Consumerism and Human Trafficking

The Feast of Christ the King may not inspire 21st century Americans. Framing it as a use of power may help. Power can be physical, economic, moral, psychological, charismatic, political, relational, or spiritual. Power is strengthened or weakened by social factors including gender, ethnicity, education, family, or religion. A ‘power structure’ created by the convergence of these factors may stratify a society where power coalesces in some, while others have little or no power. Those who are coerced into servitude for the benefit of the powerful, may be thought of as slaves. However, the powerful may themselves become slaves. When economic power coalesces and creates power called consumerism, the dangers of an “excessive availability of every kind of material goods... easily makes people slaves of ‘possession’ and of immediate gratification.” (On Social Concern, 1987, John Paul II)

Jesus Christ changed the power equation. Recall the parable of the laborers with its conflicting values: the extravagant generosity of the owner versus the expectations of the laborers. (Matthew 20:1–16) Exercising our personal power according to values of Christ the King is enormously challenging to contemporary Christians. The feast begins the week of our national feast of gratitude, Thanksgiving. Sadly, Thanksgiving has morphed into a vigil for the “feast of consumerism.” Lines of people queue up Thanksgiving night for the stampede into the stores on Black Friday. Thus, consumer power orchestrates the prelude to another feast, Christmas. When economic power trumps every other value in the social order and becomes the center of social life and society’s only real value, this power, consumerism, creates one of the most pronounced moral and ethical dangers facing us today. (John Paul II)

Fr. John Kavanaugh, S.J. defined consumerism as a system of life; a religion, a total worldview that disposes us to view everything in creation, including persons, as replaceable commodities. The person has value only in terms of marketability or productivity. The individual person is an image of God. The immense value of the human person, revealed through the Incarnation (Christmas), is found in living and loving—of relating to life in a way that cannot be repeated. These are not the values of a commodity culture whose power derives from consumption, competition, hoarding, planned obsolescence and unnecessary waste. Worst of all, unabated consumerism is destructive of our desire for God’s desires for our world and for humankind. The destruction of the power to “seek the good” places heavy burdens on the most vulnerable of society. The sick, the elderly, the poor, the underemployed, the immigrant, and youth, (especially those of ethnic or immigrant groups), may become, slowly and insidiously, disposable and dispensable. The power structure of a consumer society replaces a desire for God and the common good, with a commercial desire; that is, having more. It brings emotional overload and the inability to discern and differentiate what is right, good, and true. Moreover, the overload of products and choices may force a gravitation toward like-minded groups where one feels personally secure; but where difference evokes fear and exclusion.

These are sobering thoughts. They are compounded by the connection between consumerism and human slavery (trafficking). Many of the products and services that we use here in the U.S. regularly depend on forced and child labor (modern slavery) in the intricate supply chain that leads from production to the distribution of goods. As we approach the season of gift-giving, we are challenged to reflect on the economic power of consumerism; its implications for our understanding desire as core to the human person and the power of the true worth of the human person as revealed in the great mystery of the Incarnation. This Christmas, we are challenged to use our consumer power as responsible, Christian moral agents. Our gift-giving can uphold truth, beauty, goodness and communion with others. Christian values need not be subordinated to expedient consumer choices and profit making. So we ask ourselves: Do I consider whether or not the products I buy or use are tainted with human slavery? In purchasing gifts, do I use criteria of price, convenience and availability rather than concern for slave labor? Am I willing to take the time to find out if the product is the result of trafficked labor? In short, how many modern slaves will I put to work because of my purchases this Christmas?

— Sr. Kathryn King, FSP
Pastoral Associate

Our collusion with human slavery through consumer practices will be the topic of a lecture by Rev. David Coutourier, OFM, Cap. on Thursday, February 5, 2015 in Wallace Hall. Sponsored by the Joint Task Force on Slavery (Trafficking) of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola and the Church of St. Francis Xavier.
**THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Special Collection This Weekend: Campaign for Human Development**

The Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) provides funding for groups that make lasting change and uplift the poor in the United States.

In the last five years, over 36% of CCHD’s grants have gone to improving housing in low-income neighborhoods.

Help the CCHD continue to defend human dignity and take poverty off the map.

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**SVDP Christmas Angel Project continues through Sunday, December 7th.**
*Details on page 5.*

**SVDP Annual Toy Drive begins this weekend.**
*Details on page 5.*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd**

**Encountering Jesus. Part of the Ignatian 40s Speaker Series. 5:30 PM. Parish Lounge.**
*Details on page 3.*

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26th**

**Job Transition Support Group. 10:00 AM. Parish Lounge.**
*Details on page 3.*

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27th**

**Thanksgiving Day Mass 9:30 AM**

This will be the only Mass celebrated on Thanksgiving Day.

*The Parish House will be closed.*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th**

One Daily Mass will be celebrated in the Lady Chapel at 8:30 AM.

*The Parish House will be closed.*

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**


**The Parish House will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 27th and 28th in observance of Thanksgiving.**

One Mass will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Day at 9:30 AM.

One Daily Mass will be celebrated on Friday at 8:30 AM.

**ATTENTION LECTORS:** Copies of the new *Workbook for Lectors*, Year B, 2015 (beginning the First Sunday of Advent, November 30th), are available for $10 at the Parish House reception desk.

**November is Jesuit Vocation Month**

Please join us in praying for vocations to the Society of Jesus.

For more information, visit [www.jesuit.org](http://www.jesuit.org)

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE!**

Beginning November 29th, the start time of Saturday afternoon Confessions will be 4:30 PM.

Penitents are encouraged to come early so that Confessions can end before the 5:30 PM Mass begins.

**GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Saint Ignatius Loyola Grammar School extends a cordial invitation to join us at our

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Sunday, December 7th, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM  McKinnon Hall

Offered at the Fair are seasonal decorations, housewares, greenery, ornaments, religious items, and many other things perfect for gift giving. Also featured will be a Secret Santa Shop for the children to purchase gifts for giving and a booth of fun seasonal activities hosted by our Brownie and Girl Scout Troops.

Our annual *Brunch with Santa* will also take place on December 7th. Please call the Grammar School at 212-861-3820, x135 if you are interested in attending.

**PLEASE OPEN FOR PAGES 3 AND 4**
December at Sacred Music in a Sacred Space

Advent Lessons and Carols
Sunday, November 30th at 3:00 PM
Free will offering

This prayer service invites us into the stillness and anticipation of Advent, a foil to the bustling holiday pace throughout the city. The Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola will offer motets centered on the Annunciation.

A Chanticleer Christmas
Friday, December 5th at 7:00 PM & Sunday, December 7th at 4:00 PM

A Chanticleer Christmas celebrates the mystery and wonder of Christmas with an elegant blend of traditional carols, medieval and Renaissance sacred works, and new holiday gems. Called “the world’s reigning male chorus” by The New Yorker magazine, Chanticleer is known around the world for the seamless blend of its twelve male voices and its original interpretations of vocal literature.

Heavenly Light: Annual Christmas Concerts
Sunday, December 14th at 3:00 PM & Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 PM

Centering on excerpts from J.S. Bach’s Christmas Oratorio, our ever-popular Christmas concerts will offer you and your family the inspiring warmth and joy of the season. Includes well-known carols for all to sing. Featuring the Combined Choirs & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola

Tickets for all concerts are available online at www.smssconcerts.org or by calling 212-288-2520 for 24/7 ordering.

IGNATIAN 40s
Speaker Series
Ignatian 40s invites all parishioners to its Third Annual Speaker Series. Led by the pastoral staff of St. Ignatius and external speakers, the goal of the series is to provide parishioners with opportunities to improve their knowledge of their faith and practice it daily, to enable them to see God in all things, and to increase their awareness of the history of the Catholic Church.

TODAY
Encountering Jesus
Presenter: Fr. James Martin, S.J., Editor-at-Large, America magazine
5:30 PM in the Parish Lounge

Come to know the ‘Jesus of history,’ the man who walked on earth in the first-century Palestine, and the ‘Christ of faith,’ the miracle worker and the one who rose from the dead.

Let Father Martin, author of the new book Jesus: A Pilgrimage, invite you into a new relationship with Jesus.

Email ignatian40s@gmail.com to register.

Job Transition Support Group
Wednesday, November 26th
10:00 AM in the Parish Lounge
For more information, contact John Holewa at jjholewa@gmail.com or Christian Nolan at ctnolan59@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Wednesday, December 24th
Christmas Eve
• 4:00 PM Family Mass I • 6:00 PM Family Mass II
• 8:00 PM Mass of Christmas • Midnight Mass

Thursday, December 25th
Christmas Day • 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM
If you are available, please email liturgicalministers@stignatiusloyola.org to let us know at which Mass you can assist.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Decorate Your Christmas Tree and Support the Family Ministry!

At weekend Masses through Sunday, December 21st, Christmas ornaments featuring an image of the church will be on sale in Wallace Hall following the 11:00 AM Family Mass. Ornaments can also be purchased at the Parish House. Cost: $25

All proceeds benefit the Family Ministry.
Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

**Monday, November 24th**  
(St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc)  
8:30 MEM  John B., John A., & Elizabeth Rooney  
12:10 MEM  Josephine Racanelli  
5:30 MEM  Sheila Joyce

**Tuesday, November 25th**  
(Thirty-fourth Tuesday in Ordinary Time)  
8:30 MEM  Jane F. Flannigan  
12:10 MEM  Ermina Graziano  
5:30 MEM  Ray-Anne Lagasca

**Wednesday, November 26th**  
(St. John Berchmans)  
8:30 MEM  Emil Wittek  
12:10 MEM  Bill Callanan  
5:30 MEM  William P. O’Connor

**Thursday, November 27th**  
(Thirty-fourth Thursday in Ordinary Time)  

**Friday, November 28th**  
(Thirty-fourth Friday in Ordinary Time)  
8:30 MEM  Zvonimir Vrdoljak

**Saturday, November 29th**  
(Thirty-fourth Saturday in Ordinary Time)  
8:30 MEM  Charlie Glowacki

**Sunday, November 30th**  
(First Sunday of Advent)  
Isaiah 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7  Psalm 80  
1 Corinthians 1:3–9  Mark 13:33–37
MAKING ALL THINGS NEW

Since the fall of last year, our parish has been working with a cluster of neighboring parishes, comprised of St. Thomas More, St. Francis de Sales, and Holy Agony, to consider how we might collaborate in ministry, as well as to recommend to Cardinal Dolan any possible merger of our parishes.

As a consequence of those deliberations, our cluster recommended that St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Thomas More should remain independent parishes, but adopt a model of collaboration among us.

However, quite recently Cardinal Dolan has proposed an alternate recommendation, namely that St. Thomas More be merged with St. Ignatius Loyola. He has asked that the members of our cluster team reconvene to consider his proposal and get back to him by March 1, 2015 with our response.

No decisions have yet been made, so while such a merger is by no means a “done deal,” it is nonetheless a real possibility. This comes as a surprise to all of us!

Fr. Witt will address the particulars of Cardinal Dolan’s proposal after all the Masses this weekend.

Let us pray and work together that a true spirit of discernment may pervade the upcoming deliberations.

Longing for the Prince of Peace,
While Facing the Horrors of War

An art-slide lecture
presented by
Rev. Leo J.
O’Donovan, S.J.

Thursday, December 4th
7:00 PM in Wallace Hall

This lecture will reflect on how 20th century artists protested war in the bloodiest of all centuries and prepared us imaginatively to hear the repeated calls for peace by all the recent popes: John XXIII, Paul VI, John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and now Francis. The images will try to help us realize more concretely what peace requires.

Rev. Leo J. O’Donovan, S.J., is President emeritus of Georgetown University and a past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. He has written art criticism for publications such as America, Commonweal, The Washingtonian, Stimmen der Zeit (Munich), the Los Angeles Times, and the National Catholic Reporter.

SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

SVDP Christmas
Angel Project

Continues this week!

It has become a tradition at St. Ignatius for our parishioners to purchase Christmas gifts for parishioners in low-income parishes.

SVdP invites parishioners to select and register up to five Angel cards from the Christmas trees in the Narthex and Wallace Hall. Cards will also be available in the Parish House for pickup while the supply lasts.

Wrapped gifts must be returned to the Parish House no later than Sunday, December 7th.

Thank you for remembering those in need during the holiday season.

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE
Begins This Weekend!

SvD is sponsoring a toy drive to benefit the children of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish on Staten Island.

Through Monday, December 15th, please bring new, unwrapped toys or games for boys and girls between the ages of 6–12 to the Parish House.

Thank you for remembering those in need.

ADVENT FOOD DRIVE
Begins Next Weekend!

Benefitting the Community Food Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great

Throughout the first three weeks of Advent, SVdP will be accepting donations of food for the Community Food Pantry at the Church of St. Gregory the Great.

Please bring donations to the Parish House between Sunday, November 30th and Saturday, December 20th.

Thank you for remembering those in need.

Week 1 (Nov. 30th – Dec. 6th):
1-2 lb. bags of rice, canned vegetables, Goya beans

Week 2 (Dec. 7th – 13th):
pasta, tomato sauce, canned fruits

Week 3 (Dec. 15th – 21st):
tuna fish, soups, cereals (preferably oatmeal)
Journey to Bethlehem


Tuesday, December 9th. Meditation begins at 6:30 PM. Reception to follow at 7:30 PM. Church of the Blessed Sacrament, 152 West 71st Street. Space is limited. RSVP by Wednesday, December 3rd. To register, visit http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2014nycadvent For more information, email collaborative@jesuitcollaborative.org

Religious Education for Children

Ms. Carly-Anne Gannon, M.Phil., M.Ed. Director
(212) 861-4764

St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School
Ms. Mary Larkin, Principal
M.S. Ed. (Admin.), M.S. Ed. (Literacy)
48 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
(212) 861-3820 Fax: (212) 879-8248

St. Ignatius Loyola Day Nursery
Ms. Theodora Crist, M.S. Executive Director
240 East 84th Street
New York, NY 10028
(212) 734-6427 Fax: (212) 734-6972

Children’s Liturgy of the Word:
Sundays at the 9:30 AM Mass and the 11:00 AM Mass in Wallace Hall.

Centering Prayer:
Mondays at 6:30 PM

Confessions:
4:30 PM Saturday or by appointment. Confessions will be heard at St. Ignatius Loyola Church during the Archdiocesan Day of Reconciliation on Monday, December 15th, 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM. This will be followed by our Parish Advent Reconciliation Service at 7:00 PM.

Baptisms: Please call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x632) to arrange for a Baptism and the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults:
Contact Maureen Fullam, M.A., Director, at the Parish House.

Marriages: The Bride or Groom should call Joanne Cunneen at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x632) to begin preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance.

Visits to the Sick: Please contact the Parish House between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org