

August 18, 2019

HAVE FAITH: LOOK UP!

LOOK UP! These are the two words that summarized my homilies last week-end. When we LOOK UP, we focus our life on GOD as opposed to LOOKING DOWN on earthly and sinful matters. LOOK UP! Do not look back LIVE IN THE PRESENT and TRUST IN GOD! LOOK UP! ASK FOR GOD'S HELP and HE WILL PROVIDE! HAVE HOPE IN GOD'S PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE! HAVE HOPE! HAVE FAITH: LOOK UP!

While all three readings dealt with FAITH, which is foundational for our Christian Life on Earth, I focused entirely on the second reading, the beautiful passage from Chapter 11 of the Letter to the Hebrews. The first verse (translation from NEW AMERICAN BIBLE, NAB which is used in all Sundays' readings) has helped to define FAITH: "*FAITH is the realization of what is HOPED FOR and EVIDENCE of THINGS NOT SEEN*" (NAB, Hebrews: 11:1). The translation of the same verse in the New Jerusalem Bible (NJB) gives another perspective on FAITH: "*ONLY FAITH can guarantee the BLESSINGS WE HOPE FOR, or PROVE the existence of REALITIES THAT ARE UNSEEN*". Another variation in translation is: "FAITH is the Assurance of THINGS HOPED FOR (HEAVEN) and the Conviction of THINGS UNWANTED (HELL)."

As indicated in the footnote of the NJB (Hebrews 11:1), the author of the Letter to the Hebrews is addressing the Jewish Christians who have been discouraged by PERSECUTION, and therefore the author emphasizes "it is ONLY WHAT IS FUTURE and WHAT IS INVISIBLE that concerns HOPE". From that first verse of Chapter 11, theologians have seen a solid definition of FAITH, as "the ANTICIPATED and ASSURED POSSESSION of HEAVENLY REALITIES".

FAITH is RELIANCE ON GOD, NOT ON SELF! HAVE FAITH: LOOK UP! Do not keep looking down to the human reality! LOOK UP! LOOK UP TO GOD IN HEAVEN! Easier said than done....HAVE FAITH! BELIEVE that "GOD raised JESUS from the dead and THROUGH HIM, OFFERS LIFE in ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM"! HAVE HOPE! HAVE FAITH! TRUST IN THE ABUNDANT GENEROSITY OF GOD! HAVE FAITH: LOOK UP TO GOD!

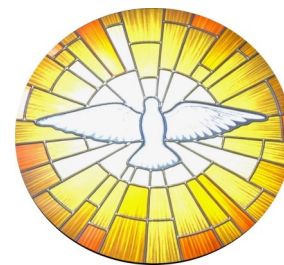
I will conclude this reflection on HOPE and FAITH by giving two experiences that I have had in the last two weeks:

First, while on a one-day pilgrimage to LOURDES at the end of last June, I went into the waters (a) to thank GOD for having healed me following the OPEN HEART

SURGERY (April 25, 2018) , (b) to pray for the spiritual and physical healing of all of you, and (c) to seek special blessings from the HOLY SPIRIT. As I was being immersed, I LOOKED UP to the HOLY SPIRIT, and then afterwards felt an **amazing grace** enveloping me and then for nearly 15 minutes, I felt being transformed by the HOLY SPIRIT! LOOK UP! SEEK HELP FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. In addition to this spiritual renewal, the Holy Spirit gave me some additional physical STRENGTH: I can now kneel down, walk faster, and swim faster!

Second, upon return from Lourdes and a wonderful stay with my family in Southern France, I went several times to pray at the foot of our Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (blessed on December 8, 2018), usually in early morning or late evening. The entire church is then rather dark. The blue light behind Our Lady brings a mysterious touch. As I am kneeling down, I LOOK UP TO SEE the FACE OF OUR LADY... and on a recent evening, I became mesmerized by such a beautiful face, and suddenly I saw OUR LADY moving her lips. I pinched myself to make sure that I was not dreaming. The lips kept moving but I could not hear any sound. It was total silence... I thought Mary was telling me: "**Keep Praying!**" Do you believe in MIRACLES, small or great... I do, I believe that mini-miracles happen every day: LOOK UP! TRUST IN GOD! HE WILL PROVIDE! LOOK UP! LOOK AT THE FACE OF OUR LADY and BE TRANSFORMED!

COME HOLY SPIRIT! COME! HELP EACH OF US TO LOOK UP TO YOU! COME HOLY SPIRIT! RENEW US SPIRITUALLY, EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY!



*One in Christ,
Father Alain*

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Readings

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

A man of strife and contention to all the land

Hebrews 12:1-4

Let us persevere in running the race that lies before us

Luke 12:49-53

I have come not to establish peace, but rather division

Pray the Rosary Daily



Outreach news

Our next Shepherd's Table will be on October 17, 2019 at Good Shepherd Church on Smallwood.

Our next Outreach meeting will be on September 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. in Fr. Martin Hall. Everyone is welcome!

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 Food Bank of Southern Maryland. Cereal and peanut butter and jelly are especially needed. Thank you!

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

First Friday - The first Friday of each month there is a Mass said in Latin. This Mass is dedicated to promoting Priesthood.

First Saturday - Join members of the Marian Group on the first Saturday of the month after the 9 am Mass. Learn more about consecrating your life to Jesus through Mary.

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

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

Volunteer Opportunity You Are Needed!

Are you being called to share your talents with your parish?

The **Parish Picnic** needs a coordinator. There are many helping hands to assist, we need a leader! The date is **September 15, 2019**.

Please pray fully consider taking one of these important roles in our parish. We need you!

Please call the office (301)645-7112, or email office@olhoc.org

VIRTUS

Anyone who works with children (**CCD/children's faith formation, youth ministry, Confirmation Prep, altar servers, children's choir, and the food pantries**) must be compliant with the Archdiocese of Washington VIRTUS program.

Everyone is required to:

- Take the VIRTUS class
- Sign up on www.virtus.org
- Be fingerprinted

The Archdiocese has recently updated their Child Protection policies and have re-instituted fingerprinting for all volunteers, meaning that all future **and current volunteers** (even if currently cleared under old non-fingerprinting policy) must be fingerprinted unless they have already done so **through Virtus**.

Please call the office to speak to Nereida Tellechea (301) 645-7112.

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
Joy Cooper
Johnné Webster
William Graham
Patricia Sutton
Trenia Price
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, August 17, 9:00AM: Ira Edwin McNally Jr. (+)
Saturday, August 17, 5:00 PM: Our Lady Help of Christians Parishioners
Sunday, August 18, 8:30 AM: Kari Lass (+)
Sunday, August 18, 10:00 AM: Hugo Andrade Alcantara (+)
Sunday, August 18, 11:30 AM: Marcus Williams
Sunday, August 18, 1:00 PM: All Priests
Sunday, August 18, 7:00 PM: Souls in Purgatory
Monday, August 19, 9:00 AM: Jose Galvan
Tuesday, August 20, 9:00 AM: Fr. Santiago
Wednesday, August 21, 9:00 AM: Jose & Anna Marie Gonzales & family
Wednesday, August 21, 7:00 PM : People with mental illnesses
Thursday, August 22, 9:00 AM Rita Cooke
Friday, August 24, 9:00 AM: Rita Cooke

Invitation to the Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) — Registration Open House

Interested in learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Want to complete your Sacraments of Initiation? RCIA is the group for you! We invite you to meet RCIA team members at the Registration Open House for 2019-2020 RCIA classes. The Open House is on Wednesday, August 28 at 7:00 to 8:30 PM in the Father Martin Hall. Classes start in September and will be held on Wednesdays, 7:15-9:00 PM.

**Pope Francis's monthly
intention for August**

Families, Schools of Human Growth

*That families, through their life of
prayer and love, become ever more
clearly "schools of true human
growth."*

www.usccb.org

Mass Readings for August 25, 2019.

21th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

Isaiah 66:18-21

***Second Reading**

Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13

***Gospel**

Luke 123:22-30

www.usccb.org

Class times

Sundays

9:30am -11 am

11:15-12:45 pm

Mondays

5:30- 6:30 pm (Special Needs)

6:45- 8:15 Pm



Teach
LOVE
Inspire

CCD CATECHIST, AIDES & YOUTH CORE TEAM

Classes begin September 22, 2019

We are in need of adult volunteers to help our Religious Education program as catechist, aides and youth core team. Classes will start on Sunday September 22, 2019.

The most important qualities you must have are a love of God and children, and a desire to help our children experience the love of Christ. If you are interested, please give your name and contact information to our new CRE- Nereida Tellechea: CRE@olhoc.org, Marlen Coles –Youth Minister marlen@olhoc.org, or call the office. Must be VIRTUS compliant (see below). Please pray-fully consider teaching God's children this year. We promise, you will get back more than you give. <https://www.olhoc.com/revolunteer> to sign up electronically.

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"Train a boy in the way he should go: even when he is old, he will not swerve from it" Proverbs 22:6



Religious Education 2019-2020



4 Sessions (Register early for preferred session):

(Pre-k (4 years old) through 8th grade)

Sundays: 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Sundays: 11:15 am - 12:45 pm

Mondays: (Special Needs children/youth/adults) 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Mondays: 6:45 pm - 8:15 pm



Ensure ONLINE Lessons (from last year) are successfully completed.

Registration online: www.olhoc.org/ccd1920



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 19th at 6:00 pm – Archbishop Neale Elementary School, La Plata

Saturday, August 24th at 9:30 am - Mount Calvary, Forestville

Sign UP TODAY Limited Spots LEFT!

Pre-Registration required at www.virtus.org

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