

July 14, 2019

TIME FOR CHANGE, TIME FOR HOLY SPIRIT!

Time for change, time for Holy Spirit! Three weeks ago, I wrote to you about "TIME FOR CHANGE". Last week, I wrote about "TIME FOR HOLY SPIRIT" as the entrance of our church was transformed through a beautiful stained glass window of the HOLY SPIRIT just above the baptistry: a gift to our parish in memory of two of our beloved, deceased parishioners, truly a loving GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. In the last three weeks, many changes have taken place at our parish, and we all need more than ever the presence of the Holy Spirit within our hearts!

I have told many of you that as a priest, I have never felt so close to the Holy Spirit. Despite health difficulties and parish challenges, I have never been so much at peace. GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME.. ALL THE TIME, GOD IS GOOD! God never gives us challenges that we cannot handle. He sends us the Holy Spirit to take charge of our daily lives!

We just have to cooperate with GOD. What does this cooperation mean? I used to think that it means that we have to undertake good deeds, to take on a special project of our own and please God! I have come to understand that this is not what God wants. He simply wants us to DESIRE TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT, as opposed to desire that we keep control of our own lives. We are not in charge. GOD IS IN CHARGE. This desire to change is not simple. It is not easy to do so.

We are human beings prone to sin since the Fall of Adam and Eve. It is human to think about ourselves and not others. We see the world with our own eyes. As St. Augustine said so well, and I paraphrase: we sin when we keep looking at ourselves, as opposed to look up, to look up to GOD!

Earlier this week at daily Mass on Tuesday July 9, people brought to Jesus a "demoniac" who could not speak (Matthew 9: 32-38). What did Jesus do? He drove the demon out of the mute man... and the mute man spoke: The crowds were amazed and said: "nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel". As Christians, we believe that JESUS was sent by the FATHER to redeem us, to heal us. As humans, we are

all sick. Today, through the HOLY SPIRIT Jesus is still healing the sick! Jesus is the HEALER: physical, emotional, spiritual HEALER!

Our greatest illness is spiritual. We believe that our souls never die. God is the only one who can help us to heal our souls. Like the demoniac in Matthew's Gospel, we are at times " deaf and mute" , meaning that at times we are no longer listening to GOD'S WORD, and we are unable to proclaim the GOOD NEWS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST to those we encounter in our daily lives. We may even at time reject HIS WORD and be totally consumed by our human desires and personal ambitions.

I know that it is only when I entered St John XXIII National Seminary in Boston in 2005 that I truly desired to commit my entire life to serving Our Lord JESUS CHRIST by serving HIS PEOPLE. Before entering the seminary, I attended Mass every Sunday, but this did not mean that my daily week was committed to GOD.

God invites all of us today, including myself, to re-examine how we put in practice our Christian Faith. Are we able to see Christ in everyone we encounter? Do people see Christ in us? Do we pray to the Holy Spirit? Are we OPEN to let the Holy Spirit to take charge of our lives? Are we aware that within our own hearts there is a constant battle between the good and evil, in the same way there is a constant battle between GOD and the DEVIL at the cosmic level? ONLY by opening our hearts to the HOLY SPIRIT can we win this interior battle one day at a time.

COME HOLY SPIRIT! TAKE CHARGE OF OUR LIVES! KEEP GUIDING ALL OUR STEPS!



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*

Virtus training

Adult Volunteers (ages 18+) who have substantial contact with minors (under 18) or vulnerable adults are required to undergo Child Protection Training and get finger printed. The next Archdiocesan class for Child Protection taking place locally is **Monday, August 5 at 6:30 pm at Our Lady Help of Christians**. Spaces are "first registered, first served". To register, establish an account at VIRTUS.org and select that particular class for training. Please see Niede or Nerieda in the office for more information or visit. www.olhoc.com/safety

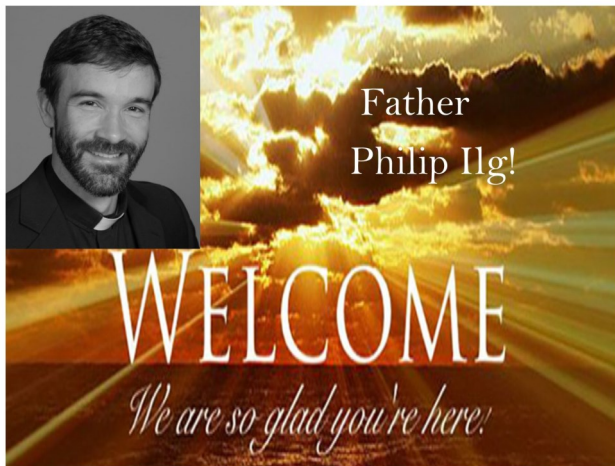
We are currently recruiting adult volunteers (ages 18+) to work with our parish programs for children and youth for the 2019-20 Year (chaperones, , catechists, assistants, mentors, substitutes, office helpers, Youth Core Team members, All Youth Night helpers, OLLC Preschool volunteers, childcare providers 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!

Outreach news

Many thanks to all who gave to the Outreach School Supply Drive. Your donations have been given to the Children's Aid Society of Waldorf for the coming school year! Thank you!

Our next Shepherd's Table will be on August 15, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church.

Non-perishable foods donated to "Sharing Sunday" may be left in the designated box near the door to Fr. Martin Hall. All donations go to the Southern Maryland Food Bank. Cereal and peanut butter and jelly are especially needed. Thank you all!



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, Niede, at preschool@olhoc.org or call the church/preschool office at 301-645-7112 during office hours.

Adult Faith Formation

Come join us in a fascinating study of our first Pope - Peter! The story of St. Peter begins with an ordinary act of trust, which changes the course of Peter's life. By deciding to follow Jesus Christ, an unknown fisherman becomes a key player in God's plan of salvation for humanity. Videos presented by Dr. Tim Gray; facilitators, Mike and Diane Spurgeon. This insightful, 10-session course will be held Sunday mornings after the **8:30 am** Mass in Room B of the FMH, starting 21 Jul.

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

Wednesday Scripture Study— The Friday night scripture study has been changed to Wednesdays. They will be begin at 7:30, following the 7 pm Mass.

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

40th Anniversary of OLHoC

Please send your thoughts and suggestions to the office regarding what you feel we can/should do to celebrate 40 years of being a Parish. Anyone wishing to help in organizing, please call the office.



We are asked to pray for:

Sandra Barrientos
Dennis Hook
Ana Maria Delmira Sibrian Escobar
Nestor Ermelindo Molina
Doris Chesley
James Thompson
Rebecca (Tess) Franch
Vicky Welch
Naomi Lilly
Sterling Greene
Aleli Puzon
Patricia Delgado
Rosano Wheeler
Larry McGraw
Vivian Truxon
Kenny Lindsay

Pat Fisher
Christ Goldhammer
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
Victor Cordero
Georgiana Norgren
Marie Marie Bottorf
Angela Fenwick
Joy Cooper
and all our military and civilians serving in
harm's way.

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



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, July 13, 9:00 AM: Ouedraogo Family Members
Saturday, July 13, 5:00 PM: Father Michael Russo
Sunday, July 14, 8:30 AM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, July 14, 10:00 AM: Diego & Juliana Pabmino (+)
Sunday, July 14, 11:30 AM: Maria Candida Costas Pena (+)
Sunday, July 14, 1:00 PM: Maria Candita Costas Pena (+)
Sunday, July 14, 7:00 PM: Souls in Purgatory
Monday, July 15, 9:00 AM: Carlitos Lam Jr.
Tuesday, July 16, 9:00 AM: Carlos Lam
Wednesday, July 17, 9:00 AM: Elira Andrews (+)
Wednesday, July 17, 7:00 PM: Orlando S. Lagman
Thursday, July 18, 7:00 PM: Mia Ballesteros
Friday, July 19, 9:00 AM: Herbert Gatorian (+)

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.

**Pope Francis's monthly intention for
July:**

The Integrity of Justice
*That those who administer justice may
work with integrity, and that the
injustice which prevails in the world
may not have the last word.*

www.usccb.org

Mass Readings for July 21, 2019.
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**
Genesis 18:1-10 (108C)
***Second Reading**
Colossians 1:24-28
***Gospel**
Luke 10:38-42

www.usccb.org

YOUTH NEWS

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

"TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE
WAY HE SHOULD GO AND WHEN
HE IS OLD, HE WILL NOT
DEPART FROM IT."

PROVERBS 22:6



**Adult Volunteers are Always
Needed at OLHOC!**

**Become Virtus-compliant now.
Please don't wait!**

Upcoming Child Protection Workshops in/near Southern MD:

Monday, August 5th at 6:30 pm - Our Lady Help of Christians
2 sessions: English & Spanish

Sign UP TODAY Limited Spots!

Pre-Registration required at www.virtus.org

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!