26, 2021, 2pm-4:30pm St. Mary's High School

Saturday, October 2, 2021, 10am-1pm Kellenberg Memorial High School

Saturday, October 2, 2021, 10am-2pm Chaminade High School

Saturday, October 2, 2021, 11am-2pm Sacred Heart Academy

Sunday, October 3, 2021, 10am-1pm Our Lady of Mercy Academy

Sunday, October 3, 2021, 1pm-3:30pm St. Dominic High School

Saturday, October 16, 2021, 11am-1:30pm Holy Trinity Diocesan High School

Sunday, October 17, 2021, 10am-1pm St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School

Test for admission to Catholic High Schools ONLINE on November 6, 2021 (for school year 2021-22). Register at www.tachsinfo.com. Deadline is October 24, 2021.

HNM Facebook & Website

Our parish community invites you to follow us at facebook.com/VSNYUSA.

Click LIKE and share with family and friends.

Also, see our website at www.hnom.org.

Get to Know the Saints

Educated by the *Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, Blessed Emilie Gamelin* felt drawn from an early age to work with the poor and disadvantaged. She was married in 1823 to Jean-Baptiste Gamelin, a wealthy and pious apple farmer, mother of three sons, all of whom died as children. Widowed in1827.

Took Mary, Mother of Sorrows, as her guide for dealing with these losses, and during her time in prayer, she came to see all the poor and needy as



her new family. She turned her home and inheritance into a shelter for the poor, for the orphaned, abandoned or runaway children, the mentally ill, homeless, handicapped, immigrants. People began to refer to her home as the *House of Providence*, and she was soon after to find other residences to help and become such *Houses*. She worked with prisoners, and cared for the sick, brought in her family and friends to help, and led by her example. For fifteen years she worked on her own, always submitting her ideas to her priest and bishop, and completely obedient to them. In 1841, Bishop Bourget called upon the faithful in his diocese, and Canadian lay women soon presented themselves to help. From this group, under Emilie leadership and by her example, the *Sisters of Providence* were formed in Montreal. The congregation's first vows were made in 1844 with Emilie as novice, nun, foundress and Mother Superior.

The new community faced many early trials but the group survived. There were 50 sisters at the time of Emilie's death, less than eight years after the group's formation. Over 6,000 Sisters have joined the order over the years, today working in Canada, the United States, Chile, Haiti, Argentina, Cameroo, Egypt, the Philippines and El Salvador. At her beautification recognition, Pope John Paul II presented her as a model for all by her life dedicated to the most needy. Feast Day: Sept. 24

Holy Name of Mary School

90 South Grove Street - Valley Stream, NY - (516) 825-4009



Early Childhood Program - Kindergarten, Pre-K & Nursery

Full-time Kindergarten (8:15 am - 2:30 pm)
Full-time Nursery/3-year-old program (8:45 - 2:30)
Full-time Pre-K/4-year-old program (8:45 - 2:30)

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Nurturing Faithful Environment

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Experienced, NYS Certified Teachers, With an Aide in Every Classroom

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Religion, Math Readiness, Reading Readiness, Science, Intro to STEM, Socialization Skill Building, Music, Gym, Art, Technology

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Before & Aftercare Available, With Drop Off at 7:30 am & Pick Up at 5:45

Registration for our Early Childhood classes and grades 1 - 8 is ongoing.

Visit www.hnomschool.org
for registration materials and details.

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Follow Holy Name of Mary School on Social Media! Instagram & Facebook – @hnomschoolvalleystream

SUMMER REGISTRATION FOR ALL GRAPES - Nursery to Grade 7

If you would like more information or are interested in touring the school for the 2021-2022 school year, please call (516) 825-4009 or email our principal, Mrs. Sanders, at psanders200713@hnomschool.org



Meditations

Make time

Life can be so busy that it becomes impossible to find time to pray. Instead we have to make time to pray. If we make time for God, he will help us find the time we need for everything else.

Face forward

Continually reliving the past prevents us from looking ahead with hope. Follow St. Paul's **example:** "Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Our Lady of Sorrows

On September 15th we commemorate Our Lady of Sorrows. The title refers to Simeon's prediction that

experience sorrows as if "you yourself a sword will

Mary would

pierce" (Luke 2:35).

Her greatest sorrow may have been watching her son die on the Cross. If we ever want someone who understands our difficulties. we have only to look to Mary.

"Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect"

Popular culture would have us believe that happiness comes from us as we are right now. In fact, having the perfect spouse, the perfect home, the perfect job, and the perfect body. Without all that, happiness isn't possible. Consider this:

God's way leads to perfection.

Adam and Eve were in Paradise until society convinced them that by eating a piece of fruit, they could become perfect and be even happier. Had they listened to God instead. their lives would have stayed perfect.

Only God loves perfectly.

Sometimes we fear that showing our failings to others will lessen their regard. The more perfect we appear, the more we will be loved and respected. Human love is unpredictable, but we can never

lose or lessen God's love. He loves Jesus created the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to remind us of God's unconditional love.

God's idea of perfect is possible.

Jesus said, "... be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48), but he wasn't talking about muscles or homes. Perfection in Jesus' eyes means loving God with all our hearts, praying for our enemies.

and taking care of the poor. To Jesus, love, obedience and service is the true measure of perfection and he wants us to let go of anything that gets in the way. That's the only "perfect" that is possible.

Why do **Catholics Do That**

Why do Catholics follow the **Ten Commandments?**

The Ten Commandments were given by God to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai after they left Egypt. They Christians, too. Obey them and are considered divine law because God himself revealed them to help

his people live holy lives. They formed the basis of Jewish life, so Jesus followed them, too. The Commandments are standards of holiness for eternal happiness is ours.

Disobey them and we suffer the consequences. Jesus summarized the spirit

of the Commandments in Matthew 22:36-40.



Queridos feligreses,

Jesús es nuestro principal modelo de buena predicación. Usó la analogía continuamente. Muchas de sus parábolas son analogías. Sin embargo, sus analogías no se limitan a sus parábolas. Jesús es la puerta, el pan, la luz, el Buen Pastor, la resurrección, la vida, el camino, la vid y la raíz. Se pueden crear muchos buenos sermones usando analogías bíblicas, explicando cómo algo que era relevante para una cultura antigua sigue siendo relevante hoy. Tampoco hay nada de malo en tomar este ejemplo y usar analogías modernas similares y adecuadas para predicar las mismas verdades atemporales.

Considere la analogía de la experiencia de la cena de una familia. Independientemente de la época del año, las vacaciones o el motivo de la reunión familiar funcionan bien porque cada persona está involucrada. Cuando un miembro no está en la mesa de la cena, se siente su falta de presencia. Por favor, tome esa analogía y aplíquela no solo a nuestro culto dominical, sino también a nuestra experiencia de fe vivida en el mundo.

"Nos enfrentamos al mayor enfrentamiento entre el bien y el mal que jamás haya visto la historia. Sin embargo, Dios está levantando a los hombres y mujeres más grandes de todos los tiempos". Esas palabras de convicción del Papa Juan Pablo II nos llaman a usted y a mí a tomar nota del mundo que nos rodea y responder en consecuencia con el coraje de Isaías: "Aquí estoy, Señor".

Había un sacerdote maravilloso, santo, trabajador y antiguo en nuestra diócesis que parecía saber siempre exactamente qué decir en el momento adecuado. Independientemente de por qué una persona acudía a él, siempre preguntaba sobre su participación en la familia de la Iglesia y siempre animaba a las personas a "INVERTIRSE, ¡la Iglesia te está esperando!". Ese consejo es aplicable en nuestras propias vidas. Nuestra familia del Santo Nombre de María nos invita a participar de muchas maneras. Además de nuestra adoración y recepción de la gracia sacramental el domingo, tenemos una gran cantidad de oportunidades para que Dios haga un milagro a través de nosotros y para nosotros;

- 1- La educación religiosa necesita ayuda. Los categuis tas siempre son apreciados y necesarios.
- 2- Stand up for Life domingo 3 de octubre, de 2pm a 3:30Pm. (Llueva o truene) Este es un momento para dar testimonio de la santidad de la vida humana en cada etapa mientras estamos hombro con hombro con otros en un testimonio valiente y audaz.

Únase a la Coalición por la Vida de Long Island en una vigilia silenciosa y pacífica,

- En Huntington, en la intersección de la Ruta. 25 y Ruta. 110,
- En Manorville, al sur de Long Island Expressway, (Salida 70S) en County Road 111.
- En Manhattan en Second Avenue y 22nd street.
- Difusión. Habla con la Hermana: Margie sobre los necesitados en nuestra comunidad local.
- 4- El coro y muchos otros ministerios y oportunidades te esperan.

Siempre hay una necesidad constante de participación y le prometo que encontrará aplicables las palabras de San Francisco, a saber, que es "... dando como recibimos".

Además, hay algunas oportunidades de oración.

- 1- Del 1 al 26 de septiembre, en la misa de las 11 de la mañana, la homilía estará dirigida a los niños. Se les invitará a sentarse al frente para la homilía. Haremos esto al menos una vez al mes.
- 2- A partir del sábado 16 de octubre habrá Hora Santa. Esto sucederá todos los sábados por la noche a partir de las 7 p.m. Cada Hora Santa estará dirigida a una determinada población de nuestra familia parroquial. Aunque todos están invitados, las Horas Santas se enfocarán en, a) aquellos que necesitan sanación, b) familias, c) jóvenes y d) hispanos.
- 3- Bendición de animales en honor a San Francisco de Asís. Sábado 2 de octubre a las 3 p.m.

Te prometo dos cosas. Cuanto más te involucres (1) mejor se vuelve toda nuestra familia y (2) mejor te vuelves...

Gracias, Fr. Regan

HISTORY OF THE VIRGIN OF LAS MERCEDES

Every September 24th, some Latin American countries celebrate the festival in honor of the Virgen de las Mercedes. I want to share briefly the story of how this devotion began in the country of the Dominican Republic, a country where this devotion is very dear and solemnly celebrated.

The Blessed Virgin of Las Mercedes appeared to Saint Pedro Nolasco in 1218, entrusting him to found a religious community dedicated to help captives who were taken to distant places. This Marian devotion began in Spain and spread throughout the rest of the world. Saint Pedro Nolasco, inspired by the Blessed Virgin, founded an order dedicated to mercy (Order of Mercy). Its mission was the mercy towards the captive Christians in the hands of the Muslims.

Many of the members of the order exchanged their lives for that of prisoners and slaves. This devotion was strongly supported by King Jaime the Conqueror and by Saint Raimundo de Peñafort.

Saint Pedro Nolasco and his friars, very devoted to the Virgin Mary, took her as their patron and guide. His spirituality is based on Jesus the liberator of humanity and on the Blessed Virgin, the liberating and ideal Mother of the free person.

In 1259 the Mercedarian Fathers began to spread the devotion of Virgin of Las Mercedes to the rest of the world. It is in this context that this devotion came to the country of the Dominican Republic.

On September 8th, 1615, a strong earthquake occurred on the island, with numerous aftershocks for at least 40 days. The city of Santo Domingo was severely affected, killing around 24 people. The Santo Domingo town hall declared the Virgin of Las Mercedes "Patroness of Hispaniola" and the aftershocks ceased.

In 1740 this festival was changed to September 24th; and in 1844 with the National Independence, the Virgin of Las Mercedes was declared Patroness of the Dominican Republic.

Fr. Jose

HISTORIA DE LA VIRGEN DE LAS MERCEDES

Cada 24 de septiembre, algunos países latinoamericanos celebran la fiesta en honor a la Virgen de las Mercedes. Quiero a continuación compartir brevemente la historia de cómo nació esta devoción en el país de la República Dominicana, país donde dicha devoción es muy querida y celebrada muy solemnemente.

La Santísima Virgen de Las Mercedes se le apareció a San Pedro Nolasco en 1218, encomendándole que fundara una comunidad religiosa que se dedicara a auxiliar a los cautivos que eran llevados a sitios lejanos. Esta advocación mariana nace en España y se difunde por el resto del mundo. San Pedro Nolasco, inspirado por la Santísima Virgen, funda una orden dedicada a la merced (Orden de la Merced). Su misión era la misericordia para con los cristianos cautivos en manos de los musulmanes.

Muchos de los miembros de la orden canjeaban sus vidas por la de presos y esclavos. Esta devoción fue muy apoyada por el rey Jaime el Conquistador y por San Raimundo de Peñafort.

San Pedro Nolasco y sus frailes muy devotos de la Virgen María, la tomaron como patrona y guía. Su espiritualidad está fundamentada en Jesús el liberador de la humanidad y en la Santísima Virgen, la Madre liberadora e ideal de la persona libre.

En 1259 los padres Mercedarios empezaron a difundir la devoción de Nuestra Señora de la Merced por el resto del mundo. Es ese contexto llegó esta devoción al país de la República Dominicana.

El 8 de septiembre de 1615 ocurrió un fuerte terremoto en la isla, con numerosas réplicas durante por lo menos 40 días. La ciudad de Santo Domingo fue severamente afectada, muriendo alrededor de 24 personas. El cabildo de Santo Domingo declaró a la Virgen de las Mercedes "Patrona de La Española" y cesaron las réplicas.

En 1740 esta fiesta fue cambiada para el 24 de septiembre; y en 1844 con la Independencia Nacional, la Virgen de las Mercedes fue declarada Patrona de la República Dominicana.

P. Jose

