

# The Arimathean

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The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully is the title of a book written by Sister Joan Chittister, OSC. Published a few years ago, her book was the focus of a study group that I met with at, a previous church, on Thursday mornings. Our group members read a couple of chapters during the course of the week then, we gathered together to discuss them.

This was an interesting and fun group to be a part of. We talked about a lot of things related to aging,, i.e., those concerns expressed by Sister Chittister and those of our own. We also laughed a lot. We laughed at ourselves as well as Sister Chittister's humorous comments.

Many of us who are members at St. Joseph of Arimathea, are now in our sixties and older. We are definitely experiencing the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual challenges of growing older.

Sister Joan's book is real gift for every one of us, regardless of age. She helps us see and understand that an old person is an asset to life, not a liability; aging is something to look forward to, not dread. She reminds us that to age is to grow with God.

Sister Joan says:

"When we can no longer walk as fast as we once did, we come to see the individual flowers, the cracks in the sidewalk, the children along the way, all the more clearly, all the more consciously than we ever have in the past. It seems as if one of the functions of aging is to give us the capacity to see what we've missed all the years before.

Perhaps one of the most important dimensions of aging is to bring us to understand that life cannot be taken for granted. Life cannot be devoured-it can only be savored. It is to be savored. It is to be sipped and drunk to the dregs.... In every loss and limitation I face lies an invitation to go more deeply into life than I have been doing. When breath comes with more difficulty, I smell the air-often for the first



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## Front Letter, cont.

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time in years. When I see the days running out, each becomes more of an adventure, if I will only make it so."

I think that the words of Joan Chittister are a precious gift to all of us. One critic

wrote: "She invites us to realize that old age is not a drawing away from fulfilling life, but a new life into itself, a life which if lived well will draw us ever closer to the Source of all life."-

Joan Chittister is an inspiring writer and a person of deep faith. I highly recommend her book, The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully.

Faithfully,

Horace

## Gems from the Sunday School Crowd

### LOT'S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, 'My Mommy looked back once while she was driving,' he announced triumphantly, 'and she turned into a telephone pole!'

### GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, 'If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?' A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, 'I think I'd throw up.'

### WHAT DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday school teacher asked, 'Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?'

'No,' replied Johnny. 'How could he, with just two worms.'

### HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, 'We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Bible times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?' One child blurted out, 'Aces!'

### MOSES AND THE RED SEA

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his

mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he and his army built a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved.'

'Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?' his Mother asked.

'Well, no, Mom.. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!'

## How We Found St. Joe's

Maggie and I moved into what became our first and only house, in Scarsdale, in December 1956. There were then just the two of us plus our son, Timothy, not yet two years old.

Maggie's parents lived in Scarsdale and were pillars of Hitchcock Presbyterian Church there. We were married in Hitchcock and Tim was baptized there. Not long after we moved into our "new" house, Maggie's mother began making noises about how nice it would be if we, too, joined Hitchcock.

I had grown up in Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, PA. I was baptized and confirmed there; attended its Sunday School; sang in the large boys' and men's choir for many years; was an acolyte; went to Calvary's summer camp on Lake Erie;

and was a member and Eagle Scout in Calvary's Boy Scout Troop 32. There was just no way I was about to become a Presbyterian!

So, with Maggie staying home with Tim, on a number of Sunday mornings I began visiting Episcopal churches in the area around Scarsdale. I must have checked out six or so possibilities, until one Sunday I went to St. Joe's. Walter McNeely was the Rector and, because of Walter, I knew immediately that St. Joe's was the one for us. We joined and have been here ever since, although moving to Connecticut in 2003 reduced our attendance significantly.

Our daughters, Eliza and Caroline, were baptized here and Tim, Eliza and Caroline were confirmed here. Eliza

and Richard were married here, by Don Cutler. Maggie died in April 2009 and Don conducted her memorial service in May that year.

I was an usher and then Head Usher for many years, a Vestryman, and wrote the "Centennial History of the Church of St. Joseph of Arimathea – 1896-1996."

And that's the story of how I we came to St. Joe's!

Grady Jensen

### New Web Address:

[www.StJoesephofArimathea-NY.org](http://www.StJoesephofArimathea-NY.org)

## Vestry Minutes

From the meeting on January 19, 2011 – please know we run this Vestry Corner section that includes the minutes at the meeting, from two months prior, simply because the minutes from the previous month have not been approved by the time we need to get the Arimathean printed. Thank you for understanding.

Rector's Report:

- The Rev. Choate shared his pilgrimage to Egypt.
- A bible study class between services or at 1pm Sunday is

being created. A survey to the parish was suggested.

- A suggestion of giving the AA group a key to the building was discussed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Diocese assessment and yearly budget was distributed for Vestry acknowledgement.
- A detailed report and balance sheet will be available to the parish in the church office.
- Pledge cards for 2011 were sent out and contribution letters for 2010 will go out this week.

**The Main Topic:**

The Main Topic of tonight's Vestry meeting was the presentations for the A 2011 Annual Meeting. Communication about the meeting needs to be urged for better attendance. Display the poster for the goals of the parish and have sign up sheets available for committees. Lunch will be provided.

## Gems from the Sunday School Crowd, cont.

### THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Ricky was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, 'The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know.'

### UNANSWERED PRAYER

The preacher's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her fa-

ther always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

'Well, Honey,' he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. 'I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.'

'How come He doesn't answer it?' she asked.

## Save the Dates!

March 2011

- Women's Workshop Tuesdays at 10am
- Sandwich Brigade Wed. March 23rd & 30th at 9am
- Ash Wednesday March 9th Services at Noon and 7pm
- Altar Guild Meeting March 13th
- Vestry Meeting March 15th at 7:15pm
- Men's Group Sat. March 19th at 8am
- Valhalla Dinner March 20th

## Prayer List

Alla Borzova's father **Alexander**, **Debbie** Gillet-Hermansen, Billie Ann Grant's friend **Brenda** Lefford, Louis Grant's father **Lloyd**, The **Carpenter's Kids**, Paige Lockwood's friend **Jack** Demaers, **Connie** Barrett, The **Udogwu Family**, **Eunice** Riblinger, Charles White's niece **Sheila**, Mary Carol Miller's friends **Jane** Dunne and **Carol** Vanecek, Jennifer Larrow's friend **Elizabeth** Graves, Barbara Brown's friend **Dottie** Cunningham, Carol Rohl's sister-in-law **Joan** Hanley, Althea Serrants' daughter **Grace** Anderson-Smith, Marion Hellthaler's friend **Janet** Aurrigemma, **Robert** Ewen, **Avery** Lessing.



## Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were donated this month by:

- March 6 – Mary Jo & Gerry Tuttle in loving memory of their son Gerald Tuttle Jr. and by Kevin & JoAnn McDermott in loving memory of Matthew McDermott

Lent begins February 9th through April 16th, Palm Sunday April 17th.

### Easter Services

Palm Sunday—April 17 10:30 Service

Maundy Thursday— 7pm service

Good Friday Service— Noon

Saturday— April 23 Easter Vigil at 7pm

Easter Sunday—April 24 10:30 Service followed by Easter

Egg Hunt for Sunday School

Easter Monday—April 25 Church Office Closed

**ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA**

2172 Saw Mill River Road  
White Plains, New York 10607

(March 2011)

And in the end it's not  
the years in your life  
that count. It's the life  
in your years.

- Abraham Lincoln

The Rev. Horace Choate, Rector

Chris Larrow, Sr. Warden

Jennifer Haus, Junior Warden

Vestry: Ben Alexander, Suzette Atkins, Karen Barnaby, Barbara Brown, Clive Brown,

Donna Rosengren, Katie Saliba, Althea Serrant,

Donna Rosengren, Treasurer \* Patty Young, Clerk

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Glad Tidings!

Happy Birthday to:

03/03 Michael J. Goodrich

03/05 Harriet Holdsworth

03/06 Betty Hecht

03/08 Richard Wisniewski

03/20 Elizabeth Welker

03/23 Elizabeth Gmoser and  
Thomas Gmoser

