

The Suffering of Jesus Is Visible In Pain People Endure Today

By REVEREND MONSIGNOR WILLIAM C. HARMS

Our Labor Day celebration was early this year. Many in our community may not have enjoyed the holiday, in that they are unemployed. The children are unnerved because school begins a few days earlier. School is a necessary element of life; unemployment is not.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus of Nazareth was executed. Dying on the cross, Jesus took upon himself all our sins, and all our sufferings. His historical passion has been accomplished, but it still continues today in his members.

Jesus Christ continues to suffer in and through every person who suffers. In this sense, it can be said his Way of the Cross is not yet finished.

Jesus died a victim of our sins. Because we sin, Jesus was crucified. We, too, are victims of our sins. God does not punish us because of our faults. We punish ourselves, individually and collectively, this is a fact.

Great problems in our world, such as war, people's inhumanity to fellow humans, yes, unemployment and so forth, in one way or another are the consequences of the collective sin of humankind.

God does not turn stones into bread, but he does give his Word. Strengthened by this Word, we must help the victims of sin, and work to eliminate the causes of so much suffering.

Lord, you must be tired tonight, because you stood in line for a long time at the unemployment office. Humiliation is a tough pill to swallow.

Baptist Church to Host Speaker on Program For Girls and Women

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Baptist Church Women's Ministry and Christian Education Division will host Janet Moser, Chairwoman of the American Baptist Girls of New Jersey, on Monday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Baptist Church, located at 333 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains.

Mrs. Moser will speak about a program for girls and young women, ages eight to 25, designed to help them grow in their relationship with God, develop leadership qualities and learn to serve others. The program is divided into different age groups.

American Baptist Girls is a division of the American Baptist Women's Ministry.

The program is open to all girls in the local area and women who may be interested in the organization for their daughters. Refreshments will be served. For directions, please call the church at (908) 322-5487.

Open Mic Night Slated At Unitarian Church

SUMMIT — The Unitarian Church in Summit, located at 4 Waldron Avenue, has announced that the Second Saturdays Coffee House will return on September 13 with its first open mic night of the season.

This format enables both neophytes and seasoned performers to practice material and showcase their talents. Performers have included folk singers, rock and roll artists, Broadway-style singers, poets and comedians.

Desserts and coffee will be available. Performers may sign up beginning at 7:30 p.m. The show starts at 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Admission is \$4.

For information or directions, please call (908) 928-0127, email info@secondsaturndays.org or visit www.secondsaturndays.org.

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low. So many hurtful remarks were thrown your way. Tomorrow your unemployment benefits run out.

Lord, how you must be suffering this evening. I know it was you. You told me so in your Gospel. I was naked, a stranger, sick, in prison, unemployed. I know it is you, but I forgot.

Lord, your Way of the Cross is so long. I thought it was finished. I thought you brought it to completion years ago. The Way of the Cross of your sisters and brothers is long, very long, and with them and through them you continue to be exploited, humiliated, rejected, stripped, imprisoned, tortured, heart and body shattered.

I want to be Simon of Cyrene on the Way of the Cross of today's men and women. I have recognized your death. I am called to recognize the suffering of my brothers and sisters who live with me today. I need to see you, Lord, in all those around me.

Thank you, Lord, because it is you in the unemployed. It is you speaking to me today. It is you I encounter in those around me.

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, he will sit in state on his throne, with all the nations gathered before him. He will separate men into two groups, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right hand, 'You have my Father's blessing; come, enter and possess the kingdom that has been ready for you since the world was made. For when I was hungry, you gave me food; when thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was a stranger, you took me into your home, when naked you clothed me; when I was ill, you came to my help, when in prison you visited me.'

"Then the righteous will reply, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and gave you drink, a stranger and took you home, or naked and clothed you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and come to visit you? And the king will answer, 'I tell you this: anything you did for one of my brothers here, however humble, you did for me.'"

(Matthew 25:31-40)

At all times, we carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus, so that his life also may be seen in our bodies. (2 Corinthians 4:10)

Help to carry one another's burdens, and in this way, you will obey the laws of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

Reverend Monsignor Harms is Pastor of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, located at 1600 Rahway Avenue in Westfield.

First Baptist to Hold Family Camping Trip

WESTFIELD — Members of the First Baptist Church of Westfield will participate in a Family Camping Trip to Stokes State Park in Branchville from Friday evening, September 5, through the morning of Sunday, September 7.

During this second annual event, participants will sleep in tents and eat family style, with each family providing one of the meals.

Campers will have an opportunity to enjoy hikes, games and campfires together at the park, which has modern restroom facilities.

Optional activities include canoeing or kayaking (\$33 per person) and visiting the Space Farm Zoo (\$8.95 for adults and \$4.50 for children). The cost for camping is \$5 per person, with a maximum of \$20 per family.

Interested individuals are asked to call the Reverend Jeremy Montgomery at the church office at (908) 233-2278.



CARING FOR KIDS...Members of the Ladies Philoptochos Society of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Westfield present a check for \$3,000 to representatives of Saint Barnabas Medical Center for The Valerie Fund center. Pictured, left to right, are: Pam Holland with her daughter, Charlotte, a patient at The Valerie Fund center; Ellen Hickman, a Society member and Co-Chairwoman of its recent spring fashion show; Dyane McMahon, Executive Director of The Valerie Fund; Phyllis Verenes, a Society member and fashion show Co-Chairwoman; Dr. Anne Nepo, Medical Director of The Valerie Fund Center at Saint Barnabas, and Dr. Cynthia Gonzales, a center physician.

Philoptochos Society Gives Donation to Valerie Fund

WESTFIELD — The Ladies Philoptochos Society of Westfield's Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church recently hosted its "Accent On Spring" fashion show.

From proceeds raised through its

First Baptist Singles Post Meeting Dates

WESTFIELD — Widowed, divorced or never-married individuals are invited to join their peers on Sunday mornings at the First Baptist Church of Westfield, located at 170 Elm Street, for coffee, cake and discussions on single living.

Meetings begin at 9 a.m. and are held in the lower level meeting room. The meeting dates for this month are September 7, 14, 21 and 28. A \$2 donation is requested and all are welcome.

Group members also participate in winter movie nights, summer picnics and holiday get-togethers, among other activities. For more information, please call (908) 889-5265 or (908) 889-4751.

grand raffle, the Society donated \$3,000 to The Valerie Fund, to support the Fund's children's center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston.

The center provides comprehensive treatment for children with cancer and blood disorders, including a local child whose family are members of the Holy Trinity Church.

The Valerie Fund was established in 1976 as a not-for-profit organization in New Jersey, in memory of nine-year-old Valerie Goldstein, a Warren youngster who died of cancer.

The Fund's mission is to support comprehensive medical care for children with cancer and blood disorders, and is dedicated to making quality outpatient care available close to a child's home.

Currently, the Valerie Fund has eight children's centers in the tri-state area. For more information on The Valerie Fund, including upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and how to make a donation, please visit www.thevaleriefund.org on the Internet or call (973) 761-0422.

Holocaust Survivor to Share Experiences With NCJW

COUNTY — The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Union County Section, has invited members, friends and guests to its opening meeting on Wednesday, September 10, at 7:30 p.m. at the YM-YWHA on Green Lane in Union.

The meeting will feature long-time member Clara Kramer, who will present a video performance of "Clara's Diary," a first-hand account of her experience while being protected by "righteous Christians" in a bunker with her family and other Polish Jews during World War II.

A Holocaust survivor, she and her husband, Sol, are active with the Jew-

ish Federation of Central New Jersey and the Jewish Family Service Agency of Union County. Mrs. Kramer is also Chairwoman of the Holocaust Education Program at Kean University.

Dessert will be served and there will be time for questions from those in attendance.

Admission is free and all are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items which will be donated to the Jewish Family Service Food Pantry of Union County and the "Yes We Care Soup Kitchen." For further information and to respond, please call (908) 352-1207 or (908) 233-4878.

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The High Holidays are just around the corner—wouldn't you like to celebrate them as part of a congregation?

Rosh Hashanah starts at sundown on September 26, and Yom Kippur starts at sundown on October 5.

For 90 years, Temple Sholom has been practicing Reform Judaism in Union County. This year we are delighted to be celebrating our first High Holidays in our new transitional space in Fanwood.

The best way to choose a congregation is to spend time with its members. To help you make an informed decision, we welcome you to join us any Friday night for Shabbat services. Also, we're inviting prospective members to join us for dinner, services, and a festive Oneg Shabbat on Friday, September 12. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., with services starting at 8:00 p.m.

For reservations or more information, please call us at 908-889-4900, or e-mail us at sholom@sholomnj.org.

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WTC Survivor to Present Talk at Evangel Church

SCOTCH PLAINS — Sujo John, a New Yorker who survived the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, will share his story on Sunday, September 28, at 6 p.m. at the Evangel Church in Scotch Plains.

He was on the 81st floor of Tower One when the first airliner exploded into flames just two floors above his office. Mr. John, whose wife's office

was in Tower Two, will recount the details of the incredible events he witnessed during his narrow escape from death.

This event is free and open to the public. The Evangel Church is located at 1251 Terrill Road in Scotch Plains. For more information on this event, please call the Reverend Dr. Kevin Brennan at (908) 322-9300.

The Arc of Union County Sets Self-Advocacy Conference

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Self-Advocates of the Arc of Union County will hold "The Conference of Many Faces" on Saturday, September 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Self-Advocacy Center at the Scotch Plains Opps, located at 849 Jerusalem Road in Scotch Plains.

The day will begin with registration and continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by the welcome and introduction at 9 a.m., session A workshops from 10 to 10:45 a.m. and session B workshops from 11 to 11:45 a.m.

Lunch will be from 12 to 12:45 p.m., followed by "What To Do in the Event of An Emergency" from 1 to 2 p.m. Awards and closing remarks will take place between 2 and 3 p.m.

Workshops offered during the conference will include "All About IHP," "Grief and Loss," "Nutritional Cooking," "Grooming," "Health and Fitness," "Leisure" and "Identity Quilt." For additional information, please call the Office of Quality Assurance

at (908) 754-6979 or visit www.arcunion.org. The registration fee is \$25 for members of The Arc and its residential facilities and \$30 for all others.

The price includes continental breakfast, a full lunch and conference materials. Payments may be mailed to The Arc of Union County, Attention: Department of Quality Assurance, 1225 South Avenue, Plainfield 07062 or via email to sdornfeld@arcunion.org.

Ketubah to Gather For Sunday Brunch

COUNTY — The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will meet for brunch on Sunday, September 7, at noon at the Kenilworth Inn, located at Boulevard and South 31st Street in Kenilworth.

The cost is \$12.95 per person, plus tax and gratuity. Non-members are welcome to attend. Interested individuals are asked to call Elaine at (908) 232-0062 by Friday, September 5.

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Celebrate National Assisted Living Week at The Chelsea at Fanwood September 8-13, 2003 "Sharing Life's Treasures"

Grandparent of the Year Essay Contest will end September 12, 2003. In 100 words or less tell us why you think your Grandparent deserves to be "Grandparent of the Year." Send essays to The Chelsea at Fanwood by September 11, 2003. Winner will receive a prize!

Monday, September 8, 2003 ~ **Art and History Day**

- 11:00am - Art Class with Carmela Cohen (Supplies provided by The Chelsea)
- 2:00pm - Fanwood Historical Society presents: History of Fanwood

Tuesday, September 9, 2003 ~ **Music Day**

- 2:00pm - Eranga and Prianga entertain with a program of international songs
- 3:15pm - Cocktail Hour

Wednesday, September 10, 2003 ~ **Health and Fitness Day**

- 11:00am - Tai Chi Class by Shu Hua Chao
- 2:00pm - Fall Prevention Lecture and Balance Screenings by Austin Rehab

Thursday, September 11, 2003 ~ **Day of Remembrance**

- 11:00am - Memorial Service/Flag Ceremony
- 7:00pm - Lecture on the History of the American Flag by Vexillologist Gerry McCavera

Friday, September 12, 2003 ~ **Love and Friendship Day**

- 11:00am - "The Very Creature of Excitement" The women Abraham Lincoln fell in love with and never fell out of. Take a closer look at the charming Mary Todd Lincoln with Actress/Storyteller Laurie MacDonnell-Gaulkey.
- 2:00pm - "True Love Stories" with Storyteller Fred Quinn
- 3:15pm - Cocktail Hour to announce Grandparent of the Year Essay Contest

Saturday, September 13, 2003 ~ **Nature Day**

- 2:00pm - Blueberries - New Jersey's Wonder Fruit. Come listen to Judith Krall-Russo for a fascinating lecture about this interesting fruit. Scones and other blueberry refreshments will follow.

Refreshments will be served each day at each presentation. All programs are Free and open to the public.

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