

May 19, 2019

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL is a challenge for each of us. It is particularly true for someone discerning God's call to the priesthood. Our parishioner Leon Gilmore who has just completed four years at St John Paul II Seminary has asked me to convey to all of you the letter below regarding his vocation discernment:

Dear OLHOC,

I would like to inform all of you that I have discerned The Lord's will to leave seminary formation at this time. Please know that I do this with freedom and peace, having prayed a great deal over this decision and consulted with the faculty of the seminary; this is The Lord's will for my life at this time. Thank you all for your prayers and support over these years of seminary! You all have walked this part of my life with me as family and I am very blessed to have served you all. Your willingness to let me into your lives has helped me become more the man Jesus wants me to be and for this, I am indebted to you. Please keep me in your prayers moving forward and know that I do the same for all of you as well.

In Christ,

Leon Gilmore

Just before writing this column, I had shared Leon's discernment letter at our weekly staff meeting. I commended Leon for choosing to write a personal message to all OLHOC parishioners. His message is clear and I know you will respond generously to his request for your prayers and be grateful for his prayers for all of us. I would like simply to use this opportunity to express once again my gratitude to all of you for your loving support to all seminarians that have served our parish whether on an assignment from our Archbishop (summer, part of a Pastoral Year) or on a voluntary basis like Leon did selflessly over the last four years, including serving at all Masses during the recent Holy Week.

This is also an opportunity for all of us to be reminded of the importance of continuing to pray for vocations to the priesthood. As you know, we are keeping our tradition to have a HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS on the First Saturday of the month of June. I hope many of you can join us from 10 am to 11 am on Saturday June 1st this year. It will be preceded by our 9 am Mass (also part of the First Saturday Devotion recommended by Our Lady of Fatima: receiving the Eucharist on Five Consecutive First Saturdays, going to Confession, praying the Rosary, meditating on one of the Mysteries of the Rosary for 15

minutes, and doing all this in reparation for our sins and those of the world). This year, it will be also followed at 11 am by the presentation/discussion of SCOTT HAHN's FOURTH CUP in the Father Martin Hall (pick up a flyer in the Narthex), as a follow-up to the GIFT OF THE MASS, and giving us a deeper understanding of the Mass and the Eucharist. Dr. Scott Hahn unveils the Mystery of the Last Supper and the Cross. Through these three events on Saturday morning June 1st, we will be reminded of the links between the Eucharist and the Priesthood. As I have said many times: if we did not have priests, we could not have the Eucharist; and if Jesus had not instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper "*Do this in memory of me*", we would not need priests.

In this month of Mary, we can all ask the intercession of our Blessed Mother to assist young men throughout the whole world, including our Archdiocese of Washington, to be open to the call to the priesthood and respond generously. May we also ask Mary's intercession in assisting young women discerning the call to the religious life. We can do so this coming weekend as we celebrate our Patroness Saint Our Lady Help of Christians (the weekend preceding the actual Feast Day of May 24) and we will have our traditional crowning of Mary at 11:10 am Sunday May 19 with participation of our CCD children.

May Mary continue to protect our parish and all our parishioners. May she always lead us to Jesus her son and our Savior. May she with her spouse the Holy Spirit keep guiding all of us in our discernment of God's will in our daily life. May she help us to say "Yes" to God the Father. Let us pray together as we say in the prayer Jesus taught us: "*Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven*".



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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Final Day of CCD: This Sunday we celebrate our Parish Feast Day with our 11:10 am May Crowning, joyful participation at the 11:30 am Mass, and Rita's Ice Social. Thank you for a great year!

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Please join us for this year's VBS, "A Radical Ride on the Wings of Prayer ...with Amazing Angels and Super Saints", July 22 -26, 9 am - noon. Ages 4-11 are most welcome as participants; 12 - 17 as youth volunteers; and 18-102 as adult volunteers (see Therese about becoming VIRTUS-compliant, child protection trained). Registration is online: www.olhoc.org/vbs

Volunteers for Summer Activities and Beyond

We are currently recruiting adult volunteers (ages 18+) to work with our parish programs for children and youth over the summer and for the 2019-20 Year (chaperones, Vacation Bible School volunteers, catechists, assistants, mentors, substitutes, office helpers, Youth Core Team members, All Youth Night helpers, OLLC Preschool volunteers, childcare providers during parish programs, etc.). If you are interested in volunteering, or are a parent of a child/youth in any of these programs, you are NEEDED!

Adult Volunteers (ages 18+) who have substantial contact with minors (under 18) or vulnerable adults are required to undergo Child Protection Training and get an electronic background check. The next Archdiocesan class for Child Protection taking place locally is Monday, June 3, 2019 at 6:30 pm at Archbishop Neale School in La Plata. Spaces are "first registered, first served". To register, establish an account at VIRTUS.org and select that particular class for training. Please see Nieda or Therese for more information or visit our website www.olhoc.com/safety

Outreach news

Beginning June 1st the OLHOC Outreach Committee will be collecting school supplies-new pens, pencils, paper, etc-for the next school year, 2019-2020. A designated box can be found in the Father Martin Hall for this worthwhile project. All donations will be taken to Children's Aid Society of Waldorf. Thank you all!

The next Outreach Committee Meeting before summer break will be June 5 at 7 p.m. in the Fr. Martin Hall. All are welcome!

The next OLHOC Shepherd's Table is June 20, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church.

All non-perishable foods donated to "Sharing Sunday" may be left in the designated box near the doors to Fr. Martin Hall. All donations go to the Food Bank of Southern Maryland. During the summer months cereal and peanut butter and jelly are especially needed. Thank you!

OLLC Preschool

OLLC Preschool fall 2019 registration is open! Parishioners, please share this information with families you know who may be looking for Catholic Preschool for their child or grandchild, and be sure you have registered your child for fall. For info or to register: email the preschool director, Nieda, at preschool@olhoc.org or call the church/preschool office at 301-645-7112 during office hours.

Holy Hour for Vocations June 1

"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." Mt 9:37-38
Join your fellow parishioners in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at the "**Holy Hour for the intentions of the Ordinandi**" and an **increase in Vocations to the priesthood and Consecrated Life** on June 1 at 10 am. Unite with parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Washington as we anticipate the Ordination of our Priests on June 15!

This year's Ordinandi:

- Deacon John Benson
- Deacon Joseph Cwik
- Deacon Brendan Glasgow
- Deacon Christian Huebner
- Deacon Ebuka Mbanude
- Deacon Stefan Megyery
- Deacon Patrick Mullan
- Deacon Benjamin Petty
- Deacon Jan Pietryga
- Deacon Michael Russo



Thank you!

Our Lady Help of Christians would like to thank the following organizations for their donations to our "Cinco de Mayo" Shepherd's Table. We ask you to support them, as they supported us:

- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Chili's
- Chipotle
- La Tolteca
- Los Compadres
- Mexico

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We are asked to pray for:

Sandra Barrientos
Dennis Hook
Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
Nestor Ermelindo Molina
Doris Chesley
James Thompson
Thoeun Tinn
Felicia & Myles Webster
Rebecca (Tess) Franch
Vicky Welch
Naomi Lilly
Sterling Greene
Aleli Puzon
Patricia Delgado
Rosano Wheeler
Larry McGraw

Vivian Truxon
Kenny Lindsay
Dorian Webster Sr.
Dionne Gause
Pat Fisher
Christ Goldhammer
Ernest Mack
James Wiltz
Adele Alvey
Dorothy Neal
Dunnie Proctor
Shirley Ehman
K.D. Dillard
Josephina Knapp
Maria Townsend
Chrystal Beauregard
Sheryl Carter

Alex Leon
Sharketer Butler
Steven Bowling
Edna Yarngo
Kathly Grimes
Damien Price
Sheny Padilla
Richard White
Mary Dooley
and all our military and civilians serving in
harm's way.

Please let us know if any names should be removed from the list.

Please pray for the soul of Sheila Wilks



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 AM: Dinis Barrios Jr.
Saturday, May 18, 5:00 PM: Margret Ndapu (+)
Sunday, May 19, 8:30 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, May 19, 10:00 AM: Jose Manuel Galván
Sunday, May 19, 11:30 AM: Jeanette Jacobs
Sunday, May 19, 7:00 PM: Nathalie Innocent
Monday, May 20, 9:00 AM: Nancy Madtes (+)
Tuesday, May 21, 9:00 AM: Ouedraogo deceased family members
Wednesday, May 22, 9:00 AM: Joanna Ouedraogo (+)
Wednesday, May 22, 7:00 PM: Sheila Wilks (+)
Thursday, May 23, 7:00 PM: Mary Karotko (+)
Friday, May 24, 9:00 AM: Jean Erick Joassaint

Scripture Study - Join us on Tuesday mornings after the 9 am Mass to study the readings for the next Sunday.

Divine Mercy – Join us on the first Saturday of each month as we pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a community at 3 PM.

Mary, Help of Christians,

You listen with a Mother's love to all who look for your guidance.

I ask you to keep all those I love in your tender care.

Give me the strength to face up to life's difficulties and protect me from all spiritual and bodily harm.

Grant me an abundance of love so that I, too may be a help to others, sharing with them in their times of need, and caring for them in their moments of distress. Amen

Mary, Help of Christians, pray for us!

Mass Readings for May 26, 2019.

Sixth Sunday of Easter

*First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 15: 1-2, 22-29

*Second Reading

Revelations 21:10-14, 22-23

*Gospel

John 14:23-29



www.usccb.org

YOUTH NEWS

Attention High School & College Graduates: Please join us on Sunday, June 9th at the 11:30 am Mass for a special blessing. We ask that you also wear your graduation robes. Please sign up online www.olhoc.org/ymevents If you have any questions contact Marlen marlen@olhoc.org

Attention College Students: Join other Young Adults for a 4 Day Formation Conference Universitas - "Beauty & Beatitude" June 1st-5th. In order to meet the challenges of living the faith as a young Catholic adult, the Religious Family (Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara and IVE) hosts an annual 4 day formation retreat called *Universitas* on the grounds of their retreat center in the beautiful foothills of the NY Catskill Mountains. The cost is \$80 for the retreat. For more information or to register, please visit www.olhoc.com/college

Attention current 8-12 graders - Spots still available!

Steubenville Youth Conference - June 21-23, 2019

Join us this summer for Steubenville Conference at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. A Steubenville Conference weekend is PACKED with dynamic speakers, worship music, Mass, Adoration and MORE! Come and encounter Christ with other teens from other states as we worship together and grow in our Catholic faith! Limited spots available for more details & to register visit www.olhoc.org/steubie19

Quo Vadis Camp- The Office of Priest Vocations annual Quo Vadis Camp for high school aged young men will be held at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary July 28-31, 2019. For four days, high school aged young men who desire to grow in holiness will have an opportunity for Mass, prayer, and Eucharistic adoration, as well time for fraternity, sports, and reflection. Bus transportation is available. More information is available and registration is open at www.DCpriest.org. Please contact the Office of Priest Vocations (vocations@adw.org or 202-636-9020) with any questions.

Camp Covecrest - August 4-10, 2019 in Tiger, Georgia

Join us for Life Teen summer camp - Camp Covecrest, in the North Georgia Mountains, for an amazing and transformative week of fun, activities, time with friends, prayer and growing in your faith (i.e. high ropes, messy games, obstacle course, zip line, white water rafting, team building experiences, music, talks, reflections, Mass, Adoration & personal growth). For more details, watch a video & to register visit www.olhoc.org/camp

Join Our Youth Support Team which is an integral part of our Youth ministry at OLHOC. It consists of different components utilizing diverse gifts and time commitments of parents and other interested volunteers from our parish. These volunteer opportunities can range from assisting with special events or joining the core team and work directly with the youth. All volunteers must be Virtus Compliant. Together we can help lead our youth closer to Christ! For more information please visit the website or talk to Marlen Coles.

For more Youth Events or questions contact Marlen Coles marlen@olhoc.org or visit: www.olhoc.org/ym

Life Teen/Edge/FIAT: (high school, middle school, and elementary school youth ministries) May 19th 11:10 am Crowning of Mary, Parish Feast Day Mass, Rita's Ice Social

The Fourth Cup

Go deeper in your understanding of the Mass as renowned "Catholic Theologian, Dr. Scott Hahn explains Christ's Paschal Sacrifice on the Cross as the traditional Fourth Cup used in the celebration of the Jewish Passover meal." Small group discussions will follow.

Thursday, May 30th at 6:45 pm and/or Saturday, June 1st. At 11 am

Sign up at www.olhoc.org/mass

Presentation – The Holy Spirit

In preparation for Pentecost Sunday and the end of our Year of the Holy Spirit, you are invited to join us for a short video presentation about the Holy Spirit, and learn to pray the Scriptures (Lectio Divina) while focusing on the readings for Pentecost.

Thursday June 6th at 6:45 pm, or Saturday, June 8th at 9:45 am

Your Church: The Lord's House

Please continue to respect your church, the Lord's house, and **refrain from taking any food or beverage into the Church.** If your children need food or beverages, please use the cry room. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as footrests. Thank you!