

## Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer

God of all creation, as we weep with our family in Haiti, console us. In this times of crisis, open our eyes to look beyond the disaster to see Christ in our brothers and sisters in Haiti, as Christ sees us. Be with us as we stand in solidarity with those living and working in Haiti. Be with us in our mourning and guide our efforts to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, comfort the grieving and stand for justice. With your mercy, sustain us at this time as we continue to work for peace and justice. Amen.

Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, is accepting donations by phone at (800) 736-3467; online at [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org); or by mail to CRS, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.

Catholic Charities of Brooklyn and Queens also has begun a fundraising campaign on its website at [www.ccbq.org](http://www.ccbq.org)

## HOLY MASSES at Our Lady of the Skies Chapel

Saturday, January 30 at 5 PM for Michael Zollo  
Sunday, January 31 at 10:30 AM  
Saturday, February 6 at 5 PM  
Sunday, February 7 at 10:30 AM



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS the following sick:

Sue McCormick  
Maureen Ramazzotti  
Anthony DiBenedetto  
Yolan DePhillips  
Linda Cavello

Barbara Paredes  
Louise Cirillo  
Lindsey Jefferies  
John Donohue  
Maureen Devine

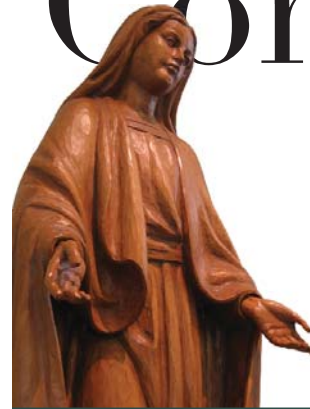
## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS the following deceased:

Msgr. Arthur Demski  
Elise Ten Berge  
Teresa Zorzin

PAPO Melba Boyles  
Ann Teresa Bradley

# OUR LADY OF THE SKIES CHAPEL Connections

[WWW.JFKCHAPEL.ORG](http://WWW.JFKCHAPEL.ORG)



JANUARY 31, 2010 | FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## Salvation Proposal

by *Jesus Christ*



The issue of God has been one of the most intriguing questions in the history of our planet. Who is God? Is it He? Or She? Is there only one (and maybe quite lonely) God, or more? Do Christians, Muslims, Jews and others believe in the same God in

many forms, who uses various "screen names"? What are God's qualities, vices, favorite ideas, favorite people? What is God's idea of justice, forgiveness, peace or love? If God was to give "state of the union speech", what would we hear? Would God be interested in getting some more publicity, or better PR? Or, would people listen to what God has to say at all?

The Bible describes Jesus as somewhat shy, resistant or at least mysterious to point out explicitly who God was. Yes, Jesus mentions His Father quite often, speaking of a deep and special relationship between these Two, yet not once can you hear literally from Jesus *I am God*. Quite the opposite: He is silent when people demand from Him to come down from the cross and save them (Matthew 27:40), or when they recognize Him at the table in Emmaus, He vanishes from their sight (Luke 24:31). How are we, almost 21 centuries

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Chapel Hours  
6 AM-10 PM

Phone: (718) 656-5348  
Fax: (718) 656-8162  
[www.jfkchapel.org](http://www.jfkchapel.org)

John F. Kennedy Airport  
Terminal 4 | Suite 461-037  
Jamaica, NY 11430

# THE word

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying:  
“Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”  
And all spoke highly of him  
and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth.  
They also asked, “Isn’t this the son of Joseph?”  
He said to them, “Surely you will quote me this proverb,  
‘Physician, cure yourself,’ and say,  
‘Do here in your native place  
the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.’”  
And he said, “Amen, I say to you,  
no prophet is accepted in his own native place.  
Indeed, I tell you,  
there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah  
when the sky was closed for three and a half years  
and a severe famine spread over the entire land.  
It was to none of these that Elijah was sent,  
but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon.  
Again, there were many lepers in Israel  
during the time of Elisha the prophet;  
yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”  
When the people in the synagogue heard this,  
they were all filled with fury.  
They rose up, drove him out of the town,  
and led him to the brow of the hill  
on which their town had been built,  
to hurl him down headlong.  
But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.

LUKE 4:21-30

later to recognize God in Jesus Christ and accept Him somewhat differently than His own neighbors in the gospel story?

On the cover of Jethro Tull’s legendary *Aqualung* record (Chrysalis, 1971) there is the following line: “In the beginning Man created God”. Although the before mentioned album does not have a significant theological value, it might

be of help for us, as we are reflecting on this Sunday’s gospel message. The people of Nazareth, Jesus’ hometown, must have been thinking that they had, in a sense, created Jesus, that He was their property, and thus they had certain rights and expectations to His persona and His skills. They thought of Him in terms of their own *Genie in the bottle*, who would fulfill their needs of the moment. If he does not do it, He

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# SOMETHING TO sit WITH

jeopardizes His social status and importance within the walls of Nazareth. In other words, “You are with us, or you are against us and thus we would become against you.” Their anger, noise and serious threat against Jesus is exactly the opposite to where God can be found and experienced. Later on, in Jerusalem, He will encounter other people who will be very successful in having things their way to the point of killing Him on the cross, but the tragedy of Good Friday is ultimately the tragedy of those who rejected and killed Him. Similarly, the tragedy of Nazareth remains the tragedy of these who wanted to silence Jesus once for all.

Again and again we see God in the Old and New Testaments, who is rather whispering than shouting, who can be found rather in the delicate breeze than in thunderstorm (1 Kings 19:12). So is the story with goodness and love around us and within us: it is mostly quiet, almost silent; it is not noisy, self-centered and pompous (1 Corinthians 13:1-4).

Yet, there are people around us, maybe even ourselves, in whom a very delicate voice inside speaks of hunger for God, yearning for His presence right in our midst. It is not a voice you can quiet easily. This voice whispers to the ears of your soul a message that keeps your soul unsatisfied, until it rests in God (Psalm 62). You can noise up yourself with busy life, media, opinions, anxiety, work or anything else; this whisper will sound in yourself just as clearly as before.

There is a good news for us though: God has all the time and patience for us. Even when we try to push Him away, or run away from Him, He comes back to us. Like the Good Shepherd, takes us upon His shoulders and carries us safely home. Think a little bit about the sheep that He carries back. Think about people who have been running away from God until they stumbled upon God again. If you do that, you feel shame and guilt. In the story we don’t hear the Good Shepherd speaking to the sheep; similarly, the father does not ask the prodigal upon his coming back *Why?* The lack of accusing or punishing words is not only a sign of God’s love for us, but it is time for the sheep, for the prodigal son, and for us as well to find ourselves in the presence of God. That’s it: in the presence of love, which cannot be described by any words. Yes, it feels as if you had stripped yourself naked, as if you lost your battle against God, yet there is certain peace about it; a peace which is so overwhelming that makes you silent. It is the most joyful silence you can ever experience. At this time, all the questions about God and who God is do not matter anymore. His presence becomes very real and sensible to you.

May God bless you as run away from Him and may He give you the peace of His presence when you fall in His hands again.