



## REACHING OUT FOR OUR HOLY REDEEMER



While Holy Mass on Sundays at 175 Woodcleft Avenue was (as it is everywhere it is offered) “the Source and Summit of the Christian Life”, it was not all that’s been happening at Grover’s Dock this Summer (the season of Summer does not officially end in the Northern Hemisphere until the Autumnal Equinox arrives on 22 September). On 2 June for instance, Freeport’s Annual *Nautical Mile Festival* provided Our Holy Redeemer with an opportunity to *leave the house and go down to the water* even before this Summer’s first *Mass on the Waterfront* was offered there on 8 July). On that date, your Pastor invited people to come home with a visit to Grover’s Dock where

parishioners Gary Etheridge, Diana Maza, and Haig Diquasian, were sharing the Good News, teaching visitors how to make Rosaries, and giving anyone and everyone a chance to sing a joyful song to the Lord with some Christian Karoke.

Many of you know however, that the singing didn’t stop there. In fact, with help from Michael Crouse, Judy Germaine, Cathy and Larry Vodopivec, and Efrain Burgos, that singing stepped up to the microphone on four different nights and touched the lives of visitors to 175 Woodcleft Avenue with performances by *Buddah Big Band*, *The Paul Joseph Quartet*, *The Tribunes*, and a Night of Praise and Worship with *In the Way* and *Winds of Flame*.



With these Summertime offerings – this outreach into the world – Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport beautifully manifests what it means to be “missionary disciples” of the “new Evangelization”; an evangelization that true to its beginning, *goes into the whole world and proclaims the Gospel to every creature* (cf. Saint Mark XVI:15); an evangelization that doesn’t wait for the sheep to come to the Shepherd, but goes out in search of the sheep; hoping as we go, that we may return home with at least one sheep so that *there will be great rejoicing over the return of that one sheep* (cf. Saint Luke XV: 1-7).

All of us who come home for Sunday Mass need to be the outstretched arm of Our Holy Redeemer to the world. That outreach cannot be confined to what is done Liturgically or even Sacramentally within the walls of our absolutely beautiful church at 37 South Ocean Avenue, or for that matter, on the beautiful waterfront at 175 Woodcleft Avenue. The outstretched arm of Christ must find its way into the apartments on Pine Street and the houses on California Avenue; the chambers of Village Hall and the cubicles at the Freeport Memorial Library; the squad cars of the Police Department and Fire Department rigs; the rooms at Meadowbrook Care Facility and South Shore Nursing Home; Freeport’s school classrooms and school buses!

In a world saturated with so much bad news about our Church and some of her members, we may be tempted not to preach the Good News of Jesus Christ; we may even be tempted not to go to church. Yet preach it we must; and preach it we can: through Him, with Him, and in Him Who (by the very mystery of the Cross and Resurrection we participate in at Holy Mass) is with us always!

Confused and/or disillusioned as some of us may be at “saints” who turn into sinners, now is not the time to leave the Church. Now/Always is the time for those of us who rightfully call others to holiness, to be holy ourselves. Let the Church in all of Her members, kneel down before Jesus and ask Him to: “Show Me the Way”!