



# THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER: 869 Lexington Ave, New York, NY 10065

CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA: 411 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065

www.svsc.info | (212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info

**October 2, 2016 — 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

## PARISH COFFEE

Join us for coffee, cake, and conversation this Sunday, October 2, after the 12:00 NOON Mass in the Parish Hall at St. Vincent Ferrer, for our first Parish Coffee Hour of the Season.

## OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

A Sung Mass and Procession for Our Lady of the Rosary will take place on Friday, October 7, at 5:15 PM at St. Catherine of Siena. The Rosary is recited every afternoon at 5 PM, before the 5:15 PM Mass.

## PARISH VESPERS

Parish Vespers are being held every Sunday at St. Vincent Ferrer. A chant class is taught by our Music Director, James Wetzel, at 4:30 PM, followed by Vespers at 5:15 PM.

## COLUMBUS DAY - OFFICE CLOSED

In observance of the federal holiday, Columbus Day, the church offices will be closed on next Monday, October 10. The churches will be open all day Monday, and Masses will be celebrated as usual.

## PARISH STUDY

On Tuesday, October 4 at 6:45 PM we will continue our new series of Parish Study lectures in the Parish Hall at St. Vincent Ferrer. This Fall we are focusing on the Book of Psalms. Books for the Study, Psalms 1-72: Volume 22 & Psalms 73-150: Volume 23, will be available for \$14.95 each.

## FORMED: ONLINE CATHOLIC LEARNING RESOURCES

The Archdiocese of New York has partnered with the online Catholic learning resource website FORMED to provide free access for parishes across the Archdiocese. The website has videos, audio recordings, and books available for streaming and/or download on a variety of topics, including the Bible, the Sacraments, and the Saints. To register, visit [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and input the St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena Parish Code: 2ZFMH7.

## RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is a program for adults who wish to become Catholic. Our parish RCIA program has begun, but it is not too late to get involved. Please contact Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P. for more information.

## PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

Each Friday, the 7:00 AM Mass at St. Catherine of Siena is offered for the deceased enrolled in the St. Catherine's Purgatorial Society. Enrollment of a deceased family member or friend is available in the church office for \$35.

## MASS AND CONFESSIONS ST. VINCENT FERRER

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM,  
6:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,  
6:00 PM

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM

### *Confessions*

SATURDAY: 5:00–5:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 5:20–5:50 PM

### *Parish Vespers*

SUNDAY: 5:15 PM

## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 7:00 AM, 5:15 PM

SATURDAY: 9:00 AM

### *Confessions*

SATURDAY: 3:00–3:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 4:40–5:05 PM

## LITURGY OF THE HOURS & OTHER PRAYER ST. VINCENT FERRER

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

7:40 AM (MORNING PRAYER)

5:30 PM (OFFICE OF READINGS  
AND EVENING PRAYER)

WEDNESDAY:

6:30 PM (ROSARY)

7:30 PM (HOLY HOUR)

## ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

THURSDAY:

4:00 PM (HOLY HOUR)

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

5:00 PM (ROSARY)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
PRAYER GROUP

WEDNESDAY: 6:30 PM

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

SATURDAY: 9:30 AM

## PARISH OFFICE

St. Vincent Ferrer  
869 Lexington Ave, NY, NY 10065  
(212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info  
Office Hours: Monday–Friday:  
9 am–1 pm, 2–5 pm

St. Catherine of Siena  
411 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY 10065  
Office Hours:  
Monday – Friday: 10 am–3 pm

## PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Walter Wagner, OP  
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, OP  
Vicar

Rev. Albert Paretsky, OP  
Vicar

Rev. Innocent Smith, OP  
Vicar for Formation

Bro. Damian McCarthy, OP  
Sacristan

Deacon John F. Powers  
Lee Ann Rubino  
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel  
Director of Music and Organist

Lisa Harrelson  
Director of Catechesis and  
Youth Ministry

Rachel Miller  
Administrative Assistant

Sr. Padraic Mary McGuinness, OP  
Receptionist

Tony Hicks  
Church Custodian

Tracey Hicks  
Church Custodian

## ST. VINCENT FERRER HIGH SCHOOL

(212) 535-4680  
Sr. Gail Morgan, OP  
Principal

## PARISH INFORMATION

### REGISTRATION

Please register as a member of our parish if this is where you regularly attend Mass. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office, or online at [www.svsc.info/register](http://www.svsc.info/register).

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange for the baptism of a child, call the Parish Office. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Saturdays, but other arrangements may be made depending upon the circumstances. A baptism preparation class is held at St. Vincent Ferrer on the second Saturday of the month at 12 PM. Please call the Parish Office to register.

### SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)).

### SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)). Adults who have not been confirmed should inquire with the Parish Office about preparing for confirmation.

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

To begin making arrangements for a wedding at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with a priest. More information is available at [www.svsc.info/weddings](http://www.svsc.info/weddings).

### SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or a loved one would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick at the parish, at a nearby hospital, or at home (for those who are homebound).

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a class for adults interested in becoming Catholic. To learn more, contact Fr. Innocent Smith, OP, at the Parish Office.

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

For information and/or registration for classes held at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact Lisa Harrelson ([lharrelson@svsc.info](mailto:lharrelson@svsc.info)).

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Parish Study is a program for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. It meets on Tuesday evenings in the Fall and Spring. To learn more, contact the Parish Office or check our website at [www.svsc.info](http://www.svsc.info).

### YOUNG ADULTS

St. Vincent Ferrer often hosts events of the New York Frassati Fellowship. For more information, visit [www.frassatiny.com](http://www.frassatiny.com).

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**ST. VINCENT FERRER**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2  
6:00 pm (Vigil) Alessandro  
Corradini (D)  
8:00 am Christopher Dominiak (D)  
12 pm Domenica & Anthony  
Maruffi & John Maruffi (D)  
6:00 pm Benjamin J. Reidy (D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3  
8:00 am For the Deceased members  
of the Parish & the Order (D)  
12:10 pm Zygmunt & Monica  
Gorski (D)  
6:00 pm Frank J. Doherty (D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4  
8:00 am James J. & Irene M.  
Clarke (D)  
12:10 pm Dr. Roger Landroth (D)  
6:00 pm For the Deceased members  
of the Foye, Armstrong, Gorman,  
Donohoe, & Murphy families (D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5  
8:00 am Letizia & Dante Rizzo (D)  
12:10 pm John & Ellen  
Moloney (D)  
6:00 pm George E. Shipman, III (D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6  
8:00 am For Christians in the  
Middle East  
12:10 pm John Hoaglund (D)  
6:00 pm Martin Joseph Foye (D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7  
8:00 am William & Rose Marotti (D)  
12:10 pm John & Lil O'Connell (D)  
6:00 pm Catherine & Patrick  
Gorman (D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8  
8:00 am Bart & Bridget  
McGovern (D)

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2  
4:00 pm (Vigil) David Johnson  
10:00 am For the patrons of the  
Shrine of Saint Jude  
5:00 pm For the people of the Parish

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3  
7:00 am For the Province of  
St. Joseph  
5:15 pm Margaret Mallon

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4  
7:00 am Paddy & Josie  
O'Donovan (D)  
5:15 pm Franziski & John Koestner

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5  
7:00 am John Patrick Friel (D)  
5:15 pm Mary O'Hagan

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6  
7:00 am Laura, Paul & Hugh  
Kane (L)  
5:15 pm James V. McNerney

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7  
7:00 am St. Catherine of Siena  
Purgatorial Society (D)  
5:15 pm Special Intention

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8  
9:00 am Ana Maria Lauria

**PARISH PRAYER**  
**INTENTIONS**

*Contact the Parish Office to add a  
name to this list*

Len Bencivenga, Monica Farren,  
Be Frias, Christopher Heath, Rev.  
Chris Johnson, O.P., Helen Johnson,  
John Kelly, Raisa Kokareva, Sarah  
McDermott, Anthony Mendola,  
Stephen Osso, Anchalee Sae-Lim,  
Fiona Wigan, & Aquila Zacharilla.

Please pray for the repose of the  
souls of Ethel Garcia, Sr. Timothy  
Goettisheim, O.P., Matthew  
Martinez, Stefano Sciubba, & Amelie  
Starkey and the souls of all our  
recently deceased.

We continue to pray for the sick, the  
dying, and their families in Memorial  
Sloan Kettering Cancer Center,  
NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, the  
Hospital for Special Surgery, and  
Rockefeller University Hospital.

**CANDLE INTENTIONS**

The seven-day candles are available for  
an offering of \$15 each.

*St. Vincent - Sanctuary Lamps*  
Rene Concepcion (d); Sister Timo-  
thy Goettisheim, O.P. (d); Ramon  
& Fernando Gonzalez (l); Jack Ryan  
Keegan (l); Anthony  
Morelliti (l); William J. Schwede, Sr.  
(d); For the Living

*St. Vincent - Sanctuary Madonna*  
Our Lady of Victory, Rachel L. Ryan

*St. Vincent - Pieta Lamp*  
Well-being of Christians in the  
Middle East

*St. Catherine - Mary Candle*  
Priscilla Ventigan

*Mass Intentions may be reserved in the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and in the Church Office of St. Catherine of Siena Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.*

## ON DOING GOOD THINGS

This weekend will complete our “startup” season with the resumption of Solemn Mass at 12 PM. Bishop John O’Hara will come to St. Vincent’s to celebrate this Mass, and, confirm young candidates from St. Vincent Ferrer High School and from our parish religious education program. Witnessing these rites will be the Freshman class of our High School and their families. We have confidence that all involved will remember not only the sacramental rites, but the singing of our new Schola Cantorum, who will make their debut at this Mass, under the direction of James Wetzel.

For several years now we have brought together the resumption of the choir, Confirmations, and the “Welcoming Mass” of the High School. Joining these elements accomplishes a dual purpose. Effectively we can begin our Parish year with a “Mass of the Holy Spirit,” seeking His direction for all our enterprises. At the same time, such a Mass manifests the complexity of our parish community, ultimately orchestrated by the Spirit. Around our altar on this first Sunday of October are residents from our neighborhood, high school families from every borough and Westchester, and gifted singers, as well as Friars and Sisters of the Order of Preachers. All of these people have come together for a Mass, but they embody the variety of people who pray, work, study, and socialize in this place all the time. Our parish stands at a social and cultural crossroads. This complexity makes us a microcosm of our city and of our Church, and complexity in human affairs is something God blesses.

From the moment of Pentecost God has made the Church not only multi-lingual but multi-cultural, indicating that the Gospel should not only penetrate every culture, but that it should bring cultures into the creative tension of communion. It would not be unfair to say that the edgy vibrancy we live with as New Yorkers gives us a clue about the spiritual reality of the living Body of Christ all over the globe.

For this reason, the Church, and by extension the Parish, defies monolithic imagery. We never achieve either the focus of the military or the galvanized passion of a movement. Instead we invite people to find their particular place in the intricate mosaic of our life so that they can find sanctification not only by being and doing their best, but by perfecting task and temperament in the crucible of context.

This means that when the Church asks, she asks double. She says, “Please take part in our life and find Christ,” then she adds, “and share Him with all the other people He loves.” She implores, “please volunteer for our committees and projects,” then she adds, “and volunteer alongside all the other volunteers.” The neighborly half of these propositions doubles the practical and emotional scale of commitment, but it multiplies even more the surprising joys of belonging and participating. Our emotional maturity and spiritual completion demand that we engage the complexity inherent in being human and in being Christian.

Complexity offers an essential watchword for the times. Our economic and political climate seems to drive people into a vain attempt to simplify social reality, or, failing that, to withdraw into a private simplicity of their own creation. Running away from circumstances offers no less futility than taking a hatchet to them. What avails for personal and social sanity is the recognition of how much and how many we must take account of to connect fully with the life God has given.

Consider the many challenges of being a single mother with an infant in our city in these times. How does one vulnerable person manage for two. The Sisters of Life offer young mothers the spiritual and practical help they need to face reality rather than to defy it or avoid it. Theirs is a work of accompanying real people, in real life, and in real time.

During October we are asked to help them with gift of real things, supplies for infants and mothers. You will find details about this drive in our bulletin. No doubt we, as a parish, have complex views on the social issues of the day. But the task of helping women help women with children impels us all to ponder the complicated people beneath the complicated issues.

The interdependent functions of a Solemn Mass teach us about the way lives are woven together in a fabric of which only God is able to see the full pattern. The women we try to help this month remind us that they and their children form part of His composition, as are so many others presented our concern by the news of these days. In Liturgy and life happiness comes in being part of.

Peace!

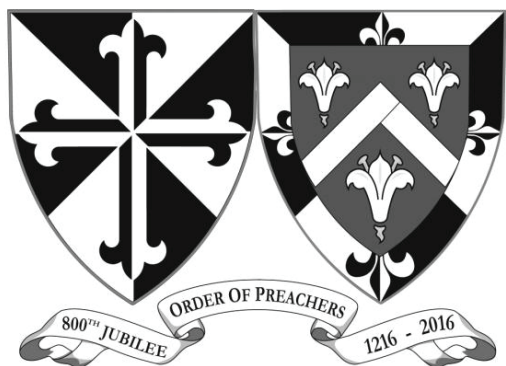


Fr. Walter

# Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena

## Annual Friar Formation Appeal

### October 1 & 2, 2016



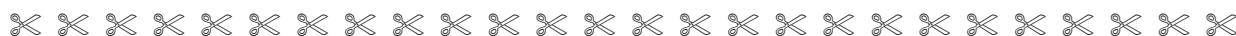
Oh, give thanks to the  
LORD, for *He* is good! For  
His mercy *endures* forever.

1Ch 16:34

***The Annual Friar Formation Appeal helps support and sustain the  
Dominican Order of Preachers that serve our parish.***

***Please make your commitment to the Dominican Friars  
that have been such an important part of your life.***

800<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Year - 1216 - 2016 Preaching for the Salvation of Souls



#### ***2016 Annual Friar Formation Appeal***

St. Vincent of Ferrer & St. Catherine of  
Siena, New York, NY

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Dominican Foundation

Online gifts: [www.dominicanfriars.org/formation](http://www.dominicanfriars.org/formation)

**Please prayerfully consider:**

<u>Pledge</u>	<u>3 Monthly Payments</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 120.00	\$ 40.00 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 90.00	\$ 30.00 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 60.00	\$ 20.00 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 30.00	\$ 10.00 per month
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$ _____

**Check One:**

- Single Payment in Full
- Monthly Reminder Statements
- I have made my gift online

Gift Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**LECTURE SERIES ESPECIALLY FOR  
YOUNG ADULTS & PROFESSIONALS**

Natural Law Lecture Series (20th Annual Wethersfield Lectures) given by Rev. Joseph W. Koterski, SJ, Fordham Professor. It will be a six-part series on Tuesdays in midtown, beginning 9/27 thru 11/1, at 6:30-7:30 PM, followed by optional Q & A., \$60 series, \$15 per lecture, at the Roosevelt Hotel, 45 E. 45<sup>th</sup> Street. See [www.wethersfieldgarden.org/events](http://www.wethersfieldgarden.org/events)  
For additional information call Tom Donahoe, Director (973) 452-3992.

**REGIS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Regis High School, an all-scholarship, Jesuit secondary school for Catholic boys, announces its Open House for students and their parents, to occur on Wednesday, October 5, from 5:30 - 8:30 PM. For additional information, please write, email, or call: Eric Di Michele, Director of Admissions, Regis High School, 55 East 84<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10028, (212) 288-1100, ext. 2057, or [edimichele@regis-nyc.org](mailto:edimichele@regis-nyc.org).

**CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**

Cathedral High School, an all girls college preparatory high school located at 350 E 56<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan will host its Open House on Sunday, October 23, 2016 from 12 to 2:30 PM. Please visit our website [www.cathedralhs.org](http://www.cathedralhs.org) for more information.

**CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART OPEN HOUSE**

Convent of the Sacred Heart will hold an Open House for students and families interested in grade 9 on Friday, October 7, 2016 from 8:30 - 10:30 AM at 1 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street, New York, NY 10128 (91<sup>st</sup> Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and Madison). Tours begin promptly at 8:30 AM, followed by a 9:30 AM welcome from the Head of School and a student panel. To RSVP call (212) 722-4745, ext. 300, RSVPs are required. For further information, please contact Immy Mullin, Associate Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at (212) 722-4745, ext. 103 or [imullin@cxhnyc.org](mailto:imullin@cxhnyc.org).

**LAY FRATERNITIES OF ST. DOMINIC**

Our Lady of the Assumption Chapter of the LFSD meets on the third Thursday, for approximately two hours each month, directly after attending the 6:00 PM parish Mass in St. Vincent Ferrer Church (meeting in the Parish Center, street level, left of Priory stairs). Dominican Laity share deeply the spiritual charisms of the Dominican Order, while remaining in the lay state. More information is available at <http://www.laydominicans.com>.

**RESPECT LIFE MONTH MOMS AND BABIES GIFT DRIVE**

During the month of October, the Church invites the faithful to become engaged with supporting the dignity of the human person, the gift of every person's life. As part of our parish's commemoration of Respect Life Month, new items will be collected for the moms and babies served by the Sisters of Life. These gifts will be distributed to moms and their children at an annual Christmas Party the Sisters have for them each December. A playpen with tags will be set up in the vestibules of both St. Catherine's and St. Vincent's during the month of October. Parishioners are invited to take one or more tags from the playpen, purchase the specified gift, and return the new, wrapped gift with the tag attached to the playpen. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping to make this Christmas a little brighter for these moms and babies!

**A MESSAGE FROM THE SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

The Social Concerns Committee has started our bingo games for the women living at the Park Avenue Armory. Last bingo season, our parish provided enough items for almost 1100 prizes. These gifts were greatly appreciated by the women. As usual, we need handbags, baseball caps, tops, sweat pants, socks, medium to large size bottles of shampoo, conditioner, face wash, body wash, body lotion, hair brushes and combs... tooth brushes and toothpaste... cologne, and slightly used jewelry. Anything you think the women would use. Kindly leave your donations at the Parish Office.

**ITEMS NEEDED FOR PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR**

Our Parish Christmas Fair will take place from Friday, December 2 through Sunday, December 4, in St. Dominic Hall at St. Catherine of Siena. This festive event is an opportunity to shop for holiday gifts, enjoy seasonal treats, try a chance at winning one of our many raffle baskets, or simply savor the season.

Parishioners are invited to support this event by donating new or gently used items which can be sold or raffled at the Christmas Fair. Popular items in past years have included jewelry, handmade items, electronics, women's handbags, sports memorabilia or tickets, bottles of wine or liquor, kitchen or household items, children and baby items, and restaurant gift certificates. All donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office, either at St. Catherine's or St. Vincent's. While items will be accepted anytime before the fair, please try to drop off your donation before the weekend of November 12-13, so that items can be sorted in advance of the fair.

The next meeting of the Christmas Fair Planning Committee will take place on Thursday, October 13, at 7:00 PM in St. Dominic Hall at St. Catherine's. For more information about how you can get involved with the fair, please e-mail Kim Quatela at [kburde3@gmail.com](mailto:kburde3@gmail.com).

**SPIRITUAL AND RELIGIOUS:**

**WHY WE OWE GOD AN HOUR A WEEK**

A lecture by Fr. Romanus Cessario, O.P., S.T.M. will be given on Monday, October 3 at 7:30 PM at the Catholic Center at NYU, 238 Thompson Street. The event, sponsored by the Catholic Center at NYU and the Thomistic Institute, is free and open to the public. Register at [thomisticinstitute.org/tioncampus](http://thomisticinstitute.org/tioncampus).

**COLLECTIONS**

September 25, 2016

Regular Offertory: \$14,390

Attendance: 1,161



# DFHCM of NY

DOMINICAN FRIARS HEALTH CARE  
MINISTRY OF NEW YORK

## *Reflections on Ethics, Faith & Health Care*

EDITOR: FR. JONAH POLLOCK, O.P., S.T.L.

### *The HEALING POWER of the CROSS*

By Fr. Jonab Pollock, O.P., S.T.L., Associate Director, Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York

“THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS IS FOOLISHNESS to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” So says Saint Paul to the Christians of Corinth (1 Cor 1:18). The message of the cross is the power of God because God acts powerfully through the cross of Jesus Christ. The power of God in the cross of Jesus can be understood in many ways. It is a saving power, a reconciling power, a re-creating power, a transforming power. It is also, as Pope Francis has told us, a healing power.

THE POPE, during a 2014 visit to South Korea, declared, “The cross of Christ reveals the power of God to bridge every division, to heal every wound, and to reestablish the original bonds of brotherly love.” The power of the cross to “heal every wound” is also highlighted in the scriptural readings that are proclaimed during the Catholic Mass on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The first reading from The Book of Numbers tells of how God instructed Moses to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole so that the people who had been bitten by serpents could look upon it and recover (Nm 21:6-9). In the gospel, Jesus refers back to that event, saying to Nicodemus, “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:14-15). The cross on which Jesus was lifted has a power to heal just like the bronze serpent of Moses. But the power of the cross is greater. It does not only restore temporal life; it bestows eternal life.

JUST AS EVERYONE WHO looked upon the bronze serpent of Moses was healed and restored to life, so everyone who looks upon the cross with eyes of faith is given the healing grace that bestows eternal life. On the cross, Jesus takes upon himself the venom of our sin, restoring us to spiritual health. Saint Peter says as much in this First Letter: “He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed” (1 Pet 2:24). By the wounds of Jesus on the cross, our souls are healed from the debilitating effects of sin. But the healing power of the cross is not only for our souls; it is also for our bodies. And Jesus’ victory on the cross is not only a victory over sin; it is also a victory over death. “Since death came through a human being,” Saint Paul says, “the resurrection of the dead came also through a human being. For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life” (1 Cor 15:21-22). On the cross, Jesus dies the death that came through Adam, so that the children of Adam might share in Jesus’ resurrection. Through

the cross, therefore, Jesus heals our souls from sin and heals our bodies from the effect of Adam’s sin: the corruption of death.

THE HEALING POWER OF THE CROSS restores soul and body. The eternal life that Jesus bestows on everyone who believes in him embraces the entirety of our humanity. Now, to be sure, the resurrection of the body – through which we participate fully, body and soul, in the victory of Jesus on the cross – is something we await on the last day. As Saint Paul says, it will come “in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible” (1 Cor 15:52). Nevertheless, though the ultimate healing of our bodies must await that final day, the power of the cross to bring about bodily healing is anticipated even now.

THE POWER OF THE CROSS to bring about bodily healing is anticipated in the healing ministry of Jesus himself. Jesus’ mission is to restore health and wholeness to a broken world, to undo the tragic effects of sin in the world God created. Jesus accomplished that purpose definitively in his cross and resurrection, but he anticipates that accomplishment in the miraculous healings of his public ministry. Jesus’ ultimate victory over suffering and death continues to be anticipated in his Church. From the healing miracles worked by the apostles and the saints that came after them, to the miracles of healing that continue to take place through their intercession, the healing power of the cross of Christ is alive in our world even as we await its final manifestation in the resurrection on the last day.

THE HEALING POWER OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST can be effective in our lives and in the lives of those for whom we care. The power of the cross can restore life to our souls, giving us a share in the eternal life of God himself. The power of Christ’s cross can also restore life to our bodies, anticipating its total victory over sin and death that will be fully manifest in the resurrection on the last day. So let us gaze upon the cross on which Jesus is lifted up, beholding our salvation with the eyes of faith. Let us allow the cross to be powerful in our lives, healing our souls from sin, leading us to life and resurrection, and anticipating the ultimate restoration of our bodies, even now.