



Profiles in Stewardship: A Trip to Remember

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Eammon Campolettano is a Senior at Regis High School in New York. He grew up in Our Lady of Mercy Parish, attended our Parish school, participated in many of the programs including CYO sports and Youth Ministry activities. Over his Winter break this year, he joined his Regis classmates on a different adventure, - a mission trip to Jamaica, and here he shares his experience.

On February 19th, a group of students from Regis High School, including myself, boarded a plane to Kingston, Jamaica for a week of service work. We were working in conjunction with the Mustard Seed Communities, an organization that houses children suffering from HIV/AIDS or with physical or mental disability. Most of our work would be manual labor, as there are very few in Jamaica willing to do the work entailed. However, another important aspect of the trip was interacting with the Jamaican people, especially the children.

Going on the trip was a truly great experience, as it allowed me to put my Catholic faith into action. Catholic social teaching calls us to serve others and to show others love and respect, no matter what their situation. Our group's work was incredibly difficult and demanding, but we all still managed to maintain a



positive and optimistic attitude because of the changes we were able to see. One day, for example, we had to string hundreds of pieces of fishing line across an empty pond the size of a football field. The pond is what the community uses to hold fish, which they then use as their food supply. Without the fishing line, birds would routinely swoop in and take the fish. Just knowing that I had done something which held some true value and would pay dividends down the road was truly amazing.

While we worked each day, at least one of the children would come, watch and try to help or engage us in whatever way possible. One boy, Dominic, who was HIV positive, desperately wanted us to play soccer with him but we couldn't because of our work. He didn't sulk, or go play by himself; he decided to help us work and talked with us the whole time. The smile that he had when he first approached us and asked if we would play with him did not disappear, not even for a second, as we labored under the hot Jamaican sun. The joy and hap-

- continued on page 4

A Decade a Day

Stewardship Spirituality Rosary Petitions:

That Stewardship Spirituality takes root at OLM.

For all who are praying this intention, and

In thanksgiving for all God's graces and blessings on us, our families and our friends.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6

Stewardship Prayer

Creator God,
Life is your gift to me.
Through Baptism,
you invite me to share the gift of my life
in service to others.
Be with me
as I choose each day
to show your Presence in our world.
Give me the courage and generosity
to respond to your love, to your call.
I pray especially for those
who serve you in ministry
throughout the parishes of Long Island.
May we bring the Good News
to those in need.
Keep us close to you.
Open the minds and hearts
of many others
-- men, women, and young people --
that they may accept your challenge
to build the Kingdom in our parishes.
We ask this prayer through Christ
our Lord.
Amen.



Lenten Focus: Reaching out to God in Our Need

Evening Prayer

If Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless.

Did you know that during WWII there was an adviser to Winston Churchill who organized a group of people who committed to drop whatever it was they were doing every day at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for the safety of England, its people and peace?

There is a group of people who are doing the same thing here in America today. If you would like to participate: Every evening at 9:00 PM Eastern Time (8PM CT, 7PM MT, 6PM PT), stop whatever you are doing and spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States, our troops, our citizens and for a return to a Godly nation. If you know anyone else who would like to participate, please pass this along. Our prayers are the most powerful asset we have.

Not sure what to pray? Let's start this month and spend that one minute in prayer with our patroness, Our Lady of Mercy, and say a Hail Mary.

Lenten Focus: Holy Week at Our Lady of Mercy

*Come share
in all that
this most
Holy Season
of our
Catholic faith
has to offer.
Reach out
in prayer
to God.*

Saturday, April 16th

Upper Church—5PM

Palm Sunday, April 17th

Upper Church—7:30, 9:00, 10:30, Noon, 5:30PM

Lower Church—Noon

Monday, April 18th

Confessions—3—9PM

Holy Thursday, April 21st

Morning Prayer—9am

Concelebrated Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30PM followed by Adoration until 11PM

Good Friday, April 22nd

Morning Prayer—9am

Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord and Communion at 3pm and again at 7:30pm

Holy Saturday, April 23rd

Morning Prayer—9am

Blessing of Food—10:30am

Confessions—11am—12 noon

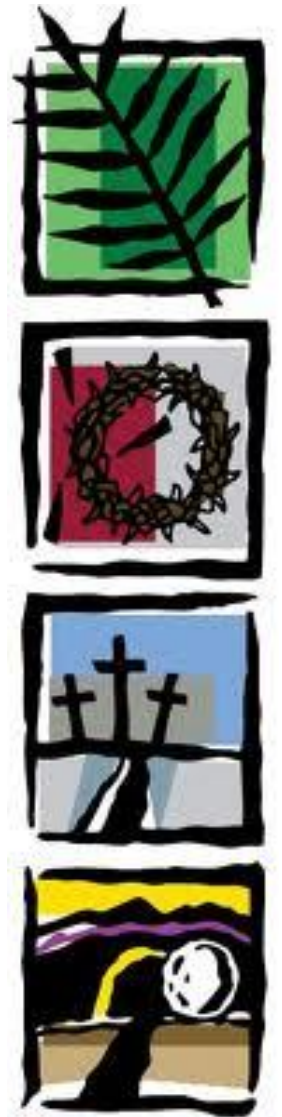
—no 5pm mass—

Easter Vigil Mass at 8PM

Easter Sunday

Upper Church—7:30, 9:00, 10:30 and 12 Noon

Lower Church—10:30am and 12 Noon



Who Do You Know??

This eNewsletter focuses on Stewardship Spirituality in our lives and in our parish. Who do you know that is living a stewardship life? We would love to hear about it, so let us know.

Also, we are looking for a writer, a reporter, someone who would like to talk to their fellow parishioners and write the Profiles in Stewardship column to tell how people in our parish are living Stewardship Spirituality. Please share your gifts!

Contact us at therectory@olmrc.com.



Our Lady of Mercy eNewsletter

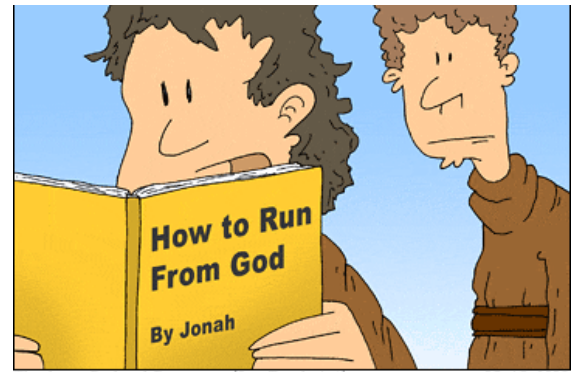


OUR LADY OF MERCY

500 South Oyster Bay Road,
Hicksville, New York 11801
516-931-4351
Visit us on the web at
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On a Light Note:



Thanks to Richard Germain (See Jonah 1-4) 09-19-2008
IT JUST SAYS "DON'T"

OLM eNewsletter Staff:

Father Rich Kammerer, Managing Editor

Serena Perrotta, Editor

*Look for us again next month as we bring you updates on the events
and people in our parish community.*

Please direct all inquiries via email to therectory@olmrc.com.

*Are you receiving this from a friend, or know someone else who
would like to—send us your email to sign up today and find out
what else you may be missing!*

A Trip to Remember—continued from page 1

piness that Dominic expressed was present in each child and person we encountered, even those who could not talk or function in the ways most of us are incredibly fortunate to be able to.

One thing about the people that struck me on this trip, aside from their great joy, is their immense faith. They seem to have almost nothing going for them and yet their faith seems far stronger than anyone who went on the trip. The little things that we often take for granted, such as waking up or the ability to walk and talk, are blessings that they thank God for every day. Their congregations are also much livelier and more communal than ours. The Sunday Mass lasted two hours and, at no point did I doze off or wonder when it would be over. When they sing or say prayers, they truly mean it and give everything up to God.

This trip has truly opened my eyes up to the extreme level of poverty in Jamaica. I quickly learned that the Jamaican citizens do not have running water for the majority of the day so that the tourists at the resorts can stay in luxury. This really hit home with me because I saw firsthand the plight of these loving and compassionate people and had to understand that I could not do anything to change their permanent situation. I would definitely return in the future to Kingston because going there allowed me to give myself wholly to someone else and not worry about or take for granted many things that we often do. The attitudes that the Jamaican people have make everything better and made our group feel like we were a part of their community.