

10 September 2017
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH

MASSES: SAT: 5:00 PM; SUN: 8:00, 10:00 AM; 12:00, 4:00 PM; DAILY: 9:00 AM
CONFESSIONS: MON-SAT: 8:30 AM; SAT: 4:00-4:45 PM

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SUICIDE: REDEEMING THE MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Today is our national day of prayer for the prevention of suicide. The distinguished Catholic writer, Ron Rolheiser OMI, has written the following to help us understand suicide.

Msgr. Mike

One year ago, virtually everyone who knew him was stunned by the suicide death of the most prominent American Hispanic theologian that we have produced up to now, Virgilio Elizondo. Moreover, Virgil wasn't just a very gifted, pioneering theologian, he was also a beloved priest and a warm, trusted friend to countless people. Everyone dies, and the death of a loved one is always hard, but it was the manner of his death that left so many people stunned and confused. Suicide! But he was such a faith-filled, sensitive man. How could this be possible?

And those questions, like the muddy waters of a flood, immediately began to seep into other emotional crevices, leaving most everyone who knew him with a huge, gnawing question: What does this do his work, to the gift that he left to the church and to the Hispanic community? Can we still honor his life and his contribution in the same way as we would have had he died of a heart attack or cancer? Indeed, had he died of a heart attack or cancer, his death, though sad, would undoubtedly have had about it an air of healthy closure, even of celebration, that we were saying farewell to a great man we had had the privilege to know, as opposed to the air of hush, unhealthy quiet, and unclean grief that permeated the air at his funeral.

Sadly, and this is generally the case when anyone dies by suicide, the manner of that death becomes a prism through which his or her life and work are now seen, colored, and permanently tainted. It shouldn't be so, and it's incumbent on us, the living who love them, to redeem their memories, to not take their photos off our walls, to not speak in guarded terms about their deaths, and to not let the particular manner of their deaths color and taint the goodness of their lives. Suicide is the least glamorous and most misunderstood of all deaths. We owe it to our loved ones, and to ourselves, to not further compound a tragedy.

So each year I write a column on suicide, hoping it might help produce more understanding around the issue and, in a small way perhaps, offer some consolation to those who have lost a loved one in this way. Es-

entially, I say the same things each year because they need to be said. As Margaret Atwood once put it, some things need to be said and said and said again, until they don't need to be said any more. Some things need still to be said about suicide.

What things? What needs to be said, and said again and again about suicide? For the sake of clarity, let me number the points:

1. First, in most cases, suicide is the result of a disease, a sickness, an illness, a tragic breakdown within the emotional immune system or simply a mortal biochemical illness.
 2. For most suicides, the person dies, as does the victim of any terminal illness or fatal accident, not by his or her own choice. When people die from heart attacks, strokes, cancer, and accidents, they die against their will. The same is true in suicide.
 3. We should not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of a suicide victim, believing (as we used to) that suicide is the ultimate act of despair. God's hands are infinitely more understanding and gentler than our own. We need not worry about the fate of anyone, no matter the cause of death, who leaves this world honest, over-sensitive, over-wrought, too bruised to touch, and emotionally-crushed, as is the case with most suicides. God's understanding and compassion exceed our own. God isn't stupid.
 4. We should not unduly second-guess ourselves when we lose a loved one to suicide: *What might I have done? Where did I let this person down? What if? If only I'd been there at the right time!* Rarely would this have made a difference. Most of the time, we weren't there for the very reason that the person who fell victim to this disease did not want us to be there. He or she picked the moment, the spot, and the means precisely so we wouldn't be there. Suicide seems to be a disease that picks its victim precisely in such a way so as to exclude others and their attentiveness. This is not an excuse for insensitivity, but is a healthy check against false guilt and fruitless second-guessing. Suicide is a result of sickness and there are some sicknesses which all the love and care in the world cannot cure.
- Finally, it's incumbent upon us, the loved ones who remain here, to redeem the memory of those who die in this way so as to not let the particular manner of their deaths become a false prism through which their lives are now seen. A good person is a good person and a sad death does not change that. Nor should a misunderstanding.

Ron Rolheiser OMI

Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us for a fabulous Pancake Breakfast in the parish hall on Sunday, September 24th following the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. masses. Our Knights will serve their world famous homemade buttermilk pancakes along with eggs, sausage and more. The suggested donation is \$6 per person or \$20 per family. A delicious meal for you helps to support local families and charities.

MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

All interested Catholic men are invited to attend our Council meetings. We typically meet the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 2, 2017. For additional information, please contact J. Jones at 562.936.0164.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

WOMEN'S GUILD

SALAD SUPPER

All women of the parish are invited to the Women's Guild annual Salad Supper on Monday, Sept. 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the parish hall. All salad and toppings will be provided! You may bring dessert or drinks if desired. Sign-ups begin this weekend after all masses.

MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

General meetings are usually the 4th Monday of each month in the parish hall. To support our ministries and speakers as a member, please contact Joanne Groustra at 562-296-8705 or Lorraine Fiori at 562-296-5163.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED

St. Anne needs volunteers, ages 10 years through adult, to altar serve at all masses! No experience is needed, training will be provided. In addition to the training, there will be many opportunities to shadow an experienced server.

Typically an altar server schedule for masses is compiled every three months with accommodations made to fit busy schedules. For more information, call 562-431-0721 ext. 16, or email faithformation@stannesealbeach.org.

DONATIONS

If you would like to lend your support to our Life, Peace and Justice ministry, please consider donating tampons for less fortunate women. If you prefer, you may donate money by placing it in an envelope clearly marked Life, Peace & Justice and drop it through the mail slot in the parish center front door or in the collection basket at mass.



OUR MISSION:

Saint Anne Church exists to help us become disciples of Jesus Christ who connect with God, grow in faith, and serve in love.

PARISH PAY / WE SHARE

In February Parish Pay (St. Anne's online giving company) was sold to Liturgical Publications (LPi), a Catholic stewardship and communications company. On October 9th, Liturgical Publications will assume all enrollment agreements from Parish Pay. St. Anne will be working with LPi to make this transition as smooth as possible for our IOI families currently using our online donation system. Each enrolled family will receive all the new information necessary to continue online giving with LPi. In the meantime, if you need to make any changes, such as credit card information, etc. to your Parish Pay account, please call LPi at 800-950-9952, ext. 2002. They are open 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be happy to assist you! They already have access to our Parish Pay accounts enabling seamless changes.

New families wishing to begin online giving will be given the LPi information when it becomes available later this month. Please call the parish office if you have any questions.

NEW TOWER DOME

From September 18th—30th, St. Anne's front entrance will be surrounded by scaffolding while a new dome is being built on the tower. The current dome has a large crack which enables rain and moisture to penetrate the floor of the tower and make its way down walls by the confessional into the church. Please use caution when walking around the scaffolding.

FAITH FORMATION

This first day of classes for all children enrolled in our Faith formation classes are this week.

PreK and Kindergarten—Sunday, Sept. 10—10:00 a.m.

Grades 6-7-8—Monday, September 11—4:00 p.m.

Grades 1-5—Tuesday, September 12—3:00 p.m.

There are mandatory parent meetings for grades 1-8 during class time on Monday and Tuesday.

Parents still wishing to enroll their child in one of our classes should call 562-431-0721 ext. 16, or email faithformation@stannesealbeach.org.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

9/11 For the Country
 9/12 Margo Lazzari
 9/13 † Lucille and Richard Hirsch
 9/14 † Mary Nickel
 9/15 † Albert Dinger
 9/16 Larry and Lisi Cave
 († Rest in God's love and peace)



PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fr. Bob Vidal, Katia Bergstrom, Juanita Kho, Brenda Malloy, Ed Palacol, Kathleen Kastner, Kathy Purcell, Aurora Lavadia, Mike Pendleton, Jerome Gendron, Jean Ramirez, Julia Poirier, Jim & Julie Ferguson, Mary Maskell, Msgr. Mike, Roy Roudine, Rosemary Hirsch

Around Our Diocese

MAGNIFICAT PRAYER BREAKFAST

Magnificat Prayer Breakfast presents author and dynamic speaker, Deacon Steve Greco, "You are the Light of the World. A City Set on a Hill Cannot be Hidden." All are invited to attend this inspiring testimony revealing Deacon Steve's tremendous zeal for souls and his deep relationship with Jesus Christ on Saturday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites Anaheim—South, in Garden Grove. Registration by mail must be postmarked by Sept. 11. Please contact Anne at 714-420-5482 or visit www.magnificat-ministry.net for a flyer and registration information.

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Men interested in Diocesan Priesthood are invited to attend the next Priesthood Discernment evening on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose is to familiarize interested men with the life, prayer, and possible call to Priesthood in the Diocese of Orange. There is no commitment. The meeting will be held at the Diocese of Orange Pastoral Center, 1st floor, room 1D on Christ Cathedral Campus. Questions? Call Rev. John Moneypenny at 714-282-3036 or email him at fr.jmoneypenny@rcbo.org.

BISHOPS' CLASSIC GOLF

The 19th annual Bishops' Classic Golf Tournament will be held on Tuesday, October 17th at Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club. Reservations are now being accepted for the 12:00 p.m. tee-off and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Proceeds from this event benefit the Children at Risk Program. For more information, contact Alba at 714-347-9668.