

October 27, 2013

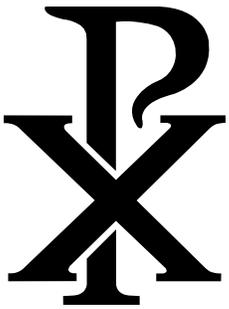


A VALIANT WOMAN

Last Wednesday night was a terrific evening for the Catholic Church on Long Island. The Dominican Sisters of Amityville had their annual Gala at the Garden City Hotel. The purpose of this celebration is to raise funds for the Sisters' many ministries and to honor special friends and honor the work of certain members of the congregation. This year Sherry and Paul Durnan of Rockville Centre were given the Veritas Award. The Durnans have been outstanding benefactors of the Catholic Church and particular friends of the Sisters. Three Dominican Sisters received the St. Catherine of Siena Award. They were Sister Joan Donovan, Sister Diane Morgan and Sister Anthony Therese Roncallo.

Even though the venue is rather fancy, the celebration was a simple, warm, family event—a real gathering of friends who knew the value of the extraordinary work of the Dominicans. There was nothing stuffy, no long boring speeches—but a real time to gather in faith and appreciation of some wonderful people who have done magnificent things for Christ and the Church. I attended because one of the honorees, Sister Anthony Therese, is an old friend of mine and someone with whom I have worked for many years. I thought I would tell you a little about her and some of the things she has accomplished.

Sister Anthony Therese is one of those people who possesses the gift of almost endless energy and vitality. She was that way when I first met her in 1979 and is still the same way. In 1979 she was a fourth grade teacher in Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Lindenhurst. I often visited her class and was continually impressed by the way her students knew the Catholic religion—some of them even tried to stump me! Sister came from a deeply religious family and was very attached to her parents and siblings—but even more she was attached to the Heart of God and spent her time in Lindenhurst spreading the love of God to everyone she possibly could. A superb teacher, she became the assistant principal and was always concerned with the welfare of each of her students and their families. Long after she left Lindenhurst, she kept in continual contact with so many of her former students and their parents. Finally she left



Our Lady of Perpetual Help and I asked her to join me at St. Matthew's in Dix Hills as a pastoral associate. There she worked untiringly with the Ministry of Consolation and formed a large club of Senior Citizens—the YES Group. In addition, she visited the sick, elderly, the forgotten and the poor. She was of tremendous help to me there when I was pastor and even helped me make converts. I conducted the ceremonies, but she led them into the Catholic Church by her kindness, good example and prayers.

The Dominicans honored her for so many reasons, but I think uppermost in their minds was the extraordinary works of charity she did with the victims of Hurricane Sandy. She was on a continual pilgrimage visiting homes, checking up on people, and giving all sorts of help—financial and spiritual—as they tried to rebuild their lives. She was Jesus to them—and still is. She has never forgotten them and still is visiting and performing the works of mercy that are so much a part of the Christian life.

Thank you, Sister Anthony Therese, for living your splendid vocation to be the Heart of Jesus and the Face of Our Blessed Lady to so many. You, the Durnans, Sister Joan and Sister Diane have lit up this Island with the light of Christ. St. Dominic must be so proud of you all.

In Jesus and Mary,



Monsignor James M. McDonald

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

The opportunity to be anointed with the Oil of the Sick will take place on Sunday, **October 27th** after the 12:00 noon Mass. All who wish to be anointed should gather in **Mary's transept** immediately after the Mass. If you are facing surgery, suffering from increased physical, mental, emotional illness or suffering from chronic pain, you should consider being anointed.



Both the first reading and today's Psalm say clearly that the Lord hears the cry of the poor. Have I been given the gifts—of time or money or abilities—to be the means by which God answers their need?

STEWARDSHIP COLLECTION

10/21/12	\$25,764
10/20/13	\$27,871 (+8.18%)

WORD MISSION COLLECTION

10/21/12	\$ 5,712
10/20/13	\$ 5,645 (-1.17%)

**This weekend's second collection is for the Catholic Ministries Appeal.
Thank you for your kind and generous support of our parish!**