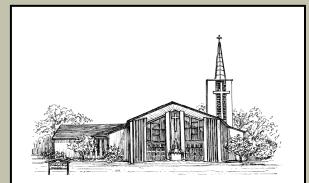


Fall 2016

OUR LADY OF MERCY PARISH NEWSLETTER



OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH, 2 FREMONT AVENUE, PARK RIDGE, NJ 07656

Web site address: www.ulom.org E-mail address: olm.church@gmail.com Phone number: 201.391.5315

This is the second of the two part series dedicated to the Year of Mercy. The Spring 2016 Parish Newsletter highlighted the Corporal Works of Mercy. This issue explores the Spiritual Works of Mercy. The Year of Mercy ends on November 21, 2016.

Our Holy Door

By: Christine Venusti

Contributors: Suzi Gerace and John Rokoszak

"By crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us." Pope Francis

On Saturday, December 19, 2015 at the 5:30 p.m. Mass, Bishop John Flessey, the Regional Bishop for Bergen County, celebrated the opening of the Holy Door at Our Lady of Mercy. As one of the six pilgrimage churches for the Archdiocese of Newark, Fr. Charles and coordinator John Rokoszak, set their sights on creating a Holy Door befitting such an honor. Suzi Gerace, a parishioner of OLM, volunteered her services in designing the door, based on the concept of the Holy Door at St. Peter's in Rome. Suzi is a graduate of Drexel University with a Bachelor of Science in Fashion Design. Her extensive resume includes experience as a display designer who designed, created and installed decorative displays for public buildings, conventions and trade shows. What a perfect match!

Collaborating with John, Suzi reviewed websites for the logo, wording and picture of Pope Francis. The proposal, submitted to Fr. Charles for his approval, resulted in the Holy Door on the left door at the front of the church, proudly proclaiming the Year of Mercy to all passersby on Pascack Road.



Putting finishing touches on the Holy Door.

It took approximately three weeks from approval date to installation. Suzi worked in Photoshop and Illustrator to design the panels and Kathy Voerg was the graphic artist who assisted with the graphics. The artwork was mounted on coroplast and secured to the window and doors with double-sided tape. Bob Behr assisted in hanging the art work. The finishing touches of garland and the planters on each side of the door were contributed in part by Suzi and Bel Fiore Gardens.

Please see *Our Holy Door* on page 4

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history. Just as Jesus attended to the spiritual well-being of those he ministered to, these Spiritual Works of Mercy guide us to “help our neighbor in their spiritual needs” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops). The seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are listed below. After each work of mercy there are also suggestions and words of advice for living them out in our daily lives. See www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/the-spiritual-works-of-mercy.cfm for more information.

Counseling the Doubtful



Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to him along our way.

- Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that “you may eventually become wise.” (Prov 19:20)
- Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God's love revealed in your actions.
- Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation, share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend's faith concern, and worship at Sunday Mass.

Instructing the Ignorant

There is always something more to discover about our faith.

- Volunteer to help with religious education programs at your parish.



- Invite someone to go to mass with you this weekend.
- Know your faith! Read through the [USCCB](#) to find out more about the Catholic faith and how to live it.

Comforting the Sorrowful

Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren't sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference.

- Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time.
- Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time.
- Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering.



Admonishing the Sinners

Do not judge, but be supportive in helping others find their way and correct their mistakes. Together we can learn to walk more closely with Christ.

- In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times.
- Don't judge, but guide others towards the path of salvation (see Mt 7:1-2).
- When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction.



Forgive Injuries



Forgiving others is difficult at times because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. But Jesus teaches us that we should forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God.

- Let go of grudges.
- Saying sorry is something we learn as kids, but how often do we really mean it? Forgiveness transforms hearts and lives.
- Participate in the Sacrament of Penance.
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Bearing Wrongs Patiently

Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.



- Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience.

Praying for the Living and the Dead

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care.

- Join a parish prayer group or the Mothers Prayers Group as found in the bulletin.
- Request a mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away.
- Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those whom you are keeping in your prayers.



Our Holy Door (*continued from page 1*)

And the Pilgrims Came

Pope Francis requested that a Holy Door be designated in every diocese around the world, making mini-pilgrimages feasible for all Catholics. Pope Francis's declaration has been noted in our metropolitan area. Close to 1000 "pilgrims" made their way to Park Ridge, walked thru the threshold of OLM's Holy Door and signed the Visitor's Book in the vestibule of the church.

Visitors came from as far as Canada, Philippines, Spain, seven states (California, Florida, Iowa, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia), and 22 Bergen County towns (Bergenfield, Closter, Dumont, East Rutherford, Englewood, Fort Lee, Franklin Lakes, Hackensack, Leonia, Mahwah, Maywood, Montvale, Norwood, Paramus, Park Ridge, Paterson, Ramsey, Ridgefield Park, Ridgewood, River Edge, River Vale, and Woodcliff Lake).

A Jubilee Prayer for Mercy

Adapted from Misericordiae Vultus, papal bull of induction proclaiming the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Loving God,

Help us live out in our daily lives the mercy which you constantly extend to all of us.

As you cast open the doors of your heart to us may we respond with urgency to proclaim your mercy to others.

May we always be credible witnesses to mercy, professing it and living it as the core of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

May we never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort.

May we become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end:

"Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old"
(Ps 25:6).

Amen.



Our Holy Door facing Pascack Road.

Many parishes called ahead to schedule a time that would be appropriate to come. Usually, these parishes were conducting a pilgrimage, traveling with more than five pilgrims in attendance. As a matter of fact, one parish made arrangements to have their parish priest celebrate Mass during their time at OLM.

OLM has received numerous "thank you notes" from pilgrims complimenting OLM as a beautiful church and how welcomed they felt during their visit. One comment referred to OLM's Holy Door as "the best in the world!"

On November 20, 2016, the Holy Door will be disassembled, marking the end of the jubilee year. However, the memory and the honor to Our Lady of Mercy will linger for years to come.

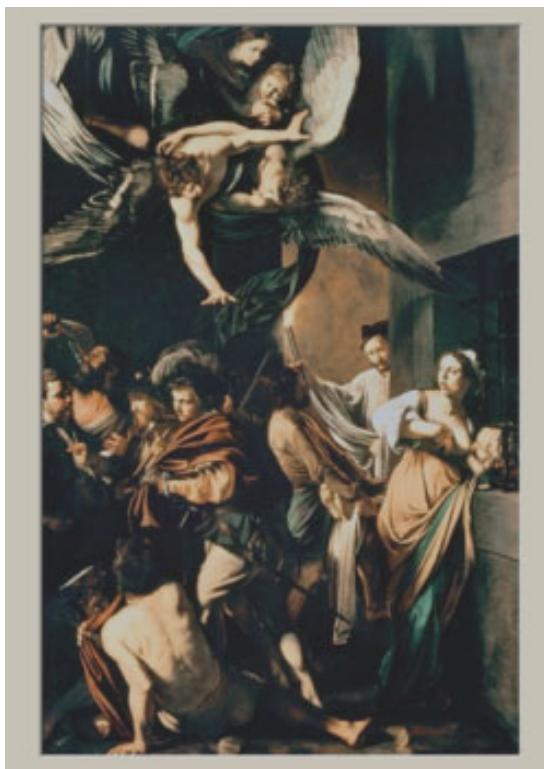


Book Review

Reviewed By Carolyn McNamara

You might think this book by Terence Ward is a novel produced just for the Year of Mercy. But it is actually a real story subtitled, "How an extraordinary painting by Caravaggio changed an ordinary life today."

Ward, born in America and raised in Iran, expertly blends the lives of two men he and his Italian-born wife Idanna came to discover in Naples, Italy.



The Seven Works of Mercy (1607)
By Caravaggio (Michelangelo Merisi)

The Guardian of Mercy

By Terence Ward

The first is Angelo Esposito, a government employee whose job it is to guard a forgotten church, the Chapel of Pio Monte on the Via Dei Tribunali in Naples, and its treasure. He is moved to a change of heart by the message of the treasure, a painting above the altar entitled, *The Seven Acts of Mercy*. After years of gazing at the painting and describing it in detail to the infrequent visitor, he slowly learns to take the message to heart when disaster strikes in his life.

The other is the artist, Michelangelo Merisi, known for the past 400 years by the name of his town of birth, Caravaggio. Fearful for his life and unable to find work in Rome, he settles in Naples where he receives a commission for a painting of the works of mercy. He seeks his models, old men, young women and men, and boys, on the streets. Their faces and bodies come together as a collage of the recipients and providers of the acts of mercy as found in the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 25, plus an additional one he adds.

You will enjoy art and church history, Italian folklore and the city of modern and ancient Naples in this well written gem!

You can find this book in the Bergen County library system and in the OLM library under Biography.

Remembering in Pictures

Highlights over the months



June 12: Haiti comes to OLM! Our Lady of Mercy Parish was privileged to host a delegation from Haiti which included Cardinal Langlois, Bishop Alphonse and Father Altidor, pastor of St. Vincent Parish in Vallieres as we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of our twinning relationship with Vallieres. The Haiti delegation celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at the 11:30 Mass on June 12th. A reception followed in the school gym. The Knights of Columbus provided an honor guard for the Cardinal. OLM's mission in Haiti has truly changed and continues to change life for the better for the people of Vallieres.



August 15 - 19: Vacation Bible School program "Egypt, Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace" was held the week of August 15 - 19 from 9 am - 12 pm with 84 children in attendance. It could not have been so successful without the volunteers (20 adults and 30 teens).



June: Have you noticed some sprucing up on the OLM campus? We have the Knights of Columbus (noteworthy in the effort were Vinny Lemba, Pete Revie, Kevin Gynegrowski, Tom Sattoli, Ken Schmitt) and painter Don Blois to thank. The Knights funded a new sign, including painting the flag pole and refurbishing the statue of Mary. We are very grateful for their good works at OLM!



Cornerstone Directors
(Jennifer left and Sunday right)

May 20-21: The 10th OLM Women's Cornerstone Retreat was held the weekend of May 20. The theme was "Embracing God's Mercy." Pictured are Jennifer Kavanagh, Director of Cornerstone X and Sunday Ruvolo, the Director of the first Cornerstone at OLM in January 2003.

To maintain the community spirit of the retreat a monthly book club was started. In October they will celebrate reading their 100th book, *Home Front*, by Kristin Hannah.



In Memoriam

Monsignor Carl Henrichsen

Reflections

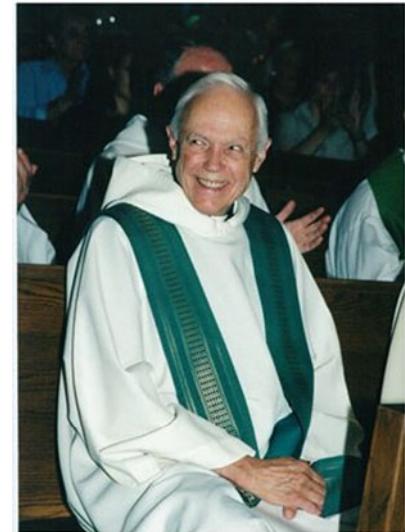
Patricia Keenaghan

Fr. Carl would come over and visit the school children often. We would stop our lessons immediately and be enlightened with his life lessons of faith, courage and strength. He would share his days at Princeton; he would proudly put on his uniform jacket fitting him smartly from WWII. He would give vivid history lessons of the battles. He told his vocation calling after his business career. He would share his love of art and make little figurines for them.

But his devotion to our Blessed Mother was his favorite lesson. He gave my 8th grade rosaries blessed by St. John Paul II when he visited Rome. He would play tennis with them, especially my Michael after they graduated and he won! He wrote letters of support to my son Daniel as a plebe at West Point. He came to our home for St. Patrick's Day and joined in the family fun.

When I became principal at St. Catharine's he would come over and celebrate First Friday Liturgy for years. He would teach these children in Glen Rock, annually about Our Lady of Fatima. Many parishioners there remembered when he was a Sunday priest and started coming to the children's liturgies just to hear him. In addition, he loved chocolate covered cherries!

I could share more, but, like you, I was blessed by him, and enriched by his sincere devout faith that he shared with great zeal. God bless you, Fr. Carl, and enjoy the Beatific Vision!



Monsignor Carl Henrickson

Joan Pearlman

Many have stories of Father Carl. As I sit at the computer, I am remembering a little statue of Christ carrying His cross that Father Carl gave to me for my son who was struggling with illness.

I am thinking (and hoping) somewhere in John's possessions he still has that little statue. I thank the Lord for putting this saintly man and priest into our lives! Rest in God's peace, Father Carl!



Reflections (*Continued*)

Geri Connors

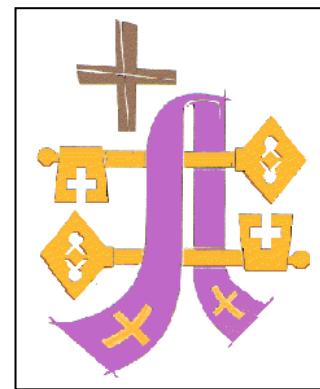
On the passing of Father Carl, I am most compelled to share a lovely and true story in his honor.

Seven years ago my father-in-law, John, passed away at the generous age of 87. My husband was understandably upset at the time and asked to stop at Our Lady of Mercy upon leaving the nearby hospital where John passed. It was early afternoon. We came in off of Fremont, parked and entered at the front. As we entered, I routinely reached in to dip my fingers in the holy water. As I crossed myself, I looked up and unexpectedly was taken back by what appeared to me to be an indescribable image. There stood Father Carl in the small chapel. He was still. His eyes looking up at the sun streaming through the stained glass windows above the altar. The sun was abundantly shining down through the chapel and literally blanketing Father in light. He appeared as if he was looking up to Heaven. The image was astounding. I dutifully hit my husband in the arm and said, "Look." I remained at the font. I was transfixed and so taken back that I couldn't believe what I was looking at.

You see, my father-in-law bore a strong physical resemblance to Father Carl. Not only did John physically resemble him, he was also sweet and saintly. He too studied for the priesthood but thankfully couldn't pass Latin. Hence, he married and had four sons. John was an orphan; he was raised by nuns until the age of twelve when at that time he went in to foster care with a loving family. He gracefully grew in faith.

He prayed the rosary every night, said grace at every meal and walked to church until he was 85. (He also tithed fifty dollars a week on his meager social security to St. John's in Bergenfield). As a beloved and faithful father and husband, he worked two jobs to support his family. He even carried a third job washing dishes when he could. Now, only a short time after his passing, I believe he was showing us, through Father Carl, that he was now in the presence of God. Don't mourn. Rejoice? I am home! As I looked up, I saw Father Carl turn; my husband was with him. I walked to the small chapel and could hear Father warmly comforting my husband and quoting verses from the Bible. My husband standing hunched like a son with his father. Father Carl with one arm on his shoulder. Father Carl honorably went on to say the homily for my father-in-law's funeral mass and console the family in faith and light.

Life is a mystery and occasionally it gives us blessed moments. Through Father Carl, I felt my father-in-law say, "I am home. I am with God." As I sit here so strongly compelled to share this story, perhaps it is Father Carl's way of telling all of you, "I am home. I am with God." Let us rejoice and be glad! May God bless Father Carl and all of you.



A Modern Work of Mercy

By: Anita Minnick



One never knows when a work of mercy will occur.

On a day in July, my son, who lives in Connecticut, was working in New Jersey. His job brings him to New Jersey at least twice a week, an hour and a half away from home. On this particular day I was in Connecticut with his two sons when I received a text from him that said he had left his wallet at home. His text said, "I have about six dollars."

Fast forward to 11:00 p.m. when he left work to head home and knew he needed to get gas. He made his usual stop at the Speedway gas station on Route 46 in Fort Lee and requested six dollars of gas.

The night attendant recognized him from his once a week stop. When he found out why it was only "six dollars worth" and not "fill it up", he offered to put in twenty dollars and told my son that the could pay him back next time.

I thought this was a wonderful act of kindness, trust and mercy from this gas station attendant and a story worth sharing.

Congratulations!

Father Charles Granstrand

Celebrating 50 years in the Priesthood

December 17, 2016

College: Seton Hall University

Date of Ordination: December. 17, 1966

Advanced degree and institution:

Master of Divinity and Licentiate in Sacred Theology, North American College, Rome

Assignments:

St. Aedan, Jersey City, parochial vicar;

St. Mary, Nutley, parochial vicar;

Archdiocese of Newark, Secretary to the Archbishop Peter Gerety and member of presbyteral council; Most Blessed Sacrament, Franklin Lakes, parochial vicar;

Dean of Northwest Bergen, Northeast Bergen and Pascack Valley Bergen;

Our Lady of Mercy, Park Ridge, pastor since 1989.



Acoustic Café Celebrates 10 years of Performances

By: Barbara Roehrer

The Acoustic Café Music Series returns to OLM this coming fall, celebrating 10 years of bringing acclaimed artists and new musical discoveries to Park Ridge! Concerts are held in OLM Academy and proceeds benefit the scholarship fund for St Vincent's, our twinning parish in Vallieres, Haiti. We had our beginning doing benefit shows in the church's lower gathering space. Since then we have presented Aztec Two-Step, Steve Forbert, James Maddock, Tom Chapin, Red Molly, Willie Nile, Brother Sun, Sloan Wainwright, Christine Lavin and many more.

Our first concert on Saturday, September 24 will feature **The End of America**, a Philadelphia based Americana trio, with three part harmony in the style of Crosby, Stills, and Nash. Special guest **Kirsten Maxwell**, whose pure voice has drawn comparisons to Joan Baez and Joni Mitchell, will open the show.

Saturday, October 22 will be a Pre-Halloween Bash/Co-bill concert with alternative folk/rock band and Falcon Ridge Most Wanted Artists' **Scott Wolfson and Other Heroes** and uplifting husband/wife folk duo **The Levins**.

Sunday, November 20 will be our annual WHY Hunger Hungerthon, with artists and time to be announced.

Saturday shows are at 8 p.m. Tickets \$20 advance online and \$25 at the door. Refreshments included. For more information and updates see our website www.cafeacoustic.org or call 201-573-0718.

We are always looking for volunteers so if you'd like to become involved please give us a call. Thanks for your continued support.

Newsletter Staff: Carolyn McNamara, Coordinator, 201-746-0315

Ann Marie Dong, Cos Ferrara, Connie Fleming, Rosemarie Myers, Christine Venusti, Celeste Villegas

Contributors: Geri Connors, Suzi Gerace, Patricia Keenaghan, Anita Minnick, Joan Pearlman, Barbara Roehrer, John Rokoszak

Photographs: Suzi Gerace

We're on the web. Visit us at www.ulom.org.



WRITERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS.

"One GOOD READ Deserves Another!
Please send YOUR Ideas. YOUR Articles."

A Reflection:

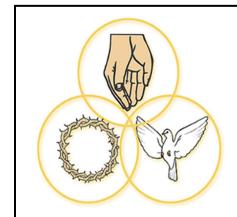
Solidarity is Mercy's End Game

By: Celeste T. Villegas

God's own essence, the divine relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is a communion of persons. Having been created in God's image, we are called to live this "Trinitarian reality of self-giving love," in Pope Francis' words in the Jubilee Year of Mercy – "by standing in solidarity with others."

How is that accomplished? Look at our rapidly shrinking world. Does it not now require a "radically different kind of discipleship?" A life that is daily marked by mercy will show care and concern for the poor and for one another. Solidarity, therefore, is mercy's endgame. At the core of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace, "action, so to speak, on a broad scale involving long-term systemic changes that will create a more just tomorrow for all" (U.S. Catholic Bishops).

In the Scripture story, the Good Samaritan provides merciful "temporary and immediate



relief" on a Jewish peddler who fell to robbers. As people of faith, we have the duty to stand in solidarity "with the vulnerable, the powerless and at a disadvantage." Moses, in the Exodus story, stands in solidarity as well with the Jewish slave-labor force. His message of "let my people go," while a challenge to the then pharaoh's practice of slavery, is actually a foreboding of a major social shift, much like what we face today in the growing refugee crisis.

The Gospel calls us to solidarity, through mercy, so that eventually we will be able to "live in right relationship with others, ourselves and God." The practice of solidarity, "opening our hearts to those living on the outermost fringes of society – fringes which modern society itself creates" – will revive our missionary spirit and will make solidarity, mercy's endgame, felt by the people who need it most: "those who are poor and at the fringes."

Excerpts taken from

<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/holy-trinity-calls-us-to-solidarity-with-others-pope-says-76821/>.

