



The ANGELUS

News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

Over 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

As you read this Labor Day prayer from our Lectionary, you're most likely in the throes of saying goodbye to summer and hello to the fast-approaching fall. Some of us are not ready to say goodbye to summer (me), while others cannot wait for the cooler weather, changing colors, apple cider and other Autumn nuance.

What a wonderful time of year this is. I recall at an earlier age, the trepidation and excitement of returning to school, reuniting with friends separated over summer. New things, exciting things. Stories to share. Stories to hear. And coming back to church on a more routine basis as we settle into our church/school calendar year.

Welcome Back Grace Church!

I look forward to seeing you in church.

God Bless,
Chip+



LOOKING BACKWARD

Grace Church History – 1987

There are many current Grace Church parishioners who lived through the historical events in 1987 that are described in this article and remember it all vividly. However, there are others who are more recent members of the parish who have never heard this important historical account.

Grace Church has a powerful history engaging and supporting our local community. It is good to look backward into history in order to appreciate fully what has led up to our Grace Church as we currently know and love it. Please read below a 1987 NY Times article relating developments and much needed building improvements made at Grace Church to meet our community's needs. The Rev. Peter Larom was our rector at that time.


1987 New York Times Article

THE Grace Episcopal Church has flourished - at least, most of the time - on a site at Church and Main Streets in White Plains, where it was built during the Civil War, when White Plains had only 1,500 residents. Since then, the old houses that once surrounded the church have given way to stores like Macys, across the street; those along Mamaroneck Avenue and in The Galleria, a block away; and to office buildings, like the 15-story Centro plex down the street. The church still looks like an English country church, but its ministry is geared to community action to help the urban oppressed. It operates two shelters for the homeless, a soup kitchen, a day-care center, a home-care program for the elderly, a job and language program for Hispanic residents and half a dozen other action programs. Its budget for these programs is \$1.5 million a year - five times the \$300,000 budget for regular parish activities.

Its minister, the Rev. Peter Larom, said the church was committed to stay in downtown White Plains. And if he and his parishioners have their way, the church will be even more surrounded by office buildings, at the same time getting a little more elbow room at ground level. The church has worked out an agreement to sell its air rights - the right to build above church property or to transfer the permitted amount of construction to another site - with a developer, Halpern Enterprises, in a complicated joint venture.

The result would be that the church would be almost enveloped in high-rise glass and concrete buildings, beside the church and over parts of it, in a \$100 million development plan. Halpern would build two office buildings, a 13-story structure on Main Street and an 11-story structure on Hamilton Avenue, linked by a parking structure for 1,084 cars. Part of the land owned by Halpern Enterprises is now occupied by the Public Safety Building, which would be taken down. The church would get back a strip of property on Main Street where its rectory stood from 1863 to the 1930's when the rectory was moved and the land was used for two small shops to help solve the church financial difficulties.

The shops, currently occupied by the Century Men and Boys Shop and Music Plus,



would be removed and the site turned into an open plaza, revealing the stone side wall and slate roof of the church. The plaza would provide an open space at the west end of Mamaroneck Avenue and would face a similar plaza at the corner of Mamaroneck Avenue and Main Street, creating about three-quarters of an acre of open space in that block. The plan has been presented by the church and Halpern Enterprises to the White Plains Common Council and the Planning Board. The Council is being asked to rezone 2.78 acres including the church property and the Halpern property, consisting of two parking lots, to make the land part of the city urban-renewal area, which would allow air rights to be transferred.


If the city approves, a process that would probably take several months, the church will then have to get the approval of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, its parent body, and of the New York State Supreme Court, which has jurisdiction over disposal of church property under the Religious Incorporation Act. The amount of money the church would receive depends on the zoning legislated by the city. The more office spaces allowed, the more money the church would get. The amount would be between \$1.5 and \$2.25 million, Father Larom said. The object of the proposal, from the church's point of view, is to get back its land and improve its Main Street aspect and at the same time to get the money to enlarge the various rooms where its Outreach programs are held and to renovate its kitchen.

The plans are somewhat like those at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church on Park Avenue in Manhattan, where the parish has been bitterly divided over a proposal to sell part of its land to a developer to pay for programs that help the public.

But Father Larom said he thought he had avoided that kind of divisiveness, because the development committee and the church vestry have been involved in the planning from the beginning, and it has been discussed at two yearly church meetings, most recently on Dec. 6 Halpern Enterprises had originally planned to build on its own property and asked Father Larom, in 1985, if the church would consider selling the sites the stores occupy. The stores have long-term leases that will end in 11 years. The Halpern organization will buy out those leases under this proposal.

Father Larom, who is 41 years old and had just taken over the church, had returned to this country after being a missionary and relief director for five years in Uganda and the Sudan. He was fascinated, he said, with his new church, which dated back long before the building was erected in 1864. The parish was formed in 1724 as an extension of a church in Rye named Grace Church, a name since changed to Christ Church. The White Plains Grace Church became a grandmother church, by forming parishes in several other Westchester communities, including Armonk and Pleasantville. All were Anglo-Catholic, also known as High-Church Episcopal.

The White Plains church had become ethnically mixed by the time Father Larom took over, and now its 600 members are evenly divided - about one-third each white, black and Hispanic. During the 1960's, there had been offers to buy the church as part of the city urban-renewal program, but the church rejected them. When Halpern Enterprises offered to buy the stores belonging to the church, Father Larom again said no. I said the stores were not for sale, but I would consider merging the land if the developer would take down the stores and open a plaza, he said. I know something about building. I had built buildings in Uganda. We renovated a 1912



Victorian school and built two dormitories and two houses. The church wants the plaza so that its appearance can be enhanced.

He said that Halpern could build on its own site anyway, without cooperation from the church, but that this arrangement would benefit both Halpern and the church. It would even include new parking for the churchgoers, in the structure connected to the office building, which would be largely unused on weekends. The church would gain more room with the creation of the plaza. The church is bursting with activity, but it is also bursting at the seams. It has a shelter for 14 people on one floor, which is scheduled for expansion regardless of what happens on the proposal with Halpern Enterprises; a second shelter downstairs for 19 people: a soup kitchen that serves 10,000 meals a month; day care for 3- and 4-year-olds in three small upstairs rooms; a workshop where the homeless do small assembly jobs for factories, and offices for various other activities tucked here and there throughout the building.

Not much money would be left over from the sale of the store property, once improvements were made to the church, according to Father Larom. In fact, it will be a wash, financially, between cooperating with Halpern Enterprises and doing nothing, he said. Without the agreement, the church could wait 11 years until the leases on the land run out and then take over the buildings and earn the rent from the buildings instead of only from the land. That, however, would mean no plaza, and it would mean postponing improvements to the church. The church owns the land and has income from the stores, which are owned by Saards Inc. of White Plains. If all the approvals are received, the project would be built in two phases over five years. While the work is going on, the church would have to find space in other parts of the city to carry on its programs, Father Larom said.

- Taken from the original article from December 27, 1987, NY Times

LOOKING FORWARD

We are now coping with a very different challenge which impacts not only our own local church and community but the entire world as we learn to live with the Covid virus around us. We can be certain that challenges that we cannot even now imagine will continue to arise as we go forward. This article has illustrated how Grace Church was ready to step out in faith to meet their challenges in 1987. This is a hopeful message right now as we cope with the pandemic and look ahead to the future.



Well Done Good and Faithful Servants

Remarks Given at the Celebration Service

By Rev. Adolfo Moronta

Today we give thanks for the lives and ministries of two members of our parish family – Taurino and Michael. Both are leaving to take up the next phases of their lives. This is a beautiful occasion, but one that is also bittersweet. It's beautiful because we celebrate two brothers in Christ who have shown their love to us through years of faithful service. It's bittersweet because we are saying farewell to dear friends. My task today is to speak of two faithful servants who exemplify these qualities – Taurino and Michael.

TAURINO –

Among the Words that describe you best are: knowledgeable, reliable, dedicated, experienced, caring, creative, hardworking and involved. Every parish needs a Taurino and we are so thankful that we have had you here with us.

Few people are as dedicated and reliable as you. Thank you for all your hard work. You've been an important part of this church for 33 years. You helped us with our building and you were always finding solutions that only you could so the church could save money.

Every Sunday, when we come to worship Taurino has the church open, lights are on, the heat or the air conditioner is on, the bathrooms are cleaned, coffee hour is set up, Sunday School classroom are ready; these are things that perhaps go by unnoticed, but they are also an important part of the set up that goes on and that allows us to gather together every Sunday as a worshipping community.


Taurino was also a close collaborator of the God in Action Food Alliance, especially at its beginnings. He would usually help us with the set up, and when we began to use our worshipping space as a sitting/waiting area he would disinfect the building so we all could be safe when we came for any church activity. In addition to Sunday services, Taurino was always someone La Gracia could count on to help us with the set up and the organization of our largest celebrations such as the Virgin of Guadalupe festivity.

Here you baptized all of your children and as they grew up we later saw them as acolytes serving in our Sunday service. It's sad to see you go. But we wish you nothing but happiness and well-being in the future life that you will share between this country and Mexico.

MICHAEL –

Among the words that describe you best are: kind, generous, hardworking, multitasker, involved, great leader, creative, caring, humble, motivated, consistent, accountable, dependable, committed, optimistic, loyal, achiever, persistent and friendly; that is why every parish needs a Michael and we are so thankful that we have had you here with us.

You have left a lasting mark on this parish for over 30 years. You have served as a Vestry Warden, Sunday School Teacher, Usher, Photographer, you have been part of the Stewardship committee, a Trustee on the board of Downtown Music, the board of Lifting Up Westchester, you've been a grant writer for the church,



an Advocacy leader, manager of our website, and helped in the soup kitchen during holidays . And now you are going to initiate the studies to be a priest. What a Journey!

Michael was one of the persons who interviewed me when I applied for the position of Associate Priest in this parish. I remember that day he told me: “If you come to NY you are going to make a career for yourself, good things are going to happen,” and I am so glad that I listened to your advice.

I feel privileged that God chose both of us in combination with many volunteers, to help thousands of people through the God in Action, Food Alliance, a ministry that emerged out of the necessities that came about in the community during the COVID crisis. It’s a ministry that now has extended itself to create a lasting legacy through the youth- initiated Caring Cupboard.

Your approach and perspective to challenges is something that can never be replaced. You helped us through some difficult times and we will forever be grateful to you. Some people are content with standing still, while others feed off new challenges. You are one of those. You love a new challenge, and your passion will take you far. Just as you told me one day and I quote:

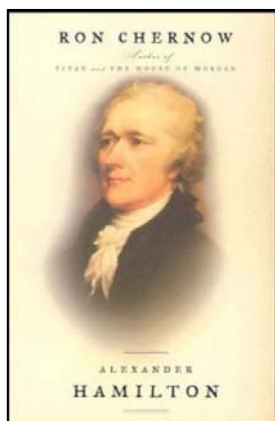
”Using my talents to make a difference is all that has really mattered, never forgetting that it is in giving that we receive.” We wish you great things on your journey. I personally want to say Thank you Michael for all your help and support towards my ministry in these almost 5 years at Grace / La Gracia.

Michael, in the past year and a half we have grown close, you have become a close friend, someone who I talk to frequently, and someone who I have turned to many times for advice. I feel more blessed that you are not only my friend, but also my brother in Christ.

Both of these men have different talents and they have used them to make Grace/ La Gracia a better place. As I said earlier, this is a bittersweet day. We feel the loss of two individuals who have been so central to the life of Grace Church, but we celebrate with them as they move on to the next stages of their lives. We will miss them, but as we honor them, we also thank God for bringing them to us. Their lives are a reminder of what can happen when talents are used wisely and faithfully.

So – I want us all to give them a standing ovation as we say:
Well Done – Good and Faithful Servants

Grace Church Book Club Update



Join us when the Book Club launches its 22nd season with a discussion of our ambitious summer read—**Alexander Hamilton**, the massive acclaimed biography by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Chernow. Although tackling this particular book over our summer break was a major undertaking, we followed our curiosity and decided to take a closer look at the best-seller that inspired Lin-Manuel Miranda to create the phenomenal, award-winning, and immensely popular Broadway musical *Hamilton*. **Discussion date and time to come!**

Watch this space for more details on our plans for another exciting season ahead. If you're interested in the Book Club, please contact Karen Odom (karenodom@yahoo.com).

Karen Odom

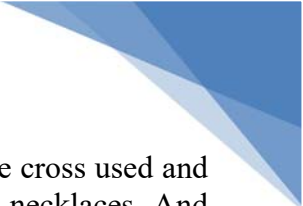
Holy Cross Day

On September 14th, the Anglican Communion maintains Holy Cross Day or the Feast of the Cross Day, recognizing the power, the significance and the sanctity of the Cross bearing our savior, Jesus Christ.

This Day is also known as the Exaltation of the Holy Cross or Holy Rood. This day commemorates three specific historical events: the finding of the cross by Saint Helena; the dedication of churches built by Constantine; and the restoration of the cross to Jerusalem in AD 629 by the Byzantine emperor.

In AD 327 Emperor Constantine excavated an area around the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, discovering the original wooden cross. The original cross of Jesus and the two crosses bearing the criminals crucified on each side, were also found. The feast demarking this event began in the 7th century AD. A major event concerning the cross occurred in 787 when the Council of Nicaea defined the difference between venerating the cross and worshipping the cross. Today, in our faith tradition, we venerate the cross and worship Jesus Christ, recognizing the holy and sacred sacrifice of our Lord and Savior on the cross.

As we receive this historical background regarding the celebration of the cross, we pose an important question, 'what does the cross mean to us in our faith'? Do we feel something as the crucifer walks past in the procession on Sunday? Do we get that special feeling when we look up to the high altar at Grace Church, becoming totally immersed in Jesus hanging on the Cross above?



For a moment, let us ponder the power of the cross. What does it mean to us? How is the cross used and seen in our society today? We see the cross everywhere. On t-shirts. On bracelets and necklaces. And when we see the cross, let it be a reminder of Jesus and his sacrifice for us – the ultimate gift and saving grace that we can never repay. Accept the cross. Live into the meaning of the cross. Amen.



VESTRY REPORT TO THE PARISH

The spring and summer of the Vestry has been quite a busy one. The vestry meets monthly to discuss both Grace and La Gracia activities.

Over the past several months, we have had the pleasure of having a consultant, Rev. Joanne Izzo, who has provided the vestry with the basics of “Vestry 101” consisting of what a vestry is, what its responsibilities are, and how as an Episcopal Church we uphold the laws and tenets of our faith. There were many opportunities for the Vestry to raise informative questions as well as discuss among ourselves how we best serve the interests of the parish.

Monthly, we grapple with and decide how we may best manage the flow of money so that our bills are paid and the “lights stay on.” Until recently, we have been able to manage taking care of our needs without using designated money from the portfolio. This is due in part to the commitment by many in the parish to contribute by pledging or otherwise. This is wonderful, but we are still operating on a deficit budget, albeit not as large as it may have been without the parish’s commitment. Please refer to the Treasurer’s report in The Angelus.

There has been a by-laws committee, working, reviewing and updating the current bylaws which were last reviewed in 2015. Once they have completed their review, it will be submitted to the Vestry for review and ratification. This will occur sometime early autumn.

As many of you may have heard through the proverbial grapevine, Grace Church is the recipient of a very generous gift from a donor (who is not a parishioner) to underwrite the cost of replacing the floors and pews of our church. The existing pews and flooring has served Grace Church for approximately 100 years. After much review and discussion, because of the generosity of the donor, we will be the recipients of a fully refreshed church interior. A vendor has been engaged to paint the interior of the church, refinish the flooring, and install new pews. The tentative work will begin in November. As more definitive information is received, a full schedule will be shared with the parish.

The Vestry will begin to review a budget for 2022 throughout the autumn. The Finance Committee will assist in determining how we will keep the church functional in 2022.

September 12th was a great day at Grace Church. It was a celebration of Grandparent’s Day, Backpack Blessing Day, registration for Youth Christian Education and the opportunity to welcome back our parish family!

It is quite hopeful that more parishioners are returning to worship. With prayer during this pandemic, we are hopeful that we can continue to see more of the faces we know.

Linda Gallo
Senior Warden



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Grace Church Youth Education program is looking forward to the start of the new year, and of restarting in-person classes. Notwithstanding covid, the Youth Education program was able to continue this past year via zoom. But re-starting in-person classes should bring an even better Youth Education experience in the coming year.

Grace Church offers a Youth Education program for pre-kindergarten children, all the way through high school. Linda Gallo is the program director and teaches the younger children. We welcome new teachers Erika Santos, Tiffany Woodberry and Ingrid Richards to our youth education, who will teach our elementary school aged children. They will replace Cynthia Sangurima-Brown and Michael Heffner, to whom we extend grateful appreciation for their many years of dedicated teaching to our elementary aged children, including through the past year. George O'Hanlon will continue to teach our Rite 13 (Middle School) aged children, and Lauren Reid will continue to teach our Journey to Adulthood (high school students.)

While our Grace Church youth partake of an active Christian based curriculum in their Youth Education program, the in-class instruction constitutes only a piece of our program. In addition, our youth serve as acolytes and lectors in our church services; they serve as members of our youth choir; they serve as ushers; and they partake of numerous charitable activities throughout the year, including communion bread baking, assisting with the Grace Kitchen holiday lunch events, and helping with the Lifting Up Westchester fundraiser. It is through these numerous activities that our youth are educated in Christian principles.

By George O'Hanlon

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

After a year in which everything we knew was reimagined as an online experience, we have been blessed to return to in-person celebrating. This includes honoring our high school, college, and post college graduates.

Graduate Recognition Sunday took place on June 13th. Each graduate received various gifts from the parish as well as a Certificate of Recognition from their Grace/ La Gracia family. Congratulations and blessings upon high school graduates Aaron Bradford, Waverly Mangum, and Anna O'Hanlon, college graduate Brianna Parkinson, and post-college graduates Matthew Gallo and Ross Keiser. We know they will continue to make us proud as they embark on their next chapters.



A PEW BY ANY OTHER NAME

By Mary Baker

We will soon be saying goodbye to our old, familiar church pews. Our church wardens have spent hours on the challenging task of selecting new replacement pews. Yet, as many choices as they have encountered, we all probably expect our new church pews to resemble our idea of what church pews look like.

When you think about it, as a rule, the place we sit in church has a very particular look. It is a very different sort of seat from a theater seat, a baseball stadium seat, or a business meeting seat. In church, we don't even call them "seats." We call them "pews." When you enter a strange church, you probably expect to see some version of a pew that is familiar! So what exactly is a "pew?"

The word "pew" comes from the Latin word for "a podium." This raised seating then took on the old French word "*puie*," which means "balcony" or "elevation." In other words, a raised seating spot for a special purpose.

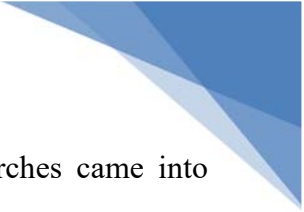
It seems probable that from the earliest days of the Christian church, and even during the time of the Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther, there were no seats at all in church. People stood for the whole service while the mass was led by the priest. In fact, even today, some Eastern Orthodox churches do not have pews for sitting.

Seating became important when there began to be sermons as an addition to the mass. Sermons began to be central to the service and seats were needed so that people could listen to that sermon more comfortably. Today it would be unheard of not to have places for people to sit.

When seating was introduced, they didn't look like what we call pews today. They were more like tall, shoulder high boxes where a family could sit together. And they weren't usually free! You had to pay a "pew rent" for them. People actually had deeds to their family church box and they could be passed down in their will. Pews could be sold to someone else. And it should come as no surprise that wealthy, prominent parishioners paid more and had pews in the front so that they would be seen as more important and prominent. Seats for the poor were in the back. Wealthy slave owners might even have their slaves sit up in the gallery. This annual "pew rent" was how the churches paid their bills.

Have you ever noticed that the present pews at Grace are numbered on their ends? This probably had to do with the pew rental requirement. A parishioner paid for that numbered seat and no one else could sit there. I have never been able to track down whether pew fees were in existence at Grace. There may even be some indication that these pews with their numbers were not original to Grace but were brought in as "second-hand" pews. However, the rental fee is very probably the reason for the numbered pews.

As you can see, this system was a visible sign of the status of the parishioners, who paid more for the more prominent choice, front seats. As society became conscious of this inequity in the 1800's, there was a backlash against pew rentals, which were seen as a practice that ostracized the poor. People eventually



recognized this status symbol as completely inappropriate to our faith. “Free” churches came into existence in the mid to late 19th century.

One of the intriguing aspects of surveying the life of a community over time is to track an emerging realization that an existing practice has social justice implications. What early on may be simply the way things are done, evolves into a series of situations in which the community is faced with the question: What does the Lord require of us?

As we all have experienced, people seem to choose to sit in the same pew each week. There is something about a particular church pew that feels personal and welcoming. It feels like that is where we “belong.”

Now that Grace Church will soon be blessed to have all new pews, we will probably go through a period of adjustment to our new “look” and “feel.” And yet, we will also recognize that, no matter what it looks like, that is surely the place where we “belong.”



CELEBRATE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month is coming up soon. It is celebrated each year in America from September 15th to October 15th with the stated purpose: “to recognize the positive input that Hispanic Americans have left on this country.”

This observation started with one day in 1968 when Lyndon Johnson was our President. President Ronald Reagan then expanded the day to include 30 days and this was enacted into law on August 17, 1988. Since 1989 all presidents have given a Presidential Proclamation to mark the importance of the month.

Like our own July 4th Independence Day which celebrates our independence from Great Britain, the dates of Hispanic Heritage Month were especially chosen to celebrate the independence of several Latin American countries from Spain in 1821. These countries include Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua on September 15th, Mexico on September 16th, Chili on September 18th and Belize on September 21st.

Beginning on September 9th, a torch is carried from Guatemala to Costa Rica, passed hand to hand, and carried on foot through all five countries. The lanterns pass through the streets as a symbol of hope. In these Latin American countries, their Independence Day is a festive day of parades, dancing, music, parties and fireworks. Each country celebrates its national pride in its own unique way.

In America, Hispanic Heritage Month is marked by Hispanic festivals, art shows, conferences, and various community gatherings. The United States military celebrates the service of its Hispanic service members and veterans. Annual Hispanic Heritage Awards are given for outstanding work in several fields such as recent winners Linda Ronstadt, Selena Gomez and Jessica Alba. Top high school seniors are honored each year and monetary awards are given.

In the past, our very own La Gracia congregation has usually held a fund raiser which includes a dinner and the presentation of dances from different Latin American countries. Unfortunately, these have had to be cancelled lately due to the Covid pandemic.

We are so fortunate to be a part of Grace/La Gracia where we are able to observe firsthand the wonderful contributions of our Hispanic friends and fellow parishioners.

Mary Baker



FOOD FOR THE SOUL

There's an App for That!

God has a marvelous way of showing us how to find blessings in the midst of difficult situations. The Covid pandemic has stopped many of us in our tracts and kept us isolated in our homes. It has even prevented many of us from attending our usual worship experiences in person.

In addition to the on-going pandemic, there are a number of other complications in our lives which may prevent our in-person worship, such as sickness, vacations, old-age related restrictions, work related travel, etc.

Who could have imagined that we would have learned to attend school, family meetings, jobs, and even church services wherever we are. We have learned to do all of this on our phones, computers, IPAD's or other mobile devices. We have learned to stay connected in many new ways. This is the blessing of modern technology!

There is a wonderful app available to provide the daily food we need for our souls. In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, our spiritual needs can easily be met. The Mission of St. Clare provides daily services from the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, including Morning and Evening Prayer in English and in Spanish, Noonday Prayer, and Compline. The services include the reading of the relevant Scripture. The hymns are even sung so that you can join in. Many other resources are provided as well.

To access this, simply go to the App Store and type in: Mission St Clare
Download the app. It is free!

This app can be a real blessing in our lives that will help us stay connected to God with a service of prayer -- every day, anywhere!

Mary Baker



Mid-Year Financial Report

Kevin Richards, Treasurer

It has been quite the roller-coaster of a year thus far. Fortunately, from a financial perspective, Grace Church/La Gracia (the Church) has had more ups than downs. I am delighted to report that the Church 2021 actual results are slightly ahead of 2020 actuals at the halfway point and also ahead of 2021 budgeted figures. That said, the Church is operating at an unsustainable pace with approximately \$100K in losses year to date with a projection of an additional \$100K-150K in losses at year end, making it certain that the Church will be required to make significant drawdowns from its investment accounts to meet operating costs.

What has helped in 2021:

- (1) YOU – Pledges and loose plate offerings are coming in at or ahead of anticipated levels. This Quarter (July-September) is typically the slowest time of the year. As such, please meet or exceed your pledges for 2021 as we have a long way to go.
- (2) Stimulus Funds – The Church received approximately \$92K in stimulus funds, \$66K of which have been forgiven. These funds allowed the Church to defer withdrawing from its investment accounts in the first half of 2021. Comparatively, this time in 2020 the Church withdrew \$110K to meet operating cost obligations.
- (3) Grants and other Contributions – The Church is about 25% ahead of Budget from a Grants and other contributions perspective. This helped defray costs related to music and certain personnel costs which has kept the church operating in a business-as-usual manner through these turbulent times.
- (4) Rent Increases – Rental income is strong and, hopefully, it continues to get stronger. Partnering with organizations that do good for the community by providing a place where critical public services can be rendered, offers revenue generating opportunities for the Church which help pay for fixed operating costs.

Looking forward, the Church needs to continue to manage costs. More specifically, there should be a renewed focus on utility costs, right size payroll costs, while ensuring there is adequate staff to meet the needs of the Church, and streamline operations by taking advantage of technology, thereby using resources more efficiently and effectively. Most importantly though, the Church needs YOU! Please continue to be generous in your pledges and donations. To the extent you need facilities for celebrations or other get-togethers, consider renting at Grace/La Gracia. If something moves you about the church service (the music, the flowers, the coffee, etc.), consider donating funds to pay for the costs of these important items that make the Church our second home.

Grace Church
Income and Expenses
Six Months Ended June 30, 2021


	Jan - June 2021	Jan - June 2020	-----Change-----		Jan - June 2021	BUDGET	-----Change-----	
			\$	%			\$	%
Income								
Parishioner Contributions	152,028	157,064	(5,035)	-3%	152,028	136,500	15,528	11%
Rental Income Cons.	69,648	60,323	9,325	15%	69,648	59,600	10,048	17%
Other Income	9,687	13,312	(3,625)	-27%	9,687	11,216	(1,529)	-14%
Grants	41,312	33,312	8,000	24%	41,312	33,000	8,312	25%
Total Income	272,676	264,011	8,665	3%	272,676	240,317	32,359	13%
Expense								
Buildings and Grounds	77,443	65,117	12,326	19%	77,443	76,250	1,193	2%
Church Operations	13,177	11,874	1,303	11%	13,177	6,198	6,979	113%
Office Expenses	40,051	42,928	(2,877)	-7%	40,051	35,910	4,141	12%
Payroll	208,318	225,730	(17,412)	-8%	208,318	205,600	2,718	1%
Diocesan Assessment	25,502	16,197	9,304	57%	25,502	28,978	(3,476)	-12%
Total Expense	364,491	361,847	2,644	1%	364,491	352,936	11,555	3%
Net Loss	(91,815)	(97,836)	6,020	-6%	(91,815)	(112,619)	20,804	-18%

The

Stewardship Committee

Charlotte Roberson, Chairman

The members of the Stewardship Committee hope that you have been vaccinated and that the summer of 2021 proved to be a summer which allowed you and your family to enjoy family time and outdoor activities. We should be aware that although the mask mandate has been lifted in many situations, we need to be cautious because The Delta Virus continues to spread in the United States and elsewhere. While you were enjoying the summer, did you have the opportunity to check your records and determine whether you have given three quarters of your 2021 pledge to Grace LaGracia Church? Let us be mindful that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. In a Peanuts Cartoon by Charles Schultz, Charlie Brown asks: "If God loves a cheerful giver, why are you supposed to give 'til it hurts?" We are not asking you to give until it hurts. We only ask that you meet as much of your pledge as your economic situation permits you to do. We also want you to be mindful of Grace's current financial situation. Kevin Richards, our treasurer informed us in his latest report that: "Grace Church is operating at an unsustainable pace with approximately \$100K in losses year to date with a projection of an additional \$100K-\$150K in losses at year end making it certain that the church will be required to make significant drawdowns from its investment accounts to meet operating costs". He goes on to say that in 2021 the things that helped our situation were: the pledges and loose plate offerings, stimulus funds, grants and other contributions as well as rent increases for the use of various parts of our building. We are prayerfully optimistic about the future of Grace Church. We hope to have our children return to in person learning with our dedicated Sunday school teachers. Also, Peter Roberts, our organist, is hoping to once again provide his leadership with a full choir. And yes, we will begin our 2022 stewardship campaign in October, 2021. As you think about the amount you can and will pledge for 2022, please also consider what volunteer work you can do for Grace Church. Do you have computer skills? The stewardship committee is in need of one or two people with technology skills to



enter the pledges and other contributions in the office, as well as make reports for Grace Church. Cynthia S. Brown, Co-Chairperson is willing to train you. We ask everyone to be generous with their time, talent and money.

Campaña de Mayordomía 2022

Los miembros del Comité de Mayordomía esperan que se hayan vacunado y que el verano de 2021 haya sido un verano que le haya permitido a usted y a su familia disfrutar de tiempo en familia y de las actividades al aire libre. Debemos ser conscientes de que, aunque el mandato de utilizar la mascarilla/cubre bocas se ha levantado en muchas situaciones, debemos ser cautelosos porque el virus Delta continúa propagándose en los Estados Unidos y en otros lugares.

Mientras disfrutaba del verano, ¿tuvo la oportunidad de verificar sus registros y determinar si ha entregado las tres cuartas partes de su promesa de 2021 a la Iglesia Grace / La Gracia?

Tengamos presente que el Señor ama al dador alegre. En una caricatura de Peanuts de Charles Schultz, Charlie Brown pregunta: "Si Dios ama a un dador alegre, ¿por qué se supone que debes dar hasta que duela?" No te estamos pidiendo que des hasta que duela. Solo le pedimos que cumpla con su promesa tanto como su situación económica se lo permita.

También queremos que tenga en cuenta la situación financiera actual de Grace. Kevin Richards, nuestro tesorero, nos informó en su último informe que: "Grace Church está operando a un ritmo insostenible con aproximadamente \$ 100K en pérdidas en el año hasta la fecha con una proyección de \$ 100K- \$ 150K adicionales en pérdidas al final del año.

Seguro que esto requerirá que la iglesia haga importantes reducciones de sus cuentas de inversión para cubrir los costos operativos". Continúa diciendo que en 2021 las cosas que ayudaron a nuestra situación fueron: las promesas y las ofrendas sueltas, los fondos de estímulo, las subvenciones y otras contribuciones, así como los aumentos de alquiler para el uso de varias partes de nuestro edificio.

Somos optimistas en oración sobre el futuro de Grace Church. Esperamos que nuestros niños regresen al aprendizaje en persona con nuestros dedicados maestros de escuela dominical. Además, Peter Roberts, nuestro organista, espera brindar una vez más su liderazgo con un coro completo. Y sí, comenzaremos nuestra campaña de mayordomía 2022 en octubre de 2021. Mientras piensa en la cantidad que puede y se comprometerá para 2022, considere también qué trabajo voluntario puede hacer para Grace Church. ¿Tienes conocimientos de informática? El comité de administración necesita una o dos personas con habilidades tecnológicas para ingresar las promesas y otras contribuciones en la oficina; así como hacer informes para Grace Church. Cynthia S. Brown, Copresidente está dispuesta a capacitarlo. Pedimos a todos que sean generosos con su tiempo, talento y dinero.

Charlotte Roberson

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

By George O’Hanlon



The August 8th Eucharist was indeed a very special service. It was dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of two longstanding and outstanding members of our Parish – Michael Heffner and Taurino Juarez.

It would be an understatement to say that they took different paths to arrive at our Church. But it would equally be an understatement to say that their contributions to our Parish were noteworthy. Taurino was born in Mexico in 1955 and came to the United States in 1984 to watch the Olympics in Los Angeles, and subsequently stayed – gravitating to the New York area. In 1988, Taurino began working for Grace Church, and the rest is history. Mr. “Fix It” provided invaluable service in an almost unimaginable variety of ways. As rectors came and went, as parish members came and went, Taurino has been as solid as a rock and ever present at Grace Church since 1988, doing almost literally whatever needed to be done. Walter Simon in his piece on Taurino in our Sunday bulletin said it best:

“Something broken? Taurino will fix it. Grass needs cutting, flowers planted? Call Taurino. Snow removal? Call Taurino. Jumpstart the car? Taurino to the rescue.”

Michael’s path to Grace Church came via a childhood and young adult life as the son of a Pastor, who had spent time as a missionary in Japan. These early years greatly shaped Michael’s thinking and perspective. Michael came to Grace Church in 1991, and to somewhat foreshadow the important role Michael would play at Grace Church, he commented that he had joined because of Grace’s exemplary reputation as a Church engaged in the community and focused on outreach. He commented that:

“...The tipping point was the level of community engagement and outreach that Grace Church was involved with. I was from a family where active engagement was standard practice. I sensed a need for my talents at Grace and I welcomed the opportunity to engage.”

Boy, did he ever! Michael has seemed ever present, whether it be as a vestry member, senior warden, youth education teacher, coordinator and organizer of the food alliance and any number of other Church pursuits. His creativity, enthusiasm and deep caring about people and the Church have proven a potent formula for many great deeds.

The August 8th service honoring these men was memorable for so many reasons: Father Adolfo's stellar sermon on what they have meant to the Church and the service they have performed. The outpouring of love and gratitude by many members of the Parish toward these individuals. The heartfelt gifts. The pandemic record attendance in person, with many coming for the first time since March of 2020 when the pandemic hit. The first coffee hour since that time. The joy was mixed with some sadness – we will truly miss these two fine men. But ultimately the celebratory mood captured the day and joy reverberated throughout the parish. Our sincere best wishes to Taurino in retirement and to Michael as he pursues his degree in divinity at Yale University. We know that we can count on you to visit us regularly!



An Extraordinary Man



Let's face it. We have all taken Taurino for granted. We have always assumed he could take care of anything that needed to be done.

Something broken? Taurino will fix it.

Grass needs cutting, flowers planted? Call Taurino.

Snow removal? Call Taurino

Jumpstart the car? Taurino to the rescue

Well, ladies and gentlemen, we are about to find out how much we depended on Taurino Juarez. After thirty-three years at Grace Church, he is retiring.

Taurino is more remarkable than you know. His journey from Mexico to Grace Church, White Plains, was a long and circuitous one.

I always remember Taurino's birthday because we were both born on August 11 although he was born "a few years" later than I, 1955. He was born in Catarina, a Puebla in Mexico. His parents Hipolito and Virginia had nine children including Taurino (seven boys and two girls).

In 1984 Taurino came to the United States to see the Olympics in Los Angeles, California, and subsequently came to Westchester to stay with a friend.

His first job was landscaping. But when the Galleria opened, he got a job in maintenance. After several years of employment, the Galleria "outsourced" maintenance and the new maintenance company offered Taurino the same job at a lower pay. What the company didn't realize is that he was always seeking to advance himself and his family. So, whenever he saw another opportunity to do better, he took it. Consequently, he refused the job offered by the maintenance company and decided he could do better on his own. Sometimes he held two or three jobs at once. For example, he worked for a private company cleaning movie theaters all over Westchester while working part time at Son of Israel Synagogue from 12 to 8A.M.

In 1985 he met, Alba who he married in December 1987. During their thirty-four-year marriage, they worked together and raised three sons, Eric, Benny and Roy.

In 1988 Taurino saw that Grace Church was looking for a Sexton. He didn't know what a sexton was, but applied anyway. Twenty men applied, but after being interviewed by Harry Rogers, Chairman of Buildings and Grounds, Boyd Johnson, Senior Warden, and Rector Peter Larom, he got the job. However, Taurino continued to maintain a cleaning service parttime. He shifted from servicing movie theaters to office buildings in order to work at Grace Church and have more time with his growing family. His family joined Grace Church and subsequently became active members of La Gracia.

In 1991, he saw an investment opportunity and purchased a Pizzeria which, with "chef" Alba's guidance, served Spanish food on the week-ends. He sold the Pizzeria and bought his first house. He subsequently bought several investment properties in White Plains in addition to building houses in Alba's and his hometowns in Mexico.

There is no doubt, that Taurino's work ethic is phenomenal and he has been a role model for his sons who are doing well. Just think of it, he came to the United States and worked in cleaning, construction and landscaping. Now one of his sons, Roy, owns a landscaping and construction business and has Grace/La Gracia as a customer. In fact, Taurino is currently working part time for his son Roy as his "Quality Consultant" going to job sites during his time off to ensure that work is being done to his high standards. This is truly an American success story.

Taurino loves Grace/La Gracia, and was dedicated to doing an excellent job while seeking opportunities to save money in the process. He always went the extra-mile on behalf of Grace. Grace/LaGracia is losing a man who will be extremely difficult to replace.

It has been my honor to know and work with this truly extraordinary man who will be missed. God speed Taurino Juarez, you have earned your retirement.

Walter Simon, Former Chairman
Buildings and Grounds Committee



VIEWS FROM THE PEWS

Meet Lisa Daly

Lisa Daly is a current Vestry member. She is a former nurse and is now a lawyer working at My Sister's Place.



Recently I travelled to Ames, Iowa, for the USA Track and Field Masters National Championship, where I competed in the 400m hurdles and the 80 hurdles in the Women age 50-54 category. I won gold in both events and secured my 24th and 25th National titles. In addition, I was presented my award for being inducted to the USA Track and Field Masters Hall of Fame.

Sports, and especially track and field, is a big part of the Jamaican culture and this led to my involvement in running at a very early age growing up in Jamaica. I moved to the United States at the end of my teenage years and achieved success on the track as a 400 and 200m sprinter first at Bronx Community College and then at Manhattan College. At both colleges I set many school records and earned All American and All East honors. Some of the records remain today. In 1998 I was inducted into the Bronx Community College Athletic Hall of Fame and in 2016 I was inducted into the Manhattan College Athletic Hall of Fame. For my athletic achievements on the Junior College level, I was inducted into the National Junior College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015.

USA Track and Field (USATF) is divided into 3 sections for competitions. They are the Youth, Open and Masters division. Masters Athletics is one of the largest parts of USATF and is comprised of athletes ages 30 (submasters) all the way to 100+. The athletes compete in 5-year age groups in all track and field events just as seen in the Olympics or World Championship. For international competitions, athletes must be over 35 years old.

I started running Masters track in 2005 and so far I have 25 National titles in the 200m, 400m, 400m hurdles, 300m hurdles, 60m hurdles and 80m hurdles. Along the way, I have set individual American records in the 400m hurdles and have been a relay member of World records set in the 4x100m and 4x400m. On the international level I am an 8-time World Champion for Team USA and have been silver and bronze medalists many times on the world stage.

Meet Tristan Victor

Tristan Victor is the grandson of Vestry member Charlotte Roberson.



Tristan Victor, Charlotte Roberson's oldest grandson, aged 11, was recently selected by Atlanta United FC to join their Academy. This wonderful opportunity provides Tristan a pathway to realizing his dream of becoming a professional soccer player.

Tristan began playing soccer at the age of four, shortly after moving to Atlanta with his parents, Nicole and Jean, and younger brother, Shane. Early on, he demonstrated strong foundational skills and, more importantly, a love for the sport. Tristan has played for two soccer clubs and this year he was selected by Georgia Soccer to join the Olympic Development Program (ODP). Over the years, he has had the opportunity to play in local and regional tournaments in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Texas, and Florida.

Tristan is incredibly excited about this next phase and looks forward to continuing to work hard as a student athlete. His family is very proud of his accomplishments and cannot wait to cheer him on from the soccer sidelines.



The View from *MY* Pew

By Mary Baker

Besides the pew I occupy at Grace on Sunday, there is another pew in my life! You will undoubtedly be very surprised to learn that I have a church pew in my basement!

This is no ordinary church pew. It happens to be an old church pew from the long-ago church that Abraham Lincoln's father and step-mother attended – and probably sat on. It was shipped to me many years ago along with many household items from the Baker farm in Illinois that belonged to my husband's grandparents. Many of those items are now in the bedroom that I call my "Illinois bedroom." But a church pew didn't seem to fit in the bedroom, so it was relegated to my basement. I've never been able to think of a better place to put it, but neither can I imagine putting it out for the trash.

Lincoln's folks lived "down the road" from the Baker farm. Their little country church is right across the road from the grandparents' farm. It is a part of family history that Abraham Lincoln had dinner with his parents and other church friends on the night before he left Illinois to travel to Washington D.C. for the presidency. The dishes from that dinner are thought to be somewhere in the family, but I have no idea where they are.

When the little country church was finally closed, the remaining worshippers each claimed some of the pews, and one of those pews sits in my basement!

Lincoln's parents are buried in that little church burial ground, and for years, Granddad Baker mowed the grass there because he lived right across the road. I have been to that unpretentious burial spot a number of times.

Seeing that Lincoln pew in my basement always reminds me that a church pew has a personal history! There are stories behind the people who sat in those seats Sunday after Sunday. As we sit in our own preferred pew, we are making history ourselves – Grace history! Future worshippers will look back and reflect upon that history.



“What I Learned from the Pandemic”

Winning Essays in the 2020 Lifting Up Westchester Youth Contest

Again this year, Lifting Up Westchester invited local students to enter an essay contest. Last year’s essay was to be written on “What I Learned from the Pandemic.” Winners were chosen in four categories: 7th and 8th grade, 9th and 10th grade, 11th and 12th grade, and English as a Second Language. There were cash prizes for each category.

In the last Summer Angelus, we published the winning 11th-12th grade essay written by Alyssa Lee and also the winning English as a Second Language essay written by Yoshiaki Shimizu. In this Angelus issue we are now publishing the first-place winners in the 7th-8th grade category and in the 9th-10th grade category.

We can all profit greatly from reading what these talented young people have written about their reactions to the past pandemic year that has affected all of us in so many different ways.

It is also probable that in the Fall, Lifting Up Westchester will announce another essay contest that is open to local youth. Perhaps you know a young student who might be interested in entering this competition.


Can Anything Good Come out of this Pandemic?

By Sofia Mejia, 7th Grade, Yonkers

The Coronavirus pandemic has opened the eyes of millions of people all around the world. It changed the way we view things, the way we do things, and what we consider normal. It caused arguments, rumors, violence, and more. Everyone probably wishes that COVID-19 never happened, that it was just a bad dream and that everything would go back to normal. The truth is, it did happen, and we have to keep moving forward and try to stay positive, despite the many difficulties. Even though we had a rough year and want to forget all about it, we should look back at all of the trials we had to face and how we overcame them and stood strong.

Like many other countries, here in the United States of America, we had to quarantine and complete many other measures for our safety. Whenever we had to leave home for bare necessities, we had to wear masks and social distance, staying six feet apart so the virus had less of a chance of spreading. The supermarkets were running out of things like toilet paper and hand sanitizer because people were being greedy and buying more than they needed. Everywhere, people feared for their lives, wondering if they were next in line to be plagued by the deadly virus.

Of course, no one’s experience was the same. Everybody faced a lot of hardships, but low-income and homeless people had additional trials to the ones mentioned above. When New York went under lockdown, the only businesses that could stay open were the ones that were considered essential. This left many people who were already struggling to pay bills and provide basic needs for their family out of work with little to no income. When the schools were shut down, parents had to make a lot of hard choices.



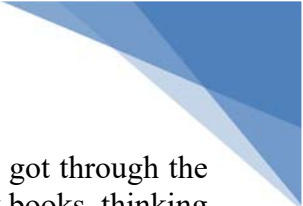
Should they stay home from work to homeschool their children, work overnight, or pay someone to watch them using their already limited resources? Sometimes, homeless people would ask for donations to help support them. Without people walking out on the streets, they had no help from others to pay for things they needed. As far as homeless children, now that the schools were closed, they were literally left out in the cold for an additional eight hours a day. They were also unable to benefit from the free breakfast and lunches that most schools provide.

This pandemic has showed me the importance of staying connected with family and friends. Personally, it was very hard for me to not be able to visit my grandparents, cousins, and friends. This forced me to have to find creative ways to communicate with them. I would set up times we could have zoom calls to watch movies, paint, and play games with them, as well as using FaceTime to talk to them. This helped prevent me from feeling lonely and angry when I was trapped in the house with my three younger siblings with nothing to do.

During this crisis, I've seen an incredible amount of resilience and adaptability in first responders. Many of these people work long hours, giving 200% of themselves to help others in any way they can. My mother works as a nurse on the cardiac floor in Lawrence Hospital. She wakes up at 5 in the morning to make lunches for my siblings and I whenever we have hybrid learning and rushes out the door to get to work early enough to get a parking spot. From the moment she walks in to the moment she leaves, she tells me that it's like "a COVID warzone." She has told me stories of how patients in the hospital are dying and fighting for their lives and despite her and her co-workers' best efforts, sometimes there's absolutely nothing they can do to help them. There's no downtime because anytime there's a room available, there are multiple patients who desperately need it. She often doesn't get home until 8:30 or 9:00 PM and even then, she has to shower to get rid of the germs she has encountered, help my younger siblings with their homework, get them ready for bed, only to do it again the next 2-3 days. Under other circumstances, this style of life wouldn't be something a person could do long-term, but COVID has been going on for almost a year and doesn't show any signs of stopping.

Before quarantine, I never really thought that much about my health or the health of those around me. I knew that staying healthy was important, but I wasn't afraid of getting a fever or strep throat (both of which I used to get a lot) or my younger siblings getting sick or being in the hospital. Now, though, whenever I see someone in public cough in places such as Costco, I get afraid that the person has COVID and will get my family and I sick. I get scared especially when my family members cough like crazy or aren't acting like they usually do. I try not to worry about my grandparents and older relatives, but it's difficult because I don't want anything bad to happen to them. You don't need to watch the news very often to know how deadly this virus is, even with wearing masks and social distancing.

It's nice to see how Lifting Up Westchester, an organization that provides food, shelter, and support to people who are in need, are helping our community during the pandemic. They received a Nourishing Neighbors Community Relief grant of \$25,000 from the ACME Foundation to provide food for its Brighter Futures summer camp for homeless children. This grant was part of \$15 million pledged by the Albertsons Companies to help feed kids and families during the summer of COVID-19. They even promoted people giving donations to help feed homeless people. Lifting Up Westchester really impacted our community during these tough times.



Even though COVID-19 caused many hardships and took the lives of many people, we got through the year. Our definition of normal has forever changed. We used to look back at the history books, thinking of how bad life was long ago during the plagues that affected the world, but now, we are living through what will soon become history. Soon, we will tell our children and grandchildren of what happened in 2020-2021. Many of us have lost loved ones and have been scarred physically and emotionally, but hopefully, COVID-19 will be something that can be eradicated like smallpox and polio, rather than a recurring illness like the flu. If we learned anything this year, it's that we have to wash our hands and cover our cough.

Can Anything Good Come out of this Pandemic?

By Janira Martinez, Grade 9, Peekskill High School

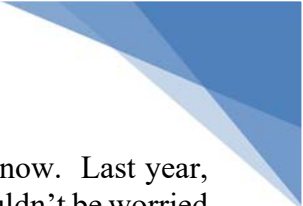
2020. The year of disappointment, hurt, death, and inequality. Also, the year of hopefulness, recovery, life, and advocacy for justice. The United States continues to experience a global pandemic that remains to expose deep-rooted problems. Yes, the pandemic displayed how unprepared this country was for such a situation, but it has shone a light on much more. The unjust killings of innocent black people, the inequality in our justice system, to the social and economic disparities individuals face – all continue to plague this nation. But I have hope. Hope for this generation, the new administration, and those advocates. America has woken up from its blissful and ignorant sleep. It's time for change.

One week. That's how long it took for unemployment rates to skyrocket. The number of families and individuals that live paycheck to paycheck, working for nothing, is astonishing. It's sad. Even that paycheck every Friday is simply not enough to pay groceries, health insurance, car insurance, rent, and house a child. I cannot fathom working 40 hours, earning a mere \$300. No one should have to choose between paying for food or keeping their lights on and their water running; it's simply not living.

\$7.25. The current federal minimum wage. This needs to be updated for the better of this country. I'm aware of the talks about raising the minimum wage to \$15 in 2025, but Americans cannot wait another four years. The cost of living is increasing but the minimum wage continues to remain stagnant. Why so? I do not understand the negligence and the disregard many people have for essential workers, some receiving a mere \$7.25/hr. If we want to boost the economy, help businesses and workers, we must raise the minimum wage to a livable wage ASAP and have free health care. Many have to calculate whether dying or paying hospital bills is a better solution. Free health care and livable wages need to be a reality.

Hopeful. Everyone needs to remain hopeful for the future. Without hope, there is no justice, no equality, no goal. I may be discouraged by the unprecedented amount of time this pandemic will be present, but I know these wounds will be mended. I'm most hopeful of my generation; we are outspoken about a wide range of issues. From racism, social and economic inequalities, climate change, and much more; we are bold and loud – we will strive for reform. Personally, I know I can make a change, despite my age, by informing and educating others. I can advocate, speak up, contact the people in power and express my concerns and solution, and volunteer. No one is ever too young or old to advocate for equal rights.

Racism. Another disease plaguing the United States is racial inequality in the justice system, economically, and in daily life. Innocent black people are murdered in cold blood, only to be negated



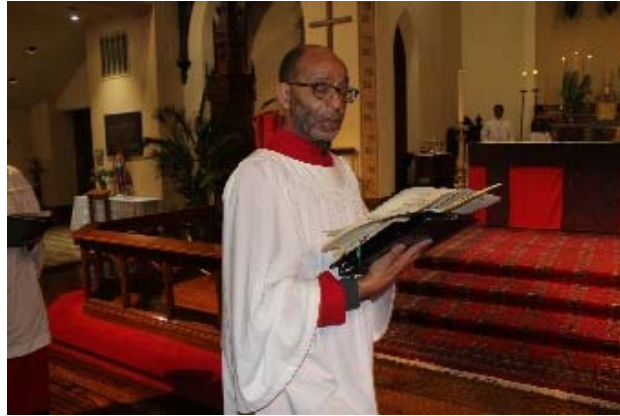
justice. We, as a country, have seen the videos, read the reports, heard the cries – we know. Last year, quarantine, gave us a period to peel back the truths covered in gilded lies. My friends shouldn't be worried about being shot after being pulled over by police or being disenfranchised. Despite being 13% of the general population, African Americans make up 40% of homelessness. The statistics speak for themselves. Racism is not only present in the justice system and in economics. It's widely present in everyday life --it seems as though there's someone new going viral for being a racist every week. Racism is more prevalent in this country than many want to admit – that's the bottom line. The solution? We must create, amend, and revise laws that prevent innocent death – like making police officers have their body cameras on at every time. America will and can prevail.

Lifting Up Westchester. Grace's Kitchen, the largest soup kitchen in White Plains feeds thousands of people, Monday, through Friday, for free. That's in addition to the clothing and toiletries Grace's Kitchen provides. Due to the pandemic, soup kitchens have also opted for to-go packed meals because, pandemic or not, they care. Nevertheless, guests feel safe, cared for, and have the opportunity to socialize with other guests; a sense of community they may not feel regularly. LUW provides counseling and referrals to a range of outreach services such as medical, mental, and substance abuse. They aid with finding employment and housing, helping hundreds – extremely vital at a time with stark unemployment rates. Alternatively, there are many next-generation educational opportunities in the form of after-school mentoring programs, and summer camps. Education is essential; Lifting Up Westchester assures those low-income children are the first to go to college and the last to live in poverty.

School. Currently, my school is running on a hybrid schedule in which I go in-person Thursday and Friday, stay home Monday and Tuesday, and have a non-instructional day on Wednesday. Personally, I'm doing OK with virtual learning, clubs, and extra-curricular activities. Frankly, though, as my classmates express, it can get extremely overwhelming and quickly, due to the amount of work that amasses all at once. Looking at a screen for a prolonged period of time is draining. Yet I've learned that, although we may all go through the same situations (like Covid-19), we each live and react to them differently; to some, it may be more arduous to adapt. Furthermore, the unthinkable can truly happen at any time. Most importantly, I've learned to be grateful. Grateful for a roof, food, water, a laptop for school, and grateful for living. I used to gloss over life, never recognizing how lucky I am to be alive, to be loved; others don't have those luxuries.

REST IN PEACE

Almighty God, Father of mercies and giver of comfort: Deal graciously, we pray, with all who mourn; that, casting all their care on you, they may know the consolation of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Clyde Hicks



Dorothy Lynch



Judy Hutton



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***The Deadline For The Winter Angelus
Is November 14th. As Always, Thank You For
Your Contributions!***