

Fall 2016

Celebrating 150 Years in the Heart of White Plains



The
ANGELUS
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH

The Rector's Letter



I am very grateful to the parish for the opportunity I had to take some sabbatical time these last few months. It was a unique time in my life, filled with all sorts of wonderful experiences.

Barbra and I plan to share more in depth about the sabbatical very soon, and I am sure it will find its way into my sermons and teaching in the coming months. For now, I want to make just a few comments.

Part of the sabbatical was devoted to a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. This is a pilgrimage Christians have been making for about 1000 years. For us, it involved walking 500 miles through northern Spain.

You might think of a pilgrimage as an extreme Lenten discipline. When you give up chocolate or wine during Lent, you are not doing it primarily to lose weight. It is a discipline that is meant to help you grow spiritually. In the same way, a pilgrimage is not just about arriving at a destination. Taking the bus would have been quicker, cheaper and much easier than walking. Instead, it is a setting aside of security, of the familiar, and of other concerns to be open to whatever God has in store.

A pilgrim becomes vulnerable. The old saying is, "Tourists give orders, pilgrims give thanks." If it rains, you get wet; if the Camino is muddy, you are too; if all there is to eat is bread and cheese, that is your dinner. Whoever you are in your normal life, that is all left behind on the Camino. You are simply walking along with the other pilgrims, covering the same ground, climbing the same hills, crossing the same streams.

For me, as someone who has been ordained and serving in churches and missions for over thirty years, it was a very special time. Stepping away from the responsibilities and expectations that have been defining my life for decades, and becoming vulnerable on a very basic level, allowed me to experience God's grace toward me in an almost palpable way. It gave me time to reflect on my overall life's journey, and I found myself thankful each day.

For me the vulnerability and dislocation were freely chosen, and I always knew I had a home to return to. I was aware each day that many people in the world, especially the millions of refugees fleeing violence, have neither a clear destination nor a home to which to return. They are not welcomed as pilgrims, and their vulnerability and dislocation put them at severe risk. I found myself remembering and praying for them on a regular basis.

Now I am home, and happily back at Grace/ La Gracia. I hope that whatever spiritual growth I experienced will enhance my ministry at this parish. Thank you again for this incredible blessing!

Estoy muy agradecido a nuestra iglesia por la oportunidad que tuve de tomar algún tiempo de sabática en estos últimos meses. Fue un momento único en mi vida, lleno de todo tipo de experiencias maravillosas. Barbra y yo planeamos compartir más en profundidad sobre el sabático muy pronto con ustedes y estoy seguro de que encontrará su camino en mis sermones y enseñanza en los próximos meses. Por ahora, sólo quiero hacer algunas observaciones.

Parte del sabático se dedicó a una peregrinación a Santiago de Compostela. Este es un peregrinaje cristiano que se ha venido haciendo durante cerca de 1000 años. Para nosotr@s, se trató de caminar 500 millas a través del norte de España.

Se puede pensar en una peregrinación como una extrema disciplina de cuaresma. Cuando nos abstenemos de chocolate o vino durante la cuaresma, lo que estamos haciendo no es principalmente para perder peso. Se trata de una disciplina que está diseñada para ayudarnos a crecer espiritualmente. De la misma manera, una peregrinación no es sólo llegar a un destino. Tomando el bus habría sido más rápido, más barato y mucho más fácil que caminar. En su lugar, es como poner a un lado la seguridad, lo familiar, y otras preocupaciones para abrirle el paso a lo que Dios tenga en su almacén.

Una persona peregrina pasa a ser vulnerable. El viejo refrán, "l@s turistas dan órdenes, l@s peregrin@s dan gracias." Si llueve, se mojan; si el camino es fangoso, tú también; si todo lo que hay para comer es pan y queso, esa es tu cena. Quien quiera que seas en tu vida normal, todo eso se quedó en el Camino. Usted simplemente camina junto con l@s demás peregrin@s, cubriendo el mismo terreno, escalar las mismas montañas, cruzando las mismas secuencias.

Para mí, como alguien que ha sido ordenado y sirviendo en iglesias y misiones por más de treinta años, fue un momento muy especial. Apartándome de las responsabilidades y expectativas que han ido definiendo mi vida por décadas, y que son vulnerables a un nivel muy básico, me permitió experimentar la gracia de Dios de una manera casi palpable. Me dio tiempo para reflexionar sobre mi vida de viaje y me encontré que cada día estaba agradecido.

Para mí, la vulnerabilidad y la separación fueron elegidas libremente, yo siempre supe que había una casa para yo volver. Estaba consciente cada día que muchas personas en el mundo, especialmente para los millones de refugiad@s que huyen de la violencia, no tienen ni un destino claro ni un hogar al que regresar. No son acogid@s como peregrin@s, y su vulnerabilidad y rechazo les ponen en una situación de grave riesgo. Me encontré recordando y orando por ell@s constantemente.

The Angelus
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Walk of Grace

Engravings in Celebration – Gratitude – Remembrance

The exciting **Walk of Grace** project has been announced as a new way for parishioners to participate in the beautification and upkeep of our lovely church grounds. Parishioners will have an opportunity to engrave the pathway stones along the front and side of the church in thanksgiving of family, in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a family event. (Grace Church reserves the right to approve all text prior to engraving)

Walk of Grace engraved stone donations are \$400 for a *full stone*, \$225 for a *half stone* or \$100 *per name* on a stone with five separate names. You can see what an engraved *full stone* looks like by viewing the Cappelli family stone at the Grace Church entrance to the adjoining park. The projected net profit of \$12,000 will be used to maintain and enhance the grounds surrounding the church.

Each stone along the **Walk of Grace** is approximately 2 feet wide. A local monument stone engraver has been retained and, to date, parish members have donated 10 stones. Engraving is currently underway and stones will begin to be installed shortly.

As each section is completed the **Walk of Grace** will become a beautiful mosaic of the engraved names of those we love and, ultimately, reflect the diversity of the Grace Church congregation alongside a tapestry of colorful perennial plants blooming along its borders.

Stuart Madden and Arlene Grant have assumed the roles of project Co-Chairs and can be reached:

- Stuart: mstuartmadden@gmail.com or 914-393-8403
- Arlene: arobgrant@verizon.net or 914-699-6494

Placement of engraved stones along the **Walk of Grace** is on a first come, first serve basis. We look forward to strolling along the **Walk of Grace** with you in memory, thanksgiving or in celebration!

RESERVE YOUR ENGRAVED WALK OF GRACE STONE TODAY!

La espiritualidad de la llanura

Padre Luis Barrios



El evangelio de San Lucas (9:28-36) tiene una narrativa la cual lee de la siguiente manera: En aquel tiempo, Jesús se hizo acompañar de Pedro, Santiago y Juan, y subió a un monte para hacer oración. Mientras oraba, su rostro cambió de aspecto y sus vestiduras se hicieron blancas y relampagueantes. De pronto aparecieron conversando con él dos personajes, rodeados de esplendor: eran Moisés y Elías. Y hablaban de la muerte que le esperaba en Jerusalén. Pedro y sus compañeros estaban rendidos de sueño; pero, despertándose, vieron la gloria de Jesús y de los que estaban con él. Cuando éstos se retiraban, Pedro le dijo a Jesús: "Maestro, sería bueno que nos quedáramos aquí y que hiciéramos tres chozas: una para ti, una para Moisés y otra para Elías", sin saber lo que decía...

Definitivamente este evangelio es como una especie de paradigma misionero para nuestra iglesia La Gracia. Nos pone de frente, por lo menos en mi opinión, con dos modelos de ministerios: el de la altura y el de la llanura. En el mismo Jesús tomó a tres de sus discípulos y los llevó a la montaña para orar y reflexionar lo cual es muy importante como ejercicio socio-espiritual. Esta experiencia de la transfiguración fue tan gratificante y emocionante que Pedro lleno de éxtasis y muy animado le sugirió a Jesús lo siguiente: *Maestro, sería bueno que nos quedáramos aquí*. Por supuesto, quedarse en la montaña dejaría como resultado el alejarse y desconectarse del pueblo, la penosa realidad de muchas de nuestras iglesias y sus ministerios. Queremos estar lejos del pueblo porque hemos creído erróneamente que ese distanciamiento nos produce un estado de misticismo o purificación que puede ser contaminado con la maldad que existe en este mundo.

Lo bueno de todo esto es que Jesús dejó muy claro que estaba en desacuerdo con ese pedido y los volvió a bajar a la llanura; a caminar con el pueblo, a escuchar al pueblo, a sentir al pueblo y a sanar el pueblo. Este acompañamiento es lo que podemos identificar como la espiritualidad de la llanura la cual se construye para transformar a este mundo ofreciendo la propuesta de liberación de Jesús. Es importante que entendamos que subir a la montaña es de gran importancia. Es como asistir a un retiro, una convivencia, un cursillo, etc. Estos ejercicios de disciplina fortalecen nuestra espiritualidad para volver a meternos en medio de las luchas del diario vivir ofreciendo esperanza al pueblo. Lo que estamos condenando es el querer quedarse en la montaña para contemplar desde la distancia las realidades en las que el pueblo vive diariamente y tratando de ignorar los retos que esta sociedad nos presenta como por ejemplo la necesidad de ser personas

perseverantes, la necesidad de construir unidad en diversidad y la necesidad de poder vivir la humildad que nos introduce en la paz con justicia y en la quietud del corazón. Si tenemos claro que la espiritualidad siempre tiene dimensiones sociales, culturales y políticas, entonces no tendremos problema para volver a bajar a la llanura tal y como Jesús lo hizo. ¡El pueblo nos espera!

Además el compañero y hermano Jesús nos presenta en este Evangelio un paradigma para establecer relaciones con las personas en donde les da prioridad a aquellas personas que han sido marginadas o rechazadas por nuestro sistema. Esto no es una pastoral de lástima sino más bien de compasión y respeto que persigue una liberación holística. A lo largo de su vida pública, vemos que Jesús hace suya la defensa de las personas marginadas en lo económico, salud, político, género, social, religioso, etc. Entre estas podríamos nombrar las mujeres, l@s nin@s, personas leprosas, trabajadoras sexuales, inmigrantes, personas discapacitadas, etc. En otras palabras, la fe en un Dios que asume la defensa de las personas marginadas solo es real si lleva al compromiso con la misma causa. De aquí el que la iglesia al darle seguimiento a su propuesta de vida tiene que aprender a caminar con ese pueblo y asumir las mismas defensas. La praxis pastoral de Jesús recogida en los evangelios es la referencia obligada de la pastoral de la Iglesia que siente y actúa con el pueblo.

La predicación, el arrepentimiento, la evangelización, la sanación, la salvación, y la eucaristía tienen unas dimensiones sociales, culturales y políticas que definen el papel de la iglesia en la sociedad, demostrando que se entra al cielo pasando por la tierra. Todo esto debe de ayudarnos a realizar una evaluación seria sobre el tipo de ministerio que nuestras iglesias realizan. Entre las otras personas marginadas hoy en día podríamos añadir a la lista anterior inmigrantes indocumentad@s, comunidades LGBTQ, personas negras, personas indígenas, personas que usan drogas, y quienes adoran a la divinidad en otras tradiciones religiosas que no es cristiana, etc.

Es por todo esto que debemos de aprender a construir iglesias militantes y comprometidas de la llanura que le presenten al pueblo los procesos de liberación. Esta es la experiencia del Evangelio que debemos compartir.

¿Sabes cuánto vales en realidad? (Anónimo)

Una pequeña parábola para darse cuenta que valemos mucho más de lo que pensamos.

Alfredo, con el rostro abatido de pesar se reúne con su amiga Marisa en un bar a tomar un café. Deprimido descargó en ella sus angustias...que el trabajo, que el dinero, que la relación con su pareja, que su vocación...todo parecía estar mal en su vida.

Marisa introdujo la mano en su cartera, sacó un billete de 50 dólares y le dijo:

- Alfredo, ¿quieres este billete?

Alfredo, un poco confundido al principio, inmediatamente le dijo:

- Claro Marisa...son 50 dólares, ¿quién no los querría?

Entonces Marisa tomó el billete en uno de sus puños y lo arrugó hasta hacerlo un pequeño bollo. Mostrando la estrujada pelotita verde a Alfredo volvió a preguntarle:

- Y ahora ¿igual lo quieres?

- Marisa, no sé qué pretendes con esto, pero siguen siendo 50 dólares, claro que los tomaré si me lo entregas.

Entonces Marisa desdobló el arrugado billete, lo tiró al piso y lo restregó con su pie en el suelo, levantándolo luego sucio y marcado.

- ¿Lo sigues queriendo?

- Mira Marisa, sigo sin entender que pretendes, pero ese es un billete de 50 dólares y mientras no lo rompas conserva su valor...

- Entonces Alfredo, debes saber que aunque a veces algo no salga como quieres, aunque la vida te arrugue o pisotee, SIGUES siendo tan valioso como siempre lo hayas sido...lo que debes preguntarte es CUANTO VALES en realidad y no lo golpeado que puedas estar en un momento determinado.

Alfredo se quedó mirando a Marisa sin decir palabra alguna mientras el impacto del mensaje penetraba profundamente en su cerebro.

Marisa puso el arrugado billete de su lado en la mesa y con una sonrisa cómplice agregó:

- Toma, guárdalo para que te recuerdes de esto cuando te sientas mal...pero me debes un billete NUEVO de 50 dólares para poder usar con el próximo amigo que lo necesite !!

Cuántas veces dudamos de nuestro propio valor, de que realmente MERECEMOS MAS y que PODEMOS CONSEGUIRLO si nos lo proponemos. Claro que el mero propósito no alcanza...se requiere de la ACCIÓN para lograr los beneficios. Yo sé que se puede y que existen innumerables caminos para conseguirlo.

WELCOME BACK

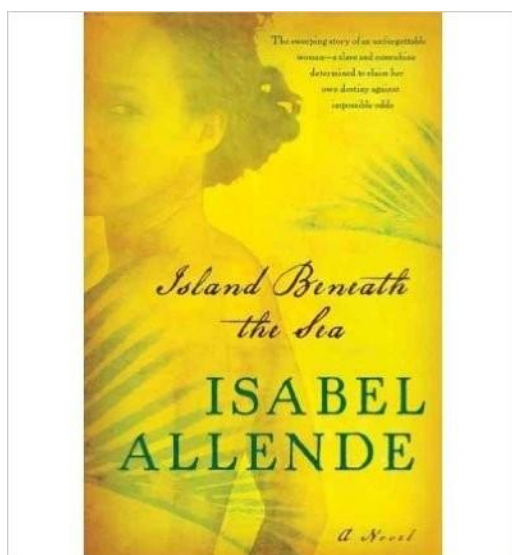


EVERETT SUTTLE, a former member of the Grace Church Choir, returned in May to sing at our Mass. He was welcomed enthusiastically and joyously thanked by the congregation for his contribution to the service.

Everett has been praised by critics and audiences worldwide for his voice and artistry. He has appeared in operas, concerts and plays in a variety of venues such as Lincoln Center in New York City, Opera La Scala in Milan and Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. Most recently, he made his Broadway debut as the star in the North American premiere of *LAMANT ANONYME* by Chavalier de Saint George.

We look forward to Everett joining us for future events at Grace.

Barbara Biles



We're Back! **The Book Club Begins 17th Season**

After its summer break, the Grace Church Book Club launches its 17th season this fall with a discussion of Isabel Allende's riveting historical novel **Island Beneath the Sea** that spans years, generations and countries, including a French colony that would become Haiti. Stay tuned for more on our meeting date and time!

Karen Odom (karenodom@yahoo.com)

FAITH IN ACTION

The newly formed Grace Church group that is named the Fellowship for Justice, Freedom, and Peace, and Care for Creation (getting its name from the Prayers of the People, Form 6,) got an early start on its planned programs for the 2016-17 school year with a seminar in the Library on Sunday, August 28th.

Over 20 people engaged attentively for 1 ½ hours in a discussion of Israeli/Palestinian issues. This is an area of the world where justice, freedom and peace are sorely missing from the lives of the Palestinian people who live under Israeli occupation. This is in complete disregard of international law. Human rights abuses are a fact of daily life for Palestinians.

Led by Priscilla Read, there was an overview of the land and the abusive conditions there. Additional impassioned comments came from Robert Herbst and Natalie Kabasakalian who are chapter coordinators for Jewish Voice for Peace – Westchester. They have expertise in international law and human rights. They pleaded with us to “find our voice” to join in the cause of peaceful change in this region. This is not a religious conflict, but a conflict over land and water. Those of us with a Christian conscience need to become informed and vocal in working for positive, nonviolent change.

There was time at the end of their remarks for a vibrant discussion from the whole group, with many special comments from Grace members who have themselves visited the Holy Land.

Be on the lookout for further programs presented by this newly-formed Fellowship as the year progresses. Future programs will likely address issues of food insecurity involving the offering of letters for Bread for the World, human rights abuses throughout the world at the anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights in December, and conservation at the time of Earth Day in the spring. As Christians, we are called to care for others and the world God has created. If these issues concern you and you want to put action into your Prayers of the People, you are welcome to join the Fellowship which has been formed.

Mary Baker

What's Going On At Grace



Boat Cruise



Romantic Bohemia Concert



Summer Baptism



Volunteering at Grace's Kitchen

A Recent Article on LUW's

Summer Camp

Community Corner

White Plains Lawyers Volunteer at Summer Camp

Carnival Day activities were enjoyed by more than 90 children.

By Michael Woyton (Patch Staff) - August 4, 2016 2:03 pm ET | P |

Like 81 Share



The disability and personal injury law offices of Markhoff & Mittman P.C. and David B. Lever & Associates were closed on the afternoon of Thursday, July 21 so that staff could volunteer at Lifting Up Westchester's Brighter Futures Summer Camp for homeless and at-risk children, according to information from a spokeswoman.

Thirty-five volunteers from the two law offices helped at the camp's annual Carnival Day, painting faces, running game booths, handing out prizes and serving ice cream.

***The Deadline For The Winter Angelus
Is November 15th. As Always, Thank You For
Your Contributions!***

Save the Date:

A Lifting Up Westchester Benefit

ROTARY CLUB OF WHITE PLAINS
**EAT WELL,
DO GOOD**
FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

C.V. Rich Mansion

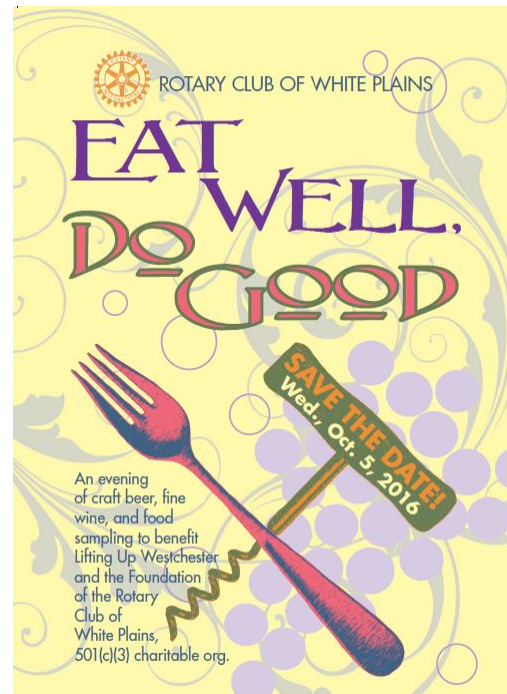
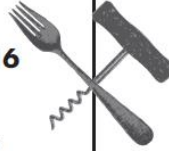
305 Ridgeway, White Plains, NY

Early bird tickets: \$65 each (through Sept. 20),
\$75 (beginning Sept. 21). Purchase online at:
eatwelldogood2016.brownpapertickets.com

Or checks can be made to **RCWP Foundation** and sent to:
MARINO PARTNERS LLP
Attn: George Kontogiannis
15 Fisher Lane, Suite 200,
White Plains, NY 10603

Questions? Rotary President George Kontogiannis at:
GKontogiannis@marinollp.com

Rotary Club of White Plains
P.O. Box 1712
White Plains NY 10602



A Stewardship Message

As summer winds down and we begin to prepare ourselves for fall activities in our personal lives, we are also preparing to resume our church and spiritual activities. One of the most important church activities that is quickly approaching is our Stewardship program for 2017.

This year we are trying a new approach to stewardship by using small group meetings to discuss our stewardship goals. The focus of these meetings will be a brief bible study using stewardship scriptures. A discussion of the meaning of these scriptures relative to how we view stewardship will follow. The meetings will take place in the Church's library.

Traditionally when we talk about stewardship our thoughts immediately turn to "how much will I pledge" or "will I pledge" this year. Actually, when we think about stewardship and being a good steward, it means more than one's financial contributions. It also means that we are actively involved in the life of the parish and fully committed to the fulfilment of our Mission.

"Grace Church is a diverse congregation committed to a common life sustained by Worship. We bear witness to God's love in Christ through our life together and our Service to the wider community".

Our stewardship goal this year is to strengthen the congregation's sense of being the body of Christ and recommitting ourselves to carrying out our mission. As we approach this new stewardship season, we ask that you re-evaluate how you have involved yourself into the life of Grace / La Gracia Church. Without your full participation in all aspects of the life of Grace / La Gracia Church, we fail being good stewards. Are you actively involved in one or more committees? Do you volunteer by offering your time and/or talent? Are there areas where you feel you can contribute to the life of the church? As you begin to think about your answers to these questions, consider how your response relates to your contributions helping Grace / La Gracia Church fulfill our mission.

God's desire for us is to preserve and take care of all that we have been entrusted. (Matthew 25:14-30), we will be called to give account of how we have managed our time, talent, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships and authority.

Faithfully Your

The Stewardship Committee

Un Mensaje de Mayordomía para El Angelus

Mientras que el verano va viento hacia abajo y empezamos a prepararnos para las actividades de otoño en nuestras vidas personales, también nos estamos preparando para restaurar nuestra iglesia y las actividades espirituales. Una de las actividades de la iglesia más importante que se está acercando rápidamente es nuestro Programa de Mayordomía para el 2017.

Este año estamos tratando un nuevo enfoque de la mayordomía mediante el uso de reuniones de grupos pequeños para discutir nuestras metas. El enfoque de estas reuniones será un estudio de la Biblia breve usando escrituras de mayordomía. Llevaremos a cabo una discusión sobre el significado de estas escrituras con respecto a cómo vemos la mayordomía. Las reuniones tendrán lugar en la biblioteca de la Iglesia.

Tradicionalmente, cuando hablamos de la mayordomía nuestro pensamiento se vuelve inmediatamente a "cuánto voy a prometer o voy a contribuir" este año. En realidad, cuando pensamos en la mayordomía y ser un/a buen/a contribuyente, significa algo más que una contribución financiera. También significa que estamos involucrad@s activamente en la vida de nuestra iglesia y plenamente comprometid@s con el cumplimiento de nuestra misión.

"La Iglesia La Gracia es una congregación diversa comprometidas con una vida común sustentada por su adoración. En unidad somos testig@s del amor

de Dios en Cristo a través de nuestras vidas y nuestro servicio a la comunidad en general".

Nuestra meta de mayordomía para este año es fortalecer el sentido de nuestra congregación de ser el cuerpo de Cristo y comprometernos a llevar a cabo nuestra misión. A medida que nos acercamos a esta nueva temporada de mayordomía, le pedimos que vuelva a evaluar cómo es que usted se ha involucrado en la vida de Grace/La Gracia. Sin su participación plena en todos los aspectos de la vida de Grace/La Gracia, no somos capaces de ser buenos mayordom@s. ¿Está usted involucrad@ activamente en uno o más comités de trabajo? ¿Es usted voluntari@, ofreciendo su tiempo y / o talento? ¿Hay áreas donde se siente que puede contribuir a la vida de la iglesia? Al comenzar a pensar en sus respuestas a estas preguntas, considere cómo se relaciona su respuesta a sus contribuciones en ayudar a Grace/La Gracia a cumplir con nuestra misión. El deseo de Dios para nosotr@s es el de preservar y cuidar de todo lo que se nos ha confiado. (Mateo 25: 14-30), seremos llamad@s para dar cuenta de cómo hemos administrado nuestro tiempo, talento, dinero, habilidades, información, sabiduría, las relaciones y la autoridad. Suyos en fidelidad

El Comité de Mayordomía

Meet Maria Campos, Grace Church Secretary

Many parishioners have yet to meet Maria Campos, our new Grace Church Secretary. Until you do, Maria shared some of her thoughts and fascinating background with the Angelus.

What drew you to Grace Church and this essential administrative position?

“My decision to inquire about working at Grace Church represented a unique opportunity to engage in a meaningful way, work in a setting of respect, inclusion and moral stewardship.”

Do you mind sharing a little about your background and past career focus?

“I spent my earliest years living with my extended family in Spanish Harlem and then later enjoyed a transformative relocation to Long Island’s South Shore where, prior to more complete suburbanization, I relished the wide-open spaces, beaches and nature.

As a graduate of the Fashion Institute of Technology, I enjoyed a rewarding 20-year career as children’s clothing designer and entrepreneur. I retired from that hectic world to become a full-time mom and relocated to Scarsdale with my husband, Carl. Time passed quickly and our daughter, Claudia, has recently graduated from The Maryland Institute College of Art. During the intervening years, I’ve worked as an administrator in an au pair enterprise, market research, retail, and as a medical receptionist.”



What have you found to be most rewarding of those experiences?

“Most rewarding has been my role for the past 10 years teaching a stretching and toning class, primarily to seniors, through StayFit, which is based in Scarsdale. The classes emphasize flexibility, balance and well-being. Many of our clients feel this activity contributes greatly to their continued capacity for enjoyable independent living.”

What about Grace Church has impressed you most?

“As a Puerto Rican, I find Grace Church’s commitment to the Latin community inspiring. At this pivotal time in our country’s history, when the benefit of welcoming newcomers has been called into question, Grace Church’s loving embrace has special meaning. This openness combined with its connection to the programs of ‘Lifting Up Westchester’ grants a continuing opportunity to provide fundamental support to our ‘at-need’ neighbors and family. In many ways this has taken me full circle from my own beginnings.”

Is there anything else that you would like parishioners to know?

“I would like to thank Reverend Kunz, Father Barrios, Walter and Sylvia Simon, and Michael Heffner, as well as the countless volunteers who have been and continue to be incredibly supportive and helpful during these initial months. I couldn’t do my job without you! Thank you.”

Karen Odom

Conozca a María Campos, Secretaria de la Iglesia La Gracia

Much@s feligreses todavía tienen que conocer a María Campos, nuestra nueva Secretaria de la Iglesia La Gracia. Mientras lo haces, por aquí María comparte algunos de sus pensamientos e historial fascinante con el Ángelus.

¿Qué le atrajo a Iglesia La Gracia y a esta esencial posición administrativa?

Mi decisión de indagar acerca del trabajo en Iglesia La Gracia representaba una oportunidad única para participar de una manera significativa de trabajar en un entorno de respeto, inclusión y administración moral."

¿Te importaría compartir un poco acerca de tu pasado laboral y antecedentes de carrera?

"Pasé mis primeros años de vida con mi familia extendida en El Barrios (Spanish Harlem) y posteriormente disfruté de una transformadora reubicación hacia la costa sur de Long Island, donde, antes de completar la suburbanización, disfruté los espacios abiertos, las playas y la naturaleza.

Como graduada del Instituto de Tecnología de Moda, he disfrutado de una gratificante carrera por 20 años como diseñadora de ropa para niñ@s y empresari@s. Me jubilé de ese mundo agitado, para convertirme en una mamá a tiempo completa y relocalizarme en Scarsdale con mi esposo, Carl. El tiempo pasa muy rápido y nuestra hija Claudia, recientemente se ha graduado del Instituto de Arte de la Universidad de Maryland. En los años posteriores entonces he trabajado como administradora de una empresa de au pair, investigación de mercados, comercio minorista y como recepcionista médico."

¿Qué ha encontrado ser más gratificante de estas experiencias?

"Ha sido muy gratificante mi papel durante los últimos 10 años enseñando una clase de estiramiento y tonificación, principalmente para las personas de la tercera edad, a través de StayFit, que está ubicado en Scarsdale. Los cursos hacen hincapié en la flexibilidad, equilibrio y bienestar. Muchos de nuestros clientes sientan que esta actividad contribuye en gran medida a su constante capacidad para disfrutar de una vida independiente."

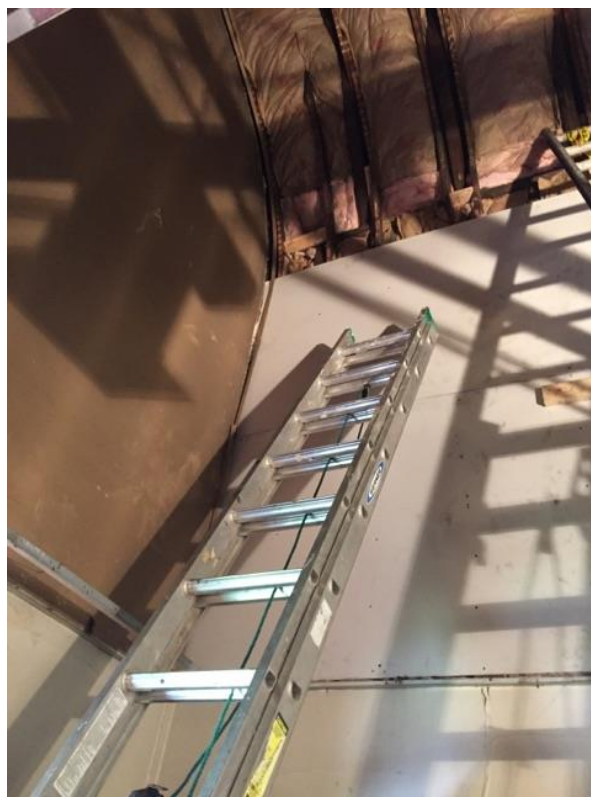
¿Qué acerca de la Iglesia de La Gracia te ha impresionado más?

"Como puertorriqueña, encuentro que el compromiso de la Iglesia La Gracia para la comunidad latina es inspirador. En este momento crucial en la historia de nuestro país, cuando el beneficio de acoger a l@s recién llegad@s ha sido cuestionado, el abrazo amoroso de la Iglesia La Gracia tiene un significado especial. Esta apertura combinada con su conexión con los programas de "Vamos a levantar a Westchester" concede una oportunidad permanente para proporcionar un apoyo fundamental para nuestra comunidad y familias quienes están en gran necesidad. En muchas maneras, esto me ha llevado a un círculo completo de mis propios comienzos."

¿Hay algo más que le gustaría compartir a l@s feligreses?

"Me gustaría dar las gracias al Reverendo Kunz, el Padre Luis, Walter y Sylvia Simon y Michael Heffner, así como a l@s innumerables voluntari@s que han sido y siguen siendo increíblemente apoyando y ayudando durante estos primeros meses. ¡No pude hacer mi trabajo sin ustedes! Gracias."

Karen Odom



Just To Let You Know...

After far too long; the sacristy ceiling has been repaired. Many thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee for following through on this – and to Irene Aleves for taking these great photos.

OH, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

Tuesday, November 1st, is All Saints Day (for adults) and Sat., Nov. 2nd is All Souls Day (for children). These are designated as holy days in the Christian church to honor the memory of all those who are “dead in Christ.” As you may recall, Paul wrote to the Thessalonians because they were concerned about death and especially about those Christians who had already died. He wrote to them to reassure them that all past and present believers would have a glorious eternal life in Heaven with God. In many places in Scripture, all believers are referred to as saints. So All Saints Day is a day to consider and appreciate how God is at work in the world through the work of the saints – all of us! And those who have gone before us! It is often a time when many of us choose to especially honor our own loved ones who have died.

In Latino cultures, All Saints Day is called the Day of the Dead and families spend the day at the cemetery graves of their loved ones. In fact, all cultures concern themselves in some way with death and many social and cultural practices are related to how you view death and whether or not there is anything after death. So this Day of Remembrance gives living Christian saints a great opportunity to witness about our belief in eternity with God made possible by the resurrection of Jesus.

So how did this holy day of remembrance come about?

From earliest times, living saints have tried to be agents of change in the world, just as we are trying to do today. One way to do this is to start with what people know, such as Paul did when he drew the Roman’s attention to the statues of all the gods. When he pointed out the statue of the Unknown God, he was able to tell them this was the One True God. In the same way, the early church took the winter solstice celebration of Saturnalia and turned it around to be the time to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child

There was a great temple in Rome, called the Pantheon, where all the various gods were worshipped. An early pope in the 600’s rededicated the Pantheon and used it as a Christian holy spot to honor all the martyred Christians of the early church, especially those martyred there in Rome. Later Pope Gregory in the 700’s changed that spring celebration date to November 1st, which we still celebrate today. So All Saints Day has been around since the very early church.

Marching on through history, the Romans eventually conquered the northern provinces of Europe. There the Celts celebrated November 1st as their New Year. It represented the end of summer and beginning of winter, a time symbolizing death to them. They believed that the night before, the souls of the dead returned to earth. The Celts made big bonfires, wore costumes, and had a big harvest festival to honor the passing of their relatives but also to prevent their ghosts from returning to harm them. The Christian Romans took this festival and incorporated into it the Christian meaning of death and life eternal with God and November 1st was recognized instead as the holy day of All Saints Day. The night before was, therefore, the “holy eve” of All Saints Day, a day we know as “hallowed eve” --Halloween. And so began the current custom of dressing up as ghosts, witches, goblins, etc.

Some people do not appreciate Halloween and think of it as not Christian. However, the church has actually used it as a great opportunity to witness to the most holy celebration of eternal life in Christ as saints in God's kingdom.

As Christians we need to be constantly alert to ways to redeem the ways of the world and be positive witnesses to the truth of the Gospel as so many have done before us.

So let us use these upcoming days of Hallowed Eve, All Saints Day and All Souls Day to thank God for all the Christian witnesses who have gone before us and to thank God for the mighty works He has accomplished through them in our world and in our lives.

For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
Who thee, by faith, before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed.

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, the one true light.

O may thy soldiers, faithful, true, and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win, with them, the victor's crown of gold.

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Mary Baker

A Message from Ms. Elsie Adams

Welcome back, Fr. Kunz and Dr. Barbra. Hearing about the 500 mile pilgrimage, "El Camino de Santiago de Compostela", was unbelievable. Not many persons we know would undertake such a challenge. The journey reflects your spiritual sense of dedication for sharing Faith, Determination, and Commitment to an extremely poignant cause. Thank you for being an inspiration to us. It's encouraging to feel that such opportunities are available for anyone desiring to participate.

The persons chosen to fill the temporary void during your absence were wonderful! Each provided a special gift of demonstrating guidance for our spiritual journey. Thank you for Canon Orso who, each Sunday, presented sermons that were brief, to the point, and eloquent. It was truly a blessing to have him share his faith with us.

As we move toward resuming a regular schedule, it is important that we proceed thoughtfully and carefully, with prayer for guidance.

Elsie Adams

CHRISTIAN ONE-LINERS

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

Mary Baker



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – YOUTH PROGRAM

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. **Proverbs 22:6***

As we begin our 2016-17 Youth Christian Education year, we welcome new volunteers as teachers: Leigh Burton, Linda Gallo, and Steve Groth and as substitute teachers: Elizabeth Carden and Charlotte Roberson. At the time of this writing, we still need one additional teacher to complete our staff. If this is your calling, please contact our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Donna Louis by leaving a message in the church office.

Here is a look at our class schedules to start the school year:

Our Sunday School classes, for Pre-K (age 3) to Grade 6, start time is at 10:00am to better accommodate your Sunday morning schedule. Please make every effort to be on time so your child can receive the maximum benefit from the curriculum planned for the day and to

minimize disrupting the class in session. Sunday School takes place during the beginning of the 10am service and class ends in time for the children and teachers to come down to service and participate in the Eucharist.

**2016-2017 Sunday School Calendar
Pre-K to Grade 6 – 10:00am – 11:00am**

September 4		Labor Day Weekend – Enjoy!
September 11	10:00 AM	Blessing of the Book Bags sponsored by Family, Faith & Fellowship (FX3)
	11:30 AM	Teachers’ Planning Meeting
September 18	10:00 AM	Family Service
	11:30 AM	Sunday School Open House & Registration
September 25	10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes Meet
October 2	10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes Meet
October 9	10:00 AM	No Sunday School – Columbus Day Weekend
October 16	10:00 AM	No Sunday School - Family Service
October 23	10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes Meet
October 30	10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes Meet
November 6	10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes Meet, All Saints Celebration
November 13	10:00 AM	Bread Baking, Parish Hall – Veteran’s Day Weekend
November 20	10:00 AM	No Sunday School - Family Service
November 27	10:00 AM	No Sunday School– Thanksgiving Weekend, Advent I
December 3	3-8 PM	Saturday, Santa’s Workshop sponsored by J2A
December 4	10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes Meet
December 10	4:00 PM	Saturday, Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
December 11	10:00 AM	Sunday School Classes Meet
December 17	4:00 PM	Saturday, Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
December 18	10:00 AM	No Sunday School - Family Service
	11:30 AM	Pageant rehearsal in Church
December 24	2:30 PM	Children arrive for pageant costuming
	4:00 PM	Christmas Pageant & Family Mass
December 25	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Service, No Sunday School - Christmas vacation

Our older youth members in grade 7 to grade 12, attend the full service at 10am. They then participate in their Christian Education after the service. Classes run from 11:30am to 12:30pm.

2016-2017 Rite 13 & J2A Class Schedule - 11:30am-12:30pm

September 4 – Labor Day Weekend

September 11 – 10am Blessing of the Book Bags sponsored by Family, Faith & Fellowship (FX3);
11:30am Teachers’ Planning Meeting
September 18 – Family Service 10am, Rite 13/J2A Class Registration
September 25 – class 11:30am
**** FALL/MID-WINTER RETREAT FOR J2A – DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED ****
October 2 – class 11:30am
October 9 – NO class, Columbus Day Weekend
October 16 – Family Service 10am, class 11:30am
October 23 – class 11:30am
October 30 – class 11:30am
November 6 – class 11:30am, All Saints Day celebrated at church
November 13 – 10am for Bread Baking, NO class, Veteran’s Day Weekend
November 20 – Family Service 10am, class 11:30am
November 27 - NO class – Thanksgiving Weekend, Advent I
December 3 – Saturday, Santa’s Workshop sponsored by J2A, 3:00-8:00pm
December 4 – class 11:30am
December 10 - Saturday, Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 4pm
December 11 – class 11:30am
December 17 - Saturday, Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 4pm
December 18 – Family Service 10am; NO class – Pageant rehearsal at 11:30am
December 24 – Arrive for pageant at 2:30pm; Christmas Pageant & Family Mass at 4pm
December 25 – Christmas Day, NO class – Christmas vacation

Donna Louis, Youth Ministry Coordinator

GETTING TO KNOW OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

We have so many terrific young people at Grace Church. In order to get to know them a little better, we asked the following questions:

VIKA O’HANLON
Now Entering Grade 6

1. What did you enjoy doing during your summer vacation this year?

I enjoy going to camp and seeing my friends there. I attend Camp Mohawk in White Plains, where we do lots of fun sports, such as swimming, basketball, soccer, and “gaga” ball. I also went to Splashdown beach during camp where they have all sorts of water activities.

2. What do you like best about school?

My favorite subject is math, which is the best part of school for me. I also enjoy my other subjects, as well as my friends and the teachers. Last year I was part of the safety patrol, which I also enjoyed.



3. Other than Christmas, what holiday do you like the best, and why?

My birthday, because I get to have fun turning a year older and getting one special present from my family. For my birthday party, instead of presents, I ask my friends to donate money to a charity called SPACE. SPACE helps educate children from a favela in Sao Paulo, Brazil. I learned about SPACE when I lived in Brazil 4 years ago.

LOOKING AHEAD

Most Sundays in the Prayers of the People, Form 6, we pray for all those who work for justice, freedom, and peace, and the care for God's creation. At Grace Church, we now have a new committee called the Fellowship for Justice, Freedom and Peace and Care for the Creation. The members are those who want to back up the words of our weekly prayers with our specific actions.

Last year two of our Fellowship members took part in Amnesty International's Write-a-thon. This global event is held each December to mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights on Dec. 10th. Last year 3.7 million letters, messages, emails and tweets went out from people all over the world from those committed to making a difference in the world on behalf of those who lack justice, freedom, and peace.

There were 240,000 letters written to demand freedom for Albert Woodfox and for him to be released from prison. He was finally freed in February, 2016, after spending 44 years in solitary confinement in Louisiana.

More than half a million wrote to support girls and young women in Burkina Faso who are fighting against early and forced marriage – and it worked! The Ministry of Justice there affirmed the government's commitment to eradicating early and forced marriage and said the government felt compelled to do so after “receiving letters, emails, and correspondence from people all over the world.”

Phyoe Phyoe Aung is now free after being imprisoned in Myanmar for organizing a largely peaceful protest as a student leader. She said: “Receiving letters gives me real inspiration for what we are doing. I have begun to notice that the world is watching and cheering us – we are not alone.”

A man in Athens named Costos, who along with his partner was badly beaten in a violent homophobic and racist attack in Athens, Greece, said: “I am so moved, and I thank you from the depth of my heart – every single person, woman, man or else, that wrote even half a line and contributed to this campaign. Thank you, Amnesty, for bringing light into the darkness.”

This year we would like to include more of our fellow parishioners. We are planning to hold our own Grace Church Amnesty Write-a-thon at our coffee hours on Sunday, December 11th. Our Fellowship for Justice, Freedom, and Peace will provide all information, paper, envelopes, and stamps. In fact, we will provide pre-written letters that only need your signature if that is all the time you can spare.

Even though it is only Fall, our Fellowship wants you to be aware that this will be happening. We want you to **SAVE THE DATE – DECEMBER 11** on your calendar. We want you to not walk out the front door after those services on Dec. 11th, but to head to the parish hall to make a difference in the world. We want you not only to pray for justice, freedom, and peace, but to be one of those who actually works for those goals.

We want you to fight the bad guys with your mighty pen!!

Mary Baker

(By way of explanation – I’ve been training at the same Karate school since 1981. The school elects a captain each year – I’m serving as captain for 2016. This submission was made to an internal newsletter following our return in July. My sons William and James and William’s friend Jessica were able to join me on this “adventure”. What was not included in the note below was how deeply spiritual our visit to Okinawa was. In a very brief period, I managed to reconnect my mother with her brother and sisters and extended family – and I got a chance to open my sons’ eyes about their rich cultural heritage.)



From the Captain:

Back from the Dojo’s second trip to Japan (the first was in 2013). We had 17 on this “adventure” vs 13 – numbers slightly favored the members of the Mount Kisco Dojo.

Too many family members to fit in 1 room (we had 30 people at this event)

The group collectively visited Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Hiroshima and Fukuoka (I caught a break with the weather and was able to make it to

Feeding the deer at Nara

Okinawa with my smaller group). In addition to being able to train at both the Hachioji Kenkojuku Dojo (where Sensei Okano is based), we were able to train in a separate location – thanks to an associate of Sensei Takahashi’s. We got to view the future of Karate in Japan; many of the younger students have aspirations of competing in the 2020 Olympics (which will be held in Japan). Something new that was added



to this year's agenda was early morning training (5:30am) in Kyoto. The group found a local park and was able to get in 2 sessions of kata training before heading off to the day's activities.



At Shuri Castle in Okinawa

Consistent with the last trip; the schedule was packed during the day with guided tours. With the help of seasoned English-speaking guides, the group was able to get the essence of what to explore more deeply on their next trips to Japan (that is an expectation – all found enough to get us talking about the next trip in 2018...). I am grateful to Sensei Takahashi for creating the opportunity for our students to deepen their understanding of Karate through the exploration of the country where the art originated. We have been fortunate (on both occasions) to have gathered a group where the chemistry made this a bonding experience that will remain with us for our entire lives.

Michael Heffner

A Message from the Rev. Canon Thomas Orso

I wanted to express my gratitude to you for allowing me to serve as your pastor and priest during the time of Richard's sabbatical. I am grateful for his invitation to be with you and for his and Barbra's steadfast presence, sensitivity, and capable leadership in this wonderful parish. I am also grateful for all of the leaders at Grace Church who are so faithful, hardworking and devoted.

Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Your working together not only strengthens your call to discipleship and witness but also continues to make the ministry of Grace Church/La Gracia a vital, important presence in White Plains and the Episcopal Diocese of New York. Grace Church is strong, vibrant and alive today because so many of you continue to pitch in, to contribute, to step up, and to serve in countless ways week after week.



I will always be grateful for our time together: for your dedication, the depth of your spirit, your kindness, generosity, and support.

I am privileged to be able to continue to serve the One who

calls himself the Alpha and the Omega, the Lord of beginnings and endings. I am thankful for our time together and know that our Lord holds the people of Grace Church/La Gracia close to his heart and that he blesses you on the Way.

God bless you and thank you.

The Reverend Canon Thomas Orso

Carta del Pastor Sabático

Quiero expresar mi agradecimiento por permitirme servir como su pastor y sacerdote durante la época del año sabático de Richard. Estoy muy agradecido a él y a Barbra por su invitación para estar con ustedes y por la presencia firme, sensible y liderazgo capaz de esta maravillosa parroquia. También estoy agradecido por todos l@s líderes de la iglesia Grace/La Gracia quienes trabajan con tanta fidelidad y dedicación.

Helen Keller dijo una vez, "Solos podemos hacer tan poco, juntos podemos hacer mucho."

El trabajo colectivo de ustedes no sólo refuerza su llamado al discipulado y al testimonio, sino también continúa haciendo el ministerio de Grace / La Gracia una presencia importante y vital en

White Plains y la Diócesis Episcopal de Nueva York. La Iglesia Grace/La Gracia es hoy fuerte, vibrante y viva debido a que semana tras semana much@s de ustedes siguen contribuyendo hombro a hombro, para intensificar y servir de innumerables maneras.

Siempre estaré agradecido por nuestros tiempos juntos: por su dedicación, la profundidad de su espíritu, su bondad, generosidad y apoyo.



Tengo el privilegio de ser capaz de continuar sirviendo a Aquel que se hace llamar el Alfa y Omega, el Señor de los comienzos y finales. Estoy agradecido por nuestro tiempo juntos y sé que nuestro Señor mantiene a la gente de la iglesia Grace / La Gracia cerca de su corazón y que te bendiga en el Camino.

Dios les bendiga y muchas gracias.

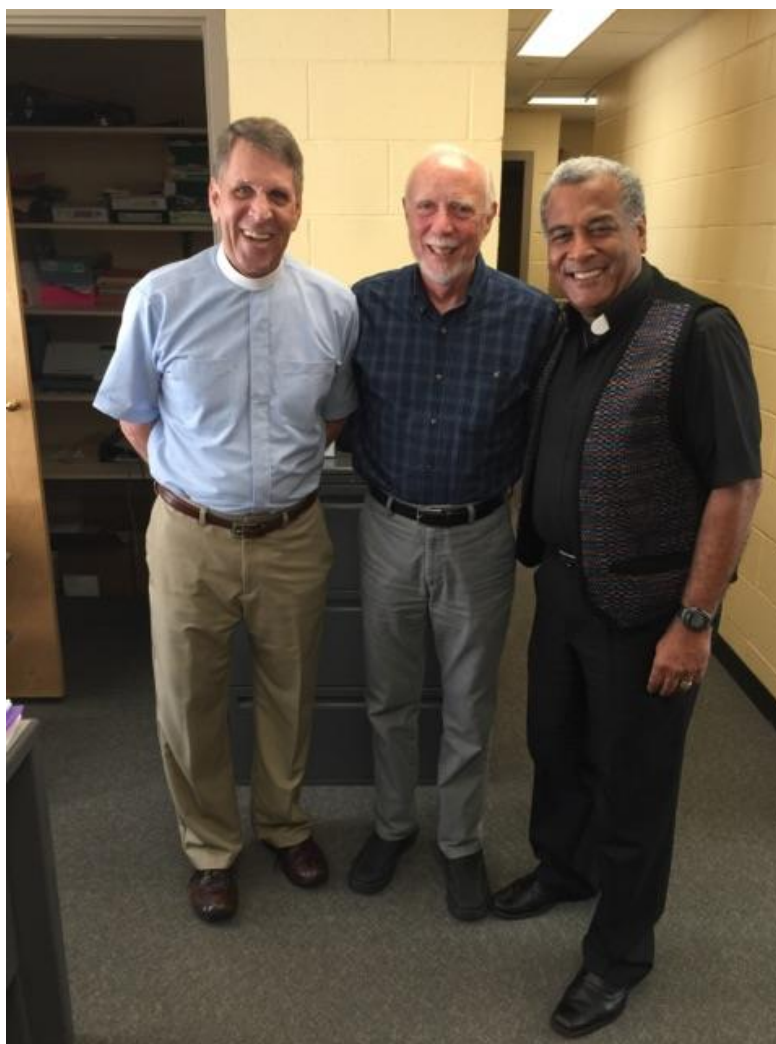
El Reverendo Canónigo
Thomas Orso



The Faces of Grace







The
ANGELUS
News of the Life of GRACE CHURCH