



## DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME

Last Sunday at Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport was, (as it was throughout the world) the *XXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time*. And before parishioners found their way to Pine Street for our *VIII Annual Parishioner Appreciation Day* celebration to enjoy hamburgers and hotdogs prepared by members of the Knights of Columbus, cake and cookies provided by Asif and Samina of *Glendale Bakery* (we will miss them), music and singing brought to us by members of our church music ministry, and some fun and games on the church lawn, Sunday Mass-goers at Our Holy Redeemer came *home* in their Sunday-best (it was also *Tie One On With A Hat Sunday*) and heard amongst other Scripture passages, an excerpt from Saint Matthew’s Gospel in which Jesus taught His followers how to admonish the sinner (a Corporal Work of Mercy):



*“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell the Church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.”* (Saint Matthew XVIII:15-17)



If employed, that lesson could save unborn babies, the elderly and terminally ill, and even Marriages. It could restore purity to Hollywood, civility to society, compassion to healthcare, justice to the courtroom, honesty to the news room, modesty to the fashion industry, unity to the nation, “love between my brothers and my sisters, all over this land” (taken from *If I Had a Hammer* by Peter, Paul and Mary) and so much more; including the restoration of our missing brothers and sisters to a church pew on Sunday!

Sixteen years ago, it was standing room only in Catholic churches all over Long Island on the first Sunday after 9/11. Sixteen years ago we were tired firemen, frightened commuters, grieving widows, fatherless children, devastated Americans, repentant sinners, and prodigal sons. Sixteen years ago we were (at least for one day) all Sunday Mass-goers.

Today, on the first Sunday after 9/11 it is not standing room only in Catholic churches all over Long Island. Where are the tired firemen who found strength, the frightened commuters who found courage, the grieving widows who found comfort, the fatherless children who found they are not alone, the devastated Americans who found hope, the repentant sinners who found forgiveness, and the prodigal sons who were welcomed home? Sadly, many of them are no longer Sunday Mass-goers.

Please, on this Catechetical Sunday, return to the house where you live, the building where you work, the classroom where you learn, and the ballfield where you play, and find that fireman, that commuter, that widow, that child, that American, that prodigal son and invite them back *home*. For it is the responsibility of all of us, as missionary disciples to “go make disciples of all nations and to teach them to observe all that Jesus commanded” when He took bread and wine and said: “take this all of you and eat of it, ... take this all of you and drink of it, ... **Do this in memory of Me.**”

