

Our Lady of Mercy Church

Forest Hills, New York 11375

Parish Clergy

Rev. Msgr. John A. McGuirl,
Pastor

Rev. John J. Cremins,
Parochial Vicar

Rev. Msgr. Gerald J. Langelier,
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Mr. Edward A. Smolinski,
Parish Deacon

Rectory

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Forest Hills, NY 11375

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Staffed by Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Lay Faculty.

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Mass Schedule

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 PM

Sunday: 8:30 AM, 10:00 AM,
12:00 noon and 6 PM

Weekday Masses

Monday to Friday: 7:00 AM, 8:30 AM
& 12 Noon

Saturday: 8:30 AM

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Paper submissions may be sent to the Rectory, addressed to: The Editors, Mercy Mirror.

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"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Matt. 5:16

In This Issue...

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Cover Photo: Daffodils.

Please pray for those in our armed services.

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands, especially:

Edy Claudio & Robert Claudio

Sgt. Bryan Jiencke, USMC, Patrick Hedderman

S/Sgt. Teague A. Liming, USAF

Pvt. Jonathan Mezzancello, SPC Larry Saume

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S/Sgt. Harry Cruz, 82nd Army Airborne

Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.

I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

From the Editors: Please submit to us the name, rank, and location of any friend or relative currently serving in the Military for whom prayers are desired.



Parish Mission Statement

We, the Catholic faith community of Our Lady of Mercy are a welcoming parish, striving to serve the diverse peoples of Forest Hills. Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we value our celebration of the Eucharist and Sacraments, our proclamation of God's Word and our loving outreach and service to others. Trusting in God's love and mercy, and recognizing our need for grace, we commit ourselves to the spirit of inclusion through community service, faith sharing, education, outreach and spiritual growth. We dedicate ourselves to live as a dynamic, compassionate and open faith community that inspires both present and future generations to claim the mission of Christ as their own and live it with joy and integrity.



From the Pastor's Desk

Monsignor John McGuirl

Dear Parishioners;

The May 10, 2010 issue of America, The National Catholic Weekly, sponsored by the Jesuits, carried the first part of an editorial entitled "Pilgrim People." The emphasis of the editorial is the love that people have for their Church. In no way does the author ignore the critical problems that impact the Church. He is very aware of the criminal nature of the activities of some clergy and the resounding scandal that has resulted. Yet, despite it all, he contends that Catholics love their Church "because here we have companions who do strain, in their stumbling ways, to lead their lives by the light of the Sermon on the Mount." Another reason for their love is the Church's diversity: rich and poor, the native-born and the immigrant, conservatives and liberal, the simple and the learned. Another reason he gives for Catholics loving their Church is because "here we keep the company of men and women who have lived the Gospel even as they challenged both secular and religious rulers to reform." Among these are figures like Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Thomas More, Ignatius Loyola (founder of the Jesuits), Mary McKillop, Mother Mary Guerin, Dorothy Day, Franz Jagerstatter and (archbishop) Oscar Romero. In other words, the saints, both those who are canonized and the larger number who are not. That later group may contain our own ancestors and now deceased members of this parish.

When I was a boy (in the Jurassic Age!), the saints were all around us. They were indeed that "cloud of witnesses" to which we were joined in the Communion of the Saints. We knew about the North American Martyrs, the young Jesuit missionaries who evangelized the Native Americans in what is now lower Canada and northern New York State. We learned of the physical sufferings that they endured in order to preach the Gospel. We knew that they had been martyred, and it inspired us. We were inspired by the photograph of Father Miguel Pro, S.J., arms flung out before the firing squad shouting: "Viva El Cristo Rey!" (Long Live Christ the

King). Father died in the persecution of the Church in the nineteen twenties under Mexican President Plutarcho Calles.

But then the saints seemed to move to the back burners perhaps as a reaction to some of the more vivid and exaggerated devotions to them. Thankfully there seems to be a resurgence, maybe because we need heroes and heroines, especially during rough times.

In my own life, some of that springtime for the saints may originate from my assignments in this Diocese. In 1971, part of my deacon year was spent at St. Teresa's Parish in Woodside. The "Little Flower," as she was often called, was a French Carmelite Nun in the later part of the nineteenth century. In her spiritual diary she developed the "little way" to live out her commitment to God, even in the small routine events of convent life. She dedicated her life to the spiritual welfare of priests, and I appreciate that gift. Had she lived to be elderly, our lives might well have overlapped.

My first priesthood assignments (1972-78) were at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Jackson Heights and then as Diocesan Vocation Director (1978-1983). Those assignments were followed by the interim administration of Most Holy Trinity Parish in Williamsburg, Brooklyn (1983-84). The saints were never quite forgotten, because as Vocation Director, I lived at St. Vincent DePaul Parish in the Northside, Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Vincent DePaul could have had a cushy life as a court chaplain in seventeenth century France, but rather he turned his energies to the poor and ignorant, which comprised the greater number of people. Using his court contacts he collected money for the poor. With St. Louise DeMarillac he founded the Sisters of Charity and then founded the Congregation of the Missions (Vincentians, who sponsor St. John's University). My father's family lived in St Vincent DePaul Parish before moving to Forest Hills in 1925. My grandfather's cousin, the late Right Reverend Monsignor William T. McGuirl was one of the first six graduates of St. John's when it opened on Lewis

Avenue, Brooklyn in the last half of the nineteenth century. So there was a family connection with the sometimes irascible St. Vincent DePaul.

The next two assignments involved very unusual saints: St. Mel's Parish in Flushing (1984-1995) was named after an obscure first generation Irish bishop. Supposedly a relative of St Patrick, Mel founded the Church in the area of County Longford. Supposedly he gave the religious veil to St. Bridget of Kildare (and there are rumors that in a liturgical mix-up, he ordained her!). Though little is now known about him, he was one of the early evangelizers of the Irish people, who themselves would become major evangelists throughout the entire world.

Then came the assignment as pastor of St. Joan of Arc (1995-2007). St. Joan is one of the most unusual of saints. To say that she was one of the most determined women (really only a girl since she was in her late teens when she died!) is to understate Joan. A peasant girl in the twelfth century, she did what hardened soldiers could not do: free her country from invaders. But she did this absolutely convinced that she was led by several saints, including Michael the Archangel. Betrayed and handed over to an ecclesiastical court in the pay of the invading English, she was convicted of witchcraft and heresy and burned to death, her last words being "Jesus, Jesus." Joan was diligent in her faith yet very much anchored in reality. She ascribed her mission to heavenly powers yet she was concerned about her own army and also the wounded and killed enemy soldiers. She set a high moral tone in her military camps and did not condone the usual carousing that went with army life. Except once when deceived by her jailers (she was illiterate), she never backpedaled from her convictions and died convinced of the sanctity of her mission. So my interest began to rise.

There were several clinchers. There is the story, alluded to above, of Franz Jaegerstatter, an Austrian peasant at the beginning of World War II, who was eventually beheaded by the Nazis because, despite the pleadings of his family, his parish priest and his bishop, he refused obligatory military service because he would in not in any way condone the war being waged by the Nazi regime against Poland. His earlier life had been somewhat raucous but the edges were softened by the influence of his wife (who, I believe, is still alive). He was convinced that he

could not in good conscience aid or abet the Nazi regime. Treated as a traitor in his own time, he was vindicated and he is now a candidate for canonization. Just previous to the time of Franz Jaegerstatter was another Austrian now ranked among the "Beatified," the last Emperor-King of Austria/Hungary, Karl von Habsburg. As a young soldier during World War I, he inherited the throne from his grand uncle, the ancient Franz Josef and then did everything in his power to bring about peace. A religiously devout Catholic, he set high moral standards for his family and the conduct of the war. Aware of the many poorer people in his empire, he was the first to establish government supported social-services. In the turmoil after the war, the emperor lost his throne and went into exile. Eventually he was to die an early death on Madeira. For the last six years, I have had the pleasure of a correspondence with the emperor's son, the Archduke (he prefers Doctor Otto von Habsburg). Doctor von Habsburg is now ninety-seven years of age, but he learned well from his father. His life has been dedicated to a European unity based on Catholic social principles. He was a member of the European Parliament, a founder of the PanEuropa Union, which was a forerunner of the European Union, and a noted lecturer and author.

Have I piqued your interest just a bit? The saints are the heroes and heroines of the Catholic Faith. In troubled times, it is good to have their example of fidelity, especially in the face of adversity. Such people have the ability to fire the imagination of our children and give them a vivid illustration of what it is to be a Catholic.

So if you are looking for summer reading, might I suggest: The two volume "Lives of the Saints" by the Catholic Book Publishing Company Co, New York; the two volume "Modern Saints Their Lives and Faces" by Ann Ball and published by Tan Books and Publishers, Inc., Rockford; "Married Saints and Blessed Through the Centuries" (this includes Franz Jaegerstatter and Emperor Karl) by Ferdinand Holbock, published by Ignatius Press, San Francisco and "My Life with the Saints" by Rev. James Martin, S.J., published in 2006 by Loyola Press, Chicago.

Monsignor John A. McGuirl

Parish Assembly

By Richard Karsten

On April 18, Our Lady of Mercy held its parish assembly as part of ongoing long-term planning at the parish and diocesan levels. Over one hundred parishioners attended this important meeting. The event was run by the PPC with Rubi McCauley-Gaddi leading the assembly. A light lunch was followed by group discussion to address fundamental questions including: what are the signs of vibrancy in our parish, what are the greatest challenges, what are our greatest resources and what are the critical

concerns for our future? It was a great opportunity for everyone who attended to express their opinions and share their ideas.

Results were compiled and sent to the Diocese for their "Christ Jesus, Our Hope" planning initiative. The information gathered will be distilled and used to inform the next series of objectives for the PPC long term plan. This coming fall, the PPC will share the results with everyone in the parish.



Richard Karsten talks about parish engagement.



Rubi leads the assembly.



Monsignor McGuirl starts things off.



Gerry Whelan addresses a full house on parish finances.



Scouts Meet Their Ancestors

By Robert W. Meditz

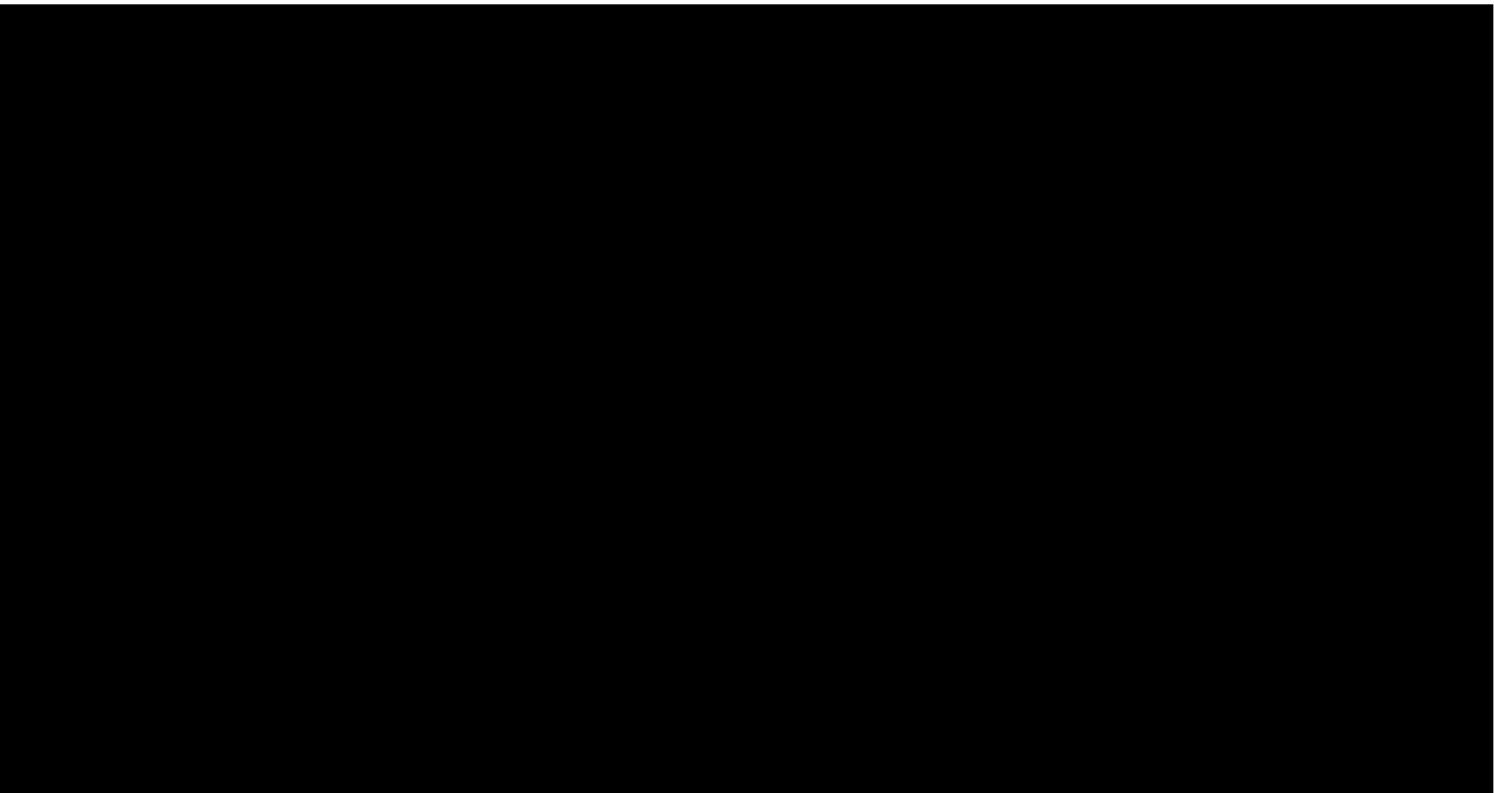
The Cub Scouts and Brownies did some research into their family trees to discover some long lost ancestors. Their genealogical quest was conducted at the American Museum of Natural History with their parents and siblings, thanks to complimentary admission tickets. It was often difficult to differentiate Scouts from their ancestors, though. Thankfully, we were able to distinguish out Scouts from the other primates since ours wore their uniforms, moved around, were not quite as hirsute, and were not displayed behind glass. Contrary to popular belief NOT all monkeys look alike.

This outing helped put the recent catastrophic events in Haiti and travel disruptions in Iceland in a scientific perspective. They learned about earthquakes and volcanoes. What causes them, how they change the Earth, and how our choices determine how we will be affected by our planet. On the other hand, they also learned that what we do affects the Earth and it's various ecosystems. They learned about habitat destruction and pollution and how these affect biodiversity and climate change.

The Cub Scouts saw the movie "A Night at the Museum," which was filmed at the American Museum of Natural History, before the trip. The Scouts were able to identify many of the exhibits portrayed in the movie, while at the same time learned that artistic license led to the premise of the movie, along with several scenes that are not actually exhibits in the museum. The Scouts were able to star in their own video clips based on the movie at the video kiosks located throughout the museum and then e-mail them to friends and family.

This museum trip better connected the Scouts to the city in which we live and the turbulent political climate of world as a whole. They were able to see several legs of the Five Borough Bicycle Tour, many of the individual cyclists afterwards, along with the Columbus Avenue Street Fair. The darker reality of our world intruded on the day with the transient closure of Times Square due to a tangible threat. Fortunately the keen gaze and measured response of security personnel to the threat averted disaster and allowed life to continue as normal. Many thanks to all those, seen and unseen, who insure our safety in these troubled times.

"A person may be qualified to do greater good to humankind and become more beneficial to the world, by morality without faith than by faith without morality." Joseph Addison



Around the Parish

Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2010

On Friday, June 18, 2010, commencement exercises will be held for the 2010 Our Lady of Mercy School graduates. The ceremony caps off a week of celebration, starting with the graduates and their families attending Mass on Sunday, June 13, a gala celebration at Dance Club International on Wednesday, June 16, and the graduation ceremony on Friday evening, June 18. We wish all our students continued success during their high school years, and know that their years at Our Lady of Mercy School will support them as they move on.

Our Lady of Mercy Graduating Class of 2010

Emely Agudelo-Osorio
Romy Miller
Chanel Allison
Robert Moffa
Nicole Bason
Joseph Murphy
Lindsay Baxter
Lauren Nazarieh
Bridget-Ellen Belfiore
Elizabeth Neubauer
Ryan Boller
Daniel Nowak
Anna Botwina
Conor Pace
Oscar Cruz
Celena Pantua
Massimo DeCarvalho
Hannah Parker

Kristiana DeGennaro
Megan Parker
David Gaynor
Alexander Pinto
Victoria Girardin
Michael Pontino
Kevin Gomez
Kristin Rainis
Cristina Greenfield
Michael Rossi
Joseph Haimson
Alessandro Rotella
Julia Sandke
Katherine Kilkenny
Nicholas Scaturro
Oliver Lataste
Anneliese Treitmeier-McCarthy
Sherilyn Llovera

Diamari Velez
Anthony Margiotta
Paul Wilson
Kelly Samantha McCarthy
Sabrina McCarthy



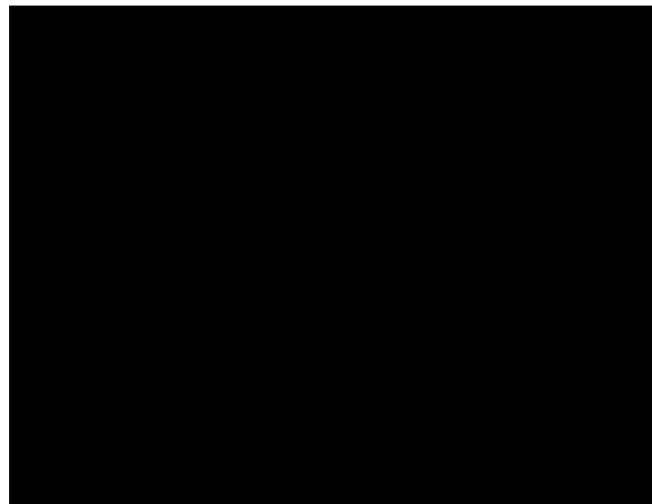
$64 / 8 \times 6 / 4 - 8 + 5 \times 4 / 6 = \text{First Place}$

By John Joseph Lewandowski III and Jaden Santos

On Tuesday, April 27, Karolina Niepokoj won first place in the Brooklyn/Queens Diocesan Primary Math Bee (Grades 1, 2, and 3) held at the Immaculate Conception Seminary. After winning first place in the Our Lady of Mercy School Math Bee, Karolina was one of eight finalists at the Regional Diocesan Math Bee and one of the 17 students who competed in the Brooklyn/Queens Math Bee.

Congratulations to Karolina and Mrs. Napolitano for all of their hard work!

Answer: 6



Karolina proudly displays her trophy amid her smiling classmates.

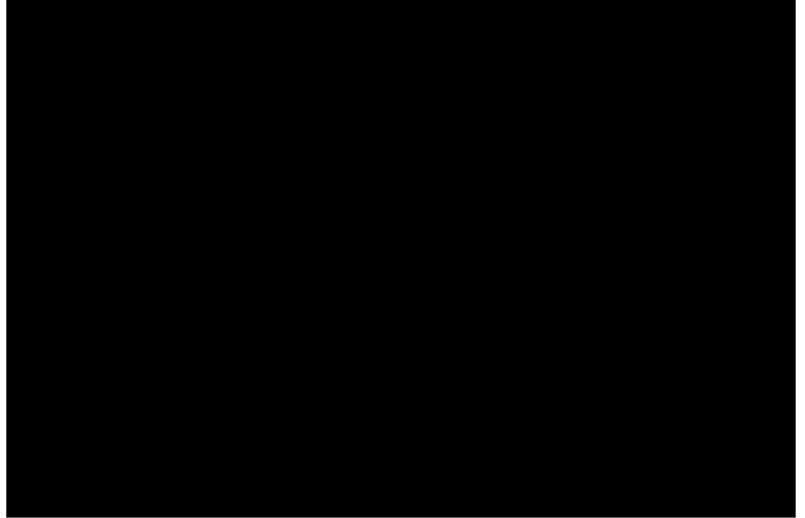
Around the Parish

First Holy Communion

By: Maria L. Macapinlac

Our young boys and girls assembled at Our Lady of Mercy School at 10:00 a.m. on May 1 and May 8 to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion. Everyone was excited and full of energy. Family and friends were so proud as they watched the children walk down the aisle at exactly 10:30 a.m. The First Communicants sat with their parents and participated well throughout the Mass. Each Communicant was presented by their parents to Monsignor McGuirl before they received their First Communion. Big smiles on everyone's faces filled the church. The children were so happy and truly honored.

Congratulations and God bless our First Communicants.



CCD May Crowning

By Sr. Ann Barbara DeSiano

Our Public School students celebrated their annual May Crowning on May 12 at 3:00 p.m., attended by the entire CCD student body.

Here Abigale Dillingham and Ezekiel Rodriguez stand in front of the statue of Mary at the completion of the ceremony.



Third Grade Cubs from Pack 349 Do Well at NYC Regional Robotics Competition

By John Lewandowski

On Sunday, March 14, John Joseph Lewandowski III, Ethan Ngai and Ethan Tsou of "Planetary Forces" placed ninth out of 80 teams in robotic points at the NYC Regional Robotics Competition for 9 to 14-year-olds. This was held at the Jacob Javits Convention Center. "Robo Squad," also from the Forest Hills Lego Club, placed seventh in overall scoring of research, robotics points and technical design.

At the high school level, The Mary Louis Academy, partnering with Bronx Science, won first place and advanced to the Nationals in Atlanta. Congratulations and see you in September!

Around the Parish

Thanks to All the Volunteers!

By Linda Shookster

On Sunday, April 27, the rainy gloom was brightened by a Parish Hall decorated with pink flowers and tablecloths. After the Noon Mass, the Ad Hoc Committee set up lunch for all who had volunteered in some capacity at OLM during the preceding year.

Rubi Macauley had made a wonderful Power Point presentation in synch with the song "What a Difference a Day Makes" from photos on the Mirror Picasa Site. It runs through photos of different parish projects and volunteers. It can be viewed on You Tube by searching Our Lady of Mercy Parish Volunteers 2009.

A lovely wine and cheese appetizer table, with egg and tuna salads from Continental Deli, whetted everyone's appetite. A buffet table laden with deli sandwiches and salads from Frank's Deli came next. A beautiful cake and pastries followed, served by the Ad Hoc members themselves.

Two seminarians, Raymond Flores and Paul Kim, who had spoken about their vocations at the morning Masses, were rewarded for their gigs with free lunch.

Kudos to the Ad Hoc Committee for another successful event, and many thanks to all the parishioners who help make OLM a vibrant parish!

One of the parish's most helpful families- the Lees!



L to R: Visiting Seminarians Paul Kim and Raymond Flores.

Atlas Smiled

By Robert W. Meditz

Atlas, of Greek mythology, carried the celestial universe on his shoulders. On the weekend of April 24 and 25, the Atlas Terminals parking lot carried 34 of our Cub Scouts and Brownies, along with their bikes, on our annual Scout Bicycle Rodeo and Derby.

Born of cooperation rather than conflict, this event seeks to ensure a safe riding season for all participants. Prior to the event, Max Dall'Orso of Spokesman Cycles at The Shops at Atlas Park spoke to the Cub Scouts about bicycle safety and maintenance. On the day of the event, Max and his staff again volunteered their time and expertise to check all the bicycles for road worthiness. This was followed by a check of helmet fit; needless to say no one was allowed to ride without a properly fitting helmet. Then onto several laps on the skills course designed by AAA to improve bicycle handling and maneuvering. Finally for the big event: two timed laps on the course. The competition was fierce but friendly, with shouts of encouragement for all the riders. The Cubs required a run-off for a three-way tie for second, the Brownies for a two-way tie for second. Although all the participants gained from the event, the victors with regard to timed accuracy are:

Cub Scouts

1. Sebastian Rodriguez
2. Samuel Bauer
3. Gabriel Yengle
4. Ethan Ngai
5. John Dean Galinski

Brownies

1. Klara Treitmeier Meditz
2. Kristen Mardenbrough
3. Pamela Smolenski
4. Laura Walter
5. Caitlin Murphy.

A very special note of appreciation to Max and everyone at Spokesman Cycles for their ongoing support of our Scouts. Additional thanks go to all our Cub Scout parent volunteers who also stayed to help with the Brownies, along with Josh Popow of Atlas Terminals/ATCO Advisory for the use of their parking lot, and Elka Anstey of The Shops at Atlas Park. Think globally, act locally.

Shroud of Turin: Where Religion and Particle Physics Meet?

By Linda Shookster

The famous Shroud of Turin was on display from April 10 to May 23 at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Turin, Italy. This was only the fifth public exposition since 1898. Pope Benedict viewed it on May 2.

The shroud was originally found in Edessa, now Urfa, a small city in southeast Turkey, in 544 AD. It was then transferred to Constantinople in 944, then taken by Crusaders in 1204. It is not clear how it subsequently reached Turin.

A folded burial cloth bearing an image, believed to be of Jesus, was found above a gate in the city's walls. The cloth is 14 feet long and three and one-half feet wide. It bears the full-body, back and front, images of a crucified man. A textile restorer, Mechthild Flury-Lemberg, announced in 2002 that the stitching found in the shroud had been seen in material from only one other source: the ruins of Masada, a Jewish settlement destroyed in A.D. 74. The herringbone weave was common in the First Century, but rare in Middle Ages. In 2005, it was learned that the previous carbon dating of the shroud had been taken from a patch sewn by nuns in the Middle Ages, when a fire had burned a part of the cloth. The actual shroud is about 2000 years old.

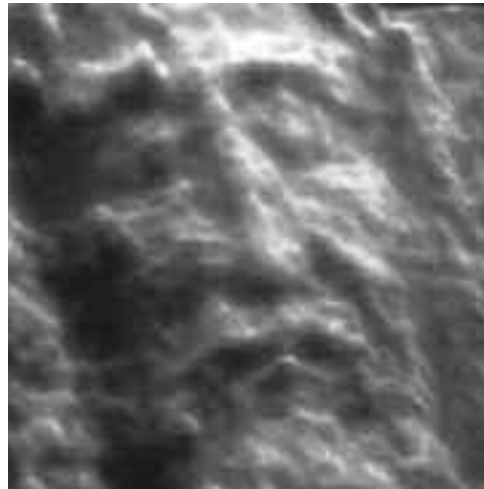
On the shroud are stains of human blood as well as an image of a man crucified in just the manner as the description given of Jesus' crucifixion in the Gospels. The shroud depicts a bearded man about five feet six inches tall. He was dead less than four days, with no evidence of decomposition. There is the spear wound in the left side, as well as blood stains corresponding to a crown of thorns. There are blood stains in the wrist areas, and both hands are visible without thumbs being seen. This is due to the location of nails being placed in the wrists, not the palms, during Roman crucifixions. Due to median nerve irritation,

the thumbs reflexively turn inward.

But it's how the image was produced that is a quality unique to this shroud. When the shroud was displayed in Turin in 1898, photographer Secondo Pia took some photos. He noticed a very strange thing: his negative plates depicted a positive image, indicating that the image on the shroud is actually a negative! This makes it unlikely that the image was a forgery, as negative images were not used in art during the past 2000 years.

Physicists have studied how this image was formed.

According to Kevin Moran, a technology specialist with Kodak, the image seemed to be caused by "a quantum event where a finite amount of energy transferred quickly. It is suggested that the image was formed when a high-energy particle struck the fiber and released radiation within the fiber at a speed greater than the local speed of light. Since the fiber acts as a light pipe, this energy moved out through the fiber until it encountered an optical discontinuity, then it slowed to the local speed of light and dispersed." At present, information about particles traveling faster than the speed of light are limited to hypotheses in quantum mechanics.



3-D image of the face on the shroud.

When analyzed with a VP-8 computer analyzer, the image on the shroud produces a 3-dimensional "relief" image as if viewing a topographical map of a human. In general, two-dimensional images such as paintings, photos, and drawings are incapable of producing 3-D effects.

Was the image caused by the Resurrection? Maybe. Perhaps the shroud actually shows us the molecular tracks of a body being raised from the dead! Wouldn't that be amazing?

For more information, see www.shroud.com and <http://shroudstory.com>. For all of this information and more in the form of an engrossing novel, read "The Shroud Codex" by Jerome R. Corsi.

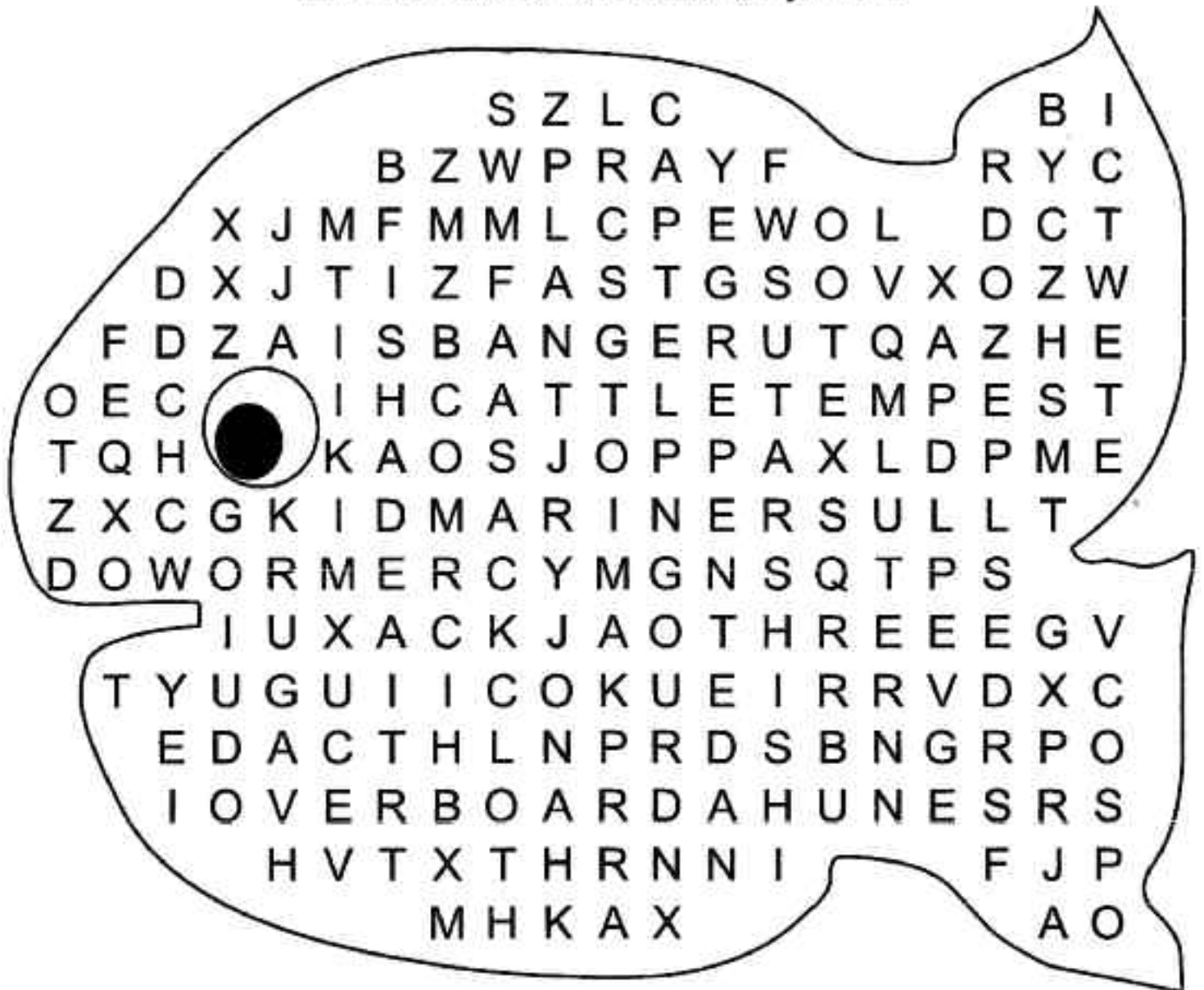
JUNE 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR 7:00pm Cub Scouts – LCH 7:30pm Parish Cookbook Meeting – RMR	2 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C 7:30pm Yoga Class – S	3	4 6:00pm Movie Night – LCH	5 5:00pm Mass, Procession & Reception for Corpus Christi – C & LCH
6 Second Collection – Religious Retirement	7 7:30pm Confirmation Service Mass – C 7:30pm Scripture Study Group – RMR	8 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR 2:30pm School Garden Club – S 7:00pm Cub Scouts – LCH	9 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C 7:30pm Yoga Class – S	10	11	12 6:30pm Line Dancing – LCH
13 10:00am Graduation Mass – C	14 7:30pm Scripture Study Group – RMR	15 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR 7:00pm Cub Scouts – LCH	16 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C 7:30pm Yoga Class – S	17 7:00pm Cub Scout Planning Meeting - LCH 7:30pm Book Club Meeting – CMR 7:30pm Baptism Meeting - RMR	18 3:00pm to 11:00pm Cub Scout Blue & Gold Dinner – LCH 7:00pm Graduation Ceremony – C	19 1:00pm Baptisms – C
20	21 7:30pm Scripture Study Group – RMR	22 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR	23 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C 7:30pm Yoga Class – S	24	25 Last Day of School	26 6:30pm Filipino Mass & Social – C & LCH
27 Second Collection – Peter's Pence 6:00pm Teen Mass – C 7:00pm Teen Club Meeting - LCH	28 7:30pm Scripture Study Group – RMR	29 9:00am Prayer Group – RMR	30 12:00pm Golden Age Club – LCH 7:30pm Divine Mercy - C			

C = Church CMR = Convent Meeting Room LCH = Lower Church Hall RMR = Rectory Meeting Room S = School

Jonah and the Big Fish

Find the words hidden in the puzzle.



ANGER
CATTLE
FAST
FISH
GOURD

JONAH
JOPPA
MARINERS
MERCY
OVERBOARD

PLANT
PRAY
REPENTED
SACKCLOTH
SHADE

TARSHISH
TEMPEST
THREE
WORM