

**HIS WORD TODAY**  
*by Rev. William J. Reilly*

**Sixteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
July 22, 2018**

“For he is our peace...He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father....so they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place...his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd.”

Peace, we are taught, is not the absence of war, but much more. It begins in the hearts of each person who is aware of God's love in us. It moves us to recognize that truth in others, both friend and foe, for all are made in God's image and likeness.

The search for peace is a struggle. The first step is to examine our lives and discover what unites us, as Paul teaches. This is the first building block. The next is dialogue, discovering where we agree as we move beyond perceptions to reality. The most important factor is found in the presence of Christ and His grace. We are to be peace builders.

Like the apostles, find a deserted place, a quiet moment of prayer, ask the Spirit to guide you in discovering the steps to take to bring His peace to you and to others. It is the same Lord who has compassion for all.



# CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

## STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor  
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant  
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant  
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon  
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon  
Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate

Ms. Barbara Evans, Director of Rel. Ed.  
Mrs. Doris Ramme, Director of Music Ministry  
Sr. Josephine Wade, SSJ  
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ  
Mr. Denis Campbell, Trustee  
Mr. Gregory W. Boyle, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL .....	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY .....	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287	FAX ..... 732-528-1901
CONVENT .....	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE .....	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY .....			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		st.denis@verizon.net	
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS .....		wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org	
WEB PAGE ADDRESS .....		http://www.churchofstdenis.org	



### MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM– St. Denis Church  
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church  
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation)- St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM- St. Denis Church  
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel  
Holy Days: Evening before: 7:00 PM & day of: 7:30 AM & 7:00 PM-St. Denis Church

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Every Saturday from 3:30 until 4:15 PM - St. Denis Church. Also by appointment.

**MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS:** Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

**BAPTISM:** The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12:15 pm at St. Denis Church. Parents must complete the required preparation with the priest or deacon and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

**MARRIAGE:** Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

**CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND:** We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:** At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

**RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:** Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

**CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS** – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.

**VISIT US ON FACEBOOK-** Saint Denis Parish Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis](http://www.facebook.com/churchofstdenis). You don't need to have a Facebook account to read parish news and updates, but would need one to leave comments and feedback.

**Saturday, July 21, 2018**

- 8:30 am James Kelly Lennon by Gerard & Elizabeth Dunn  
 8:30 am Susan Dalton St. Onge by Patrick & Arlene Hughes  
 8:30 am Ann Kerrigan Butman by Deacon Gary  
 4:30 pm Joan A. Vacchiano by Cathy & Dan Huyette  
 4:30 pm Sister Maureen Loughlin & Sister Mary Xavier Casey  
 by Mr. & Mrs. Duane Danish  
 4:30 pm Daymon Thatch by Marge & Jim Kazenmayer

**Sunday, July 22, 2018**

- 8:00 am For the People of the Parish  
 9:30 am Ruth Mahon by Gloria & Dave Smith  
 9:30 am Gisela Dreher by Gloria & Dave Smith  
 9:30 am Robert Granata by Joan Smith  
 10:00 am The Collinson/Byrne Family by the Family  
 10:00 am Joan White by the Malley Family  
 10:00 am William Brannick, Jr. by Kristin & Sean McCarthy  
 11:00 am Louis Rossilli by the Wynd Family  
 11:00 am Edwin Lynch by Rita Badaracco  
 11:00 am Philip Valeso by Betsy Rice

**Monday, July 23, 2018**

- 7:30 am Walter "Whitey" Wojton by his Daughter, JoAnn  
 7:30 am Colleen Grady by Aunt Cathy & Richard  
 7:30 am Baby Clayton Joseph D'Acquisto by St. Denis Parish

**Tuesday, July 24, 2018**

- 7:30 am Catherine Morton by the Family  
 7:30 am Carolyn D'Ambrosio by Cathy & Hank Trost  
 7:30 am Michael Cleary  
 by Mary & Michael Reddington & Family

**Wednesday, July 25, 2018**

- 7:30 am Rosemary Smock by her Sister  
 7:30 am Barclay Dwight by his Daughter  
 7:30 am Emil & Anna Taborelli by the Family

**Thursday, July 26, 2018**

- 7:30 am Sophia Rivera by Marilyn & Gene Bialas  
 7:30 am Intentions of all Grandparents by St. Denis Parish  
 7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family

**Friday, July 27, 2018**

- 7:30 am Louis Matyas (25th Anniversary) by the Family  
 7:30 am Sister Monica Socinski by Maureen Lago  
 7:30 am Anthony Gall by JoAnn & Jim

**Saturday, July 28, 2018**

- 8:30 am In Honor of Bill & Theresa Lee's  
 50th Wedding Anniversary by Ed & JoAnn Lee  
 8:30 am Colleen Grady by Kathleen Caprio  
 8:30 am Linda Fuller by LuAnn & John Quigley  
 4:30 pm Sister Maureen Loughlin & Sister Xavier Casey  
 by Frances & Amanda Pilot  
 4:30 pm Nan Connolly Burrus by the Burke Family  
 4:30 pm Edwin Francis Lynch by Sister Josephine Wade

**Sunday, July 29, 2018**

- 8:00 am Robert Slavin by Eileen & Mike Mahoney  
 8:00 am Rosalie Pape by Lucia & Joseph Nitti  
 8:00 am Edwin Lynch by Maureen Flumerfelt  
 9:30 am For the People of the Parish  
 10:00 am Vincenzo Carannante by the Wynd Family  
 10:00 am Robert Lisk by the Walsh Family  
 10:00 am Raymond Heffernan by Eileen & Jim Rochford  
 11:00 am Robert Granata by Tom & Pat Coyle  
 11:00 am Daymon Thatch by the McDevitt Family  
 11:00 am Sophie Mansfield by Scott Abercrombie

**SAINT DENIS PRAYER GROUP** - The Prayer Group meets at 12:00 noon each Monday in St. Denis Church. There are no meetings on holidays. All are welcome.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED** especially Baby Clayton Joseph D'Acquisto, Ron Campbell, and Victor C. Avon.



especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrich, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Jillian Zito, Jennifer Zito, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Stella Thompson, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Joseph Siple, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Richard Koch, John Koch, Mary Jane Schaaf, Edna Moore, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Ken Kleinlein, Robert Kelleher, Lisa Olivera, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Lucy Falco, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Joan Tumbas, Cathleen Brenner, Florence McManus, Nick Ljuljana, Jim Hodgkiss, Patricia Blumenstock, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, John Najar, Patrick Lewis, Tina Pilot, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Joan Samperi, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Patricia O'Leary, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambrone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Linda Smith, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Frank Bonavita, Joel Rivera, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Ernie Donnelly, Anita McCudden, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Patricia Lannon, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Kathy Perusi, John Danczuk, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Edward Romanko, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzollini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Kathy Kleinlein, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, the Pilots, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.



**CLASS REGISTRATION-ALL MUST BE REGISTERED!** Religious Office is open Tues-Thurs 9-4pm Or call the Religious Ed. office for a convenient appointment-732-223-1161 or go to our Church website "www.churchofstdenis.org". Follow the Religious Ed links to "Registration Forms". Mail or bring to the office with fee. It's that easy!

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT WITH BENEDECTION- Fridays 12:00-1:00 pm Come join us in adoring Jesus in the Holy Eucharist in Saint Denis Church on Fridays.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY-** All children (ages 4-7) are invited to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 11:00 Mass on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Children will proceed to the church basement before the first reading and return during the offertory. Volunteers are needed for this ministry. If interested, call Debbie at 732-223-9823.

**BISHOP'S 2018 ANNIVERSARY BLESSING-** All couples celebrating their 1st, 25th or 50+ wedding anniversary during the 2018 calendar year are invited to gather with family and friends to share the Eucharist, renew their sacred wedding vows, and receive Bishop O'Connell's Episcopal Blessing. Anniversary Couples from Ocean and Monmouth Counties may attend the Sunday, 10/7/18 Mass and Blessing at 3:00 pm at the Co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold. Couples must register through their home parish before 9/15/18.

**JOIN BISHOP DAVID O'CONNELL FOR OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PILGRIMAGE,** December 2-7, 2018. Itinerary: 12/2- Depart USA, 12/3- Mexico City, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pyramids of the Sun & Moon, 12/4- Full day Excursion to Puebla, 12/5-Mexico City 12/6- Mexico City, Our Lady of Guadalupe, 12/7- Depart Mexico City for USA. For more information contact *Select International Tours* at 1-800-842-4842 or visit [selectinternationaltours.com](http://selectinternationaltours.com).



our military, especially Navy Lt. JG Rachael M. Honrath, Navy MIDN Nora N. Honrath, Army Captain Christopher Cauda, Army Captain Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Captain David Smith, Senior Airman John J. Kosequat, Army Captain Sean Fessenden, Army 2nd Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army 2nd Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Army Captain Michael Potoczniak, Air Force 2nd Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard FN Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Navy Chief Petty Officer James DeLuise, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Navy Ensign Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill, USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmerman U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, and Airman Andrew Halmi.

**FOR THE LOVE OF GOD... PRAISE & SING** Come, praise our Lord with contemporary Christian music. 30 minutes of prerecorded music with lyric sheets provided. Every First Friday at 7:00 pm at Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel. For more information call Allison Penkethman 732-528-4976.



**COMMUNION BREAKFAST AND RAFFLE-** Members of St. Denis Altar Rosary Society and Catholic Daughters are selling 50/50 chances and tickets for their joint Communion Breakfast to be held on Sunday, September 9, 2018. Tickets and chances may be purchased at the rectory office during regular business hours.. Communion Breakfast tickets are \$25 and 50/50 chances are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

**HEALING MASS-**The Healing Shepherd Prayer Group of Holy Cross Church invites all to a special Healing Mass on Monday, July 30, 2018 at Holy Cross Church, Ward Ave. and Rumson Road in Rumson. Father Bill Halbing will be the celebrant. The next Healing Mass will be celebrated August 27, 2018.

**ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL-** Next weekend our parish will participate in the Diocesan Mission Cooperative Plan as we welcome Deacon Steve Beers who will tell us about the good work of *Hands Together*— a Catholic mission outreach working in Haiti. The Church in Haiti is struggling to bring God's love to the many hurting people there. In Haiti there are 10.9 million people in an area smaller than Maryland. 70% of these cannot read and 85% live below the poverty level. In slum areas 4 out of 5 children do not reach the age of 5, and nationally 1 in 3 children suffers chronic malnutrition. Hurricanes and a devastating earthquake have left Haiti severely damaged and in desperate need of our prayers and support. *Hands Together* runs free schools, medical clinics and nutrition programs, providing 25,000 daily school meals. About one third of the *Hands Together* mission work supports educational, health, charitable, and developmental projects in City Soleil, the Dioceses of Gonaives and Cap Haitien where more than 1 million live in abject poverty. Our second collection next weekend will be for *Hands Together*. Your prayers and generosity will be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to St. Denis Church.



**July 8, 2018**

Weekend Collection-	\$15,076.00
Average Envelope Donation-	\$25.40
2nd Collection (Parish Debt)	\$5,380.00
Average Envelope Donation-	\$14.56

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !**





The Rectory Office will close at noon on Fridays during the months of July and August for in-service work.  
The office will be open to parishioners:  
Monday-Thursday, 8:30am- noon & 1:00-4:30pm  
Friday, 8:30am - noon

**MASS BY THE SEA**– Please join Bishop David M. O’Connell for a Mass by the Sea at the Belmar Gazebo in Silver Lake Park, 5th & Ocean Ave. on Sunday, August 19, 2018 at 9:30 am. All are welcome! [www.GatheredAsOne.com](http://www.GatheredAsOne.com)

**PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES**– A joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities provides licensed professionals for short term counseling (up to 6 sessions) to parishioners dealing with difficult issues, for example, job-stress, family concerns and bereavement. Contact your pastor for additional information and referral. The fee is \$90 per session, but, if needed, financial assistance is available through the Diocese of Trenton Parish Counseling Services.

**BLESSED ST. GERARD MEDALS & PRAYER CARDS AVAILABLE**– Do you know someone who is expecting a child, hoping to conceive, or thinking about adoption? Blessed St. Gerard medals and prayer cards are available for anyone who wishes to take them for themselves or to give to family and friends. To receive one, please stop by the rectory office during normal business hours. For more information call Rachel at 732-223-1658.



**CAREGIVER VOLUNTEERS OF CENTRAL JERSEY INTERFAITH COALITION HELPING OLDER MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND CONGREGATION** There are many older people living in our parish...in our neighborhood... who are in need of a little help to continue living with dignity and independence at home. If you can spare just a few hours a week, you can be involved in this ministry. Call and find out more... For information contact the Caregiver office at [www.caregivervolunteers.org](http://www.caregivervolunteers.org) or 732-876-3900.



**SAINT DENIS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY**  
732-223-1383

Msgr. O’Connor Hall (lower level of church)  
**HOURS**

EVERY TUESDAY: 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
3RD & 4TH SATURDAY: 10:00 AM-12:00 NOON

Items needed at this time: microwave popcorn, **\*non refrigerated boxed milk (like Parmalat), \*canned fruit**, instant potatoes, **\* FLAVORED INSTANT RICE**, canned potatoes, **\*large bottles of juice**, cookies, **\*crackers**, individual chips/snacks for lunchbox snacks, paper towels, tissues, baby wipes, and hand/body lotion. Parishioners are asked to place their non-perishable donations in the shopping cart that is located in the gathering space near the stairwell to Msgr. O’Connor Hall. Non-perishable food may also be brought to the Beach Chapel.  
**\*Items in bold are desperately needed.** Please check expiration dates. Thanks!

**Recovery Corner**

Addiction is not a moral failing. There is help. Anyone affected by addiction is welcome each Thursday at 10:00 am & 7:00 pm as we support one another by applying what scripture says about recovery. Call 848-333-7085 for information.



**FAMILY EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP ON ADDICTION SERIES**- Available Mondays, 7:00 pm, at 67 Atlantic Ave. in Manasquan Recreation Annex.

**RAFTS**- “Recovery Advocates For The Shore” located in Manasquan, is a non-clinical, non-profit, peer-based community organization serving the recovery needs of individuals and their families struggling with behavioral or substance addiction. It is free of charge. 1-833—2BSOBER [www.raftsnj.org](http://www.raftsnj.org)

**ST. DENIS ELIZABETH MINISTRY: AN INVITATION TO WOMEN**- We are looking to restart The Elizabeth Ministry at St. Denis Parish. The Elizabeth Ministry is a group of women who affirm, encourage, assist and pray in response to the needs of women during the child-bearing years and beyond. We are looking to begin a Mommy and Me group, reach out to the families of newly baptized, and get together once a month for fellowship and support. To get involved in this wonderful ministry or to ask any questions, contact **Eileen Ziesmer** at [eileenziesmer@gmail.com](mailto:eileenziesmer@gmail.com) or 732-223-0287.

**THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest awhile.” Last Sunday Jesus sent his apostles on a mission; this Sunday they face the reality that the mission might wear them out. The exhaustion can come from the good work and the “great number” of people who need help. The needs are great and it can be exhausting to try to meet them. Jesus is there to listen, to support, and to invite us to rest a bit.

We all need to go off to a “deserted place” occasionally to “rest awhile”. This might mean taking some time alone to pray, meditate and rest in God; or it might mean making Sunday truly a “day of rest.” All of us need time to regain our energies so we can take up our shepherding tasks. Vincent de Paul was a man of action and his love of God overflowed into practical love for the poor; however, he reminded us of “resting” with God. He said to his followers, “let us all give ourselves completely to the practice of prayer, since it is by it that all good things come to us. If we persevere, it is thanks to prayer. If we succeed in our employments, it is thanks to prayer. If we remain in charity and if we are saved, all that happens is thanks to God and thanks to prayer.”

If you would like to join us in our prayer and charitable efforts, please come to one of our meetings, which are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 7:00 pm in Msgr. O’Connor Hall (church basement). The next meeting will be August 7th.

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.



**THE 2019 MASS BOOK &  
SANCTUARY LAMP  
CALENDAR**

**will open**

**Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 8:45 am.**

Please note: There are still Masses and Sanctuary Lamps available for 2018.



**SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28TH 5:00 pm** at Doolan's Shore Club The annual Mary's Child Pro-Life "Champion for Life" Dinner. This year we will be honoring Rachel Hendricks as our Champion, and Father

Martin Padovani will be recognized for his Lifetime Achievement. Mark your calendars!

**GENERATIONS OF LOVE *Humanae vitae* (1968-2018)**- The Diocesan Department of Evangelization and Family Life is hosting the following free events:

Not Your Mom's NFP, by Kait Mayer. This information session on Natural Family Planning will take place on Monday, July 23, 2018 at St. Benedict Church, 165 Bethany Rd. in Holmdel, 7:00-9:00 pm.

50th Anniversary of *Humanae Vitae* -This wine and cheese gathering and discussion will be held on July 25, 2018 at St. Joan of Arc Church, 100 Willow Bend Rd. in Marlton, 7:00-9:00 pm. *Humanae Vitae* is the most prophetic, controversial and transformational papa encyclical of our time!

To register for these events, please visit <https://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/nfp-awareness>



**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING AWARENESS WEEK STARTS TODAY!**

**Is Natural Family Planning really reliable? - YES!!** Modern methods of NFP are not at all related to the "rhythm method" of decades ago! Many years of medical and

scientific research have helped couples and medical professionals to more fully understand a woman's complex fertility cycles in order to provide very reliable methods of family planning AND since a woman's reproductive health can affect many other aspects of health, today's NFP methods offer better comprehensive women's healthcare. NFP is not only reliable, but it is the only *authentic* method of family planning. Since NFP methods are not 'contraception', their effectiveness works both ways—for achieving and avoiding pregnancy. When couples wish to achieve a pregnancy they can time sexual intercourse to the fertile window of the menstrual cycle, thereby optimizing the possibility of becoming pregnant. When wishing to avoid pregnancy, studies show that couples who follow their NFP method's guidelines correctly, and all the time, achieve effectiveness rates of 97-99%.

**Today begins Natural Family Planning Awareness Week!!** Please check out the display in the gathering space this weekend and next weekend for great information!

**Message from Fr. Bill**

In these weeks, we are spreading the information about Natural Family Planning. Our pro-life committee has included information about NFP during the last few weeks in the bulletin. I urge you to learn more about it and spread the good information and positive impact that NFP can have for married couples.

This past week, the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities also published its monthly Life Issues Forum. This month it is about our outreach and support of a woman who is coping with an unplanned pregnancy. Although the full article is on-line at [usccb.org/l-o-v-e](http://usccb.org/l-o-v-e), I give you an edited version for all to be aware of. Our Catholic Church must always be known as a people in support of and protection of the gift of life. Here is the excerpt:

If someone shared with you that she was pregnant and hadn't ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond? Although the first instinct may be to convince her that abortion ends a baby's life, hearing facts is not the first thing she needs. Research shows that many women in a pregnancy crisis think, "This is the end of my life as I know it." To face the challenges before her, your friend needs to know you care about her for her own sake and she is not alone.

First listening to your friend will help build trust and facilitate openness. Eventually, when she knows you truly care about her and she trusts you, you can share the truth in love. You can share facts about abortion, her own intrinsic worth, and the practical help and support available so she can choose life for herself and her baby.

Consider the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach™\*: Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower. The L.O.V.E. Approach™ is a way to bring Christ's love at a crucial life-saving and life-defining moment. We are created to walk with and support one another. May we not hesitate to reach out in love.

**L Listen and Learn**

First, prioritize listening over speaking. You don't have to worry about whether you may say something "wrong," and you don't need to have all the answers. Start by listening to her story. Ask her about her feelings, thoughts, values, beliefs, and wants. Do not interrupt, except to ask her to expound, when appropriate. Ask open-ended questions, and confirm what you think you are hearing.

**O Open Options**

When her story is fully shared, it is your turn to provide factual information, always in a loving and caring way. You might share about the reality of abortion and the wounds that typically result. As they relate to her life, you might share experiences about having a baby, adoption, and marriage. It's most helpful to keep the focus on her.

**V Vision and Value**

Awaken a vision in her for a healthier life (a vision she may never have had, or that may have dimmed). Help her value herself differently. She is a special creation, worthy of love. Reassure her there is always hope and she is not alone. She can make positive, life-giving choices. She can do it.

**E Extend and Empower**

Provide practical help and support. Her local pregnancy help center ([heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory](http://heartbeatinternational.org/worldwide-directory)) can offer consultation, lists of community resources, and ultrasound services. Consider keeping such lists of resources in your car, purse, or wallet. Help her plan her next steps.



## Hi Ladies!

Are you a young mom? Or perhaps, you are you single?  
Or maybe, you are a grandmother? Or, simply somewhere in between?  
Do you desire to grow in your Catholic faith?  
Do you seek connection with other women in a parish community?

**We invite you to join the *Walking with Purpose Catholic Faith Study*  
this October at St. Denis Church, Manasquan.**

*Opening Your Heart*, the foundational study of *Walking with Purpose*,  
is designed for women. Whether or not you have any Bible study experience—  
We welcome you to learn how the scriptures and sacraments apply to our everyday lives.

Interested in learning more?

Visit Walking with Purpose online [www.walkingwithpurpose.com](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com)

Watch the St. Denis bulletin/webpage [www.churchofstdenis.com](http://www.churchofstdenis.com), August 2018

Join Our Facebook Group, St. Denis Walking With Purpose

Contact Debbie D'Agostaro at [debbiedag732@yahoo.com](mailto:debbiedag732@yahoo.com) or 732-513-1685 (cell) or

Allison Penkethman at [penman1@optonline.net](mailto:penman1@optonline.net).



walking with purpose  
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