



“STDs”: THEY ARE NOT ALWAYS WHAT YOU THINK THEY ARE

This past Sunday (V Sunday in Ordinary Time), Sunday Mass-goers throughout the world (from Albany to Africa, from California to Costa Rica) heard that *Jesus got into the boat of a fisherman, sat down and taught the crowds* (cf. Saint Luke V:1-3). That event in history – women’s history, men’s history, black history, white history, ... our history – inspired me to surface the issue of STDs during my time with Mass-goers at Sunday Mass. And while some people in attendance thought that in light of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s total disregard for his neighbour (see the Letter from Bishop Barres on the following two pages) they were going to hear about how to STD: Stop The Democrat, and others in attendance thought they would (and did) hear the Truth about STDs namely that the best way to avoid an STD is abstinence, and to limit conjugal encounters with human beings (and only with those of the opposite sex) and to do so in Marriage, most of what they heard treated another type of **STD: Save The Date!**

After the “salty dogs” and sea-worthy Freeporters in the congregation made the connection between the Gospel and STDs, they were invited to **save the date**: 7 July 2019. On that date God-willing, Church-permitting, and Al Grover-consenting, Our Holy Redeemer will (for the tenth consecutive year) go down to the water (175 Woodcleft Avenue) and teach the crowds from a boat. And while it might not be the way you choose to fulfill your Sunday-obligation to attend Holy Mass, please save the date and pray for the crowds at Grover’s Dock who (like those at 37 South Ocean Avenue) will be “listening to the Word of God!” (ibid. V:1).

Other **Save the Dates** worthy of mention are those known (like Sunday) as Holy Days of Obligation: such as 25 December (Christmas Day), 8 December (Immaculate Conception), 1 November (All Saints Day), and 15 August (Assumption), and Ascension Thursday (40 Days after Easter Sunday). Just as noteworthy – even though it’s not a Holy Day of Obligation – is **Ash Wednesday**; which this year occurs on **6 March**.

Ash Wednesday may still be three weeks away, but it isn’t too early to start thinking about the Holy Season of Lent. How will you intensify your prayer (perhaps start attending Mass every Wednesday), your fasting (perhaps every Friday), and your almsgiving (perhaps with a weekly increase of \$9.00)? It is with respect to these three holy practices that we will once again be looking to help others “out-of-parish”.

Out-of-parish missions are a regular feature of Parish Life at Our Holy Redeemer. In the past, those missions have provided for the needs of the unborn through sacrificial giving to the “Bottles for Babies Campaign” of the *Life Center of Long Island* (631) 243-2373, the needs of persecuted Christians in Syria through sacrificial giving to *Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)*, and most recently, during the Holy Season of Lent 2017, when Our Holy Redeemer joined forces with Dr. Thomas Travis (ttravis@sjcny.edu or (631) 416-4736) and Saint Joseph's College to help sponsor the education of young people in Nicaragua.

This Lent, our “out-of-parish” sights will be set on Ghana, Africa where our good friend Father Jerome (Chaplain to South Nassau Communities Hospital (2009 – 2013), and in summer-residence at Our Holy Redeemer (2017, 2018)), is labouring to rebuild his Catholic School.

Father Jerome’s Catholic School is one where children are taught more than just how to avoid *sexually transmitted diseases* and how to *stop the democrat* (and republican) who supports abortion. In Father Jerome’s school, children are taught Jesus Christ!!!! So let’s **save the date (6 March)** and commit to praying, fasting, and giving alms to *std*: **seal the deal!**

