

IN GOD'S IMAGE: CATHOLIC FAITH SHARING FOR LGBT PERSONS & THEIR FAMILIES - *In God's Image*, the Gay and Lesbian Faith Sharing Group at Sacred Heart Church, meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00PM in the Parish Annex (behind the school). **Our meetings will resume in September.** For more information call 908-822-5895, OR contact Fr. John at x125 OR email: sacredheartigi@gmail.com. And look for the **IGI** icon on the parish website. All are invited to view and share the video presentation at OwningOurFaith.com.

SOUTH PLAINFIELDLABOR DAY PARADE

Join with your fellow parishioners as we march in this year's town parade, Monday, September 5.

The parade theme is "90 Years of Red Carpet – Movies, Music, Theater." Walk the route



with us or wave from the sidelines but WEAR SACRED HEART RED. Some might even consider dressing as characters from films with Catholic themes like ... The Song of Bernadette, The Bells of St. Mary's, Going My Way, Shoes of the Fisherman, A Man for All Seasons, The Robe, Joan of Arc, etc. Be creative! Let us know that you and others are joining our "parish delegation." Please call our Parish Life Coordinator, Ralph Quaglia at 908-756-0633 x142.

THE OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES -

Diocese of Metuchen, has a number of donated disability aids on hand which we would be happy to make available to anyone in the parish who might have need of them. They include wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, canes, and porta-potties, plus other items. A complete list of available items has been provided



to your parish office. If you have any questions, or wish to contact our office directly, please feel free to contact us at 732-765-6432 or e-mail: catholicswithdisabilities@gmail.com. To request prayers for yourself or others, please call our 24 hour prayer line: 732-765-6431.

YOU CAN SAVE YOUR MARRIAGE! RETROUVAILLE -

A lifeline for troubled marriages. Has your marriage become unloving or uncaring – your relationship grown cold, distant – thinking about a separation or divorce? Are you already separated/divorced but (both of you) wish to try again – then the Retrouvaille program may help you. RETROUVAILLE (Rediscovery) sponsored by the Family Life Office/Diocese of Metuchen consists of a weekend experience for couples (no group discussions) with six follow-up sessions. The next program initiates the weekend of September 16-18. All inquiries are confidential. For details, please call the Family Life Office 732-562-1990 x4573, Rich & Annette Colasuonno 732-236-0671 or Tom & Pat McTague 732-583-4468 (evenings).

Are you praying your Morning Offering?

VISIT US ON INSTAGRAM - SACREDHEARTSPNJ

DAILY INTENTIONS

Sunday That the Gospel message of Joy, Mercy and Reconciliation, may open hearts and minds to Christ

Our Savior

Monday For the Sick and Persons with Disabilities

Tuesday For Those who Suffer Discrimination regardless of its source (Age, Gender, Race, Religion, Disability, National

and Ethnic Origin, Sexual Identify, Social Status)

Wednesday For Military & Emergency Response Services Personnel

Thursday For all Pregnant Mothers and their Unborn Children

Friday For all Civil and Religious Leaders

Saturday For our Families, our Bishop James & his intentions, and

the intentions written in our Parish Intention Book

WITNESSES TO FREEDOM

MARTYRS OF COMPIÈGNE

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

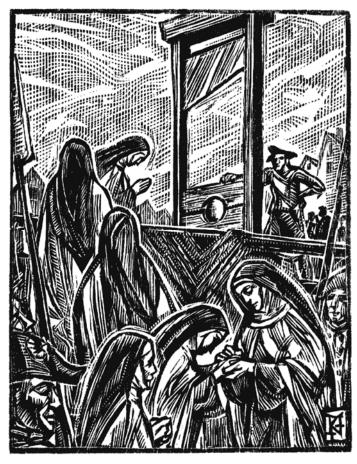
They offered their lives as a sacrifice to restore peace to France and to the Church. As the Revolution raged around them, boiling over to the Reign of Terror, their prayer came to a climax when sixteen sisters fell victim to the guillotine.

The Revolutionaries regarded the Catholic Church with scorn, because they saw the institution as too tied to the order they sought to upend. Contemplative orders, like the Carmelites, were targeted because they were not active. The Carmelites offered nothing useful to France, in the eyes of the Revolutionaries.

In 1792, the community of Carmelite nuns at Compiègne was split up, forced to abandon the habits they wore, and kept under watch. The sisters continued to meet and pray, and two years after their expulsion from the monastery, they were apprehended and jailed by the Revolutionaries.

On the day after a brief show trial, the sixteen Carmelite nuns were to be executed. They were paraded through the streets of Paris wearing their habits, because their secular clothes were being washed. As they approached the scaffold, they chanted the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* and other hymns. Each one ascended the stairs, renewed her vows before her prioress, Mother Teresa of St. Augustine, and then calmly placed her head in the guillotine.

With each fall of the blade, the singing diminished, voice by voice. After the sixteenth and final sister had died, there was silence. This was unusual. Typically, an execution was preceded by a drumroll, and following the beheading, the crowd erupted in cheers, paradoxically believing that they were cheering for values such as freedom, equality, and reason. This time, the mood was somber. There were no drums nor cheering. The crowd dispersed in silence.



(The 16 Carmelite martyrs of Compiègne; woodcut by Robert F. Mcgovern. Copyright by and used with permission of ICS Publications, Washington, DC)

The nuns offered their lives in the hopes that God would bring peace to their land. Ten days after their execution, the Terror ended.

From the beginning of the Church, Christians have loved the land of their birth, and offered their lives for their countries, even when facing persecution. These Carmelite sisters shared in Christ's sacrifice in a most perfect way. They show us how to live and love with grace and dignity in a time of upheaval.

May Teresa of St. Augustine and Companions, Blessed Martyrs of Compiègne, pray for us!



Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty www.usccb.org/freedom | Twitter: @USCCBFreedom Text "Freedom" to 377377 to receive updates

