Love and Marriage

It struck me as a strange coincidence. We were coming home from visiting our son and his family in Syracuse, New York. While waiting for the bus, we got into a discussion about one of our other children. I said something to Bill and he answered me saying that my remark was negative. I realized he misunderstood what I meant. And, since we were waiting on line to board the bus, I decided to talk to him when we got home to let him know what I meant and that I was sorry if he misunderstood.

We got home and looked at the mail. There was a letter from Father Bergen asking us if we would like to write an essay about marriage. We believe that there is usually a reason for such seemingly random events. And I saw the link between the bus station situation and our marriage.

Communication: it is so important. It does not matter how long you are married, it will always need top priority in a relationship. This coming September we will have been married for forty-nine years. Along the way we have been blessed with so many people who have helped us.

After ten years of marriage we went on a Marriage Encounter weekend. There we met people totally committed to their marriages. We were told that when one marriage fails, all marriages feel the disappointment. We listened as couples described the “sticks of privacy” that can spring up as the years fly by. It happens without the couple even noticing it.

Children, the greatest blessing of all, can be an excuse for not working on a relationship. This is a tough one. A couple must be united about how to bring them up. “Wait till your father comes home,” just does not cut it. In fact, in today’s families, it does not even apply. Mom and Dad must be on the same page and if they are not, they must work this out. Bringing up children is exhausting. We always reminded our children about what is important. We asked them to do their best – we really stressed that. And they listened because they knew we were always there, present for them.

Raising our family was wonderful, busy, painful, exhausting, fun, fulfilling, and heartbreaking. We did things we do not even remember. Our son, Terence, reminded us that I once sprinkled him with Holy Water when he returned to college after a break.

We prayed, oh yes, we prayed. We prayed for them, and with them. When our youngest was preparing for First Communion he told me he had already received it. I was aghast and asked, “When!?” He replied, “When we went to a home Mass at my friend’s house, the visiting priest gave it to me.”

The point is that God was present in our home and in our lives. We talked about Him, asked questions about Him, and said grace before dinner.

Then it all changed. The kids grew up and moved out. And there we were, negotiating another relationship. We worked things out and now have the gift of grandchildren. Our memories are rich. We have been blessed. But many times when it was difficult we depended even more on prayer, friends, and family for help. We were never alone.

After the children were married with children of their own, we would often drive to visit them. If the trip was long, we would go over our life and discuss how we were doing. It was an opportunity to see if we needed to work on anything. Also, we said the Rosary together on our road trips.

No marriage is without bumps. When they come, that is when a couple needs to work even harder. Some couples throw up their hands and want to quit. But how many of those marriages can be saved if the couple realizes that storms are sure to come and then pass? That is when a good foundation of prayer and communication can save the day.

In any marriage, love is a given. Why would anyone do all of this without love? But as time goes by, respect, kindness, and compromise become even more essential. A popular radio couple shared what went through their minds in dealing with the ups and downs of marriage: “Murder, many times. Divorce, never!”

Anne and William Olcott
Parishioners of St. Ignatius Loyola
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION**

This weekend our Parish will take up the annual Peter’s Pence Collection. This Collection is taken up worldwide to support the most disadvantaged: victims of war, oppression, natural disasters, and others in need of emergency assistance. Thank you for your generosity.

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12th**

40s & Fabulous Social Gathering. 8:30 PM. Parish Lounge. Details at right.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13th**

ISJ Lenten Cross Meeting. 6:00 PM. Meeting Room. Details on page 5. Please join us!

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15th**

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Meeting. 7:00 PM. Conference Room. All are welcome!

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16th**


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God’s Club. 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Parish House. A place for children 3–5 years of age and their parents or caregivers to enrich their faith through art, stories, and songs.

Scripture Reflections Group. 7:00 PM. Conference Room. Led by Fr. Robert O’Brien, S.J., of the Murray-Weigel Jesuit Community in the Bronx. All are welcome.

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**40s & FABULOUS**

Social Gathering Sunday, February 12th following the 7:30 PM Mass Parish Lounge

40s & Fabulous is a new group for St. Ignatius parishioners in their 40s (+/-) who are interested in sharing in spiritual, social, and service events and activities with other like-minded people. We have had 70 people join our fledging group. We are in the process of putting together a variety of activities that meet the needs and interests of the group. For example, a group of our members got together to watch the Super Bowl at a local pub last Sunday.

Please plan to join us on Sunday evening for our 2nd Monthly Social Gathering.

Email us at 40sandfabulous@gmail.com for more information about our group or the February Social.

We heartily invite all parishioners in their late 30s, 40s, and early 50s to join us!

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**SPRITUAL COMMUNITY READING GROUP**

Monthly Meeting Tuesday, February 21st at 7:15 PM in Wallace Hall

In preparation for this meeting, please read Between Heaven and Mirth: Why Joy, Humor, and Laughter Are at the Heart of the Spiritual Life, by Fr. James Martin, S.J.

Fr. Martin has kindly agreed to lead the discussion.

For additional information, contact Chris Carney at ccarney123@gmail.com or 914-316-3068.

New members are always welcome!

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**NOW AVAILABLE AT THE PARISH HOUSE:**

**SIX MINUTE REFLECTIONS FOR LENT**

A small booklet of prayers and reflections for the Lenten Season is available at the Parish House. Based on the writings of the late Bishop Kenneth Untener of Saginaw, Michigan, these booklets have been well received in past years. The goal is to find six minutes of quiet time each day during Lent and work through the booklet one day at a time. **Cost: $1.00**

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**IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS**

Information Session Thursday, February 16th 11:15 AM – Noon. Parish Lounge. IVC is an organization of men and women who are retired from full-time work and want to use their talents to help others. Volunteers commit two days per week to working directly with those who are economically poor and marginalized or with organizations that address issues that affect the poor.

For more information, or to confirm your attendance, please contact IVC Regional Director Liz McMahon at 201-618-6924 or emcmahon@ivcusa.org

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**PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4**
“Meeting Christ in Prayer” is an eight week program of spiritual renewal based on the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius. It is a fresh opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ, to grow in knowledge and understanding of Him, to imitate His love, and to renew one’s participation in His risen life. Each weekly gathering includes a guided meditation, faith-sharing, and orientation for the prayer of the following week. Open to both beginners in the spiritual journey and those committed to a prayer life for years, the commitment of participants is daily personal prayer of 30 minutes and an “examen,” or review of the day, in the evening.

Suggested scale for offering: $30 – $50 to cover materials.

To register, contact Sr. Kathryn King at the Parish House (212-288-3588) or kingk@stignatiusloyola.org

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The IYA Retreat is “Living from the Inside Out.” It is an opportunity for young adults in their 20’s and 30’s to reconnect with God as we explore what it means to be Catholic in today’s world. If you are new to Ignatian spirituality or wish to deepen your own spiritual life, come and join us for this weekend of prayer, reflection, and sharing.

The retreat will begin on Friday evening and conclude with Mass on Sunday morning.

For more information or to RSVP, please email Fr. SooHoo at soohooa@stignatiusloyola.org by Monday, February 13th.

New! IYA Knitting & Crocheting Group

Next Meeting:
Wednesday, February 22nd
7:00 – 9:00 PM
in the Conference Room

All IYAs are welcome to join us as we craft for charity. Meetings are held on Wednesdays once or twice each month. All skill levels are welcome. If you have questions or would like to be placed on the mailing list, contact Molly at molly.nora@gmail.com

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**IGNATIAN YOUNG ADULTS**

**IYA Lenten Reflection Group**

**WHAT IS IT?**

A reflection group for young adults in their 20’s and 30’s who can commit to regularly attending to share experiences about our relationship with God and gratefully and openly listen to one another. We will be reflecting on Henri Nouwen’s book *Show Me The Way*.

**WHEN IS IT?**

The group will meet each Sunday during Lent (February 26th - March 25th) from 6:00 PM to 7:15 PM in the Parish Lounge.

**HOW CAN I JOIN?**

If you are interested in participating, RSVP by February 20, 2012 by calling the Parish House at 212-288-3588 or emailing Fr. SooHoo, S.J. at soohooa@stignatiusloyola.org

Copies of the book can be purchased on Amazon.com.

Please bring the book to the first meeting.
Interfaith Dialogue

We are seeking interested parishioners who have knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching and can commit to a monthly 90-minute meeting for interfaith dialogue with members of other faith traditions.

To be considered for this group, please email boyled@stignatiusloyola.org with your contact information and a brief statement describing why you would like to participate.

Deadline to apply: Friday, February 17th.

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, February 13th  
(6th Monday in Ordinary Time)

James 1:1-11     Psalm 119    Mark 8:11-13

8:30   MEM
Elizabeth Brevett
12:10   MEM
Mae Rooney
5:30   MEM
Oona McEvoy

Tuesday, February 14th  
(St. Cyril & St. Methodius)

James 1:12-18     Psalm 94     Mark 8:14-21

8:30   MEM
Nancy Porrino
12:10   MEM
Dan Lafferty
5:30   MEM
Edith Fazzini

Wednesday, February 15th  
(St. Claude La Colombière)

James 1:19-27     Psalm 15     Mark 8:22-26

8:30  MEM
Gloria & Rocky Lagno
12:10  MEM
Jack O'Leary
5:30  MEM
Daria Donnelly

Thursday, February 16th  
(6th Thursday in Ordinary Time)

James 2:1-9     Psalm 34     Mark 8:27-33

8:30  MEM
Marguerite McDermott
12:10  MEM
Thomas Eaton
5:30  MEM
Greg Harney

Friday, February 17th  
(6th Friday in Ordinary Time)

James 2:14-24, 26     Psalm 112     Mark 8:34 – 9:1

8:30  MEM
William & Ann Reilly
12:10  MEM
Eileen Clarke
5:30  MEM
Nathan Davidson

Saturday, February 18th  
(6th Saturday in Ordinary Time)

James 3:1-10     Psalm 12     Mark 9:2-13

8:30  MEM
Irene K. Towbin

Sunday, February 19th  
(7th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25     Psalm 41
2 Corinthians 1:18-22     Mark 2:1-12

We pray for the faithful departed
Bridget Bell
May she rest in the peace of the Risen Lord

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

is a program of religious formation for young children, ages 3 and 4.

It meets in the Parish House on Mondays from 3:00 – 4:30 PM and on Wednesdays from 2:00 – 3:30 PM.

For more information contact Adele Gallo at amdgallo@me.com or 516-528-4660.

Pastoral Visits Available for Homebound and Ill Parishioners

Parishioners have been trained for the ministry of pastoral visiting to the homebound and chronically ill in our Parish. If you are interested in having a visit arranged for yourself or for another person, please contact Sr. Kathryn King.

Sr. Kathryn can be reached at 212-288-3588 or kingk@stignatiusloyola.org

PRAYER SUGGESTION... Sacred Space

We invite you to make a “Sacred Space” in your day and spend ten minutes in prayer, as you sit at your computer, with the help of on-screen guidance and scripture chosen especially every day.

Visit www.sacredspace.ie

New Parishioners

We welcome new parishioners and invite you to fill out a Parishioner Registration Card located in the pew racks, at the Parish House, and online at: www.stignatiusloyola.org

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**LENTEN CROSS PROJECT**

*Begins this weekend!*

The Lenten Cross Project calls us to prepare for Christ’s resurrection by acting on His message of Love and making the Lenten season one of action.

Instead of giving something up for Lent we invite you to take something on by committing to an act of service, advocacy, or prayer. Over the next two weekends, parishioners will have the chance to review a list of suggested activities compiled by the St. Ignatius community and commit to an action at sign-up tables in the Narthex after Mass. Participants will write their commitment on tags that will be attached to ribbons. These ribbons will then be displayed on a large cross that will remain in the Narthex throughout Lent.

We also need volunteers to help us:

- Make commitment tags and dress the Lenten Cross. We will be working in the Meeting Room on Monday evening, February 13th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM to make the commitment ribbons. Please join us!
- Process the registration forms and send emails to volunteers and coordinators
- Staff the Lenten Cross tables for 15 minutes after any of the weekend Masses on Feb. 18th-19th or 25th-26th.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email lentencross@gmail.com

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**FROM THE PASTOR’S OFFICE**

At the end of January, the United States Bishops, along with leaders of Catholic social service agencies and health care providers, reacted strongly to a new ruling that would require private insurers to include contraceptive therapies among the preventive health services that private insurers must include in their plans free of charge. The mandated services include sterilization, all FDA-approved birth control, and “education and counseling” to promote these among all “women of reproductive capacity.”

When this was first proposed, a wide spectrum of Catholic leaders called for a broad exemption for faith-based organizations so that they would not be in a position in which they would be required to offer their employees insurance that provided coverage for therapies that violated the strongly held beliefs of the religious employer. The Obama administration, instead, offered only a narrowly drawn exemption that is applicable to institutions, such as churches, whose employees and constituents are largely adherents of the same faith. Catholic educational institutions, health care facilities, and social service agencies would not be exempt because their employees and constituents include persons of other faiths. Fr. Larry Snyder, President of Catholic Charities USA, noted that under this ruling, even Jesus and His disciples would not have been exempt because they served persons of other faiths. The only concession made by the administration has been to delay implementation of the rule until January of 2013.

To correct the threats to religious liberty and rights of conscience posed by this new rule, the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (House of Representatives 1179, Senate 1467). This measure will ensure that those who participate in the health care system “retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions.” Cardinal-designate Dolan is urging Catholics to write to their Representatives in the House urging them to support HR 1179 and to write to their Senators asking them to support S. 1467.

You can go online to http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/capwiz/index.cfm

Click on “Support the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act” to send a message to Congress.

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Please also see this week’s bulletin insert:   

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**February 22nd**

**Ash Wednesday**

Lent begins

Masses:  8:30 AM (organ/cantor)  
12:10 PM (organ/cantor)  
5:30 PM (organ/cantor/choirs)  
7:30 PM (organ/cantor/choirs)

**Ashes will be distributed at all Masses**  
4:00 PM in Wallace Hall:  
Ash Wednesday Service for children and families, led by Joanne Cunneen.  
(Adults must remain with their children at this service.)

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** Lenten Cross Registration Period**  
**will extend from**  
**Saturday, February 11th through Sunday, February 26th**
Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org