



175 WOODCLEFT AVENUE: HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Last Saturday, 6 June 2015, the Village of Freeport’s Nautical Mile (Woodcleft Avenue) was host to thousands of pedestrians during the Village’s annual Freeport Festival. With help from the *Ministry to Catholics of African Ancestry*, and in particular Gary Etheridge, Our Holy Redeemer was on “the Mile” ourselves that day, and greeted anyone and everyone who came aboard Grover’s Dock, including Mr. Grover. Mr. Grover not only came aboard, but stayed aboard to tell his tale; not the tale of a fateful trip that started from a tropic port aboard a tiny ship (aka Gilligan’s Island); not the tale



of *some who went off to the sea in ships, and plied their trade on deep waters* (cf. Psalm 107); but the tale of Faith that didn’t just bring a man on Woodcleft Avenue to Our Holy Redeemer, the tale of Faith that helped bring Our Holy Redeemer to Woodcleft Avenue!



Our Holy Redeemer’s first “official” appearance on Woodcleft took place in 1981 after Monsignor Saverio Mattei (Our Holy Redeemer’s sixth Pastor) received permission from Bishop John R. McGann (the Diocese of Rockville Centre’s second Bishop) to offer Mass on a boat donated to the parish by Mr. Joseph Scalamandre. That offering, with the help of dozens of parishioners (and dozens of doughnuts), sadly went adrift in 1999, and didn’t return again until twelve years later when, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit (not to mention the prompting of parishioner Jack Impellizeri, a member of the original crew), *Mass on the Waterfront* (the “Boat Mass”) was offered on Grover’s Dock.

Since Our Holy Redeemer’s official return to Woodcleft Avenue in 2011, Grover’s Dock (175 Woodcleft Avenue) has become Our Holy Redeemer’s “home away from home”. And while nothing (and I do mean nothing) can compare to the annual Summertime Sunday offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (and of course the doughnuts), the Good News of Our Holy Redeemer is reaching the ears and touching the hearts and souls of more than just the Sunday Waterfront Mass-goers. For the second consecutive year, with the help of Our Holy Redeemer’s Director of Music Michael Crouse, and *Friends of Our Holy Redeemer* such as Larry Vodopivec, 175 Woodcleft Avenue has become the setting for an Our Holy Redeemer Summer Concert Series (please see this bulletin’s *Summer Concert Series* Page) that this past Wednesday night (10 June) allowed Our Holy Redeemer to touch over one hundred people with gifted-pianist Duncan Holmes and a variety of other so-called “people with disabilities”. It was as billed: “so beautiful”!

There are still many amongst us that *have eyes but they do not see why coming home is what it’s all about*. (cf. Saint Mark VIII:18) Even blind pianist Duncan Holmes “saw” that when he mentioned CEO Christians: **Christmas and Easter Only**. That is why after two thousand years, Our Holy Redeemer continues to *leave the house and go down to the water!* (cf. Saint Matthew XIII:1)

