



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 68th Street, New York, NY 10065

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

October 16, 2016 — 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SECOND COLLECTION

A special collection for World Mission Sunday will be taken up at all the Masses this weekend, October 16. We ask you to be especially generous in your response to this appeal. We are most grateful for your continued support.

NEW YORK PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

On Monday, October 17, at 7:00 PM, a Requiem Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Tridentine rite) will be offered at the Rosary Altar at St. Vincent Ferrer.

ANGELIC WARFARE CONFRATERNITY ENROLLMENT

Fr. Innocent Smith, O.P., will lead an information session on the Angelic Warfare Confraternity, a supernatural fellowship of men and women bound to one another in love and dedicated to pursuing and promoting chastity together under the powerful patronage St. Thomas Aquinas and the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Confraternity is an official apostolate of the Dominican Order. The information session will take place on Tuesday, October 18 at 6:45 PM in the Parish Council room in the Priory at St. Vincent Ferrer. An enrollment in the Confraternity will take place on Tuesday, October 25 in the St. Vincent Ferrer Baptistry at 6:30 PM.

FOOD SUNDAY - OCTOBER 23

Money for the New York Common Pantry will be collected at all Masses during the weekend of October 22-23 and each Food Sunday thereafter through the month of May. Volunteers will be at the doors of each church before and after each Mass.

The New York Common Pantry is located at 8 East 109 Street and is open 365 days a year, providing food for the homeless and all in need. Your donations will be greatly appreciated.

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.

PARISH STUDY

On Tuesday, October 18 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.

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 and input the St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena Parish Code: 2ZFMH7.

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 68th 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 M. 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.

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).

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (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.

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).

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.

YOUNG ADULTS

St. Vincent Ferrer often hosts events of the New York Frassati Fellowship. For more information, visit www.frassatiny.com.

MASS INTENTIONS
ST. VINCENT FERRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16
6:00 pm (Vigil) Mary O'Reilly (D)
8:00 am Milgross Paulino (D)
12 pm Mark Flesher (D)
6:00 pm Mary Heller Dixon (D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17
8:00 am For the Deceased members
of the Parish & the Order (D)
12:10 pm For the People of the
Parish
6:00 pm Carol Cox (D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18
8:00 am Concepcion G.
De La Cruz (L)
12:10 pm Eileen Raftery (D)
6:00 pm Dr. Marta Fuentes (D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19
8:00 am Mary Elizabeth Letoile (D)
12:10 pm Monsignor William B.
O'Brian (D)
6:00 pm For the Deceased members
of the Foye, Armstrong, Gorman,
Donohoe, & Murphy Families (D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
8:00 am Jayne Wrightsman (L)
12:10 pm Rev. Barnabas
Gorski, OFM (D)
6:00 pm For the Deceased members
of the Lay Fraternities of
St. Dominic (D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21
8:00 am Jan Pieczara (D)
12:10 pm For the Deceased
members of the Bowler & Yerkes
Families;
Andrew & Arthur Williams(D)
6:00 pm For the Deceased members
of the Foye, Armstrong, Gorman,
Donohoe, & Murphy Families (D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22
8:00 am Diane Astuto (D)

MASS INTENTIONS
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16
4:00 pm (Vigil) Ana Maria
Lauria (D)
10:00 am For the patrons of the
Shrine of Saint Jude
5:00 pm Mariana Lucido & Maria
Cecilia Punzalan

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17
7:00 am For the Province of
St. Joseph
5:15 pm Jesus Hernandez

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18
7:00 am Patrizia Vorgone (D)
5:15 pm Mary Courtney (D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19
7:00 am Frank Santaniello
5:15 pm Fr. Fitzsimmons, Fr.
McHenry, & Fr. Conroy

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20
7:00 am St. Catherine of Siena
Purgatorial Society (D)
5:15 pm St. Jude Novena

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21
7:00 am St. Jude Novena
5:15 pm Lambert Pattay

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22
9:00 am St. Jude Novena

PARISH PRAYER
INTENTIONS

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

Len Bencivenga, Be Frias,
Christopher Heath, Rev. Chris
Johnson, O.P., Helen Johnson,
John Kelly, Raisa Kokareva,
Sarah McDermott, Seangdoen
Naempranam, Stephen Osso,
Chantale Pierre, Ramon E. Reyes,
Anchalee Sae-Lim, Fiona Wigan, &
Aquila Zacharilla.

Please pray for the repose of the souls
of Monica Farren, Ethel Garcia, Sr.
Timothy Goettisheim, O.P., Matthew
Martinez, Emma Ver Reyes, &
Stefano Sciubba 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); Ramon &
Fernando Gonzalez (l); Sister Nora
McCarthy (l); William J. Schwede,
Jr. (d); For the People of the Parish;
Intention of Donor; Special Intention

St. Vincent - Sanctuary Madonna
Jack Ryan Keegan

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.

ST. JUDE, PRAY FOR US.

Shared and sustained prayer succeeds at more things than it asks. We come together and make a collective petition to God's generosity, and along the way we also find a deeper solidarity with our fellows, and overcome our own isolation. Over the course of my priesthood I perceived this communion in prayer each time I came to New York and preached a Novena at St. Catherine's, under the auspices of the Shrine of St. Jude. At least three times I came to New York and preached at the NOON and 5:15 PM Masses at St Catherine's for nine days straight, and soon after I moved to New York in 2010, Fr. Bruno Shah and I shared the preaching of the St. Jude Novena. Finally, in 2016 in the first year of our merger, I preached it again. Each of these sessions of prayer and preaching brought the grace of the intention, but also the gift of observing the devotion of others.

For those who do not know, a novena is nine days of prayer for a specific intention. One who makes a Novena commits to praying for a given need over this length of time. Such perseverance in prayer does not seek to change God's mind but rather to manifest the intensity of the felt need and to foster a corresponding openness to God's will and plan.

There are all kinds of ways to make a novena, but among these St. Jude rates high, for he has garnered a reputation as the ideal prayer partner when a longing is, "almost despaired of." This has come into common parlance as, "St. Jude is the patron of hopeless cases." However, since we receive the theological virtue of hope in baptism, we trust that real despair is not the basis of our prayer.

I write you in this vein for several reasons.

1. St Jude's feast comes up on Friday, October 28, and so his annual novena begins on Thursday, October 20.
2. Our merger makes available to the whole parish the work of the Shrine of St. Jude, which is to promote devotion to this great apostle, as a means to fostering the life of prayer. A novena to St. Jude also gives honor to the shrine he possesses in each of our churches.
3. This year's election suggests that a novena to St. Jude might offer us a timely opportunity for shared and sustained prayer.

This year, Fr. John Devaney, O.P. will preach the Novena. Fr. John's ministry covers the whole spectrum of our parish. He serves as a hospital chaplain, with a special ministry to patients and staff at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and he says Mass and hears confessions in both of our churches. In view of his ministry of solicitude he was named a Missionary of Mercy by the Holy Father for this Holy Year of Mercy, now nearly completed. Father will be preaching to us on the necessary role of mercy in public life.

He will preach both the 12:10 PM Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer and the 5:15 PM Mass at St. Catherine of Siena. On Sunday the Novena Masses will be at NOON at St. Vincent's and 5 PM at St. Catherine's. The prayers of the novena will be said at all parish Masses so that the whole parish may make the novena in some fashion.

I would like to suggest that we all pray together for our nation, and ask St. Jude to pray with us, as we prepare for a national election on November 8. Communion in prayer is something we seem to need at this point, and it offers a witness to the fractious world around us.

Of course, to this common intention we may each add our own personal needs. Also, Novena materials will be available in both churches, and further details are in the bulletin.

The Novena will conclude on Friday, October 28. On that there will be Sung Mass and Procession to St. Jude's Shrine at St. Catherine's. The Dominican Friars of St Catherine of Siena Priory will host a reception following in St. Dominic's Hall. This will celebrate a century of our common life together.

Please join in the shared work of prayer and the shared joy of thanksgiving.

Autumn Peace!



Fr. Walter

**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. 45th Street. See [www.wethersfieldgarden.org /events](http://www.wethersfieldgarden.org/events) for additional information call Tom Donahoe, Director (973) 452-3992.

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!

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.

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.

CHILD PROTECTION

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000, ext. 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Cathedral High School, an all girls college preparatory high school located at 350 E 56th Street in Manhattan will host its Open House on Sunday, October 23, 2016 from 12:00 to 2:30 PM. Please visit our website www.cathedralhs.org for more information.

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Xavier High School will hold an Open House on Saturday, October 22nd, from 1:00 - 4:00 PM, at 30 West 16th Street, New York, NY. Students will receive a student-led school tour, as well as be able to speak with our teachers, coaches, moderators, and administrators about life at Xavier. Families can access our application through our website, admissions.xavierhs.org. A paper application can be obtained by contacting the admissions office directly. The application for admission and the application for need-based tuition assistance are both due on December 1st.

TEST FOR ADMISSION INTO CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL (TACHS)

The test for Admission into Catholic High School (TACHS), the entrance test for Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese of New York, will be administered on Friday, November 4, 2016 in selected high schools throughout the Archdiocese. Students may register 7 days a week online via www.tachsinfo.com or via telephone from 8 AM - 7 PM at 1-866-61TACHS (1-866-718-2247). By applying early, they will have a much better chance of being assigned to a test site of their choice.

CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER NETWORK

Would you like to make a difference in your community, the country, or the world? Do you want to serve those in need and work for social justice? Check our *RESPONSE 2017*, a free guide listing nearly 200 faith-based volunteer programs and thousands of opportunities. Volunteers serve full-time for periods of one week to one year or more across the United States and in more than 100 countries worldwide. Summer and school break opportunities are also available. Our volunteers are from all walks of life - from high school to senior citizens and every stage in between. Positions are available for both single and married volunteers, including those with children.

Contact Catholic Volunteer Network to receive your free copy/copies of *RESPONSE 2017*. Call 800-543-5046 or email infor@catholicvolunteernetwork.org. You can also search *RESPONSE 2017* online at www.catholicvolunteernetwork.org.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE - SEPT. 28 - NOV. 6

This fall's "40 Days for Life" campaign will be held September 28 - November 6, 2016. "40 Days for Life" is a peaceful, highly-focused, non-denominational initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and educational outreach with the goal of protecting mothers and their children from abortion. At least 11,796 unborn children have been saved from abortion during 40 Days for Life campaigns, and 75 abortion facilities have closed. To learn more about the 40 Days for Life Campaign, visit: www.40daysforlife.com.

For information about participating in the 40 Days for Life campaigns in the Archdiocese, contact the following leaders:

Bronx: Fr. Peter Pilsner (718) 881-8000, ext. 451
frpilsner@cardinalspellman.org
Manhattan: Jill Gadwood (949) 280-9494
Jill.Gadwood@gmail.com
Spring Valley: Eileen Peterson (845) 492-6709
RachelMinister1@aol.com
Goshen: Kathy Taylor (845) 238-0536
ktaylor1124831@yahoo.com
Newburgh: Wendy Wood (845) 820-4366
OCRighttolife@gmail.com
White Plains: Gerald Yeung (914) 837-7008
broger8@gmail.com
Poughkeepsie: Maureen Haege (845) 853-6529
dutchessforlife@gmail.com



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.

DOING GOOD *and* AVOIDING EVIL

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

Good is to be done and pursued, and evil is to be avoided.

THIS IS THE FIRST PRINCIPLE of ethical human action as articulated by St. Thomas Aquinas, who relies on the classical wisdom of Aristotle and represents much of the Catholic tradition (*Summa Theologiae* I-II, q. 94, a. 2). In the contemporary field of bioethics, a similar principle is articulated using the terms “beneficence” and “non-maleficence,” which simply mean “doing good” and “not doing evil.” This most basic ethical principle finds expression also in the Hippocratic Oath, according to which a physician vows to act “for the benefit of the sick and to keep them from harm” (Ludwig Edelstein, *The Hippocratic Oath: Text, Translation, and Interpretation*, 1943).

THAT HUMAN BEINGS IN GENERAL, and health care professionals in particular, should act for the good – whether it be their own good, the good of their communities, their neighbors, or their patients – is rather obvious. And most of the time, whether in daily life or medical practice, doing good is a pretty straightforward affair. A mother does what is good when she feeds her children; a doctor does what is good when she prescribes appropriate medicines. Sometimes, however, doing good and avoiding evil is not so straightforward. In those cases, determining what good is to be done and what evil is to be avoided requires that we look closely at what “doing good” (beneficence) and “avoiding evil” (non-maleficence) really mean.

TO DO GOOD, as a human person, means choosing to do good. To do good accidentally or involuntarily would be to do good in the way that a thunderstorm might be said to do good. A thunderstorm might have good affects on crops in region afflicted by drought, but that kind of good is outside the bounds of ethics or morality, which consider actions brought about by human choice. Doing good in a human way, which is to say an ethical or moral way, means choosing to do good. And choosing to do good means choosing something that is good to do: what we might call a good moral object.

A MORAL OBJECT is what a person chooses to bring about in order to achieve his intended goal or end. The object that a person chooses must be clearly distinguished from the end that he intends. To illustrate that distinction, let us consider an example. A pitcher on a baseball team has the goal of winning the game. That is his end. However, when he is facing a batter in a full count with the bases loaded, his object is to throw a strike. That is what he chooses to bring about by his present action. Considered as a moral object, throwing a strike is

neither good nor bad. It may be an action that makes one a good pitcher, but it is not the kind of action that makes one a good person. Considered in relation to that end of winning a baseball game, throwing a strike is a means. That pitcher aims to win the game and one of the ways he seeks to achieve his end is by means of throwing a strike to that batter.

THERE IS AN IMPORTANT ETHICAL PRINCIPLE which dictates that the ends don’t justify the means. Saint Paul articulates this principle when, in his *Letter to the Romans*, he rejects the idea “that we should do evil that good may come of it” (Rom 3:8). Trying to achieve something good by doing something bad is never the right thing to do. To say that in another way, choosing a bad moral object is always bad, no matter what good purpose might motivate that choice.

WE CAN SEE HOW THIS WORKS by considering another example. A woman with severe credit card debt has the goal of repaying her debts. Her goal is morally good. She intends to perform an act of justice. In order to achieve that good goal, the woman chooses to steal money from her neighbor. That act of stealing is the object that she chooses as a means of repaying her debts. That object is morally bad. What is more – and more to our present point – the woman’s choice to steal from her neighbor is no less bad because she chooses it for the sake of a good purpose. Her good end doesn’t justify her bad means; it doesn’t make her bad choice good. In fact, the opposite is true. The woman’s choice of a morally bad object makes her otherwise good intention bad. She now intends to pay of her debts in a way that not just, with money that does not rightly belong to her.

WE SEE THAT the ends don’t justify the means. We can also see that the means don’t justify the ends. If that woman were earning money through honest work in order to contribute to a terrorist organization, she would be choosing a morally good means for the sake of a morally bad end. The goodness of her honest wage earning would not, of course, justify the badness of supporting terrorism. Again, the opposite is true. Her bad purpose would corrupt her otherwise good choice. Her work is made dishonest due to the bad purpose she intends it to serve.

WE CAN NOW MAKE A CONCLUSION about what it really means for human beings to do good and avoid evil: It means choosing a morally good object for the sake of a morally good end. In our next reflection, we will see how this understanding of moral objects and ends enables us to determine what is good to do in some not-so-straightforward situations.